



Compatriot News

Philadelphia Continental Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



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Summer 2023



Greetings Compatriots!

The last three months have been very busy. If you ever start thinking that our SAR Chapter does the same events every year, you will no doubt be surprised by the many unique events that are taking place. Below you will find a brief review of the chapter meetings as well as other Chapter events.

Chapter Meetings

Back on April 5, the PCC Chapter Meeting first met for lunch at Lehman's Restaurant in Essington. Following lunch, we all then drove to the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum in Philadelphia, also near the PHL Airport. Compatriots circulated around the museum, taking in the seventy (70) race/sports cars, almost all of which are maintained in driving condition!

Later in April on the 24th, we held a special Zoom meeting to review plans for placing Betsy Ross flags on Patriot graves in the various cemeteries in Chester, Montgomery, Delaware and Philadelphia Counties. We reviewed which Compatriot is assigned to each cemetery and welcomed attendees to express their interest to assist or possibly take over placing flags in a given cemetery.

Our May 3 meeting at Charlotte's Restaurant was for the Board of Management. Twenty-one (21) Compatriots attended, which included twelve of the nineteen BOM members.

Then on June 11 the annual Picnic was attended by many Compatriots and guests. This is definitely the best event of the PCC SAR year! Mark Burt presented Eagle Scout award winners with certificates and awards – Lauren Tyree and Matthew Schoonyoung. Also, Chairman Dean Henry presented the Greenspan Scholarship award to Sarah Schriber and then presented a certificate to Sarah's History professor and counselor at Holy Family University, Mary Carroll Johansen. Next, Life Saving certificates and medals were presented by Steve Kopsick to Angela Caruso, Miguel Hernandez, and Natalie Spencer, RN. Steve Cassel presented a Heroism certificate and medal to Tyler Morrell. Then, Fred Fonseca presented the Knight Essay award to Liam Strain.

Other Events

Back on May 6, the Pennsylvania Society held their quarterly Board of Management meeting in Gettysburg where Eric

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

President	William H. Baker	(248) 701-52671
1st Vice Pres.	Steven 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	(610) 630-1575
Genealogist	Kelsey Brown	(215) 659-1686
Chancellor	Michael Freeland, Esq	(610) 649-0707

Troutman of Governor Hiester Chapter was installed as the new president. Outgoing president Mike Seibert thanked and recognized the Philadelphia Continental Chapter for our strong performance in collecting 2023 dues late last year.

Later on May 19, the Color Guard participated in the burial for former PCC Compatriot Ronald Lawrence 1940-2022 at Washington Crossing National Cemetery (please see the Obituaries webpage under Chapter Information). The Lawrence family was very appreciative of the job performed by the PCC Color Guard for this burial.



Color Guard at the Taylor Westtown Militia Monument dedication

The following day on May 20 we participated in the dedication of the Taylor Westtown Militia Monument. Our new PASSAR President Eric Troutman spoke briefly at the dedication. The PCC Color Guard participated and was supplemented by a couple reenactors invited by the Westtown Twp. Historical Commission (HC) to participate in the ceremony. The new monument is located adjacent to the old Taylor family farm which contained the family Burying Ground. The dedication marked the conclusion of an eight-year project to provide a proper monument for five Rev War soldiers buried there which, over time, became a housing development. PCC joined the HC to raise funds back in 2015 to purchase gravestones for the five Patriots. The Commission had to work through complaints from the neighbors to the Township, resulting in a fine monument that was dedicated this day. The HC representative Dave Walter is scheduled to present this history at our upcoming Sept 6 BOM meeting at Charlotte's Restaurant. Major assist from PCC was provided by Chancellor Michael Freeland and former Treasurer John Briggs.



The Taylor Westtown Militia Monument

Then the next day on May 21, the DAR dedicated the grave of Hanna Archer Till (1721-1826). This DAR Event at Eden Cemetery in Collingdale was held to recognize Till for her patriotic contributions as George Washington's cook while heading up the Continental Army.

Somewhat later on July 2, the PCC Color Guard supported a dedication ceremony for the Patriot ancestor of Chapter member Larnie Shinnick who traveled a significant distance from his home in Madison, MS, to make this happen. The plaque provided by the DAR is now located on the wall in the sanctuary of the Old Zion Church on North Broad Street.

Next there was repeat event on July 4 in East Vincent Township where the annual program was held at the cemetery for 22 unknown Patriot soldiers. The cemetery is located alongside PA-23 where they have had problems fitting the growing number of attendees into the small area beside the highway. This year the municipality closed down PA-23 so that seating could be quickly provided in the street just outside the cemetery entrance. The ceremony took about one hour.

Last but not least I want to mention the very moving ceremony which took place on July 11. Named the "Let Freedom Ring" ceremony, 14 youth from around the world were naturalized as U. S. citizens at the Betsy Ross House. Again, the PCC Color Guard participated to open and close the event, reminding the new citizens of those who fought to make the event possible.

Color Guard Corner July 2023

The second quarter of 2023 was as usual a very active time for the PCC Color Guard.

