



Anthony Halberstadt Chapter  
Indiana Society

Jeffrey W. Jones, President  
Dennis L. Wright, Vice-President  
A. Ray King, Secretary  
Jason P. Vasher, Treasurer  
William E. Sharp III, Registrar/Genealogist  
John E. Alexander II, Chaplain  
Don A. Melching, Historian  
Michael L. Adams, Sergeant at Arms

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Winter Meeting, December 5, 2020**  
**Zoom Online Meeting 10:00 a.m. EST**

**Opening Remarks:**

- President Jones welcomed the online attendees and provided an introduction to the Zoom virtual meeting.
- Secretary King led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
- Vice-President Wright led the group in reciting the SAR Pledge.
- Secretary King performed a roll call of Zoom participants. 15 Chapter members participated.

**Announcement of New Members:**

- President Jones indicated there were no new members since the last meeting

**Chapter Awards:**

- The following Anthony Halberstadt Chapter Awards were announced by President Jones:
  - Chapter Lydia Darragh Medal to Mrs. Martha Barnhart
  - Chapter Martha Washington Medal to Mrs. Jill Anne Wright
  - Chapter Roger Sherman Medal (Bronze) to Compatriot Minuteman Roger Barnhart
  - Chapter Roger Sherman Oak Leaf Cluster to Compatriot Jason Vasher
  - Chapter Meritorious Service Medals to Compatriots Dennis Wright and Ray King
  - Chapter Distinguished Service Medal to Compatriot William E. Sharp III
  - Chapter Daughters of Liberty Medal to Mrs. Janeen Peters

## **Awards and Recognition:**

President Jones announced the following awards had been issued by the National Society:

- Liberty Medal Oak Leaf Cluster W/Certificate – Compatriot William E. Sharp III
- Vice-President General Certificate – William E. Sharp III
- NSSAR Certificate of Appreciation – William E. Sharp III
- Partners in Patriotism Certificate – Awarded to Anthony Halberstadt Chapter for participation in 2019 Wreaths Across America at Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

## **Chapter Reports:**

- The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Compatriot Jason Vasher (Attached). He also provided an update on the fall membership drive.
- The Secretary's Report was presented by Secretary Compatriot Ray King. He reported membership currently stands at 85.
- There was no Registrar's or Color Guard Report.
- Committee Reports:
  - Veterans & Patriotism Programs Committee:
    - Committee Chairman Gary Stebbins provided an update on \$100 in dividends received from the Wreaths Across America organization for wreaths sponsored by chapter members. He indicated that chapter members had sponsored 37 wreaths this year. He also updated the group on the plans for the Wreaths Across America event at Lindenwood Cemetery on December 19, 2020 at 12:00 O'clock noon. The event will not be open to the public this year, but SAR and DAR members are welcome to attend and participate in wreath laying. There will be no indoor service this year due to COVID restrictions.
    - Compatriot Stebbins also reported that he had been in touch with several of the local high schools to determine if they planned to participate in JROTC awards next year. Most schools did not participate this year due to COVID shutdowns.
  - Eagle Scout: President Jones reported that Compatriot Jim Burk has been in contact with the District Scout Executive and they have published the application for Eagle Scouts to participate in our program this year.
  - Public Heroism: President Jones reported that Compatriot Greg Stier is working with local first responder organizations to identify and nominate a first responder to honor at each quarterly chapter meeting next year.

- Youth Programs:
  - Secretary King reported he is coordinating the Poster and Brochure contests for the Indiana Society this year. He has put out some preliminary information and is developing a contest schedule for the state. There is a possibility the contests will be judged virtually again this year and he is attempting to obtain guidance from National on the format preferred for virtual submissions. Vice-President Wright reported he is coordinating the contests at the chapter level and has been in contact with local schools and home school organizations and the only school that will participate in the Brochure Contest is St. Richards Episcopal in Indianapolis. They have submitted brochures for the last several years and intend to submit again this year. It appears submissions will come from two classes and so the total number of brochures submitted may be about double last year. So far there has been no interest in the poster contest.
  - SAR Knight Essay: Compatriot Jim Hamilton reported he has proactively contacted about 60% of Indiana school systems about the Essay Contest with good results. He expects to receive a number of good entries in the contest this year.
- History Teacher Contest: President Jones reported the Compatriot Asa Dunnington has agreed to lead the effort to develop entries for this contest. We had one entry in last year's contest and will need to determine how to advertise to attract more entrants.
- Medals and Awards: Secretary King will lead the Medals and Awards Committee for the next term. He reminded members of the numerous awards that are available that can be awarded with local approval and referenced the Chapter Committee Handbook starting on page 8 for a more complete listing.
- Webmaster: Secretary King indicated he had recently volunteered to get involved in updating the chapter website. It will be a learning experience for him and he asked for patience as he works on the website over the winter. He also asked members for suggestions on information they would like to see included on the website. One goal is to develop the ability to live stream future face-to-face meetings so that remote members can stay involved in chapter activities.

