

KOSCIUSZKO continued from previous page

Kosciuszko in planning the defenses around Saratoga where the Continental Army stopped Burgoyne and forced his surrender. The victory brought France into the War, arguably the most important victory of the War. Gates, never one to give



Andrzej Tadeusz Bonawentura Kosciuszko, Commander in Chief, Army of Poland.

compliments (except to himself) said, “The great tactician of the campaign were the hills and forests which a young Polish Engineer was skillful enough to select for my encampment.”

The next three years saw Kosciuszko supervising the fortification of Fort Clinton, closing the Hudson to British ships. Located at what is now West

Point, the fort was so well sited and constructed that the British never took it, though they tried to suborn its commander, Benedict Arnold, to give it to them.

In 1780, Gates was ordered south with the newly appointed General Kosciuszko as his chief engineer. Gates was woefully unsuccessful against Cornwallis who moved into North Carolina. Gates was replaced by Nathaniel Greene and prospects looked up. Kosciuszko helped plan defenses and advised on taking British positions, most famously, “Post 96”.

After Yorktown, war in the South continued though the British held on to Charleston. Kosciuszko asked Greene to let him have a field command. He was given command of Continentals who supported the raiders Marion (“the Swamp Fox”), Sumpter and “Light Horse Harry” Lee.

After the War he returned to Poland where, following the Second Partition of his native land, he was made commander in chief of the Polish Army, fighting the Russian Kossacks of Catherine the Great. Defeated, he was imprisoned but, in 1797 Catherine’s successor, Paul I, released him and he returned to the United States and drew his back pay from Revolutionary service. He became friends

with Jefferson and Kosciuszko was sympathetic to the French Revolution. This, and knowledge of Kosciuszko’s service, led Jefferson to write General Gates, “He is as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known, and of the liberty which is to go to all, and not to the few or rich, alone.”

Kosciuszko returned to Europe, hoping to join Napoleon in recreating Poland but soon recognized the Emperor was no better than the TSAR. Kosciuszko wrote his will, leaving his American property (\$19,000 and 500 acres of land) to Jefferson to purchase, educate and free enslaved people. Unfortunately, Jefferson with financial problems, did not carry out the bequest.

At his death, Polish nobility petitioned Tsar Alexander I, now ruler of Poland, to bring Kosciuszko’s remains back to his native land. Surprisingly, Alexander not only allowed the return but ordered the remains interred in the Wavel Cathedral in Krakow Poland, the ancient capital of Poland, among the remains of Polish Kings. Thus, Kosciuszko is more honored in the Country he failed to liberate than in the one he did.

Kosciuszko’s name is pronounced “Ka shoe sko”, the most pure patriot of two revolutions. ★

Next publication of The General’s News: May 21, 2024

Please send submissions and calendar additions/corrections to Publisher Dena McDonald by May 12 at cre8.denamcdonald@gmail.com

February 9, 2024 Meeting Review

Submitted by President Jay Cummins

Our February 9 meeting was held at St. Luke Union Church in Bloomington with 25 attendees, including six new applicants and an Arizona member attending via Zoom.

The GJB SAR Chapter currently has 44 active members. We lost one member in 2023 and added two (David Williams and Roland Crews). Additionally, the application for Kevin Keller was approved on February 8, 2024. We currently have 14 applications in progress. Special mention was made of the efforts of Registrar Steve Kern for his assistance in this effort. All members were encouraged to have any interested individuals contact Steve for additional information/assistance.

This meeting's program was "The Man Jefferson Called 'The Most Pure Patriot of the Revolution'", presented by Dan Leifel ([page 1](#)).

We recognized and awarded our chapter's Arthur M. and Berdena King Contest Winner, Eagle Scout Katie Heger (see below).

On April 4, we will hold our 25th annual Citizenship Banquet at Bloomington Country Club, where we will honor 20 high school students from McLean and Woodford counties and award two \$1,000 scholarships from among these students. Our guest speaker will be Adam Hickman, Senior Vice-President at PNC Bank and our 2002 Citizenship Scholarship winner. The cost to attend the luncheon is \$32 per person, and anyone planning to attend needs to submit their reservation(s) to Gordon Bidner by March 15.

