



**OHIO SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE
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Ohio SAR State Chaplain's Report
Board of Management Meeting
Spring 2019/2020 Term
01 May 2020

It has been the privilege of my life to walk in this honored calling as the Ohio SAR State Chaplain. The Covid19 Pandemic has provided this Pastor/Chaplain with many opportunities to encourage people through prayer, articles, sermons and personal phone call counseling. Because I participate every day in a men's intercessory group from 6:45 a.m. until 8 a.m. this privileged prayer life allows me to faithfully intercede on behalf of many people, and it is one of the great joys of my daily walk with Christ. I give thanks for a group of prayer warriors who each and every day pray for many people and circumstances that they know nothing about.

I keep in my heart many of our officers and leaders, and seek to be a helpful team member. My involvement in SAR has added more to my life than I ever imagined, and Christ has used it to fill up some empty spaces. There are some compatriot brothers that have come to mean so much to me, and they know who they are; and yet every day those relationships are expanded.

I understand as a Chaplain the necessity for the non-sectarian approach to religion. I'm thankful for the long-suffering expressions of grace and mercy that have been expressed to me. When my sermons and articles go out at the State level, and at the Cincinnati Chapter I have received so many kindnesses and words of affirmation.

Please note the following:

1. This year I innovated the Chaplains Teleconferencing Call. We have had extraordinary guests, from Sam Davis, a well-known George Washington who functions from Massachusetts to the Carolinas. We have had men like Steve Brown of Keylife Radio Broadcast, Federal Judge Susan Dlott, noted Author Gerhard Maroscher. The purpose of the Chaplain's Teleconferencing Call is to promote decency, values, citizenship, American History, Providence of God in our nation, prayer, etc.
2. I have been working with Chaplains to get them ordained and credentialed in the State of Ohio, that they may solemnize marriages and fulfill all functions of regular clergy. Congratulations to Matt Hardman, President of the Hocking Valley SAR Chapter, and Chaplain, who is now assisting me as State Chaplain so that we may more comprehensively minister to the growing needs that are

before us. We are providing Chaplains with materials designed to sharpen their Pastoral skills in the areas of speaking, preaching, prayer and Pastoral Counsel. (Heady distinctions are being made, their counseling carefully circumscribed so that they do not address clinical maladies or clinical emotional disturbances.) Much more along these lines will be put in place in the year ahead.

3. It is important that our Chaplains do more than open and close meetings with prayer. They should be called upon in the field to offer prayer, and should be recognized as Gentlemen Officers, which they were. Every Chaplain should be affable, warm hearted, willing to come alongside of anyone, with the high call to strengthen their chapter. I encourage our Chaplains to develop articles and insights from Biblical stories that all under their care may draw encouragement from the scriptures. Moreover, every Chaplain should take the same attitude that John Wesley had, who said the world was his parish. Our Chaplains should be salt and light, encouragers who abound and thrive with the opportunity of cultivating relationships centered in God.
4. Bereavement letters, and its subsequent ministry: Thus far, since last May, I have written approximately 23 bereavement letters and have engaged over 10 families with follow-up Pastoral care. Because of my involvement in this I have realized that we have a problem here, and it is indicative of the nation.
5. Developing a new mechanism: Having been duly charged by the Board of Managers, I have constituted a small committee, and we are looking at solving a problem endemic to our chapters at the State and National level. We are seeking to develop a way of keeping accurate records on our men and their accomplishments during their active years. The records also call for names of spouses, next of kin, and the addresses of at least 2 other family members.

About 1/3 of the bereavement letters written are returned and never reach the destination. Well over 1/4 of our men die and I'm not given the name of the wife. We must do better than this. My committee, working currently under the directives of current state Vice-President Lee Wilkerson, will continue to report to him, as we seek to develop a mechanism that might very well work for the nation. Currently we are recommending that these records be maintained by the Chaplains of every chapter, and we plan to have a potential mechanism in place for your consideration in late fall. Our committee will meet again in late May. This is not a condemnation on what has gone on prior to this. Troy Bailey has been assisting Chaplains for years by providing information, and he is now happily working with us as we explore a better methodology for keeping more impeccable records. The codicil, after being developed by us, will be taken to the New Jersey and Virginia State SAR Board of Managers. Perhaps prior to that to the Williamsburg Chapter of which I am a part, and the Princeton Chapter of Princeton New Jersey, where I also hold membership. I attended Princeton Theological Seminary at Princeton University, where that town holds a special place in my heart. Perhaps with the approbation of those particular local chapters and their input, we will be on our way towards providing some national model within 2 years.

6. Memorial Service: I have developed a liturgical Memorial Service (void of preaching) providing prayers, collects, responsive readings, etc., with brief remarks by our upcoming President Lee Wilkerson. I am grateful for the input of Colonel Don McGraw, the faithful work of my secretary Robin Spence, and endless hours of help from Troy Bailey. Because of Covid19 it is my

understanding now that this Memorial Service will unfold in July at Ft. Laurens, and we are ready. Names of all deceased have been confirmed and the program has been printed. We are in readiness to execute what I believe will be a succinct, well structured, yet warm Service of Remembrance. If allowed to continue as Chaplain, I hope the time comes when the widows of such men would be invited, and there would be a reception and some fellowship. No one loves to preach more than I do, but I do not see this as a preaching service. Even with widows in attendance, and a time of fellowship, people could still be on their way in under an hour. The service, as it stands now, will run about 35 minutes.

I am grateful to so many men who have encouraged me in my journey as Chaplain and as a member of the Colorguard to say nothing of the incredible success that the Cincinnati Chapter has had in going into schools and conducting festivals of learning on the American Revolution. I am honored to be a part of that team, to serve as Commander of Youth Outreach, working under the incredible leadership of Bob Bowers. We have at this moment spoken to over 6700 students in the last three years. This has been one of the extraordinary experiences of my life.

On a personal note, God certainly has a sense of humor, as I am a 71-year-old youth minister of sorts. I have met so many wonderful teachers, and parents, and kids, through this rich experience. I am quite confident that someday when I cross the bar, I will remember all of the precious times that I've had speaking of our great history and of God's wonderful providential interventions in those events that led to the founding of our great nation.

This concludes my report.

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