- Library Liaison: Compatriot Jim Hamilton reported that there have been no actives at the Library due to the COVID situation.
- Service Projects: President Jones reported that Compatriot Ron Kohart has volunteered to lead the effort to develop quarterly service projects.
- DAR Liaison: Jill Anne Wright reported that Mary Penrose Wayne DAR will be participating along with Anthony Halberstadt SAR in Wreaths Across America on December 19. She also reported the DAR had planned to have a ceremony for High School Senior Essay Contest awards at the Allen County Library in January 2021, but the library is closed and the status of that ceremony is unknown. She also reported she had stopped in at the library and found there had been no inquires about DAR membership and so she does not plan to go back until there is a COVID vaccine available. She will continue to work with potential members individually as needed.
- Committee Structure: President Jones described the extensive chapter committee structure that has been developed with the goal of getting more participation of members and to develop more chapter activities. He described the new effort to compete in the Americanism Competition and Compatriot Dave Peters has volunteered to coordinate reporting of the various committees' activities to compete for the award. He also indicated the need to develop a media relations effort to publicize chapter activities.

### **Old Business**

- Compatriot Roger Barnhart reported that a significant amount of work is currently underway to improve security at the National Main Street headquarters building in Louisville. He reported security glass has been installed in windows among other improvements due to the recent unrest in the area.
- Secretary King indicated the promised write up about family history books has been completed with the help of Compatriot Jim Hamilton and has been emailed to members. A copy is also attached to the minutes.

### **New Business:**

- A quorum as defined by the Chapter By-Laws was achieved to conduct new business.
- New Chapter By-Law Article X -Dues (Attached): Treasurer Vasher read a proposed new By-Law developed to codify the Chapter dues process. It is intended to document the process used to establish and revise dues or demit member dues in certain circumstances. After discussion, Vice-President Wright made a motion to accept the proposed addition to the Chapter By-Laws as

written, and the motion was seconded by several members. The By-law addition was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the members present.

- New Chapter By-Law Article XI (Attached): Treasurer Vasher read a proposed new Chapter By-Law to codify the Chapter Budget and disbursement process and to change the Chapter fiscal year to run from April 1 to March 31 to better align the Chapter with the State fiscal year. Changing the fiscal year will help simplify reconciling the membership renewals with the budget at the end of the year. After some discussion it was clarified that budget expenditures were limited to not exceed the approved annual budget in total, not by line item of the budget. The line items can vary somewhat as long as the approved total budget amount is not exceeded without approved of the members. Vice-President Wright made a motion to accept Article XI as written and the motion was seconded by several members. The By-Law addition was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the members present.
- 2021 Chapter Budget: President Jones and Treasurer Vasher provided an overview of a proposed budget for the next fiscal year (April 1, 2021– March 31, 2022). Treasurer Vasher reviewed the last two years of actuals compared to the proposed 2021 budget amounts in detail. Treasurer Vasher also discussed the carry-over required to bridge the first 3 months of 2021 due to change in the fiscal year. The proposed budget will be brought back for an approval vote at the March 2021 meeting.
- Excess Funds Discussion: President Jones and Treasurer Vasher discussed three proposals to potentially use some of the existing budget excess that is currently on hand. President Jones indicated that as a non-profit, it is not desirable to retain a significant amount of excess funds on hand. Possible contributions to the State Historical Marker Fund and State Youth Travel Restricted Fund were discussed along with establishing a Chapter Restricted Fund (possible rainy-day fund). President Jones asked that a small committee made up of Vice-President Wright, Compatriots Roger Barnhart and Pat Cave review possible uses of the excess funds and bring recommendations back at the March 2021 meeting.
- New Chapter By-Law: President Jones outlined the possible need for a change to the Chapter By-Laws to allow for future virtual meetings and for a virtual voting process for members. The current By-Laws do not address virtual meetings or voting. The State Society is currently drafting a similar By-Law revision and President Jones asked Secretary King to review the proposed State language and develop a similar proposal for discussion at a future meeting.
- Chapter Membership and Committee Handbooks: President Jones gave a quick overview of revised Chapter Membership and Committee handbooks that are

being developed. He would like to meet with new members immediately after induction and review the handbooks and various opportunities to become more involved in the Chapter.