Treasurer Rob Jones reported that the chapter's filing form for 2023 was submitted. The investment and checking account balances were approved as submitted. ★

The GJB SAR Chapter recently donated \$230 to VA Illiana Care System.

Per our request, the funds were designated for general purpose use.

2023 Arthur M. and Berdena King Contest Award Winner Announced

February 9, 2024 Meeting

Submitted by Steve Kern

At the February 9, 2024 luncheon meeting of the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter, Eagle Scout Katie Heger was introduced as the 2023 GJB SAR Eagle Scout Arthur M. and Berdena King Contest Award winner. Ms. Heger is a member of Troop 8888 of Bloomington. Her scout master is Doug Schwalm, and her parents are Margaret and Michael Heger.

GJB SAR Chapter President Jay Cummins presented Heger with an Eagle Scout Certificate, an Eagle Scout King Contest Participation Badge, and a check for \$750.



Eagle Scout Katie Heger (center) with parents Michael and Margaret Heger (left) with Milton "Sonny" Rudsinski (in uniform) and GJB SAR Chapter President Jay Cummins.

The King application of Eagle Scout Heger has been forwarded to the ILSSAR for the competition at the state level. If she is named winner of the ILSSAR King Contest, she will receive a monetary cash award and trophy, plus her application would then be forwarded on to be judged at the NSSAR national level competition.

KING continued on next page

The application for the Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest has one section pertaining to her Eagle Scout activities, and points are given for the leadership positions held, each merit badge earned and the various other activities like summer camps, Order of the Arrow, etc... Points are also given for involvement in

community, church and school activities. Another section of the application requires completion of a four-generation ancestor chart on which points are also awarded. Finally, the applicant must write a patriotic essay of a maximum 500 words. Enjoy Eagle Scout Heger's patriotic essay below.



Eagle Scout Katie Heger

“The Resilient Nature of the American Spirit”

By Katie Heger

Daisaku Ikeda, a Japanese Buddhist philosopher, once said that “a person’s true nature is revealed at times of the greatest adversity.” No facade can be kept up in rough waters. This is widely accepted to be true for individuals, however, larger concepts are analyzed with this mindset as well. One of the most impressive of all when in crisis is the strength of the American Spirit. When adversity shakes the community, the American Spirit will stand up to anything thrown its way. The first struggle that has made tidal waves in the history of the world began back in 1620-when the pilgrims first sailed to what is today the United States of America. Their motivation on the journey was to live freely without religious persecution and to secure a future for generations to come (“Who Were the Pilgrims?”). The voyage and the first years were not without challenges. Illness, death, and harsh winters tested them, but there was nothing to do but persist. The lives of themselves, their children, and

today’s country as we know it were on their shoulders. Their efforts towards settling came out successful, and set a precedent for strength and durability in a crisis that would carry through for centuries to come. Its persistence was key, as the great test to the American spirit came over three centuries later during World War II. As threats of Axis power control became increasingly dire, the American home front became the keystone in the Allied victory. However, the transition from isolationism to home front unity was not smooth. The Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, set the nation spiraling into grief and panic, quickly followed by the U.S. entering the war (“The US Home Front During World War II”). Initially, the nation was gripped by fear, as they thought that the level of naval assault on Hawai’i demonstrated Japan’s capabilities to launch a similar attack on the Pacific coast of the continental US. However, in this time of adversity, American

resiliency shone once again—a historian from HISTORY wrote that “This fear of attack translated into a ready acceptance by a majority of Americans of the need to sacrifice in order to achieve victory” (“The US Home Front During World War II”). People rose from all corners of the country—eligible men enlisted, and the rest of the country transformed into an industrial giant. The entire country heeded the call—a once-in-a-blue-moon display of strength, unity, and undeniable resilience. These were only two examples of times that tested the resolve of the American Spirit, but the nation has faced countless struggles. From the revolution to the civil rights movement, America has confronted challenges far and wide. Nevertheless, it has always succeeded in staying strong. The one undeniable thing about the future is that turmoil will always be present, but as a country, there is always hope that we will come out stronger on the other side. ★

ILSSAR Board of Managers Meeting Summary

February 2-3, 2024

Submitted by President Jay Cummins

The 250th celebration in 2026 of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence is soon upon us. At the national level, SAR is going to acknowledge ten years of recognition, which began with the anniversary of the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 2023, all the way to the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which will take place in 2033. The national website AMERICA250SAR.org contains a wealth of information chapters can use to mark the many events that led to and supported our independence.

