

Towamencin Chapter DAR Minutes

February 13, 2016

Lansdale Library

In attendance were: Carole Bishop, Carla Blumenfeld, Joan Cossman, Linda Donaldson, Joan Doyle, Erna Fenchel, Martha Foote, Margie Gehlhaus, Janet Gross, Linda Hatcher, Holly Hayick, Marian Helinsky, Samantha Hennenfent, Dale Hoppe, Jessica Hoppe, Diane Husted, Susanne Johnston, Kathryn Landis, Beth Lentz, Bonnie Marino, Pam Martino, Sandy McCarthy, Sara-Beth Natali, Winnie Peterson, Helen H. Schwartz, Peggy Sellers, Melissa Stavey, Jackie Swanson, and Sandy Valenti.

Guests: Jennifer Cherry and Ginny Bergey.

Regent Sandra McCarthy called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. The DAR Ritual, Pledge of Allegiance, American's Creed, and singing of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" followed.

Margie Gehlhaus read the President General's Message. Highlights of the message were the plans underway for the 125th Continental Congress this year. DAR intends to set a new record with the Guinness World Record™ for the most letters to military personnel collected in one month. These letters will be collected at Congress in June. Also, DAR members are encouraged to continue participating in service projects for Celebrate America! The DAR Library is starting a series of classes on a variety of genealogical topics which will be held at the Library and also available on the DAR website. The DAR Museum has Portable Education Programs that bring the museum to schools and chapters.

Erna Fenchel read the National Defense Message. Erna shared a brief history of West Point.

Marion Helinsky read the Indian Minute, which was about how the Indians thought of land differently from the white man.

An installation ceremony was held to induct Marion Helinsky and Melissa Stavey as the newest members of the Towamencin Chapter. Regent Sandy McCarthy and Chaplain Beth Lentz conducted the ceremony. Registrar Joan Cossman presented a new member packet to each inductee.

Board Reports:

The minutes of the November 2015 meeting were approved as corrected.

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Treasurer Holly Hayick reported a balance of \$4,398.65 in the treasury. The report will be filed as read.

Chaplain Beth Lentz reported that a sympathy card was sent to Martha Foote on the passing of her husband. A get well card was sent to Mary Rose DiDomizio. Sympathy cards were sent to Martha Foote on the passing of her mother and to Molly Jager on the passing of her father.

Corresponding Secretary Samantha Hennenfent read a thank you card from Jennifer McKeon for the baby gift from Chapter members. As a Commemorative Partner for the 50-year anniversary of the Vietnam War, free Vietnam veterans lapel pins are available to thank veterans for their service. Let Samantha know if interested in these pins. Manna on Main Street acknowledged the eight \$25 WalMart gift cards the Chapter donated for Christmas gifts for local needy children.

Registrar Joan Cossman reported our Chapter has 82 members including the two new members installed today. There were nine applications verified in 2015 and one so far in 2016. The Chapter has 3 new prospective members and 24 prospectives in the database. There are 21 supplementals pending. Eight prospective members attended the January Prospective Member Workshop. The two-hour session went quite well. Regent Sandy McCarthy added that our membership increased 14% in 2015 and thanked Joan for her diligent work.

Historian Sue Johnston reported that all of the Chapter materials for 1990-2015 has been scanned.

Librarian Carole Bishop reported that the Daniel Boone book is back and available in the Chapter's lending library. Overall, the library is getting good use.

Committees Reports:

American History – Sandy Valenti reported that the Chapter winners have been identified and the teachers have been notified. Sandy requested she be notified if the awards will be presented during an assembly so a Chapter member might attend the ceremony. We have not heard if one of our essays won at the state level.

Conservation – Sandy McCarthy for Jackie Carter reported that 27 cell phones were donated and 11,545 bottle caps were collected for recycle in 2015. So far in 2016, 34 cell phones and 2,010 bottle caps have been recycled.

DAR Children of the American Revolution – Sue Johnston presented her American Indian program to Towamencin C.A.R. members in January. Children from other C.A.R. chapters attended this meeting. The February program was the role of children in the American Revolution. Carla Blumenfeld announced that future programs are the Battle of Bunker Hill in March at the Indian Valley Library and the April program is “Back to our Roots” at the Peter Wentz house. The May meeting will be at the Wyck House in the Germantown area. Chapter DAR members are encouraged to attend.

DAR Schools – Sandy McCarthy for Eleanor Cobb – 32 pounds/30 pairs of pajamas were shipped to Crossnore School.

DAR Service for Veterans – Sandy McCarthy reported no word has been received about the Winter Carnival at the Coatesville Veterans Administration. This fair is usually held in March.

Historic Preservation – Samantha Hennenfent reported that for 2015, we achieved every category of preservation except DAR owned property (we don't own any). Samantha asked members for ideas of projects for the Chapter to sponsor. It must be a non-profit organization, the organization must match funds equal to the amount DAR donates and the project should promote historic preservation, patriotism, or education. Samantha also mentioned that Margie Gehlhaus is being recommended for a recognition award.

New Business

The annual Chapter Master Report was submitted to National.

Reservations for the Pennsylvania Luncheon at Continental Congress are being accepted. Watch our newsletter for more information.

Chapter members nominated to serve as delegates at the PSSDAR State Conference to be held April 21-23, 2016 in Lancaster, PA are: Samantha Hennenfent, Joan Cossman, Sue Johnston, Carla Blumenfeld, Margie Gehlhaus, Erna Fenchel, Jennifer McKeon, Sara Natali, and Melissa Stavey. Joan Cossman made a motion to approve the delegates. The motion was seconded by Sandy Valenti and passed. Melissa Stavey expressed an interest in paging at the conference.

A Nominating Committee will be established at the March meeting. Please consider becoming an officer of the Chapter. Service Committees will be formed by the new administration.

The Spring Luncheon will be April 9, 2016 at the Springhouse Tavern. The program will be about the life of Grace Kelly.

The March meeting will be held on March 12 at the Lansdale Library at 10:30 a.m. The program topic will be the DAR Insignia and pins.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. followed by a program presented by member Sara Natali on DAR Units Overseas.

Diane L. Husted for Jennifer Bindas-McMonagle, Recording Secretary
C: Sandy McCarthy, Regent; Jennifer McKeon, Vice Regent, and Jennifer Bindas-McMonagle, Recording Secretary