

The Wolverine Minute Man

Newsletter of the

Michigan Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

#1 2011

missar.org

Spring



Dear Compatriots,

The New Year has dawned as a new beginning for personal development and promotion of the state society. A full slate of candidates for the society is the signal of a new team. It is the changing of the guard. Their election will assure the continuation of the society and preserving our precious heritage. The *moral* of the society remains enthusiastic.

The society is more stable financially. MISSAR has promoted two raffles. We have had success at a matching fund campaign. The Century Club has promoted as simple method of giving a donation of *money*. The chapters have given generously to the NSSAR Library, also called, the Center for the Advancement of American Heritage. The Michigan Society has given special gifts to the new library and museum.

Our membership has remained stable. Our plan is to promote *membership* with new member drives and related activities with other societies in the near future. Interest in our patriot ancestors continues. We have inaugurated a Patriot Page on our webpage. We maintain a web presence. More people are searching the internet and are able to learn about the SAR. In turn, we can make contact with a potential applicant by e-mail. A *pdf* application is on-line at our national web-site. It can be filled out, saved, printed and submitted. We have tried to streamline the application process, which can be cumbersome. The many players in this process makes communication a necessity. We will keep up the pace. We will strive for perfection of the process.

As I end, my term as president, I look back on the successes we have had. Our thrust has been the 3*m*'s. That is, more *money*, more *membership* and increased *moral*. We have had a good run.

For this I want to thank my officers and trustees for their support. They have given their full measure. They are the reason for progress and the success in the society. I have truly have had the pleasure of serving the society. Thank you compatriots.

Sincerely,
Joseph C. Conger



On March 6, 1745 Casimir Pulaski was born to a noble family in Warsaw, Poland. At the time of his birth the nobility, which was more numerous in Poland than in other European countries, exercised a great deal of power. This nobility

elected the King. They also restricted the power of the clergy. In 1762 Casimir Pulaski became a page of Carl Christian Joseph of Saxony, Duke of Courland, and a vassal of the Polish King. Unfortunately, not too long after his arrival, because of the growing Russian influence over the affairs of Poland, and the resulting decreasing power of the Polish nobility, Pulaski returned to Warsaw.

Rebelling at the Russian influence in Polish affairs, Pulaski, along with his father Jozef, became leaders of a Nationalists Polish effort, launched in 1768, to rid Poland of the Russians. Casimir Pulaski, learned the art of warfare quickly, and became one of the best commanders of the rebellious Poles. He eventually was captured by the overwhelming forces of the Russians, but was paroled after promising to not fight against the Russians any longer. He did not believe that such a pledge given under duress was valid, and continued his fight against the Russians for four more years.

In November of 1771 Pulaski was accused of being the instigator in a plot to take the Pro-Russian Polish King captive. The plot failed, and a death warrant was issued for him. He fled Poland, but found no European nation willing to give him asylum. He finally was able to sneak into France, where he came in contact with Lafayette and Ben Franklin, who recruited him join America's fight for independence.

On June 23 1777 Pulaski arrived in America and presented his papers from Benjamin Franklin, which stated that Pulaski "was renowned throughout Europe for the courage and bravery he displayed in defense of his country's freedom." Pulaski wrote to General Washington "I have come here, where freedom is defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it."

Pulaski proved his worth during his first battle, the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. The American army had begun to be pushed back, and after a quick scouting trip with Washington's bodyguard he correctly determined that the British were attempting to encircle the Americans and cut off their line of retreat. He was ordered to gather as many of the disorganized Americans as he could and stop the British. This he did with such efficiency that his actions were an important

part of the reason why the army was able to escape the British encirclement. His courageous actions that day averted a disastrous defeat of the American Cavalry and most likely prevented General Washington's capture or death. As a result of Pulaski's actions during this battle, Washington promoted Pulaski to brigadier general of the American cavalry.

