



# INDIANA SOCIETY, Sons of the American Revolution

## Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, 7 January 2012

Ameriana Bank, Westfield IN

- The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by President David Betzner.

### Attendance:

INSSAR President – David Betzner

INSSAR Vice President – Stuart Hart

INSSAR Secretary – Wayne Eells

INSSAR Treasurer – Art Bowers

INSSAR Registrar – Robert Howell

INSSAR District Director (1) – Roger Barnhart

INSSAR District Director (3) – Edward Hitchcock

Compatriot Doug Roush (for the presentation on the Indiana War Memorial)

### Business:

- INDIANA WAR MEMORIAL DISPLAY FUNDING REQUEST: The Clarence A. Cook Chapter requested on 28 November 2011 that the INSSAR release \$4,000 from its “Marker” fund to help pay for the costs of a new display in the Indiana War Memorial. The Chapter has pledged \$2,000 toward the plaques. The Executive Committee requested that a member of the Cook Chapter provide a presentation on the proposal.
  - Compatriot Doug Roush shared how the current plan for the War Memorial is to overhaul and redo the entire section, including the war of 1812, Tippecanoe and others in that section. Part of the Fort Sackville display has also collapsed. Doug provided an artist’s rendering of a new “Barrier” that would be broken into 5 sections; one for each of the “Battles” in Indiana and another listing the counties and numbers of Patriots buried in each county. The current plan is for each panel to have a short script so as not to “Lose the reader” and have QR codes for smart phones to quickly access additional information. The Deceased Patriots section would refer back to the INSSAR Patriot Graves web page. Further discussion included points about how this could help educate others in the actions of the Patriots in Indiana, adding a small plaque to describe what the SAR is and how to get information about it, requesting a small access point so a Color Guard Member could access the display as a living history model, Press coverage at the “Re-grand Opening” of that section.
  - Current Estimates place the project costs at around \$10,500.
  - Roger Barnhart suggested presenting this at the Jan HOD meeting and securing a pledge of funding from the INSSAR, so that a presentation and funding request can be made to the George Washington

Fund before the Spring Leadership session at NSSAR.

- Motion and Second by Compatriots Barnhart and Hart: The INSSAR Executive Committee supports this project and will present this proposal to the January 2012 House of Delegates Meeting for funding consideration. Action: Approved
- MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT & RETENTION: President Betzner led a discussion on ideas for recruiting and retention. Secretary Eells provided the most current information on 2012 renewals for the discussion.
  - Discussion on the importance of the INSSAR Calendar for planning and communication so all the members can see activities and participate. It should also help reduce activity conflicts.
  - President Betzner discussed how the INSSAR does not communicate with its members who do not have email/internet access and believes that we do those members an injustice. Vice President Hart agreed and suggested that the INSSAR begin regular mailings to those members.
  - The INSSAR needs to look for new activities to share the mission of sharing history and patriotism, along with recruiting. New venues for consideration include Fairs (state, county, etc.) Community Events, working with historical societies, joint events with DAR and CAR.
  - President Betzner and District Director Barnhart presented an idea about each District hosting a picnic for its Chapters. The event would be open to all SAR Members and their families. They should also invite SAR prospects, along with area DAR and CAR Chapters to foster fellowship and growth between the three organizations.
    - District Director (1) Barnhart will be working on the picnic for his District
    - District Director (3) Hitchcock will begin working on the picnic for his District
    - President Betzner will contact District Directors Salisbury (2) and Strouth (4) to share this plan and help them start their planning.
  - An idea of creating a type of INSSAR jacket/shirt/vest to be used in conjunction with color guard/ community/other events to allow others to take part and provide a visible and uniform presence.
  - An idea of the INSSAR to host a Color Guard competition on the Mall in Indianapolis was suggested to draw attention to the SAR, and history. A supplemental idea was suggested that a Tattoo (or Drum and Fife Competition) take place with it at the same time. Conner Prairie could be contacted as an alternate location (ample parking, space, activities for folks to do – they host the Civil War days and the Renaissance Festival).
  - Secretary Eells shared with the group how David has asked him to create a new member handbook which will explain the activities of the Society, ways to take part in State and Chapter events, common terms used and more to help new members get acclimated.
  - Further discussion on how each Chapter should adopt a mentorship program where each new member is connected to the Chapter's "New Member Mentor." This person would work closely with the Member's Sponsor and encourage them to come to meetings and activities, discover their interests and find ways to help them become active in their own interests.

