

# THE BADGER PATRIOT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE WISCONSIN SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, MARCH 2024

## SAR HEROISM AND LIFE SAVING MEDAL

On Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at the Kenosha County Sheriff's Office, Elisha Raymond Chapter President Sam Keith presented the SAR Heroism Medal to Kenosha County Deputy Sheriff Joseph Thomas for the following act of Heroism:

While on patrol, just after 3 a. m., Saturday, August 26, 2023 Deputy Joseph Thomas heard a Kenosha Police Department dispatch call of a car that had struck a home and had caught fire with the driver trapped in the vehicle. Since Deputy Thomas was closest to the site, he diverted from a service call and arrived as the first responder to the scene. He ran to the vehicle which was engulfed in flames and partially inside the residence, forced entry to the burning car, cut off the seat belt and pulled the man from the vehicle and turned him over to Kenosha Police. He then helped to safely evacuate the home's residents who were uninjured. The driver of the vehicle was arrested for DWI and other charges. Regarding the driver Deputy Thomas said at the scene "The driver was very fortunate. He missed a large tree, a fire hydrant and struck the home in the chimney, the brick chimney, so that prevented a lot of structural damage to the home". Deputy Thomas later said at another awards event "I just felt I was doing what I was supposed to do, but it's still a good feeling."



Photo Credit: SGT Colin Coultrip, PIO, Kenosha County Sheriff's Department

On Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at the Kenosha County Sheriff's Office, Elisha Raymond Chapter President Sam Keith presented the SAR Life Saving Medal to Deputies Christopher Bischoff and Kelsey Schwuchow for saving a mother and two children from drowning.

While off duty on August 27, 2023 at Lake Michigan's Simmons Island Beach in Kenosha Deputy Sheriff Kelsey Schwuchow and her partner Deputy Sheriff Christopher Bischoff and their families both deputies noticed children struggling in approximately 9 feet of water about 60 yards from shore. Deputies Schwuchow and Bischoff jumped into the lake and swam out to the children, whose mother was also attempting to reach them. Together, both deputies reached the children and began bringing them back



to shore when they all began to go under

the water. After separating from the children for a moment to regain their breath they pulled the children to shore. They then aided the mother who was starting to drown. Deputy Schwuchow showed the mother how to float and after the children were on shore went back and pulled the mother to shore. The mother and children have fully recovered. During the recovery, the Deputies were battling 3-4 foot waves and rip currents.

Photo Credit: SGT Colin Coultrip, PIO, Kenosha County Sheriff's Department

Elisha Raymond Chapter President Sam Keith, Deputy Sheriffs Christopher Bischoff, Kelsey Schwuchow, Joseph Thomas and Kenosha County Sheriff David Zoerner at the November 14, 2023 SAR Awards Ceremony held at the Sheriff's Office.

Photo Credit: SGT Colin Coultrip, PIO, Kenosha County Sheriff's Department





Elisha Raymond Chapter President Sam Keith, Elisha Raymond Chapter Secretary-Treasurer PCC Brian McManus, Deputy Sheriffs Christopher Bischoff, Kelsey Schuwchow, Joseph Thomas and Kenosha County Sheriff David Zoerner at the November 14, 2023 SAR Awards Ceremony held at the Sheriff's Office.

Photo Credit: SGT Colin Coultrip, PIO, Kenosha County Sheriff's Department

### **GEORGE WASHINGTONS 1767 SILVER HILTED SMALLSWORD**

One of Washington's most beautiful swords, this sword appears in many famous Washington paintings and in terms of decorative arts and styles it is very much moving from the Rococo period with its naturalism, scrolls, swirls and shells to a bit of the Neoclassical period. This sword has a triangular blade, known as a Colichermarde blade, which means it has a relatively thicker top part that has rather sharply-angled shoulders to a very long taper.



