

National Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of the American Revolution

Spring Leadership – General Membership Meeting V3 FINAL DRAFT 6-22-23

March 3, 2023

The General Membership Meeting of the NLSAR was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by President Pat Wilson-Perkins. Members were reminded to sign in on one of the attendance sheets that are circulating in the room. Chaplain Jacque Miller offered an invocation.

The pledge to the flag of the United States of America was led by First Vice-President Becky Osbourn. The pledge to the Ladies Auxiliary was led by Second Vice-President Diana Ungvasky.

Pat Wilson-Perkins opened the meeting by introducing Karin Guzy, former First Lady and this meeting's featured speaker. Karin's presentation was based on *Founding Gardeners*, a book by Andrea Wulf. At the conclusion of Karin's presentation, Patty Kaplan of the Ohio Society Ladies Auxiliary was delighted to win the door prize, a gift basket containing Andrea's book as well as gardening gloves, gardening tools and a packet of seeds. The basket was created by NLSAR First Vice President Becky Osbourn

At the conclusion of Karin's presentation, Pat introduced the many dignitaries who were in attendance at the meeting: former First Ladies, wives of VPGs, and current NLSAR board members. But when Pat asked all the first-timers to stand, only a few women stood up – which sparked a brief discussion of why that was the case. The general response was that most first-timers are either unaware of the Ladies Auxiliary meeting or are not sure they are “allowed” to attend. In fact, the few first-timers who were present all said they had been *personally encouraged to come* by a more veteran NLSAR member.

Pat announced that, in the interests of time, the officers' reports -discussions of various aspects of general NLSAR business - would be made available for review in the NLSAR Sharefile.

Old Business

Bylaws Review: Pat introduced former First Ladies Nancy Alter and Sheila Manning, who had recently completed a careful review of the NLSAR bylaws at the request of Pat Wilson-Perkins. The goal of the review was to make the bylaws more current and in line with today's NLSAR. Nancy and Sheila described the simple, organized process they applied to the task. The revised bylaws document will be available on the website in the very near future so members can get a look at them. Pat assured the group that most of the changes are minor.

Pat advised that she will call for a vote to accept the revised bylaws at the NLSAR meeting at Congress in Orlando in July.

Website Refresh: Pat updated the group on the status and progress made so far in updating the NLSAR website. She explained that the website itself would be moved to a new platform that is simpler to use than the site where it is currently hosted. She encouraged all to get a look at the site (www.nlsar.org) and check out all of the improvements, including many changes made to the site's appearance.

NLSAR-NLSAR Liaison Committee: Venie Hinson and Pat Wilson-Perkins reported on a recent meeting of this committee, which they attended along with current and past fellow NLSAR board members Cyndi Weissinger, Becky Osbourn and Mary Addington and SAR members Russ DeVenney (Vice Chair) and John Thornhill (Chair). Discussion topics included banking issues and current status; the group shared and exchanged ideas. In summary, Pat said that the meeting went well and reminded all NLSAR members that they are welcome to attend future meetings of this committee.

Banking Issues: Treasurer Cyndi Weissinger discussed some of her recent efforts on behalf of the NLSAR. She recently discovered that she would need a copy of the NLSAR Articles of Incorporation in order to set up a bank

account in the NLASAR's name. In addition, Cyndi is in the process of setting up a bank account specifically for gaming proceeds that would be separate from the NLASAR's operational bank account. Based on her experience getting through this process, Cyndi recommended that all of the ladies take a look at their own auxiliaries' legal status – namely, “*are you 'under the men,' or not?*” And, after they have determined the answer to that question, they need to consider another one: “What are the legal requirements or stipulations associated with that?”

Megan at the SAR Headquarters had generously offered to help Cyndi and the NLASAR officers answer these questions as a service to the auxiliary.

