



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

**Spring 2023 Newsletter**



**Becky Hudson Moyer, President LAPASSAR, 2020-2024**



Thanks to the nice weather we had last week, I have spring fever! I am looking forward to it warming up enough at night so that I can plant my veggie start-ups outside and to enjoy the fruits, or should I say, the veggies of my labors!

Speaking of labor, I would like to bring you up-to-date on the progress of what has been and what still needs to be done for the hospitality room as well as the youth luncheon at the SAR 2024 Lancaster Congress. The next newsletter will provide details of what is still needed for the PG's and the installation banquets.

**For the Youth Luncheon-** -Thank you to Denise Reinhart and a friend of mine, Susan Brown (Maryland), for Mason jars that will serve as vases. Thank you, also to Linda Robinson for donating 31 miniature Pennsylvania flags; we only need to purchase nine more. We will also need to purchase 24 miniature American flags. Thank you to Pat McKim for volunteering to do the Declaration of Independence copies for each place setting.

We need a volunteer (s) to make copies of the card showing the Pennsylvania flag, the motto and the representation for each symbol.

We need a volunteer(s) after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to help shop the sales for the red, white, and blue flowers for the Mason Jar center pieces. Volunteers will be reimbursed for the cost of the flowers.

We will start putting those centerpieces together in August at the State College LAPASSAR Meeting.

**The Hospitality Room** --I have completed the aprons. Thank you to Jan Showler who has been sending me recipes for the period cookies, and trivia questions.



We need a volunteer(s) to print the recipes out and bundle them into groups to hand out.

We need a volunteer(s) to type up and print out the trivia questions.

We need volunteers to shop at Costco and/or Sam's for individually wrapped snacks for the ladies visiting the hospitality room. Volunteers making those purchases will be reimbursed. We can do this task a couple of weeks or a month prior to Congress.

We need volunteers(s) on July 9<sup>th</sup> to help set up the hospitality room. I do not believe we will need more than two volunteers, and we will have some help from the National Auxiliary Board.

This past week, Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> through yesterday, March 8, Maribeth, Taryn and I traveled to D.C. for the United States Daughters of 1812 Associate Council. Maribeth served as Chair of the pages, and Taryn was one of several pages. I served as assistant teller, and I was able to sell four sets of our Mount Laurel earrings, and six necklaces. At the event last year, I was able to sell a number of our Mount Laurel necklaces. Any port in the storm as they say, our Mount Laurel has been popular!

I hope to see everyone at the May Annual Meeting in Gettysburg in May.

*Becky*

## Spotlight on New Members



**Madina Mansurovna Kopsick** was born on 12 December 1977 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. After attending primary and secondary school, she attended college at the Tajik Russian University in Dushanbe. She received her degree in Russian Philology in 1999. Upon completing her university studies, she entered the culinary business, serving in various positions such as waitress, bar tender and eventually restaurant manager.

Madina met her husband, Edward Thomas Kopsick through a family member who was in the same cycling club in Georgia. They married on the island of Ærø, Denmark in 2018. Ed and Madina lived in Germany until July of 2020 when they moved to Pennsylvania. Madina enjoys travelling, especially in Europe. During her two years in Germany, she visited Paris and Strasburg, France, Prague, Czech Republic, Amsterdam, Holland, Denmark, Vienna and Salzburg, Austria and many cities in Germany such as Berlin, Munich, Leipzig, Rostock, Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, Stuttgart, Triberg (in the Black Forest), Lake Constance and her favorite, The Neuschwanstein Castle (commonly referred to as the Disney castle).

Madina has a 15-year-old daughter who attends high school in Dover, PA



New member **Linda Robinson** writes, “I've spent nearly all my working career in the travel industry in one capacity or another. After 20-years with (TWA) Trans World Airlines, I retired as a TWA Flight Attendant in 1992. Prior to flying, I was a VIP Ground Hostess at Philadelphia International Airport and Hostess of the TWA Ambassadors Club there.

