



The Buckeye Patriot

*Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Sons of the American Revolution
Quarterly Newsletter*

Spring 2024

Volume 20 Issue 1

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From The Presidents Desk

Welcome Compatriots & Friends,

I begin with a quote from President John Quincy Adams: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." I, too, am inspired by the dedication and service that our members, and family and friends of our members, have displayed in the brief time that I have been involved with SAR. It is with pride and gratitude that I assume the office of President of the Northeastern Ohio SAR Chapter. Thank you for your trust and support.

The Chapter membership and I extend a heartfelt thank you to our Immediate Past President, Gage Georgeff, for his commitment to SAR and for presiding over our Chapter throughout the past two years.



On to some past and future news: The NSSAR Spring Leadership Conference, held in early March at The Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, was attended by Steve Hinson, Tim Ward, Troy Bailey and me. The Conference included a discussion on the National events listed in the America 250 SAR "Decade of the American Revolution" Program. This year's signature event will be The First Continental Congress. A presentation followed about the much-anticipated 2024 National Congress to be held this July in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. President General John Dodd began each of the sessions by leading the entire assembly in the reading of the SAR Mission Statement, as follows: "The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country."

I would like to mention, especially for our newer and prospective members, that the NEO Chapter has long supported that mission, in large part, through Patriot Grave Markings and Color Guard activities. Our Chapter regularly hosts a Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony each Spring. The Color Guard proudly marches in numerous local parades. They continue to participate in Naturalization Ceremonies which are sponsored by the National Park Service and held at the President James A. Garfield National Historic Site.

All Compatriots are eligible and encouraged to attend Patriot Grave Markings and Color Guard activities. Participation in these events can earn points toward Patriot Grave Marking and Color Guard medals. The first Color Guard event is scheduled for April 27 and April 28 in Chardon. (See Troy Bailey for details.) The Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony will be held on May 26 in Ashtabula. (Contact Steve Hinson for details.)

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From The Presidents Desk (continued)

Upcoming NEO Chapter events are listed on the last page of this newsletter. The entire 2024 Calendar of Events is on the NEO SAR website (www.neo12sar.net). Please note that the Ohio Society's Board of Management and Annual Meeting will be on May 4 in Granville, Ohio at the historic Granville Inn.

Finally, thank you for continuing to support our very own Steve Hinson during his year in office as the Vice-President General of the NSSAR Central District!

Our next Chapter meeting is our Patriot's Day meeting and will be on Saturday, April 13 at 12 pm at the Best Friends Family Restaurant, 1741 South Broadway, Geneva, OH 44041. Hope to see you there!

Patriotically Yours

Mark Tyler

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12

Sons of the American Revolution

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Annual Northeastern Ohio Chapter Meeting Held

The annual Northeastern Ohio Chapter Meeting was held 17 February 2024 at the First United Church of Christ in Austinburg, Ohio. The Stanley-Redmond-Harper DAR Chapter and Simon Fobes - Elizabeth Harper C.A.R. chapter jointly attended. Steve Hinson National Society SAR Vice President General, Venie Hinson National DAR Vice Chair East Central Division, DAR/SAR/S.R. Relations Committee, Diane Gilbert Stanley Redmond Harper Regent and Wyatt Pringle President Simon Fobes-Elizabeth Harper Society C.A.R. shared the podium with NEO Chapter President Gage Georgeff.

Several articles posted in this Newsletter are from activities at the meeting. Minutes of the meeting are posted in the Northeastern Ohio Website at www.neo12sar.net. Please review and comment on any corrections to Edward Hanlon, Secretary, at ehanlon90@gmail.com prior to the next meeting.

New officers were elected for 2024-2025. The nominating committee chaired by past NEO President James Pildner were presented and accepted by acclaim. New officers are:

President—Mark Tyler

First Vice President—Vince Martin

Second Vice President—Gregg Gorzelle

Treasurer—Dennis Gadley

Secretary—Ed Hanlon

Registrar—Troy Bailey

Genealogist—Tim Ward

Chaplain—Bill Robinson

Historian—Bob Kenyon

Newly elected NEO President

Mark Tyler receives Presidents

Neck Ribbon from Past President

Gage Georgeff

The Officers were sworn in by National Vice-President General Steve Hinson.



Simon Fobes—Elizabeth Harper C.A.R. Society Receives Proclamation



At the NEO Annual Meeting Wyatt Pringle—President, Simon Fobes—Elizabeth Harper Society, Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) reads a proclamation received from the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners to commemorate the one year anniversary of the Simon Fobes—Elizabeth Harper Society, Children of the American Revolution.

Tracey Pringle, Wyatt's Mother is now the Senior President of the Simon Fobes—Elizabeth Harper Society.

Northeastern Ohio SAR is proud that we can now support a local C.A.R. Society. Along with our close association with the local DAR chapters we now form a complete group promoting the common objectives of Patriotism, Education, and Historical Preservation.

Welcome New Member—Trenton Tipton-Fletcher

Trenton Fletcher was inducted at February meeting into the SAR by Chapter President Gage Georgeff. Compatriot Fletcher was sponsored by Compatriot Troy Bailey. Following his induction Compatriot Fletcher addressed those in attendance providing a brief biography of his Patriot Ancestor Zachariah Goff P-167375. Compatriot Fletcher completed a written biography that has been posted with his ancestors Patriot Record in the NSSAR Patriot Record System (PRS). Here is the unedited biography that was submitted:

“Zachariah Goff is believed to have been born in 1759 in Cumberland County, Virginia. He was the second youngest of Samuel and Diana Goff’s five sons. A free person of color, Zachariah married Judith Matthews in Oct of 1775. They had one son, Mason. In 1777, Zachariah, along with his 4 brothers: Abraham, Samuel Jr., Daniel and Moses, enlisted in the Continental Army for a 3-year term. According to his Revolutionary War pension file, Private Goff served in the Virginia Line under Captain Mayo Carrington and General Charles Scott, the future 4th governor of Kentucky. His older brother, Samuel Goff Jr., was killed in action in Paulus Hook, NJ in August 1779. In 1786, Judith Goff died.

Zachariah Goff then married Elizabeth “Betsey” Moss in 1796 in Campbell County Virginia. They later settled in Bedford County and Zachariah served his community as an independent miller. Zachariah and Betsey would go on to have six children: Zachariah, Patsey, Samuel, Henry, Robert, and William. Zacariah died in 1823. Betsey would spend her later years living with her only



Supporting our Veterans

Supporting our veterans is one of the major programs of the Sons of the American Revolution. Veterans often reach out to family, friends, and neighbors when they need assistance. They all answered our country’s call. Do not fail to answer their call.

Please contact Gage Georgeff, Chairman NEO Veterans Committee, with Veterans Support efforts.

He should also be contacted with all questions prior to providing any support to Veterans.

1. The Wounded Warrior Coin can be awarded to a former or active Military Service Member who was injured in the line of duty. The injury does not require the Service Member to receive the Purple Heart. Injuries or health-related issues from: Agent Orange, Camp Lejeune, Training Exercises, Diabetes or PTSD are included. Please send the appropriate military service member information to Gage Georgeff.
2. Food or cash donations should be sent to: Feed Our Vets of Ashtabula, 433 Center St., Ashtabula. They are open the 3rd Saturday of the month for donation drop-offs from 8am – 11am. Visit their website or Facebook page for details. Keep donation receipts and mileage, then contact Gage for more details.
3. For Personal decorations of a Veterans grave, please record: the name of the Veteran, cemetery name, mileage, the cost of the decorations, and time decorating the grave. Contact Gage for additional info.
4. Attendance at a Veteran’s Funeral: Record the following: name of Veteran, Active or Former Military, cemetery name, part of funeral you attended, role in the service (i.e., pallbearer, speaker, etc.) and mileage.
5. Report any Donations to National: Name of Donor, amount of donation, designation of fund.
6. Donations to the Veterans Administration Hospital or other Veterans Organizations that only cater to Veterans. Donations can be financial, clothing, food (fresh), books or magazines (current), working appliances, TV’s, radios, and movies. Check with Veterans facility first. Keep donation receipts, miles traveled and the number of trips.
7. Visiting Veterans in the Hospital, Nursing Home, or taking them on an outing. Please list the name of the Veteran, the location where the visitation occurred, mileage, and hours spent with the Veteran.

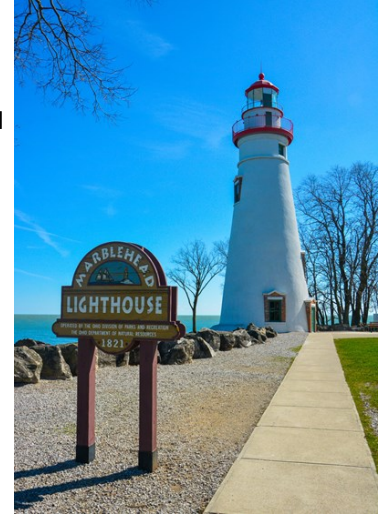


Gage Georgeff presents Wounded Warrior Coin and Certificate to Robert Zonnesville. 99 Years Young, WWII, European Theater (Cherbourg, Hurtgen Forest, Rhineland) , 2 Purple Hearts

“When Traveling for Work Turns into a History Lesson”

by Ed Hanlon, NEO Secretary

Recently I was in the Port Clinton, Ohio area for work. My schedule tends to be chaotic as I work 72-hour work weeks, meaning I have one day a week off. I try to make the most of my one day break. The walls of the condo where I was staying were decorated with photos and artwork, mostly of a nautical nature given the proximity to Lake Erie. One piece of artwork that caught my attention was a map that had drawings depicting points of interest in the area. One of those points of interest was noted as “Confederate Cemetery Johnson Island”. This piqued my curiosity since it seemed odd to me that there was a cemetery for Confederate soldiers so far north. Turns out Johnson Island was used as a prison for Confederate soldiers during the Civil War and the cemetery was created out of necessity. In the process of educating myself about the Confederate Cemetery I stumbled upon the name Benajah Wolcott, SAR Patriot P-323189, Benajah is a Revolutionary War Patriot who was born April 7, 1762, in Danbury, Connecticut. He enlisted in New Haven, Connecticut at the age of 14 in the fall of 1776, serving as a Private in Captain Prentice’s company, Colonel Meigs’ Connecticut regiment. He served about 6 ½ years until he was discharged by Captain Buel at West Point, New York.



In 1806 Benajah became a member of the survey team tasked with the job of mapping the western most area of the Connecticut Western Reserve. This area became known as The Firelands because it was set aside for the people of Connecticut whose homes were burned by the British during the Revolutionary War. Benajah bought 114 acres on what is modern day Marblehead Peninsula and moved from Connecticut with his wife and three children in 1809. He was initially a farmer, but on June 24, 1822, he was appointed the first lightkeeper of the newly constructed lighthouse on Marblehead. In addition to being a Revolutionary War hero, farmer, and lighthouse keeper, Benajah was also quite an accomplished fiddle player. He had such a reputation that in 1815 he was invited to play in the Independence Day celebration in Cleveland, Ohio. Benajah made the journey to Cleveland and back on horseback with his daughter Selina.

Benajah was the lighthouse keeper until his death on August 11, 1832 from cholera. At the time it was not uncommon to discard into Lake Erie the bodies of those who died from cholera. Some of the bodies would wash up on the shore by the lighthouse and Benajah and his son William would retrieve the bodies and honor them with proper burials. Benajah ended up contracting cholera himself while conducting his deeds of mercy. His son also died from cholera a short time after Benajah. On October 25, 1832, Rachel Wolcott, Benajah’s wife, was named Benajah’s successor as lighthouse keeper, making her the first female lighthouse keeper on the Great Lakes.



After learning the amazing story of Benajah Wolcott, I made a point of visiting his final resting place so I could pay my respects. He is interred in the Wolcott Cemetery in Marblehead, located in a wooded area about a half mile behind the Lightkeeper’s House which still stands today and serves as a museum. The cemetery is small with only 16 memorials on Find A Grave, but there are only 12 burials listed on the plaque at the entrance to the cemetery. As I was taking photographs, I couldn’t help but notice that there was a wreath from Wreaths Across America that was resting by Benajah’s headstone. I left a penny to mark my visit and let others know that Revolutionary War hero Benajah Wolcott is not forgotten. History is all around us. It is our duty to find and preserve it so future generations can continue to honor our Revolutionary War heroes so they are never forgotten.

Ed Hanlon, Secretary

Medals and Awards



Bob Kenyon awarded State Society Silver Roger Sherman Medal



Ed Hanlon awarded Chapter Distinguished Service Medal



Gage Georgeff awarded Chapter Bronze Roger Sherman Medal



John McClellan awarded Chapter Bronze Henry Knox Medal



Mark Tyler awarded Law Enforcement Accommodation Medal and Two Supplemental Patriot Ancestor Certificates



Lori Strukel awarded Martha Washington Medal



Venie Hinson awarded Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service for SAR/DAR Support



Paul Anderson awarded National Grave Marking Medal



Troy Bailey and Steve Hinson awarded Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal of Distinction Presented by DAR/SAR/S.R. Liaison Vice Chairman Venie Hinson

NEO Completes 2023 Americanism Score Sheet

Gage Georgeff, Chairman of Americanism Score Sheet Committee, has announced the Score Sheet for 2023 activities has been turned into the OH State Society. The purpose of the score sheet is to track chapter participation in various SAR activities and events. A large Excel Spreadsheet the score sheet tabulates participation points in Publicity, Speakers, DAR-CAR Support, Youth Programs, Public Service Programs, Historic Sites, Grave Marking, Color Guard, Medals and Awards, National Society Service, Membership and Meeting Attendance. The Score Sheet is divided into two main categories of Americanism and President General's Streamer. Participation can bring National Recognition to a Chapter and the State Society.