Pulaski proved his worth in the following months with his excellent handling of the American cavalry. Unfortunately, the American cavalry officers resented having to take orders from a foreigner who could barely speak English and whose ideas of tactics were vastly different than what they were accustomed to. Pulaski's European ideas of discipline also were not popular to the free willing officers and they considered him to be imperious. In March of 1778 Pulaski lost his patience with the rebellious officers and resigned his general command and returned to Valley Forge to confer with General Washington.

Washington did not want to lose the valuable services of this officer and readily agreed to Pulaski's suggestion that he be allowed to form his own corps of lancers and light infantry. This corps was recruited mainly in Baltimore, and numbered among its 350 members men who had formally been deserters or prisoners of war. This corps became famous as the Pulaski Cavalry Legion. Pulaski trained them in the proven cavalry tactics that he had learned as a "freedom fighter" in Europe. He took good care of his men, using his own money when necessary to ensure his men had the best equipment possible. The Continental Congress named him the "Commander of the Horse".

February 1779 finds the Legion ejecting the British from Charleston, South Carolina. In early September 1779 Pulaski and his Legion were ordered to join General Lachlan, and the combined force was to move toward Savannah as an advance guard for General Benjamin Lincoln and his army. Pulaski and his Legion were an importance force during the siege of Savannah. On October 9th, while leading a cavalry charge of combine American and French forces to find a weak spot in the British lines, he received a wound from grapeshot. The wounded officer was carried from the battlefield and placed aboard an American privateer named the *Wasp* where he died October 11 without ever regaining consciousness.

What happened next has been a source of controversy between historians studying the life of Casimir Pulaski.

In the Summer issue of the WMM we'll examine this controversy.

B. Wagers

**Great Lakes Sponsored
Vigil at Washington's Tomb**

It seems inconceivable that we would allow the accomplishments of this singular leader to disappear from our textbooks and to fade from the memories of our children and grandchildren. But from all accounts, this may be happening, slowly but surely, right before our eyes. Can this trend be reversed? Perhaps, but only if those who understand and appreciate Washington's greatness begin to share their knowledge and feelings with others. George Washington's unselfish leadership is the best example our nation has ever known. Perhaps more than ever, America needs George Washington—his patriotism, his honesty, his courage and, most of all, his character more than ever.

Be part of the first SAR Dusk to Dawn Vigil this September 17, 2011 at Mount Vernon Virginia.

All family/guests are welcome to accompany compatriots who wish to attend.

Honor guards will take turns standing for short periods of time in front of Washington's tomb to honor this great leader. (Specific times to be announced)

The planning committee has begun its work and details will be made available in the near future.

Most likely we will be car pooling and meeting at a specified time on September 17, 2011 at Mount Vernon.



Space is limited so if interested in participating please contact Compatriot Bill Vette at 517-688-3171

**In Transition
Welcome new members**

Thomas Loren Frey Nat'l # 178997 State # 3402

West Michigan Chapter
Patriot ancestor: Gottfried Frey

Jack Marvin Frey Nat'l # 178996 State # 3401
West Michigan Chapter
Patriot ancestor: Gottfried Frey

Tristin John Steward Llewellyn Nat'l # 178230 State # 3400
Northern Michigan Chapter
Patriot ancestor: John Sackett

**The MISSAR would like to extend its condolences
the families of the following departed Compatriots**

John Emmett Long Jr. Nat'l # 174386 State # 3362
Huron Valley Chapter

Jeffory Alan Timoschuk Nat'l # 168864 State # 3268
Huron Valley Chapter

River Raisin

Our January 2011 Chapter Meeting was canceled due to weather. No activities to report this year. Our next Meeting is April 21, 2011 at 6:30PM. Country Kitchen Restaurant Adrian, MI. Speaker: Chapter President Jerry Reed, Sr. Title: "A short biography of Patriot Paul Revere".

Jerry
Jerry W. Reed, Sr. President
River Raisin Chapter

Huron Valley

The Huron Valley has had two meetings this year. The meetings were held at the Plymouth Library. The meetings were held on January 8th and March 3rd. The Chapter's next meeting will be held May 7 at the Plymouth Library.