- **New Tax Law:** Secretary King reported on an apparent change of tax law included in the CARES Act that might allow deducting up to \$300 of cash contributions made to approved charities, even if not itemizing deductions on the tax return. He suggested compatriots check with their tax advisor when filing taxes for 2020.
- **Election of 2021/2022 Chapter Officers:** President Jones reviewed a slate of proposed officers compiled by the Chapter Executive Committee. President Jones opened the floor for any other possible nominations. Hearing none, a motion was made to accept the nominations by Compatriot Roger Barnhart and seconded by several members. The slate of new officers was approved by a unanimous voice vote of members present. Newly elected Chapter officers are as follows:
  - **President:** Compatriot Jeffrey W. Jones
  - **Vice-President:** Compatriot A. Ray King
  - **Secretary:** Compatriot Jason P. Vasher
  - **Assistant Secretary:** Compatriot Dennis L. Wright
  - **Treasurer:** Compatriot James D. Hamilton
  - **Registrar/ Genealogist:** Compatriot William E. Sharp III
  - **Chaplain:** Compatriot John E. Alexander
  - **Historian:** Compatriot James T. Burk
  - **Sergeant-At-Arms:** Compatriot Gary R. Stebbins
  - **Webmaster:** Compatriot A. Ray King

New officer positions were effective upon the approval vote.

- President Jones reviewed the schedule of upcoming events and indicated that, at least for now, has been coordinated with the State Society and the DAR.

## Upcoming Events:

- Chapter Meeting Dates:
  - Executive Committee: February 20, 2021 (Zoom 10:00AM)
  - Chapter Meeting: March 20, 2021 in Decatur, IN
  - Executive Committee: May 22, 2021 (Zoom 10:00AM)
  - Chapter Meeting: June 19, 2021 in Fort Wayne, IN
  - Executive Committee: August 21, 2021 (Zoom 10:00AM)
  - Chapter Meeting: September 18, 2021 in Fort Wayne, IN
  - Executive Committee: November 13, 2021 (Zoom 10:00AM)
  - Chapter Meeting: December 4, 2021 in Fort Wayne, IN
- Other upcoming events:
  - December 19, 2020 – Wreaths Across America – Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne
  - March 3 – 7, 2021: National Spring Leadership
  - April 3, 2021: State HOD in Indianapolis area.
  - May TBD, 2021: Central District Annual Meeting
  - May 14 – 16, 2021: DAR State Congress
  - May 29, 2021: National George Rogers Clark Commemoration in Vincennes
- Vice-President Wright led the group in reciting SAR Recessional after which the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

## Family History Books

Jim Hamilton and Ray King

Family History Books can be a great aid in researching ancestral lines of the family and can provide a significant amount of biographical information not found in typical family tree charts or online databases. The biographical information can be a great aid in expanding knowledge of an early ancestor as a person and not just as another box on the tree chart. It can also provide research leads for other ancestor lines. Anyone using online tools such as Ancestry.com or similar have undoubtedly run into references from a Family History document or passages from a page. As it turns out, quite a number of these history books have been reproduced and are available for purchase from sources such as Amazon.com and other booksellers at very reasonable prices.

One large publisher is Forgotten Books ([www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com)). According to their website they have 1,271,515 books available to read online, download as eBooks, or purchase in print. Family History books can be found by navigating to Administrative Records/ Genealogy or by using the search tool.

Another good publisher is Scholar Select. Their publications are available from a wide range of booksellers (including Amazon.com). Scholar Select states “This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible.” What this means is the original book has been scanned and the reproduction is only as good as the original document.

Another great online resource for rare old books that have been replicated is Internet Archive. For example, if you go to this website and do a search in the website for Stark County Ohio, you can see all of the information that has been archived. <https://archive.org/index.php> As another example using Stark County if you do an internet search on the History Stark County and see the Archive result it will take you to the archived book. You can follow this as an example: <https://archive.org/details/historyofstarkco00perr>. Once the book has loaded you can then search for any content that you want in the book by using the search inside query on the page. For an example if you put in Pennock, which is a family name, it will pull up all information in this book that relates to Pennocks.

<https://archive.org/details/historyofstarkco00perr/page/n6/mode/2up?q=pennock> This has been an invaluable resource to find old books that contain a wealth of information for genealogy work as well the history of a family.

Lastly, another great resource is the Hathi Trust. If you go to this website you can find all of the books and information that they have in their library. It is HUGE. <https://www.hathitrust.org/> Just as a quick example you can do a search on the book Ohio Country. You will find this in their library. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/ls?field1=ocr;q1=ohio%20country;a=srchls;lmt=ft> Many of these books are now in the public domain in the US and as such may be freely copied and distributed.

Happy hunting!