Swords in colonial times were certainly lethal but they were really, in many ways, far more important as an accessory of gentlemen's dress, like custom leather-made shoes or a custom Italian suit or a fine tie. More information can be found at [MountVernon.org](http://MountVernon.org).



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT HAGLUND

Compatriots of Wisconsin,

Welcome to spring. I just worry about the old adage "in like a lamb, out like a lion."

Please make plans to attend the annual Wisconsin Society conference on April 24 at the Esquire Club in Madison. We will have a short BOD meeting prior to the general meeting. It will be great to get together with everyone.

Secretary Bill Austin and I recently attended the NSSAR Leadership Conference. We go to the committee meetings each of us are members and divide up to attend the other meetings to cover as much as we can.

The NSSAR making progress with the electronic dues' proposal. They have been working with several states and it appears to be working. They are hoping to have it in effect by the end of this year. That means we have to have correct email addresses for everyone as that is how they will send out the dues billing. If someone does not have an email, we will mail their dues statement. By NSSAR handling the dues collection payment can be made by debit/credit card. They will take the National dues portion out and send the rest back to the respective states. They will send out monthly reports to each state on who has or has not paid. Secretary Austin has contacted National Dues Billing Task Force Chair Lee Popham for further information.

If you have not, and I hope you do, log into the [sar.org](http://sar.org) website. Establishing a login opens up areas on the website not open to the general public. When you login you will find numerous areas of training for all of us. If you deal with youth organizations, you will find Youth Protection Training (YPT). There is Compatriot Member training that has multiple training modules to better understand the SAR. I recently sent chapter leadership training modules to each chapter president to send down to chapter officers for training and certification in their positions. I have been working my way thru them. I find them very helpful and informative. You can also go into Online Membership DATA (Blue) and check out membership data to insure it is correct. I strongly suggest you do with the upcoming dues initiative; it is also the way we use to contact you.

Under Education on the NSSAR website, you will find the different youth contests available and the ages that apply to each contest. Attached is latest youth program NSSAR is working on.

NSSAR has also asked each state to form a Youth Committee and name a chair for a point of contact for them. The Youth Committee would have all the youth programs and contests under it. Anyone interested in chairing this committee please contact me.

I recently attended the George Washington Luncheon that is sponsored by WISSAR and WISDAR. It was attended by 100+ members of the SAR, DAR and CAR. Brian Barrett did a presentation on the research he is doing for his upcoming book. Very interesting and appropriate with the upcoming America 250.

I attended the CAR state conference and presented outgoing CAR President Gabriella De Leon Rivera (below left) and Senior President Elizabeth Mullen (below right) with CAR-SAR

Silver Medals of Appreciation for their service.



Later this month I will be attending America250 Wisconsin Commission meeting in Madison, a meeting with the VA in Milwaukee in reference to possibly putting a Continental Soldier statue in the VA Cemetery and a recruiting drive in conjunction with the DAR at a Genealogy Clinic. The America250 Wisconsin is responsible for Wisconsin's America 250 celebration. Any ideas you all have would be greatly

appreciated. The SAR and DAR are mandated by state law to be on this commission. It is my honor to be the Wisconsin Society SAR representative.

Yours in Patriotism,

Bob

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President Wisconsin Society  
SAR  
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920-621-1416



# **Support!** the **YOUTH** **VIDEO CONTEST**

## **Help us build a National program**

The Youth Video Contest Task Force is working to establish a new youth contest that celebrates the visual arts. High school students from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade participate by crafting a video from 3-5 minutes in length. The subject should focus on a person, place, event, or document associated with the American Revolution and its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. CREATIVITY is encouraged! Pilot program contests are currently active in several State Societies. Please help us encourage research and learning by contributing to the Youth Video Contest.

Lapel Pins:



Bronze level: \$100 or more    Silver level: \$250 or more



*Mail your donation to:*  
NSSAR,  
Youth Video Contest  
Attn: Brittany Austin  
809 West Main Street  
Louisville, KY 40202



For more information,  
Logon to ShareFile  
or scan the QR code.

