



Compatriot News

Philadelphia Continental Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



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Happy New Year to the entire Membership of Philadelphia Continental Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. First, I would like to recognize John F. Mitchell for the enthusiasm and leadership that he showed during the year of his presidency. John never missed a beat. He talked over the phone with many of the members, trying to get in touch with at least five members every week. And that was in addition to emails. We had the obligatory four Board of Management meetings last year including many Zoom and Chapter meetings, but I think his high point was the Compatriot's Picnic on June 12. Although the exact date for the 2022 picnic is not yet known, I ask that all of us try to attend this year's picnic if we can. More than ever, it is a treat to see and greet PCC Compatriots in person.

Next, I would like to thank you the members of Philadelphia Continental Chapter for the honor of serving as your President. Since I retired and we moved from Michigan to Pennsylvania, PCC has been a big part of my new life here and I have been delighted with the many new friendships and associations with Compatriots. Also, I should mention that when I spoke with the nominating committee back in September, they proposed that the top officers should consider serving for a term of two years, even though the Nominating Committee would continue to meet annually and monitor to see if the longer terms prove to be beneficial.

On a related note, it was a delight that 51 of us could gather on November 5 for the Installation Banquet at the Overbrook Golf Club! The venue was stunning, as always, and the food excellent. But with the collection of so many Compatriots, many with wives, after being se-



1st Vice President Steve Kopsick, President Bill Baker, and 2nd Vice President Larry Magdy at the Installation Dinner

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Philadelphia Continental Chapter
Editor: Carl Fletcher
(610) 430-0755
cfletch514@yahoo.com

President	William H. Baker	(248) 701-5267
1st Vice Pres.	Stephen Kopsick	(267) 242-4219
2nd Vice Pres.	Larry Magdy	(610) 789-0803
Secretary	Christopher Snyder	(215) 206-3160
Treasurer	John Briggs	(610) 649-0866
Registrar	John Mitchell	(484) 557-9270
Genealogist	Kelsey Brown	(215) 659-1686
Chancellor	Michael Freeland, Esq	(610) 649-0707

questered at home and having Zoom meetings, it was great to enjoy a traditional event. Many thanks go to the Color Guard for their excellent ceremonial handling of the colors, and to the Pipers who add so much to the evening with their Scottish attire, and yes, the wonderful music.

I'd like to remind Compatriots that PCC has adopted a new fiscal year which will now align with the calendar year. We are in the midst of transition at this time. Even though the new year has just begun in January instead of November, we will be reviewing the new budget at the January 12 Board of Management meeting on Zoom according to our regular schedule. Treasurer John Briggs is putting together a budget proposal which we will review and possibly approve, comparing our plans to a 14-month actual financial report through December 31, 2021. Even though only the Board members can vote at the BOM meeting, the entire membership is invited to attend.

Over the past couple months, the Dues committee has been working to encourage Compatriots to make their 2022 dues payment. The committee began its work in November with 161 adult members having unpaid dues, which was very similar to last year which began with 151 members unpaid. After communicating by telephone, email, and a postcard mailing, we are happy to report that we currently have "only" 37 remaining unpaid. Last year, by late December, we did a little better with 33 unpaid. In order to keep this in perspective, the current total members in good standing at the beginning of 2022 was 431, which includes 50 names that have been added since Jan 1, 2021.

In February, I am looking forward to the George Washington's Birthday celebration, led by the PCC Color Guard. We will be laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 11:00 and then proceeding to Independence Hall for another speech and wreath-laying at 11:30. The Chapter has been so fortunate to have many years celebrating at City Tavern, which of course is still closed as it was last year. This year we have reached out to some restaurants and will possibly have a luncheon celebration in the area around Independence Hall. It is clear that we will need to be masked upon entering the building, and provide proof of vaccination. I well remember the highlight of last year's Color Guard event which occurred at the very end, when past president Greg Shively spent an hour to learn (1) who had his car, (2) where it was, and (3) how much he had to pay to get it back. We'll hope for a smoother event this year.

