

# The Defender

## Fairfax Resolves Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

President, John (Jack) Pitzer  
Publisher, Larry McKinley (703) 450-6041

January 2007

### Message from The President



President Jack Pitzer presiding over Board Meeting before Chapter Meeting (next month we'll have a new picture, but this one still works)

We start 2007, we have much to be thankful for and to celebrate. I for one appreciate the dedication and friendship of many compatriots who make our Chapter successful. As we begin the New Year, I urge all Fairfax Resolves compatriots to set aside time for our monthly meetings and special activities. As the saying goes, ***"None of us is as strong as all of us"***. It is through the participation of everyone that our Chapter can grow and become what we wish it to be.

We have an excellent venue for our meetings at Vinson Hall thanks to **Paul Peak**. **Tom Speelman has put together excellent presentations for our meetings and Darrin Schmidt is leading an effort to establish our own web-site so we don't forget an event or meeting or what a program is about.**

In January, we will have our annual orations contest. I urge you to come to this meeting as it showcases high school

students who have taken the time to research and present their thoughts on the American Revolutionary War period. Lastly, please consider attending the State VASSAR meeting in Richmond over the weekend of February 16-18. Participating in the State VASSAR meeting provides a deeper understanding of how our Society works and what programs are geared truly for the local community. Make little mistake—the local community is where SAR is able to do its best work.

#### Dates to Remember Jan / Feb 2007

- 1. Chapter Meeting: January 25, 2007**  
Annual Orations Contest, 7 p.m.  
Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School  
6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA 22213  
**Contestants are from Bishop O'Connell H.S.**  
**Directions Immediately below**
- 2. "Crossing of the Dan River", February 10, 2007**  
**Revolutionary War Historical Observation**  
South Boston, Virginia 24592
- 3. Chapter Meeting: February 15, 2007**  
Vinson Hall, 7 P.M.  
**Speaker, Secretary Larry McKinley**  
Subject: "Gen'l Nathaniel Greene's "Crossing of the Dan"  
A strategic Retreat that saved the southern colonies and consequently our Revolutionary War with the British.
- 4. VASSAR State Meeting: February 16-17, 2006**  
**Sheraton South, Richmond, Virginia**  
**Further information on web-site of VASSAR**  
[www.sar.org/membership/state\\_web-sites](http://www.sar.org/membership/state_web-sites)
- 5. NSSAR Leadership Meeting, February 23-25, 2007**  
1000 South Fourth Street  
**Louisville, Kentucky**  
Further information on web-site of NSSAR  
[www.sar.org/news/leadership](http://www.sar.org/news/leadership)

**Next Meeting, January 25, 2007**  
Oration Contest, Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High  
School, Arlington, VA

**Directions to Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High  
School—need a ride?—call 703-450-6041**

**From Northwest:**

Follow Glebe Road to Lee Highway. Turn right onto Lee Highway and follow to the fifth traffic light at Sycamore Street. Go through two stoplights and take the next left onto 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Take an immediate right onto Trinidad Street. Bishop O'Connell High School is located on the left.

**From the Capital Beltway:**

Take Route 66 East to Exit 69 (Lee Highway/Washington Blvd). Go to the traffic light at the end of ramp and turn left onto Lee Highway. Go two blocks and turn left onto Underwood Street. Continue on Underwood for about three blocks. Bishop O'Connell High School is on the right.

For those who want to Map Quest or draw your own map from your location the full address of the High School is:

**Bishop Denis J. O'Connell H.S.**  
**6600 Little Falls Road**  
**Arlington, VA 22213**

On the Underwood Street side (south side) of the High School on the first floor is the Teacher's lounge. **This is where the contest will be held!!** Signs will be posted and students will direct us to the proper location.

**A Note from the Chairman**  
**(L. McKinley) about the Oration Contest**

Gentlemen, we have a contest that allows for sophomores, junior and/or seniors in public, parochial, private or home schools to participate in research, writing and communicating about the **American Revolutionary War Period**. The rules are clear...The topic will be about an event, personality or document pertaining to the Revolutionary War and show a relationship to today....

