



THE DRUMBEAT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
WASHINGTON STATE COLOR GUARD



Sep 2024 (3rd Qtr. Jul/Aug/Sep)

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YOUR COLOR GUARD



SUMMER 2024

(3rd Quarter)

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AMERICA'S FIRST VETERANS AND THE FACE OF THE SAR

From The National SAR Commander

Under the “eLearning” Tab on the SAR.org website there is a series of videos entitled “SAR Compatriot Training” that was placed on the website in March 2023. Please take a look at these videos and see if they will assist with what you are trying to do. The videos have been discussed and shown to the Council of State Presidents at the SAR National Leadership meetings but the word may not have filtered down as to the availability of these resources. There are also a number of color guard videos under the committee section for the National SAR Color Guard.

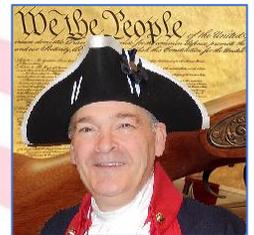


K Scott Collins, National Commander, SAR Color Guard.

From The State SAR Commander

Compatriots,

The National Congress was held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, July 12-17. Six of the 10 WASSAR Chapters were represented, with several members representing their individual chapters. This probably was the largest contingent of WASSAR members outside of the National Congress that was held in Renton, Washington, a few years ago. Of the six chapters represented, five of the chapters were represented and march with the National Color Guard during the ceremonies and events. This National Congress provided a unique opportunity to visit Revolutionary War sites such as Valley Forge, Philadelphia, and other battle field locations. A true appreciation was felt of the obstacles and hardships our ancestors endured to secure our freedom and create a nation of free men.



As we reflect on those sacrifices, we also take note of the unity that was created while individual colonies joined together as one people to overcome British Tyranny.

As members of the WASSAR Color Guard, it is good to have events locally to individual chapters to help grow the organization. I believe there are however, three primary events throughout the year where the Color Guard in the Greater Puget Sound area could and should attend as a unit, representing the WASSAR. The first event would be the State Conference where all chapters with Color Guard are welcome and needed for the conference ceremonies. The 2025 State Conference planning will begin this month (September). Over the past two years we have had wonderful attendance at the Annual Color Guard meeting with representation from nine of ten chapters. The next comments pertain to those chapters in the Greater Puget Sound area, namely Seattle, John Paul Jones, Alexander Hamilton, Cascade Centennial, and George Rogers Clark. Over the past couple of years both the Auburn Veteran’s Day Parade and the Bremerton Armed Forces Day parades have barely scrapped by with attendance from the SAR Color Guard. Much of this may be due to trying to foster new events more local to the chapters. I would encourage Color Guard members from the specific chapters to strongly consider joining together as a single WASSAR unit in these two events. The reasoning is, if only 5-6 members are in the parade, we are but a flash in memory and gone from the public eye. Of course we cannot ever forget the value the Fife and Drum provide to us. If as a unit we can attend these two particular events where our ranks can be 6-7 deep with several historical flags that would make a much more lasting impression. I know each chapter struggles, but as our ancestors of the Revolution, we need to come together more often. This is where comradery is built. The Color Guard is not only the face of the SAR, but primarily the only cross-collaboration and cross-pollination activities that occur. We are much stronger when we work together.

Looking Forward: The 2024-2025 school year is now upon us. Now is the time to reach out to your educator contacts and start scheduling the school presentations. We need to continue to emphasize to the students that they are living in history of the 250th Anniversary of our Country and of Revolutionary War events. Just some dates to share: September 3, 1777 was the first time that the Stars and Stripes flag was flown; September 5 – October 1775, the First Continental Congress meets for the very first time; and April 19, 1775 will be the Battle of Concord and Lexington.

Respectfully Submitted, Neil A Vernon, WA State-SAR, Commander, WA State Color Guard.

Color Guard Patch Available

A **limited quantity** of the sew on Color Guard Patches are still available at a cost of \$3.25 each.

