

Virginia Society
Sons of the American Revolution
ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

Chapter Name: Norfolk

Chapter Size: Number of members as of December 31, 2015: **78**

Person Completing Report: Maury A. Weeks, President

Chapter Report Purpose: To provide chapters with a programmatic planning tool as well as a standardized means of recording its accomplishments. The Virginia Society (“VASSAR”) encourages its chapters to be well-rounded, recognizing that chapters vary in size and may not be able to participate in all of the programs/activities promoted by VASSAR and NSSAR. To this end, fifteen (15) questions are designed to provide the Awards Committee and VASSAR officials with a picture of chapter performance across a broad range of patriotic, historical, educational, and fraternal activities. Question sixteen (16) is a bonus question which comes under the category of a current President's initiatives. And finally, Question number seventeen (17) provides Chapters with an opportunity to advise VASSAR about how it might better serve the needs of its members.

For award purposes, chapter performance will be reviewed by membership size categories as follows:

Small (1 to 24) Medium (25 to 59) Large (60 to 99) Very Large (100 and over)
End of year (December 31st) membership numbers should be obtained from the VASSAR Secretary.

Scoring of answers to questions follows a simple formula of one point for participation and zero (0) for non-participation.

Historic Celebrations and Observances participation is divided into three (3) categories as follows:

- Category 1:** Yorktown Day Observance, Raid at Martin’s Station, Battle of Great Bridge, Crossing of the Dan, Guilford Courthouse, Point Pleasant, King’s Mountain, Cowpens, Ft. Laurens and Valley Forge (every three (3) years jointly with DAR).
- Category 2:** George Washington’s Birthday, James Madison’s Birthday, James Monroe’s Birthday, Thomas Jefferson’s Birthday, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, and Veteran’s Day.
- Category 3:** Other celebrations e.g., including but not limited to, Battle of the Hook, Battle of Petersburg, Vietnam Memorial Day. This also includes all local celebrations/events such as chapter, DAR or C.A.R. grave markings, etc.

Caveats:

- ◆ **Reports must be received by the Awards Committee no later than January 15, 2016.**
- ◆ Please make every effort to complete answers in the spaces provided.
- ◆ If attachments are critical, please make them brief and attach to this report.
- ◆ Chapters are strongly encouraged to email their reports to the Chairman of the Awards Committee at wrouse4sar@gmail.com. Electronic submissions must contain on the subject

line: **VASSAR 2015 Report XYZ Chapter.** Reports may be mailed to: R. Wayne Rouse, VASSAR Awards Committee, 71 Hope Springs Lane, Stafford, VA 22554-5238.

1. Revolutionary Graves

- a. Revolutionary Grave Marking
- | | |
|---|-----|
| Did your chapter mark any Revolutionary graves? | No |
| For each Revolutionary grave marked provide the name of the patriot. | |
| Did you prepare a paper or speech on the patriot and his/her service? | No |
| Were organizations outside your chapter (e.g., C.A.R, DAR) invited to attend the ceremony? If so, provide date(s) and venue(s). | n/a |
| Did you notify the Virginia Society Revolutionary Graves Chairman? | n/a |
- b. Grave Registration
- | | |
|--|----|
| Did you register any Revolutionary graves with the Virginia Society Revolutionary Graves Chairman? | No |
|--|----|
- c. Did you participate in other graves projects? No
Provide details

2. Historic Celebrations and Observances

DO NOT report activities covered elsewhere in this report.

- a. Participation in Category 1 celebrations? Yes
(sponsored/co-sponsored by state societies and/or NSSAR)

<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>No. Attending</u>
Yorktown Day Wreath Laying and Parade, Yorktown, VA	4
Battle of Great Bridge 5 th Annual NSSAR Observance and wreath laying, Battlefield Park, Chesapeake, VA (sponsored by Norfolk SAR, Great Bridge NSDAR, GBB&WHF, City of Chesapeake, & Culpeper Minutemen SAR), 12/5/15	14

- b. Participation in Category 2 celebration events? Yes

<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>No. Attending</u>
George Washington's Birthday, 2/21/15	5
Memorial Day, 5/25/15	5
Independence Day, 7/4/15	8
Veterans Day Parade, Virginia Beach, VA, 11/11/15	2
Veterans Day Wreath Laying, Norfolk Chapter marker, Tidewater Veterans Memorial Park, Virginia Beach, 11/11/15	3
Flag Day; MacArthur Memorial, Norfolk; event sponsored by Great Bridge Chapter NSDAR, 6/13/15	3

- c. Participation in Category 3 celebration events? Yes

<u>Event/Location</u>	<u>No. Attending</u>
Battle of the Capes chapel ceremony and wreath laying, Fort Story, VA, 9/5/15	10
Battle of Kemps Landing wreath laying, Virginia Beach, 11/14/15	7

3. Color Guard

If members of your chapter served in an SAR Color Guard:

a. Marches in Celebrations, Observances, and Meetings:

	Name/No. of Events	Avg. No. of Chapter Members Participating in Uniform
Chapter Color Guard	_____	_____
VASSAR Color Guard	2	2
Mid-Atlantic Color Guard	_____	_____
National Color Guard	_____	_____

- b. Did your Color Guard members carry out any special activities, i.e. conduct public demonstrations of 18th Century drill or explain Revolutionary era uniforms in schools? No
Provide details:

4. Perpetuating the memory of those who achieved the Independence of the American people and established our American government.

DO NOT report activities covered elsewhere in this report.

- a. Did your chapter do something special to promote knowledge and understanding of American history among its members? If so, briefly describe. Yes

Each issue of the chapter newsletter, the *Norfolk Patriot*, includes a history quiz on a Revolutionary War event or key person. Answers are provided on the back page. These features are popular among members and spouses.

- b. Did your chapter do something special to promote knowledge and understanding of American history in the community? If so, briefly describe. Yes

Chaplain Hitchings (3/14 and 6/16/15) and President Whetstone (10/28/15) spoke at District 1 NSDAR sponsored naturalization ceremonies for 90-100 new citizens each occasion (US Courthouse, Norfolk). The talks stressed the Revolutionary War and the nation's founding.

Past Pres Whetstone served as co-chair of the GBB&WHF Docents who provide battlefield tours throughout the year.

Sergeant-at-Arms Lawson organized several compatriots who manned a tent exhibit at the Battle of Great Bridge reenactment encampment, providing information on history and SAR membership.

Several compatriots also spoke on history to other organizations and published articles in various SAR and SR journals.

5. Historic Education and Youth: Essays, Orations, and History Day.

- a. Oration Contest
 - Did your chapter sponsor an entrant in the 2015 VASSAR Oration Contest? No
 - Did your chapter select an entrant for the 2015 VASSAR Oration Contest from a local oration contest in which there was more than one entry? No
- b. Essay Contest
 - Did your chapter sponsor an entrant in the 2015 VASSAR Essay Contest? Yes
 - Did your chapter select an entrant for the 2015 VASSAR Essay Contest from a local contest in which there was more than one entry? No
- c. History Day
 - Did your chapter provide support for National History Day? Yes
 - How many judges (or alternates) did your chapter provide?
 - Tom Whetstone served as judge 1
 - How many chapter members attended History Day competitions (count judges)? 1
 - How much money did your chapter and its members contribute? unkn
 - Did your chapter encourage participation by local schools? No
 - If so, briefly describe?
 - How many good citizenship medals or pins did your chapter award to recognize outstanding History Day achievements? 3
- d. Tom & Betty Lawrence National Society American History Teacher Contest
 - Did your chapter submit an application to VASSAR for this contest? No

6. Awards to Outstanding Youth

- a. ROTC/JROTC Program
 - How many Senior ROTC Medals (College/University) did your chapter present? 5
 - How many Junior ROTC Medals (High School) did your chapter present? 20
 - Did your Chapter submit an entrant to the VASSAR JROTC Award Program? No
- b. Outstanding Student Program
 - How many outstanding students did your chapter recognize? 0
 - How many outstanding students were recognized with SAR medals or pins? 0
- c. Scout Program
 - How many Eagle Scout certificates did your chapter award? 210
 - Did your chapter sponsor an entrant in the VASSAR Eagle Scout contest? Yes

7. Children of the American Revolution

- a. Participation

	No. of Events	Avg. No. of Members
C.A.R members in events sponsored by your chapter	3	2
Members of your chapter in event sponsored by C.A.R.	None	
- b. Senior Leadership
 - Did your chapter provide active senior leadership for the C.A.R.? No
 - If so, list the leaders and their positions / contributions.
- c. Other Support
 - Did your chapter provide monetary or other support for the C.A.R.? No
 - If so, provide details.