- President Betzner shared his idea of creating a “Year Book” for each member that would include the calendar for the upcoming year, opportunities to take part in activities and show highlights of the previous year.
- Discussion about the lack of funding to pay for recruitment and retention activities like mailings, booths, brochures, etc. ., hurts the INSSAR’s ability to stabilize the membership rolls preventing members from dropping, and support activities to further increase the membership.
- Motion and second by Compatriots S. Hart and R. Howell – to present the following motion at the January 2012 HOD meeting: “In order to provide the tools needed to increase both the retention and the recruitment of the INSSAR, that the INSSAR create a budget line item for the purpose funding of Recruitment and Retention Activities in the INSSAR.” Action: Approved.
- ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET / INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: President Betzner introduced a discussion about modifying our Annual Meeting into two separate parts: the business meeting / election, and the awards presentation / installation of officers banquet. This would allow a greater time for fellowship, a shorter business session and a more fitting environment for the presentation of awards and new officers. We would invite INSSAR General Officers to also attend.
  - Pros and cons were discussed about having the dinner on Saturday evening after the annual meeting and Friday evening before the annual meeting. More input is needed from the Society at Large, and it should be built up to for the 2013 annual meeting giving people more time to plan for the event.
    - People may leave and not attend Saturday Night
    - Overnight stay cost may be prohibitive
    - Members working on Friday may not be able to attend a Friday Evening Banquet when accounting for travel time.
  - It was general consensus that the April 2012 meeting would use the Luncheon to present awards, and fellowship and then the business session would resume after the Luncheon.
- FUND RAISING: President Betzner introduced a discussion about fund raising in the INSSAR in order to accomplish the goals of the Society. Ideas included:
  - AN ANNUAL HISTORICAL MAGAZINE – with Sponsors to pay for the creation of it.
  - COLOR GUARD EVENTS
  - RAFFLES / AUCTIONS - ideas were discussed about ways to be able to reach outside the INSSAR community so that new funds would come in to assist with our Youth programs, Recruitment/Retention as well as our Historical Objectives. Ideas included creating an EBay Auction page so that family/friends/SAR members and others outside the INSSAR could bid on items.
  - GOLF SCRAMBLE
- CHAPTERS UPDATE: Discussion on two Chapters took place based on the request of those Chapters.
  - SETH JEWEL - Chapter President James Swift reported to the INSSAR Secretary prior to the meeting

that the 2012 members consists of 4 (2 in state and 2 out of state), giving them an active chapter of 2. With only 2 members he believes in it is in the best interest that the Chapter dissolve as there is no participation and it is too much work for him to complete the obligations of the Chapter to the INSSAR / NSSAR.

- The INSSAR requests that the Chapter contact each member to confirm their desire to dissolve, or provide minutes that show this was discussed and approved at a Chapter meeting in the fall of 2011.
  - Upon proof the INSSAR will assist the Chapter in dissolving, with the INSSAR Secretary providing all Chapter members the proper forms and Guidance on transferring to other Chapters/Societies.
- GEORGE ROGERS CLARK - Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Marshall Miller (Minute Man Award Recipient) reported to the INSSAR Secretary prior to the meeting that he is unable to continue in his role of Chapter Officer(s). Attendance at meetings is sparse and no members which to serve as officers. He requests that the INSSAR assist them in dissolving the Chapter.
- President Betzner expressed how tragic it would be to lose a Chapter from the Vincennes region given its rich history – with all the Executive Committee in agreement.
  - President Betzner to contact District Director (4) Strouth to advise him to provide any support necessary to help the Chapter stabilize. He also requests the INSSAR increase its recruitment efforts in that area.
  - The INSSAR pledges its support to assist in the training of the Chapter's Officers.
- President Betzner requests help from the INSSAR in recruiting in the following areas of the State:
- Simon Kenton (Rensselaer, IN)
  - David Benton (Brownstown, IN)
  - George Rogers Clark (Vincennes, IN)
  - Benjamin Franklin (Franklin, IN)
  - Madison, IN
- 2012 NSSAR ELECTIONS: Information about a 2012 candidate for Historian General to be presented at the January 2012 HOD meeting for consideration of a letter of support/endorsement.
  - Motion and Second to Adjourn by Compatriots S. Hart and R. Howell @ 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Eells, Jr., Secretary  
Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution