

## Presidents Notes as of October 2019

It has been very busy since the last update.

One state secretary resigned, a new state secretary appointed then relieved of duties. These changes have created a fair amount of turmoil, but we are endeavoring to re-stabilize operations and provide service for our Compatriots. The State Society is now seeking interested parties to be State Secretary. To be considered, please notify your Chapter President who will nominate you.

In the absence of a State Secretary, I have assumed the role and responsibilities of the State Secretary. I have reconciled all previous members, accounted for new and pending status applications and reconciled with NSSAR database of record, corrected all transactions returned by NSSAR, processed all new applications previously held and submitted them to NSSAR, and prepared for annual member reconciliation. Chapter Secretaries are aware that 2020 Annual Dues are coming up. To this end, I have distributed to all Chapters, their portion of the NSSAR membership database to use as a basis for doing two things, one is to validate membership information and the other is to account for 2020 membership. Dues must be paid by Chapters by 31 Dec 2019 or reinstatement for membership will be required. The suspense is crucial because there are only a few days after the year end to complete dues payments to NSSAR.

In Mid-August, the S.A.R South Central District (SCD) Conference was conducted in Oklahoma City and hosted by the local chapter and the OK State Society S.A.R. The primary focus of the conference was to nominate or endorse candidates for National S.A.R. office, review SCD By-Laws, brief State programs and status, and most importantly build new relationships with other state Societies. State Registrar Corey Burns, Arkansas' Color Guard Captain, performed admirably at the SCD. Corey is a true leader (Past State President) and recognized throughout the SCD as a top performing Compatriot. Thanks to him for representing Arkansas at the SCD.

Among the many things we are working on is a Standard Operating Process (SOP) Handbook of State duties that details what methods and means we use to accomplish each of the state officer duties. The By-Laws define in general terms what is required by position but does not discuss the how. During the SCD conference, some of our Compatriot brothers from other states guided me to some states they believed had best practice products we could use. I have researched some but have found nothing that provides the details or SOP style information I believe we need. To this end, I have developed a system flow chart of processes for a new regular, junior and supplemental applications as they cross all the handling points in state and goes to NSSAR. The next challenge will be to get each of the State Officers to provide detailed descriptions of their actions when applications are received AND to provide details of additional duties to make a robust SOP. Examples are packet QC by the Registrar and financial management by the State Treasurer. This SOP, when complete should reduce or eliminate the need for By-Law revisions and result in a legacy document to guide operations for those who follow.

We are endeavoring to standardize the chapter monthly/minutes report. As I learned at the SCD, most states are already doing this as a standard protocol. Assistant Secretary David Harris has been instrumental in reinvigorating Chapter monthly reporting, has been collecting the varied styles of reports from chapters and has compiled a nice starting historical document. However from a historical NSSAR perspective and consistent with other states in the SCD we need to have minutes standardized in format and content and embedded in all chapter level operations. The new format will provide more information about Chapter operations, inform State operations and provide a consistent logical format for the future. More information to follow from Assistant State Secretary David Harris as we finalize the product and begin implementation.

On the 28 September 2019 we conducted a Leadership Conference (Board of Governors Conference) in Hot Springs Village, AR. Unlike typical S.A.R. meetings, the format of this Leadership Conference was on producing substantive operational outcome focus including Mission, Vision, Strategic Objectives and building a cohesive team at the state and chapter levels. The Chapter Presidents and State Staff are the leadership of this Society with the responsibility of guiding the Society to better outcomes. This process will help achieve lasting outcomes.

During the Leadership Conference, we reviewed annual conference plans. We have thus far, solidified 2 guest speakers and hope for one more, we have chosen NW Arkansas as the general location, we are considering either a museum tour or battle field tour. As I briefed at the SCD, this is not business as usual in Arkansas. We will be influenced by S.A.R. history and governing documents but we will become more operationally focused and brief substance rather than repeating history. This is a case of "Build it and they will come." We want to make annual conferences that acknowledge tradition yet be informative plus have fun. More to follow as VP Joey Sehon solidifies the plan. He is energetic, thorough and committed to building a memorable Annual Conference in March 2020.

I have noticed that we, the volunteers of the Arkansas Society are diligent in our efforts, and generally have a common direction but can improve on our leadership and Society focus. We, as a small State Society, cannot achieve all the program options available from NSSAR. We can however select the vital few programs that will document the history, prepare us to be more effective in current operations, recognize our Compatriots, engage in community outreach, build excellence in Chapter and State operations and leave a legacy for generations to come. There is power in the "Mini." Please volunteer to do a mini-task at your chapter or for the state. A little help by many goes a long way in making us a better Society and it keeps the work horses from burning out. Please join with me in this effort.

Very Respectfully,

David T. Dorrough  
President  
Arkansas Society, Sons of the American Revolution