



THE LONG KNIFE

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

"Serving Madison County"

Volume XIX, Number 4

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March 2010

24th Annual GGRCC Meeting Told of Washington's Legacy

Members and guests at the GGRCC's 24th Annual Dinner Meeting were praised by the state president of Illinois Society SAR and were reminded of George Washington's selfless contribution to the founding of the nation.

The meeting on Feb. 10 at Sunset Hills Country Club also heard reports from officers and included presentation of awards to several members. Recognized with a standing tribute and in attendance were Charles B. Schweizer, age 96, and his wife Eleanor. Col. Schweizer was the founder and first president of GGRCC, a former state society president and a national SAR officer.

ILSSAR President J. Gordon Bidner said he had tried to model himself on the examples set by Schweizer and M. Joseph Hill, another former GGRCC and state society president. "I call them my experienced friends," Bidner said. (Continued on Page 4)



A salute to the colors opens the 24th annual dinner meeting of GGRCC. From left standing, chapter President Gaylord J. (Jim) James, color guard member Troy M Huddle and chapter Treasurer Alan Y. Harrison. Huddle and Harrison are former presidents of the chapter.

The Long Knife is a quarterly publication of the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution.
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 Luncheon meetings held the third Wednesday monthly at Edwardsville Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. (IL Rt. 143)

Financial Report January 1-December 31, 2009

Treasurer James A. DeGroff Jr.

Chapter Receipts

Dues/Contributions	\$1,246.00
Dinners	900.00
IL & D Dilliard End. Fund	43.33
(Cit. & Eagle Scout Awards)	
Dilliard Endowment Fund	41.84
(Law Enforcement)	
Windland Endowment Fund	38.69
(Flag Day)	
Citizenship Awards & MDL	
Reimbursement from ILSAR	112.13
Voided Check from 08	165.50
Small Car Magnets	292.00
Savings Acc. Opened	<u>1,001.48</u>
Total Other Rev. Sources	<u>\$2,594.97</u>
Total Chapter Receipts	<u>\$3,840.97</u>
Dinners	\$1,125.11
Awards	451.94
<i>Long Knife</i>	269.11
Outstanding Citizen Award	159.05
ROTC/Law Enf/ Fire Saf. Aw.	40.00
Law Enforce. Award Postage	31.50
Patriot Commemoration	320.00
Large Magnetic Signs	91.83
Registrar Archive Paper	18.50
Small Magnetic Signs	43.00
Start Savings Account	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total Chap. Disbursements	\$3,550.04
Cash Balance 1 January 2009	\$ 1,459.84
Receipts for the Period	\$ 3,840.97
Disbursements for Period	<u>\$ 3,550.04</u>
Cash Balance 31 Dec. 2009	\$1,750.77
Irving Lee & Dorothy Dilliard	
Endowment Fund	\$1,001.07
Dilliard Endowment Fund	1,001.17

Harry Windland Endow. Fund	1,001.23
Vanguard Stock Index Fund	3,635.01
Cash on Hand 31 Dec. 2009	1,750.77
Less H. Windland Fund Int.	<u>422.85</u>
	<u>\$1,327.92</u>
Total Assets 31 Dec. 09	<u>\$8,389.25.</u>

GGRCC Birthdays

Andrew R. Johnson, Jan. 14
 H. Donald Laughlin, Jan. 18
 Donald L. Hastings Sr., Jan. 31
 Kenneth W. Leroy Sr., Feb. 4
 William C. Brown, Feb. 6
 Ronald F. Luebben, Feb. 15
 G. Thomas Lawrence, Feb. 20
 Ronnie D. Hicks, Feb. 26
 William C. Hayes Jr., March. 6
 Jack W. Calve, March. 18
 Thomas W. Blixen, March. 28
 James W. Buckley, April 4
 James A. Collman, April 7
 George R. Edwards, April 14
 Frederick C. Gillham, April 19
 Gaylord J. James Jr., April 22
 Robert J. Stegemeier, May 4
 Henry J. Boss, May 6
 Earl G. Gruber, May 7
 David R. Oliver Sr., May 7
 James C. Hicks, May 9
 Charles B. Schweizer, May 18
 Stanley A. Jacobs, May 31
 Neil T. Schroeder, June 4
 Bert W. Brosman, June 18
 Larry Lee Brown, June 21
 Charles E. Burgess, June 23

President's Letter

By Gaylord J. (Jim) James

March is already upon us and though we might yet experience some "winter type" weather, it is not too soon to look forward to another productive year for the Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter.

Looking backwards for a moment, however, the grim month of February was brightened by the 24th Annual Dinner at Sunset Hills Country Club. Forty-three persons were in attendance including the President of the Illinois Society, J. Gordon Bidner, and his wife Sandi, and also the founder and first president of the chapter, Charles Schweitzer and his wife Eleanor. The buffet dinner went well and the speaker, Robert Cook, presented a most enlightening talk, "George Washington: the Reluctant Statesman." Your president is especially obligated to Jim and Lola DeGroff for their assistance and the display board they put together showing chapter activities in 2009.

Now, however, is the time to look ahead to the coming spring activities of the chapter. Bob Stegemeier has set the date for the annual SAR Outstanding Citizenship Awards for Wednesday, April 7, at the First Christian Church in Edwardsville. This year letters have been sent not only to the high schools in Madison County, but also to Jersey and southern Macoupin County. I should encourage all the membership to participate in this event, which honors very exceptional young people.

Later in April and early in May the annual SAR awards to outstanding ROTC and JROTC cadets will be held at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and Alton High School. Especially during these times of international unrest, it is most appropriate to give recognition to these people who will serve in the armed forces.

The Genl. George Rogers Clark Chapter has been literally "rained out" for the past four years and thus prevented from participating in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Upper Alton. We can only hope that the sun will shine that day and again on June 14 for the Flag Day Ceremony, the location of which has yet to be decided.

Again, I should like to encourage compatriots to consider a contribution to The SAR Foundation, Inc. for The Center for Advancing America's Heritage: Campaign for New Generations. The foundation seeks member participation in its efforts to complete the funding for the new national headquarters building in Louisville. Large corporation and large foundations consider the percentage of membership participation before they commit to support. Granted that these are very difficult times, but any donation—either \$5 or \$10—will be welcome.

Finally, I do extend a welcome to all the new members and prospective members to attend the monthly meeting at the Moose Hall on Marine Road.

Former President Don Campbell Says Greetings

Former President Donald E. Campbell has moved to 16507 River Reach, Parish, FL. He has asked that the following message be sent to his former compatriots here.

As most of you have heard by now, I moved to Florida. I just wanted to say how proud I was to participate in the GGRC Chapter. As far as I am concerned, the chapter is the best in the state, if not in the country. You and your efforts and commitment have made it that way. It is only through your continuing efforts, not from just a few members, that the chapter will continue to maintain the standard of excellence set by our founder Charles Schweizer and the early members. Please keep up the good work. I still intend to continue my affiliation with the GGRC chapter and will be watching your activities.

Annual Meeting Told of Washington's Legacy (Continued from Pg.1)

"At a time of turmoil for our country, we need groups like your chapter to maintain the values of our Revolutionary ancestors," the state president said.

Perhaps the most worthwhile example from the national's early period was set by George Washington as leader of the Revolutionary forces, president of the Congress that developed the Constitution and the nation's first President, said speaker, Robert Cook.

Cook, of the faculty of Southwestern Illinois College and a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, called Washington "The Reluctant Hero."

Almost alone among notable leaders in the world's history, Washington did not seek or accept pomp and power in the several leadership positions he attained. "His mere presence commanded respect" in winning independence and nurturing the fledgling nation, Cook said.

In the annual meeting opening presentation of the colors, uniformed GGRCC members James A. DeGroff

Jr., Ronnie D. Hicks and Troy M. Huddle were assisted by drummer John Firse, president of the Lewis and Clark Chapter. Patriotic expressions were led by M. Joseph Hill, Robert J. Stegemeier, and Lola DeGroff, regent of the Silver Creek Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Lloyd E. Schwarz gave the invocation and benediction.

Chapter Secretary Alan Y. Harrison reported that membership now stands at 53, including five in the last year. Eight applications for membership are in process.

Awards presented by Chapter President Gaylord J. (Jim) James included a Good Citizenship Medal to James A. DeGroff Jr. for work as chapter treasurer and chairman of several committees. DeGroff is the incoming recording secretary for the state society.

Other awards for committee and activity leadership were Oak Leaf Clusters to Harrison, Stegemeier, Hicks, Timothy S. Raymer, and Charles E. Burgess.