



# Oregon Compatriot Volume 1 Issue 4



OREGON SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Volume 1 Issue 4

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## NSSAR 119th Congress - Ken Betterton

The 119th Congress held in Atlanta, Georgia earlier this month and was attended by over 500 members and guest. This was an increase over last year which was surprising given the economy. This was my second Congress that I have attend, the first being last year in Sacramento. Also attending the Congress with our National Trustee Bob Bogardus

I've been impressed both times by the organization of the Congress, given that a lot of the work is done by volunteer, who come together for this one event each year. We had

lots of good fellowship, and meeting of new friends.

The major focus at the Congress was on the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. We have now reached the 6 million dollar mark of a total goal of 10 million. We raised more than \$300,000 alone during the Congress. On Sunday afternoon the Trustee increased the authorization of Phase 1 of the build out to 2.6 million dollars. Construction

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## Congratulation - Oregon Society



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## This Day in History July 14, 1798

### Sedition Act becomes Federal Law

On this day in 1798, one of the most egregious breaches of the U.S. Constitution in history becomes federal law when Congress passes the Sedition Act, endangering liberty in the fragile new nation. While the United States engaged in naval hostilities with Revolutionary France, known as the Quasi-War, Alexander Hamilton and congressional Federalists took advantage of the public's wartime fears and drafted and passed the Alien and Sedition Acts, without first consulting President John Adams. The first three acts took aim at the rights of immigrants. The period of residency required before immigrants could apply for citizenship was extended from five to 14 years, and the president gained the power to detain and deport those he deemed enemies. President Adams never took advantage of his newfound ability to deny rights to immigrants. However, the fourth act, the 'Sedition Act,' was put into practice and became a black mark on the nation's reputation. In

direct violation of the Constitution's guarantee of freedom of speech, the Sedition Act permitted the prosecution of individuals who voiced or printed what the government deemed to be "Malicious" remarks about the president or government of the United States. Fourteen Republicans, mainly journalists, were prosecuted, and some imprisoned, under the act. In opposition to the Alien and Sedition Acts, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison drafted the Virginia and Kentucky Resolves, declaring the acts to be a violation of the First and Tenth Amendments. President Adams appalled at where Hamilton and the congressional Federalists were leading the country under the guise of wartime crisis, tried to end the undeclared war with France to undercut their efforts. He threatened to resign from the presidency and leave the Federalists with Republican Vice President Thomas Jefferson if they did not heed his call for peace. Adams succeeded in quashing Hamilton and the Federalists' schemes, but ended any hope of his own reelection in the process.

[www.history.net](http://www.history.net)

## President's Corner

My congratulations to the Lewis & Clark Chapter for producing a video of the Memorial Day Ceremony at Willamette National Cemetery. For this they received "The Partners in Patriotism Certificate" at the National Congress earlier this month. I also know that the Central Coast Chapter participated in a parade on Memorial Day in Reedsport. They refurbished an old float the chapter has used in previous years. On the float was a tent, cannons, and a stack of muskets. Various Revolutionary flags flew around the sides of the float. I represented the Southern Oregon Chapter by placing a wreath at the Memorial Day Ceremony in Grants Pass, in addition I also attended a service held in Grants Pass on Armed Services Day as well as the Flag Day Ceremony.

I would like to really participate this year on the "Wreathes Across America" to be held in December. In Oregon there are three National Cemeteries at which we could place wreathes. Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Roseburg National Cemetery in Roseburg and Eagle Point Cemetery in Eagle Point (near Medford). So I wish that the chapters near these three cemeteries would help participate in this annual event.

Remember, Compatriots on October 24th the annual meeting of the Oregon Society will be held at the Holiday Inn in Wil-

sonville. There will be a business meeting in the afternoon followed by a banquet that evening. The DAR and CAR will be invited, awards will be presented including the presentation of the Eagle Scout trophy to Andrew Janzen. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending this meeting.

Lastly the Pacific District meeting consisting of Oregon, Washington and Alaska Societies will be having their meeting in Portland on March 26 - 27, 2010. President General Ed Butler will be attending as well as some of our other National leaders.

**\*\*\* In Memory of Bernard Alan Smith III \*\*\***



**May 8, 1947 - April 29, 2009**

I joined the SAR in 2000, and nearly to the day, three years later, became acquainted with Bernie, an older gentleman we'd welcomed into membership. He regularly attended meetings with his younger "chauffeur," and both were quick to extend their hands, along with a ready grin or hi-ball salute. I looked forward to seeing them each month.

Bernard Allen Smith, Jr. and Bernard Allen Smith, III, were father and son with obviously a caring relationship. Al lived down the coast, and he came to Northeast Portland each month to bring his dad to the meetings. Both were active participants in chapter affairs, and Bernie's passing a year or more ago was especially hard on Al who had, meanwhile, become Oregon Society President. Loss of his dad added the burden of carrying for his mother, long-distance. It was a shock, then to read of Al's death in a car accident last week near his Tidewater, Oregon home. I shall personally miss him, and our chapter has lost a leader, most

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## Chapter News

### Southern Oregon Chapter

The Southern Oregon Chapter is now meeting at Habernos on Front Street in Medford on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning at noon.

