

The Defender

Fairfax Resolves Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

President, Tom Speelman
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August/September 2007

The Fairfax Resolves Officers for 2007-2008

The Chapter voted and the State President, Joe Dooley installed the following Chapter members as officers for the SAAR 2007-2008 year.

President.....**Tom Speelman**
1st Vice President.....**Darrin Schmidt**
2nd Vice President.....**Larry Lamborn**
3rd Vice President.....**Dennis Hickey, IV**
Secretary.....**Larry McKinley**
Treasurer.....**Richard Spurr**
Historian.....**Rob Engle**
Registrar.....**John Sinks**
Chaplain.....**William Youngs**

The pictures of our new officers taken at the Washington Golf and Country Club May 24, 2007 are on page 3. We look forward to a very full and productive SAR year.

Our Meetings will be held this year at Vinson Hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month. (Please view the Calendar on the last page of this newsletter for actual dates). Though we attempted to lock in the 2nd Thursday of each month, December and January were impossible to put together so please notice the different dates.

Remember that getting to Vinson Hall is simple. Route 123 North from the Beltway is Chain Bridge Road (Dolley Madison inside the Beltway). Turn right on Old Dominion and proceed 2.5 miles on Old Dominion. After you pass under an overpass, you will see Chesterbrook Shopping Center on your left. Look for the sign for Vinson Hall on your right and turn right onto Vinson Hall Drive. Proceed through the campus following signs to the

visitor parking (you can drop off at the main entrance then proceed to visitor parking). After parking, go up the sidewalk to the entrance.

Our Compatriot **Paul Peak** will be reserving 3 handicapped parking spots for those who need them. They are located at the front entrance of Vinson Hall.

Important Dates/SAR Events

Dates to Remember September-October , 2007

1. Fairfax Resolves Chapter Meeting, 7:30 p.m., September 13, 2007
Vinson Hall, McLean Virginia
2. VASSAR, Semi-Annual Meeting, Sep 14 & 15, 2007
Our State Organization's mid-year
The Wingate Hotel
Lynchburg, Virginia
Information available on State web-site
www.sar.org/vassar
3. Constitution Day, September 17, 2007
Wreath laying and Ceremony, Montpelier, VA
11 a.m. Ceremony; infor avail.
www.sar.org/vassar/events
4. Orientation Session, September 22,2007
just for new Fairfax Resolves Members
9.a.m.-12; breakfast included –you'll be home for kickoff
5. Leadership Meeting, September 27-29, 2007
National Organization's Fall Meeting, Louisville, KY
Information Available on National Web-site
www.sar.org
6. Gravemarking Congressional Cemetery
September 29th, 2007 (Details to follow)
7. The Battle of Point Pleasant, October 5-7, 2007
Tu-Endie-Wei State Park, Pt. Pleasant, WV
This honors the Nations first Veterans
Info. Available Larry McKinley
Dustoff@Verizon.net
8. Kings Mountain, South Carolina, October 7, 2007
Wreath laying and Ceremony
Info avail. www.sar.org/vassar
Or [Dustoff @ Verizon.net](mailto:Dustoff@Verizon.net)
9. Yorktown Victory Day Celebration, October 19, 2007
Yorktown, Virginia
Information available www.sar.org/vassar/events
or Dustoff @ Verizon.net
10. Fairfax Resolves Chapter Meeting, October 20, 2007
Family event; 7:30 p.m. Vinson Hall, McLean, VA
Law Enforcement and Fire Safety Awards Banquet

Message from the President

As I think about the coming year for the Fairfax Resolves, I'm excited by the prospects. But before I look at the coming year, I believe a look at the recent past would be helpful. You may recall that about this time last year, **Larry McKinley** was instrumental in setting up a meeting to discuss revitalizing our chapter. To make a long story short, under **Jack Pitzer's** extremely able leadership and with contributions from many in the chapter, I believe we are well on the way to becoming the robust, active chapter that we all want.



Tom Speelman, President Fairfax Resolves

Through **Paul Peak's** work, Vinson Hall became our regular meeting location. For those of you who haven't been to a meeting recently, you'll not find a better place to hold chapter meetings. With **Larry Lamborn's** able assistance, we established a speakers program as part of each meeting and were all treated to some extremely interesting presentations. That the chapter was active is evidenced by the six ribbons the chapter received at annual VASSAR meeting in Richmond. The awards were for History Day support, Yorktown Day participation, Chapter Excellence, Forgotten Patriots participation, Oration Contest, and Revolutionary Grave Registration.

Looking to the coming year, I want to first thank both **Jack Pitzer** for his excellent leadership as chapter president last year as well as the strong cast of committee chairs who did yeoman's work. I believe that with the success of the last year the chapter is poised to continue its revitalization in the coming year. I believe that there are three essential items for our success for the coming year – **communication, commitment, and participation**. To help get the word out, we're in the process of developing a new chapter website that is intended to be more informative for our membership as well as providing a look into the chapter for potential members. Thanks to **Darrin Schmidt's** efforts, it should be up and running in the very near future. We'll get the word out once it's available. In an organization such as ours, commitment takes different forms based on everyone's individual circumstances. I'd encourage you to find some way to contribute to the chapter. On the participation side, if you've not been to a meeting in a while, make an effort to get out to one in the near future and see what you've been missing. Not only do I believe that we're poised for a great year, we've seen a surge in folks interested in joining the SAR and the Fairfax Resolves. Several have applications submitted, and we expect to have several new members in the immediate future.

On the administrative side of things, based on inputs from members, our regular meeting night for the coming year will be the 2nd Thursday of the month at Vinson Hall. The meeting will begin at 7:30 with our guest speaker. After the speaker, we'll conduct a short (not longer than 30-45 minutes) business meeting.

I believe we've got a great year in store for us, and I strongly encourage all of you to get out and participate in chapter events.

Fairfax Resolves Annual Installation Banquet 5/24/2007



State President Joe Dooley, far right, is shown installing newly elected officers of the Fairfax Resolves
LtoR: Historian, **Rob Engle**; Chaplain, **William Youngs**; Registrar, **John Sinks, PhD**; Treasurer, **Richard Spurr**; Secretary, **Larry McKinley**; 3rd VP **Dennis Hickey, IV**; 1st VP **Darrin Schmidt**; President **Tom Speelman**. 2nd VP **Larry Lamborn** was out of the country when the installation occurred. He will be installed during our first meeting in September.

New Members Installed



Johnny Marion Davis

Robert Carl Engle

We are pleased to announce the rosette pinning of two new members of our Chapter, **Johnny Marion Davis**, approved 5/26/2004 and **Robert Carl Engle**, 10/31/2006. If you noticed something strange about their dates and when they were pinned sends all of us in the Chapter a message...We really need to improve the timeframe that our Compatriots are acknowledged with their SAR rosette and certificate of membership. We need them and they need to know the Fairfax Resolves vitally needs their active participation. **Welcome gentlemen!!!** Compatriot **Rob Engle** has already been elected Historian. **Compatriot Davis**, we're sure, is about to become equally involved.

Our Newest Transfer



Vernon Eubanks with Past President Pitzer

Vernon comes to us from Bakersfield, CA and has stepped up to the plate already to be the Vice-Chairman of Law Enforcement. We are looking forward to working with Vernon and his family.

Personal Information on Our President



Tom was born in Shelbyville, Tennessee but spent the first 10 years of his life as a military brat. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.S. in mathematics in 1969 and obtained a Master of Science in International Relations in 1980. Upon graduation from the University of Tennessee, Tom received a commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force.

His Air Force career spanned more than 29 years, approximately 17 years of that stationed overseas with assignments in Thailand, Spain, Italy,

and Germany. During his career Tom served in a variety of assignments including as a pilot and instructor pilot in the T-38, OV-10, F-4, and F-16. Other assignments include command at both the squadron and wing level. He is a graduate of Air Command and Staff College, the Defense Language Institute, and National War College. Tom retired from the Air Force in 1998.

Tom next joined Science Applications International Corporation. During his current career with SAIC, Tom has managed programs providing support to the Air Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq.

