



Ladies Auxiliary for the **Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution**

NEWSLETTER

Spring-Summer 2024

Ladies Auxiliary of the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the American Revolution (LAPASSAR) supports the mission of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (see link below for more information). The ladies actively participate in SAR activities, attend board of management and leadership meetings, as well as an annual National Congress held in various host states in the United States, and internationally (France). LAPASSAR members are both descendants as well as friends of early American war veterans. For more information about joining, please e-mail Maribeth Wilt-Seibert at mwtseibert@aol.com. Also see the auxiliary drop box at [PASSAR Ladies Auxiliary](#).

President's Message



This past weekend was the annual May meeting, it was well attended and it was great to see everyone.

It was also very a very busy one: the new Auxiliary board was sworn in by President Eric Troutman at the Saturday night banquet. We also donated \$500.00 to PASSAR and \$250.00 to the PA C.A.R. Society. Stephanie and Jan both received awards from PASSAR.

At our auxiliary meeting, the main topic was the final preparations for the Congress in July, and secondly Randi Fonseca was elected as the auxiliary Treasurer. Welcome Randi!!

We are in very good shape going into Congress. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to purchase the items needed for the Ladies Tea after the memorial service, as well as other items needed.



COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG MIDDLE STATES CONFERENCE

VERY POPULAR – RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

The Atlantic Middle States Conference this year will be in Colonial Williamsburg, the hotel is the Williamsburg Lodge. The dates are Aug 9 & 10 2024.

The link is now up and running to make your reservation. **The single and double occupancy base rate per room is \$199.00 plus taxes and parking.** The rate is protected between **August 6th -15th** if you choose to extend your stay and visit the *Historic Triangle of Jamestown, Yorktown, and the Williamsburg areas.*

Conference registration will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, we encourage you to secure your hotel reservations before the guaranteed rate is exhausted. The block is under the name of **Virginia Society, Sons of American Revolution.** We are looking forward to providing you with an exciting agenda to meet our business, historic, and social engagements. Compatriots and guests can book their hotel rooms online at this web address: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50775027>.



Credit: Tripsaavy.com

For those who do not know what the Atlantic Middle States SAR Conference is: it is a meeting of the 5 middle state societies and New York and New Jersey. The states are Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and DC. Due to the size of the Northern States Societies, New York and New Jersey are included.. Everyone is invited to attend. There is usually a dinner on Friday night and a Banquet on Saturday night.

Compatriots who are running for a general (National) position come to the conference, to meet and mingle with those at the conference. Usually there is a Ladies program, a tour, and time to socialize. I recommend that you make your reservations early before the block of rooms are exhausted. I believe that this will be a very popular conference due to its locale.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SPRING LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

LAPASSAR MEMBERS AT LEADERSHIP AT HISTORIC BROWN HOTEL, LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY



Left-Right: Maribeth Wilt Siebert, First Vice-President, LAPASSAR; Jan Showler, Past President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor; Kendra Roberts, Congress Volunteer; Linda Robinson, Congress Volunteer; Denise Reinhart, LAPASSAR Secretary; Cindy Mills, LAPASSAR Treasurer and Stephanie Troutman, PASSAR First Lady and Past LAPASSAR President. Front: Becky Moyer, LAPASSAR President, Third Vice-President, NLASAR, Congress Planning Committee.

The picture was taken in the 16-floor ballroom after the Karen Dodd's First Lady's Luncheon with speaker, Past President General Joseph

Dooley. Joe, who is Karen's cousin, spoke about the King's College Scholarship Program. The program encourages academics to publish original research about the American Revolution. Those scholars share their research at the Leadership meeting in Louisville, KY.

More information about the national auxiliary is available at <https://www.sar.org.nlasar>

HISTORIC BROWN HOTEL, KY

The Brown Hotel is indeed a historic gem! Located in downtown Louisville, Kentucky, U.S., it stands proudly at the corner of Fourth and Broadway. This 16-story hotel boasts 294 rooms and over 24,000 square feet of meeting space. Its elegant Georgian-Revival architecture and timeless Southern charm have made it a beloved destination for generations of guests.

