

***The Ladies' Auxiliary Times: Ladies Auxiliary Pennsylvania Society*
Sons of the American Revolution (LAPASSAR)**

Spring 2022 Newsletter

A special note of appreciation to Becky from her board and also to her from LAPASSAR's general membership for her two years of consistent, dedicated leadership and tireless efforts to support the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the American Revolution (PASSAR) and National Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) in its mission: that is, to promote patriotism and to preserve American history, teaching it to future generations. Founded in 1889, the Sons of the American Revolution has made significant strides in its educational mission through its work at the Louisville, Kentucky Museum of the American Revolution on Main Street. If you have not visited the museum during one of the national organization's fall and spring leadership meetings, you can take a virtual tour by clicking on these links: <https://www.kentuckytourism.com/louisville/attractions/museums/sar-historical-museum> and <https://www.sarfoundation.org/> From purchasing chairs for the library to fund-raising for other projects at the museum, ladies have assumed an active role in this long-term effort. Some of us who have noted its embryonic beginnings are gratified to see how far the project has progressed. In fact, the library is now ranked in the top ten percent of all attractions worldwide based upon visitor experience!

Becky has agreed to continue in her leadership role for the next two years through the 2024 Congress in Lancaster, Pennsylvania as our state assumes responsibility for it. Please offer your assistance in whatever way you can to make Pennsylvania proud in 2024!

Becky H. M., President LAPASSAR, 2020-2024





President's Message--March 28 2022

I specifically choose this picture of the cherry-tree blossoms, with the Jefferson Memorial in the background, to celebrate spring (although it was snowing in Frederick, MD this morning!) and the birthday of our third President of these United States, Thomas Jefferson, on April 13th. *Sakura* means cherry blossom in Japanese.

On March 21, 1938, in his Presidential Proclamation 2276, Franklin D Roosevelt recognized April 13th as the birthday of our third president, calling for display of our nation's flag. Thomas Jefferson was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and served as our nation's first Secretary of State, second Vice President, and third President. Did you know that Jefferson's greatest feat as President of our United States was the Purchase of Louisiana (830,000 square miles) which was bought from France for \$15 million?

This year also marks the 110th anniversary of the gift of the capitol's cherry trees from Yukio Ozaki, Mayor of Tokyo. If you have not been to Washington, D.C. to see the cherry blossoms or to the festival, come on down!

I am looking forward to our May annual meeting. If you have not yet registered, the hotel reservation deadline is April 15th, and the reservation deadline for the meeting itself and events is April 20th (see *LA Times*, p. 15). Guests will include President General, Davis Wright, Vice President General (VPG) for the Mid-Atlantic District, Troy Foxwell and his wife, and Pennsylvania State DAR Regent, Beth Watkins and her husband (all officers pictured on p. 3). There will be a grave marking on Saturday, May 7 in which LAPASSAR will participate, and on Saturday night, our new board members will be sworn in by VPG, Troy Foxwell. Our LAPASSAR meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Keystone Room. Featured speakers are Lawrence Knorr, Joe Farley and Joe Farrell who will discuss Pennsylvania Patriots. Mr. Knorr told me "The patriots we are researching are the top 200--signers of the Declaration, Constitution, Articles of Confederation or Continental Association, or majors, generals, admirals or otherwise famous or legendary patriots."

Congratulations to two new board of management members, Taryn Edmonds Kennedy and Debra Newell (see pp. 9-10) who will serve as the auxiliary's secretaries (eastern and western Pennsylvania geographic areas respectively) as well as to Denise Harry who will serve as the new Congress 2024 treasurer. Congratulations also to Maribeth Wilt-Seibert, First Vice-President; Diana Watson, Treasurer; and Pat McKim, Chaplain. I look forward to working with the new Board for the next two years. I hope you will take the opportunity to know each of the board members.

