

# *THE BADGER PATRIOT*

**Newsletter for the Wisconsin Sons of the American Revolution, November 2023**

## **MESSAGE FROM WISSAR PRESIDENT HAGLUND**

Compatriots I thank all of you for electing me as your state society president and National Trustee. It is an honor to serve you. With the great job my predecessors did, filling their shoes is going to be a challenge. I rise to the challenge.

I have been attending NSSAR Leadership and Congresses to pick up all the information I can to relay back to all of you. The latest is the raising of National dues by \$15 at the Congress in Orlando, FL. The debate on this went on for nearly an hour. The primary concern was that we would lose membership by raising the dues. It was explained to everyone present that NSSAR operates on the NSSAR portion of the dues collected. They are operating over \$200,000 in the red and have not raised dues in 10 years and if the dues were not raised, we would go broke and not be able to operate or carry out the goals or mission of our Society. The proposal to raise dues was passed by a large majority of the trustees.

The Wisconsin Society was faced with a similar situation. After cutting our budget to the bare bones we were still short approximately \$2000 to make our budget. The last time the Wisconsin Society raised dues was back in 1975/6. To make the budget the Wisconsin Society Board of Managers voted unanimously to raise dues \$8 from \$22 to \$30 for the State Society and \$4 from \$6 to \$10 for chapters.

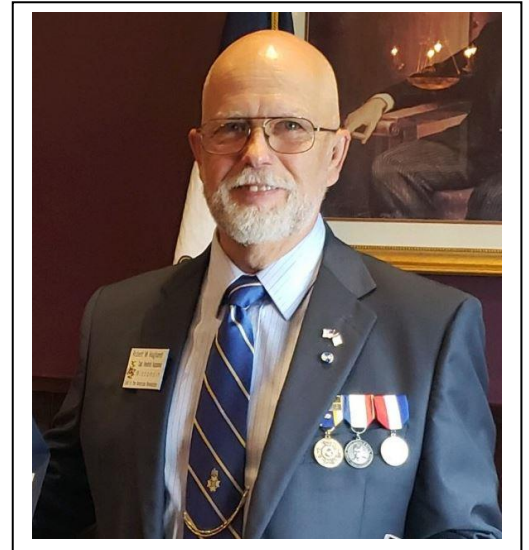
This makes a total of \$40 for state and chapter. Combined with National that makes for a total of \$90 for dues.

NSSAR is also putting together an unbelievable museum project. It will be accessible online to everyone. If you go to the schools to talk about the Revolution you will be able to direct the teachers to our education tab on the sar.org website to see our educational programs and, when finished, go to the interactive museum site.

The State of Wisconsin has formed the America250 Wisconsin Commission. Two of the mandated members of the commission are the SAR and DAR. We are the primary committee members for the Historical Societies. I am the SAR representative to the commission. Please give some thought as to how you all think the State of Wisconsin should celebrate the 250th anniversary of our Country. I will pass on your ideas.

The Great Lakes District (GLD) of SAR is made up of Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois. The Vice President General (VPG) for the GLD rotates to each state. The 2023-2024 VPG Dave VanHoof is from Michigan. For the 2024-2025 it comes to Wisconsin then Illinois. At the recent GLD meeting I was nominated and elected to be the GLD VPG for '24-'25. I am honored.

Let us all enjoy each other's fellowship, have fun and promote the upcoming 250th anniversary of our great country. We, the DAR and CAR are the primary representatives of the Patriots that made this country possible. We should be leading the way in promoting what they brought about.



Yours in Patriotism,

Bob

CSM Robert Haglund (Ret)

President Wisconsin Society SAR

920-621-1416

## 250<sup>th</sup> FUNDRAISING

Who ever thought the WISSAR M-K Chapter would need fundraising for its projects? Not until we took on projects to recognize Rev War monuments within our chapter did we know. In 2022 we took on several projects in the run-up to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USA. The adage “there ain’t no free lunch,” applied even to our patriotic projects!

When we conducted seminars for Baron Von Steuben in 2022 and Thaddeus Kosciuszko & Bernardo Galvez in October 2023 we learned about room rents, food and beverages and permit fees. These can be substantial. Our meager treasury fell pitifully short of needs. Luckily, the Annis Avery and Milwaukee DAR chapters threw us a much appreciated lifeline.