Chairman:  
Keith Weissinger  
Kweiss47@comcast.net

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA IN PORTAGE

On a cold Sunday morning Compatriot Austin and members of the DAR and Ho Chunk Nation placed wreaths at the Fort Winnebago Cemetery in Portage. This is part of the annual Wreaths Across America program that some WISSAR members and chapters donated to. Special invited guests were family members from WWI veteran and Ho Chunk member Arnie White Eagle. He was the last to be buried in the cemetery.

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day was held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. There were more than two million volunteers and supporters who gathered to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,225 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad. You can sponsor a wreath, volunteer or partner any day. More information is available at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>



# REVOLUTIONARY WAR INSIGHTS



Peter Abshire's grandpa is a member of the Sons of Revolution. After finishing the study of the Revolutionary War, the 8th graders were fortunate to learn even more through the outstanding presentation given by the group.



Bob Plastine & Don Skarda at Saint Judes School for 8th Grade.



## **AMERICA 250! CELEBRATING 2 CULTURES IN 1 COMMUNITY**

Our America 250 event for 2023 commemorated 2 Revolutionary War patriots - Thaddeus Kosciuszko, patriot extraordinaire and Spanish governor of Florida and Louisiana, Bernardo de Galvez. In addition, we planted a Liberty Tree that is descended from a Revolutionary War era Liberty Tree. A plaque stating that it was donated by the SAR, DAR & CAR was provided. Over 100 people attended the event and visited our 6 booths displaying books, resources, posters, hand-outs & genealogy. American flags and de Galvez flyers in English & Spanish were placed on alternating chairs.

The Annis Avery Hill chapter of NSDAR collaborated with the Milwaukee chapter of NSDAR, the Morgan-Kosciuszko chapter of NSSAR, the John Woodson of Carter's Ferry chapter of NSCAR. We planned for a year, collaborated with the Polish Community, and invited the local Latino community, politicians & general public.

The event began with the Wisconsin State SAR color guard presenting colors wearing their George Washington Continental Army uniforms, militia, and patriot farmer uniforms. Two students from the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee performed with a fife and drum. Our Master of Ceremony, Terry Sater, SAR, retired news anchor & journalist welcomed our attendees & dignitaries. The DAR- Milwaukee Chapter Regent Patricia Vollbrecht lead the Pledge of Allegiance, Karen Broman NSCAR Senior National and State Chaplin and DAR -Annis Avery Hill (AAH) chapter Vice Regent led the prayer, and Mariah Shadinger DAR-AAH Recording Secretary and formerly CAR National Board member led the National Anthem. Greetings were presented by: CAR WI State President Gabriela de Leon; Brenda Majewski past WI State Regent & past Milwaukee Chapter Regent; and Robert Haglund, SAR State President. Special guests were Peter Bratt, Director of Operations from the Milwaukee County Parks Department, Polanka Polish Women's Club and the Polish Community Center, and the Illinois Polish Motorcycle club. The Polish Community and Polanka presented a floral wreath to Kosciuszko.

Our speakers were local & international who were interesting experts on their subjects. Diane Buck, author and coordinator for the restoration of the Kosciuszko monument spoke first. She spoke about the grant from the Smithsonian Institute to identify and assess the two hundred bronze outdoor sculptures in Milwaukee County. A Milwaukee County grant identified the 'the dirty dozen', the twelve bronze statues in greatest need of restoration. She had nine of the twelve monuments restored, one of which is the Kosciuszko equestrian monument. Lisa Davis, Chapter Regent from the Annis Avery Hill chapter initiated & presented a Mayoral Proclamation claiming October 14, 2023 Diane Buck Day.

