



The Drumbeat

Official Publication of
The Sons of the American Revolution
Washington State Color Guard



31 Mar 2026 (1st Qtr. Jan/Feb/Mar)

Your Color Guard's Activity



Winter 2026

(Documenting the 1st Quarter)

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**America's First Veterans
And The Face Of The
SAR**

From The State SAR Color Guard Commander

Compatriots,

It's been a slow start to the year so far but things are set to pick up as we head into April and start looking to the summer months. I want to remind everyone of the upcoming American Revolution Veterans Memorial unveiling that will be taking place on April 19th in Beaverton, Oregon. More information can be found [here](#). Then we have our state conference the following weekend in SeaTac at the Seattle Airport Marriott. It's shaping up to a good one with numerous CG awards that will be awarded during the conference. In addition, it will be considered a national CG event as PG Elston will be in attendance.

With my wonderful wife's help, I have been working hard on a pleasant surprise for the CG for this year's conference and it's one that all attendees will enjoy seeing. More to come at the conference.

Looking past April there are numerous events coming up and I continue to receive requests for the CG, unfortunately some of them have to be turned down even though I'd love to be able to fulfill all requests. I look forward to seeing many of you next month at the state conference.



Respectfully Submitted, [Eric Olsen](#), Commander, Color Guard, WA State SAR.

From The Deputy Commander

All Chapter CG Captains: See this [LINK](#)

Color Guard Patches Available: I still have a **limited quantity** of the sew on Color Guard Patches. They are available at a cost of \$4.00 each. If you want them mailed the postage cost is: 3 or less (\$1.00) 4 to 6 (\$2.00) 7 to 9 (\$3.00). Send me, [Dick Motz](#), an E-Mail for purchase.

NOTE: Authorized for WA State Color Guard members only.

The patch measures 4"x4".



"America 250" & "SAR" Hawaiian shirts are still available at this [LINK](#)

Respectfully Submitted, [Dick Motz](#),
Deputy Commander, Color Guard, WA State SAR

2026 State Conference



APRIL 24 & 25

SEATAC, WA

Our annual conferences offer a unique opportunity to connect with fellow members and celebrate our shared history and patriotism. This event promises a mix of engaging activities, recognition of compatriot accomplishments, educational workshops, and historical discussions, all while enjoying the camaraderie of our society.

We especially encourage newer members to attend, as it's a fantastic way to meet others, learn about our ongoing work, and discover ways to get involved. Don't miss out on this exciting chance to deepen your connection with SAR!

Host Chapter | [George Rogers Clark](#)

More Information at this [LINK](#)

Only two weeks away!!!

Chapter Local News

None reported

Northern Region Events

16 Feb: Members of the WASSAR Color Guard and Fife and Drum gathered on the University of Washington Campus for the 117th annual George Washington Statue Memorial Celebration. This yearly event held by Greater Seattle DAR Regents Council. Color guard members from the Alexander Hamilton, Cascade Centennial, George Rogers Clark, George Washington, Seattle participated in the event by playing the fife & drum, carrying flags and wreath laying. The weather was pleasant but a bit on the chilly side.



CG members in uniform were: Richard Whittemore, Edwin Dierdorff Jr, Ken Graalum, Jim Carpenter, Stan Granberg, Eric Olsen, Tim Smith, Charley Frisk, Neil Vernon, Art Dolan, Bill Bentler, Dick Moody, Rod Jenny, Viren Lemmer, Mike Bendicksen, Lawrence Bowman, Terry Church.

