



Atlantic Middle States Conference August 11-12, 2006, Washington, DC

The 2006 Atlantic Middle States Conference (AMS) was hosted by the District of Columbia Society, SAR and was held at the Hotel Washington. Sixty- two compatriots from fifteen states attended the conference.

Friday's events included a wreath laying ceremony at the Congressional Cemetery marking the grave of Elbridge Gerry, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

That evening the attendees and their guests attended the Evening Parade at the US Marine Corps Barracks.

The conference convened at 8:35 AM with Mid-Atlantic Vice President Dr. John D. Sinks, PhD with the Pledge to the US Flag lead by DCSSAR President Scott Shewmaker, the pledge to the SAR by Gareth Bond, DCSSAR, and invocation by the Rev. Christos Christou, Jr., MDSSAR. DCSSAR President welcomed the compatriots to DC. A motion to approve the 2005 minutes as distributed was approved.

The presidents of the seven state societies in AMS then gave their reports. With the exceptions of MD and VA, they were as distributed. MDSSAR reported that they were able to raise \$4,000 for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage by putting a request in with the annual dues notice. VASSAR reported the formation of a new SAR chapter, General Daniel Morgan, in Staunton, VA and that each SAR state society attending this year's Yorktown Day will receive a flag streamer. There was no old business to conduct.

New business matters consisted of: (1) the election of VPS for 2007-8 for the North Atlantic District (NAD) and the Mid Atlantic District (MAD). The conference elected EMSSAR compatriot Peter G. Goebel as NAD vice president and Carroll J. Collins as MAD vice president. Compatriot Bond, DCSSAR, presented four motions which are: (1) the current Thomas J. Bond membership award be renamed the Thomas J. Bond, Jr. Mid-Atlantic Membership Award. Require that the winning state society engrave the award and return it to the next conference. Add to the current rules that reinstatements will not counted in computing the award. \$500, donated by Mrs. Winkler, the late Thomas J. Bond's wife, will be given to the compatriot of the wining society with the highest number of first line signers. Should there be a tie, the \$500 will be given to the state society. Any change in the above requirements including the name will make the endowment null and void. The conference approved the motion concerning the above. (2) Concerning the Jersey Devil Award, the host society is ineligible to compete in the contest. The conference approved this motion. (3) The MAD webmaster keep on the MAD web the current version of the AMS by-laws, the Jersey Devil Award rules, and the Thomas J, Bond, Jr. rules. The conference approved this motion. (4) The MAD website renamed the AMS website. The conference approved this motion. MAD VP Sinks asked for and received the approval of a motion thanking Mrs. Winkler for her generous donation.

Compatriot Leishman, DESSAR, presented two motions: (1) The conference approve and recommend to the Fall 2006 Trustee and Leadership meeting that that \$25, 000 be budgeted starting with the 2007-8 budget for use by the Secretary General on official SAR travel. This motion was approved. (2) No active campaigning for NSSAR office be allowed until November 1st of each year. A lengthy and heated discussion followed with the motion being defeated by the conference.

A courtesy resolutions to the Hotel Washington thanking Abel Anne, Director, Food & Beverage, and Summer Bellman, Director, Sales & Marketing, for their help and assistance, and a courtesy resolution to the US Marine Corps for inviting the conference to attend the Evening Parade.

PG Nathan E. White, Jr., told the conference about four initiatives, which are: (1) need to form new chapters, and he challenged each state society to form one new chapter this SAR year. (2) What does the SAR expect of and from Foreign SAR Societies? He would like to hear what compatriots and state societies think. (3) We must bring in prominent citizens as SAR members as the publicity of this event brings SAR to the public's attention. (4) Should annual dues be eliminated? This matter will be discussed at the 2006 fall trustees and Leadership meeting.

A training session consisting of: (1) Revolutionary War Graves Registry Project was conducted by Compatriot Ralph Nelson, DESSAR. (2) Changes in Standards for Reviewing Applications, 2004-6 by CG Ed Butler. (3) The Outreach Program by SG Bruce Wilcox and Compatriot Leishman. (4) New Directions to Increase Membership by GG Chuck Bragg. (5) The Director of Education by Executive Director Jim Randall.

The conference made the following endorsements for 2007-8 NSSAR office:

President General – Bruce A. Wilcox, VA
Secretary General – David N. Appleby, MO
Treasurer General – Edward F. Butler, Sr., TX
Chancellor General – no endorsement
Genealogist General – Charles F. Bragg, IN
Register General – Timothy R. Bennett, DC
Historian General – J. David Sympson, KY
Librarian General – Richard Brockway, WV
Chaplin General – no endorsement
Surgeon General – no endorsement

There being no further new business, the conference adjourned at 11:25 AM

The ladies visited the White House during the above business session. Lunch in the Senate Mansfield dinning room and a tour of the Capital rotunda and the House chamber were enjoyed by all during the afternoon. A black tie dinner was held Saturday evening. VASSAR won the Jersey Devil Award and the Thomas J. Bond, Jr. membership awards. General Kerns, USA retired, spoke to the attendees about the current political situation in Iraq and Lebanon.

Respectively submitted

Richard S. Austin, VASSAR
Secretary Pro-tem

Encl: (1) 7 state society reports