

Communication

...from the President General

It is time to renew! You as Officers of the SAR need to take the lead in making sure our new and existing members remember “Why they joined”. Without continued membership engagement they may not renew and discover what richness they can have from being a member of the SAR Family. An Alabama Society study found 50% felt they were never asked to serve at the Chapter level! We are guys. We don’t generally raise our hands when asked in a group to volunteer. However, asking a Compatriot directly is much different. This one on one is needed for not only involvement, but also for renewals.

We are well into our renewal for 2018 Membership. All applicants Registered from 9.1.17 to 12.31.17 are already members for 2018. We are up 1271 from Congress end to 9.25.17. What about the rest of us? Are we interested enough to not only renew our own membership, but also to encourage all our current Compatriots to do so? Renewal is our key to growing our Society as well as perpetuating the education of our fellow Countrymen about the base of our Country’s greatness—The American Revolution and Constitution that followed—our shared Legacy with all Americans.

Belong has many connotations, but the one I like best is the verb form: to be one of the Family. As a member of the SAR, we belong to a very special group—a family of descendants of our Country’s Founders. They did not all agree, but were united in a goal of establishing our Independence.

If we think of our membership as a Family, we should be comfortable enough to be able to call and invite our members to join us for coffee, to go with us to a meeting, or to renew their membership to help perpetuate the memories of our Founding. Here’s a thought: In addition to meetings, how about a coffee gathering to get to know each other better and just talk? One idea I would hope we could encourage is a Member Interview. Take your smart-phone, record your Compatriots personal story, download to your computer, and create a CD for them to pass to their descendants since they most likely will not do that. What a treasure that will be someday when their descendants hear their story in their own voice. Preserving their story for others and for the Chapter Archives will allow us to get to know the Why of their membership and help us to help fulfill their reason for joining in the first place.

Happy Renewal Season!

Larry