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee professor Dr. Don Pienkos spoke on Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Polish history during the Revolution that impacted his service in America and Poland, specifically solving troop movement and defense for General George Washington. Author and Spanish diplomat Dr. Gonzalo M. Quintero Saravia, provided an interview on Bernardo de Galvez, Governor of Florida and Louisiana Territory. On behalf of Spain, Galvez provided more troops, weapons, uniforms, tents & money than France during the Revolutionary War. In addition, Spanish forts were built on the west side of the Mississippi

River blocking the English from backdoor entry to the colonies.

The event closed with retiring the colors and a solemn salute.

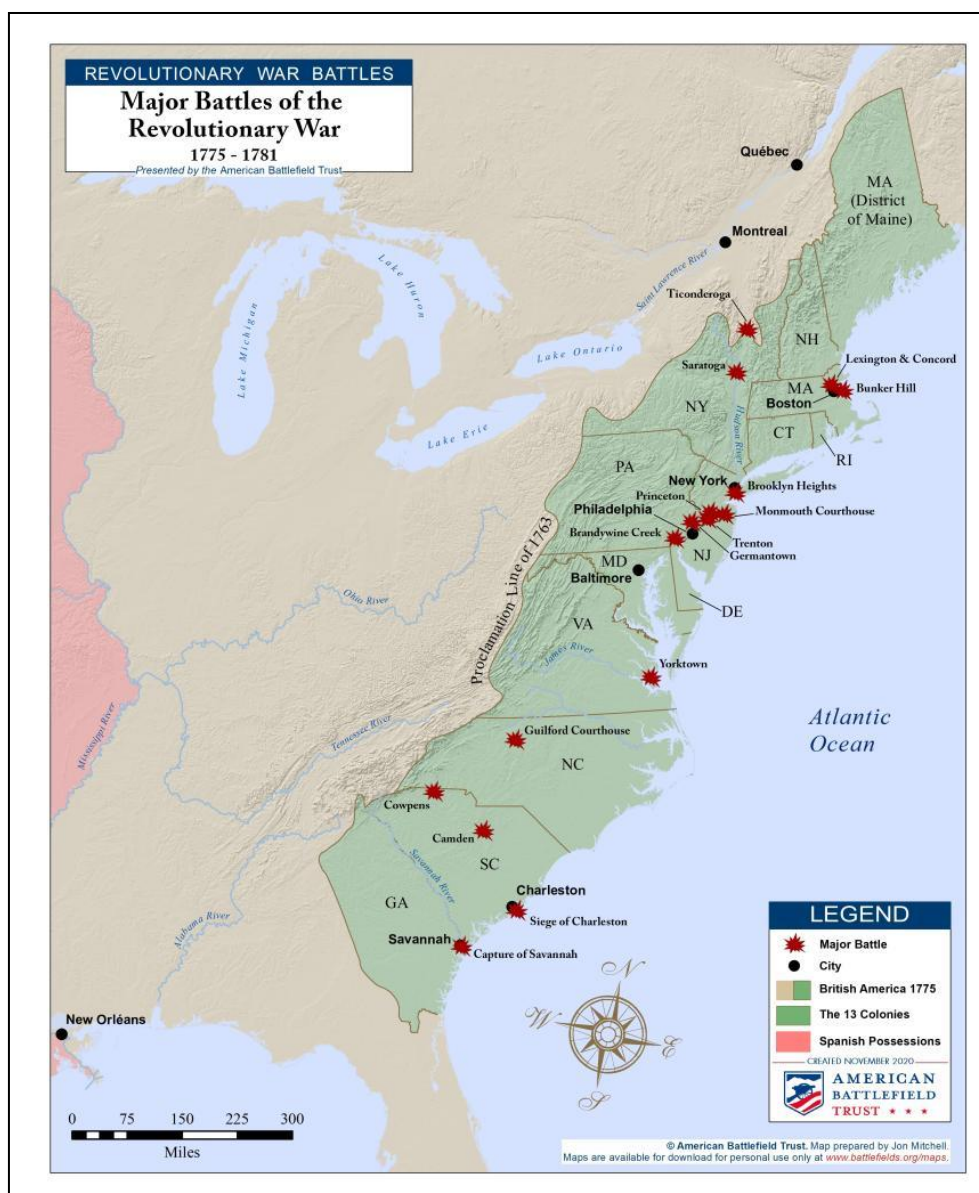
By Lisa Davis

Regent, Annis Avery Hill Chapter

Wauwatosa, WI

## TIMELINE OF MAJOR BATTLES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

- April 19, 1775 — The Battles of Lexington and Concord, Ma.
- May 10, 1775 — The Siege of Fort Ticonderoga, N.Y.
- June 6, 1775 — The Battle of Bunker (Breed's) Hill, Ma.
- August 27, 1776 —  
The Battle of  
Brooklyn, N.Y.
- December 26, 1776  
— The Battle of  
Trenton, N.J.
- January 3, 1777 —  
The Battle of  
Princeton, N.J.
- September 11, 1777  
— The Battle of  
Brandywine, Pa.
- October 4, 1777 —  
The Battle of  
Germantown, Pa.
- October 7, 1777 —  
The Battle of  
Saratoga, N.Y.
- June 28, 1778 — The  
Battle of Monmouth,  
N.J.
- December 29, 1778  
— The Capture of  
Savannah, Ga.
- March 29, 1780 —  
The Siege of  
Charleston, S.C.
- August 16, 1780 —  
The Battle of  
Camden, S.C.
- January 17, 1781 —  
The Battle of Cowpens,  
S.C.
- March 15, 1781 — The  
Battle of Guilford  
Courthouse, N.C.
- October 10, 1781 — The  
Battle of Yorktown,  
Va.



## MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT SKARDA

Our America 250 event for 2023 commemorated 2 Revolutionary War patriots - Thaddeus Kosciuszko Compatriots, as we delve into the spring months of March and April, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the continued dedication and spirit of the Sons of the American Revolution. Our organization stands as a beacon of patriotism, preserving the ideals and principles upon which our great nation was founded.