On Memorial Day ceremonies in Grants Pass the Chapter placed a wreath in memory of those veterans from the Grants Pass area who gave their lives to this Country. Members were also present during Flag Day ceremonies in Grants Pass.

Currently in the application process are two new members; Alfred Greishaber, whose application is pending at the National Society and William Butcher, whose application is being prepared for submission to the National Society.

### Lewis and Clark Chapter

The Lewis and Clark Chapter continues to meet at the Beaverton Library on the first Saturday of each month, beginning at 11 a.m., and for those who wish following the meeting at a nearby restaurant.

The Memorial Committee has reported that they have raised a little over \$4,000 for the project. The plans are currently at the architect for final work up. When the plans are completed they will be placed out for bids. The committee is preparing a presentation to the State of Oregon in September.

The Chapter Color Guard participated at Memorial Day Service at Willamette National Cemetery and also in Beaverton, Oregon. The Chapter also marched in the July 4th celebration in Hillsboro, Oregon. Next month they will participate in

### Republic Chapter

The Republic Chapter continues to meet on the third Saturday of each month at Sizzler Restaurant located at 1151 Lancaster Drive NE in Salem, Oregon. Compatriot President Betterton all members of the Oregon Society to their meeting beginning at noon.

The May meeting speaker was Compatriot Colin Armstrong who presented a presentation on the Evergreen Aviation Museum that is located in McMinnville. One of their main attractions is Howard Hughes famous "Spruce Goose".

The June meeting speaker was Judy Van Atta, who spoke about the Newell House. This was the home of Robert Newell, who played a principle roll in Oregon Statehood in 1859. Robert Newell was the first Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives. The house is now owned and operated by the Oregon Society Daughters of the American Revolution.



Lewis & Clark Chapter  
July 4th - Hillsboro, Oregon

one of the shortest parades in Multnomah Days. The parade is all of two blocks long.

The Lewis & Clark Chapter will be holding its 5th annual summer picnic in Wilsonville on Saturday, **August 22nd**. This is a potluck is open to all SAR, DAR, and CAR members in Oregon. Direction to Memorial Park: Exit 283 from I-5 head East on Wilsonville Road to the Park entrance.

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of another Past State President Rola "Rod" A Cook. Rod passed away suddenly on May 27, 2009.



The Newell House - Champoege, Oregon



## Chapter News

### Central Coast Chapter

The Central Coast Chapter continues to meet United Methodist Church located at 3520 Frontage Road in Reedsport on the second Saturday of every month. The meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. and are followed by lunch the Chinese Restaurant.

In May the Chapter participated in the Memorial Day Parade held in Reedsport. The Chapter remodeled their float the year. The float consisted of a pup tent up front with cannons on each side and a place for stacked muskets in the center. The float surrounded by Revolutionary period flags. Compatriot also handed out flyers which described the different flags that appeared on the float.

Compatriot President Jim Ives was honored to give the Invocation and Benediction at the Memorial Day Services.

During the June meeting President Jim Ives presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Compatriot Josh "Doc" Goldberg for all the work he has done to promote the SAR.

The speaker for the July meeting will be Emily Phillips, President of the Oregon Society Children of the American Revolution. Her project is to help raise money for Children's Cancer Association.



President Jim Ives presenting  
Compatriot "Doc" Goldberg with a  
Certificate of Appreciation



Coast Chapter's Float

### Distribution of Oregon Compatriot

The cost continue to rise in producing a quality newsletter for the members of the Society. The Oregon Society Board of Manager feel very strongly about keeping the member informed on the activities of the Society as well as what is going on at the Chapters level. In order to keep costs down we have decided to provide the Oregon Compatriot in electronic form. The newsletter will be e-mail to all Compa-

triot's beginning with the next issue in October. The Oregon Compatriot will be posted on the Oregon Society Web site <http://www.sar.org/orssar/>. A e-mail notice will be sent to you advising you of the posting. Therefore we are requesting that you contact Compatriot Eugene Melvin by e-mail at [eugene@melvin.com](mailto:eugene@melvin.com) to advise him of your e-mail address.

**\*\*\* In Memory of Bernard Alan Smith III\*\*\***

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recently our chaplain.

Both Al and Bernie were holders of the SAR War Service Medal and their Patriot Ancestor was Lewis Christ Smith.

Neil Verigan - Chapter Historian

I have known Al for the last eight years and during that period we became very close friends. Al was President of the Oregon Society in 2007 during a period when the Oregon Society was going through a very difficult time. It was through his leadership that the Society held together and has reorganized into a much stronger organization. Al represented the Society at a District Meeting in Tacoma, Washington and came away with many new ideas

on what the Society could do to promote education and patriotism in our communities.