Here are some fascinating details about The Brown Hotel:

1. **History:** Designed by Preston J. Bradshaw, the hotel opened its doors in 1923, a mere 10 months after construction began. Funded and owned by local entrepreneur James Graham Brown, it cost a whopping \$4 million. Brown Hotel aimed to compete with The Seelbach Hotel, just a few blocks away. It quickly became a central part of downtown Louisville's economy and social life.
2. **Signature Dish:** In 1926, the hotel's chef, Fred K. Schmidt, introduced the iconic Hot Brown sandwich. This open-faced turkey sandwich, adorned with bacon and a delicate Mornay sauce, became a local favorite. It even gained fame beyond Kentucky, featuring in programs about regional cuisine.
3. **Notable Guests:** The Brown Hotel has hosted many famous personalities. Former UK Prime Minister David Lloyd George was the first to sign the guest register. Queen Marie of Romania also graced its halls. And here's a quirky tidbit: the famous soprano Lily Pons brought her pet lion along, allowing it to roam freely in her room.
4. **Challenges:** Prohibition and the Great Depression posed challenges for the hotel in the early 1930s. The Brown defaulted on its loan, and employees worked without pay to keep it afloat. During the 1937



Flood, despite no electricity, the hotel remained open, providing refuge for those whose homes were submerged ².

5. Historic Recognition: The Brown Hotel is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a proud member of Historic Hotels of America, an official program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

NLASAR BUSINESS MEETING March 1, 2024

Attached photograph is of Zachary Distel, Curator SAR Archives and Special Collections (at the podium). He spoke after a presentation from Above Board Media and before the business portion of the NLASAR meeting on Friday, March 1st at Leadership. A SAR member since 2017, Zach provided a taste of the many documents housed in the SAR library: these include the original federal SAR charter as well as minutes, photographs of the earliest president generals up to today. The archives also include documents relating to the American Revolution itself, including an application of a black illiterate patriot with his signature, an "X" in the middle. Also included is counterfeit currency from a Loyalist and a document of Simon Vrooman, a patriot who lived long enough to collect his pension when they became available in 1832. The library would welcome donations of Congress Medals from the 1950s through the 1990s. Zach can be reached at 502-588-6149 and zdistel@sar.org.



"The SAR is always ready to assist with your historical and genealogical research, don't hesitate to get in touch."

"In addition, we are always happy to learn more about items in your personal collection and discuss if they may be right for the SAR Collection," shares Zac.

Image credit: Allthingsliberty.com



Library@sar.org



131st Annual Meeting and Spring Board of Management

The Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held their 131st Annual Meeting and Spring Board of Management meeting on Saturday May 4th, 2024, at the Holiday Inn Morgantown, PA. The chapter governor Joseph Hiester graciously hosted the event.



The Ladies Auxiliary held their spring meeting as well. The Ladies were given a synopsis of some of the events to be held locally July 27-29, 2025 in Western Chester County and Lancaster County celebrating the Bicentennial of Lafayette's farewell tour of America. A buffet luncheon was provided after the meetings.



The evening banquet was well attended. Eric H. Troutman, President PASSAR presided over the meeting and installation of officers for PASSAR and the Ladies Auxiliary.





Lauren Tyree, our Eagle Scout of the year provided a slide show and video of her service project. Various PASSAR members and DAR members were provided with their well-deserved certificates and medals.



MEMORIAL SERVICE

PASSAR members and guests attended a memorial service at the Church of St. Benedict in Mohnton, PA, honoring passed compatriots.



(History of St. Benedict Church Mohnton, PA: From the parish's humble beginning in a remodeled milk house which served as the parish chapel for twenty years, then to a renovated candy factory. Now they worship in their ecumenical

home built by parishioners on Chestnut Hill Road, Plowville, Pennsylvania. They continue in Thanksgiving Prayer Service for Christian Unity and Peace.



Rest in peace, patriots.



Education of Interest

Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), both at regional, state and national level, elect officers. They are the standard President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Chaplain, Genealogist, and National Trustee. Additionally, are options for SAR members to be in celebrated roles of service and activity. There are at last count “38,323 SAR members,” says minuteman Tom Showler, “with Chapters in France and Germany.”

In this newsletter, we will discuss the SAR roles of *color guard and minutemen*.