New Members 10/22/21 to 1/14/22	
New Member	Patriot
Matthew James Wiedmayer	Wilhelm Johnson
Allen Peter Seltzer	Michael Seltzer
Brian Michael Emmons	George Fruit, Sr.
William Edward Bureau	Edmund Bull
Daniel Richard Bureau	Edmund Bull
Junior Member	
Nathan Ray Schinzel	Edmund Bull

COLOR GUARD CORNER

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Philadelphia Continental Chapter Color Guard boldly marched through 2021 with heads high and Colors flying. There were sixteen guardsmen who participated in twenty-three events for a total of one hundred and three man-events. This number is a little over half the number we reached in 2019 but an improvement over 2020. Covid was behind many cancelations, but there were several opportunities lost due to inability to muster enough guardsmen. This was due largely to retirements and surgeries. Of the twenty three events the Guard did participate in, thirteen were National events, one was a State event and nine were Chapter events. Guardsmen earned a total one thousand and fifty points toward Americanism awards and medals.

I thank all the guardsmen who braved covid, summer heat, winter cold, sacrificed their time, energy, and money and endured long sometimes painful periods of marching or standing with colors to keep our chapter Color Guard going through a tough 2021 campaign.

Looking forward, we are considering new uniforms. An activity that other chapter guards do, is volley fire as an honor to patriots at grave markings and gravesites of unknowns. To do this, uniforms must be of natural fiber such as wool, linen or canvas. Some of our uniforms are showing age and wear, so it would be a good time to upgrade. This Christmas I participated in the 69th reenactment of Washington Crossing the Delaware. It is open to anyone who has a natural fiber uniform and a few accouterments. Attended by thousands every year, it provides an excellent opportunity for SAR exposure.

In 2022 we will be working toward holding a National Color Guard Event. There are many sites that fit the bill in our area, from Brandywine to Valley Forge, but there has been no National Color Guard Event specific to Pennsylvania. To qualify for National CG Event status, there are criteria to be met, including a history of combined participation with DAR and SAR at multiple levels over a period of years.

Fred Fonseca, Color Guard Commander

On Sunday, December 26, a memorial wreath laying event was held at the Trenton Battle Monument commemorating the events of the "Ten Crucial Days" of the American Revolution, December 25, 1776 to January 3, 1777. Deemed "...the times the tried men's souls" by Thomas Paine, General George Washington's Continental army crossed the Delaware River, captured the Hessian garrison in Trenton, fought a defensive stand at Assunpink Creek, then captured the British garrison at Princeton thereby changing world history. In attendance and offering remarks was President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Davis Lee Wright. Also in attendance was representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati, the Sons of the Revolution, and Color Guard Units from the SAR Societies from New England, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, including the PCC Color Guard.



Three members of our Color Guard were at the Trenton Battle Monument Wreath Laying. Shown left to right, with red vests, are Glenn Tyson, Spencer Snyder, and Rich Liind, with NJ Princeton/Cranberry Chapter President Roger Williams in front.

On December 26, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati, and the Society of Colonial Wars participated in laying wreaths at the Washington Crossing Monument to commemorate the heroic actions of the Continental Army and local militia that defeated Hessian and British Troops during the “Ten Crucial Days” of America’s War for Independence from Great Britain, December 25, 1776 to January 3, 1777. The PCC Color Guard participated.



The PCC Color Guard, representing Pennsylvania, with New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia Color Guard, led by Vice Commander General Lyles Brooks. PCC guardsmen Rich Lind, NJ Color Guard commander Rob Meyer, Scott Willson, Spencer Snyder and Chris Snyder

2021 PCCSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest

The 2021 PCCSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest was a record year for the number of participants, at least as long as I have been Chairman of the Chapter's Eagle Scout Committee. We received a total of 22 applications. 15 applications were from the Cradle of Liberty Council, Wayne, and 7 were from Chester County Council, Exton. The winner from the Cradle of Liberty Council was Stefan Rogowski, Troop 201, Jenkintown, and the winner from Chester County Council was Ryan Christman, Troop 220, Exton. The applications for the two winners have been sent to Ernie Sutton, the PASSAR Eagle Scout Committee Chairman, for judging at the State level. The State winner will be announced during Scout Week, the second week in February.