Bob Bogardus - National Trustee

Al was State President during the "turmoil years" of our society, those of us who were close to him knew that he did his best. No one can ask for more. I'm sure there are some compatriots that will disagree with my thoughts, but I had the pleasure of leaning on him for guidance, as I was elevated to the position of President a lot sooner than I anticipated. No one can say that he was not true to the SAR. Even after his term was up, he continued to be involved in the work of the Society, particularly in the Lewis & Clark Chapter.

Don Thomas - President



Compatriots who attended Al Smith's funeral at the Willamette National Cemetery on May 8th are from Left to Right: Bennett Wight, [privacy invoked], Dave Guiel, Larry Heckethorne, Larry Mylnechuk, Mark Robertson and Willis Meisenheimer. Not pictured are Eugene Melvin Johnny Alexander, Myrna Alexander and Bernard Smith IV (Lanny)

## NSSAR 119th Congress - Ken Betterton

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should start within a few weeks with completion of the Library set for by fall of 2010. It will continue to be important for SAR members to keep contributing to this fund raising effort.

I attended the Memorial Service on Sunday afternoon. The Memorial Service remembers all Compatriots who have passed away during the previous year. Particular remembrances are given for the oldest compatriots; the compatriots who have been members of the Society many years and those compatriots who have been National Leaders and their Ladies. This years service was held at the First Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia was very impressive and moving.

There was a room which regional and local authors who have written books on the American Revolutionary War. The authors were there talking about and selling their books. As we all know, there were many important battles in the Carolina and Georgia.

One of the highlights of the Congress occurs on Sunday evening when we have the opportunity to hear the finalist of the Joseph Rumbaugh Oration Contest. The winner this year was a very impressive young man from Texas who spoke on George Washington.

The speaker at the Tuesday night banquet was Representa-

tive Roy Blount from Missouri. He is a member of the SAR and also Minority Whip in the US House of Representatives. He grew up in Springfield, Missouri area with President General David Appleby.

I attended on Monday evening the awards presentations ceremony; The Oregon Society received the Colorado Award, which is given to the State Society with the largest increase in membership with over 100 members. The Lewis & Clark Chapter received the Partners in Patriotism Award for their participation in Memorial Day Ceremony at Willamette National Cemetery and congratulation goes out to Willis Meisenheimer of the Republic Chapter, who received the Liberty Medal. This award is given to compatriots who are first line sponsors of 10 or more new members each year.

Compatriot Bob Bogardus was re-elected National Trustee again and with the death of Al Smith we are looking for an Alternate National Trustee.

The 120th Congress will be held in Cleveland, Ohio and will convene a week earlier beginning on June 26, 2010.

## Membership Fees Increases

During the Spring Leadership Conference the Trustee forward to the 119th Congress for approval an increase in the Application Fees for new membership to the Society. The fees that were proposed would change the Application Fees from the current \$60 to \$120 effective January 1, 2010. To offset the change the \$25 annual dues for new members would be waived for the second year. Thereby the actual net increase would only be \$35.

There was a very active debate from the floor of the Congress which resulted in a change in the proposal that was recommended by the Board of Trustees. The final proposal that passed by a very narrow margin was only and increase in the Application Fee by \$20. The executive committee then withdrew the proposal of waiving the second year of dues for new members.

The results of the change in fees would not bring enough income into the Society to allow us to hire an additional

part time genealogist. Without this additional genealogist the approval time for new membership would slow back down to between 12 and 16 weeks from the preferred time frame of 8 to 10 weeks.

The Delegate then moved that annual dues be increased from \$25 to \$30 for regular members and from \$5 to \$10 for junior members per year. This motion also passed by a very narrow margin. As a result in the increase of due the Executive Committee has temporally discontinued the National Life Membership Program. All increases will become effective on January 1, 2010.

Chapter Officers should be aware of these changes as they prepare notices for dues for 2010 will be sent out within the next few months.



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**Pictures from the 119th Congress**



Georgia Society President Terry Manning  
Welcoming the members of the Society to Georgia  
119th Congress  
National Society Sons of the American Revolution



Assembling of the National Society Color Guard  
For the opening of the 119th Congress



SAR 1000 Club Breakfast  
119th Congress



President General David Appleby  
Conducting business of the  
119th Congress



**Pictures from the 119th Congress**



Pacific District attendees to the 119th Congress  
Left to right: Ken Betterton; Bob Bogardus; Janice Doughty; Bob Doughty and John Ellingson



President General's Banquet  
119th Congress



Installation of the General Officers  
2009-2010  
National Society Sons of the American Revolution



President General Stewart McCarty  
Presenting the Past President General's Badge  
To President General David Appleby  
119th Congress