DAR participating (F&D): Stephanie Conroy, Melonie Liening, Alonde Droege, Terry Barker, Ralph Liening (Hodar)

Southern Region Events

8 Jan: The George Rogers Clark Chapter and the Sacajawea Chapter (DAR) participated in a 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence. The program began with a 15-minute introduction of events leading up to and culminating in the Declaration. The historical summary was followed by a reading of the document by members of the SAR & DAR chapter in the Lacey City Council Chambers. The program was live broadcast so the family members and community could watch the reading in real time. Historical programs are sponsored by the Lacey Public Library. The program will be repeated on January 10th at the George Rogers Clark Chapter meeting at the Lacey Veterans center beginning at 9:30 AM. Perhaps the most surprising result of this presentation was the deep emotional impact on the live audience resulting in silence and reflective thought of its relevance today. Prior to a Q&A the audience was to follow the guidelines of "Thomas Paine" when he wrote "Let the names of Whig and Tory be extinct..." in any comments or questions presented. It was added "... or whatever political names may be used today."

(l-r) Nicki Faust, Art Dolan, Tani Fortune, Dennis Case,



Suzanne Schumann



27 Jan: DAR Winter BOD Meeting. The Colors were posted by the Blue Angel Sea Cadets. Our CG Commander Eric Olsen and the WA St Fife & Drum Corp also supported the event. Members present were: Mike Bendickson, Tim Smith, Viron Lemmer, Jan Lemmer and two DAR members, Stephanie Conroy, & Terry Barker.

11 Feb: Members of the Washington State Color Guard posted colors for the WA State Senate for the 2nd year in a row. Four chapters were represented.

Eric Olsen (Commander)	George Rogers Clark
Jan Lemer (Fife & Drum)	Alexander Hamilton
William Bentler (CG Captain)	George Washington
Larry Heckethorne (CG Captain)	Fort Vancouver

Drummer Jan Lemmer has now drummed in CG members in both the House & Senate in the capital. The comment "It's good to see some color here" was heard several times.



1 Mar: Members of the George Rogers Clark CG led by WASSAR CG Commander Eric Olsen and members of the WASSAR Fife and Drum Corp led by National Fife and Drum Major Viren Lemmer met up once again. This time it was to post colors for the new WSSDAR Chloe Clark Chapter at their organizational meeting in DuPont, WA city hall.

Standing: (l-r) Art Dolan, Lawrence Bowman, Melanie Liening, Alonde Droege, Charlie Frisk. Terry Barker, Stephanie Conroy, Lew Maudsley Howard Stephen, Dick Moody, Jeni Swenson (DAR)

Front: (l-r) Jan Lemmer, Viren Lemmer, Eric Olsen

27 Feb: Members of WASSAR CG from the Alexander Hamilton, George Rogers Clark and George Washington Chapters traveled to Mt Tahoma for a service to honor 5 veterans. WASSAR CG Commander Eric Olsen joined the procession of over 30 vehicles that started at the Chehalis Veterans Museum as they travelled up to Mt Tahoma to escort the cremains of Shelva Jennings, U.S. Army, Michael Braroe, U.S. Army, Troyce Stirkins, U.S. Army, Roger Thompson, U.S. Navy, and Thor Silva, U.S. Army. Once at Mt Command WASSAR CG Commander Olsen joined the other members of the CG and participated in honoring the 5 veterans. The weather was pleasant and the event was well attended.

(l-r) Ralph Liening (Hodar), Jim Carpenter, John Herr, William Bentler, Mike Moore, Jerry Bordelon, Lawrence Bowman, Eric Olsen.



28 Feb: Members of the George Rogers Clark chapter color guard led by WASSAR CG Commander Eric Olsen gathered on Tenino, WA to post colors for the new Ann Cochran Chapter WSSDAR at their organizational meeting on Feb 28, 2026. Joining them was the WASSAR Fife and Drum Corp led by Viren Lemmer. The ladies were excited to have the color guard them and many thanks were received.

Standing (l-r): Art Dolan, Tim Smith, Terry Church, Terry Barker, Alonde Droege, Stephanie Conroy, Lew Maudsley, Melanie Liening, Dick Moody.

In front: Eric Olsen, Jan Lemmer, Viren Lemmer, Charlie Frisk.

