



THE LONG KNIFE

Quarterly Newsletter of the Genl George Rogers Clark Chapter
Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution

"Serving Madison County"

Volume XXI Number 4

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March 2012



GGRCC founder Charles B. Schweizer, 98, received a citation at the annual dinner for his long service to the chapter, state and national societies. Escorting Col. Schweizer are Lola DeGroff and Eric Reelitz. The presentation was made by James A. DeGroff Jr. (left) and Chapter President Ronnie D. Hicks

President's Letter: 26th Annual Meeting & Activities

By Ronnie D. Hicks

Greetings for 2012. GGRCC's annual dinner Feb. 8 at Sunset Hills Country Club had as guest speakers 3rd Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Ann Callis and Circuit Judge Charles V. Romani. They explained to member s and guests the Veterans Court program. GGRCC member Lloyd Schwarz and I presented Judge Callis with the Law Enforcement Award. (Judge Romani received the same award in September when Judge Callis was unavailable). Judge Callis initially set up the Veterans Court program, which Judge Romani currently presides over. They were well received by the annual dinner audience, answering questions and explaining the procedures of the veterans court, which since 2009 has provided special counseling and other services for about 100 veterans charged with non-violent crimes.

Numerous awards were presented, none more heart-warming than the Life Time Achievement award to GGRCC founder and firsts President Charles B. Schweizer. Charlie, soon to be 99 years old, made his way to the podium and thanked everyone for attending.

A certificate from the Illinois Society SAR and SAR Eagle patch, with a letter from the GGRCC president, were presented to scout Robert Ruark. He was winner of an ILSSAR Revolutionary (Continued on Page 3).

The Long Knife is a quarterly publication of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

Charles E. Burgess, Editor

Col. Charles B. Schweizer, Associate Editor

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Luncheon meetings third Wednesday monthly Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd.(Rt.143

Chapter 2011 Financial Report

By James C. Hicks, Treasurer

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Chapter Receipts | |
| Dues/Contributions | \$1,066.00 |
| Transfer from Savings..... | 600.00 |
| Annual Dinner Feb. 2011..... | 1,841.00 |
| Ladies Night Out Oct. 2011..... | 471.00 |
| Cit.Award &Mdl.Reim.fromILSSAR | 140.00 |
| GGRCC donation to Little League | 126.00 |
| Small Car Magnets | 120.00 |
| 50/50 Drawings..... | 205.00 |
| Donated Uniform Sale..... | 100.00 |
| Interest | |
| I Lee & D Dilliard Endow. Fund | 7.51 |
| Dilliard Endow Fund (law enforce)... | 7.51 |
| Savings Account..... | 1.08 |
| Total Other Sources of Revenue. | 3,619.10 |
| Total Chapter Receipts..... | \$4,685.10 |
| Chapter Disbursements | |
| Annual Dinner Feb. 2011..... | \$1,775.00 |
| Ladies Night Out..... | 453.00 |
| Reservation Dep. 2012 Ann. Din . | 100.00 |
| Awards..... | 125.10 |
| <i>Long Knife</i> | 280.04 |
| Programs | |
| Outstanding Citizen Award..... | 230.59 |
| ROTC/Law Enf./ Fire Safety Awards.. | 33.50 |
| Flag Award..... | 127.52 |
| Rev.War Patriot Commemoration..... | 525.00 |
| Flag Day..... | 149.66 |
| Eagle Scout Awards..... | 80.00 |
| Administration | |
| President..... | 144.59 |
| Registrar..... | 7.34 |
| ILSSAR Pres/VP motel charge..... | 196.12 |
| Edw./Glen Carbon Little League | 150.00 |
| Table Center Pieces..... | 100.00 |
| Total Chapter Disbursements..... | \$4,477.46 |
| Financial Summary | |
| Cash Balance 1 January 2011..... | 598.80 |
| Receipts for period 2011..... | 4,685.10 |
| Disbursements for period 2011..... | 4,477.46 |
| Cash Balance End period Dec.31,2011 | \$806.44 |
| Assets | |
| Dilliard Endowment Funds..... | 2,002.24 |
| Harry E. Windland Endowment Fund | 1,450.18 |
| Money Market Savings | 404.85 |
| Vanguard Total Stock Index Fund..... | 4,297.31 |
| Cash on hand Dec. 31, 2011..... | 806.44 |
| Total Assets period end Dec.31, 011. | \$8,961.02 |

Eagle Scout Recognitions

Two new Eagle Scouts in Highland Troop 40 received citations and medals Jan. 15 from GGRCC officers. The scouts were Ian McGlasson and Christian Schuepbach.

Ian began scouting with Pack 220 in 2003 and earned eagle rank at age 15. He has been a troop scribe, historian, instructor and assistant patrol leader. His eagle project, with other scouts and volunteers, was mailbox construction for Highland Hope United Methodist Church.

Christian also began scouting with Pack 220, in 2005, and earned eagle rank last year. His eagle project, assisted by other scouts and volunteers, was renovation of the chapel in Highland City Cemetery.

Presenting SAR awards were GGRCC President Ronnie Hicks and Vice President James A. DeGroff Jr.