Chapter color guards personify promoting patriotism, and the accomplishments of the American Revolutionary War soldier, all to the end of keeping alive the flame of the deeds of our patriot ancestors. It does this by:

- participating in community and veteran's parades,
- presenting colors at SAR and DAR functions,
- special salutes to Revolutionary War fallen,
- occasionally providing an honor guard for Revolutionary War soldiers' grave dedications,
- and many other ways



Minuteman Award initial prerequisites include but are not limited to: 1. A nominee must have a minimum of five (5) years of active and distinguished service to the National Society. 2. A nominee must have served at least three (3) years in a National elective office (General Officer, Vice President General, Trustee or Alternate Trustee). 3. A nominee must have served at least three (3) years as a Chairman/Vice-Chairman of a National Committee as established by the President General and/or Executive Committee and published on the National Society website after each Annual Congress.

Minutemen are inducted into their role at Congress, accompanied by a distinguished SAR member. Along with the aforementioned, minutemen, must continue to support the organization through active participation in service activities and chapter programs.

Farewell to Founder and Editor of the Ladies Auxiliary

Janice Showler, our honorable founding president (2016) of the Ladies Auxiliary Pennsylvania Sons of the American Revolution's Ladies Auxiliary (LAPASSAR), passes the torch as newsletter editor to lifetime LAPASSAR member Tiffany Riebel. Jan has supported her husband Tom, a Minuteman (class of 2019), for almost thirty years of his active service on local (Philadelphia Continental Chapter), state (PASSAR), and national levels (NSSAR) where he served as Vice-President General for the Mid-Atlantic District (2014-2015).

As a coordinator of Holy Family University’s composition program and academic writing instructor, Jan found the SAR’s focus on youth--especially its educational, historical, and patriotic mission—consistent with her values. To have a sense of the work that young people and their teachers do to fulfill that mission, please see <https://education.sar.org/youth-awards/>. Diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in 2013, Jan reluctantly retired from her position as Emerita Professor of English at Holy Family. Despite her diagnosis, she has served LAPASSAR as president, secretary, and newsletter editor. Now, however, it is time for her to refocus.



Pictured: Jan and Tom Showler at All Saints’ Episcopal Church on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, Frankford Avenue, the King’s Highway in Philadelphia. Jan and Tom served on the All-Saints’ Vestry.

In the “city of brotherly love” where Jan is a native, there were ample opportunities to honor Revolutionary War soldiers at Washington Square, Independence Hall, and at gravesite ceremonies. The Philadelphia Continental Chapter also welcomed new citizens at its annual ceremonies. The past six years have found the Showlers living in the Erie, Pennsylvania area where Tom can trace his ancestors to the 1600s.

While 2024 marks her final year of active participation in LAPASSAR, Jan treasures the friends she has made over the years as well as the many sites in these beautiful United States that she and Tom visited through their participation in the SAR. She thanks former LAPASSAR board members and past presidents for their service to make LAPASSAR an auxiliary in service to the SAR mission focusing on education, youth, and patriotism. “Thank you for your service, ladies!” says Jan.



BIRTHDAYS



Since our last newsletter and until the next, we wish most happy birthdays to all celebrating at this time. Happy Birthday, ladies!





For your convenience, your officers for 2024-2026 are listed here with their contact information. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with questions, concerns, and ideas.

Becky Hudson Moyer, President Beckymoyerlapassar@gmail.com or 301-305-5579 (Until July 2024)

Maribeth Wilt Seibert, First Vice-President, mwtseibert@aol.com or 717-576-4661

Denise Reinhart, Second Vice-President, parrots@ptd.net or 610-965-5389 (H), 610730-6465 (cell)

Sue Brown, Secretary KVKrusader@aol.com or 215-659-1686, 215-287-2679 (cell)

Randi Fonseca, Treasurer randifons@msn.com or 610-506-4109 (cell)

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



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.



Send articles and pictures to LA Times Newsletter to any LAPASSAR Officer, or newsletter editor, tiffanyriebel@gmail.com, and pictures optionally to Randi randifons@msn.com or Jen, jen.thorpe@comcast.net.

Pennsylvania Society Sons of the American Revolution website, available at <http://passar.org/>

Sons of the American Revolution have been inspiring American Patriotism since 1889.