21 Mar: Members from the Alexander Hamilton, George Rogers Clark, Seattle Chapters, and the WASSAR Fife and Drum Corp participated in the annual “WA St Patroit Day” (AKA massing of the Colors). The event took place at the Pioneer Middle School in DuPont. Surprisingly the event had fewer CG members this year and even the audience seemed to have fewer people. They changed it up a bit this year and had members from the Spirit of 76 group in British uniforms “occupying Boston”. After they marched out the SAR marched in led by the Fife and Drum Corp. The CG in the adult group took 1st place one again!
 Member present were: (Back row l-r) Neil Vernon, Stan Granberg, Mike Moore, Viren Lemmer, Dennis Case, Tim Smith, Mike Bendickson, (front row) Alonde Droege, Terry Barker, Stephanie Conroy, Eric Olsen.



Eastern Region Events

No events reported

Western Region Events

14 Mar: The John Paul Jones Chapter celebrated the Military Appreciation Day/250th Celebration with an education booth celebrating Our 1st Veterans. Severa hundred visitors stopped by to learn about life as a continental soldier, colonial life and the struggles of pre and post American Revolution. On display was an actual 1781 Newspaper showing the Stamp Act, a 1776 musket along with the daily things that soldier and colonist would use. Mick Hersey, JOJ Chapter VP, displayed his extensive family tree showing family lineage supporting his SAR and ancestral background. The booth was manned by , Mick Hersey, Noah Chase, Fred Gilbert, Brian Door, Perry Tailor, and Brian Burch

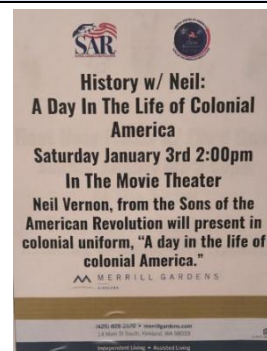


Presentations (Summary)

Note: photos with students are no longer provided due to restrictions

3 Jan: Seattle Presentation to Merrill Gardens Seniors. Neil Vernon (Seattle) and Tim Doughty (Ranger) presented the “Colonial Life” program to the residents of Merrill Gardens. It was a good experience for all and augmented seniors recent viewing of the Ken Burns “American Revolution” and provided additional insight on the daily life of the colonists and the trials they faced. In addition, the events of 1775 were discussed, leading up to a reading of the Declaration. A Certificate of Appreciation and a Challenge coin was presented to the Activities Coordinator, Brie Blake.

The presenters also had the opportunity to present a flag certificate to the facility!



23 Feb: Compatriots Richard Roddy, Larry Flint, Kelly Schultz along with Karen Schultz gave a presentation on the Day in the Life of Colonial America to two Fifth grade classes in the gym at Finley Elementary School in Finley.

24 Feb: The John Paul Jones Chapter gave a presentation to Trail Life Troop 1517, Tacoma, WA. The evening presentation was given by the JPJ Chapter Education Coordinator, Fred Gilbert. There were 47 scouts ages seven to twelve and six troop leaders. The presentation included chats about; life in Boston, the Intolerable Acts, the militia on Lexington Green, the Declaration of Independence and life of revolutionary soldier. The boys learned about the skills that they will learn and how these skills were used in every day life during the colonial time period, especially the soldiers. The presenter was Fred Gilbert the JPJ CG Captain and Education Coordinator.



2 Mar: The Seattle Chapter Education team presented to 3 classes at the West Mercer Elementary School on Mercer Island. Compatriots Grant Rauzi and Neil Vernon of Seattle and Michael Moore of Alexander Hamilton presented to the 64 students. We had a special treat this with Washington State C.A.R. President Danika Bendickson presenting "Youth in the Revolution". Following Danika's Presentation, the presentation was given with emphasis on the Declaration of Independence and the signers. A reading of the preamble was also included. After the presentations, Compatriot Neil Vernon presented a framed copy of the Declaration of Independence to the primary instructor, Julie Langley. Danika in her colonial clothing.

11 Mar: GRC Chapter member Eric Olsen attended the PNW-ACBS (Pacific Northwest Antique & Collectable Boat Society) meeting to talk about the SAR and give a presentation on Colonial Naval flags that would have been in use during the American Revolution. This was a lead up to the PNW-ACBS Opening Day of Boating on May 2nd on Lake Union in which SAR CG members and DAR members will participate.



