



Compatriot News

Philadelphia Continental Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



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Fall 2023



I'd like to begin by thanking the many people who have offered assistance to myself and to the Chapter over the last two years. The time has gone by in a blur! The Philadelphia Continental Chapter is substantial, and its members maintain our many patriotic, historical and educational activities in a capable and energetic manner. It has been an honor to have this opportunity to work with all of you.

A few weeks ago on October 3, we again enjoyed the PCC Annual Meeting at Glenhardie Country Club in Wayne. The dinner was delicious as usual, and the staff seemed determined that we should enjoy ourselves while on their turf. One of the main purposes of this event was to elect the new slate of officers for coming year; the following officers were duly elected for 2023-2024:

- Steven P. Kopsick, President
- Larry A. Magdy, 1st VP
- Stephen V. Cassel, 2nd VP
- Francis A. O'Donnell, Secretary
- John P. Mulcahy, Treasurer
- William H. Baker, Asst. Treasurer
- C. Kelsey Brown, Genealogist
- John F. Mitchell III, Registrar
- Michael W. Freeland, Esq., Chancellor
- Glenn J. Tyson, Chaplain
- John F. Mitchell III, Historian
- Fred Fonseca III, Captain of the Guard
- Richard W. Lind, Sgt. at Arms
- William H. Baker, Aide to the President
- William H. Baker, BOM Class of 2026
- George M. Clarke, BOM Class of 2026
- John P. Mulcahy, BOM Class of 2026
- John W. Whiteside, BOM Class of 2026

Wishing you all the best in the coming year, we thank you for serving in these key roles in the Chapter!

Compatriot News
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Secretary	Christopher Snyder	(215) 206-3160
Treasurer	John Briggs	(610) 649-0866
Registrar	John Mitchell	(610) 630-1575
Genealogist	Kelsey Brown	(215) 659-1686
Chancellor	Michael Freeland, Esq	(610) 649-0707

John F. Mitchell – Distinguished Service

PCC is fortunate to have its energetic Registrar, John F. Mitchell. Obviously, the Registrar's job keeps John busy. Then when PASSAR had an opening in the District #1 Deputy position a few years ago, John stepped forward and has done an admirable job of representing both PCC and Washington Crossing Chapters. A third area of John's SAR activity concerns his position as Aide to the President in which he was tasked to train me in my new position. John's advice has proven to be reliable, valuable and timely. John was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Meeting.

Awards Presented at the Annual Meeting

John Francis Mitchell, III	Chapter Distinguished Service Medal and Certificate
Charles Kelsey Brown	Florence Kendall Award from National
Fernando Fonseca III	Roger Sherman Award OLC
Steven Peter Kopsick	Roger Sherman Award OLC
John Patrick Mulcahy	Roger Sherman Award Medal
Glenn Joseph Tyson	Roger Sherman Award OLC

Certificates of Appreciation

Stephen V. Cassel, Sr.	Chairing ROTC/JROTC Committee
Michael W. Freeland, Esq.	Serving on Special Committee to Update Guidon
James Morris Leming	Chairing Youth Education Poster and Brochure Committees
Michael John Rados	Chairing DAR/CAR Committee
Robert L. Whetstone	Serving on Special Committee to Update Guidon

Membership Recognition

Only the first person below was present to receive their membership certificate, but the remaining certificates will be hand delivered by myself and Past-President John F. Mitchell.

John Francis Mitchell, III	20 Yr Membership Certificate
Robert Francis Zsembik	20 Yr Membership Certificate
Rodger Freed McKinney	35 Yr Membership Certificate
Richard Renato Paul Di Stefano	35 Yr Membership Certificate
James Ronald Robb	35 Yr Membership Certificate
Robert Hacker Clapham, Sr	35 Yr Membership Certificate
Peter Morgan Adams	35 Yr Membership Certificate
John Ace Gibson	35 Yr Membership Certificate
Ellis C. L. Adams	65 Yr Membership Certificate

September 6 BOM

Our most recent BOM meeting was held at Charlotte's Restaurant in Newtown Square. Our speaker was Dave Walter of the Westtown Twp. Historical Commission, who spoke about the May dedication of the new Taylor Westtown Militia Monument (shown below) located on Westbourne Road just north of Street Road in Chester County. Dave's message was particularly interesting because the project took place over an eight-year period, and PCC contributed significantly to its success.

