



**John Paul Jones Chapter
The Maryland Society
Sons of the American Revolution**

Annapolis, Maryland

20 September 2021



Meeting Minutes for 18 September 2021 Chapter Meeting

Meeting Minutes for 18 September 2021 meeting of the John Paul Jones (JPJ) Chapter, Maryland Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Meeting was held at the Glory Days Grill in Edgewater, MD.

1. Call to Order. President and Compatriot Ronald Shuey called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m. EST.

Compatriot Members present at the meeting:

- Chapter President, Ronald Shuey
- Chapter Genealogist/Registrar (and acting Secretary), Robert Rice
- Rick Abbott
- Kevin Eichelberger
- John Harvey
- New Compatriot, Ray Harris (Sworn-in at Meeting)
- David Stern
- New Compatriot, Geoff Wood (Sworn-in at Meeting)
- New Compatriot, Charles Woodward (Sworn-in at Meeting)

Guests and Non-Voting persons present at the meeting:

- Mrs. Eichelberger
- State Registrar and Treasurer, Gary Neal
- New Applicant, Glenn Moss
- Mrs. Woodward

Note: A Zoom meeting invitation was sent to the greater JPJ membership prior to the meeting. No members, however, choose to log in and participate in the meeting via a Zoom connection.

2. Invocation. Compatriot Gary Neal gave the invocation prayer.

3. Pledge and Recitations. President and Compatriot Ronald Shuey lead the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance and in the recitation of the SAR Pledge.



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4. Induction Ceremony. Three new Compatriot Members (see attendance list above) were sworn-in by Past Chapter President Chris Beck. *[Images taken during induction ceremony attached]*. Each of the three new members were then given the floor for any personal remarks.

5. Officer's and Chairman Reports.

(1) Chapter Secretary. Secretary Mark Deeds, in planning for not being present, sent the Secretary's report via earlier email to the JPJ membership.

(2) Chapter Treasurer. Treasurer Rand Tomcala was not present. President Shuey in Rand's absence gave an update on Chapter finances since the last meeting. A rough balance of the chapter's bank accounts, to include approximately \$10014.00 (ten-thousand fourteen) dollars in savings, was provided. President Shuey was also mentioned that Michael Kelly still owes JPJ in the amount of \$7300.00 (seven-thousand three hundred) dollars. Some funds were earned since the last meeting were a result of coin sales during the 2021 Atlantic Middle States Association (AMSA) conference. There was also a deposit of a \$100 (one hundred) dollar donation check given to the chapter from Mr. John Benson, of Chesapeake, Ohio, in appreciation of the help given to him on his SAR membership application.

President Shuey added discussion about the issue with Michael Kelly and, at first, explained the issue for the benefit of the new members present. The criminal counts and the service of a summons directed to Michael Kelly (who is a resident of Baltimore) was detailed, to include the facts surrounding the subsequent cancellation of the summons because Baltimore police failed to be timely in the service of the summons on Michael Kelly. President Shuey stated that it was his understanding, that because the expired summons had been returned to Anne Arundel County, that the State's Attorney for the County, as a next step, has been working to issue a warrant for Michael Kelly.

It was also mentioned that the State Treasurer, Gary Neal, was present. And he reminded everyone that Dues must be paid to the Maryland Society, SAR (MDSSAR) by the end of the year.

(3) Youth Program. President Shuey explained that presently, JPJ does not have a person serving in the role of committee chair for the youth program. The position was previously held by Michael Kelly and no replacement has been installed since his departure. A call for a volunteer to replace Kelly was made by President Shuey, should there be any interest on the part of another member of the JPJ Chapter.

(4) Community Outreach. The recent participation of chapter members in a local car show was reported by President Shuey as having been a success. That participation appeared to generate a lot of new interest in SAR. The JPJ Chapter participants presented an award



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on behalf of JPJ, to one of the car show entrants, who was also a sixth (6th) generation veteran.

- (5) Wreaths across America (WAA). President Shuey discussed and explained for new members present, the annual JPJ donation to Wreaths across American in support of the Annapolis National Cemetery (ANC). Robert Rice, the WAA coordinator (with his wife as co-coordinator), who is also a member of JPJ Chapter, explained that donations were needed to ensure coverage for the 2996 headstones in the ANC. Then, **a motion was made** by *[compatriot name not noted]* proposing the JPJ donate \$150 (one hundred fifty) dollars to the Friends of Annapolis WAA group for the purchase of wreaths. The motion was then **seconded**, and upon a vote, subsequently **passed unanimously** by the JPJ members present.
- (6) Road Sponsorship. President Shuey, in response to a question by a member present replied that JPJ Secretary Mark Deeds is working with the Adopt-a-Highway coordinator for a possible trial JPJ sponsorship, and that Mark is waiting for the coordinator to provide more information.
- (7) Annual Christmas Holidays Party and JPJ Crypt Wreath Laying. President Shuey explained, for new members and others present, the Annual JPJ holiday party and traditional JPJ Crypt wreath laying ceremony, which is currently planned to occur as part of the next JPJ Chapter meeting on December 11, 2021, from noon (12) until four (4) p.m. President Shuey stated that he was still unsure about the status of the event due to uncertainty over access to the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA). He explained that he was planning to reach out in the next week, to the USNA on the issue.
- (8) Education. No education report was presented
- (9) Social Media. No social media report was presented.

6. Unfinished Business.

- Chapter Officer Positions for 2022. President Shuey noted that Chapter Secretary Mark Deeds is working on the new slate of new officers. He also iterated that there are open positions.
- Adopt-A-Highway. It was noted that the topic was previously discussed.
- Annual Holiday Party. It was noted that the topic was previously discussed.
- Wreaths across America. It was noted that the topic was previously discussed.

7. New Business.

- (1) DAR Invite to Visit Rising Sun Tavern. President Shuey discussed an invitation received from the 'Anne Arundell' *[spelling correct]* chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, for the JPJ chapter membership to visit and tour the Rising Sun Tavern, which is located on Millersville Road, north of Annapolis. John Harvey made a number



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of comments and fond remembrances about past activities at the Rising Sun Tavern and prior holiday parties held there by the JPJ Chapter. John Harvey then **made a motion** that JPJ give some money to the Anne Arundell DAR to help support the Rising Sun Tavern. The **motion was seconded**, and then **discussed**. During the discussion, Compatriot Robert Rice raised a concern that most of the newer members of the JPJ, himself included, have never been to the Rising Sun Tavern, and did not have any ties to the building and that DAR chapter. He stated that he personally believed that the Tavern was too small, and that it was, in his opinion, not something that the chapter should give money for until members of the JPJ could at least visit and become more acquainted with the Rising Sun Tavern and the DAR Chapter there. Compatriot John Harvey went on to say that the Rising Sun Tavern was the site of JPJ Christmas Parties in the past and suggested that JPJ look at having a gathering there. Robert Rice mentioned that it was his understanding there was no food service there, noting that the location had been, in the prior year, ruled out as a possible venue for the Christmas party for that same reason. Subsequently, John Harvey **withdrew the motion**, and it was discussed that an inquiry should be made with Compatriot Barry McKown about the appropriateness of a donation and if appropriate, the amount, before giving any JPJ funds to the Rising Sun Tavern.

- (2) New Member Intro/Schedule/Information about the JPJ Chapter. Compatriot Robert Rice **made a motion** that the JPJ Chapter create a pamphlet or brochure that spells out a schedule of the annual recurring events and activities, to include a definition and calendar of actions of the activities managed under the purview of the various committees of the JPJ Chapter, be created. Compatriot Rice stated that we have a large number of new members joining the chapter who need the information and that it would be a helpful recruiting aid as well. Compatriot Rice stated that while the SAR Handbook (available online) exists, it does not give a 'local chapter' perspective on what activities actually occur at both the Chapter and State Society. He suggested that the pamphlet or brochure be created by the Chapter's Officers and committee leads through the oversight of the Chapter Secretary, and suggested that the pamphlet or brochure define and lay out clearly exactly what the JPJ Chapter does over a typical year. The pamphlet or brochure should give a good description of the many awards, programs, contests, (e.g., School awards and activities, and activities related to ROTC awards, Military and First Responder awards, Good Citizenship awards, and Youth Programs, etc.) as well as show when on the yearly calendar events occur. The motion **was seconded**, and subsequently **passed unanimously** by the JPJ members present.
- (3) French Monument Honor Ceremony. President Shuey mentioned that the French Monument at St. Johns College is normally the location of an annual honor ceremony that JPJ participates in and that it usually occurs in October. The State Societies SAR Color Guard was usually a participant as well. He stated that he was not sure what the



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status was for this year. As last year, due to COVID-19, the ceremony was not held. It was suggested that Compatriot Barry McKown would know more about the organizers and who to contact.

8. Chapter President's Remarks. President and Compatriot Ron Shuey remarked with comments and information about:

- Update on Award actions accomplished.
- Remarks that the SAR Handbook is available online.
- Update on the Atlantic Middle States Association conference.
- Reminder that the next Semi-Annual State meeting is upcoming, and all are invited.
- Reminder that the next JPJ meeting would be the Christmas party, on 11 December at Noon.

9. Adjournment. A **motion was made** [*name not recorded*] to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **seconded** and in all present, **voted** that they were in favor of the motion. The Chapter meeting was then concluded with a reading of the SAR Recessional and Compatriot Gary Neal gave the Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted

Original Signed by Mark D. Deeds

Mark D. Deeds

Secretary

John Paul Jones Chapter

Maryland Society, Sons of the American Revolution