ILSSAR membership is currently 954 members across 15 chapters—down from 970. However, there are 23 pending applications—15 from GJB! The State society is encouraging chapters to submit names of our long-term members to be recognized at the state level.

Chapter Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest Winner Named

Shreya Nallamothe

Submitted by J. Gordon Bidner, GJB Vice President and President Emeritus

The GJB SAR Chapter has never before had a student competing in the ILSSAR and NSSAR Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest. However, in early January of this year, Shreya C. Nallamothe, a junior at University High School contacted me, inquiring about this contest. On January 19, 2024 we submitted her essay, “The American Crisis”

We encourage members to become involved at the state level! There are several office vacancies. [Click this link](#) to review the ILSSAR's newsletter “The Illinois Patriot” for details.

Beginning in 2025, Patriot Grave Marking Subsidies are increasing from \$500 to \$1,000. GJB Chapter is planning a Grave Marking Ceremony at the Stout Cemetery in Danvers, IL later this year. Four other chapters are planning ceremonies as well.

Each chapter is encouraged to utilize the “Americanism Report”, a great tool for chapters to document monthly activities contributing to the SAR mission. The GJB Chapter is looking to incorporate it this year.

ILSSAR Award Nominations are due April 1, 2024.

The next ILSSAR BOM is May 3-4, 2024 in Springfield, IL. This will be the Illinois Society's Annual Meeting and will be marked by some significant events, including attendance by President General Dodd as we help the Illinois CAR (Children of the American Revolution) unveil a project at the Abraham Lincoln Center, as well as a Grave Marking ceremony by the Springfield Chapter at the Chatham cemetery. I encourage as many members as possible to attend. ★



Shreya Nallamothe, GJB SAR Chapter's Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest Winner.

(which follows this article), picture, a video, biographical sketch, her contestant entry form, and a youth release form to Bill Wheeler, Sr. Vice President of ILSSAR, asking him to submit it to the proper ILSSAR person that handles this contest. Shreya's parents are Swath Kakarala

and Sateesh Nallamothe of Normal, Illinois. The students must write an original oration of not less

RUMBAUGH continued on next page

than five minutes or more than six minutes, and it must be delivered from memory without notes or any kind of props. The oration is to deal with an event, a personality or document pertaining to the Revolutionary War and with mention of our nation's 250th anniversary celebration. ILSSAR's submission deadline was January 20.

ILSSAR will then evaluate other orations they receive and forward the ILSSAR State Winner to NSSAR before May 15, 2024.

The GJB SAR Chapter will present Shreya with a certificate and \$250 at the 25th Annual GJB SAR Citizenship/Scholarship luncheon on April 4 at the Bloomington Country Club. Should Shreya be named the ILSSAR contest winner, she will receive \$1,000 and \$500 for expenses to compete in the NSSAR contest. The NSSAR winner will be chosen

by June 1, 2024—first place receives \$8,000, second place \$5,000 and third place \$3,000. Each of these contestants will also receive an Olympic-sized medal. The three non-placing finalists will each be awarded \$1,000, and all other non-finalist national contestants will receive \$200 each. The three finalists may also present their oration at the 134th Annual Congress in Lancaster, PA July 10-15, 2024

Shreya is very active at University High School: 2025 as Class Vice President, speech team captain, member of the Varsity Debate Team, and a student tutor and mentor. She is also active in various community activities. Her future plans after high school include majoring in Finance and History in college before entering Law School for her Juris Doctorate. She plans to focus on Constitutional or Technology law before pursuing a life-long career in public service.

