



Compatriot News

Philadelphia Continental Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



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Greetings, Compatriots!

I am happy to report that the 100th celebration of George Washington's Birthday at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier was a tremendous success for the Philadelphia Continental Chapter SAR and for its Color Guard. Congratulations to Fred Fonseca and his Troopers! We recently changed the main picture on the home page www.pccsar.org to capture a measure of the organization and presence our Color Guard exhibited at Washington Square on Saturday, February 19, 2022.

Front and center you can see NSSAR Color Guard Commander Louis Raborg who joined the PCC Color Guard for the event even though he had to miss the Annual George Washington



ton Luncheon of his home State of Maryland. Many thanks to Commander Raborg for joining his PCC Compatriots for the day.

The final act of the GW Birthday Celebration occurred after marching to the Museum of the American Revolution, where we recorded the obligatory photo with the cannon out front. The second photo shows Past PCC President George Clarke providing the drum cadence, followed by Commander Raborg and Noah Lewis who presented our program for the luncheon following at P. J. Clarke's Restaurant literally right across Walnut Street from Washington Square. Noah provided an enthusiastic and stirring description of the patriotism and "no excuses" attitude of Ned Hector, a black Continental soldier who served under General Washington. Noah portrays Ned Hector with every ounce of concentration he possesses, and is currently writing a biography of the man. Noah



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began representing the hero Edward “Ned” Hector in 1996 after learning about this black Continental soldier, who fought in the Battle of Brandywine and was held in such high regard by his community that they named a street in Conshohocken after him in 1853. Previously, Noah provided the program for a PASSAR meeting in 2021 where he officially became a Friend of PCC.

One aspect of Noah Lewis’ method is to involve his audience in an interactive portrayal of the points he is trying to communicate. At the February 19th luncheon he selected two volunteers who were asked to respond as white soldiers, and a third person to respond as a black soldier. Noah then described numerous situations followed by asking all three characters, “how do you feel about that?” It didn’t take long for the feelings of inequality of the black soldier to become obvious to all present. More recently the Board of Management discussed the desire to associate more with Noah Lewis and agreed to invite Noah to join us at all PCC chapter and BOM meetings, as he is not yet able to apply for SAR membership.

In early March we had a Zoom meeting which included Compatriot Calvin Ramsey as our speaker. Calvin told us about his learning of his ancestry related to Revolutionary War soldier John Epps from Virginia, which paved the way to his joining the Florida Society SAR while living in Sarasota, Florida. Calvin joined us in March from his current base in New York City and looks forward to continued work to perform his new work as a playwright, while integrating his growing knowledge of Colonial US history. Connections for more information on Calvin Ramsey are available on the PCC website by going to <https://www.pccsar.org/event-calendars> and then scrolling down to the March 8th meeting.



Noah Lewis

Then on Wednesday, April 6 we had our Board of Management meeting where we review chapter and committee activities from the preceding three months. We also heard a report on Treasurer John Briggs, who recently suffered a heart attack, was in intensive care for a couple weeks and then remained under observation at Lankenau Hospital for similar time period until being discharged – cards and notes appreciated!. Contact Bill Baker at wbaklava@aol.com for a mailing address.

It is difficult to discuss current activities without mentioning the pandemic virus which has curtailed so many activities. PCC meeting attendance in recent months is somewhat reduced as follows: 1/22/22 – 25, 2/19/22 – 22, 3/6/22 – 21, 4/6/22 - 14.

Thank you to Compatriots who were able to attend these meetings! These numbers represent the actions of PCC members to join when they were able and felt it was appropriate to meet in-person, which represented three of the four meetings. We had a Zoom meeting on Monday, April 25 to review the logistics of placing flags on Patriot graves leading up to Memorial Day. There was a chapter meeting on Wednesday, May 4 at Charlotte’s Restaurant - we heard author and lecturer Gene Pisasale speak on the subject, “The Forgotten Founding Fathers.”

The final upcoming event to mention is the Annual Picnic, which is planned for Sunday, June 12 at Fenimore Woods Park in Radnor Township. After so many virtual meetings last year, we will focus on continuing our tradition of making the Annual Picnic a special outdoors gathering where Compatriots and family members are welcome!

One final event needs to be mentioned here, and that is the March 27 Color Guard training which took place at Fort Mifflin. While some had visited Fort Mifflin, many of us visited for the first time this historic fort located just east and south of PHL airport. The training that day was a combination of marching and firing muskets. And after seeing the poor condition of the facilities there, the Execu-

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tive Committee approved a \$250 contribution to the Friends of Fort Mifflin whose mission is to “stabilize, restore and preserve the Fort that saved America.” It is hoped that future training and other events can be held at this historic location.

PCC History 1993-94

The Annual Meeting was held at the Bala Golf Club, Wednesday November 17, 1993. The newly installed officers are David Cole, President-Aloysius Hogan, 1st Vice President-James Musslewhite, 2nd Vice President and Treasurer, George Mohr, Secretary.

Several officers and PCC members attended the Pennsylvania Society’s 100th Anniversary Centennial in Pittsburgh on November 5th and 6th, 1993. On November 8th, a ceremony to rededicate the eternal flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution was held in Washington Square. Captain J R Hutchison of the USS Kennedy conducted the flag raising ceremony. A National Society Color Guard Trophy was established starting with activity in calendar year 1993.

The first Board of Management Meeting of 1994 was held at the Mile Post Inn, Strafford on January 3rd. Jim Bradley spoke on the 1777 White Marsh Encampment of Washington’s Army. Treasurer Jim Musslewhite reported that 1994 dues are coming in well. The \$44 fee includes National, State and Chapter memberships. Also, the February Meeting of the Chapter was held on the 3rd with President David Cole presiding.

This year’s Washington’s Birthday Celebration was held February 19th at La Buca Ristorante, 711 Locust St., Philadelphia. The ceremony began with the flag raising at Independence Hall. President David Cole conducted the wreath setting ceremony. The second wreath setting was at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution at Washington Square conducted by Chaplain James Murrey.

We all know of the terrible winter Washington and his troops suffered at Valley Forge in 1778. Of much interest is the arrival of Martha Washington at Valley Forge in February 1778 to celebrate the General’s 46th birthday. She paid an army band 15 shillings to supply music for the occasion.

The Ladies Night Dinner was held Thursday evening March 10th, 1994 at the Bala Golf Club with President David Cole as speaker, dress informal, cost \$25. The chapter’s Annual Church Service was Sunday, April 10th at the Chapel of Saint Cornelius the Centurion at Valley Forge Military Academy. The chapter budget for 1993-94 was \$ 24,710.

The Mile Post Inn, our headquarters, closed down in July 1994. The Wild Onion Restaurant, In Rosemont, was selected as our new meeting place.

The PASSAR Annual Board Meeting was held May 14th at the Inn at Reading. It was heavily attended by PCC compatriots. The Radnor Township Memorial Day Parade of Monday, May 30th went off smoothly and effectively thanks to Color Guard Captain, Alex Atkinson. The 2nd Annual Patriots Picnic Sunday, June 5th, ably directed by Chairman Herb Armstrong was well attended by members and guests. Sunday, July 3rd, Allegiance Sunday was celebrated in various churches, notably at Rev Hockensmith’s St. Marks Church in Frankford. Our Chaplain, Rev Murrey, gave a fine sermon. The first Board Meeting and luncheon at the Wild Onion took place Monday, September 12th. The DAR-SAR Constitution Week Luncheon was held at the General Washington Golf Club in Audubon, Pa on September 17th. More than 130 persons attended.

Jim Willis, Historian of the Chapter

COLOR GUARD CORNER

The PCC Color Guard took part in several activities in the first quarter of 2022. In January two guardsmen participated in a Wreath Retiring at Laurel Hill Cemetery where PCC Chancellor Michael Freeland has family members.



On the same day four guardsman and myself took part in the Princeton Battlefield and Assunpink Battle Wreath Layings. These National Color Guard events were attended by President General Davis Wright, National Color Guard Commander Louis Raborg, Vice Commander Brooks Lyles and PASSAR President Andrew Lick.

In February we lost PCC past President and Color Guard Commander Herbert Armstrong. The color guard was honored to be asked by the family to attend his Life Celebration in uniform. Past PASSAR President Greg Shively, PCC Second Vice President Larry Magdy, Chaplin Glenn Tyson and I stood with colors at the church entrance. Past PCC President Dave Mizel and 1st Vice President Steve Kopsick stood with arms by Lt Col. Armstrong while family and friends paid last respects.

On February 19th, the PCC held its 100th Washington's Birthday Celebration. It was also the first National Color Guard Event ever in the Philadelphia area. The day's events were attended by National Color Guard Commander Louis Raborg, PA State Commander George Clarke, ten PCC guardsman and myself. Officiating was President William Baker. After wreaths were laid at Washington Square and Independence Hall, the color guard, marching smartly to Commander Clarke's beat of the drum, led a procession to the Museum of the American Revolution for photos.



A luncheon at PJ Clarkes followed where reenactor and living historian Noah Lewis gave a rousing talk on free and enslaved Africans during the revolution.

After a two-year covid hiatus, the color guard resumed spring training. Guardsman Mike Carver, a living historian at Fort Mifflin, arranged for us to hold our training at the historic Fort Mifflin on March 27th. Seven uniformed color guardsmen participated plus Mike, myself and President Baker. A strong breeze delivered wind chills near freezing, but with the promise of colonial brew afterwards, the guard pushed on and worked hard to be in top shape for the 2022 color guard season.



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We have our usual activities coming up in the busy second quarter starting with the Mason's March on April 30th. In May there is the French Alliance Day and Memorial Day Parade. Please check pccsar.org for upcoming activity details.

