

# PERPETUATING AMERICA'S HERITAGE

## What Value Do You Place On Your Membership?

It was only after we moved out West did we come to appreciate the vastness of the plains, the high and low deserts, and geology of the Rocky Mountains. As a cul-de-sac cowboy now residing in Utah's Dixie, I can better relate to the views of Western attitudes. That said I bring to the West my feelings on membership in the largest male lineage organization in the country - the Sons of the American Revolution.

From Idaho Historian Eddie McClure, I have learned that the Idaho Society was organized in 1909. It remained a society of no chapters or a society of one until 1941 when the Old Fort Hall Chapter was chartered in Pocatello. Since that time, other chapters have come into and gone out of existence in Idaho leaving only the Boise Chapter to support state wide activities. Fortunately last year, a new chapter was organized and chartered in Idaho Falls. Chapters, you see, are the spawning ground for future leaders.

In the past several years through the efforts of certain individuals, the census of the Idaho Society has grown at an unprecedented rate. And while these developments are encouraging, the future of the Idaho Society stands at a crossroad.

Today the Idaho Society will install new officers. The state of affairs is delicate considering that it is transitioning its power and support to a new team. It will be this group of officers that will perpetuate the American heritage. The challenge they have is to uphold the national and state society constitutions and bylaws. Your charge is to assist, support and encourage them in the discharge of their duties. If you do this, you are not only helping to advance patriotism, you are ensuring that your heritage continues to advance. So, the question is this, do you value your heritage enough to advance its worth to future generations? The answer lies within

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the membership's charge to assist, support and encourage...simply put – get involved as a volunteer with your elected officers. The direction of patriotic service is a two-way street.

Over a decade ago, your national leaders saw a vision and eventually coined its name...The SAR Center for Advancing America's Heritage. So,.....

## What Is The SAR Center for Advancing America's Heritage?

In 2008 a special advisory task force composed of dozens of dedicated compatriots worked on this question with the purpose of defining the functions of The SAR Center in enough detail so that feedback could be given to the national trustees. At that time the functions of the library, the Center store, the galleries, and the educational programming were to be completed simultaneously in a single move to West Main Street Louisville, Kentucky.

The task force's work ultimately divided into phases created by the pressing need of an expanded genealogical library and the necessary funding to complete The SAR Center. Phase I included the construction space for the new library and the mail order merchandise operation. These functions were operational by 2010. Thus began the transition of moving a portion of the headquarters from South Fourth Street to West Main Street. Now the Sons of the American Revolution are engaged in finishing Phase II and fundraising for Phase III. With the sale of the South Fourth Street facility last year, all the national staff now works under the same roof on Louisville's Main Street. The remaining three functions – the Center store, galleries, and educational programming – remain in various stages of development or refinement and, unlike the new and expanded genealogical research library; these functions are new territory for the Sons of the American Revolution.

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The SAR Center is defined as the educational outreach or public face of the Sons of the American Revolution. It seeks to present to the community-at-large visions and lessons from the Revolutionary War era that enable citizens to understand and appreciate the principles of responsible citizenship.

The SAR Center is primarily an extension of the Sons of the American Revolution's congressional charge that is to preserve family records, teach the founding era's history and to promote patriotism. It also houses the headquarters staff. It is composed of the national headquarters, an education component and a library component. The SAR Center will be, when completely finished, the public face of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The SAR Center will be open to the public to promote the objectives of the Sons of the American Revolution. The library already operates on selected Saturdays of every month. The SAR Center will offer visitors inspiring and entertaining programs that teach the value of their cultural unity and lessons from our shared heritage.

Finally, The SAR Center will feature programs using multimedia techniques that are informative and engaging for local chapter use. The content for these presentations will be unique to the American Revolutionary War period. Recently every state society president received two new DVDs produced by the national education committee and distributed by the education component of The SAR Center. These DVDs supplement a growing list of programs available for use by chapters that strive to achieve their local education goals.

Our American heritage must never ever be taken for granted. Each of us must strive to perpetuate our family history whether it is within the borders of Idaho or from The SAR Center for Advancing America's Heritage. The work is never done. Compatriots like you and I must

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remain vigilant in guarding the value of our heritage. Being here in fellowship listening to me is not enough, but through our collective outreach activities, each one of us can be in our own way the public face of the Sons of the American Revolution. If you truly value your heritage and your membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, perpetuate it through the mission statement provided in the handout at your seat.

Thank you.

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