If you want them mailed the postage cost is:

- 3 or less.....\$1.00 4-6.....\$2.00
- 7-9.....\$3.00 10 or more.....\$9.90

CG Members may contact the **Deputy Commander** for purchase.

NOTE: Authorized for **WA State Color Guard members only.**

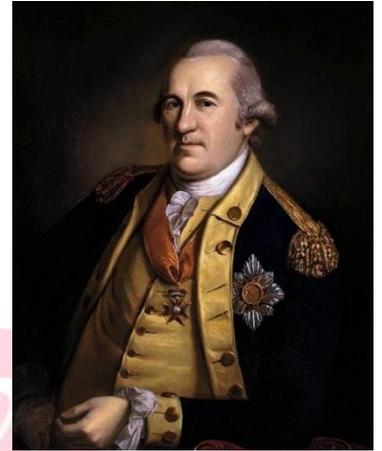


The patch measures 4”x4”

The SAR Von Steuben Medal?

Just who was Von Steuben???

Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin von Steuben was born on September 17, 1730 in the fortress town of Magdeburg in the Kingdom of Prussia. Following in his father's footsteps, Steuben joined the Prussian Army in 1747, when he was 17 years old. In May 1756, the Seven Years War began in Europe, and Prussia and Britain were pitted against France, Austria, and Russia. At this time, Steuben was a second lieutenant. He was wounded at the Battle of Prague, where the Prussian army was victorious, despite facing twice as many Austrian troops. In 1758, he served as General Johann von Mayer's adjutant and principal staff officer in a special detached corps. Steuben was promoted to first lieutenant in 1759, and he was wounded at the Battle of Kunersdorf that summer. On June 26, 1761, he was transferred to general headquarters, where he served as a staff officer in the position of a deputy quartermaster. Later in 1761, he was taken prisoner when Major General von Knoblock surrendered at Treptow on the Russian front. In 1762, he was released, promoted to captain, and he eventually became an aide-de-camp to Frederick the Great. Then he joined the King's personal class on the art of war, where young officers were trained in the complicated art of leadership. Shortly following the peace treaty, he was discharged from the Prussian army on April 29, 1763.



By 1763, Steuben had gained all of his military experience which would be so valuable in his service to the American cause. He had learned the methods of war in what many considered to be the greatest and most advanced army in the world at the time. Steuben had also received training with a special detached corps and as a general staff officer when the two concepts were virtually unknown to the rest of the world. This prepared Steuben for his work with the American army, where it became his task to bring uniformity and order to the drills and maneuvers of the Continental Army.

The road to America began in 1763, when Steuben met Louis de St. Germain in Hamburg. St. Germain later became the French Minister of War during the American Revolution. This casual acquaintance was renewed in France while Steuben was serving as Grand Marshall to the Prince of Hollenzollern-Hechingen. He held this post from 1764-1777. As Grand Marshall, Steuben served as the administrative director for the prince and his court. During this period, he received the Star of the Order of Fidelity on May 26, 1769, from the Duchess of Wurttemberg, a niece of Frederick the Great, whom Steuben had greatly impressed. In 1771, he received the title of Baron, from the Prince of Hollenzollern-Hechingen.

From 1775 onward, Baron von Steuben began looking for work in some kind of military capacity. He inquired about serving in the British, French, and Austrian armies, but no positions materialized. In 1777, he traveled to France, where he heard talk of glories and riches to be won in a revolution across the Atlantic Ocean. Through St. Germain, Steuben was introduced to the American ambassadors to France, Silas Deane and Benjamin Franklin. However, the two ambassadors were unable to promise Steuben a rank or pay in the American army. The Continental Congress had grown tired of foreign mercenaries coming to America and demanding a high rank and pay, based on promises made to them by the American ambassadors. These men would be promoted in rank over deserving American officers, causing discontent in the army. As a result, Congress ordered the ambassadors to stop this practice. Steuben would have to go to America and present himself to Congress strictly as a volunteer. Steuben left these first meetings in disgust and returned to the German kingdoms.