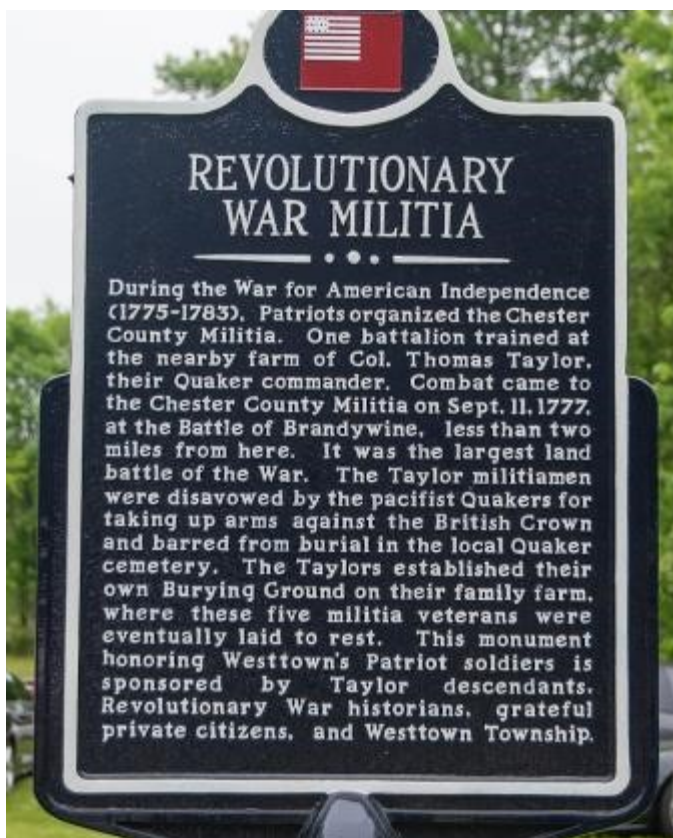
After the meal we had the business portion of the meeting, focusing on receiving the report of the Nominating Committee.

Past President James H. Willis

In noting the recent passing of Compatriot James Henry Willis, it is hard to exaggerate the contributions this Compatriot has made to PCC. Jim served as President for two years in 2009 and 2010. Additionally, he had extended duty serving as Captain of the Color Guard for thirteen years. Jim was also one of the major contributors to our extensive knowledge of Rev War Patriots buried in the four PCC counties as well as coordinating similar efforts performed throughout the state for PASSAR. In recent years Jim served as Historian, scanning the Chapter's records to produce a brief history of a couple years in our distant past so that current members can enjoy learning of the past efforts and accomplishments of our Chapter. Anyone interested in learning more about the Historian role should contact Steve Kopsick or myself.

Finally, I would like to convey my confidence in the newly elected team. Because of the Nominating Committee's decision to elect PCC top officers for two consecutive one-year terms, Steve Kopsick and Larry Magdy have had an extra year to observe and learn from our experiences, and have demonstrated their ability and desire to lead Philadelphia Continental Chapter into the future. Remembering that we are a volunteer organization, I need to encourage every Compatriot to consider how you might contribute to assist one of our Committees, Color Guard, or Special Projects.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Baker, PCC President



Color Guard Corner October 2023

We had an unusually active third quarter this year, with four events in July two in August and four in September.

On July 2nd four of us presented colors for a plaque dedication at the historic Zion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. Descendants of Johann Shinnick came from all over the country and the PCC Color Guard was proud to support the family in honoring their patriot ancestor.

We had a total of six guardsmen for annual July 4th ceremony at the Unknown Soldiers of the Revolution Graveyard in East Vincent Twp. Chester County.

On the 11th we had a two-fer. Immediately after the annual Children's Naturalization Ceremony at the Betsy Ross house, Bill Baker, Larry Magdy, Rich Lind and myself we headed to the Marriot to open the National Conference of Registers of Wills.

That evening we were informed of the passing of the PCCs longest serving Color Guard Commander and past president Jim Willis. Although I was a color guard member for only a short time before his retirement from the guard I felt his goal was to get it right and have fun. I was at Congress during Jim's life celebration and Sgt Magdy assembled an honor guard for him and his family. With Larry were Dave Mizel, Steve Kopsick, Glenn Tyson and Rich Lind.

On July 15th I was in Orlando for the SAR National Congress and had a great time participating in Color Guard events with guardsmen from around the country.

July 20th was the Chester County kick off event for the Bicentennial of



Chris Snyder, Dave Mizel, Bill Baker, Mark Lanyon, Spencer Snyder, and Fred Fonseca at the East Vincent Unknown Soldiers Monument



Dave Mizel, Larry Magdy, Steve Kopsick, Rich Lind, and Glenn Tyson at the memorial for Jim Willis

Lafayette's return tour of America where we presented the colors and participated in a volley.