Allan Treppa-President

Announcement

2011 Annual Membership Meeting-Saturday April, 9,
2011-Lexington Lansing Hotel-925 S. Creyts Road-
Lansing, MI-48917 11:00 A.M.



Members of the MISSAR Color Guard relax before assuming their official duties at the January 29, 2011 MISSAR Board meeting.

MISSAR Board members during the January 29, 2011 BOM meeting.



Fundraising Chairman, Bill Vette, informing the BOM of the status of the the MISSAR fund raising effort during the January 29, 2011 BOM meeting.



Rick Sage, from Honor Flight Michigan, explains to members of Oaks Chapter the group's new project during the February membership meeting. The plans are to build a permanent memorial to WWII veterans in Memorial Park, located in Royal Oak.

Detroit Metro President, Stu Shuster, and Revolutionary War Artifacts collector, Bob Hoover, have their photo taken with Sam Griffiths, pack 102 and Lane Griffiths, Troop 1001.



Some of the artifacts from the collection of Bob Hoover that were on display at the March 12, 2011 Detroit Metro chapter meeting.

MISSAR Board of Managers Meeting 29 January 2011

Chelsea Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center
Chelsea MI, 48118

Chairperson: State President Joseph C. Conger
Acting State Recording Secretary: Walter J. Timoschuk III
(substituting for State Secretary Jerry W. Reed Sr. – absent)

Compatriot Members Present (18):

Detroit Metro Chapter: None

Western Michigan Chapter: President James Bergenham

Sault Trail Chapter: Robert Heydon

Northern Michigan Chapter: President Joseph Conger, Charles Barr II

Paul Emery Chapter: GLD Vice President General and Chapter President Gerald J. Burkland, Donald Reifert, Norman Allison, Robert Sprague

Raisin River Chapter: 1st Vice President William Vette, Donald Nutt

Oaks Chapter: President Bernie Wagers II, Laurence Herman, Robert Koller, Rodney Wilson

Huron Valley Chapter: President Allan Treppa, Walter Timoschuk III, Thomas Fountain, Howard Fite

Guests Present (4): Mrs. Gerald (Carol) Burkland, SAR Liaison; Mrs. Don (Susan) Reifert, Regent, Philip Livingston DAR Chapter; Mrs. Norman (Barbara) Allison, DAR State Tour Director; and Mrs. James (Jill) Bergenham.

- A. Call to Order – President Joseph Conger
- B. Posting of the Colors – Color Guard: Gerald Burkland, William Vette, Norman Allison, Bernie Wagers II
Invocation – Chaplain Bernie Wagers II
Pledge of Allegiance – President Conger
SAR Opening Pledge – President Conger
- C. Introduction of Compatriots & Guests – President Conger
- D. Determination of Quorum – President Conger (*in place of absent Secretary Reed*)
- E. Approval of Alternate Trustee – Paul Emery Chapter Compatriot Robert M. Sprague (*for Chelsea BOM meeting only, by letter from PEC Secretary Spear*)
- F. 2010 Flag Certificate Program – Acknowledgement of all chapters and State Flag Certificates presented during the 2010.
Northern Michigan Chapter – 1 presentation
Oaks Chapter – 12 presentations
MISSAR – State presentation to Oaks Chapter for the most flag certificates awarded by any chapter in the State Society. Accepted by Oaks Chapter President Bernie Wager II and Robert Koller.
- G. Distribution and approval of minutes from 10/2/2010 Traverse City BOM meeting – President Conger. Motion by Compatriot Vette to accept the minutes as printed, second by Robert Sprague. Consensus approval.
- H. Reading and approval of financial report – Acting Treasurer Donald Nutt. Motion by Compatriot Vette to accept the report as printed, second by Charles Barr II. Consensus approval.
- I. Officer's reports:
 1. Fundraising Committee Report – Chairman William Vette. Report on ticket sales/sponsors. Cabela's gave the Society a \$400 gift card as one of the raffle prizes.
 2. Century Club Report – Compatriot Vette reported 14 compatriots gave \$1,400.
 3. Chaplain Report – by Chaplin Bernie Wagers II.
 4. Registrar Report – by Laurence Herman. Number of new members was 15 in 2010. Twelve new member applications are at National Headquarters – 3 are pended and 9 are in processing. Two supplemental applications were recently approved.
 5. Historian Report – given by Compatriot Jim Bergenham for the absent Compatriot Roy MacFarland. He reminded MISSAR Compatriots wishing to do research on our SAR archived materials in the State Library of Michigan, Lansing, that they should call the Library ahead of time to make sure access can be granted due to limited help and budget.
- J. Chapter reports by Chapter Presidents and/or Chapter Trustees:

Western Michigan Chapter – Report by President James Bergenham. \$600.00 raised and purchased razors for the Grand Rapids Veterans Home; distributed to the veterans.

Sauk Trail Chapter – Trustee Robert Heydon.

River Raisin Chapter – Trustee Donald Nutt. Reported that their 1/20/2011 chapter meeting was cancelled because of slick roads. Key chapter members have been active in patriotic events in Lenawee County. Compatriot Vette reported on the 15 May 2010 grave dedication for Patriot William Gregory, born 1764 Fairfield, Conn., died 1835 Plymouth, Mich. Invitation by the DAR, Oakwood Cemetery, near downtown Northville, Mich., at 1:00 P.M. Saturday. Also, 31 May 2010 Memorial Day parade in Tecumseh, Mich. River Raisin Chapter President Jerry Reed Sr. and all other members and interested

parties were invited to march. They assembled at 9:30A.M. at the Tecumseh City Hall.

Oaks Chapter – President Bernie Wagers. Presentation by World War II veteran Kermit Beverly at a recent chapter meeting. Historic Fort Wayne presentation at the December meeting and planned participation with the WWII Honor Flight program. Chapter is participating with restoration of historic Michigan flag conservation program. Chapter provided funding for the 24th Michigan and 2nd Michigan Civil War flags for conservation and restoration.

Paul Emery Chapter Meeting – President Gerald Burkland. Reported on the upcoming grave marking for Patriot Daniel Hill Spencer, May 14, 2011, at 11:00 A.M. in Dryden, Lapeer county, Michigan. The next chapter meeting will be in March at the Villager Restaurant in Holly, Michigan.

Northern Michigan Chapter – Compatriot Charles Barr II. Next chapter meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011, at 11:00 am at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant, 1764 U.S. Hwy. 31, Traverse City, Mich. The summer meeting will be at Sheplers dock June 25, 2011, in Mackinaw City, where the chapter will tour the Cutter Mackinaw moored at Sheplers Dock.

Huron Valley Chapter – President Alan Treppa. Huron Valley meets at Plymouth Library at 223 South Main, Plymouth, Mich. The chapter has been meeting three times per year but will begin meeting four times. The next chapter meeting will be Thursday March 3, 2011, at 7:00 P.M. Event chairman Thomas Pleuss has acquired a spot June 26 2011 at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia, June 26, 2011, and the event is a joint picnic and social gathering for all Michigan Society Chapters, with the inclusion of DAR and C.A.R. members. Event is posted on the MISSAR Web site. The key contact is Thomas Pleuss. He can be contacted at tpleuss@att.net for more information and event coordination.

- K. Committee reports:
 - 6. Color Guard activities – Compatriot G. Burkland
 - 7. Membership Committee – Chairman Vette
- L. Meeting suspended for buffet luncheon on site, 12 noon to 1:00 P.M.
- M. Unfinished Business:
 - 8. Fundraising Committee raffle ticket sales report. January and April sponsors.
 - Projections and early sales figures, by Chairman Vette
 - Raffle ticket flyer on Web page to help with sales
 - 9. Acting Treasurer Nutt reported on December 2010's \$3-for-\$1 Matching General Fund Campaign. The campaign was a big success with 36 Compatriots donating \$1,955. plus one anonymous Compatriot giving \$3,000. for a total of \$4,955 raised to alleviate the Society's general fund deficit. Acting Treasurer Nutt wrote THANK YOU letters to all donors.
 - 10. Annual C.A.R. State Conference, Feb. 12, 2011, 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. at Lansing.
- N. New Business and Correspondence:
 - 11. – Presentation of the Finance Committee's proposed 2011 MISSAR Budget by Acting Treasurer and Finance Committee Chairman Donald Nutt. The proposed budget has one significant recommendation by the Finance Committee – elimination of the \$1,600. annual stipend paid to the Wolverine Minute Man newsletter editor Bernie Wagers II, and the reduction of the current newsletter format to a much downsized version to only be published on the State Society's Web site. The Society's eight chapters would be asked to publish their own newsletter in place of the state edition, and for doing so the State Society would shift \$2 of their annual SAR dues over to the chapters. (I.e., State SAR dues would be reduced from \$22 to \$20, and chapter SAR dues would be increased from \$8 to \$10.). After much discussion, and because the MISSAR can now afford to continue funding the WMM in 2011 thanks to the additional general fund income obtained from the successful \$3-for-\$1 Matching Campaign, this particular recommendation will be postponed for one year and reviewed again with the proposed 2012 MISSAR budget (motion by Compatriot Burkland, second by Compatriot Koller). Approval of the Finance Committee's proposed 2011 MISSAR Budget, as amended by the removal of WMM recommendation, was obtained with no other changes (motion by Compatriot Sprague, second by Compatriot Bergenham).
 - Because our current Vanguard Admiral Treasury Money Market Fund pays very little interest, the Finance Committee will look into more advantageous investments for the two recently matured CDs, which together total \$55,000., and report back to the BOM (motion by Allan Treppa, second by Rod Wilson).
 - A proposed MISSAR Investments Seminar for all MISSAR Compatriots was offered by President Conger. Only 3 of 18 BOM members were interested and the idea died for lack of interest.
 - 12. Nominating Committee Report – the proposed slate of nominees to serve on the State Board of Managers for 2011-2012 was presented in written form by Chairman Charles Barr II. The slate of nominees was amended to remove Rod Wilson as an Oaks Chapter Trustee at his own request. The slate was approved with no other changes (motion by Compatriot Vette, second by

Compatriot Heydon).

13. – President Conger explained why the Fundraising Committee’s raffle drawing was being held on a date (4.23.2011) different than the Society’s Annual Meeting (4.9.2011). It had to do with a technical hitch at the Michigan Gaming Commission.
– President Conger explained how he hoped that future fund raising efforts would be supported by the Michigan Gaming Commission through State Society and Chapter Constitution/Bylaws changes requested by the Commission.
 14. There was no Medals & Awards Committee report as Chairman E. Lou Hoos was absent. President Conger announced there would very soon be a meeting of the M & A Committee via phone bridge.
 15. President Conger gave a committee report on the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest.
 16. Compatriot Vette reported on the proposed trip for President George Washington’s Gravesite vigil planned for September 17, 2011. This even would be budget neutral. Proposed event was approved by the BOM.
 17. Motion by WMC President Jim Bergenham that WMC's Veterans Committee be allowed to use the \$360 shown on the financial report for the benefit of veterans in the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Second by Robert Sprague. During discussion Acting Treasurer Nutt explained that \$360 of restricted donations for service to veterans came in during the collection of 2011 annual dues. HVC President Allan Treppa announced that HVC also had an active Veterans Committee and he amended the motion so that WMC and HVC would share equally the \$360 amount; i.e., the two chapters would both be reimbursed for expenses on behalf of veterans up to \$180 each. The motion, as amended, passed.
- O. President’s closing remarks – President Conger:
- President Conger and Compatriot Vette announced that the Fundraising Committee would explore having an “Ernie Pyle Night” for fundraising purposes, with the venue and costs projection still to be determined. Ernie Pyle was a World War II correspondent killed near the end of the war by a Japanese bullet while reporting on a small island off the coast of Okinawa. The reenactment is put on by a man named Gary Morrison.
 - President Conger passed out a revised BOM Conference phone bridge schedule. The next phone bridge is Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011, at 8:00 A.M.
 - President Conger announced the next State Board of Managers meeting will be Saturday March 5, 2011, at the Coral Gables Restaurant in East Lansing.
 - President Conger announced the dates for the Society’s general membership annual meeting – Saturday April 9, 2011, at the Lexington Lansing Hotel in Lansing, Mich. There will be a dinner meeting of the MISSAR Emeritus Committee the prior evening, April 8, at the same location.
 - President Conger announced that he would like to start collecting the annual officer reports for the Society’s annual meeting by mid-February. All state society officers and committee chairman, as well as all chapter presidents, are required by the MISSAR C & B to report annually to the general membership.
 - Compatriot Nutt reminded BOM members that chapters need to report all chapter officer changes to the State Secretary as soon as possible after the chapters annual meetings.
 - President Conger announced a joint State BOM/Paul Emery Chapter meeting on Oct. 1, 2011, in Frankenmuth, Mich.
 - President Conger announced the Great Lakes District SAR annual meeting will be held Oct. 28-29, 2011, in Madison, Wisconsin. See www.missar.org for more information.
 - Encourage all chapter presidents to send in their chapter’s publicity information to WMM editor Bernie Wagers II. Also to supply chapter information to the NSSAR quarterly magazine.
 - Thanks for attending BOM meeting.
- P. Motion to adjourn – President Conger
- Q. Retiring of the Colors – Color Guard
- R. SAR Closing Pledge – President Conger
- S. Benediction – Chaplain Bernie Wagers II
- T. Adjournment
- U. Collected meeting evaluation surveys – President Conger