In this season of renewal and growth, let us reflect on the sacrifices of our forefathers and the principles they fought so valiantly to uphold. Their legacy serves as a guiding light, inspiring us to remain steadfast in our commitment to liberty, justice, and the pursuit of happiness. As Vice President of our esteemed organization, I am continually impressed by the passion and enthusiasm demonstrated by each and every one of you. Your unwavering support and involvement in our various initiatives and projects are instrumental in furthering our mission.



As we commemorate the significant events of our nation's history during this year, including Patriot's Day and the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, let us honor the brave individuals who laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. Their courage and sacrifice serve as a reminder of the profound impact that ordinary citizens can have when united in a common purpose.

I encourage each of you to participate actively in our upcoming events and activities, whether it be through educational programs, community service projects, or patriotic celebrations. Your contributions are invaluable in preserving the legacy of our ancestors and inspiring future generations to embrace the principles of liberty and democracy.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of our organization for your continued dedication and commitment to the Sons of the American Revolution. Together, we will ensure that the flame of freedom continues to burn brightly for generations to come. With warm regards,

Don Skarda – WISSAR Vice President



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## STATE OFFICERS

President: Bob Haglund  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Don Skarda  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Vacant  
Secretary: William Austin  
Treasurer: Samuel Keith  
Registrar: Brian McManus  
Genealogist: Charles McGee  
Historian: Mike Meador  
Chaplain: James Hargan  
Chancellor: Eliot Held  
National Trustee: Bob Haglund  
Alt. National Trustee: William Austin



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **2024**

April 19 – 249<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lexington and Concord  
April 27 – WISSAR Annual Meeting at the Esquire Club in Madison, WI  
July 10-16 – National Congress in Lancaster, PA  
October – Great Lakes District Meeting

### **2025**

July 12-18 – National Congress in Uncasville, CT

If you have an article, picture, event, news report that you would like to share please contact the State Secretary at [WISSAR.Secretary@Gmail.com](mailto:WISSAR.Secretary@Gmail.com)