“The American Crisis”

By Shreya Nallamothu

Everyone knows Common Sense by Thomas Paine. It's a revolutionary war pamphlet that rallied colonist support behind the patriot cause. But what if I told you that it wasn't Common Sense, but Thomas Paine's other pamphlet that won the revolution. It's called “The American Crisis.” It was a series of essay pamphlets published from 1776 to 1783 in the *The Pennsylvania Journal*.

The American Crisis was a call to unity and perseverance during the challenging days of the Revolutionary War. Writing that “the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph,” Paine's words aimed to rekindle the spirit of the colonists and bolster their resolve against seemingly insurmountable odds—the British. He argued that the difficulties the colonists were facing and the sacrifices they were making was a test of commitment to their principles and to American. American Crisis was nothing short of a literary rallying cry.

But at the time of publication, morale was low. General George Washington and his troops had lost New York and suffered a series of humiliating, crushing defeats to the Redcoats. Thousands of volunteer militia were packing up, giving up, and returning home. Washington knew that without these troops, there was a good chance they would

lose the Revolutionary War. But when he read Paine's American Crisis, he saw that those words could have the power to transcend a page and restore faith in the Revolutionary cause for his soldiers. So, on December 23, 1776, Washington had the first essay in The American Crisis read out loud to all of his troops at Valley Forge.

Quote: “These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks [from men and women].”

Within just that first sentence, Washington was able to reinspire his troops and allow them to come together. He was able to show them what they were risking so much for. Principles of freedom, democracy, and self-governance. And it worked. Just a couple days later, our troops won the Battle of Trenton marking a turning point within the war. And a week later, we bested General Lord Cornwallis—one of the British's best—at the Battle of Princeton. Things were finally looking up for the colonists.

Although The American Crisis isn't as well known or lauded as Common Sense, Paine gave the colonies

AMERICAN CRISIS continued on next page

words that would save the revolutionary movement. He reminded them of what they were fighting for at a time when it felt like American was IN crisis. Now, nearly 250 years later, it feels like America is IN crisis once again.

Political polarization is at an all time high. We have lost the ability to reach across the aisle and put ourselves in other peoples' perspectives. With the 2024 election around the corner, I've seen how much of political discourse and debate has turned into little more than just hurling insults at your opponent, rather than engaging in meaningful discussion. As a young person, it saddens me to know that my generation will be inheriting a political landscape vastly different than anything like what our Founding Fathers would have wanted for us. Much like the soldiers at Valley Forge, our country seems to be facing a crisis of identity and unity. So, how can we fix this?

Let's take a page out of The American Crisis and go BACK to the principles that unite us as a country. We are not a democracy so that we shun discussion and obey blindly. We can not a democracy so that we can hurl insults at each other and refuse to put ourselves in other people's shoes. We are democracy because

we value compromise. Even Congress, our bicameral legislature, was founded upon compromise between the Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan, but it's gridlocked now because its members can't compromise. Much like Paine's words were able to stir the hearts of the American militia and allow them to come together. I hope that this speech can serve as a reminder to you. Next time you're arguing or disagreeing with someone who you fundamentally can't agree with, I ask that you step back. Zoom out, and try and find common ground.

Put yourself in that person's shoes. We need to be able to work together with each other because without it, our country will crumble.

The American Crisis is more than just some pamphlet from the revolutionary war. It saved a movement. Without we would have lost the revolution. Let me say that again: without The American Crisis, we would have LOST the revolution. And today, if don't come together, we risk loosing our country to division. So, let us learn from the troops of the past, and be reminded of why we are here, in THIS country. Only then can come together, work together, and honor true American democracy. ★

America 250

TRIVIA TIDBITS



As we ramp up for our nation's 250th anniversary, we will occasionally share some notable events that contributed to our founding.