There Steuben was unable to find suitable employment. He therefore returned to France and prepared to set out for America, strictly as a volunteer without promise of pay or rank. His passage to America was paid by the French government. On September 26, 1777, Baron von Steuben, his Italian greyhound, Azor, Louis de Pontiere, his aide de camp, and Pierre Etienne Duponceau, his military secretary, embarked for America to serve in the revolution. They arrived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on December 1, 1777, where they were almost arrested for being British because the Baron had mistakenly outfitted them in red uniforms. Steuben and his party then traveled overland through Boston to York, Pennsylvania, arriving there on February 5, 1778.

For more on Von Steuben use this [LINK](#)

Color Guard Events Throughout The State

Regional Area Color Guard Events In Jul, Aug, Sep

Northern Region

4 Jul: Independence Day Parade:

The George Washington Chapter participated in the annual 4 July parade in Anacortes. CG members present were: (l-r) Rod Jenny, Marshall Eberhart, John Kraft, Bill Bentler, and Jim Carpenter

Of special note: The GW group rescued the *Scottish American Military Society* when they had an equipment failure



Message from the group:

“Thank you for the save when we had a front wheel on our Commander and Pipe Major's wheelchair blow out! You carried the damaged chair for us and were even willing to have him ride in your truck so we could keep the Scottish thunder going. We (SAMS Post 1859) also enjoyed having lunch with you. You sure know how to show a prospective member hospitality, accommodation, and fun! Special thank you to John Kraft.”

3 Aug: Members of the George Washington Chapter presented the colors at the annual Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1109 picnic and car show hosted by Ande Mitchell in Sedro-Woolley today.

Members present were (l-r) JohnMark Jenney, Rod Jenney, Lee Schuirman, Jim Carpenter, Ken Carlson, Marshall Anderson, Bill Bentler, Ken Roberts.



10 Aug: The annual Woodinville Parade was attended by the WASSAR Color Guard.

Members present were: (standing l-r) Dick Motz, Russ Oliver, Alonde Droege (F&D), Charley Frisk (F&D), Christopher Clayton, Stephen Clayton, Eric Olsen, Jim Lindley, Stan Granberg, Neil Vernon.
(in front l-r) Terry Barker (F&D), Viren Lemmer, Jan Lemmer, Stephanie Conroy (F&D)



17 Sep Constitution Day: Members of the GW chapter attended the Ringing of the Bells at the Skagit County Courthouse.

Members present: Lee Schuirman, Rodney Jenny, Bruce Bock, Marshall Eberhart, and Brian Bailey (not pictured)

The Washington State Community Service Award was presented to Lee by Kim Kimmey of the Ann Washington DAR Chapter.



Southern Region

4 Jul: Independence Day Parade: It was a grand day all around! Thousands of spectators loudly greeted compatriots from the Ft. Vancouver chapter as they proudly marched in the *Go4th Ridgefield* parade. More than 500 small U.S. flags were handed out by compatriots to people during the parade.



CG members were: (l/r) Garry Carpenter, Paul Winter, Rick Cline, Jeff Lightburn...Not pictured was Larry Heckethorne.



4 Jul: Independence Day Parade in Steilacoom. Great turnout for the event.



The Declaration was read this year by Viren Lemmer.

Members participating in the parade were:
 (back row) Alonde Droege (F&D), Stephanie Conroy (F&D), Ralph Liening (HODAR), Mike Moore, John Herr, Jerry Bordelon, Dick Motz,
 (front row) Skip Stephan, Viren Lemmer, Jan Lemmer, Mike Bendicksen, Charley Frisk (F&D)



4 Jul: The George Rogers Clark Chapter was well represented in the Tumwater 4th of July Parade. Although our numbers were small the excitement & enthusiasm was high as we marched with the DAR, CAR. Combining our efforts resulted in higher visibility for all our organizations. Tumwater residents, like many other parades in Washington, displayed deep respect for the flag as many stood, and saluted, the passage of each color guard carried flag. The respect shown for the marchers, and Old Glory, was a reminder of the depth patriotism which is still rooted the United States. For all those who may feel the US is in transition, join your chapter color guardsmen and march in a parade. Your faith in America will be restored



17 Aug: Multnomah Days Festival & Parade. (Event [LINK](#)) POC for event is [Paul Winter](#). Location: Multnomah Village, Portland OR.

No Data Submitted.



22 Aug: On this day the **Tahoma National Cemetery** in Kent, Washington held a ceremony to honor and inter the remains of 30 Civil War veterans and 31 spouses. The event is thought to be the largest group interment of Civil War soldiers in the last 150 years.

The remains of each Civil War Veteran passed between the SAR compatriots that were at the **mourning position** in honor of the fallen.

(Below) CG Compatriots in the formation were: Tom Barham, John Herr, Dick Motz, Tim Smith, Eric Olsen, Mike Moore. At right are Melonie Leaning (DAR) & Ralph Leaning (HODAR) who carried remains.



Also present were: Jim Carpenter, Ken Roberts, Mark Whiteaker, & Chaplain Edwin Dierdorff

The Cemetery



24-25 Aug: The GRC chapter attended the Hudson Bay Heritage Days which is an annual event the third weekend in August celebrating the History and community of DuPont, Washington. Each year there is a food festival featuring a national BBQ contest with contestants from all across the United States. The GRC chapter joined with the DAR Sacajawea chapter for combined efforts at this event. Over a 2 day period of time through the alternating efforts of S.A.R and D.A.R every half hour, we offered 25 minute mini lessons on the hour and half hour for the fair attendees. This years SAR's new contributions included: The many uses of animal horn, heritage grains, children of the revolution, and the haversack spy. DAR's new contributions included: The colonial kitchen, cobbler skills, and spinning wool into yarn. On the second day of the fair, compatriot Lawrence Bowman attended his first event in uniform and was presented his color guard lapel pin. Our outreach into the community, resulted in increasing our visibility while generating greater interest in our chapter membership.

In the photo at right (l-r): Lew Maudsley, GRC Chapter President, Lawrence Bowman, Eric Olsen, Registrar and Arthur Dolan. Absent from the photo: Joe Coorough.



30 Aug: The WASSAR CG attended the Interment of Sgt David Price of Centralia, WA. There was a much smaller attendance than usual but the CG presence was still known.



CG Members were:(l-r) Eric Olsen, Dennis Case, and Neil Vernon.



2 Sep: The labor days parade at Black Diamond had a great turn out. There were CG uniformed members Fife & drum, and "camp followers" for a total of 21.



(l-r standing) Danika Bendickson, Katherine Bendickson, Matt Bendickson, Terry Barker, Skip Stephen, Mike Moore, Ralph Leaning, Stephen Clayton, John Herr, Christopher Clayton, Neil Vernon, Alonde Droege, Tim Smith, Melonie Leaning, Erick Olsen, Dick Motz, Diane Moore.

(l-r kneeling) Michale Bendickson, Viren Lemmer, Jan Lemmer, Charlie Frisk.

3 members of the Fife & Drum corps were promoted at the event.

Skip Stephen, Michael Bendickson, and Melonie Leaning were promoted to Seargent



16 Sep: Honor Flight: Alaska Flt 379, was greeted by the WASAR Color Guard.

Members at this event were: (l-r) Timothy Smith, Neil Vernon, Michael Moore, John Herr, and Stan Granberg.

Flight was schedule in for 9:40, then it was an hour late, Veterans did not get greeted until after 11. Most were Vietnam War and a few Korean War.



20 Sep: Interment of US Army Corporal Fredrick Higgins. Tahoma National cemetery.

Attendees were Mike Moore and Keth Weissinger



21 Sep: DAR WA State Fall BOM Meeting: The WA St Color Guard posted the colors at the WA St DAR BOM meeting held at the SEATAC Marriott.

Members attending: (Standing) Mike Moore, Amy Brooks (DAR), Dick Motz, Neil Vernon.

