

Welcome

Spring greetings from the War of 1812 - PA. Our group spends a lot of time dealing in the past, and our board thinks it is time to report a bit about the present. So, here is a first effort in that direction. A next one may take a different form and be a while away, but we hope the information provided will give you more insight into the group many of you have belonged to for some time.

This sort of communication is only as good as the content provided. Here is your call to participate and provide a little about what you are doing. Preference and first space go to 1812-related activities, or stories about relatives who served in that conflict; however, if you have information which you think might be of interest to our group, please feel free to pass it on to us.

The Annual Meeting

We gathered at our regular venue, The Corinthian Yacht Club on a sunny March 10 for our Annual Meeting. As you can see from the lunch photo, the turnout was larger than usual. Reports from various Board members were presented. Bottom line - the Society is in good shape.



Outgoing President Richard Di Stefano opened the meeting.

Two major changes occurred at the meeting. Richard Di Stefano stepped down as president and former VP, Robert F. Marvin, MD assumed that position. Then, our secretary, Sam Hoff, bowed out and Jefferson Moak was voted in to replace him. Rick will still have a Board position and Sam continues the monumental task



New President, Robert F. Marvin, MD, pictured with Secretary Jefferson Moak.

of organizing the ROTC award program on the national level. Also, Stacy Wood is rejoining the Board after a couple years' hiatus.



A view of most of the tables at the Annual Meeting. If you haven't been to the Yacht Club for a while, you may not know that they have finished a great renovation and at right is a whole wall of windows looking out on the river.

As we go to press, there are a few vacancies on the Board of Direction. If you have time to attend meetings over lunch at the Philadelphia Club on three Tuesdays a year, you might like to take this opportunity to serve your fellow members and help promote the mission of the Society.

Our Speaker

This year Anthony Pitch was the speaker at our Annual Meeting. He spoke to us a number of years ago and we were happy to have him back. He has written several books on historical topics and is highly regarded as a speaker on those topics. It was a well received talk that



Anthony Pitch signs a book for NJ member Harry Folger.

included anecdotes about the moment the British appeared to take over our new capital and how average people rose to the occasion to save as many historic documents as they could in the midst of chaos. He emphasized the importance of the little things people did to impact a situation which affected their lives. Your editor found a video online of Mr. Pitch discussing the same topic. If you can find a decent high speed connection, it is well worth an hour or so to view.

<http://mitworld.mit.edu/video/87>

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Calendar of Events - War of 1812 (March-July)

March 1812: Madison's publication of the John Henry Correspondence regarding Great Britain's alleged employment of a secret agent to foster separation of the States in 1809.

March-April 1812: Burning of American merchant vessels by French naval forces

April 1812: Passage of the Providence Resolutions against potential war with Great Britain

May 1812: English petitions submitted to Parliament requesting repeal of Orders in Council which restricted trade with the United States.

June 18, 1812: Madison signs declaration of war against England

June 23, 1812: Repeal of Orders in Council.

July 29, 1812: England is informed of American declaration of war.

In other News.....

When a new member joins us for his first meeting, he receives a rosette. Here, David Brock (right) gets his from Registrar, Martin Peicker on March 10.



Events

Please look at the calendar and mark down our planned meeting and event dates. First up is the church service, parade and lunch at Valley Forge Military in Wayne, PA on May 6. We had a good turnout last year. Several brought children and grandchildren to see the colorful parade.



The BBQ will be June 24. Most of our previous attendees are planning to come out again but there's always room for more. If you think this is an evening when you just stand around a grill and watch the food cook, you will have a pleasant surprise. We are under cover on Merion Golf Club's lower terrace and buffet tables offer a variety of food to please every taste. Family and friends are welcome as well.

Your board is considering holding another social event in the fall. Details are still to come, but we hope you will be able to join us.

Speakers

And while we are asking, have any of you come across any other speakers with a topic from our war? We would like to find more, and any help would be appreciated.

ROTC Awards

Our group provides these to colleges across the country. If you can jump in quickly, we are always looking for presenters for PA colleges. Presentations are held from April into early May, in the afternoon or evening. For more info, use the contact information at the bottom.

New Member Recruitment

The Bicentennial Commemorations of the War of 1812, our second war of independence from Great Britain, offers excellent opportunities for introducing new members to our organization, particularly family members. We are working to increase awareness of our organization in a variety of ways, and one of those is by adding to our roll of members. If you have a son, grandsons, brothers, or cousins who may be eligible for membership, we encourage you to consider proposing them, so that they can take part in the Bicentennial and future activities. Membership helps to perpetuate the lives and memories of our family ancestors and their brave service that helped to advance America at a crucial moment in our country's early history. For assistance in finding and completing our membership application materials, please contact Registrar Martin Peicker by email at mpeicker@gmail.com, or use the contact information at the bottom.

Mark your calendar:

May 6 - Parade VFMA
(Invitation in the works)

June 5 - Board Meeting
June 24 - BBQ at Merion Golf
Sept 11 - Board Meeting
Fall - 1812 event (TBA)
Dec 4 - Board Meeting

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