8. Recognition of Public Service

a.	Law Enforcement Program	
	How many Law Enforcement Medals did your chapter present?	0
	Did you report this to National Chairman and/or the State Chairman?	n/a
	Did your chapter enter the VASSAR Law Enforcement Contest?	No
b.	Fire/Safety Program	
	How many Fire Safety Medals did your chapter present?	0
	Did you report this to National Chairman and/or the State Chairman?	n/a
	Did your chapter enter the VASSAR Fire Safety Contest?	No
c.	Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program	
	How many EMS Medals did your chapter present?	0
	Did you report this to National Chairman and/or the State Chairman?	n/a
	Did your chapter enter the VASSAR EMS Award Contest?	No
e.	Teacher of the Year Program	
	How many teachers were honored by your chapter?	0
	How many were recognized with good citizenship medals?	0
	How many were recognized only with only a certificate?	0
	Did your chapter enter the VASSAR Teacher of the Year Contest?	No
f.	Heroism	
	Did your chapter recognize someone for Heroism?	No
	Did your chapter enter the VASSAR Heroism Award Contest?	No
g.	Other Public Service Programs	
	How many other public servants did your chapter recognize?	2
	How many of these were awarded SAR medals?	1

9. Veterans Program

a.	Support for Veterans	
	Did your chapter provide support for Veterans?	Yes
	If so, briefly provide details.	
b.	Other Veterans Program	
	Did your chapter carry out some other significant Veterans support program?	Yes
	If so, briefly provide details.	
	Conducted wreath presentation for Memorial Day, Veterans Day.	
	Presented SAR War Service and Military Service Medals	3

10. Americanism Program

a.	Elementary School Poster	
	Did your chapter hold a 2015 poster contest?	No
	Did your chapter sponsor a 2015 entry to VASSAR?	No
b.	Middle School Brochure	
	Did your chapter hold a 2015 brochure contest?	No
	Did your chapter sponsor a 2015 entry to VASSAR?	No
c.	Americanism Report	
	Will your chapter submit a 2015 report to VASSAR and/or NSSAR?	No

11. Other Community Programs

DO NOT report medals awarded by your chapter for service to the SAR in this section.

a.	Flag Program	
	How many flag certificates did your chapter award this year?	3

- Did you report this (these) to the VASSAR Flag Program Chairman? Yes
- b. Other Awards in the Community (awards not reported elsewhere in this report)
- How many SAR Good Citizenship Medals and Certificates of Appreciation did your chapter present? 5
- Please list the recipients of each.
- Bronze Good Citizenship Medal
Charles Hackworth

Certificates of Appreciation

India Meissel
Michael Cobb
James Carver
Lin Olsen

- | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------------|-----|
| c. DAR Activities | No. of
Events | Avg. No. of
Members | |
| DAR members in events sponsored by your chapter | 8 | 5 | |
| Members of your chapter in events sponsored by DAR | 7 | 5 | |
| Did your Chapter do something noteworthy with the DAR? | | | Yes |

Speakers for D1 DAR naturalization ceremonies for new citizens
7 compatriots attended DAR George Washington BD Luncheon
Great Bridge NSDAR co-sponsor for observance of the Battle of Great Bridge
Wreath laying
Flag Day ceremony with DAR (Hitchings was speaker)
DAR members attended jointly Battle of the Capes and Kempe's Landing wreath presentations.
Maury Weeks was a judge for two essay contest sponsored by the DAR Chapter.

- d. VASSAR Good Citizen of the Year
Did your chapter submit an entry to the VASSAR Good Citizen of the Year program? No
- e. Other Community Programs
Did your chapter carry out or participate in other civic programs in the community not reported elsewhere on this form? Yes
- Briefly describe.
Participated in the City of Chesapeake Christmas Parade 2

12. Chapter Meetings and Communications

- a. Chapter Meetings
- How many meetings did your chapter hold this past calendar year? 5
- Average meeting attendance? 20
- b. Programs
- How many non-compatriot speakers did your chapter have? 4
- List the name and topic for each speaker.