Becky

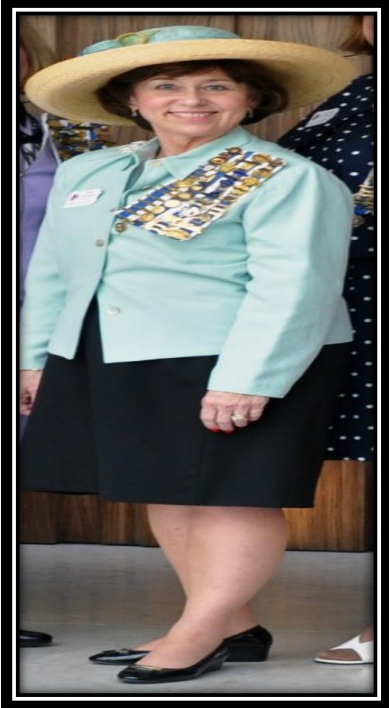
Honored Guests

**PG, Davis
Wright**



VP Mid-Atlantic District, Troy Foxwell

Pennsylvania State Regent, Beth Watkins



Spotlight on New Member: Denise R.



I am a former medical technologist having worked in microbiology and chemistry at Easton Hospital for over 20 years. Peter and I met in college and have been married since 1989. We enjoy many hobbies together such as gardening, birdwatching, hiking, biking, fishing and, most recently, beekeeping. We also have chickens, ducks and two parrots. We are active in the American Chestnut Foundation and the Pennsylvania Bluebird Society and at our club in the Poconos, Mink Pond Club. Besides all of our outdoor interests, we also have a love of history and always incorporate historical side trips into all of our travels. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone in LAPASSAR.



Happy Birthdays to Our Members

Joan H. (April 4); Past LAPASSAR President, Stephanie T. (May 14); Jane M. (June 3); State Regent DAR, Cindy S. (June 14); Ann H. (June 17); Barbara K. (June 29); Founding President, Past Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Janice S. (June 25); Chaplain, Patricia M. (July 7); Taryn E. K. (July 8), Tiffany R. (July 17); PA State First Lady, Melanie L (Aug. 4); Past Secretary, DAR Regent Colonial Crawford Chapter, Denise H. (August 5); Former Pennsylvania Society SAR First Lady, Dee Dee P. (Aug. 9); Former PASSAR First Lady, Carol S. (August 12). Roz A. (Aug. 17); Nancy L. (Aug. 19); Treasurer, Diana W. (Aug. 25) and Did I miss your birthday? Please contact me at upenn92@outlook.com so I can include your natal day next time!

Speaking of birthdays

Does your husband have an upcoming birthday, or do you both have an upcoming anniversary that you want to mark in a special way? Please consider purchasing for him the 2024 PASSAR medal set commemorating the 134th Congress of the National Society of Sons of the American Revolution hosted by our Pennsylvania Society (p. 5). Order form is available at our PASSAR website (www.passar.org).

The 2024 PASSAR Medal



**Commemorating the 134th Congress
of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Hosted by the Pennsylvania Society**



**Becky M. selling the commemorative
134th Congress Medal at the Board of
Management Meeting in Philadelphia,
February 5, 6. Order forms are
available at www.passar.org**



Ladies attending the winter Board of Management LAPASSAR meeting in Morgantown, PA on February 5, 2022, hosted by the Governor Heister Chapter, SAR. Back Row (left to right): Bobbi M., Carol S., Nancy L., Marina S. (guest of Ed Kopsick). Front Row: Cindy M., Stephanie T. (seated), Maribeth W-S., First Vice-President (Chairing the Meeting for Becky) and new member Nancy R, wife of President Peter Reinhart, Governor Heister Chapter.

Speakers scheduled to present at the winter Board of Management meeting in Morgantown, PA canceled (see *LA Times*: Winter 2022 issue for information on those speakers); however, ladies enjoyed an excellent presentation by William Donner, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at Kutztown University whose published book *Serious Nonsense: The Pennsylvania German Groundhog Lodges and the Celebration of Ethnicity* is displayed on the table before the ladies attending.



SERIOUS NONSENSE: Groundhog Lodges, Versammlinge, and Pennsylvania German Heritage

A Review of his book by William W. Donner (reproduced verbatim)

“My German grandmother, living in the Rhine valley, used to say, ‘If the badger sees his shadow on Candlemas Day (February 2), winter is going to stay for another six weeks. If not, there will be an early spring.’ This old Palatine country saying, which helped local farmers predict the weather, is nearly forgotten today. In Germany, only a few people know that this belief has been transplanted to Pennsylvania, where the groundhog has replaced the badger, and that a few thousand Pennsylvania Germans still use the old lore as a background to the celebration of their heritage and language every February. That is the story Bill Donner tells. This book will be a standard reference for researchers and for Americans with a Pennsylvania German background. And even in Germany—especially in the Palatinate—people will be interested in learning how this part of their local culture has been ‘Americanized’ over the years.

