



Nevada Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Annual Meeting, April 1, 2023 President's Report

It has been an honor to serve as your President this last year, and as I leave office, I want to share with you some of the memorable things we accomplished, and some of the challenges and opportunities we face.

First, this past year our two chapters engaged in a wide array of educational and social activities, all of which served to raise NVSSAR's profile in our communities, and to provide opportunities for us to recruit new members. Please see the reports of our Chapter Presidents for further details of the many exciting things we did at the local level.

Second, while COVID continues to put a crimp on some of our plans, we appear to have turned a corner, and the year ahead is likely to be the busiest in years. I extend my thanks to the many people who helped me in my efforts this year to experiment with new programs, and take some risks. In the politically charged environment in which we live today, it's doubly important that our Society actively engage with our citizens here in Nevada, that we educate and inform our young people, and that we remind Nevadans of our nation's founding principles.

Third, a number of our members have received National recognition this year for their overall efforts on behalf of the SAR: several members were awarded SAR America250 Gold Medals this year, and several more members (and family members in a few cases) were honored as George Washington Fellows for their generous donations to the George Washington Endowment Fund. In fact, as I write this, the NVSSAR is on track to win the prestigious National award for the state society with the largest percentage increase this year of new George Washington Fellows! I want to personally thank our National Trustee Charles Smith for all that he did to help the NVSSAR achieve this outstanding result.

Fourth, we made a number of new members this year. That said, I must note that our total membership declined year-over-year. We need to do better, and do what we can to identify and recruit new members, especially younger members—we're growing old! It takes time and effort to attract new members, but if we don't pursue a sustained recruiting program, our ability to achieve the goals outlined in the SAR Mission Statement will be impaired. We can and must do more.

Fourth, we are financially sound, although we lag in donations from our members. I encourage my successor to undertake a fundraising campaign so that we can fund several overdue projects. Most importantly, we need a wholesale upgrade of our website, and we need to develop a more robust online presence in order to stay relevant. This costs money. The National Society has made great strides in that regard, and I'm confident that with more funding, NVSSAR can create a more inviting and entertaining website than it has today.

Finally, we will have some new faces and new voices on our Board of Managers in the 2023-24 year, as well as two new Chapter Presidents. I wish all of them the best of luck, and I urge all of our members to support them in the year ahead. We have great people in the NVSSAR, and we can achieve great things if we work together in common cause.