

Communication

...from the President General

I want to depart slightly from the form of my last communications because I felt you should have some idea of what has been happening in our Society. All of us have been concerned with the safety and hardships of our members affected not only by Hurricane Harvey, but now by Irma. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all, and would hope that if there is anything others can do to assist, you will ask (I know that is not what we guys do, but perhaps we can change!)

On a bright note, Paul Chase of the Virginia Society has just published a new book. Why is this news here? Well, Paul is donating the proceeds to the Sons of the American Revolution! The book, "The American Revolution: A Compendium of Terms and Topics", is one of those few places where one can find definitions of terms that no longer exist and cannot be found easily anywhere else. It is a very cool reference as well as read since it also acts as a source of battles throughout the Colonies. It is available through Amazon, as well as Barnes and Noble. It can also be used as a fundraiser by local Chapters. Paul will be getting this information out shortly. Thank you, Paul, for this great gift.

Here are a few things you should pass on to everyone:

The website resolution is a top priority. It affects membership across the spectrum of our Society, and membership growth is our focus, at least for this year. The Internal Audit Committee Chairman, John Beard of Texas, is spearheading an Ad Hoc Committee to obtain an independent, outside the SAR, evaluation of our IT. The request for proposal (RFP) by this committee has just been completed and sent to various companies for their bids. Once these are in, we can determine what it will cost to do this. This will be taken up at the Executive Committee Meeting in Louisville just before the start of the Leadership meetings in only two weeks. Why an audit? To build a massive building, or just a small structure, the base must be sufficient to support the superstructure. Is our current website able to support our future Genealogical Research System (GRS)? If not and we do not determine that now, well you get the point. I feel this is "due diligence" so we will see what the rest of the Executive Committee and Trustees feel once we can see this RFP result.

We have been tossing our dollars at the current website contractor to "fix" glitches, and add the numerous items that should have been part of its design. As most of you now realize, it takes a long time to design and produce a product of the scope and complexity as is our website.

The contract for the build and maintenance of our site has been with a company called Blackstone for several years. It will be up to the Trustees to say if they want to just keep the current contract, or allow us to cancel it when it comes up for renewal, and recommend a new contract in the Spring. The design, just for the request for proposal (RFP), for a new contract is very complicated, and is not yet completed by the IT Committee. We must have a comprehensive RFP before it is sent out, and it cannot be rushed just because we want it now.

The Leadership and Trustee Meetings are only two weeks away. If there are concerns you have, tell your Trustees and those other leaders who will attend so they can get answers for you. We will be working during the day, but in the evening, we will socialize and celebrate "Octoberfest" on Friday, and hear from our King's College Visiting Professor, Dr. Paquette, on Saturday. So that you are not confused, wear the Lederhosen on Friday, and the more formal wear on Saturday night. Looking forward to seeing many of you in Louisville.

Larry T. Guzy

President General 2017-2018