“My career allowed me not only to travel extensively, but also to meet and host many famous people. Two I shall never forget: Bob Hope and HRH Princess Grace of Monaco, the former Grace Kelly of Philadelphia.

“For the past, several years. I've been the Social Director of my active Over 55+ Community. Our committee organized parties, picnics, motor coach tours and fund-raising events. Each Christmas we would host toy drives for A.I. DuPont Nemours Children's Hospital, not far from my home.

“I live in Wilmington, Delaware where I was blessed to meet SAR member Peter Moller, who really is my ‘better half.’ I have one brother and I'm the proud aunt of many wonderful nieces and nephews.

“I am very happy and honored to be a member of the PASSAR Ladies Auxiliary. I look forward to meeting you.”

Linda Robinson

### Highlights from PASSAR Winter Meeting: Friday, February 3-4, 2023

The meeting was hosted by the Philadelphia Continental Chapter and was held at the Alloy Hotel (Doubletree/Hilton) in King of Prussia. During the business meeting, a black streamer was added to the SAR flag to honor the passing of chapter and state president Donald Mengle. We miss you, Don!

**Honoring Donald Mengle with a salute is Steve Kopsick. Holding the SAR flag with its black streamer is Color Guard Captain, Fred Fonseca.**

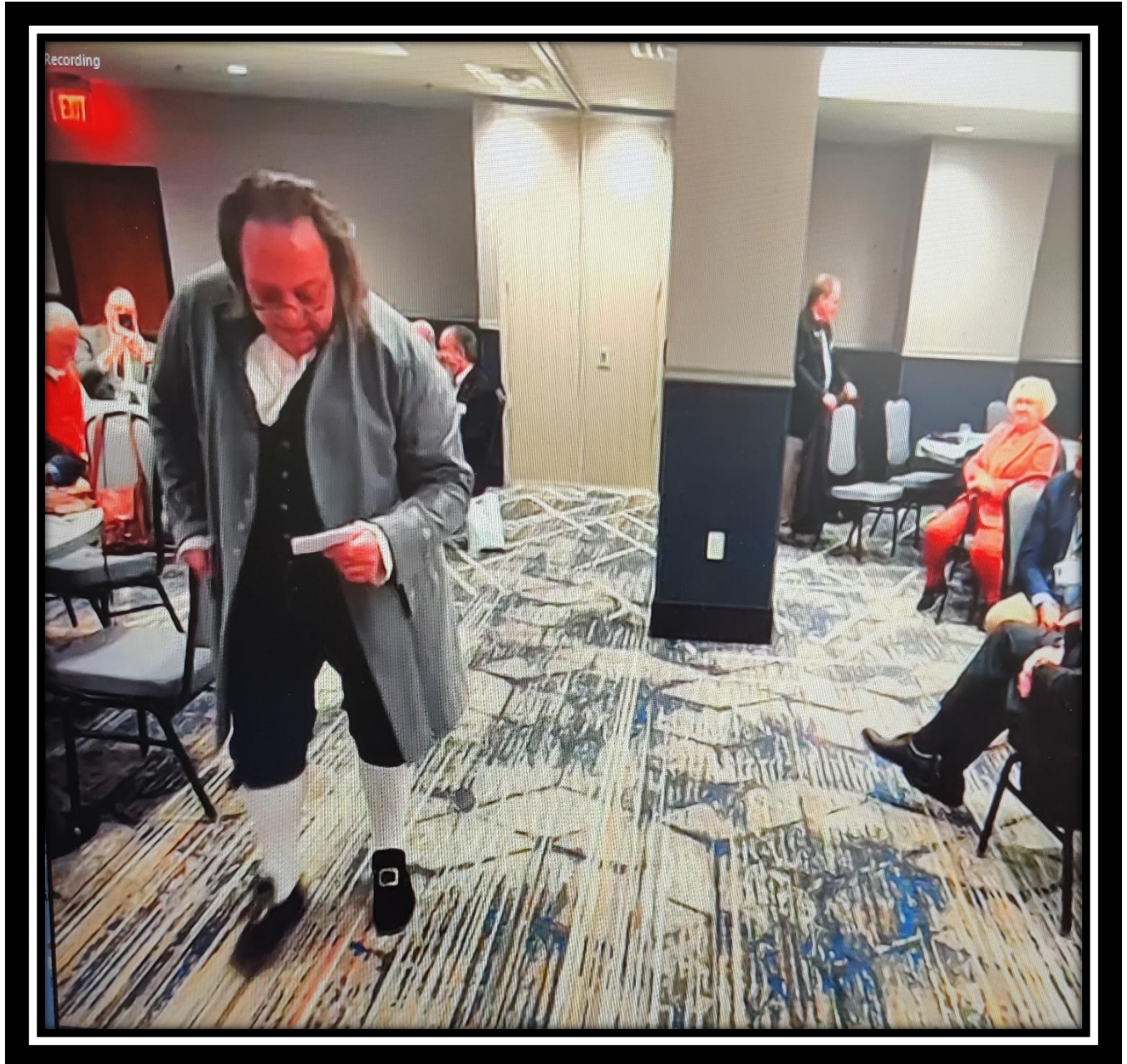


Picture compliments of Ernest L. Sutton, MD, PASSAR Historian

After the business meeting, participants were treated to the inimitable Dr. Benjamin Franklin (aka Mitchell Kramer). There was no LAPASSAR meeting so that Becky could meet with ladies regarding the 2024 Congress in Lancaster. Of his first-person portrayal of Franklin, *New York Times* columnist Eric Weinger has said: “Kramer captures not only Franklin’s mannerisms and voice but his way of being in the world, his essence.”