17 Mar: Compatriots Richard Roddy, Kelly Schultz and Larry Flint, along with Karren Schultz, representing the DAR and Jan Hughes, Ladies Auxiliary and her mascot Niles, attended a lunch and gave a presentation on the Sons & Daughters of the American Revolution, our Patriot Ancestors, uniforms and Colonial Artifacts to the Kennewick 1st Presbyterian Church.

20 Mar: The Seattle Education team gave a presentation to the Cascade K-8 Community School in Shoreline, Washington. 48 students of the 4th and 5th grade classes learned about the purpose of learning history, with special emphasis on the reading of the Declaration of Independence. They also learned how the youth assisted in the Revolution, Soldier Uniforms, and what life was like in the 1770's. After the presentation, Compatriot Neil Vernon presented to the school a framed copy of the Declaration of Independence. Compatriots in colonial attire were: Neil Vernon, Grant Rauzi, Richard Seeder, and Tim Doughty.





???: The JPJ Education team and the DAR gave 9 presentations to 158 students and 5 teachers at Hidden Creek Elementary 4th grade classes. The presentations talked about: 1) Western Frontier Life and the struggles living on the frontier, their use of a colonial made rifle and using their skills in the American Revolution on the front; 2) How farm families grew sheep for wool, flax for clothing and demonstrated how the farming family would spin make the wool and raw flax to make thread then use the thread to weave cloth; and 3) Life in Boston from 1765 to 1775 discussing the 1765 Stamp Act, Boston Tea Party and the Declaration of Independence and we are celebrating its 250th year since its signing on July 4th, 1776.

30 Mar: The Kingston Boy Scouts of America Troop 1555 invited the John Paul Jones Chapter to participate in the Blue and Gold Banquet celebrating the bridging of Cub Scouts to the Boy Scouts. Fred Gilbert the JPJ Education Coordinator and Eagle Scout participate in this celebration. Fred gave a presentation comparing the skill learned in the scouting program to the skills use by a Continental soldier from fire building using flint and steel, sewing, preparing the ground to sleep, covers, bathing and flowing the scout oath of, "Do your best, to do your duty". Fred was dressed as a Sgt in the Continental Uniform. The banquet was attended by 25 scouts and 18 adults.



31 Mar: The John Paul Jones Chapter was supported by Pam Gassman of the DAR at two speaking engagements at the Swasey Branch of the Tacoma Public Library on 31 March. Approximately 32 individuals, both young and old, attended the open presentations. The topics were Washington's Spies in the Revolution and Women in the American Revolution.

Article submission, Deadlines, and Publication Dates

All Chapter CG Captains: If you want your events documented in this publication, please submit the below...

- Any notable **Chapter CG News**. Be sure to include (who/what/when/where) and a group photo.
- A summary text and a group photo for all your **Completed CG Events** for the CG newsletter.
- Any other **SAR CG related** news you would like posted.
- You can also Download the [NL Check List](#)
- Each article must be in **MS Word** format (text only) preferred font is **Calibri**.
- Any related photos are to be in **JPG** or **PNG** format.
- Formatting of the article is not required as it will be reformatted to fit space available.
- Would like articles to be submitted within a week of the event but **NLT** the **25th day of the last month** of the quarter (below). Exceptions will be made for events occurring after the deadline.

Send to: the [Newsletter Editor](#)

<i>Edition</i>	<i>Qtr</i>	<i>Published on</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Winter	1	31 Mar +/-	1 Jan to 31 Mar	No later than 25 Mar
Spring	2	30 June +/-	1 Apr to 30 Jun	No later than 25 Jun
Summer	3	30 Sep +/-	1 Jul to 30 Sep	No later than 25 Sep
Fall	4	31 Dec +/-	1 Oct to 31 Dec	No later than 25 Dec



Dick Motz
WA St Color Guard
Newsletter Editor

Thank you, the editor.