**COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS**

**INTRODUCTION**

There are currently 22 committees recognized in the Philadelphia Continental Chapter. Generally, they are made up of nine (9) Permanent Committees which are laid out in ARTICLE XIV of the By-Laws plus thirteen (13) Special Committees which have been established by the President and or Board over the years. Two special committees, America 250 and SAR 2024 Congress Planning, have been added to provide for special circumstances over the next several years.

**PERMANENT COMMITTES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Americanism | Permanent |
| 2 | Auditing | Permanent |
| 3 | Awards | Permanent |
| 4 | Finance | Permanent |
| 5 | Flag Certificate | Permanent |
| 6 | Graves | Permanent |
| 7 | Membership | Permanent |
| 8 | Newsletter | Permanent |
| 9 | Nominating | Permanent |

**SPECIAL COMMITTES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | America 250 | Special |
| 2 | Brochure | Special |
| 3 | BSA Eagle Scout | Special |
| 4 | CAR/DAR | Special |
| 5 | Chapter Activities | Special |
| 6 | Greenspan | Special |
| 7 | Knight Essay | Special |
| 8 | Military Affairs | Special |
| 9 | Poster Contest | Special |
| 10 | ROTC/JROTC | Special |
| 11 | SAR 2024 Congress Planning | Special |
| 12 | Student/Teacher | Special |
| 13 | Webmaster | Special |

**PERMANENT COMMITTEES**

**AMERICANISM COMMITTEE**

Its duties are to engage in such activities as will aid, maintain, and extend the institutions of American Freedom (See Handbook of National Society). This Committee shall also promote and furnish patriotic instruction as directed by the Board, giving special attention to the development of good citizenship and a proper knowledge of the American Constitution and the institution of American Freedoms.

**AUDITING COMMITTEE**

Its duties are to audit the books and records of the Treasurer. It shall make a report to the President within sixty (60) days after the end of the fiscal year.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE**

This Committee is responsible for the administration of many of the various awards programs established by the Chapter. It shall also review and recommend to the Board and the President the establishment of additional award programs and the granting of awards to individuals. In 2022, we decided that the Awards Committee should be chaired by the Second Vice President. Examples of some of the more important awards that the Chapter presents include Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, Heroism, etc. A full description of all of the awards can be found in the Recognition Awards section of this Guidon.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

This Committee consists of the 1st Vice President, who serves as Chairman, and two other members, with the Treasurer and the President serving as *ex‐officio* members. Its duties are to prepare an Annual Budget, estimate expenditures and income, and recommend such fiscal actions as they consider to be in the best interest of the Chapter, including investments of all funds.

**FLAG RECOGNITION COMMITTEE**

It is the duty of this Committee to see that the Flag of the United States, the symbol of our Nation's Sovereignty, is treated with honor and respect (within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) and that the laws which forbid its desecration are obeyed. It also administers awards to individuals and businesses for the proper display of the Flag.

**GRAVES COMMITTEE**

The Graves Committee (designated in the By-Laws as the “Memorials and Revolutionary War Graves Committee”) conducts research regarding the landmarks, graves, and scenes of the

Revolutionary War and marks them with appropriate markers and memorials. In that part of Pennsylvania allotted to this Chapter, Betsy Ross Flags are placed on the graves of Revolutionary soldiers on or around Memorial Day of each year.

Several years ago, the chapter launched a project to identify all the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers and other supporters who rendered public or civil service to the cause in our chapter area. In addition to recording the graves and noting their locations, the project entailed capturing a considerable amount of data. In addition, the Chapter around each Memorial Day marks graves of Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots by placing a 13-star "Betsy-Ross" flag at each grave site. The chapter marks over 1700 graves with flags in over 160 graveyards from Philadelphia to Oxford to Sellersville. The search effort continues unabated. This is an activity that needs wide member support. The organization of the effort has been steadily developed and improved to facilitate the task of finding and marking burial sites easier. The program information is shared with local historical societies and veterans’ groups.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Its duties are to solicit and encourage suitable candidates for membership in the Society. In addition, the Membership Committee is responsible to make contact with new members, provide them with a printed copy of the Guidon, and periodically as appropriate, organize meetings of new members to encourage their participation in the activities of the Chapter. Additionally, the Committee will provide oversight for the development of a Chapter-specific brochure to be used as a recruiting tool for new members. Brochure would be similar in content to NSSAR brochure.