Another Eagle Scout court of honor was led by Compatriot DeGroff Jan. 8 in Greenville for Adam Michael Runyon.

GGRCC Spring Field Trip

The spring field trip for GGRCC members will be on May 9 to the Environmental Resources Training Center on the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville campus.

Event chairperson Harry K. Windland says the center is a one-of-a-kind facility in the state. In addition to training operators of drinking water and sewage disposal plants, it includes a wind turbine and solar panels for generation of electricity.

President's Letter: 26th Annual Meeting (Continued from Page 1)

War essay contest. His parents, Mr. And Mrs. David Ruark of Glen Carbon, were present.

A good time enjoyed by everyone.

GGRCC had an arduous and at times solemn past couple of months conducting various activities. The losses of Eleanor Schweizer (wife of Charles) and GGRCC members Clarence Iberg, Richard Greene and most recently Edwin Gerling were difficult to accept. At the annual meeting a moment of silence was observed in their memory. Our condolences are extended to their families.

The GGRCC honor guard and chapter members Jim DeGroff, Alan Harrison, Jim Hicks and Lloyd Schwarz conducted Jan. 8 an SAR ritual memorial service for deceased member Richard Greene of Brighton. Claudette Greene and family members were very appreciative of the tribute. GGRCC members Tom Beavers, Jim DeGroff, Lynn Hargus, Alan Harrison, Jim Hicks, Troy Huddle, Kevin Kaegy, Eric Reelitz, Lloyd Schwarz, Bob Stegemeier and I conducted the SAR ritual Jan. 29 in Highland for deceased compatriot Ed Gerling. The Gerling family was extremely pleased with the ceremony.

Mel Jones and Tim Raymer are convalescing. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

GGRCC participants in the Veterans Day Parade in Edwardsville were Jim DeGroff, Jim Hicks, Al Oleson, Tim Raymer and Bill Wilson. The annual fall trip was a visit to Alton Dam 26 and its education facility, after which lunch was enjoyed at Fast Eddie's Bon Air.

Jim DeGroff, Jim Hicks, Kevin Kaegy, William Nix, Tim Raymer, Eric Reelitz, Bob Shaak and I participated in the Wreaths Across America tribute Dec. 10 at the Nix-Judy Cemetery in Glen Carbon. Six Revolutionary War soldiers are enshrined there. Special appreciation to Bob Herr and his staff from Sunset Hills Funeral Home for providing the wreaths/grave blankets and transportation to the gravesites. Also thanks to VFW Post 222 member Walt Harris for performing taps.

GGRCC now has 87 members, the third largest chapter in Illinois, with at least six additional applications awaiting processing by NSSAR. Public awareness is very essential to the survival of the chapter. GGRCC is very appreciative for the recruiting of new members Vice President Jim DeGroff has achieved.

Members are urged to attend GGRCC meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at the Edwardsville Moose Lodge located on Rt. 143. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m., with the business meeting beginning around noon or shortly thereafter. If you are unable to make the luncheon, perhaps you can attend the business session

Edwin G. Gerling, Long-Time GGRCC Officer, Dies

Edwin G. Gerling of Highland, who was chapter secretary for 16 of his 22 years of membership in GGRCC, died Jan. 26. He also led several other activities for the chapter and was one of the most faithful in attendance at chapter events even after he became ill and disabled.

“Ed was very knowledgeable about history and was consistently dependable in performing complex duties for the chapter,” said Charles B. Schweizer, chapter founder and one of the few members with longer service than Compatriot Gerling.

Ed Gerling’s ancestors came to Madison County in 1812 and played a large part in the county’s development.

Ed, 86, was born 15 September 1925 in Edwardsville, where he graduated from high school in 1943. After two and a half years of Air Force service in World War II, he graduated with a bachelor of science in 1950 from Shurtleff College in Alton.

He was employed for 31 years at Alton Box Board Company in Highland, retiring in 1982 as administrative manager.

His interests included family and regional history and civic responsibilities. For a time he taught night school at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. In Highland, he was a past president of the congregation and held other offices of First Congregational Church. He was an assistant scoutmaster, annual seller of “Old Newsboys Day” newspapers, member and tour guide for the Highland Chamber of Commerce, member and president of the Louis Latzer Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees, two-term president of the Highland Schools Board of Education, member of the American Legion and president of the Highland Historical Society.

He was a past national commander of The Wheelman, an organization of antique bicycle enthusiasts, and was himself a skilled rider of high-wheeled bikes.

Ed Gerling’s proficiency as a historical researcher was shown in two books he published, *Madison County Place Names*, and *Regimental History of 117th Infantry Volunteers, McKendree Regiment 1862-1865*.

Among other services to GGRCC (member since March 1990) besides the secretary post, he frequently set up spring and fall field trips, including leading members to the Lincoln Museum in Springfield and to a major Lewis and Clark exposition at the Missouri Historical Society.

Survivors include his wife since 1951, the former Marion Everett Kurz; two sons, Bryan E. of Highland and Robert of Guthrie, OK; a daughter, Jane Johnson of Glen Carbon; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren

Funeral services were held Jan. 30 at the First Congregational Church, Highland. GGRCC members performed a ritual memorial ceremony during the visitation period.

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