**Dr. Franklin introducing himself to PASSAR and LAPASSAR attendees. That is LAPASSAR chaplain, Pat Mc Kim in the foreground and George Clarke with other members of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter at the background table.**



**Even Dr. Franklin needs a little help in recalling all the information in that busy mind of his. Inventive as he is, he cut his quilled rolled notes into a smaller format he could carry in his waistcoat. Pictured at right background is PASSAR President Michael Siebert and LAPASSAR First-Vice President Maribeth Wilt-Siebert**





**Here is Dr. Franklin approaching members of the audience. That is former LAPASSAR President Stephanie Troutman seated at the table at the right.**

Kramer lives in a 200-year-old house in Philadelphia and provides tours for visitors to that historic city. The following websites provide a taste of his presentation if you missed the board of management meeting in February. The You-Tube presentation highlights the museum named for him in Philadelphia as well as Philadelphia's historic Reading Terminal on Filbert Street. Enjoy learning more about this Renaissance Man who was so instrumental in the birth of our nation:

<https://www.bfranklin.org/>

<https://www.bfranklin.org/press.html>

<https://www.bfranklin.org/press.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmRzR6s-OLo>

**LAPASSAR Members Hard at Work at King of Prussia Board of Management Meeting****King of Prussia, PA, February 3-4, 2023**

**Left side of Table (closest to camera): Nancy LeFevre, Susan Brown, Maribeth Wilt-Siebert, First Vice-President. Head of table: Taryn Edmonds Kennedy, Secretary Eastern PA. Next to Taryn on right, Medina Kopsick, Pat McKim, Chaplain, Denise Rhinehart and Stephanie Troutman, former LAPASSAR President**



**Facing Camera: Medina Kopsick, Pat McKim, Denise Rhinehart, and Stephanie Troutman. Back to Camera (left-right) Nancy LeFevre and Carol Strasbaugh**



**Facing camera: Carol Strasbaugh, Nancy LeFevre, Susan Brown and Maribeth Wilt-Siebert. Back heads of Stephanie Troutman (left) and Denise Rhinehart**

## Children of the American Revolution Conference: Bedford Falls

March 18, 2023



At the podium Gene Moyer, SAR/DAR/CAR Liaison for PASSAR distributes certificates and medals to outgoing President of the CAR, William Gresh. Also bringing greetings from PASSAR is Kurt Winter, First Vice-President of PASSAR