Tom realized a long time ambition in May 2005 when he was admitted to the SAR. In the two years since joining the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, he has served as 1st Vice President and is currently serving as Chapter President. Tom is also a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and a life member of the Daedalians, the national fraternity of military pilots.

Program Activity

We are including this section in the newsletter as a form of communicating what Fairfax Resolves members participates in and accomplishes through the summer months.

Awards Ceremony

Purpose of the Awards Banquet, this year held May 24th, 2007 is to install new officers and acknowledge the activity/service of Chapter members and community award winners. Officers are shown and listed elsewhere in this newsletter and the following Chapter Members honored were : **Tom Speelman, War Service Medal (SE and SW Asia); Paul Peak, Virginia Medal for service to the Chapter; Jack Pitzer, Past President's Pin; and John Sinks, PhD, State award for service to our Chapter.**

Youth Programs

This group of activities involves more than the summer months but are important to express here as a means of gaining more Chapter members to be involved.

-Outstanding student Excellence in American History

The purpose of this program is to get into the school system and have the support of the American History teacher to recognize an outstanding History student as well as promote other research into American History for other related student contests. We have seven (7) high schools in the program. All award recipients were included on the awards program.

-C.A.R. activity, Local, State & Regional

Local activity began Flag Day, June 14th, 2007. Fairfax Resolves sponsors the **Col. William Grayson Society** and supports their annual flag disposal ceremony held in Great Falls at the Great Falls Library. Each year we give the Fairfax County Library a new flag and provide a program to properly dispose of old worn flags in the Great Falls and surrounding community.



The Col William Grayson Society, C.A.R. shown with Great Falls Fire Dept. personnel at the June 14, 2007 ceremony, Great Falls Library parking lot. Includes a prospective member Charles Hampton, son of prospective SAR member Bob Hampton of Herndon.

State Activity and National Activity involved Fairfax Resolves participating in two summer workshops (Virginia Beach and Alexandria, VA) and one District meeting (Louisville, KY) designed to provide understanding to all seniors working with the youth relative to their programs for the coming C.A.R. year.

-Oration Contest (Local, State & National)

Each year we hold an oration contest for 10th through 12 graders and this year our winner was **Jacqueline Parker, Bishop O'Connell H.S.**

O'Connell H.S. The purpose of the contest is to promote research and communication of U.S. History, particularly Revolutionary War history among the youth in our nation. Jacqueline placed second in the State Contest and was awarded a Bronze Good Citizenship medal and \$50 for winning the Chapter contest and \$300 for placing second at the State contest.



Jacqueline Parker being presented the winner certificate and money by Larry McKinley and Mrs. Wentzel (left) our teacher at Bishop O'Connell H.S. Mrs. Wentzel has received every award the SAR can give for supporting the contest.



Our State winner in the Oration Contest from Bishop O'Connell H.S., Ashley Kallarackal with her parents in Richmond at the State Contest. She competed very well at the National Contest, Annual Congress, Williamsburg, VA July 8th.

-National History Day

The purpose of this program is to recognize, encourage and reward those students in Elementary through Senior high school (private and parochial as well) for their research and presentation of American Revolutionary War History. Our web-site will produce more information. The Chapter donated over \$100 toward the District Competition and we recognized 2 students and one teacher for outstanding performance in the District. They were: Annmarie Carroll, Springfield Elementary School and Hillary Lebedun, Lorton Station Elementary School as well as a Teacher, Ms. Laurie Hart from Lorton Elementary.

