

**CHARLES GRATIOT CORRESPONDENCE**  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**BLUE WATER CHAPTER**  
OF THE  
**MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF THE**  
**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



#2 – 2/16

**OFFICERS**

*Robert May*  
***Interim President***

*Matthew Van Wormer*  
***Interim Vice President***

*Karl Goodrich*  
***Interim Secretary***

*Robert Zimmer*  
***Interim Treasurer***

*Robert Eager*  
***Interim***  
***Registrar/Genealogist***

**PROPOSED NO MORE**

The word “proposed” has been dropped from the name of Blue Water Chapter. At the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MISSAR Board of Managers, the application of the Blue Water Chapter was accepted by the BoM. Huzzah! At this point in time, MISSAR will get the charter for the chapter from NSSAR. This charter should get to the chapter sometime this spring. There are only a few more items to be taken care of for the chapter. Most of those items will be handled by the treasurer. The officers' titles will continue to include “interim” until the chapter's April meeting.

**SECOND  
ORGANIZATIONAL  
MEETING**

The second meeting was held on December 15, 2015 at 5:30. The location was the Dorsey House at 6008 Beard Rd, Clyde, MI 48049. There were three items that were addressed at this meeting: 1) finalize and approve the bylaws; 2) select officers to the open positions; 3) set the calendar for 2016.

The by-laws were discussed with special care to ensure that the chapter would have the best fit. A copy of the approved by-laws can be found at the end of this newsletter.

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Two officer positions were filled. Karl Goodrich has taken on the position of Secretary and Bob Zimmer has taken on the position of Treasurer. There are still some open officer positions. These will be filled as members step forward to volunteer.

Finally, meeting dates were set for 2016. These dates include: February 20, April 19, May 17, September 13, October 18, and November 15.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

|               |          |                  |                               |
|---------------|----------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| February 20   | 12 noon  | Dorsey House     | A George Washington Tribute   |
| March         | TBD      | TBD              | Blue Water Board of Governors |
| April 16      | 11:15 am | East Lansing     | MISSAR Annual Meeting         |
| April 19      | 5:30 pm  | Dorsey House     | Lexington and Concord         |
| May 17        | 5:30 pm  | Dorsey House     | TBD                           |
| June 18       |          | Bloomfield Hills | MISSAR BoM                    |
| September 13  | 5:30 pm  | Dorsey House     | TBD                           |
| October 18    | 5:30 pm  | Dorsey House     | TBD                           |
| October 28/29 |          | Grand Rapids     | Great Lakes District Meeting  |
| November 15   | TBD      | Dorsey House     | TBD                           |

**BLUE WATER CHAPTER MEETINGS**

It expected that the business part of the meetings for February (2/20) and April (4/19) will be very short. However, members can also expect the programs for the two months to be very engaging. For February, the birth month of George Washington, the chapter will conduct a tribute to this Revolutionary leader. Those who attend will have the chance to read small passages that will address the character of Washington. This will be a good opportunity to invite a guest. For April, the month of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the L&C battles will be the focus of an interactive activity. This will be very family friendly. You will want to make sure that wives and children make this event.

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**THE DORSEY HOUSE**  
**WELCOME TO THE DORSEY HOUSE!**

The historic Dorsey House, originally built in 1847, served as a half-way house for those traveling by horse and buggy between Port Huron and Yale. The location, ten minutes west of Port Huron off of M-136, makes this a place that both city and rural folks enjoy.

The original establishment was demolished in 1995 and a beautiful new building was raised of steel, mortar and brick, with a promise of a long and prosperous future. The new Dorsey building maintains a unique design and atmosphere, welcoming everyone. The main dining room exudes comfort with its large fireplace and imported English furniture.

The lounge is also patterned after an English pub, paneled with dark oak and has a hunter green tin ceiling, a dance floor, and a unique beehive-shaped fireplace. Upstairs, an open ceiling bar and game room provides fun for all.

The Dorsey House offers fantastic food and superb service in a clean, friendly and casual atmosphere, welcoming everyone. The Brunhuber family appreciates the opportunity to serve you!



<http://www.thedorseyhouse.com/home.php>

**LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The MISSAR Board of Managers approved a budget that included \$1500 for liability insurance. This insurance will cover MISSAR as well as the chapters within Michigan. Currently, the State Societies of Delaware, Texas, California, Pennsylvania, and Virginia have similar policies to this type of umbrella coverage. It should be expected that MISSAR will select an insurance carrier and have a policy in place within 2016.