“—Michael Werner, publisher, *Hiwwe wie Driwwe Versammlinge*

“*Versammlinge* community events filled with songs, performances, speeches, and skits that celebrate Pennsylvania German heritage and culture—are held entirely in the Pennsylvania German Deutsch language. Some, the ‘groundhog lodges,’ feature a ceremony honoring the groundhog, while others do not. These unique meetings, expressions of a distinctive ethnic identity in the context of a rapidly changing society, have become a traditional mainstay among Pennsylvania Germans who have worked to preserve their language and culture into the twenty-first century. *Serious Nonsense* introduces readers to Pennsylvania German cultural practices that tourists rarely see and that outsiders, including most scholars, rarely learn about. The book explores the origins of the *versammlinge* and details the practice’s significance since the 1930s, when the first meetings of the Pennsylvania German groundhog lodges were held. Much as they did then, *versammlinge* today follow a pattern of prayers, patriotism, and speeches extolling values associated with Pennsylvania German identity, as well as theatrical and oral events that humorously contrast a simpler past with a more complex and confusing present. And the groundhog lodges feature one Pennsylvania German tradition that has become familiar in popular culture: groundhog weather prognostication.

William W. Donner is Professor of Anthropology at Kutztown University”

Original text available at the following site:

https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/44405937/Donner_Nonsense_QD-libre.pdf?1459799600=&response-content-disposition=attachment%3B+filename%3DSerious_Nonsense_Groundhog_Lodges_Versam.pdf&Expires=1649199897&Signature=GI6CLEg3q9--qiu0jwdmCu3nbXzgrX5xsXtNMsbqZ5R6hSYMbQmWRx3Xe5-fcOwp6jQRJEdTeehpc1py~IeAGINF9o6qoPCPhm7SbGnxjucYYNZc8EQwBTH1u37MrDYER9rt5g85WpRPJr54Hy0d8oZ5a0k25w2JstmZITD5F6uQ6MiNCTvP3dsFbwx8tI1D6wcoqdXVvTq6Jm80ny38fc7HvWeVtbx49-5ivfccuNgdEgrPKNR0c2cQAjI6Mj5mvbl9J2t7ppk1OGQDjXjjwr8OjR5bLH-IwwOMg7ytPbEVniePo4XIKz-aSLCOuogbsUkIz9QRDGW4kcL3iNhj4w_&Key-Pair-Id=APKAJLOHF5GGSLRBV4ZA

Welcome to new board member and PA Eastern Region Secretary—Taryn E. K.



Taryn E. K. is the current and outgoing PSSDAR South Eastern District Director and enjoys her work in several lineage societies, including National Society U.S. Daughters of 1812, and Society of St. George, among others. Her hobbies include genealogy, volunteerism, reading, and singing. Outside of her social and volunteer life, Taryn works as a Corporate Paralegal. She is married to Kevin, and together they have four children, one of whom is the outgoing Pennsylvania C.A.R. State President (Gaby A.) and another who is President of Francis Hopkinson Society, C.A.R. and a new SAR member (Robert M.). She credits her uncle and SAR member, Bruce E., for planting the seeds which led her to lineage society service and looks forward to supporting the work of LAPASSAR and SAR.

Welcome PA Western Region Secretary—Debra N.



Debra N. is an alumna of Seton Hill College in Greensburg and a retired professional technical writer. She worked in the electric and nuclear power industries and retired from an industrial compressor manufacturer.

She is a 30-year member of Braddock Trail Chapter, NSDAR currently serving as Regent. This year, she became the Outstanding Chapter Regent for the South West District, PSSDAR.

Debra joined LAPASSAR in 2021 after attending the PSSAR 2020 fall meeting.