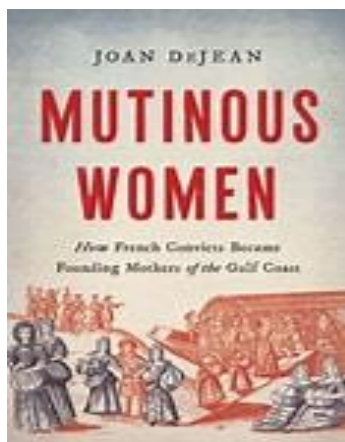
**Pennsylvania Society Children of the American Revolution  
Conference: March 18, 2023**

**Left to right: Kurt Winter, First Vice-President of PASSAR, William Gresh, President  
CAR, and Gene Moyer, PASSAR SAR/DAR/CAR Liaison**

## Highlights from LAPASSAR Zoom Meetings

President Becky Moyer held January 13 and March 14 Zoom meetings for LAPASSAR. Primarily these meetings were devoted to planning for the 2024 NASSAR Congress in Lancaster. Included in these meetings are the following topics: volunteers needed for “a cookie a day” activity, recommendations for Pennsylvania-themed items for our Pennsylvania basket, DAR representative basket for her room, Veterans’ cards and making of doilies, and trivia questions needed for “question of the day.” The artist has donated a 24 by 36-inch picture. LAPASSAR hopes to produce smaller ones to sell. A special thank you to LAPASSAR member Susan Brown and Denise Reinhart who donated Mason jars that will be used as centerpieces for tables. To access the schedule of events, access the PASSAR website (it is password protected with PASSAR2021) and consider exploring volunteer opportunities for Congress at the following site: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e49acac23a1f5c70-134th#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e49acac23a1f5c70-134th#/).

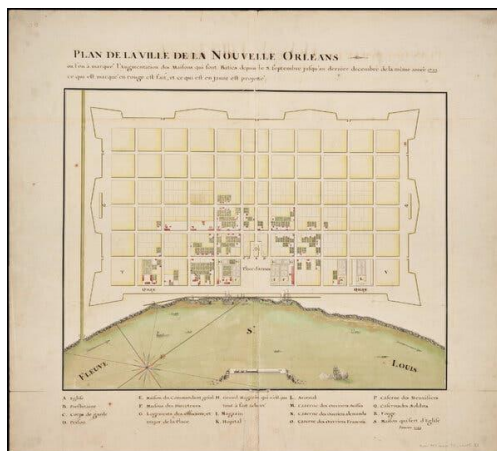
### A Good Read to Commemorate March as Women’s History Month



**MUTINOUS WOMEN: How French Convicts Became Founding Mothers of the Gulf Coast** (Nonfiction). By Joan DeJean

#### **They Populated Louisiana. Against Their Will**

*New York Times Review* by Leslie Camhi and Published April 19, 2022; Updated April 20, 2022



“A map from 1723, the original depiction of the Vieux Carré, or French Quarter, indicates constructions already completed, others merely planned for, and the city’s port on the river that residents called “the Saint-Louis River.” “Plan de la ville de la Nouvelle Orléans” 1723. Credit Newberry Library, Chicago, The Edward E. Ayer Collection

“Is a miscarriage of justice any less grievous because it took place three centuries ago?” Joan DeJean asks toward the end of *Mutinous Women*. In this, her 12th book, the scholar of French history and culture painstakingly pieces together the often-shocking stories of dozens of Frenchwomen in the first decades of the 18th century. Many were guilty of no greater crime than homelessness or poverty; all were incarcerated and then shipped off, shackled and against their will, to populate the wilderness of French colonial Louisiana.

“Who were these women? They were laundresses falsely accused of theft; servants who’d had the misfortune of attracting their employers’ amorous attentions and then been denounced by resentful wives; daughters who became unwelcome mouths to feed after a mother’s death and a father’s second marriage; or those who paid for their adolescent defiance of familial authority with imprisonment.