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**BYLAWS**  
**of the**  
**BLUE WATER CHAPTER**  
**MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE**  
**AMERICAN REVOLUTION (MISSAR)**

**ARTICLE I**  
**Name**

The name of this Chapter shall be the Blue Water Chapter, MISSAR in accordance with the Charter granted to the Michigan Society by the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) dated 18 January 1890.

**ARTICLE II**  
**Objects**

The objects of this Chapter shall be patriotic, historical, and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of those patriots who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community-at-large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

**ARTICLE III**  
**Members**

Section 1. Regular membership in the Chapter shall be open to any male who has proven to be a lineal descendant of a Patriot who supported the cause of the American Revolution, who has been accepted into membership by the NSSAR and the MISSAR, and who has paid his annual dues. Only regular members shall be entitled to the privileges of making motions, voting, and holding office.

Section 2. Initiation Fee and Dues. The amounts of the initiation fee and national and state dues shall be determined by the NSSAR and the MISSAR. The amount of the annual chapter dues shall be determined by the MISSAR Board of Governors. Dues shall be payable before the end of each calendar year, or as announced by MISSAR in the dues billing. Failure to pay dues by the due date shall result in termination of membership in the Chapter, the MISSAR, and the NSSAR.

Section 3. Expulsion from Membership. Any member of the Chapter may be expelled from the Chapter for cause – serious misconduct or actions detrimental to the Chapter – by a two-thirds vote at a regular or special meeting of the Chapter provided that notice was given at the previous regular meeting.

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**ARTICLE IV**  
**Officers**

Section 1. The officers of the Chapter shall be President, First Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and may include Second Vice-President, Registrar/Genealogist, Chaplain, Historian, and two Chapter Trustees.

Section 2. The President shall:

- Preside at all meetings of the Chapter.
- Serve as one of the MISSAR Trustees, and represent the Chapter at all meetings of the MISSAR Board of Managers as well as the MISSAR Annual Meeting.
- Appoint, with Board approval, alternate MISSAR trustees and other delegates not otherwise provided for.
- Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- Submit a report on the activities and state of the Chapter at the annual meeting.
- Perform such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter.

Section 3. The First Vice-President shall:

- Perform the duties of the President in his absence.
- Serve as chairman of the Membership Committee.
- Assume the duties of the President in the event of death, resignation, or removal of the President for the remainder of his term.
- Perform such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter.

Section 4. The Second Vice-President shall:

- Perform the duties of the First Vice-President in his absence.
- Serve as chairman of the Program Committee.
- Assume the duties of the First Vice-President in the event of death, resignation, or removal of the First Vice-President for the remainder of his term.
- Perform such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter.

Section 5. The Secretary shall:

- Keep the minutes of the meetings of the Chapter and the Board of Governors.
- Maintain a list of members and submit a membership report to the Chapter at the annual meeting.
- Maintain the bylaws of the Chapter.
- Maintain the inventory records of the Chapter.
- Perform such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall:

- Maintain the financial records of the Chapter.
- Collect dues and other monies owed to the Chapter and deposit all monies received in a reliable banking institution in the name of the Chapter.

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- Pay out monies only as authorized by the Chapter or the Board of Governors.
- Submit a financial report to the Chapter at the annual meeting and at other times as directed by the President or the Board of Governors.
- Be bonded in an amount sufficient to protect the Chapter from loss.
- Submit the financial records of the Chapter for an audit at the close of the fiscal year as directed by the Finance and Audit Committee.
- Perform such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter.

**Section 7. The Registrar/Genealogist shall:**

- Assist prospective members of the Chapter in the genealogical research and documentation necessary to establish their lineage to a qualifying Patriot.
- Assist current members of the Chapter in the genealogical research and documentation necessary to support supplemental applications.
- Accept and review all applications and supporting documentation for new and supplemental membership in the Chapter, MISSAR, and NSSAR.
- Approve those applications he finds acceptable and forward the applications, supporting documentation, and required fee to the Secretary for transmittal to the MISSAR.
- Return to the applicant those applications he does not find acceptable, with a written explanation of his findings.
- Perform such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter.

**Section 8. The Chaplain shall:**

- Perform an invocation and/or benediction at all meetings of the Chapter.
- Minister to the spiritual needs of the members and the Chapter.
- Perform such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter.

**Section 9. The Historian shall:**

- Prepare a narrative account of the activities of the Chapter during his term of office, supported by photographs and other documentation, and submit it at the annual meeting.
- Archive the historical records of the Chapter at the location designated by MISSAR to protect and preserve them for future generations.
- Perform such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter.

**Section 10. The Chapter Trustees shall:**

- Serve as the chairmen of the Public Relations Committee and/or Liaison to the D.A.R. and C.A.R.
- Serve as the members of the Finance and Audit Committee.
- Serve as the Color Bearer at the regular meetings.
- Perform such other duties applicable to the office as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Chapter.

**Section 11. Nominations and Elections.** At the regular meeting held in November, a Nominating Committee of two or three members shall be elected by the Chapter. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be

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filled at the annual elections meeting in February. Before the election at the annual elections meeting in February, additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted. The officers shall be elected by ballot unless there is only one nomination for each office.

Section 12. Terms of Office and Limitations. The officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are installed. No member shall hold more than one office at a time while serving as President, First Vice-President, or Second Vice-President. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office for the offices of President, First Vice-President, or Second Vice-President.

Section 13. Removal from Office. Any officer of the Chapter may be removed from office for cause – either misconduct or neglect of duty in office – by a two-thirds vote at a regular or special meeting of the Chapter or by a majority vote provided that notice was given at the previous regular meeting.

Section 14. Vacancy in Office. In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of President or First Vice-President, the President shall appoint, with Board approval, a member of the Chapter to serve in that office for the remainder of the term.

**ARTICLE V**  
**Meetings**

Section 1. Regular Meetings. The regular meetings of the Chapter shall be held on the third Tuesday or Saturday of the months of February, April, May, September, October, and November unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Governors or the Chapter.

Section 2. Annual Meetings. The regular meeting in April shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of swearing-in the elected officers and trustees, receiving annual reports from the officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Chapter may be called by the President or by the Board of Governors and shall be called upon the written request of one-third of the membership of the Chapter – the actual number being at least three members but no more than ten members. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency, at least one week's notice shall be given.

Section 4. Quorum. One-third of the membership of the Chapter – the actual number being at least three members but no more than ten members – shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.

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**ARTICLE VI**  
**Board of Governors**

Section 1. Board Composition. The officers of the Chapter shall constitute the Board of Governors.

Section 2. Board Duties and Powers. The Board of Governors shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Chapter between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Chapter, and perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Chapter, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Chapter.

Section 3. Board Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held in the months of March and/or June unless otherwise ordered by the Board. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President and shall be called upon the written request of three members of the Board. Except in cases of emergency, at least one week's notice shall be given. At any Board meeting, three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**Committees**

Section 1. Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall be chaired by the First Vice-President and shall be responsible for promoting the retention of current members and the acquisition of new members for the Chapter.

Section 2. Program Committee. The Program Committee shall be chaired by the Second Vice-President and shall be responsible for planning and delivering the programs for the regular meetings of the Chapter.

Section 3. Public Relations Committee. The Public Relations Committee shall be chaired by a Chapter Trustee and shall be responsible for promoting the objects and activities of the Chapter to the media covering the area served by the Chapter as well as to MISSAR and NSSAR. This includes the publication of the chapter newsletter.

Section 4. D.A.R. and C.A.R. Liaison. The liaison shall be a Chapter Trustee and shall have the responsibility to maintain a close working relationship with the D.A.R. and C.A.R. organizations in the Blue Water area.

Section 5. Other Committees. The President shall appoint such other committees, standing or special, as the Chapter or the Board of Governors shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Chapter.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Chapter may adopt.

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**ARTICLE IX**  
**Indemnification**

Section 1. Except as otherwise provided by law, a volunteer officer of the Chapter shall not be personally liable to the Chapter or its members for monetary damages due to a breach of the officer's fiduciary duty. The Chapter shall assume all liability to any organization or person other than the Chapter or its members for all acts or omissions of a volunteer officer incurred in the good faith performance of his duties as an officer.

Section 2. The Chapter shall assume the liability for all acts or omissions of a non-officer volunteer, provided that:

- The volunteer was acting or reasonably believed he was acting within the scope of his authority.
- The volunteer was acting in good faith.
- The volunteer's conduct did not amount to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.
- The volunteer's conduct was not an intentional tort.
- The volunteer's conduct was not a tort arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle as described in Section 709 (e) (v) of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act.

**ARTICLE X**  
**Dissolution**

Should the Chapter become inactive and/or decide to dissolve, all assets and property of the Chapter shall revert to the MISSAR.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Chapter by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.