In front: Charley Frisk, Viren Lemmer, Terry Barker, Alonde Droege, Stephanie Conroy, Melonie Liening



21 Sep: Tenino Railroad Day and Heritage Fair. Eric Olsen attended the event and talked with a variety of visitors about the SAR, DAR, CAR, and the American revolution.



Eastern Region

4 Jul: The Mid- Columbia Chapter joined with the DAR to march in the Pasco Independence Day Parade for the second year. It was a hot day with a longer distance than last year.



CG Members were: Brian McReynolds, Richard Roddy, Kelly Schultz, Brian Smith Randal Roach & Karen Schultz (DAR).

4 Jul: The Mid-Columbia Chapter set up an information booth at the Independence Day, River of Fire Event at Columbia Park in Kennewick, WA.

Brian McReynolds, Brian Smith and Larry Flint provided information on SAR and Colonial times to the public.



12 Jul: Spokane #1 chapter out with DAR Esther Reed chapter at their America 250/1st Daughter event. CG members present were: ???, ???, Dale Ryan, Will Palmer, Doug Jonas, Stan Wills, Rob Scott, Tracy Prock



17 Sep: Naturalization Ceremony. The Mid-Columbia Chapter participated in the Richland Naturalization Ceremony at the Federal Court House. Attending Compatriots were: Richard Roddy, Randal Roach, Kelly Schultz and Larry Flint. There were 25 new citizens from 8 countries sworn in this day by the Honorable Judge, Mary K. Dimke.



26-28 Sep: Heritage Days at Sacajawea Park in Pasco. The Mid-Columbia chapter camped out for Heritage Days. Over 300 elementary school students arrived by bus for a day of learning about history inclusive of the SAR, Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery reenactors, Mountain Men, Blacksmiths and Fur Traders, Native American culture and technology. Members (L-R) Jan Hughes, Kelly Schultz, Randal Roach, Brian McReynolds, Brian Smith, Karen Schultz, Richard Roddy and Arthur Broady



Western Region

5-7 Jul: The Early American Heritage Festival was held in Port Gamble this year. It replaced our annual Colonial Festival from Sequim. The three-day event was enjoyed by over 1000 attendees. They learned what the Revolutionary Era was like through the Reenactors portrayal of people from then and information from our SAR & DAR booths.

Thank you to the following SAR members for assisting us with the SAR booth. Mick Hersey (coordinator), Brian Dorr, Noah Chase, Bob Smalser, Mark Whiteaker, Hugh Tucker, Dan Abbott, Pat Burch and Vern Starks (JPJ), Steve Whitehall (MC), Kevin Saville (GRC), and Ralph Liening (HODAR) for the showing of support. And a big shout out to Bruce and Pam Gasman for loaning us their enclosed canopy tent that allowed us to keep our setup all three days instead of taking it up and down nightly. It made the festival a real enjoyment. Negotiations are under way for the same location in 2025.



Pam Gassman provides some colonial goodies



Military Humor & More



Military Humor highlights is From the [Facebook group](#) by the same name



Publication Schedule

The Color Guard Newsletter Will Be Published Quarterly

Format Requirements: Each article must be in Word format (text only) preferred font is **Calibri**.

Any related photos to be in **JPG** or **PNG** format.

Formatting of the article is not required as I must reformat it to fit the newsletter.

The Plan: Publish quarterly.

Publication and article/event submission deadlines

Articles are due the **20th** of the **last month** of the edition quarter

Edition	Qtr	Published on	Period covered	Deadline
Winter	1	31 Mar +/-	1 Jan to 31 Mar	No later than 20 Mar
Spring	2	30 June +/-	1 Apr to 30 Jun	No later than 20 Jun
Summer	3	30 Sep +/-	1 Jul to 30 Sep	No later than 20 Sep
Fall	4	31 Dec +/-	1 Oct to 31 Dec	No later than 20 Dec



Dick Motz
Washington State
Newsletter Editor

Thank you

SAR
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION