



ARIZONA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BARRY M. GOLDWATER CHAPTER



NEWSLETTER

January 2012



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Barry M. Goldwater Chapter Christmas bash at the home of Compatriot Rob Bohannon

Well, the annual Barry M. Goldwater Chapter Christmas party was another success thanks to work of the master of ceremonies Rob Bohannon and his band of merry elves.

Below are pictures *some* of the victims who got in the way of my camera (with Rob leading the pack—and directly behind him the head elf, Betty Atwood).



New Barry M. Goldwater Chapter compatriot

On December 17, 2011, Karl M. Johnson was approved for membership in the NSSAR. Karl’s patriot ancestor is Fern Johnson, private in Captain Simon Walcott’s Company of East Windsor, Connecticut from May 1776 until 25 December 1776.

Congratulations and welcome!



Supplemental applications approved

The following supplemental applications were approved by National:

Compatriot (and past BMG Chapter president) Carlton V. Phillips: Patriot Daniel Whalon, Sr., private Massachusetts militia.

Compatriot John C. Donaldson: Christopher Lobingier, Delegate to the 1st Constitutional Convention PA.



Arizona Ladies Auxiliary needs your help prior to the 2012 Congress

The Arizona Ladies Auxiliary needs your help prior to the 2012 Congress. They plan to collect as many telephone calling cards and Patriotic/SAR/ or blank “Thank You” cards as they can and send them to our troops at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. In the Ladies Hospitality Room they will address “Thank You” cards with a calling card inserted. As an individual, chapter or society gather the calling cards (preferably \$10.00 denomination) and “Thank You” cards and mail them to J. Michael Jones at 212 W. Country Gables Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85023-5250.

If you prefer to make a donation send a check payable to AZSSAR and we’ll buy the calling cards in your honor. All donations will be recognized at Congress.



SAR and the protection of the American flag—100+ years and still counting



The fall 2011 issue of *The SAR Magazine* contained an interesting article titled “Our Flag” written by President General Larry

Magerkurth where he wrote in part: “Today the SAR stands hand in hand with 140 organizations nationwide

as members of the **Citizens Flag Alliance**, a grassroots organization whose only goal is to win passage of a Constitutional amendment to protect our flag from physical desecration.”

So who are *some* of the organizations that are supporting this most worthwhile endeavor? The National Society Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Scottish of Rite Freemasonry, Knights of Columbus, and just about every veterans’ association that there is.

The Citizens Flag Alliance—a short history of events. On June 21, 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that desecrating the U.S. flag was free speech, invalidating laws in 48 states. Immediately following that the American Legion started the Citizens Flag Honor Guard which ultimately became the Citizens Flag Alliance in 1994. On July 1, 1989, The Legion started a petition drive in an effort to collect one million signatures for a flag protection amendment, got the signatures within 60 days, and presented the petition to Congress.

On September 5, 1989, during its National Convention, the American Legion approved a resolution for a flag protection amendment to the Constitution. Months later it is joined by many other veterans groups and civilian orders.

Congress passed the Flag Protection Act of 1989 and in 1990 it was ruled unconstitutional.

Throughout the ensuing years efforts were made in Congress but were fruitless.

In January 2011 legislation was reintroduced to amend the Constitution with House Joint Resolution 13: “The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.” And in June 2011 Senate Joint Resolution 19 was introduced along the same lines as the House resolution.

NSSAR—early attempts. Here are some very early 20th century attempts by the Sons of the American Revolution to get national legislation passed

The September 1903 edition of the *Spirit of ‘76* (an official organ of the NSSAR at that time) has the following article titled “National Flag Legislation”:

“At the recent encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, held at San Francisco, the convention recommended the passage of a national measure to protect the flag from desecration.

“The resolution was secured by the American Flag Protective Society, Admiral George Dewey, U.S.N., president Maj-General H. C. Corbin, U.S.A., vice-president, through General Thomas J. Stewart, Commander-in-Chief of the G.A.R., and his patriotic comrades.

“Mr. Charles Kingsbury Miller, first vice-president of the Illinois Society, S.A.R., and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Flag Protective Society has been authorized to perfect an arrangement with several organizations in presenting national flag legislation”

The March 1904 edition of the *Spirit of '76* under the heading of “Empire State [New York] SAR” has, an interesting article outlining the address to the organization by Ralph E. Prime, President of the American Flag Protective Society and SAR compatriot. He said in part:

“Since 1897 we have been steadily at work obtaining, in the first place, legislation in the different States to make it criminal to desecrate the flag. We now out of the 45 states [have] a Flag Law in 27 States, in the Territory of Arizona and the Territory of Porto (sic) Rico. For seven years we have been trying to get a statute in New Jersey, and we failed until this year, when one of our own compatriots, Gov. Murphy, took a hand in it himself, procured the passage of the bill. . . . That gives us an almost unbroken column of States from the Atlantic to the Pacific. . . .”

“We have never yet been able to get a Flag bill passed in any Southern State. We have appealed, and appealed, and appealed, and we cannot budge them. Gen. Grant [not Ulysses S.] could not succeed in Texas. Admiral Schley, one of our own compatriots, tried his best in Louisiana, and could not bring it to pass. The Kentucky Society S.A.R., planned a Flag Committee in Kentucky, and they could not budge their Legislature. We have endeavored not only to prevent the desecration of the flag, but to prevent the manufacture of pictures of the flag for advertising purposes.” [The loss of the Civil War was obviously still being felt in the South].

Soon the NSSAR had a “Flag Committee” which throughout the early years of the 20th century reported on its activities at the annual NSSAR Congresses. The result was the same— nothing on a national scale was passed regarding the desecration of the flag, but there were some interesting resolutions.

In 1911 the *Official Bulletin of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution* had this to say about the territory of Arizona as pointed out in this excerpt: “**Rev. Lewis Halsey addressed the Congress on behalf of the Arizona Society.** He said they had a flourishing young Society in Arizona, of something over fifty members, and that they also had a flag law in Arizona, which was enforced.”

The Rev. Lewis Halsey was active in the AZSSAR as far back as 1901 when he was elected as the state chaplain and was on various national committees through at least 1911.

While there was an effort to protect the flag, apparently the flag itself was not widely available as pointed out in the May 1912 issue of the *Official Bulletin*: “The Committee on Display and Sale of the Flag . . . reported progress in the effort to extend the use of the flag throughout the country, especially in the rural districts, and the attention was called to the difficulty of finding flags on sale even in some of the large cities.

The Flag Committee seemed to expand its scope as outlined in the December 1912 issue of the *Official Bulletin*: “The Committee . . . is taking steps to secure the display of the stars and stripes on every post-office throughout the land. By order of the Treasury Department all life-saving stations will hereafter display the national flag daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset.”

The March 1914 *Official Bulletin* continues with the committee’s progress: “The Flag Committee reported on its efforts to secure Federal legislation to prevent the desecration of the national flag. The committee recommends that children in the public schools of the country be taught the history of the American flag and its meaning”

The *Proceedings of the Twenty-Sixth Annual Congress of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution July 19 and 20, 1915*, contained over two pages of information from the Flag Committee and it was apparent that the various organizations which supported the bill could not agree on the wording: “On February 10, 1915, there was a hearing by the House Subcommittee on the Judiciary on the Sheppard bill, which had passed the United States Senate Unfortunately there was no unanimity in the presentation of the case by the advocates of the flag legislation. . . . The hearing proved profitless. . . .”

The *Proceedings of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Congress of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution May 15 and 16, 1916*. The Flag Committee relates that no laws have been passed by the 64th Congress regarding the desecration of the flag.