The Katyn Rally Society-Memory and Identity also donated to our cause. This group organizes motorcycle rallies as well events that support truth, memory and historical identity of Polish contributions in the USA. They visit towns with Polish names like our own Pulaski in northeastern Wisconsin. The rally’s motto captures the spirit of the important contributions of Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Kazimierz (Casimir) Pulaski. Both have monuments in Milwaukee. In the words of Jan Lechoń's poem, The Hymn of Poles Abroad:

*...‘I'm like a soldier, ready for anything  
Both in the homeland and in a foreign country  
I watch and guard the treasure of Polish language,  
Polish spirit, Polish custom...’*

In the future, M-K will rely increasingly on funding from outside sources like the Katyn Rally Society. It’ll be a tough hill to climb. We’re estimating future 250<sup>th</sup> costs as follows:

**2024** – Pulaski statue re-dedication and Liberty Tree = \$2,500 ; Rev War life size bronze statue = \$2,200 Total = **\$4,700.**

**2025** - Washington statue re-dedication = \$3,100; Rev War life size bronze statue = \$ 86,200 Total = **\$117,000**

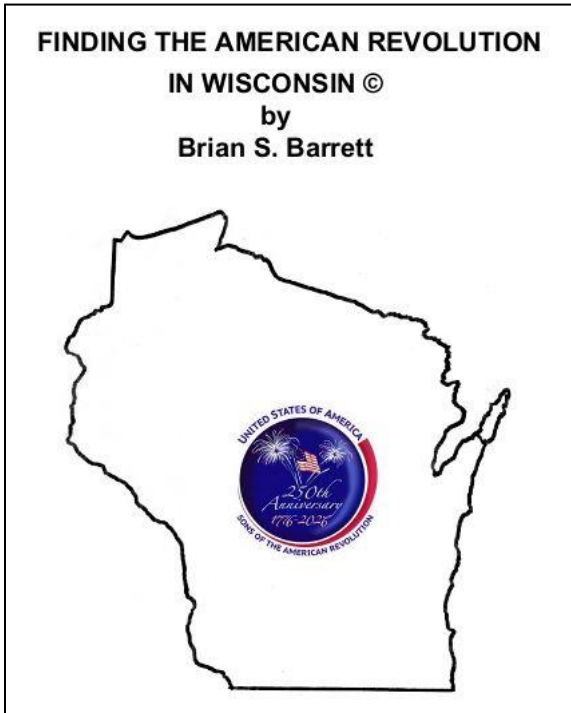
**2026** - Rev War life size bronze statue = **\$ 45,000**



During 2024, M-K will establish a fundraising committee to carry the ball forward. We have already received valuable input from M-K chapter members but welcome suggestions in questions about the monumental task ahead. We particularly welcome input and assistance on fundraising.

Article by Brian S. Barrett, M-K Chapter Secretary. logo courtesy Jacek Kawczynski, President, Katyn Rally Society

## FINDING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN WISCONSIN



WISSAR Color Guard Commander and author Brian S. Barrett announced that he will publish a much needed book about monuments and memorials that recognize our founders, Rev War soldiers and our ancestors. It will be ready in the Fall 2024. The book is a guide to discovering information about the American Revolution in Wisconsin cities, villages and towns. It consists of illustrations, maps, descriptions and locations of statues, historical grave markers, Liberty Trees and more. If you know of a hidden unknown memorial to the Revolution contact the author at [brianbarrett1@yahoo.com](mailto:brianbarrett1@yahoo.com) or to pre-order his book.

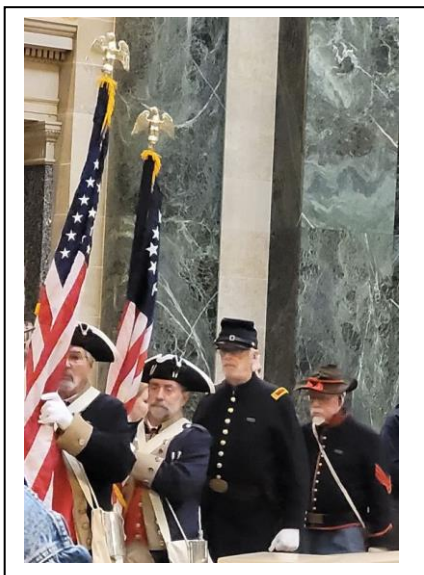
## COLOR GUARD PARTICIPATES IN GREEN BAY AREA VETERANS DAYS CEREMONY

WISSAR President Haglund and Capt Hendrick Aupaumut Chapter Secretary Leamon Duncan joined with the Jean Nicolet Chapter DAR at Heritage Hill in Green Bay, WI to celebrate Veterans Day with the visiting veterans. Display tables for the SAR and DAR were set up and

veterans were invited to trace their genealogy with help from DAR volunteers. This was also a day of recruiting for us with several perspective members showing their interest.







## **COLOR GUARD PRESENTS THE COLORS ON VETERANS DAY AT STATE CAPITOL**

WISSAR Color flag bearers William Muether and William Austin join with members of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War to present the colors and honor all veterans at the state capitol.



## **SAR SERVICE TO VETERANS AWARDED TO RON MCCLELLAND**



Elisha Raymond Chapter member Ron McClelland was awarded the SAR Service To Veterans Medal at the September 9, 2023 chapter meeting. The medal was presented by WISSAR President, Bob Haglund and Chapter President, Sam Keith. The medal is awarded to SAR members who have given long and exemplary service to veterans and is awarded after accumulating 5,000 U.S.S. Stark Award points. Compatriot McClelland participates as a member of the American Legion Post 27 South Milwaukee Honor Guard Rifle Salute Team at veteran's funerals. He earned his medal

points during the period of January 2022 through May 2023 attending 132 veteran's funerals. Compatriot McClelland is also the primary contributor towards the Elisha Raymond Chapter annual U.S.S. Stark Award points.

At the Elisha Raymond Chapter meeting on September 9, 2023, Compatriot Ron McClelland shows the chapter the plaque of his Veteran of the Year Award for exceptional service to veterans and the Chartered Veterans Unit in the City of South Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin. It was awarded by the South Milwaukee Veterans Council, Inc., American Legion Post 27, Amvets Post 4 and the Catholic War Veterans Post 672 on May 29, 2023.



Photo Credits: Compatriot Jeff Burdick

## **NATHAN BURPEE EVENT**



Revolutionary War patriot Nathan Burpee was honored with a marker at his resting place in Grand Blanc MI. Past president Sam Keith placed the WISSAR wreath and President Robert Haglund and Past President and VPG William Austin gave a sword salute at the gravesite.

Burpee was one of the earliest defenders of our nation. He passed away at his farm in Atlas in 1836.

His descendants and the community came together to honor him with a bronze plaque at the Perry-McFarlen Cemetery; Burpee's family says their fore-father fought because he believed in this great country.

Membership to the Sons of the American Revolution is reserved for direct family members of the heroes who fought in our nation's war for freedom.

Their goal is to continue to honor the memory of these patriots and educate the next generation on the sacrifice that was made to achieve freedom for the United States (excerpt from WJRT).

## **LIBERTY TREE DEDICATION**

The Liberty Tree was a significant symbol of American resistance and independence during the American Revolution. It served as a rallying point for colonists who opposed British tyranny. Many here today represent patriot ancestors who served in the American Revolution and were committed to securing our rights and liberties. The tree we're planting today represents a broader story of the American Revolution and the birth of the United States.

The Liberty Tree's roots can be traced back to the mid-1760s when colonists began using trees as symbols of resistance against British oppression. The most famous of these trees was the "Liberty Tree" in Boston, which was a towering elm tree located in what is now Washington Street.

The Sons of Liberty, a secret organization advocating for colonial independence and the predecessor of the SAR, frequently met under the Liberty Tree's branches. Prominent members included Samuel Adams and John Hancock.

By that time, liberty trees were so well known that they had become landmarks in and of themselves. But later in 1775, the beloved Boston elm tree, which was nearly 130 years old, paid the price for its fame when a group of loyalists and British soldiers hacked it down.



The original trees WISSAR got were from the Liberty Tree Society in Walpole, NH and were clones of one of two remaining real Liberty Trees. It was nicknamed the “Herby Tree”; it had to be cut down due to disease at 200 years old but was able to be cloned. The other original Liberty Tree that was cloned was a Tulip Tree that a hurricane wiped out. Clones of that tree are controlled by an organization in MD. Those clones are shipped and are about 1ft tall. The tree planted here came from a nursery in Baraboo and are a Valley Forge American Elm, but not a clone.



On behalf of the Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (WISSAR), WIDAR and WICAR dedicates this Liberty Tree to all of Veterans, serving as a reminder of the enduring commitment to liberty and freedom that shaped the United States. Today's event is one part of many events that will be sponsored by WISSAR leading up to the 250th year celebration of our independence. Thank you for being part of it.

Article by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Don Skarda

### **COLOR GUARD CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Celebrating Independence Day in Waukesha, our color guards marched by thousands of patriotic cheering and saluting spectators. Out of concern for participant security, the route was shortened to 0.8 miles with spiked barriers and public works equipment blocking intersecting streets. Our guards presented themselves with honor and respect for liberty and independence. Pictured in formation and led by commander Brian S. Barrett are (l to r) musket man Eddie Safford, Quartermaster Bill Austin, Shane Barrett, Bob Haglund, Bob Wylie, Marcus Barrett and musket man Terry Sater. In 90+ degree heat and 85 % humidity, Sater and Commander Barrett discuss the day's events while Wylie looks on. We enjoyed a picnic after the parade.

We also celebrated Constitution Day with students and faculty at Carroll University in Waukesha. It was our fourth annual appearance on the campus and many students gave us a second glance. Several students stopped at our tabletop and some asked questions about our fantastic-durable



Constitution. It was also an opportunity to answer questions about our uniforms and SAR membership.



During July, Bob Haglund participated in the assembly and memorial service at the NSSAR Congress in Orlando, FL. He also attended Fort Winnebago opening festivities for the refurbished surgeon's quarters. During September, color guards Bill Austin and Bob Haglund presented the Colors at the NSSAR Leadership Conference.

On October 14, 2023, our guards were well represented at the Thaddeus Kosciuszko – Bernardo Galvez seminar at Kosciuszko Park

Community Center in Milwaukee. Pictured are Cmndr Barrett, Bill Austin, Bob Plastine, Jim Mills, Matt Sonnenburg, Don Skarda, Ben Meador, Marcus Barrett and drummer James Mills. Terry Sater observed the formation while Mike Meador stood by out of picture.



### **APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERS LOCAL HISTORY/GENEALOGY EVENTS**

The Appleton public library has a series of "Find Your Ancestors sessions"/ December 9<sup>th</sup> is "Making sense of All the Research You've Done with Robyn N. Smith" and January 13<sup>th</sup> is "10 Must Haves for Genealogy and Family History Success with Thomas MacEntee". You can find more information and register for the Zoom sessions at <https://apl.org/>



## **AUPAUMUT CHAPTER MEETING 21 OCTOBER**



L: Compatriot Leamon Duncan is presented his Silver Color Guard Medal by State President Bob Haglund. R: Compatriot Daniel Fay is presented his National Life Membership Program by State President Bob Haglund.

## **MESSAGE FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT SKARDA**

Dear Compatriots and Fellow Sons of the American Revolution,

I am proud to be in WISSAR! I am proud of what WISSAR is doing across the nation! I am proud of what we stand for! Are you proud to be a member of WISSAR? You SHOULD be!! I needed to comment on our New WISSAR President, Bob Haglund. Three years ago, I knew little of him. Since that time, being part of the WISSAR Board, I have learned he is VERY responsive to calls and emails.

He also is driving all over the state to participate where he can and communicates well. I also previously worked closely (and still do) with our past president Sam Keith. Another leader that communicated and worked well with all.

I am honored to work with Sam Keith and Bob Haglund as well as Bill Austin and Aaron Krebs. These leaders of WISSAR (along with many others) continue to move WISSAR into the future by volunteering for many hours and spending time on zoom. There are many others in the WISSAR Board that put in many volunteer hours behind the scenes. Please consider volunteering for WISSAR either at the state level or at your chapter level. Everyone has skills to help WISSAR.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Don Skarda, WISSAR 1st VP





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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**

February – WISSAR Board of Directors Meeting.

April – WISSAR Annual Meeting.

July – National Congress

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)