The application consists of a 500 word essay on a Revolutionary War theme; a 4 generation ancestor chart, and an application form reviewing the Eagle Scout's Scouting Leadership Responsibilities; Merit Badges Earned; Scouting Activities; Hobbies and Special Interests; Community Activities, Leadership and Recognitions; Religious Activities, Leadership and Recognitions; and Scholastic, School and Extracurricular Activities, Leadership and Recognitions. A picture of winner Stefan Rogowski posted on the internet by Troop 201, is shown.

Mark Burt, Eagle Scout Committee Chairman

Washington Danced Here

Philadelphia's Society Hill section, abutting popular historic sites like Independence Hall, throngs with tourists, many of whom walk unknowing past 244 South Third Street. That address is one of the finest examples in the city of Georgian residential architecture, as well as the setting before and after colonial times for sumptuous gatherings of the wealthy and powerful.

In 1760 William Penn's sons, Thomas and Richard, sold the parcel at 244 Third to dry goods merchant Charles Stedman. Finishing construction in 1766, Stedman, now in dire financial straits, put the property up for sale. He unloaded it on August 2, 1769, for £3,150 to Samuel Powel. Five days later, Powel wed Elizabeth Willing.

Both spouses came from clout. Samuel had inherited his merchant father's fortune at nine and another at 18 from his grandfather, positioning him for nonpareil access to education, acculturation, travel, and connections. Eliza was of clans Shippen and Willing, names synonymous in 18th century Philadelphia with public service and wealth; her great-grandfather, father, and brother served as mayor.



Room from the Powel House in Philadelphia.
(Photo by Heather Hacker)

The Powels became a power couple, their aura enhanced by a lavish 1769-71 refurbishing of their home. The renovation included work by woodworker and gilder Hercules Courtney, whom the

Powels paid £60 for decorative carving at a time when £200 built a small brick house; the efforts of decorative plasterer James Clow; and painting and bordering by Timothy Berrett.

From mahogany doors and central stairs to an ornate mantel illustrating Aesop's fable "The Dog and his Reflection," the Powels spared no detail telegraphing their standing, which came to include Samuel's service as mayor 1775-76 and Eliza's reputation as an intellectual.

The Marquis de Chastellux, after visiting Philadelphia in 1780, wrote in *Travels in North America* that "contrary to American custom, [Mrs. Powel] plays the leading role in the family—*la prima figura*, as the Italians say...she has not traveled, but she has wit and a good memory, speaks well and talks a great deal; she honored me with her friendship and found me very meritorious because I meritoriously listened to her."

The pair's energetic hospitality made 244 South Third a locus of American social and political life in which the powerful and well-connected could mingle, dine, influence, drink, be influenced, and dance. John Adams, in Philadelphia for the First Continental Congress, wrote in his diary on September 8, 1774: "Dined at Mr. Powells...A most sinfull Feast again! Every Thing which could delight the Eye, or allure the Taste, Curds and Creams, Jellies, Sweet meats of various sorts, 20 sorts of Tarts, fools, Trifles, floating Islands, whippd Sillabubs &c. &c. Parmesan Cheese, Punch, Wine, Porter, Beer &c. &c.... At Evening We climbed up the Steeple of Christ Church, with Mr. Reed, from whence We had a clear and full View of the whole City and of Delaware River."

The Powels' guest lists included the Marquis de Lafayette, Benjamin Franklin—and George and Martha Washington, who formed a close relationship with the younger couple that included the exchange of hospitality and gifts. The Powels visited Mount Vernon and the Washingtons celebrated their wedding anniversary at the Powels' home.