But, the Twenty-Seventh NSSAR Congress adopted the following resolution: “*Whereas*, it has come to the attention of this Society that there is no provision in the United States statutes requiring the display of the American flag in the respective United States courts, the offices of the clerks of said courts, or in the offices of the United States examiners: therefore be it *Resolved*, That the National Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution petition the Congress of the United States to that end that bills be introduced in both branches of the Congress of the United States, which bills shall duly provide for the furnishing of a suitable American flag for each of the United States court-rooms, for each of the offices of the clerks of said courts, and for each of the offices used in proceedings in the connection with the naturalization of aliens.”

The 2008 United States Federal Flag Code provides *guidelines* regarding the “display of and respect shown the flag” to be used by civilians, which also includes the proper conduct to be used during the presentation of the National Anthem.

Here are some *guidelines*—not laws:

“The flag should be displayed on all days especially . . .” (lists holidays etc.); the flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed; the flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery; the flag should never be used for advertising purposes whatsoever . . .

“There are eight sites in the United States where the flag is flown day and night under specific legal authority: Fort McHenry National Monument, Baltimore Maryland; Flag House Square, Baltimore, Maryland; the United States Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington, Virginia; Lexington, Massachusetts; the White House; the Washington Monument; United States Customs ports of entry; and Valley Forge State Park, Pennsylvania.”

And if you are ever in doubt, “The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing.”

REMEMBER; FLY OUR UNITED STATES

FLAG on all days, especially:

- New Year's Day, January 1
- Inauguration Day, January 20
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, third Monday in January
- Lincoln's Birthday, February 12
- Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February
- Easter Sunday (variable)
- Mother's Day, second Sunday in May
- Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May
- Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May
- Flag Day, June 14
- Father's Day, third Sunday in June
- Independence Day, July 4
- Labor Day, first Monday in September
- Constitution Day, September 17
- Columbus Day, second Monday in October
- Navy Day, October 27
- Veterans Day, November 11
- Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November
- Christmas Day, December 25
- and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States
- the birthdays of States (date of admission)
- and on State holidays.

. . . And don't forget to fly your Arizona state flag as well, show your pride in this great state!

Ancestor biographies wanted for your newsletter.

If you would like to see your patriot ancestor's information in our newsletter please send it to the newsletter editor (try to limit the size to a double sided paper.)

Help! If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and you have an e-mail address that would work just as well, please e-mail that address to David Swanson at: Swanson1854@Yahoo.com
In addition to saving postage, you will get the crisp full color version that is much easier on your eyes.

Past Chapter Presidents

Robert H. Bohannon	2002-2004
	2007-2008
H. Robert Young	2005-2006
Carlton V. Phillips	2009
John R. Conrad	2010



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Barry M. Goldwater Chapter
Arizona Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Chapter Meeting Notice

The next regular meeting of the BMG Chapter will be held on **Thursday, January 19, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.**

Location: Coco's Restaurant
4514 E Cactus Road
Phoenix, AZ (602) 953-9155

Compatriots, wives, prospective members, and guests are cordially invited to attend this and all meetings.

Dinner will be ordered from a menu specially prepared for us. There will be a choice of several different entrees, so there will be something for everyone. The cost is \$15.50 per person, which includes: dinner, soft drinks, tea, coffee, tax and gratuity.

(Please bring your check made out to BMG Chapter AZSSAR.)

The meeting agenda is contained on the following page.

If you plan on attending, please notify David Swanson by e-mail at Swanson1854@yahoo.com or telephone (480) 515-2798 before January 16, 2012.

Just a reminder, we have chapter meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars. (No meetings during June—August and December)

Thanks. See you at the meeting!

David A. Swanson, Secretary/Treasurer
Barry M. Goldwater Chapter AZSSAR



Barry M. Goldwater Chapter Arizona Society, SAR

Agenda January 19, 2012

Call to Order 6:30 p.m.

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

SAR Pledge

We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

Business Session

Treasurer's Report
Other officer reports or remarks
Inductions

Dinner

50/50 Raffle

Program

Our next speaker will be a representative from the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM). If you haven't been there, you must go and if you have been this will be a nice follow up.

Installation of Barry M. Goldwater Chapter officers for 2012

Benediction

God Bless America

SAR Recessional

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men.

Adjournment