The chairman of the Membership Committee leads this effort with help, guidance and input from the officers including the Genealogist, Registrar, Secretary, and the Chapter Webmaster. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization, and there is a continual effort underway to recruit new members. As members age, many can no longer actively participate. Based on lifestyle and age differences among members, the leadership of the Chapter has focused on a multi-faceted approach of recruiting, retention, and reinstatement. Perhaps one of the most effective tools is a widely diverse program agenda for the Chapter. The Chapter has many activities on weekends, holidays, as well as its scheduled monthly membership and Board meetings. All new members are encouraged to attend a meeting as soon as they gain membership in the SAR. At their first meeting the new member attends, the Chapter President recognizes and welcomes the new member, and presents him with his SAR Rosette.

**NEWSLETTER (PUBLICITY) COMMITTEE**

This Committee is responsible for the preparation, editing, mailing and internet publication of the Newsletter. The Committee shall arrange newspaper and other publicity for all Chapter activities and shall furnish current items of interest to the Pennsylvania Society Minuteman and to the National SAR Magazine.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee consists of five members to be appointed by the President each year, of which number at least two (2) shall be Past Presidents of the Chapter and the remainder shall be selected from the Board. The Committee member most recently assuming the status of Past President shall serve as Chairman. The Committee nominates a Voting Member for each of the following offices: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Genealogist, Chaplain, Historian, Chancellor, Color Guard Captain, Sergeant‐at‐Arms, and four (4) members of a new class of the Board of Management.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**AMERICA 250 COMMITTEE**

The America 250 Committee members work to promote the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and the establishment of the United States. This committee publicizes the anniversary using media, education, and government contacts.

**BROCHURE COMMITTEE**

*Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest*

The Chapter Brochure Committee is responsible for administering participation in the National Contest by students in the Delaware Valley. The National Contest theme must be chosen from among the six (6) Foundational Documents of the United States as the theme for the brochure:

* Articles of Confederation
* Declaration of Independence
* U.S. Constitution
* Bill of Rights
* Federalist Papers
* Articles of Association of 1774

**EAGLE SCOUT COMMITTEE**

*Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest*

The Chapter Committee administers and encourages participation in the National Eagle Scout Contest by Scouts in the Delaware Valley. Extensive details concerning participation in the Contest are available on the Chapter website.

**CAR/DAR COMMITTEE**

Many of the events of the DAR, SAR, or the CAR are jointly supported, and sometimes shared. The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) is an organization of persons through 21 years of age who are lineal descendants of a patriot of the American Revolution. The C.A.R. is an independent organization which looks to the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and General Society of the Sons of the Revolution (SR) for its leadership and financial support. For instance, at the annual officer installation banquets, the CAR has sometimes provided patriotic skits as part of the program. The Constitution Week Luncheon is alternately organized by the DAR and the SAR. To coordinate these joint efforts, and other, the Chapter assigns a DAR/CAR coordinator who maintains liaison with leaders of those organizations.

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

This Committee is responsible for setting up outside activities. For example, in 2018-19 a meeting was arranged at Chanticleer to view the gardens a couple of years in a row, setting up transportation and a nice luncheon for the ladies. More recently the Chapter Color Guard has held training events at Fort Mifflin, which seems to be a candidate location for a much larger event. It is conceivable that a commemorative event could become an annual event for a number of years if it is well attended and fills an unmet need.

**GREENSPAN COMMITTEE**

*F. Russell & Ruth Greenspan Scholarship*

The F. Russell and Ruth Greenspan Trust was established by a Past President of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (PCCSAR) and his wife. They wished to endow competitive scholarships for College or University students who will enter the fall term of the academic year in which they expect to receive a baccalaureate degree. These are mostly Juniors entering their Senior year in a traditional 4-year program. However, non-traditional students such as those in 5-year degree programs, co-op students, early finishers, etc. are also eligible. Applicants will be judged on the extent to which they advance the three SAR principles of being patriotic, historical, and educational as embodied by our ancestors who fought in or supported the American Revolution. Generally, eligible students will be majoring or minoring in a study of American Government; American History; Political Science; Law and Jurisprudence; Preservation of Archives, Documents, Historic Buildings, Monuments or Places; or a similarly focused multi-disciplinary program. An interest in the Revolutionary War era is a bonus.

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To avoid a taxable event for the scholarship recipient, the scholarship of $2,000 will be paid directly to the sponsoring College or University, to be applied to the recipient’s tuition for his or her Senior year.

