

**West Michigan Chapter, MISSAR
Minutes of Meeting: March.9th, 2017
Meeting held at Uccello's, Grand Rapids, MI**

**Meeting brought to order by President Ken Goodson 6:30 pm
Invocation by Compatriot Rasmussen (Chaplain & Trustee)
Pledge of allegiance lead by Compatriot Ackerman (Flag Chair)
SAR pledge lead by Compatriot Strauss
Introduction of the guests was given by President Ken Goodson
Meeting and meal logistics was explained by Compatriot Stevers (1st VP/Trustee).**

Compatriot Rasmussen gave the prayer for the meal.

During the meal Compatriot Stevers introduced our guest speaker Compatriot Rinker, who not only has an extensive antique collection but is an expert in the field with his own talk show as seen on HGTV with many famous guests such as Martha Stewart. He gave us a lesson on not only the long rifle but rifles in general.

Rinker brought a select group of Revolutionary War rifles to our meeting. He explained each one, what materials were used to make them, where and how they were used, and why. Harry captivated the audience in not only describing the weapons but also the background of those who made the weapons and even brought an exact replica of a weapon that was used by one of his Patriots. This riveting exhibition can be seen on our chapters Facebook page.

The following was the business portion of the meeting arranged by topic, not in the order it was presented:

National SSAR & Michigan SSAR News

- President Goodson announced our nominated contribution to the Michigan SSAR State Board and announced along with State President Perkins that Compatriot Stevers will be education lead.**
- Compatriot Stevers discussed the trip to the National Convention and stressed to the group how we need to educate our fellow members on just how dedicated and involved National SAR is in serving our cause and to get involved.**
- President Wilson spoke to the group on the topic of being pro-active to include the ladies, commended the West Michigan Chapter on its large increase in membership and how with President Goodson's leadership it has become the best chapter in the MISSAR. He did discuss how on a state level retention continues to be a problem and how placing dues to the**

chapter level should help lessen this issue. He stressed delegation in following up on dues. He also stressed involvement at the chapter level in promoting the youth programs which President Goodson announced would be a point of focus for our chapter.

- **The treasurer's report was asked to be approved as written. Moved by Compatriot Strauss, Seconded by Compatriot Rinker.**

WMCMISSAR President Message

- **President Goodson announced that this next year we will be focusing as a chapter on supporting our fellow chapters the DAR and CAR, working with youth programs such as the eagle scouts, and working on projects benefiting veterans.**

WMCMISSAR Communications & Community Engagement

- **Compatriot Strauss announced that the next genealogy workshop will not be in the spring as previously planned but in the fall in order to have an expert and current president of the National Genealogical Society give a presentation on Genealogy DNA .**
- **Flag Chair Compatriot Ackerman updated us on flag awards. He has one more award to give but asked that members present him with nominations of those who are presenting the flag properly so we can present future awards. Anyone can be a candidate for this award program as long as they display the flag correctly. President Goodson praised Compatriot Ackerman and interjected that we have given more flag awards than the rest of the Michigan societies combined.**
- **President Goodson also mentioned that we will be participating in the Holland Memorial Day parade as well as possibly a few others yet to be announced.**
- **Compatriot Johnston discussed the CAR convention and the push from CAR to become more involved with SAR just as they are involved with DAR starting with having the state president and first vice president be an example to fellow CAR members by submitting entries into SAR's youth award programs.**
- **Compatriot Triplett (2nd VP/Webmaster) urged fellow members to check out our chapters face book page and refer their friends.**
- **Compatriot Gideon (Newsletter editor) asked for a volunteer for submitting information on their patriot ancestor. Compatriot Biener (Co-treasurer) volunteered.**
- **Compatriot Biener spoke on behalf of Compatriot Lannon (Co-treasurer and scout chair) and announced that our eagle scout award nomination won at the state level and will process to compete at the national level.**
- **Compatriot Rinker (ROTC chair) discussed how as part of the stamp advisory committee he is having issues proposing patriotic stamps due to**

low sales of previous patriotic stamps such as war of 1812 but will continue to push for a SAR 125th stamp and possible coin.

Governance Matters

- **Compatriot Rasmussen's work on our chapter by-laws was adapted and used with his direction for the MISSAR by-laws.**

Program Committee Reports

- **President Goodson reviewed the meeting date and venue for our next meeting May 10th at Martha's Vineyard in Grand Rapids. He announced it was ladies night.**

Benediction lead by Compatriot Rasmussen

SAR Recessional lead by Compatriot Triplett

President Ken Goodson adjourned meeting at 8:31pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Johnston

WMMISSCAR Secretary Co-chair.