

**West Michigan Chapter, MISSAR  
Minutes of Meeting: September 7th, 2017  
Meeting held at Uccello's, 2630 East Beltline, Grand Rapids, MI**

**Meeting brought to order by President Ken Goodson 6:36 pm**

**Invocation by Compatriot Rasmussen (Chaplain)**

**A moment of silence was held for circumstances surrounding the most recent hurricanes.**

**Pledge of allegiance lead by Compatriot Rich (2<sup>nd</sup> VP & Trustee)**

**SAR pledge lead by Compatriot Stevers**

**President Goodson spoke on the evenings logistics including the meal and announced a few changes to the program in the order in which it will be conducted and the fact the Van Wormer's and CAR visitors' last minute could not make the meeting.**

**Introduction of the guests was given by President Ken Goodson which included new members Jim Hartmann, Larry Riddle Sr., Larry Riddle Jr., Kevin Neland, Gary Neland (mayor of Norton Shores), as well as our guest speaker Sue Irving which graciously accepted the invitation to speak on members expanding their geneology when asked by Compatriot Rich.**

**Compatriot Rasmussen gave the prayer for the meal.**

**Business matters were discussed prior to the meal being served as detailed in the business portion of this report.**

**After the meal our guest speaker for the evening Sue Irving was invited to speak. She is the current manuscript chair and past president of the West Michigan Genealogical Society. Her goal for the meeting was to get SAR members excited about finding new stories in their genealogy and as a consequence expanding their genealogy to include the full family tree.**

**Ms. Irving distributed some resources for genealogical documentation. Some of those resources included using a presidential timeline for graphing the eras of our ancestors which included the parties that were prominent at the time as well as one that listed the world conflicts that were present during each ancestors timeline. She also spoke on lineage (pedigree) charts and the math involved in it, family group chart, census records, and a family tree for children.**

**She mentioned how being adopted makes it difficult to join the DAR and the nuances in having more than one family tree, how copying the front information of each resource book makes organizing easier and talked briefly on a few online programs and upcoming events in the newsletter. Compatriot**

**Rich reminded everyone that the National Genealogical Convention was going to be held in Grand Rapids May 2-4, 2018.**

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

#### **National SSAR & Michigan SSAR News**

- **Compatriot Stevers as MISSAR training director discussed various initiatives soon to be rolled out including new member welcome orientations, surveys to get existing members better engaged, and events/trips geared towards member's interests.**
- **The treasurer's report and May meeting minutes were asked to be approved as written. Moved by Compatriot Rinker, Seconded by Compatriot Ackerman.**

#### **WMCMISSAR Communications & Community Engagement**

- **President Goodson announced that Compatriot Rinker (supported by Compatriot Richards) will be the lead in the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest, George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, and Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest. Although several members will be assisting Compatriot Rinker in conducting the contests at the West Michigan chapter several judges are needed and several members did volunteer.**
- **Compatriot Rasmussen reminded everyone that the next genealogy workshop will be Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10am in Holland at the Herrick District Library. Richard Hill, a leading expert in DNA will be giving two sessions on genetic genealogy and another expert Jan Alpert (former president of the National Genealogical Society) will be discussing DNA websites. This event is a coordinated effort between the Holland Library, the DAR, SAR and the National Genealogical Society and is free to the public with no registration required. Our own Chip Stevers will be the MC and many thanks also given to Compatriot Rich for all the publicity as well as Compatriot Rasmussen for all the hard work organizing this event. All are welcome to attend and join Compatriot Rasmussen in distributing SAR information to guests.**
- **Flag Chair Compatriot Ackerman updated us on flag awards. He has not given one out recently due to a foot injury but has a few in the works. President Goodson praised Compatriot Ackerman and interjected that last year we gave out 25 awards which is more awards than the rest of the Michigan societies combined.**
- **Compatriot Gideon (Newsletter editor) asked for a volunteer for submitting information on their patriot ancestor. He was praised by everyone in the group for a masterful job in producing yet another potentially award winning newsletter. While it was "naked" at nationals**

for not following the rules, adjustments have been made and there is no reason it will not win awards next year. President Goodson reiterated how much we appreciate all the work put in by Compatriot Gideon.

- **Compatriot Lannon (Treasurer) announced the chapter is giving a matching gift from the state to the VA home in Grand Rapids of 250 each. It is also considering contributing again this year to wreaths across America which will be December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This will be decided in the November chapter meeting.**
- **Compatriot Strauss asked for everyone to send him their patriot ancestor histories and has forms he can hand out to anyone who requires them.**
- **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 125<sup>th</sup> stamp and possible coin.**

### **Membership Matters**

- **The following members were sworn in by President Goodson:**
  - Jim Hartmann**
  - Larry Riddle Sr.**
  - Larry Riddle Jr.**
  - Kevin Neland**
  - Gary Neland**

### **Governance Matters**

- **President Goodson reminded everyone to send in information for the Americanism report so we can receive credit as a chapter and as such perhaps win a national award for all of our outstanding community involvement.**

### **Awards Matters**

- **President Goodson presented the century club award to Compatriot Stevers, Compatriot Rasmussen, and Compatriot Neumann for their monetary contributions to SAR.**
- **President Goodson also presented the bronze century club award to Compatriot Rasmussen.**

**President Goodson pointed out our four flags displayed at the meeting, Betsy Ross, Michigan State, SAR, and our National Flag.**

**Benediction lead by Compatriot Rasmussen**

**SAR Recessional lead by Compatriot Gideon**

**President Ken Goodson adjourned meeting at 8:39pm**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mark Johnston**  
**WMMISSCAR Secretary.**