BOSTON TEA PARTY | December 16, 1773

The Boston Tea Party was a political protest that occurred on December 16, 1773, at Griffin's Wharf in Boston, Massachusetts. American colonists, frustrated and angry at Britain for imposing "taxation without representation," dumped 342 chests of tea, imported by the British East India Company, into the harbor. The event was the first major act of defiance to British rule over the colonists. It showed Great Britain that Americans wouldn't take taxation and tyranny sitting down, and rallied American patriots across the 13 colonies to fight for independence. (Source: History Channel)

Did You Know?

It took nearly three hours for more than 100 colonists to empty the tea into Boston Harbor. The chests held more than 90,000 lbs. (45 tons) of tea, which would cost nearly \$1,000,000 today.

Visit america250sar.org for numerous resources to educate about and promote the American Revolution!

Iroquois County Citizenship Awards

December 8, 2023

Submitted by Jay Cummins

On Friday, December 8, I represented the GJB SAR chapter at the Iroquois County DAR/SAR Citizenship awards, sponsored by the Princess Wach-e-kee Chapter of the DAR. Joanne Clauss has coordinated this event for many years. Our own Bill White has represented us there for several years and is actually a cousin to the chapter Regent, Juanita Benner. The program included a local Revolutionary

War soldier presentation on what typical life looked like, including rifles and ammunition.

Iroquois County has seven high schools, six of which participated in this year's event. We awarded SAR Citizenship awards to the following outstanding students:

Hagen Hoy: Watseka High School
Connor Stahlschmidt: Donovan High School
Caleb Walder: Cissna Park High School
Jackson Reigner: Central High School
Gracelin Gregory: Milford High School
Noah Gomez: Iroquois West High School

Thanks Joanne and Juanita for inviting us to participate! ★



GJB SAR Chapter President Jay Cummins and Princess Wach-E-kee DAR Citizenship Chair Joanne Clauss.



Deane Geike and Hagen Hoy gave a presentation about typical life experienced by Revolutionary War soldiers.



President Jay Cummins with the student honorees in attendance: Noah Gomez (Iroquois West HS), Gracelin Gregory (Milford HS), Hagen Hoy (Watsseka HS), and Jackson Reigner (Central HS).

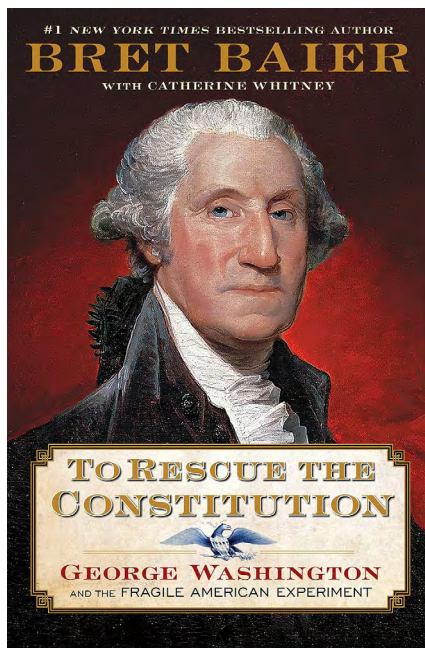
Book Review

To Rescue the Constitution: George Washington and the Fragile American Experiment

By Bret Baier with Catherine Whitney © 2023

Respectfully submitted by J. Gordon Bidner, GJB SAR
Chapter President Emeritus

A most interesting book about George Washington's leadership as the Revolutionary Commanding General and then as the United States first President. He was the right person to meet the challenges during this period and to unite our Country through collaboration and understanding of the mission of the times.



Book jacket design by Richard L. Adams.

George Washington's portrait by Gilbert Stuart from the Metropolitan Museum of Art; eagle image from the Library of Congress; author photograph by Daniel Swartz.

necessary to govern was to model that approach, and he mostly succeeded, earning trust across the political and demographic spectrum.”

One of the truths that I found most interesting was when Baier said, “...Washington recognized that his most important role as a leader was to raise up other leaders. A war on multiple fronts could not be a one-man show. He could not be everywhere all at

once. He was grateful for the courage and stamina of some of the great men in his command—Greene, Knox, Hamilton, LaFayette, Lincoln and von Steuben.” Baier went on to say, “Never once in eight years did Washington have the luxury of a fully rested, fed, and equipped force. With all the forces of men and nature arrayed before the Continental Army, the single consistent factor that kept them going was the constancy of the leader.”

