

HISSAR President Input

Well, COVID continues to foil our plans at HISSAR to get things done. In March of 2020 we were successful in having our annual general membership meeting before things started shutting down. We had plans to join the local Hawaii DAR people to participate in patriotic events like Memorial Day presentations, Independence Day parades and refurbishing the Merci Boxcar. COVID has placed everything on hold. What is not on hold in HISSAR is our ability to conduct business for SAR.

I have been meeting at least monthly with the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution using Zoom. What was needed was to develop and later approve an NSSAR operating budget. Also discussed was the protection of the NSSAR building and contents due to civil unrest that was occurring in Louisville. Fortunately, the NSSAR bylaws allow for electronic voting for meetings and we could approve the proposed budget and provide plans for the NSSAR building security. HISSAR is also present on the museum committee and the veteran's recognition committee. On the museum committee, we have been busy searching for and acquiring revolutionary artifacts for our building museum displays (if you find yourselves near Louisville, go by and see the neat items in the museum—you will be pleased). The veteran's recognition group has been working hard to ensure our SAR military veterans are recognized by NSSAR. If you ever were in the military and served honorably, please go to the NSSAR web site and fill out the VRC form indicating your military era and provide a redacted DD Form 214. HISSAR will present you your well-earned certificate at one of our meetings.

The executive board (EB) of HISSAR has been meeting quarterly to resolve issues on membership, budget and planned social functions. Again, all meetings have been via Zoom. We are planning to have our annual general membership meeting in April—IN PERSON, providing COVID protocols allow. Thanks to the work of our 2nd Vice President, Dan Curtis, we hope to have the meeting at Buca da Peppo with a great presentation by Daniel Martinez, NPS Historian. Details will be released soon.

I also want to thank some other members of the EB. Arthur Tulak is still working hard to ensure the ROTC and JROTC outstanding citizen-students are being recognized by HISSAR. Arthur has also made certain people and businesses who properly fly the American flag are recognized as well as the Eagle Scouts of Oahu. Dr. Mike Smith, our Secretary, has always ensured the HISSAR membership rolls are accurate and reported to NSSAR HQ as well as taking detailed notes of our meetings. And finally, our Chaplain, Jack Miller, has done an outstanding job in keeping our spirits uplifted even though the COVID pandemic has taken a toll on everyone. Jack has recently resigned from his position due to medical concerns. He has done an outstanding job and will be missed for his thoughtful guidance and friendship.

Besides marking your calendar for the HISSAR General Membership meeting, also mark your calendar for the 2021 NSSAR Congress in Seattle, WA in July. Details and sign up for the Congress will be available in mid-May—keep a lookout on the SAR web site for details. We are

also having a quick special Congress in March. The purpose of this special Congress is to change the SAR Bylaws to allow electronic voting at Congresses. While electronic voting is approved, it is only authorized for SAR meetings. Congress is not a meeting, so electronic voting is not authorized. The bylaws can be changed to allow this only at a Congress (yes, a Catch 22). So, a special Congress is being formed for the sole purpose of allowing this administrative change to our bylaws. As your Trustee, I authorized the special Congress with other SAR Trustees. Due to the distance and short time of the meeting, I will not attend the special Congress. The special Congress is planned to be held in the Washington DC area and will be covered by the delegates in the local area.

HISSAR has 26 members but only 7 people help run the organization and represent the spirit and ideas of SAR. If you have time (and only a little is sometimes needed), please consider helping. You could become an officer or run just one committee for HISSAR, like the scholarship committee or the flag committee, etc.—many hands can make the task lighter.

On a personal note, I have recently moved to Florida to be closer to my kids and grandkids. I will continue to serve as the HISSAR President until my term is complete this July and also as the HISSAR Trustee as long as you see me providing the leadership and Hawaii connectivity for the job. Having lived in Hawaii for over 36 years and as an active HISSAR member, I feel well suited and “up” for the task. I also feel that my close proximity to SAR HQ in Kentucky is an advantage for HISSAR. Please allow me to continue representing you.

By the way, I have learned to say “Go Bucs.” The Super Bowl was fun to watch and to bad that I could not attend in person.