



*The Delaware Crossing Patriot*  
*Kansas Society*  
*Sons of the American Revolution*  
December 2024  
Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

*The Revolution is coming!*  
*One Year- Seven Months - Four Days*

**NEXT MEETING:**

**When:** December 14, 2024

**Where:** Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
13145 S. Black Bob Rd., Olathe, KS, Happy  
Hour Starting at 6:00pm, Dinner at 7:00pm.

**Reservations & Cost:** For reservations, email  
[Secretary@dxsar.com](mailto:Secretary@dxsar.com) or call Clay Shropshire  
785-521-8122 by 7:00 PM, Tuesday,  
December 10, 2024.

**Cost:** **\$45.00/person**

**Program:** DX Christmas Party



**CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS**  
**December 2024**

- 11 DX EC Meeting
- 14 DX Christmas Party

**January 2025**

- 15 DX EC Meeting
- 18 DX Chapter Meeting

**February 2025**

- 1 BOG
- 12 DX EC Meeting
- 15 DX Chapter Meeting
- 21 GWBC

**The President's Corner**



By Ken Ludwig

I hope you all were able to spend some time with family over the Thanksgiving holiday, and that you were able to pause and reflect about how blessed we are to live in this country and that we are able to enjoy the many freedoms that our patriot ancestors sacrificed some much to provide for us.

As 2024 closes, if your family is like mine, December is a very hectic month, with extra church services, making all the preparations for

the Christmas holidays, doing end of year of the year tax planning, plus all of the social events. It can be overwhelming and exhausting. I encourage you to take a minute, sit back and relax and remember the reason for the season.

If at all possible, I encourage you to join the chapter on December 14<sup>th</sup> for two events. The first is at the Johnson County Memorial Gardens as we participate in the Wreaths Across America event. This is a tremendous opportunity to honor the veterans who have served this country at a very local level. The second event is later that evening we are having our annual Christmas party (details elsewhere in this newsletter).

On to another topic. It is the end of the year. I would like to remind you that if you are planning some end of the year charitable donations, please consider donating to our Kessler Youth Fund. Just as a reminder, if you read last month's newsletter that I have a dollar for dollar match challenge extended to anyone who donates to this fund by December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in donating, you can contact our treasurer, Kevin Dyches, or me.

I also would like to wish all of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS!



*Clay Shropshire, Dennis Nelson, Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, Steven French, Troy Phillips and John More.*

### **Your Color Guard at Work**

On Tuesday October 29, Delaware Crossing Chapter Color Guardsmen Steven French, Dennis Nelson, Clay Shropshire and Dewey Fry were joined by other KSSAR Color Guardsmen Alan Martin, Troy Phillips and John More in the Presenting of the Colors at a Naturalization Ceremony at the Robert J. Dole US Courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas where 87 applicants from 37 countries took their Oath of Citizenship. Many new citizens had their pictures taken with the Color Guard at the reception following the ceremony.

On Sunday November 10, Delaware Crossing Chapter Color Guardsmen Steven French, Clay Shropshire and Dewey Fry, joined 4 other members, Alan Martin, Jeffrey Winters, Brian Vazquez and John More, of the KSSAR Color Guard at the Vietnam Veterans Recognition program sponsored by the NE District of the Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution at Memorial Hall in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Color Guard Presented the Colors during the Pledge of Allegiance, reciting of The American's Creed, and playing of the Star Spangled Banner by an American Legion brass ensemble, including

Compatriot Kirk Rush, at the start of the ceremony.

The Colors were then posted for the remainder of the ceremony and retired at the end of the program. The event was featured in the KCTV Channel 9 News at 5 and 9 pm and the next morning.

The next day, Clay Shropshire, Steven French, Dennis Nelson and Dewey Fry participated in the Leavenworth County Veterans Day Parade in Leavenworth. Clay marched with Color Guardsmen from other chapters in a 6-man Color Guard. Steven and Dennis rode on a trailer made by Clay and decorated by 4 of his flags and 5 others from Delaware Crossing Chapter. Dewey drove the truck pulling the trailer and positioned immediately behind the Color Guard.

Weather-wise, the day was beautiful and the crowd was the largest in several years.

After the parade, Dewey Fry and Steven French, in their Color Guard uniforms, took the Delaware Crossing Chapter gifts to the Veterans in the Community Living Center at the Eisenhower Veterans Center in Leavenworth. They visited with and presented gifts to 7 veterans, including 2 women, in a time span of 2 hours. The veterans and the staff were very appreciative.

Three of the veterans were over 90 years of age. One veteran was out with his family and one had just been released the day before. Newly renovated space will permit the space for 15 total veterans again.

On Tuesday, November 26, Delaware Crossing Color Guardsmen, Dewey Fry, Dennis Nelson, Steven French and Clay Shropshire were joined by Color Guardsmen from other Chapters, Alan Martin, Troy Phillip and Brian Vazquez in Presenting the Colors during two Naturalization Ceremonies at the Robert J. Dole US Courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas. The first ceremony had

90 applicants from 31 countries and the second ceremony had 90 applicants from 32 countries. Due to poor organization planning of the two back to back ceremonies it caused only three of Color Guardsmen to be at the reception for photos following the ceremony while three remained at the courtroom congratulating new citizen, as they were intermittently dismissed one row at time. Dennis Nelson had to leave after the second ceremony and could not participate in the photo session at the reception after the second ceremony, due to the more than 30 minute delay due to the poor planning.



*Steven French, Dewey Fry, Alan Martin, Clay Shropshire, Brian Vazquez, John More and Jeffrey Winters.*



*Vern Welkner, Alan Martin, Jeffrey Winters, Tom Chychota, Clay Shropshire, Brian Vazquez, Dewey Fry, Dennis Nelson and Steven French.*





Alan Martin, Jeffrey Winters, Tom Chychota, Clay Shropshire, Vern Welkner and Brian Vazquez.



The Colors carried by the KSSAR Color Guard.



The KSSAR Color Guard in the Leavenworth Veteran's Day Parade.



The Delaware Crossing Color Guard Float.



Dewey Fry and Steven French visit a veteran at the VA Hospital.





Dewey Fry, Troy Phillips, Alan Martin, Steven French, Clay Shropshire and Brian Vazquez with New American Citizens.



Dewey Fry, Troy Phillips, Alan Martin, Steven French, Clay Shropshire and Brian Vazquez with New American Citizens.



Dewey Fry, Troy Phillips, Alan Martin, Steven French, Clay Shropshire and Brian Vazquez.



Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, a New American Citizen, Dennis Nelson and DAR representatives..



Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, Two New American Citizens and Dennis Nelson.



*Tim Peterman, George McDowell and Vincent Clark*

### **Welcome Aboard, George McDowell**

George Stanley McDowell became a member of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution on 30 September 2024 and took his Membership Oath, which was administered by Vice President Vincent Clark, at our Delaware Crossing Chapter Meeting on November 16, 2024. His National Member No. is 231137 and his Kansas Society Member No. is 4070.

Compatriot McDowell's Patriot Ancestor is James Compton who served under Captain Nathan Erwin Company in Lt. Col. John Hoskins Stone's 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Maryland Line of the Continental Army.

George's Sponsor was John Schatzel, KSSSAR Genealogist and his Co-Sponsor was Timothy Peterman who pinned his Rosette to his shirt. Unfortunately, communication was a little lacking and George did not get to light his new member candle during his induction ceremony. That will be rectified in the near future at a Chapter Meeting.



*George McDowell receives the SAR Oath from Vincent Clark.*



*Tim Peterman pins the SAR Rosette to George McDowell's shirt.*



*George McDowell gives a report on his Patriot Ancestor.*





**Final Results of the 2023 Americanism Contest  
by Dennis Nelson, Americanism Chairman**

The NSSAR has posted on its website the details of the 2023 Americanism /President General's Streamer Award contest. Delaware Crossing Chapter competed with 55 chapters that submitted reports for the category of 91-150 members. There were four membership categories and a total of 314 out of 597 chapters submitted reports.