Northeastern Ohio's point scores for participation over the past three years is as follows:

Year	Americanism	Presidents Streamer
2021	1820	2940
2022	3200	6290
2023	8250	5759

Keep up the good work. We are definitely growing our participation.

The Ohio Society was one of only two State Societies to have 100% of its chapters turn in Score Sheets for 2023. Our thanks to Don McGraw, OHSSAR Secretary and Chairman of Society Americanism Committee for making this happen.

Please keep Gage up to date on any participation you may have in any of these programs. You can reach him at g.georgeff@sbcglobal.net. It is a big task and we thank Past President Georgeff for all of his hard work.

NEO Membership and the Power of One

NEO Members Jan 1, 2024	130
+ New Members Added	5
+ Reinstatements	3
Total Members 1 April 2024	138
Applications in Process at National	= 34

Membership of the National Society dropped 348 members from 33,723 to 33,408 members or about a 1% loss.

Membership of the Ohio Society dropped 80 members from 1820 to 1740 members or about a 4.5% Loss

Lee Pophem (FL) nominated for Treasurer General often talks about "**the power of one.**". If every member brought in just one new member we would double Membership.

We need more new members. Please contact your registrar if you have a prospective member.

Patriot Record System Statistics—and—Trivia

The NSSAR Patriot Records System (PRS) website, sarpatriots.sar.org, was established seven years ago to pull together all of the information gathered since 1930 on patriots. It was soon joined with an effort to load member application records. To date over 181,752 applications (regular member and supplemental) and 164,761 patriots are in the system. Patriot Search, Member Search, Biography Search and Cemetery Search features are available.

So here is a couple of trivia questions. What member has documented the most patriots? What patriot has the most members?

Member's w/Patriot Ancestors	
Member	Applications
Erick Henry Troutman	82
John Doublas Sinks	74
Clayton Timothy Knight	70
Timothy Lester Jacobs	65
Jack Othel Bledsoe	65

Patriot's w/Descendant Members	
Patriot	sa Descendants
John Hart	116
Frederick Hambricht	76
John Sevier	62
Ralph Stewart	57
Daniel Boon	54

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This newsletter is intended for members of the Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 of the Sons of the American Revolution. It is for educational purposes only, and is not for sale.

Important Dates to Remember

Apr 13, 2024	NEO Patriots Day Meeting	Best Friends, 1741 South Broadway	Geneva, OH	12:00PM
Apr 27-28, 2024	Maple Festival (CG)		Chardon, OH	
May 3-4, 2024	OHSSAR 135 th Annual Conference	Granville Inn	Granville, OH	
May 11, 2024	Geneva on the Lake Parade (CG)		G-O-L, OH	
May 26, 2024	NEO Grave Marking Ceremony (CG)		Conneaut, OH	
May 27, 2024	Jefferson Memorial Day Parade (CG)		Jefferson, OH	
Jun 14, 2024	Flag Day Flag Presentations		Andover, OH	
Jul 12, 2024	Naturalization Ceremony	Garfield Home (CG)	Mentor, OH	
Jul 10-16, 2024	NSSAR 134 th National Congress		Lancaster, PA	
Jul 12, 2024	Liberty Camp (Patriotic Youth Ed Camp)		Lake, OH	
Jul 26, 2024	Liberty Camp (Patriotic Youth Ed Camp)		Chardon, OH	
Jul 27, 2024	OHSSAR Summer BOM Meeting		Bolivar, OH	
Jul 27, 2024	Fort Laurens Memorial Service		Bolivar, OH	
Aug 24, 2024	Austinburg Community Days Parade (CG)		Austinburg, OH	
Aug 24, 2024	NEO Annual Chapter Picnic		Location TBD	
Sep 13, 2024	Naturalization Ceremony	Garfield Home (CG)	Mentor, OH	
Sep 14, 2024	NEO Patriots/Constitution Day Meeting		Location TBD	
Sep 28-29, 2024	Geneva Grape Jamboree (CG)		Geneva, OH	

CG—Color Guard Event