



**Benjamin Franklin Chapter  
The Ohio Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Chartered 1889**

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Thomas W. Arend; Charles S. Brubaker; Stephen C. Brubaker; Mark W. Mahan; Henry Shaw; Ed Hamblin; and all current officers.

# NEWSLETTER December 30, 2014

2014

## Annual Report to members

For the Benjamin Franklin Chapter, 2014 was a year of growth, initiative, and achievement, while continuing strong traditions as well as changes begun during the presidency of David Birthelmer from 2012 to 2014.

### Membership

Much of this year's **growth** was in membership. At the beginning of 2014, the membership was 97. This number was the result of having accepted 9 new members during 2013, but losing 27 at the end of that year because that many members did not pay their dues for 2014.

The effort to do better at the end of 2014 began with the **initiative** suggested by Registrar Ed Hamblin of updating the Chapter's database of members' contact information. To acquire current phone numbers and e-mail addresses, dozens of members were visited at their homes--resulting in updated information as well as personal contact with Compatriots.

Equipped with current contact information and re-established connections, the campaign for 2015 dues proved much more successful. One focus was reducing the attrition of membership, especially the 23 new members inducted during 2014. A second focus was to reinstate compatriots who were not currently paid up.

Both goals were realized with the loss of only eight members and the reinstatement of 16--allowing the Chapter to enter 2015 with 129 members. This 33% increase is an **achievement** that was made possible by all members who paid their dues for 2015.

### Meeting attendance

Growth also took place in the **attendance at meetings**. This improvement is largely due to the **initiative** of scheduling two meetings at times when members with day jobs can attend. The June meeting was on a Wednesday night and was very well attended--especially by Compatriots for whom it was their first. The October meeting was at noon on a Saturday and it had the highest attendance of the entire year, including many for whom it was their first opportunity.

With these successes, the Board of Management authorized a third such meeting for 2015.

### Distinguished Chapter Award

An **achievement** for 2014 was our Chapter's receiving the Distinguished Chapter Award, marked by a streamer that is currently attached to the top of our flag standard. This was the first such recognition in many years.

## ***Patriot Award***

Still another **achievement** was by our Chaplain Ray Sharritts who was awarded the Patriot Medal by the Ohio Society for decades of service at both the Chapter and State levels.

## ***Strong programs***

Our meetings continued the **tradition** of providing interesting and informative **programs** on diverse topics such as the line of forts extending from Cincinnati to Toledo, the influence of colonial architecture on Ohio's statehouse and other public buildings, General Washington's Body Guards, the letters between Benjamin Franklin and his sister Jane, the Founders' rationale for the Electoral College, the life of Thomas Worthington, and a tour of the Motts Military Museum in Groveport.

Program speakers included Jeri Arent of the Worthington Historical Society, David Simmons of the Ohio Historical Society, as well as Compatriots Bill Heyer, Chuck Finley, and Ray Sharritts.

During 2014, we were pleased to have in attendance State officers and committee heads including Tony Robinson, Steve Kelley, and James Dunn.

Our chapter continued the **tradition** of dedicating the March meeting to recognizing our public servants by presenting three awards--law enforcement, fire safety, and heroism--to recipients chosen by their respective divisions.

## ***ROTC and JROTC awards***

Still another **tradition** that was continued is recognizing an outstanding member of a local ROTC and JROTC program. The ROTC programs include the Army, Navy, and Air Force units at Ohio State University and the Army unit at Capital University. The JROTC units are in nine area high schools.

## ***Chapter website***

A long overdue **initiative** was the creation of our Chapter website. With valuable input from the Chapter Board of Management and individual members, the website content was decided and prepared. The website will include information about our Chapter, the purpose of the SAR, information about becoming a member, a list of the Patriot Ancestors of our members, a gallery of photographs, an archive of past Newsletters, a calendar of upcoming meetings, and contact information.

The sensational masthead that will appear at the top of each page and other art was created by Jim Shough.

The website is expected to be online in January, and there are plans to connect the website to Facebook and other avenues to increase visibility.

## ***New Chapter Registrar***

In November, our Chapter Registrar Ed Hamblin underwent successful hip replacement surgery, and was not able to continue serving in that capacity. Compatriot Kevin Teaford was asked to serve as the Chapter Registrar, and he kindly agreed. His appointment was approved by the Board of Management, and Kevin has already processed his first application for membership.

## ***Remembering those we lost***

The year was also marked by the death of three Compatriots--Joe Carvin, Paul Dillon, and Martin Byron.

Taken together, 2014 was another good year for the Benjamin Franklin Chapter, and one in which all members can take pride. Plans are underway to keep the ball rolling for 2015, so let me know how you would like to see **your** Chapter improve in 2015.

*Chuck Finley*, Chapter President

**The next meeting will be noon January 16  
at the Florentine Restaurant 907 West Broad Street**