-Eagle Scout Scholarship Award



Sean Christian Callison presented as Chapter winner by Jack Pitzer and proud grandfather Richard Spurr

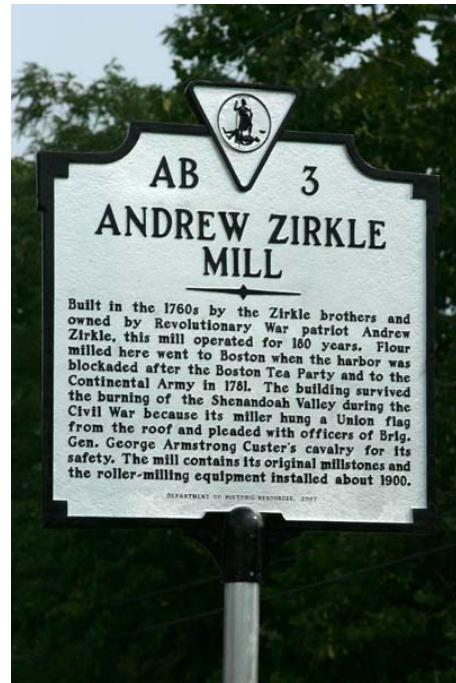
The purpose of this program is to recognize the youth who attain the rank of Eagle before age 19 and acknowledge them as leaders they are. Where the oration and essay contests recognize scholastics the Eagle and J.R.O.T.C. recognize leadership.

Grave Marking/Registration



John Sinks in background representing the Fairfax Resolves Chapter along with the Northeast Chapter, PASAR and Ursula Wolcott-Black Swamp Chapter, Ohio Society DAR placed a marker at the grave of Sgt. Conrad Solt, PA Militia on August 4.

This is an example of the activity this summer in the Revolutionary Graves effort. **John Sinks** is related to **Sgt. Conrad Solt**. Additionally, graves were marked and registered, as well as **Historic Markers** dedicated on August 4th by Fairfax Resolves Ft. Harrison and the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapters, Virginia SAR and the Maryland Society SAR.



This sign was erected by the State of Virginia and paid for by Virginia SAR (Knight Patty Fund). It is recognizing the contributions of Andrew Zirkle and his mill to the cause of freedom in America.



L to R: Fairfax Resolves President Tom Speelman, Larry McKinley representing VASSAR Color Guard, President Thomas Nelson Chapter, President Williamsburg Chapter, 1st VP VASSAR Art Batten and Roger Strange, Williamsburg Chapter. The little lady is from the George Wythe Society C.A.R.
The Greenspring Monument was commemorated on August 25th 2007. It is an historic Colonial battle that took place near Williamsburg against great numbers of British troops. When faced with adversity—Colonial Troops CHARGED!!

Annual Congress Participation

Annual Congress is an opportunity to install new National Officers, have a great Oration contest among the States, make changes, improvements to any or all SAR programs, recognize those States and Chapters conducting outstanding programs with awards, and communicate strategies and promote activities across all State Societies and International Societies as well. The Fairfax Resolves members participating this year were **John Sinks, Dennis Hickey, IV, William Youngs and Larry McKinley**. More about Annual Congress later, but all members should consider participating especially if they want to effect the SAR programs we participate in.



Virginia Society members and their ladies at Annual Congress, Williamsburg, VA July 7 - 13, 2007



Bruce and Theresa Wilcox shown just before he was installed as the President General of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. Bruce is a Virginian and member of the George Mason Chapter, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution. He was elected for a one year term which will end in Sacramento, California, July 2008 the site of the next annual congress.

Mid-Atlantic District Conference, August 10-11, 2007

Those Fairfax Resolves members attending the Mid-Atlantic District Conference where SAR Compatriots who desire to pursue higher office can test the waters were **John Sinks and Larry McKinley**. John is the immediate past-Vice President General (VPG) of the District.

Washington's Resignation Speech

At the Mid-Atlantic Conference we had the opportunity to see an original document which is stored at Annapolis, MD State Archives. This document is **Washington's Resignation Speech (Final Draft), Annapolis, December 23, 1783.** the stike through's are as the General had placed them in his revisions. It was quite an emotional event and the timing allowed General Washington to carry out a promise to Martha to be home for Christmas for the first time in eight years.

Mr. President,

The great events on which my resignation depended, having at length taken place, I have now the honor of Offering my sincere congratulations to Congress, and Presenting myself before (Congress) them, to surrender Into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring (request permission to retire) from the service to my country.

Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States, of becoming a respectable Nation (as well as in the contemplation of our prospect of National Happiness), I resign with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence—a diffident in my abilities To accomplish so arduous a task, which however was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our Cause, the support of the Supreme Power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

The successful termination of the War has verified the most sanguine expectations—and my gratitude for the Interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from by Countrymen, increases with every Review of the momentous Contest.

While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to Acknnowledege in this place the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the Gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the war. It was impossible the choice of confidential officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate. Permit me Sir, to recommend in particular those, who have continued in service to the present moment, as worthy and favorable notice and patronage of Congress.

I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my official life, by commanding the Interests of our dearest Country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendance (direction) of them, to his holy keeping.

Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action,-and bidding an affectionate (a final) farewell this August body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer (today delivered) my Commission, and take my (ultimate) leave of all the employments of public life.

Committee Assignments

Fairfax Resolves is an outstanding Chapter of the Virginia Society because of the work of its Committees and members in the community. Those who are Committee Chairmen and members are listed below. We need volunteers to man some of these committees and serve as chairman...one of our first order of business September 13th is assignment and asking for volunteers to participate in the programs.

Committees:

- A. Law Enforcement.....Chair, Larry McKinley
Vice-Chair, Vernon Eubanks
- B. Fire Safety.....Chair, William Youngs
Vice-Chair (**need volunteer**)
- C. Rev. War Graves.....Chair, John Sinks
Vice-Chair, Jack Sweeney
- D. Youth Programs
(C.A.R.=Children of the American Revolution)
Oration/Essay.....Chair, Larry McKinley
Vice-Chair (Larry Lamborn)
- C.A.R.....Chair, Larry McKinley
Vice-Chair (**need volunteer**)
- J.R.O.T.C.....Chair, (**need volunteer**)
Vice-Chair (**need volunteer**)
- Eagle Scholarship..... Chair (**need volunteer**)
Vice-Chair, Larry McKinley
- National Hist. DayChair (**volunteer needed**)
Vice-Chair, John Sinks
- School Poster Contest..Chair(**need volunteer**)
- E. Flag Committee.....Chair, William Youngs
- F. Veterans Comm.....Chair, Dennis Hickey, IV
Vice-Chair (**need volunteer**)
- G. Teacher of the Year.....Chair (**need volunteer**)
Vice Chair (**need volunteer**)
- H. Citizen of the Year.....Chair (**need volunteer**)
Vice-Chair, Dennis Hickey, IV
- I. History Ed awards.....Chair, John Sinks
Vice-Chair (**need volunteer**)
- J. New Member Comm. ... Chair, Larry McKinley
Member, Darrin Schmidt
Member, Tom Speelman
Member, John Sinks
- K. Web-Site Manager.....Chair, Darrin Schmidt
New Member Committee is assisting Chair



Compatriot Paul Peak with our flag at Vinson Hall

Gentlemen, we have some people that are enthusiastically preparing their documents ably assisted by our Registrar, **John Sinks**. Some documents are into National and awaiting final determination of ancestor service and proof of lineage. We acknowledge these potential members and welcome them to our meetings...Also this is why you are receiving this newsletter. There is a whole SAR chapter of people waiting to assist your entry.

Doug Johnson, presently he is in IRAQ hopefully to return in the October to December 2007 timeframe. Submit paperwork in fall.

Steve Karppi, William Karppi his brother is preparing packets for his brothers.

Bob Hampton, attended the Flag disposal ceremony in Great Falls, Flag Day. His son Charles is in the process of becoming a member of the C.A.R. Paperwork at National.

Barry Matheny, in the service (Afghanistan), look forward to your return soon. We are working on your applications.

Ron Rice, working on the application

Carter Pate, A VP with Price Waterhouse, referred by Dick Bidwell, State Registrar.

David Hall, referred by State Sec. paperwork at State.

Lauris M. Eek, III, a U.S. Marshall paperwork went to State

Doug Le Masters, paperwork into National and working on son.

Edward Knippers, Doug LeMaster's brother – in-law, paperwork at State .

Jack Sweeney—Congratulations Jack on becoming a member of the SAR and the local Chapter of the Fairfax Resolves. You have already stepped up to the plate by taking over Rev. War Graves.