“Consider Marie Igonnet, a teenager from the mountainous Auvergne, one of the poorest and most remote regions of France. There she helped her father, a weaver, look after the altar in their village church. One day in 1710, while carrying the church’s ciborium to a neighboring town’s goldsmith for repair, she realized that the vessel was filled with consecrated hosts — and in that cruel winter of widespread starvation, she ate them. For this crime of divine lèse-majesté Igonnet, who was 17 years old and illiterate, was sentenced to be burned at the stake, but in a rare show of royal mercy, her sentence was commuted to lifetime imprisonment.

“Nine years later, Marie Igonnet’s name would appear on a list drawn up by Marguerite Pancatelin, the notoriously harsh warden of La Force. That insalubrious, overcrowded women’s prison was situated on the grounds of La Salpêtrière, a vast Parisian hospice for the poor. Prisoners endured brutal discipline, sardine-like accommodations and starvation rations. Is it any wonder that they repeatedly revolted? In 1719, seeking to rid herself of a recent insurrection’s ringleaders, Pancatelin came up with a novel idea. She applied to have these troublemakers, along with Igonnet and others whom she deemed incorrigibly ‘debauched,’ deported to ‘the islands’ — a plan to effectively banish the women for life to the French colonies.

“Pancatelin’s scheme dovetailed perfectly with the outsize ambitions of John Law, a louche Scotsman charged for a few brief years with remaking the shambolic French economy, which the late King Louis XIV’s wars had saddled with crippling national debt. Law created France’s first banking institution, introduced paper currency and proposed selling stock — ‘a new type of money’ — in his newly formed Company of the West, which had been granted a trading monopoly with French colonial Louisiana. He promoted the vast territory along the lower Mississippi Valley as a land of opportunity, with soil capable of producing the finest tobacco, and mines of gold and silver. The company’s stock boomed, minting the world’s first overnight millionaires, ‘lords and ladies of Mississippi’ swathed in diamonds and flush with cash, and investment frenzy gripped whole sectors of Parisian society.

“None of Law’s claims turned out to be true. Worse still, Louisiana was run ‘on the cheap,’ its handful of settlements in Biloxi, Mobile and New Orleans little more than ramshackle collections of huts. Agriculture, given the lack of imported tools, faltered; the colonists tried growing wheat, a staple of the French diet, but the Gulf Coast climate defeated them, and famine in those early years was a constant threat.

“The financial bubble around Louisiana would soon burst. But while it lasted, Law strove to make good on his promise to transport another 6,000 colonists to the region, and he found in Pancatelin an enthusiastic collaborator. During the summer of 1719, a first ship, *Les Deux Frères*, set sail for the three-month crossing to Louisiana, carrying 36 female prisoners — chained, clothed in rags and malnourished — in its hold. From that moment on, DeJean writes, ‘the hunt was on to find human cargo’ for a second vessel, ‘the ship named *La Mutine*, or The Mutinous Woman.’

“Working with a chaotic and often confusing historical record, DeJean traces the constellation of forces — including avarice, corruption and misogyny — that permitted the rapid roundup of another 96 or so female prisoners to be transported in the dank hold of *La Mutine*. The horrific conditions of the women’s journey, and the will to survive that must have sustained them when they were set down, largely without resources, in a barren, swampy, inhospitable land, are evoked in vivid detail.

“Pancatelin had labeled the majority of the women she earmarked for deportation as “morally depraved” or “prostitutes,” and subsequent historians have largely taken her word for it, but DeJean effectively pokes holes in the shaky legal cases surrounding their crimes. And whatever their pasts, she holds up the women’s subsequent lives in colonial Louisiana, where most of them labored honorably alongside their new husbands, where many acquired substantial property and repeatedly served as godmothers to one another’s children, as proof of their fortitude and upstanding character. Their descendants on the Gulf Coast are legion.

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“Perhaps it’s inevitable that a group portrait of some 130 women, all of them with complex back stories, many with multiple marriages, and seemingly half of them named Marie, is stymied by problems of pacing, repetition and narrative structure. For me, keeping the women’s identities straight as they reappeared over the course of DeJean’s nearly 400 pages proved challenging.