I need to say a word of appreciation to our Teachers, **Mrs. Marylou Wentzel** and **Mr. Jimmy Brown**. **Mrs. Wentzel** was originally recruited by Compatriot **John Dickie** as his daughter was in **Mrs. Wentzel's** English Class at O'Connell H.S. **Mrs. Wentzel** assigns the Oration Contest and the Essay contest as extra credit. Through working with **Mr. Brown** (Speech Teacher), these teachers are fueling three SAR Chapters in the Metro area with oration contestants (Fairfax Resolves, George Mason and George Washington).

For the past 4 years these two teachers along with the SAR has stimulated students to investigate, research, write and communicate historical orations and essays. This is what the SAR is all about—finding a partner in the school system that assists us in inspiring the community. These are not empty words...We have invited our third SAR Chapter to participate again this year with Bishop O'Connell students. If it wasn't for the cultivation of this teacher and subsequent support by teaching communication classes twice a year to **Mrs. Wentzel's and Mr. Brown's classes**...the Virginia State SAR Society (VASSAR) would not have an entry in the oration contest.

It is clear what must happen, individual Chapters must find a teacher in the local school system or home-schooled to drive the SAR oration process. Without this kind of dedicated effort, each year the story will be the same as I heard this year from the Oration Chairman in the State of Virginia... "There are no contestants due to lack of interest by both students and schools have been cited as the most common reasons for difficulty in having contests".

I hope many people read our newsletter because it takes work to make these youth contests work and being human many times we take the easiest course. **You just have to see the look in a contestant's eyes, the energy level put into the contest and the resulting increased confidence level of those who do well.** That is all the energy we need to put the effort in next year—come help us experience this level of *inspiring the community!!!! Thank You Mrs. Wentzel and Mr. Brown!!!!*



**Program for December was a Christmas Lunch and installation of new George Mason Chapter Officers at Gunston Hall shown below are some of the Fairfax Resolves members present.**



**Gathering at Gunston Hall showing some of the Fairfax Resolves and George Mason Chapter  
Clockwise starting at 12 o'clock: Kent Webber (hidden by centerpiece, Ralph Lewis, President of George Mason Chapter, James Bayne, VASSAR President, Nancy Richey (hidden), Steve Richey, William Youngs, Judy Dickie, John Dickie, past VASSAR President, and Margaret Webber, wife of Kent Webber.**



**Compatriot and Regional Vice President General John Sinks just out of picture on the right enjoyed with us a visit from General Washington himself. He wanted to bring us up to date on the progress of the Continental Congress. Portions of the VASSAR Color Guard and two members of the Prince William Fifers were present.**





Gentlemen, these three lovely ladies (debutantes from the 2006 Patriots Ball) are gracing the presence of our **Pres. General Nathan White**. The debs L to R: **Sarah Katerina Peak**, new member of the Harriet Lothrop Society, DC C.A.R., mother Lea is Regent of Falls Church Chapter, VADAR and her father is Roger Peak and grandfather Paul Peak are members of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of VASSAR and our Compatriots; **Emily Michelle Flakenstein**, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Timothy Falkenstein of Stafford, VA, her mother Karen is Senior National VP Eastern Region; and **Jennifer Elizabeth Bean**, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Robert R. Bean of Nashua, NH, 2002-3 NHC.A.R. State President.

**Sarah** is a senior at Yorktown High School where she is a member of the swimming team, track team and orchestra. She has been active in Sea Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Job's Daughters.

The Annual **Patriots' Holiday Ball** is sponsored by the MD Society SAR (this year December 27<sup>th</sup>) and many of us are unaware that we sponsor these events for young ladies of the C.A.R. from across the nation who desire to be presented to Society. Roger Peak, Paul Peak and John Sinks were all present at the Patriots' Ball and each enjoyed a dance with Sarah. This is a fantastic formal event that is remembered by all who attend and the Sons of the American Revolution sponsor it—one more thing we should be proud of.

Another Debutante Ball **The Potowmack Ball** is sponsored by the D.C. Society SAR each year around Thanksgiving break for debutantes. In Virginia, the VADAR sponsors the Debutante Ball.

**Fairfax Resolves  
Meeting Place  
February 15, 2006 at 7 p.m.**

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**The Program:**

**Larry McKinley** will present “**Crossing of the Dan**” as part of our understanding of an Historic Celebration to be conducted each year in our Commonwealth of Virginia. South Boston, Virginia was the objective and at that time it saved the Revolution for the Patriots.