Our spring season began on April 22nd with guardsman Mike Carver arranging and running a color guard training plus musket maintenance seminar at Fort Mifflin. In attendance was 1st VP Steven Kopsick, 2nd VP Larry Magdy, Secretary Chris Snyder, his son Spencer and myself.

The following weekend was the annual Mason March. It was preceded by an informative talk about the storied history of Christ Church. The Masons were very appreciative of the color guard which included me, Steven Kopsick, Glenn Tyson, and Rich Lind for carrying the colors at the lead of a procession of Masons and family members to the grave site of Ben Franklin several blocks away.

The PASSAR annual Meeting took place on May 6th and President Bill Baker, Steve Kopsick and I presented the colors.



French Alliance Day at Washington Chapel

French Alliance Day, held each year on the first Sunday in May, is always a grand affair and the PCC Color Guard does our part to make it so. Me, Steve Kopsick, Chris Snyder, Spencer Snyder, and Rich Lind participated in the Washington Chapel commemoration of the crucial 1778 alliance between the United States and France. President Bill Baker was in suit and tie representing the PCC.

The third weekend of May was the busiest weekend for the color guard that I had ever seen with four events in three days. On Friday, May 19th I stood with colors along with Bill Baker and Steve Kopsick at the service for PCC member Ron Lawrence at the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Afterwards we had lunch at an 18th century tavern in Newtown where we met a young woman who was a direct descendent of a New Jersey signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The next day we split forces to cover simultaneous events with SGT and 2nd VP Larry Magdy and



Chaplin Glenn Tyson at Westminster Cemetery for SAR member Elliot Jones and me and Bill Baker at the Taylor Monument dedication in Westtown which was attended by PASSAR President Eric Troutman.

The following day, Sunday, SGT Larry Magdy, Rich Lind and I participated with colors at a DAR event at Eden Cemetery in Phila.



Color Guard at the Memorial Day Parade

Closing out month of May was of course the Radnor Memorial Day Parade where we had a fine showing of PCC Color Guardsmen. Rich Lind supplied a Corvette convertible which was driven by Mike Rados to carry "General Washington" portrayed by Larry Magdy. Also marching with Rich was Steve Kopsick, Mark Lanyon, Chris Snyder, Spencer Snyder and myself. After the parade and some refreshments, thanks to the Wayne American Legion, we were off to Washington Square in Philadelphia for the annual Memorial Day DAR/SAR/CAR wreath laying. Joining Steve Kopsick, Glenn Tyson, Rich Lind, Michael Carver and me for this event was PCC friend Noah Lewis. Former PCC President now PASSAR District One representative John Mitchel represented PASSAR for President Eric Troutman.



June started with the Malvern Memorial Day Parade on the 4th where Steve Kopsick and I marched celebrating Malvern's 155th Parade in honor of fallen American

heroes.

The PCC color guard rose to the occasion for two events on Flag Day. President Bill Baker, Steve Kopsick, Mark Lanyon, Glenn Tyson, Rich Lind and I assembled at the Betsy Ross House for a



morning ceremony. Afterward we marched to the Constitution Center where I raised the flag in a short ceremony followed by a march to Independence Hall for the US Army birthday and new recruit swearing in. Later in the day SGT Larry Magdy, Bill Baker and Steve Kopsick presented colors for the annual Lansdowne DAR Flag raising event.

The National SAR Color Guard event commemorating the Battle of Monmouth occurred on June 17th. I along with Chris Snyder, Spencer Snyder and Joseph Heister Chapter guardsman Calvin Huntzinger represented Pennsylvania in a wreath laying organized by the New Jersey Society Color Guard.

Before closing I must mention the many comments I receive commending the performance of your color guardsmen. They work hard to look the part and do a fantastic job despite mistakes by the commander. Most

Color Guard at Washington Square on Memorial Day for DAR/SAR annual Wreath Laying



guardsmen have other important duties in the chapter and some have physical issues and march while enduring pain. The PCC should be proud of each member of the color guard for their dedication to the guard and the mission of the SAR.

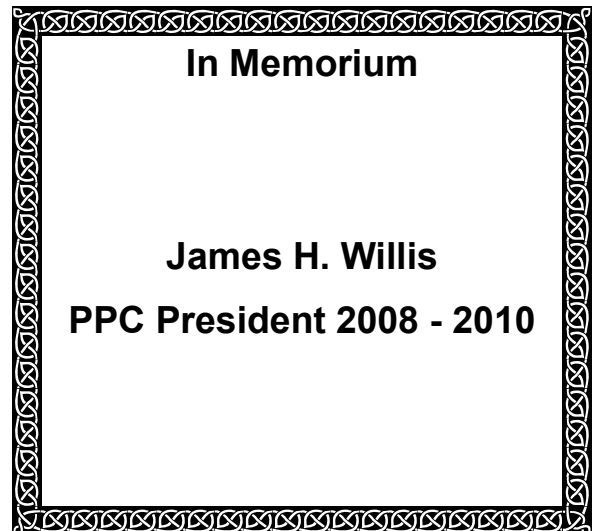
Fred Fonseca

PCC Color Guard Commander



Now on view at the Museum of the American Revolution is this "Liberty" flag, the only surviving example from the Revolutionary War, on loan from the Schenectady County Historical Society. This silk flag with silk lettering was possibly crafted sometime between 1765-1775, potentially for use by the Schenectady Sons of Liberty, which hoisted one fitting its description atop a liberty pole in January 1771. The flag is believed to have been carried by a New York regiment in 1776 and 1777. In August 1776, Adjutant General Major Baurmeister, a high-ranking commander of German-speaking Hessian troops serving alongside the British, reported that "we came into possession of eleven enemy flags with the motto 'Liberty