Fred Fonseca
Color Guard Commander

Fred Fonseca presented, Samantha Dunlap, a Senior at Oxford Area High School with a certificate, a check for \$100, and two tickets for the Museum of the American Revolution. Her essay "Reasons for Freedom" was the winner of the 2021 PCC Knight Essay Contest. The contest requires an original essay written in English, with a minimum of 750 words and a maximum of 1000 words (excluding title page and bibliography). The topic of the essay must be an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution.



PCC member of 37 years, Lt. Col. Herbert Tibbits Armstrong, US Army Retired, one of the "Greatest Generation," has passed away at 103 years of age. Seeing that war was imminent, he enlisted well before the United States entered WWII. He was selected for OCS and went through as a shavetail, but he proved himself worthy of the commission, eventually working directly for General George Patton. Once he accepted a responsibility, he kept with it. During the war he recruited a high school aged French boy to translate for him and remained in contact with that man well after Herb retired from the service.

When he returned to civilian life, he immersed himself into everything he did. For many years he was the Scoutmaster of a local troop, Commander of his American Legion post, member of the building committee at the Wayne Presbyterian Church, and President of and Color Guard Commander of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter of the SAR. He was loved and respected by everyone who met him. A true gentleman in every sense of the word. A man we cannot duplicate, but one we should try to emulate.



Yearsley Award

In April, President Bill Baker and 1st VP Steve Kopsick attended the 2022 Founder's Day ceremony at the Williamson College of the Trades, to present our annual award to the William J. Yearsley Williamson Award recipient.

This award, formerly known as the Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades Award, was originated by William J. Yearsley, a 1941 graduate of the school and Past President of PCC (1998-99). Bill Yearsley brought this award to Williamson because he wanted to see Williamson students recognized for their outstanding efforts. After his death in 2003, the Chapter perpetuated his memory by renaming the award The William J. Yearsley Williamson (Outstanding Citizenship) Award.

This is a cash award along with the Chapter's Leadership Medallion and Certificate. It is granted, and presented by the Chapter President, at the school's annual Founder's Day dinner, usually in early February, to the Outstanding Citizenship student, as chosen by a Faculty Committee, based on demonstrating these strengths:

- Industry
- Self-discipline
- Personal Integrity
- Reliability
- Contributions above the call of duty

The award winner must be a Junior, must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher, and must have fewer than 28 disciplinary points.

This year's award recipient was Richard MacMullen who is from Drexel Hill. He attended Monsignor Bonner High School where he played baseball and football all four years. After joining Williamson, He chose the Machine Tool Technology Program. The other programs available at Williamson are Power Plant Technology, Carpentry, and Masonry.



Rich is an exemplary Williamson student. He had a perfect 4.0 GPA every semester and has received no disciplinary points. He works on the student newspaper and is one of only a few students to be in the group that listens to student appeals, which is a position of great trust. His first year, he received the Swinehart Award as the outstanding freshman machinist. Further, his machine shop instructors say he never complains and always gets the job done no matter how challenging it is. He exhibits great leadership skill and is always ready to lend a helping hand to others.

This is a wonderful school and program to support and speaks very well for the Philadelphia Continental Chapter. I can only hope that this positive relationship continues well into the future.

New Members 1/14/22 to 4/8/22	
New Member	Patriot
Logan James Sanet	Casper Hepler
John William Lyver, IV	David Schultz
George John Bernhard	William Faris
Douglas Allen Watts	Isaac Brown
Christopher Brian Quinn	William Colvard, Sr.
Albert Forte	Benjamin Caudill
Stephen Cordell Forte	Benjamin Caudill
Joseph Francis Sheldon	Benjamin Edson
Thomas Herbert Infield	Andrew Moore
Jack Lewis Taylor, Jr.	Thomas Levis
Junior Member	
Sanet Nathan Abraham	Casper Hepler
Morgon Robert Samuel	Thomas Stewart
Memorial	
Millard Guy Englehard	Robert Millard

**Annual Patriots Picnic
Sunday, June 12, 2022
Fenimore Woods Park, Radnor Twp.**

The Philadelphia Continental Chapter Annual Patriots Picnic will be held at Fenimore Woods Park on Sunday, June 12, 2022. Please plan to arrive by 11:30 AM to enjoy the festivities. We hope to feature a 110-pound pig, prepared by Esposito's Porchetta of South Philadelphia, as well as other food offerings. We will have beer and wine and assorted cold soft drinks to satisfy your thirst. Bring your wife, children, and family and friends. All are welcome to enjoy our program. The park is located at 1194 Eagle Road, Wayne, PA 19087.



In addition to Compatriots and families, we also plan to have the pleasure of hosting the Eagle Scout and Greenspan award winners and their families.

Please call or email John Mitchell, or Bill Baker to notify us with your name and number of guests you are bringing.

John Mitchell - 610-630-1575 or 484-557-9270 (cell phone) - e-mail: johnfmtc@aol.com

Bill Baker- 248-701-5267 - e-mail: wbaklava@aol.com.

If you are interested in helping out at the picnic, please contact John or Bill at the phone numbers above or e-mail.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, June 12!

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