William Gilmore, in his ***The Life of Nathaniel Greene*** writes: “Without a blow being struck, Greene had gained a most important victory; and the reputation of the British General Cornwallis, and the cause in which he was engaged, was destined to suffer proportionally. The remarkable chase and escape was one of the most impressive of the incidents of the war. Greene’s strategy in plan and in execution had been masterly.... Every measure of the Americans during the march from Catawba to Virginia was judiciously designed and vigorously executed and had a lot more local support (extra boats) than is claimed.” Greene had saved his army and replaced the hearts of the patriots throughout America.

Greene lost the battle (was actually a retreat), but he won the campaign, and the first step towards Yorktown was taken.” The event was so popular that it led to a song written to the tune of “Yankee Doodle”. Much of the early music of our country was inspired by the folk. Folk songs with words describing a particular event written to a familiar tune were popular. This tune is “Yankee Doodle”.

**Cornwallis led a country dance,  
The like was never seen sir,  
Much retrograde and much advance  
And all with General Greene, sir.**

**They rambled up and rambled down  
Joined hands and off they ran, sir,  
And General Greene was like to drown  
Cornwallis in the Dan, sir.**

**Getting to Vinson Hall**

*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. There are three handicapped parking spaces usually arranged for by Paul Peak for each scheduled meeting.*

**Criteria for the War Service Medal:**

I only have two people who said they qualify for the War Service medals so I thought I would include it again so we can be ready for the February meeting. The Criteria for receiving these beautiful medals from the SAR are:

The War Service Medal was authorized in 1919, is in bronze and may be presented to members who have served in the armed forces of the United States, or a country that was an ally of the United States, or in a United States Peace Keeping Force, and fought against a common enemy of the United States in a war or action that has been recognized by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and for which a campaign medal and ribbon are authorized.

Proof of such service, in the form of a member’s discharge (or other U.S. Government proof in the case of a member, in active service), must be presented to his chapter before the medal can be purchased or worn.

Specific bronze bars are available indicating service in WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, or Southeast Asia, and Kuwait, or Southwest Asia. Current engagements (War against Terror in Afghanistan and Iraq) I have to check on the availability of a special bar. Please let me know—David Cook and Tom Speelman I have your information. And everyone else, if you tell me you have a DD214 awarding the service medal/ribbon—I don’t need to see it—Keep it in a safe place and just tell me. Address follows:

Larry McKinley  
 12158 Holly Knoll Circle  
 Great Falls, VA 22066  
[Dustoff@Verizon.net](mailto:Dustoff@Verizon.net)  
 703-450-6041



The Front side of the War Service Medal has the years 1776-1783 & Libertas Et Patria in the inner Circle. The service bar is worn above the ribbon



The backside of the medal reads:  
 Presented to Compatriot \_\_\_\_\_ by the Sons of the American Revolution for War Service

Current Officers: of Fairfax Resolves

- John (Jack) Pitzer..... President
- Thomas Speelman, Jr., .....1<sup>st</sup> VP
- Larry McKinley,... .....Secretary
- Richard Spurr.....Treasurer
- William Youngs.....Historian
- Bud Ginn.....Registrar
- William Youngs.....Chaplain
- Board of Managers
- John Sinks, 3 year term
- Larry McKinley, 2 year term
- John (Jack) Pitzer, 1 year term

*Committee Assignments: (Assignments to be augmented throughout the year)*

- Law Enforcement.....Mark Chester
- Fire Safety.....William Youngs
- Revolutionary War
- Graves.....Dr. John Sinks
- Rumbaugh Oration.....Larry McKinley
- Knight Essay.....Larry McKinley
- JROTC/ROTC.....Pless Lunger
- Eagle Scholarship.....Ward (Bud) Ginn
- Flag Committee.....William Youngs
- Veterans Committee... Capt. Dennis Hickey, IV
- Teacher of the Year.....John (Jack) Pitzer
- Citizen of the Year....Capt. Dennis Hickey, IV
- History Education
- And Youth Award.....Dr. John Sinks
- New Member Committee.....Ward (Bud) Ginn
- Website Manager.....Darrin Schmidt

Currently: The Web-site Manager, **Darrin Schmidt** is a new position and **Jimmie Logan** has indicated he wants to try the Treasurer's position and **Larry Lamborn** along with **Don Heppner** desire to support the youth contests of oration and essay.