To be eligible, Applicants must be nominated by a Faculty Sponsor who is knowledgeable about the applicant’s character and academic performance at the College or University they attend. The Application Form (click here) contains the following components:

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Applications will be judged by a panel of PCCSAR members in a “blind review” process. Applications will be assigned a code, which will be recorded on all pages of the application before distribution for review. The Identifying Information page will then be removed from the rest of the application. Only the Greenspan Scholarship Committee Chairman will have access to the Identifying Information, and he will not be one of the reviewers. All applications will be judged without regard to the applicant’s race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, political preference, or military status. Applications will be judged solely by the extent to which they meet the following selection criteria:

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* Demonstrated academic ability;
* Accomplishments on and off campus that advance the three SAR principles of being patriotic, historical and educational;
* Good citizenship; and
* Depth of interest in American Government, American History, Political Science, Law and Jurisprudence, Preservation of Archives, Documents, Historic Buildings, Monuments or Places, or a similarly focused multi-disciplinary program.

**KNIGHT ESSAY COMMITTEE**

The George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest is open to all US Citizen and Legal Resident students attending home schools, public, parochial, or private high schools in that same grade range. To participate, students must submit an original 800- to 1,200-word essay based on an event, person, philosophy or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. Each student’s essay will be judged based upon its historical accuracy, clarity, organization, grammar and spelling, and documentation.

The contest is conducted in three phases: the local chapter, state-level society, and national phases. The contest must be entered through an SAR chapter near the student’s residence. In some cases, the contest may be entered at the state level (if the local society does not have chapters or the chapters are not participating) and a contact-at-large should be used to find out more contest details. The list of contest contacts listed below can provide you with assistance in entering the Knight Essay Contest. Only one entry per student is permitted per contest year. A complete set of rules, along with the application for both the applicant and the sponsoring SAR members, can be found at the PCCSAR website at <https://www.pccsar.org/knight-essay-contest>.

**MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Service to veterans and to armed service members is a key objective of the SAR. The Committee is responsible for coordinating the Chapter's efforts in this area. This includes such things as helping run bingo games at VA hospitals, securing color guard participation in Veterans Day parades and memorial events. The Chapter provides books to VA hospital libraries and donates to the USO activities in the Delaware Valley.

**POSTER CONTEST COMMITTEE**

The Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest is open to 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade students in public or parochial schools, or home schooled. The theme of the contest is “Revolutionary War Events” or “Revolutionary War Person or Persons.” Students with an enthusiasm for art, a love of American history, and a passion for creative expression may submit their posters to our Chapter for entry into the competition. The Contest begins at the Chapter level, and winners at that level will be entered into the State-level contest and possibly national level in June at the annual SAR Congress. A complete set of rules can be found at the chapter website: [www.pccsar.org](http://www.pccsar.org).

**ROTC / JROTC COMMITTEE**

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) awards the ROTC Medal to foster the principle of the “citizen-soldier,” exemplified by the Minutemen of Revolutionary War days. This award is presented to cadets who are selected for having a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing, and general excellence. The recipients are selected by the Commanding Officer of the ROTC or JROTC unit who has full latitude in making the selection.

For ROTC or JROTC units with fewer than five hundred cadets or midshipmen, one ROTC or JROTC Recognition medal will be awarded each year. For larger units, one medal may be presented for every five hundred students enrolled in the unit. In cases where a school has more than one ROTC or JROTC unit, each unit is counted separately. The Silver ROTC Medal is presented only to students in a college or university ROTC unit and no recipient may receive it more than once.

**SAR 2024 CONGRESS PLANNING COMMITTEE**

PASSAR, the State Society, is sponsoring the 2024 National Congress and is responsible for registration and credentials for the Congress. The Chapter Congress Planning Committee recruits Compatriots to participate in the State planning process and coordinates communications regarding the Congress within the Chapter, and then participate in recruiting Compatriots to assist in the State registration and credentials processes.

**STUDENT / TEACHER COMMITTEE**

These awards are given to outstanding high school students and teachers of U.S. history in the Chapter-wide area. These awards were inaugurated by the Philadelphia Continental Chapter and subsequently, other Chapters have adopted the program. As many as 70 high schools are solicited for candidates. Student winners receive the Chapter’s own Leadership Medallion, and teacher winners receive a gift certificate. The Committee Chairman is always in need of help to make the awards in the spring of each year. [What are the selection criteria? What do you tell the people we’re looking for. How do we know that we haven’t selected someone who we later judge to be inappropriate?]

**WEBMASTER COMMITTEE**

The Chapter has a Webmaster who works diligently to continually update and upgrade the Chapter website. The Chapter websites are sources of current and historical information. The Chapter website is a good place to find out what is going on and check the Chapter calendars for upcoming Chapter and Color Guard activities. The Webmaster depends on the other Committee Chairs and Officers of the Chapter to keep the website relevant and useful to the memberships and larger community.