New Members 5/5/23 to 8/24/23	
New Member	Patriot
John Weston Quillman	Abijah Adams
Haden Charles Quillman	Abijah Adams
Steven Charles Halpert	Andrew McClure
Daniel Lloyd Hessel	Gilbert Hart
Donald B. Lewis	Isaac Lewis
Matthew Davies Lewis	Isaac Lewis
Robin H. Ashby	Benjamin Ashby
Everett L. Richardson, Jr.	Robert Wright
Matthew Richard Couch	William Couch
Weston Hunter Shivers	John Noblit

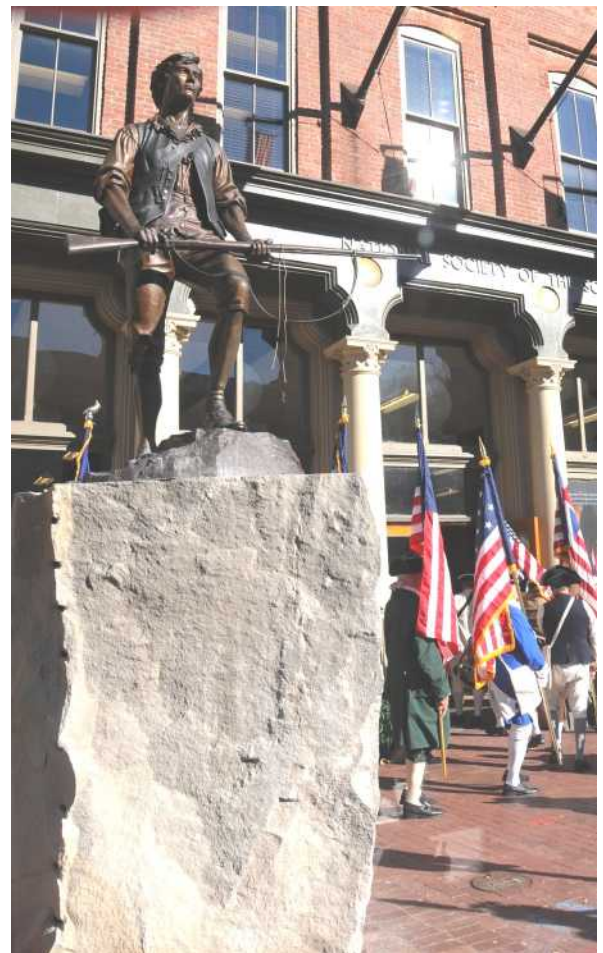
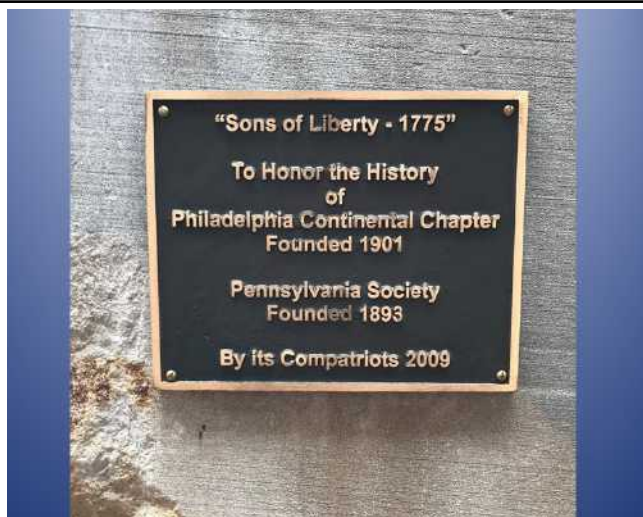


Dear Friends - It is with deep appreciation that I send this email on behalf of the Willis Family. The Color Guard support, your kind thoughts and sentiments about dad and the eternal gift of his memorial tree will always be remembered.

During a time like this, we learn how much our family and compatriots mean to us.

Jimmy, Joanie, Jeanne, Susan and Tony

In 2009, the Philadelphia Continental Chapter had a group of chapter compatriots match a \$25,000 donation by Robert McNeil, Jr. Arizona sculptor & compatriot, James Muir, was commissioned to create the "Sons of Liberty-1775". The 800-pound, 8-foot high bronze statue of the Minuteman holding a musket rests upon 19,000 pounds of quarried Kentucky limestone, material specifically requested by the artist James Muir, and is located in front of our SAR headquarters at 809 West Main Street in Louisville, Kentucky



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