

Report on the 132nd SAR Congress

The 132nd SAR Congress was hosted by the GASSAR and presided over by PG David L. Wright. The SAR Congress was held in Savannah, GA from July 10 to 14, 2022 and was one of the largest SAR Congresses with 640 attendees and 280 delegates. Besides the normal meetings of delegates and trustees, the GASSAR sponsored several tours of Savannah, Ft Morris, Midway, grave marking, the 8th AF Museum and Parris Island. The Georgia Society were the consummate hosts but suffered devastating news immediately after the Congress with the passing of their State President, Joe Vancura. Below are the major points from this Congress:

- The first and biggest item of discussion were changes needed for NSSAR on rules regarding ethics and how to handle complaints. Presented to Congress were amendments for related sections of Bylaws 19 and 33 and the Official Handbook (changes were reviewed by the NSSAR EXCOM and the Council of State Presidents before being presented to Congress). Basically, whenever you have ethical standards and discipline rules in an organization like the SAR you are always balancing rights and equities. Members generally demand ethical behavior from all members and they want to be free from behavior that makes it uncomfortable to be a member. Then you have the right of a member who becomes the subject of a complaint to be treated fairly and given an opportunity to defend himself. That includes understanding the complaint, having the opportunity for a fair hearing and being able to appeal. Thus, NSSAR adopted new policies and procedures to handle these situations. Generally, NSSAR developed and the SAR Congress approved procedures in which a complaint is received, evaluated and referred to the Ethics Committee for investigation. Then rules for the appeal process were streamlined and clarified through the EXCOM and finally, if needed, to the SAR Trustees. Details will be posted soon in the various SAR documents on our web site. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT STATE AND CHAPTER SOCIETIES DEVELOP AND CODIFY SIMILAR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO HANDLE THEIR LOCAL ISSUES WHEN THE NSSAR GUIDANCE IS DISEMINATED.
- SAR Trustees approved funds for the SAR Education Center and Museum, Phase 1 and 2. Approved were funds of \$1.9M but needed is approximately \$12M to complete the museum and open the center by July 2026 (the US 250th anniversary). Funds for this projected are mainly achieved from donations. State and Chapter societies and individuals are highly encouraged in making contribution to the SAR Foundation, earmarked for the SAR Education Center and Museum. Donations of \$10K or more can expect a naming opportunity. A visualization of the planned center/museum can be viewed at the SAR Foundation web site (<https://youtu.be/3JaOikT8nxM>).
- Don Shaw, the NSSAR Executive Director, retired at the end of July 2022. NSSAR is conducting a search for his replacement. Don oversees a staff of 27 people and has

been the cornerstone of the national society for over 30 years. He will be missed. PG Pickette appointed Mike Scroggins as temporary Executive Director.

- The NSSAR size is approximately 38K members and has had 3357 new members since the start of the new year. As of July 7, 2022, the backlog of new applications is 13 weeks (that is a reduction of 20% since this time last year) and supplementals have a backlog of 34 weeks. New genealogists have helped to reduce the backlog (many genealogists retired/resigned during COVID). State genealogists/registrars are asked to thoroughly review applications before submitting to NSSAR to help reduce the error rate.
- As voted by the 132nd Congress Delegates, the new NSSAR leaders are:
 - President General C. Bruce Pickette (AL)
 - Secretary General John L. Dodd (CA)
 - Treasurer General Darryl S Addington (CA)
 - Chancellor General Michael J Elston (VA)
 - Genealogist General Gary O Green (NC)
 - Registrar General W. Allen Greenly (GA)
 - Historian General T Brooks Lyles (NC)
 - Library General L Fred Olive (AL)
 - Surgeon General Keith A Weissinger (WA)
 - Chaplin General John Vernon Welkner (KS)
 - Vice President General-Western District Derek Brown (CA)
- Planned SAR events are:
 - Spring Leadership: Louisville, KY March 2-4, 2023
 - 133rd Congress: Orlando, FL
 - 134th Congress: Lancaster, PA
 - 135th Congress: New London, CT

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P “Rob” Moore, SAR Western District Secretary, Hawaii Trustee



Figure 1 New VPG Derek Brown and Rob Moore (HI)



Figure 2 Former VPGs Elwin Spray & Charles Smith, Rob Moore (HI)



Figure 3 Western District participants at Congress