New Business

Newsletter: Do we need one? Do we want one? Pat has seen a need for specific types of information to be readily available to all NLASAR members: for instance, that the ladies need to have ready access to the meeting schedules of all SAR meetings that ladies are likely to attend.

Members enthusiastically agreed; it would be a huge improvement if specific information, such as meeting schedules, was easily available to NLASAR members in advance of events. However, it was expressed that an ongoing commitment to a regularly scheduled communications vehicle (e.g. via a newsletter format) may not be necessary to get to that goal.

Pat suggested we need to make sure that specific types of information, especially general information that is highly useful to first-time meeting attendees (e.g., what to wear) and specific information useful for all (e.g., meeting schedules) is posted on nlasar.org as far in advance of the need as possible.

Some of the attendees referred back to the previous discussion regarding first-timers' lack of clarity about attending the ladies auxiliary meeting, commenting that the same confusion is likely to affect first timers' understanding of *who is invited to the ladies luncheons* and *what to wear to SAR events*. Although most of this information is already posted on the NLASAR website, that fact and specific website address to be consulted may not be so not widely known.

Members of the (standing) New-member Welcome Committee said that they send every new NLASAR member a personalized welcome letter, directly to her by name. However, to even better ensure that new members have ready access to information they need, First Lady Billie Brock suggested that every state organization designate a point person to field new members' questions. A suggestion was made for each state society auxiliary president to obtain a registration list for their upcoming state meetings, identify those on the list who appear to be first-timers, and send each prospective first-timer the kind of information that this meeting has just identified as essential. Becky Moyer and Keitha Callanan stated that they have been sending a mailing very similar to the one being referenced for at least four years, directly to first-time attendees' homes. Other members mentioned seeing similar efforts to welcome and inform new members that had been made in the past.

Pat summarized the overall discussion by observing that more attention needs to be paid to communicating key information to the NLASAR membership at large, but more especially the newest of the new membership – *however* that is ultimately accomplished.

Prayer Chain: Jacque Miller explained that several members' recent, shocking accidents and injuries have served as a reminder of the importance of having a NLASAR prayer chain in place. Jacque invited all attendees who are interested in participating to get in touch with her. She will work toward adding a prayer chain list to the NLASAR website.

Florida Congress Update: Keith Callanan and Billie Brock

The 2023 SAR Congress will be convened in Orlando July 15-19 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, 1000 International Drive in Orlando, Florida. The hotel has a pool, good restaurant, and the layout is open and airy.

Registration for Congress will open in May, but the headquarters hotel has been taking registrations from likely Congress attendees for a while. In fact, at the time of this meeting, the hotel was about 95 percent full. Keitha recommended that any attendees who experience problems booking a room at the hotel should contact Paul Callanan at ltcmrsc@aol.com or call him directly at 704-756-0363. And if Paul doesn't answer, Keitha urged members to call *her* at 704-907-5670. In advance of the call, Keitha advised callers to have handy the dates of their planned arrival and departure from the HQ hotel and to be prepared to advise the hotel of any physical or dietary accommodation their party might require.

Billie encouraged all attendees to volunteer to sign up to help with small tasks during Congress, e.g., set up table centerpieces. To sign up to volunteer, check out the opportunities on www.nlasar.org and click on "Florida Congress Volunteer." Billie further related that plans for the Congress are progressing nicely; tours are set, and the hotel is in a great location right across the street from several wonderful restaurants. Billie encouraged all members to "go back and tell your husbands" that there will be a hospitality room. She also reminded attendees that she had personally hand-made all of the ladies' shell-themed Congress goodie bags.

Speaking from experience, Keitha urged all ladies who will attend Congress to obtain their "own" copy of the meeting schedule prior to leaving town; one way to accomplish that would be to ask their husbands to print it out for them.

Tours related to the Congress will take place on Saturday, July 15 and Monday, July 19.

The tour of the Kennedy Space Center will take place on Saturday, July 15. Hosts staffing the tour buses are all former employees of the facility with lots of interesting information and an "insider" perspective to share with fellow riders during the roughly one-hour-long drive each way.

The trip to Merritt Island to view the site of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution will take place on Wednesday, July 19.

The Congress Opening Ceremony and Youth Awards Luncheon will both take place on Monday, July 17.

Official Congress photography will be provided by photographers who are members of the Convention Photography Association. This is the same source the Daughters of the American Revolution go to for their convention photographers.

In response to a question about whether or not there will be a 50/50 during Congress, Diane Ungvarsky explained that it would depend on the laws in Florida and is yet to be decided. Regardless, the Silent Auction of colonial clothing and other items will definitely take place and there will be gift baskets to bid on as well.

Becky Osbourn introduced her Congress project, which she has entitled, "Auxiliaries in Action!" The goal of her project is to spotlight the programs and projects of the NLASAR's own state auxiliaries. One hour before the National Ladies Auxiliary meeting at Congress, state society auxiliaries are being invited to staff a table and set up photos and/or other items that capture the story of their *auxiliary in action!*

20th Anniversary Celebration: Pat Wilson-Perkins

Pat mentioned that 2023 is the 20th anniversary of the founding of the National Ladies Auxiliary of the SAR, although several state ladies auxiliaries predate the national auxiliary. Pat asked the attendees to send her suggestions on how the NLASAR's 20th anniversary should be celebrated.

Pat emphasized the importance of the NLASAR to the SAR by sharing a statistic: Since the NLASAR's founding twenty years ago, more than \$132,000 has been donated by the NLASAR to the SAR – and this number that does not include the value of donations by the individual state ladies auxiliaries to their *own* state SAR societies.

The First Lady's Project: Rita Pickette

Rita Pickette reminded all that the goal of her First Lady's effort is to increase member support for SAR's Youth Awards programs. This goal is important not only to Rita, but to the SAR as a whole since these programs directly support SAR's all-important education mission. She explained that of the nine current youth-awards programs, only two receive dependable financial support. The other six are funded only by the amount that the Council on Youth Awards can afford to contribute.

In support of her project, Rita distributed flyers that summarize each individual program, explain the need, and give directions on how to donate. She added a reminder as well: donations can be made even before the Leadership meeting concludes. Rita encouraged anyone interested in learning more about the youth-award programs to stop by and talk with her at the conclusion of the meeting.

Ladies Luncheon is Tomorrow

First Vice President Becky Osbourn revealed that the Ladies Luncheon tomorrow afternoon will introduce Madame Foo-Foo to the NLSAR (and vice-versa). Madame Foo-Foo, designer of wild, fanciful chapeaux of all types and longtime supplier of same to the Brown Hotel Gift Shop, will bring a flotilla of her colorful creations along as a way to illustrate and expand upon her remarks. (There was even a suggestion that the ladies might be able to *try on* some of Madam Foo-Foo's creations.) Becky advised all that those who had not yet registered for the luncheon could still do so by contacting Kelly Moore at the SAR HQ.

Don't miss the opportunity!

Diane Ungvarsky took one final moment to remind attendees to participate in the cup auction which was set up on long tables on one side of the meeting room. The winners of each item would be announced at the conclusion of the Ladies Luncheon.

Closing remarks

Pat reminded all that the next time we will be meeting, we will be at Congress in July, in Orlando, Florida!

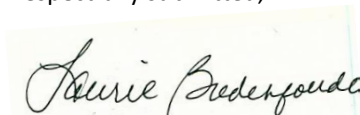
Chaplain Jacque Miller offered a prayer.

Attendees were reminded to be sure they had signed into the meeting on the clipboard that is circulating the room.

First-Timers were once again reminded to come to the front of the room to pose for a group photo.

Following recitation of the NLSAR Recessional, the meeting was officially adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laurie Bredenfoerder", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Laurie Bredenfoerder
NLSAR Secretary 2022-24