- Jan – Annual Meeting - VASSAR VP
- March – J. Michael Cobb – “The Battle of Big Bethel”
- May – James L. Carver – “The Battle of Kempe’s Landing”
- Sept – Lin J. Olsen – “Great Bridge Today and Tomorrow”
- Nov – India Meissel – “Spies of the American Revolution”

- c. Communications with Members
 - How many newsletters did your chapter issue during the calendar year? 5
 - Were chapter newsletters furnished to the VASSAR and NSSAR Chairmen? Yes
 - Is your chapter using e-mail and/or the Web to communicate with members? Yes
 - And we have a new web master who has put together a great chapter site.
- d. Communications with the Community
 - How many press releases did your chapter issue about chapter events or activity? 2
 - How many news media (newspaper, radio television) exposures did your chapter receive? 1
 - Briefly describe.
 - Local paper covered the events at Great Bridge
- e. Publications
 - How many articles were submitted to the Virginia Bulletin by your chapter? 2
 - How many articles by members of your chapter devoted to SAR purposes (patriotic, educational, and historical) were published in other media, such as a local newspaper or The SAR magazine? None
 - Briefly describe.
- f. Other Publicity and Public Relations
 - Did your chapter have some other noteworthy accomplishment in publicity or public relations? No
 - Briefly describe.

13. Membership and Dues

Membership information should be verified by the VASSAR Secretary. Chapters should have had an active recruiting program to enlist new members, a retention program, and should have remitted dues to the VASSAR Assistant Treasurer on time and in the proper format.

- a. Please provide the net gain or loss in number of chapter members in 2015. -15
- b. Other Recruiting and Retention Activity
 - Did your chapter have some other noteworthy accomplishment in recruiting and/or retention other than those already mentioned?? If so, briefly describe. _____
- c. How many Supplemental Applications submitted by your chapter were approved by NSSAR? _____
 - List the name of the members who’s Supplemental Applications were approved. _____

14. Business Activity

- a. Participation in State, District & National Business Meetings
 - Number of chapter members who attended the 2015 VASSAR Annual Meeting 3
 - Number who attended the 2015 VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting 2
 - Number who attended the 2015 National Congress 1
 - Number who attended the 2015 Atlantic Middle States Conference None
 - Number who serve as VASSAR or NSSAR Officers or Committeemen 3
- b. Fundraising

- Did your chapter or individual members contribute financially to any of the VASSAR trust funds? Unk
- c. Reporting to the State and National Society
Did your chapter submit a 2014 Chapter Annual Report? Yes
Did your chapter notify the VASSAR Secretary of its 2015 officers? Yes

- d. Recognition by your chapter of Service to the SAR
DO NOT report medals awarded for service to the community in this section, even if the recipient is an SAR member.

How many people did your chapter recognize with a medal for service to the SAR?

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation (if any)</u>	<u>Medal or Certificate</u>
Robert Hitchings	Norfolk Chapter SAR	Distinguished Service Medal
William Waller	Norfolk Chapter SAR	Meritorious Service Medal
Charles Hackworth	Norfolk Chapter SAR	Bronze Citizenship Medal

15. Forgotten Patriots Program

- a. Did your chapter remember any Forgotten Patriots in 2015? No
- b. Did you report them to the Virginia Society Forgotten Patriots Program Chairman? n/a

16. VASSAR Presidential Initiatives

- a. Was your chapter represented at the Joint Rev War/War of 1812 plaque dedication in Fredericksburg, VA on May 16, 2015? No
- b. Was your chapter represented at the Joint Rev War/War of 1812 plaque dedication in Ft. Defiance, VA on July 25, 2015? No
- c. Was your chapter represented at the Preston Memorial groundbreaking ceremony in Daleville, VA on September 19, 2015? No

17. Comments and Suggestions (Not Graded)

- a. Please tell us about something your chapter did or learned that would help VASSAR or the other chapters.
- b. Did you encounter problems that you would like VASSAR help in resolving?
- c. Do you have any suggestions for improvements?

The Awards Committee must receive this report no later than January 15, 2016

Signed: /s/ Maury A. Weeks Date: 10 January 2016
(person completing the report)