Annual Meeting, May 6, 7, Penn Harris Hotel, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

Honored guests attending this meeting will be President General, Davis Wright; Vice-President General, Mid-Atlantic District, Troy Foxwell and his wife; and Pennsylvania State Daughters of the American Revolution Regent, Beth Watkins, and her spouse (officers pictured on p. 3).

Scheduled festivities include the following:

--Friday Night Buffet Dinner and Cash Bar

--Saturday Board of Management Meeting and Ladies Program; Buffet Lunch; Memorial Service with participation from PASSAR, DAR, and LAPASSAR) for wreath laying at Paxton Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, PA. Speaker for memorial service—Norm Daniels. Evening cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, at awards banquet at which time new board members will be sworn in for two years. **Winning quilt raffle ticket (see below), donated by member Jane M., still available for purchase! Drawing will be held at the board of management meeting in August.**



Spotlight on Annual Meeting Ladies Program, Keystone Room: Lawrence Knorr's Topic, "Pennsylvania Patriots"



Author of more than thirty books, predominately genres of history and biography, Lawrence Knorr (left) is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and numerous other historical organizations. He enjoys most writing about historical figures as well as Pennsylvania Dutch culture. He is a lifetime Penn State alum. As founder and CEO of Sunbury Press, Inc., he holds a B.S. in Business/Economics from Wilson College and master's degree in Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University. Hard at work toward earning his doctorate in history, he also has been employed in information technology for over thirty-five years. He is also a Certified Computer Professional, Certified Scrum Master, and Project Management Professional. Knorr is a past President of the Mid-Atlantic Book Publishers Association and Board Member for the Pennsylvania German Society.

Pictured right are "the two Joes" (Farrell and Farley) who have co-authored several books with Knorr. Farrell is a St. Vincent College graduate in psychology (Latrobe, PA) and Farley a graduate of Bloomsburg University. See <https://farrellandfarley.wordpress.com/about/> for more information about the two Joes. Books germane to interests of an SAR audience include the following: *Pennsylvania Patriots*, *Graves of Our Founders (Volumes One, Two)*, *Keystone Tombstones Susquehanna Valley* (with Joe Farrell and Joe Farley), *Keystone Tombstones Philadelphia Region* (with Joe Farrell and Joe Farley), *Keystone Tombstones Anthracite Region* (with Joe Farrell and Joe Farley).

Highlights from Zoom Board Meeting of March 23, 2022

President Becky announced that election of the new board would be conducted electronically through mailchimp. She thanked Roz A. for her research regarding framing of the donated art print, and the board voted to present it as a silent auction item at the May annual meeting. For discussion, Becky presented several ideas to not only promote our 2024 PASSAR-hosted Congress but also to raise additional funds: decals (see below), travel mugs (cost of \$5.00), coffee cups (also with decals and purchaser's name if advanced ordered), and earrings to match our LAPASSAR pin. Earrings must be advanced ordered. Board members considered two designs but decided on design of three flowers clustered (below left, measuring .76" by .75"):



©PWC



Sample Decals are Featured Above



Becky also shared her preliminary research for items to stuff in both the men's and ladies' goody bags. She asked ladies to think about whether they wanted a decal patch that would be sewn, an embroidered patch, or a transfer for their bags (see p. 13). For advanced orders, mugs can have names included. Becky is also exploring the possibility of challenge coins.

Reminders

- If you plan to attend the 2022 Congress in Savannah, Georgia, be sure to pack good walking shoes. The area around the river site of the hotel is cobblestone which can make walking difficult.
- Atlantic Middle States Meeting will be held August 5 and 6th at the Princeton Marriott at Forrestal, 100 College Road, Princeton, NJ 08540. See <https://www.amssar.org/conference-registration>. **Reservation deadline: July 8, 2022**
- Registration forms for May annual meeting in Camp Hill available at <http://passar.org/>. See also link Becky provided recently for the registration form at the following link: https://mcusercontent.com/06fb771705128402b63924a28/files/704fad49-c421-dd37-7aff-30fdaff8b36c/annual_meeting_2022_Registration_Form_PASSAR_Annual_Meeting_May_6_through_May_7_of_2022_2.pdf