Washington was patient, he was a good listener and took advice before deciding, and he “...allowed others to take the spotlight.” Maybe the capstone of his leadership was his “...purity of purpose; the mission was everything.” The British had ‘might on their side’, but the American army and leadership had survival of a New Nation that they were fighting for! The Revolutionary War was fraught with problems on many fronts, including a ‘rag tag fighting force’ that was ill-equipped and oftentimes poorly supported by Congress.

As I read Baier's book and his comments about Washington's leadership qualities, it gendered thoughts I personally have on leadership. Over the years I have read and studied what others think leadership consists of. *The Leadership Challenge* by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner summarizes well the principles of leadership as follows, which I might add that Washington followed, namely:

1. Challenging the Process
2. Inspiring a Shared Vision
3. Enabling other to Act
4. Modeling the Way
5. Encouraging the Heart.

I would but add two more principles that I think are essential for leaders that Baier felt Washington processed as well:

1. Being a Good Listener (as a side note Dan Leifel would disagree with this point saying to me, “Washington was a lousy listener!”—so we will let you decide.)
2. Having the Courage and the Commitment to follow through on a Mission.

BOOK REVIEW continued on page 12

Welcome to Our Newest Chapter Member

Roland Wayne Crews

Submitted by Rick Milner



Roland Crews

Roland Crews, a resident of Normal, IL, was accepted into the SAR on December 15, 2023.

He is a direct descendent of Robert Redden "Robin" Smith. Roland's application reported that Robert enlisted as a private in what is now Tennessee (then North Carolina Colony). He served under Captains John

Ashe and Bradley and Colonels James Moore and James Hagen.

Details reported in [findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com) memorial 183015087:

- 1775 enlisted in Johnston County, North Carolina (now Tennessee) for six months. He served with Jon Walker's Company and James Moore's 1st N.C. Regiment
- May 1776 enlisted in Captain John Ashe's Company, Colonel James Moore and John Ashe's 1st N.C. [Regiment]. During this enlistment, Robert was wounded in his right leg during a skirmish.
- Spring of 1778 commissioned as a second lieutenant and served Captain Ballard's, G. Bradley's Company, and Hogen's 3rd N.C. Regiment.
- Robert received a Revolutionary War pension. His wife (and also Roland's ancestor) continued to receive this pension until her death.

Proof of Robert's Revolutionary War service, included the Revolutionary War Graves Register 1993, SAR Revolutionary War Graves Register CD 1998, and Robert's Pension.

Welcome, Roland. ★

2024 Committees

CITIZENSHIP: Chair Gordon Bidner

Jay Cummins (Iroquois/Livingston Co.), Robert Flesher, Bill Hammitt, Rob Jones, Dan Leifel, Phares O'Daffer

COLOR GUARD/PARADE: Chair Milton Rudsinski

Gordon Bidner (ex officio), Don Hyland, Stephen Kern, Don Lush, Rodney Lush

EAGLE SCOUT: Chair Stephen Kern

Al Abbott, Lance McCormick, Bill White

EDUCATION: Chair Dan Leifel

Charles Erickson, Alan Washburn, David Williams

FINANCE: Chair Stephen Kern

Charles Erickson, Bill Hammitt, Rob Jones, Lance McCormick, Lee Wilder

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Gordon Bidner, Jay Cummins, Albert Day, Roger Hollis, Dan Leifel, Milton Rudsinski

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chair Gordon Bidner

Jay Cummins, Bob Harshbarger (Zoom coordinator), Ray Owens, Dr. Virgil Short

THE GENERAL'S NEWS: Editor Gordon Bidner

Editorial Board: Jay Cummins, Stephen Kern, Dan Leifel, Dr. Virgil Short

VETERANS/ROTC AFFAIRS: Chair Jeff Kretlow, Vice Chair Dan Leifel

Albert Day, Dave Edwards, Bud Lewis, Rodney Lush

ILSSAR POSTER/KNIGHT ESSAY/RUMBAUGH ORATIONS/SCHWEIZER HISTORY: Chair Gordon Bidner

Jay Cummins, Charles Erickson, Rob Jones

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Chair Bob Harshbarger

Jay Cummins, David Dougall, Stephen Kern, David Williams (GJB Webmaster)