Americanism recognizes chapters that participate in outreach education efforts and who acknowledge community leaders for their efforts to perpetuate the goals of the SAR. In the Americanism contest DX finished 2nd (2022 – 3rd) and received a certificate from the NSSAR at Congress in July. Compared to all chapters, DX ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of 597 which ranks Delaware Crossing in the top 1%.

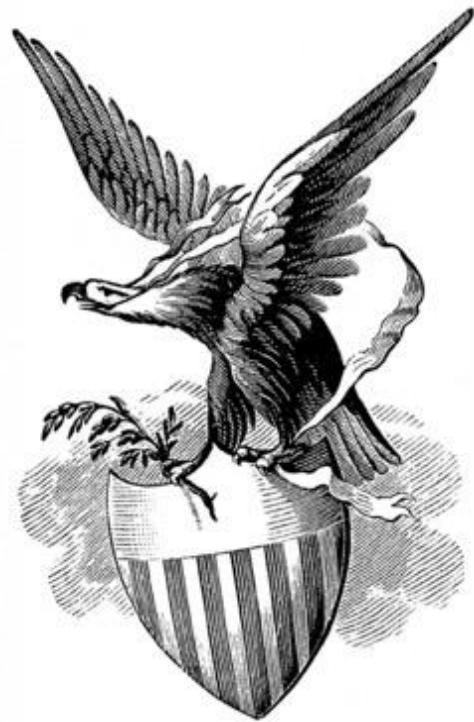
The President General's Streamer contest recognizes chapters for their efforts to achieve the administrative goals of the SAR and who contribute to the success of the SAR. In the PG Streamer contest, DX was 4th (2022 – 3rd).

The President General's Cup recognizes chapters that best achieves the goals of both Americanism and President General's Streamer award contest. In the President General's Cup contest, the points for Americanism and PG Streamer are combined

and divided by the number of members in the chapter to arrive at an average of overall points per member. DX scored in 12 out of 13 categories, qualifying to compete for the President General's Cup. DX finished 5<sup>th</sup> (2022 – 3rd<sup>h</sup>).

Congratulations to all chapter members for their efforts whether it is active participation in the chapter and/or providing financial support through dues and donations.

These results clearly demonstrate that Delaware Crossing is one of the best SAR chapters in NSSAR for both outreach and administrative support of SAR programs.





### **Central District Meeting by Bruce Smith**

It's always nice to see Compatriots from around the country and to see how they operate, as no one does things the same.

In late October, the Central District Meeting was held in the quaint town of Lawrenceburg, IN. The town of ~5100 is located about 28 miles west of Cincinnati on the Ohio River. There is a nice Hotel, convention facility, and waterfront promenade along the river. The downtown area is traditional with locally owned shops. Very nice for a weekend visit.

The Central District includes Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and West Virginia. The current VPG is Wayne Eells of Indiana.

The meeting was for one day and consisted of a memorial service and grave marking in the morning, followed by the business meeting and evening dinner.

The memorial ceremony commenced at 10 am in Riverview Cemetery in the nearby town of Aurora, IN. It was quite a chilly morning, and steam was rising eerily creating a thick mist over the Ohio River. The cemetery is on a tributary stream off the north bank of the Ohio.

The memorial service consisted of a grave marking for 5 Patriots (John Smith, John Milligan, John Stratton, John Young, and John Stewart-yes, five John's) and a short remembrance of Lochry's Defeat, which occurred on the grounds of the cemetery. Many wreaths were placed, including from Kansas, at the monument dedicated to this military action and the Patriot graves surrounding it. It was attended by several SAR National Officers (TG Greenly being the highest ranking) who were present attending the district meeting, SAR Executive Director Michael Scroggins, DAR officers, Patriot family descendants, and other dignitaries. There was a 21-gun musket firing and taps were played.

