



## **Atlantic Middle States Sons of the American Revolution**

August 22, 2005

To: Mid-Atlantic and North Atlantic Districts

Subject: Minutes of 2005 Atlantic Middle States Conference

The Atlantic Middle States (AMS) is composed of two districts: the Mid-Atlantic and the North Atlantic Districts. The Delaware Society hosted the conference August 12 and 13, 2005 in at the Wilmington, DE. Sixty-seven compatriots from 12 states attended the conference.

Friday's events included a wreath laying ceremony at Old Swedes Church in downtown Wilmington at the grave of Patriot Major Peter Jaquett. A combined color guard from four states (DE, MD, NY, and VA) did the honors for the ceremony. On the stone wall was a new SAR plaque commemorating the known 44 Patriots buried in the cemetery. A buffet dinner followed that evening. Entertainment included the New Ark Colonial Fife & Drum Corps and Lee Jennings in the character of Major Robert Kirkwood, who like Jaquett, fought in every major Revolutionary War battle from Brooklyn to Yorktown.

The Conference was convened Saturday morning by the Mid-Atlantic District Vice President General Stephen A. Leishman. The US and state colors were presented by a color guard from five states. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, singing of our National Anthem, reciting the SAR Pledge, and an invocation, Delaware Society President Lyman R. Brenner gave the official welcome. VPG Leishman introduced State Senator Charles Copland to bring greeting from the Governor. Senator Copland concluded by reading and presenting a proclamation signed by the Governor of Delaware.

VPG Leishman displayed the large, framed SAR member certificate for member number one. The certificate was for a New Jersey compatriot and graciously brought to the meeting by NJ Society compatriot John (Jack) R. Gebhart. The certificate was set out for all to see at the end of the meeting.

The minutes from the 2004 AMS Conference were approved as presented. Conference minutes for 2004 were included in the registration packet for each compatriot attending.

Society Reports were presented from the following Societies:

District of Columbia by President Scott Shewmaker

Delaware by President Lyman R. Brenner

Maryland by President Carroll Collins

Pennsylvania by President Miles Dechant

New Jersey by Trustee John R. Gebhart

Empire State by President Peter Goebel

Virginia by President Larry McKinley

There was no Old Business to come before the conference.

The following items were discussed under New Business.

Virginia Society's John D. Sinks, PhD, was nominated and unanimously elected to be submitted for the VPG for the Mid-Atlantic District. His election to this office will be at the 2006 Congress.

Empire State Society's Peter K. Goebel, was nominated and unanimously elected to be submitted for the VPG for the North-Atlantic District. His election to this office will be at the 2006 Congress

VPG Leishman briefly discussed the George Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge National Park and the state Sunday observances that are conducted around the year. Church services begin at 11:15 AM. He read the dates for each of the AMS Societies and encouraged each president to lead a contingent in participation at the state observances. The web URL is <http://www.washingtonmemorialchapel.org/pages/state.html>

VPG George J. Hill, North Atlantic District assumed the chair for the presentation of 2006 candidates for national office. Nominating and seconding speeches were heard for all candidates except for Surgeon General. The conference voted to endorse the following candidates for national office: For President General Nathan White, TX; Secretary General Bruce Wilcox, VA; Treasurer General David Appleby, MO; Registrar General Timothy Bennett, DC; Chancellor General Edward Butler, TX; Genealogist General Ralph Nelson, DE; Historian General J. David Sympton, KY; Librarian General J. Michael Jones, AZ; and as Chaplain General Rev. Dr. Stanley De Long, CA. VPG Leishman, as conference chairman, is to send a letter to PG endorsing the candidates to Henry N. McCarl, chairman of the nominating committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Following the meeting, three workshops were held. They were: Washington – Rochambeau Route (W3R): Where we are and Future Celebrations was lead by Ralph Nelson, PhD; the Future of NSSAR was conducted by Treasurer General Bruce Wilcox; and Web Enhanced Membership Database was lead by James Randall, Executive Director NSSAR. There were many questions raised during these workshops. NSSAR pledge cards for the Outreach Program were collected from all members attending.

A tour of historic New Castle was conducted on Saturday. New Castle has original buildings going back to the early days when Delaware was the three southern counties of Pennsylvania. A wreath was laid at the grave of George Read, a signer of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Patriot Read is buried in the graveyard of Immanuel Episcopal Church on the Green. A combined color guard from four states again did the honors for the ceremony. On the inside of the cemetery's stone wall is an SAR plaque which lists the names of 31 known Patriots buried in the graveyard.

A black tie banquet was held Saturday evening with over 100 attending. President General Roland Downing was the guest speaker along with Professor Ray Wolters, Thomas Muncy Keith Professor of History, University of Delaware, outlined the changes in teaching American history as topics in social history have replaced the traditional teaching of the events and leaders that shaped our national character. President Downing then described new SAR programs to address this issue and to increase member understand and participation in our society. Jonathan Ridgeway, VA, was sworn as a new SAR member and Davis Lee Wright, DE, was pinned as a new George Washington Fellow. The Jersey Devil award was won by the Virginia Society and the trophy was passed from the Pennsylvania Society to Virginia Society. This award is based on the registered members (not spouses) from each state and the mileage from the capital city of that state to the capital city of the host state. The Mid-Atlantic VPG Membership Award was won by the Maryland Society. The plaque was received from the Maryland Society and will be re-presented at a later. The Mid-Atlantic VPG Membership Award is based on a society's membership increase in the past calendar year. Data for this award is obtained from NSSAR.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen A. Leishman  
VPG Mid-Atlantic District  
Chairman, 2005 AMS Conference