“Did any of them dream of a life beyond the harsh confines of frontier hearth and home? DeJean offers us tantalizing glimpses of such aspirations — in the story of Marie Baron, for example, banished from France as an impoverished adolescent for the alleged theft of a ribbon, and the only deportee on *La Mutine* known to have ever returned home. (After surviving months of captivity by the Natchez and Choctaw nations as a prisoner in their conflicts with colonial forces, Baron made the journey back to France with her second husband, a former Royal naval officer; the couple also traveled farther abroad, to Mauritius and Pondicherry. Movie rights, anyone?)

“I longed to hear Baron’s and other women’s voices, to find them taking on more flesh and character, but perhaps that would take a novelist’s skill. And in fact, it is in literature and opera that the deportees of *Les Deux Frères* and *La Mutine* also left an enduring mark. Former French majors may recall Abbé Prévost’s 1731 novel, *Manon Lescaut*, whose heroine, the lowborn mistress of a young aristocrat, is eventually imprisoned at La Salpêtrière and deported to Louisiana. Her lover (and the story’s narrator) remains utterly besotted with her and chooses to share her fate.

“Massenet and Puccini composed operas based upon the novel, but DeJean doesn’t mention this most famous of all the women convicts sent to Louisiana — either because the character of Manon Lescaut is profoundly amoral, or because the seductive charmer remains the figment of a masculine imagination. Yet Manon Lescaut’s ghost hangs over DeJean’s hugely ambitious, sometimes unwieldy book, an attempt to counter the myth of the femme fatale with the evidence of lives of substance and toil.

## **MUTINOUS WOMEN**

### **How French Convicts Became Founding Mothers of the Gulf Coast**

By Joan DeJean

Illustrated. 448 pp. Basic Books. \$18.99.

A version of this article appears in print on May 22, 2022, Page 10 of the *Sunday Book Review* with the headline: ‘Exile on Bourbon Street.’

About the author: Leslie Camhi’s first-person essays on culture and women’s lives appear in numerous publications. Her translation of Violaine Huisman’s *The Book of Mother* is a finalist for the French-American Foundation Translation Prize.”

Thank you to Becky Moyer for sharing “On Demand” lectures from the Mayflower Society from which this book review was excerpted. More lectures are available at the following website:

<https://themayflowersociety.org/history/lecture-series/>



Happy Birthday to our LAPASSAR members: Betty Dechant (March 3), Joan Hall (April 13), Bobbi McMullen (March 13) and Delores (Shorty) Clegg (April 29). Did I miss your birthday? Please e-mail me at [upenn92@outlook.com](mailto:upenn92@outlook.com) with your birthday so that I can include it in future newsletters. Thanks!

**For your convenience, your officers for 2020-2024 are listed here with their contact information. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with questions, concerns, and ideas.**

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**Maribeth Wilt Seibert, First Vice-**

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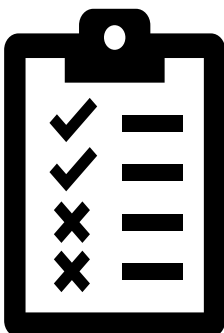
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N.B. The post of treasurer will be absorbed by Becky and Maribeth until a new treasurer is elected or appointed.

Please note that SAR and LAPASSAR holds four board of management meetings annually in February, May (annual meeting and elections), August and November. These meetings are scheduled the first Saturday of those months. The *LA Times* should be distributed to you a week before registrations are due by the middle of the previous month of the scheduled meetings. The newsletter is distributed through mailchimp.com.

Please send news about yourself or your husband to Janice Showler, Newsletter Editor, [upenn92@outlook.com](mailto:upenn92@outlook.com) or 814-616-6940.



A gentle reminder that your registration for the May annual meeting is due on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you in Gettysburg. There will be no LAPASSAR meeting because of a tour of the Gettysburg Battle Field.