The memorial was followed by lunch and the business meeting. The main event was the election of district officers for the next year. The next VPG turn belonged to Kentucky and Timothy Brown, the endorsed candidate, was elected by a comfortable margin in a floor contested race. The next Central District meeting was announced as being in Lexington, KY. The financials of each state society and the membership activities were reviewed. Each state clearly had a renewal target with action plans to recover "lost" members. The only contested NSSAR race with both candidates present was for Treasurer General. After the short speeches and questions, a motion was made NOT to formally endorse either TG candidate. The basis was the longstanding service, reputations, applicable experience, and historically positive interactions with both candidates.

The current TG, William Greenly, responded to many questions related to the current financial status of the NSSAR. This included explaining the historical basis for the current shortfall in revenue versus budget, as well as expense overruns and borrowing. He indicated the planned central dues system was on hold due to cost containment measures, along with repurposing of the HQ staff and other cost cutting actions related to the General Fund.



Though not part of the agenda, there were side discussions related to the NSSAR Congress awarded to Ohio. The upshot is that Ohio promoted Cincinnati for the event, but the SAR planners rejected this idea for several reasons and put Columbus forward. This matter of location appears to still be open until after New Year. I found the meeting to be semi-formal, with good-natured kidding and self-deprecating humor as time allowed, but pretty strict adherence to the allotted timeframes for each agenda item.

At the dinner I sat with TG Greenly and Oration Chairman Bredenfoerder (OH). The dinner speaker was Joshua Sheperd, a sculptor and writer on the Revolution. He was accompanied by his two sons, who were exceptionally well-mannered young men and interesting to converse with.

The speaker's topic was Lochry's Defeat, which was presented in detail and in scholarly fashion. Essentially, Geroge Rogers Clark with 400 Virginians were hoping to receive reinforcements from Pennsylvania and Virginia before heading to Detroit to engage the British. Due to state rivalries and concerns about leaving the home front undefended, only Col. Archibald Lochry at the head of 107 PA militia responded. After waiting near present-day Wheeling, WVA for Lochry's arrival, Clark finally decided he needed to start his expedition before the Virginia men got too restless and wanted to go home, i.e. desert. He left a message that he would proceed slowly down the Ohio River and that Lochry should hasten to catch up. He also left a small detachment with supplies and to act as guides around present-day Cincinnati.

Ironically, Lochry arrived the day after Clark departed.

Knowing Clark was planning an expedition, British command at Detroit requested that allied Mohawk Chief, Joseph Brant, come west to bolster forces opposing Clark. Brant and about 100 Iroquois and irregulars arrived at the

intersection of the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers in the area of Lawrenceburg, IN in time to see Clark's much larger force pass down the river near Aurora. Capturing the guides left to assist Lochry, Brant became aware by reading letters and dispatches that a more manageable force to attack would be passing shortly.

On the morning of August 24, 1781, Lochry had his boats put to shore along a northern tributary stream of the Ohio River so the men could eat and animal's graze after 48 hours of nonstop travel. Totally, unaware of Brant's presence on the wooded high ground above the chosen camp site and not taking proper defensive precautions, the Pennsylvanians were caught completely off guard by Brant's ambush attack. While the forces were equal in number and there was some resistance, essentially a massacre occurred, with 37 of the Pennsylvanians killed, and the rest wounded and/or captured. None of Brant's forces suffered significant casualties and all remained combat fit. American survivors reported that some of the prisoners were killed after surrendering, including Col. Lochry. Brant exerted his utmost efforts to intervene and thus prevented additional attacks on the prisoners.

As a result of these losses, Clark terminated his 1781 Detroit expedition due to having an insufficient force to assault Detroit.

The five graves marked were those of men killed on this site.

All in all, it was a great experience and visiting other district meetings will be on the horizon.