From The Editor

In case some Compatriots have not heard, at the January 29, 2011 Board of Managers meeting it was decided to fund

the WMM for at least thru the 2011 year (see the Board minutes posted elsewhere in the WMM) and I agreed to continue as editor for a while longer. Therefore, I guess my farewell in the last issue of the WMM was a little premature.

I trust you enjoyed reading the article on Casimir Pulaski. While wearing my hat as a public school history teacher, I made about 25 yearly trips to Washington D.C accompanied by about one hundred middle school students. Many of my students were of eastern European extraction. I always made it a point to visit the statue of Casimir Pulaski as I explained that not all of the soldiers fighting for America's independence were Americans. I had trouble staying on task while doing research for this article after I discovered the controversy surrounding what happened after his death. It is my plan to present what I found out in the summer issue of the WMM.

I am really ready for this winter to end. It seems like it has gone on forever, with the early snow last fall and

snow still falling in the middle of March. The Canadian Geese are even having trouble with the late thaw as they migrate north. I observed one come in to land today not realizing the pond had not thawed yet...hit that ice like a sack of feed!!!! Not a pretty sight***

Compatriot Richard Steele has been in the hospital for the last month or so. I talked to him last night and he said he hopes to be released sometime this week. A get well card would be nice. Compatriot Steele has been a great asset to the Michigan Society and it is my prayer that he will make a full recovery.

Don't forget the annual meeting being held in Lansing April 9th. It is important that all Compatriots take part in the affairs of the Society. The annual meeting is a good chance to have your voice heard.

I am looking forward to returning to Kentucky the first week of April. In addition to riding the ATVs, a canoe trip is planned. My grandfather used to tell stories of how during the winter, he and his neighbors would cut trees and drag them to the river's edge with mules. They would tie the logs together to make rafts. When the spring thaw came, and the water overflowed its banks, they would then ride the rafts down the river to the sawmill. He said it was pretty exciting and not for the faint-of-heart. Since I am getting a little old for that kind of excitement, a canoe will have to substitute for the log raft.

There is no "photo album" section in this issue since there were not a lot of MISSAR activities during this quarter. Secretaries and Presidents please send me your chapter information for publication by the end of May. Until then, "May the Lord bless you and keep you safe"!

Bernie



Casimir Pulaski statue in Washington D.C.



Casimir Pulaski statue in Detroit