- Please note that in an effort to protect your identity, your newsletter editor has only included your first name and surname initial, especially since the LAPASSAR link to PASSAR is not password protected. Until further notice, this will be standard operating procedure for documents posted on the PASSAR website.
- LAPASSAR board and members send condolences to Patricia K., Margery R., and Nancy W. on the passing of Lt. Colonel (ret.) Herbert T. A. in February 2022 at age 103! Philadelphia Continental Chapter President, William B., wrote of Herb: “A true gentleman in every sense of the word. A man we cannot duplicate but . . . should try to emulate.” For those of us who knew Herb, those would be not shoes but craters to fill. Believing war was imminent, he enlisted in Officer Candidate School (OCS) well before the beginning of WWII. He proved himself a worthy soldier, working directly for General George Patten. Patricia, Margery, and Nancy, please know how much your uncle was revered and will be sorely missed!



A Memorial Day Poem by Longfellow, From *The Atlantic*, June 1882

"Decoration Day"

[David Barber](#)

May 30, 2011 (Text provided verbatim below)

“If there was ever such a thing as an *Atlantic* poet laureate, the honors would have to go to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, hands down. He was already the most renowned American poet of his day when he helped to found the magazine in 1857. He contributed more poems to the *Atlantic*'s pages than anyone then or since, by orders of magnitude. He was the author (originally unsigned, though who else could it have been?) of one of the most illustrious poems to appear in any American periodical, the stirring patriotic ode "Paul Revere's Ride" (January 1861) that assured he would be read and recited and downloaded for generations to come.

“Longfellow's ‘Decoration Day’ may not rank among his canonic *Atlantic* verse, but it imparts a burnished poignancy all its own. In the solemn, hymn-like strains that were a hallmark of the country’s foremost ‘Fireside Poet,’ the poem pays tribute to what was then a new form of civic observance: a day set aside to commemorate those who had perished in the Civil War, by placing flags and flowers on soldiers' graves, a custom that gradually gave rise to our modern Memorial Day honoring all who give their lives in military service. Its first readers likely felt an elegiac pang all the more acutely: by the time the poem circulated in the June 1882 *Atlantic*, it would have been national news that Longfellow had died just a few weeks earlier at his home in Cambridge, at the age of 75.

“Decoration Day

Sleep, comrades, sleep and rest
 On this Field of the Grounded Arms,
 Where foes no more molest,
 Nor sentry's shot alarms!
 Ye have slept on the ground before,
 And started to your feet
 At the cannon's sudden roar,
 Or the drum's redoubling beat.
 But in this camp of Death
 No sound your slumber breaks;
 Here is no fevered breath,
 No wound that bleeds and aches.
 All is repose and peace,
 Untrampled lies the sod;
 The shouts of battle cease,
 It is the Truce of God!
 Rest, comrades, rest and sleep!
 The thoughts of men shall be
 As sentinels to keep
 Your rest from danger free.
 Your silent tents of green
 We deck with fragrant flowers
 Yours has the suffering been,
 The memory shall be ours.
 -- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow”



Display the flag proudly on the following days:

Easter – April 17

Mother's Day - second Sunday in May (May 8)

Armed Forces Day - third Saturday in May (May 21)

Memorial Day (half-staff until noon)—May 30

Flag Day- June 14

Father's Day - third Sunday in June (June 19)

Independence Day- July 4

National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day- July 27

Have an idea about anything you would like to see highlighted in future newsletters? Please send feature articles with photos (jpeg) to Janice at upenn92@outlook.com Please also note **new e-address for Jan**

For your convenience, your officers for 2022-2024 are listed here with their contact information. Please don't hesitate to be reach out to your board members with questions, concerns, and ideas.

Becky H. M., President, Beckymoyerlapassar@gmail.com or 301-305-5579

Maribeth Maribeth W-S., First Vice-President, mwtseibert@aol.com

or 717-576-4661

Taryn E. K., Eastern PA Secretary, misstaryn7@gmail.com or 412-554-5616

Debra N., Western PA Secretary, dnewill@zoominternet.net or 724-423-3053 or

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Diana W., Treasurer, rwat@windstream.net or 814-587-6334(H); 814-587-6334 (cell)

Pat McKim, Chaplain, pmmckim@consolidated.net or 412-736-2673