On August 11th and 12th three guardsmen were back at the Goshenhoppen Folk Festival on the grounds of the Henry Antes homestead which was General Washington's HQ during the Pottsgrove encampment.

In September the tempo picked up with four events. Seven guardsmen participated in the Cooches Bridge event, which the Delaware SAR is working to make into a National Color Guard Event. For the SAR/DAR/CAR Constitution Week this year we mustered five guardsmen. On September 20th the PCC held its second Annual Remember Paoli Ceremony with four guardsmen. PCC President Bill Baker presided and Jim Christ, the head of Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund, was keynote speaker. The event was attended by John Mitchel representing PASSAR, Margaret Fritsch, the DAR State Regent, Chester County DAR and two descendants of survivors of the Paoli surprise attack on General Wayne's Pennsylvania division. On September 23rd 1st VP Steve Kopsick participated in color guard events at the SAR National Leadership Conference in Louisville.

Fred Fonseca , Color Guard Commander



Fred Fonseca, Rich Lind, Spencer Snyder, and Chris Snyder attended Constitution Week breakfast at Valley Forge and are show with the Justice Bell at the Washington Memorial Chapel.



Chris Snyder, Fred, Fonseca, Rich Lind, and Spencer Snyder at the Paoli Battlefield.

Eagle Scout scholarship contest award

As Pennsylvania State winner of the 2022 Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest, Eagle Scout, Lauren Tyree, Troop 19 Marshallton, was presented with the Pennsylvania Society's SAR Eagle Scout trophy and a cash award at its youth awards banquet on May 6, 2023. The Pennsylvania Society also strives to recognize the Pennsylvania winner's Scoutmaster for encouraging Eagle Scouts to participate in the SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest. Melissa Pendill, Troop 19 Scoutmaster, was unable to attend the May 6th youth awards banquet. However, she was presented with a SAR Certificate of Commendation and a SAR/BSA Partners in Good Citizenship Patch at the Troop 19 Court of Honor, held on September 21st. Melissa was also thanked for her efforts as a volunteer Scouter on behalf of the Sons of the American Revolution. Lauren also placed first in the Philadelphia Continental Chapter's SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest and 9th place in the National Contest.



Pictured from left: Camille Bergmaier Court of Honor Leader, Melissa Pendill Scoutmaster Troop 19, and Mark Burt Eagle Scout Committee Chairman Philadelphia Continental Chapter and Pennsylvania Society Sons of the American Revolution

New Members 8/25/23 to 10/17/23	
New Member	Patriot
Francis Anthony Kane, Jr.	George Ludwig Bilger
David Clark Patten, Jr.	Anthony Thomas
Stuart Haden Quillman	Abijah Adams
William "Liam" Paul Strain	John Ashton, Sr.
Craig Hammond Patton	John George Hambright
Kevin Donnelly Hammond Patton	John George Hambright
Donald Righter Smedley	John Righter
David Robert Struwe	Frederick Hain
Junior	Patriot
John David Struwe	Frederick Hain
William Saam Struwe	Frederick Hain

Event: 2023-2024 Dues Collection
Date: Now until December 1, 2023

My fellow Compatriots,

As we all know, our organization is an “all volunteer” one. There are numerous programs that we do to benefit the community including participating in civic ceremonies, administering scholarships, supporting historical organizations, promoting history education with essay contests, etc.

You volunteered to become a member of this organization, and as a member, there is only one thing we require of you. That is to keep your membership current, as this supports our viability. This is an annual requirement (unless you are a “lifetime member”).

You will not receive a message from PASSAR for dues as we have decided to support the mission and do it ourselves.

If you have not paid your 2024 dues, I greatly encourage you to do so by December 1st, 2023 to avoid the post-December 31 \$10 late fee.

As advised last year, National bumped up their dues by \$15 from \$35 to \$50, so please don't get sticker shock. Our dues have remained the same.

The regular member amount is \$50-national, 25-State, 25-chapter for a total of is **\$100**

Junior members pay **\$5**.

Dual member out of state pay \$25 - state and \$25 - Chapter for a total of **\$50**.

Dual member in state are billed pay the dual chapter **\$25** in addition to the regular member amount to the home chapter.

Active duty pays **\$0**

Emeritus State pays \$25 - State and \$25 - chapter for a total of **\$50**.

Life members already paid.

Reinstatements pay the \$100 and a \$10 reinstatement fee. You also have to fill out the [form](#) (click on form).

Any additional amount paid above the dues requirement is considered a donation to the Chapter and is tax deductible.

There are two methods to remain current. You can mail a check to:

Bill Baker
929 Burmont Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026-4012

(Be sure to include your national and state numbers on the check)

OR

Go the the PCCSAR website and use your credit card.

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