In 1779 Sarah Franklin Bache wrote to her father, Benjamin Franklin: "I have lately and several times invited abroad with the General and Mrs. Washington, he always inquires after you in the most affectionate Manner and speaks of you highly. We danced at Mr. Powel's your birthday Eve night I should say in Company together and he told me it was the anniversary of his marriage it was twenty years that night."

Eliza's 50th birthday celebration in February 1793 so impressed one guest that in 1830, more than three decades later, he noted in his diary that Eliza had died—and reminisced about her party.

Eliza lived in the house for five years after Samuel's death, eventually selling 244 South Third to neighbor William Bingham. Powel House's final private owner, Wolf Klebansky, was using the house commercially when, in the 1920s, he decided to flatten it to put in a parking lot. In its first undertaking, the newly formed Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks saved 244 South Third in 1931, but not before Klebansky sold the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York key architectural elements from two second floor rooms, recreated in those institutions' permanent collections.

Renovated and refurnished, Powel House—philalandmarks.org/powel-house—is open to the public. Entering, the visitor encounters a spacious foyer leading to the main staircase. Beneath 12-foot ceilings, an arch frames the stairs. Excellent examples of period furnishings create an elegant, amiable impression, as though Samuel and Eliza were waiting to welcome guests.

—Kevin J. Lawrence, a Philadelphia writer and PCC member, lives a few blocks from the Powel House.

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historynet.com

PCC History 1992-93

The Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers occurred Thursday, November 5th, 1992 at the Bala Golf Club. Newly elected officers for 1993 were President-Rev David A Hockensmith-1st Vice President-David Cole-2nd Vice President-Aloysius Hogan-Secretary-George F Mohr-Treasurer-James Musslewhite. The PASSAR Board of Management Meeting was hosted by the Valley Forge Chapter on November 6 and 7 at the Allentown Hilton. I'm sorry to say the early history of 1993 cannot be located so we will start with February 1993. Washington's Birthday was commemorated February 20 at the Down Town Club, following ceremonies at Independence Hall and Washington Square.

The PASSAR Annual Meeting was held April 24, 1993 in Altoona. The PCC Color Guard presented the Colors. Of much significance –this was the Guards first appearance in their new uniforms— finally. But on a somber note, May 1, 1993 marked the passing of Leon Solis-Cohen, a Past President of the chapter and a contributor to our Chapter's patriotic efforts. The PCC Color Guard assembled for its first full dress Memorial Day Parade, May 31, 1993, in its distinctive new colonial regalia. The PCC Patriots Picnic was held on June 6, 1993 at Fenimore Woods Park in Radnor. On July 23, another PCC stalwart, William G Dorwart, passed at age 85. He was the chapter president and later became the state president. He was named "Mr. SAR" for his outstanding contributions to the Pennsylvania Society. Total funds for September 1993 are \$34,970 according to the Treasurer's Report.

The Constitution Day Luncheon was conducted on September 18, 1993 in cooperation with local DAR Chapters. It was noted the Chapter's Color Guard in colonial uniforms, backed by our array of historic flags, helped to dramatize the historic celebration. The event was highlighted by the excellent address of Captain Robert L Johnson, Jr., USN of the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal. The report of the Nominating Committee was received by the chapter at its Monday Meeting, September 13, 1993. The following candidates were listed for approval by the membership at the upcoming meeting in October: President-David Cole, 1st Vice President-Aloysius J Hogan, Jr, 2nd Vice President-James E Musslewhite, Secretary-George F Mohr, Treasurer-James E Musslewhite. At the Annual Dinner on November 17th at the Bala Golf Club, the above candidates were elected.

On November 8, 1993 a ceremony to rededicate the eternal flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution was held in Washington Square. Our Color Guard played a conspicuous part in the ceremony. Captain J R Hutchison of the USS Kennedy conducted the flag raising ceremony.

Jim Willis—Historian of the Chapter

Philadelphia Continental Chapter – SAR
226 WINDING WAY
TELFORD, PA 18969-1851