NOMINATING AND PROGRAM LEADERSHIP:

2024 Leadership Team/Board of Managers

GJB SAR 250th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE 1776-2026:

Chair Jay Cummins

Gordon Bidner, Stephen Kern, Dan Leifel, Lance McCormick, Ray Owens

2024 Programs/Events

Calendar items in red have yet to be finalized.

February 29: NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting
Louisville, KY

March 1: McLean and Woodford Co. HS Citizenship/Scholarship applications due

March 12, 6:00 p.m.: GJB Chapter Dinner Meeting
St. Luke Union Church, Bloomington

PROGRAM: David Williams, Revolutionary War Ancestor Presentation

HOST: Ray Owens

April 4, 11:30 a.m.: 25th Annual GJB SAR Outstanding Good Citizenship/Scholarship Luncheon

Bloomington Country Club

SPEAKER: Mr. Adam Hickman, SVP, Senior Asset Liability Director PNC Bank, 2002 Scholarship Recipient—"Working for Your Network"

HOST: Gordon Bidner

April 15, 7:00 a.m.: Patriot's Day - GJB Breakfast Meeting

Bob Evans Restaurant, IAA Drive, Bloomington

"Open Discussion"

HOST: Jay Cummins

May 1: ILSSAR Annual Report Due

May 3-4: ILSSAR BOM Meeting

Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield

May 12: The General's News submission deadline

May 21: The General's News publication

May 27, 7:00 a.m.: Memorial Day

Bob Evans Restaurant, IAA Dr., Bloomington

9:00 a.m.: Bloomington Parade

HOST: Gordon Bidner

June 14, 7:30 a.m.: Flag Day

Grace Church Fireside Room, 1311 W. Hovey, Normal, IL (catered breakfast)

PROGRAM: Flag Awards

HOST: Stephen Kern



July 4: Independence Day

July 10-15: 134th Annual NSSAR Congress

Lancaster, PA

August 9-10: ILSSAR BOM Meeting

Holiday Inn, Effingham, IL

September 20, 1:00 p.m.: SAR-DAR Constitution Week and 1st Responder Awards Program

Grace Church Activity Center, 1311 W. Hovey, Normal, IL

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Judge Scott Kording

HOSTS: GJB SAR Stephen Kern, LGS DAR Regent Jamie Atchison

September 15: The General's News submission deadline

September 24: The General's News publication

October 3-5: NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting

Louisville, KY

October 10, 11:30 a.m.: GJB Chapter Lunch Meeting

St. Luke Union Church, Bloomington.

PROGRAM: Ancestor Presentations

Nominate 2025 GJB SAR Officers

HOST: Al Abbott

November 1-2: ILSSAR BOM Meeting

DoubleTree Hotel, Bloomington

November 8, 11:30 a.m.: Veteran's Day Lunch Meeting

St. Luke Union Church, Bloomington

PROGRAM: Justin Anweiler, Director, Peoria Veteran's Center

Elect and Install GJB SAR Leadership Team for 2025

HOST: Jeff Kretlow

November 10: The General's News submission deadline

November 19: The General's News publication

December 6, 1:00 p.m.: The Iroquois County DAR-SAR Citizenship Program

Location TBD

December 13: GJB/SAR King Eagle Scout Contest applications DUE

December 14: Wreaths Across America

BOOK REVIEW continued from page 9

Our nation has been blessed with numerous outstanding leaders over nearly 250 years of our 'experiment' and existence. Today we are witnessing in our country's leadership a strong element of partisanship where common ground and compromise seem to be amiss. Leaders talk of unity, then lead with divisiveness. Even after having said that, I still feel we have a wonderful nation with a Constitution that has stood the test of time as a Republic. ★