

CINCINNATI FOURTEEN



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New Jersey Vice President Nicholas Gilman and President Kelly Stewart visit with our guests, Secretary General Ross Perry and President General Skid Masterson.

Society's annual giving campaign and for his exceptional leadership in planning the Triennial. In addition, President General Masterson provided our members with an introduction to the newly formed American Revolution Institute.

History committee chairman Ross Maghan reported that the history prize winner for this year will be Professor John E. Ferling, professor emeritus of History at the University of West Georgia and a leading historian in the American Revolution. Professor Ferling will be our Society's guest speaker at our annual meeting and banquet at Anderson

House on October 6.

On Saturday afternoon, a separate meeting was held to focus exclusively on the Triennial. Chairman John Harvey opened the planning meeting by discussing why the upcoming event promises to be quite unique and transformative. Committee members have worked tirelessly to implement our vision. Due to the proximity of Princeton University and several historical sites, we will be taking advantage of many special facilities, venues and resources. In addition, Cary Briggs, a member of our Society, has designed a website which will keep attendees fully informed

and provide a forum for addressing questions.

During free time, members toured many of the local venues being considered for the upcoming Triennial. In addition, many members and their guests took advantage of the wonderful spring weather to enjoy touring the beautiful Princeton University campus. We are very confident that our planning efforts will result in one of the most rewarding and enjoyable Triennials in modern times.

Paul Douglas Huling
Assistant Secretary

The Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Society President Chuck Coltman and his wife, Leslie, hosted the Standing Committee for a weekend of fellowship and meetings in Bethany Beach in early September. Nine members (including three Pennsylvania past presidents) and their families spent two delightful days personifying our new *Vision and Strategies* statement's first strategy of "cultivating brotherly affection" among our members.

We also acted on the second strategy—to "promote educational programs to improve understanding of the Revolutionary War and its heroes"—by approving a challenge grant of \$25,000 to fund the creation of an iCivics Revolutionary War game in concert with the General Society. This is an historic event for the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati—the largest single contribution of any kind we will have made since we funded the construction of the George Washington Monument in Eakins Oval in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 1897. It is the first major gift for education in our modern history. It is the first time the Pennsylvania Society has ever cooperated with the General Society in a major project other than the *Pennsylvania in the American Revolution* exhibition. And we are very excited about it.

President Chuck Coltman leads the discussion at the recent Pennsylvania Society standing committee meeting in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

A year ago our treasurer and newly designated education chairman, Jim Pringle, was assigned the task of identifying a meaningful education project. He found iCivics, started by retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in 2008 to improve civic education, which is in steep decline. It uses game-based instruction familiar to today's youth. Following the Annenberg Foundation Trust's sponsorship of four games, an estimated 20,000 teachers currently use iCivics for classroom instruction in fifty states.

Jim's first move was to contact Education Director Eleesha Tucker at Anderson House. There were a lot of issues. Does iCivics see the value of focusing attention on the historical context of our country's founding in support of their teaching of civic principles? Would our Society have equal rights to the content we work with them to develop? Would Eleesha and Jack



Warren have major input into that content? Would the General Society and the Pennsylvania Society be able to host the game on their websites? In the end, careful work by Eleesha resulted in our decision to launch the project.

The Pennsylvania Society will provide \$25,000, matching one dollar for every two dollars contributed by other interested state societies or individuals. Another \$15,000 has already been pledged in less than a week. Right now the Society of the Cincinnati is almost unknown in the educational community as a source of classroom materials on the American Revolution. A joint development of a game with iCivics will help the Society take a step toward realizing its potential as *the go-to source* for Revolutionary War lesson materials.



Charles Lilly Coltman III
President

**Delaware State Society
of the Cincinnati**

The Delaware State Society of the Cincinnati has not formally met since our annual meeting in late March 2012, though numerous members of the Delaware Society participated in the annual meeting of the General Society. Although the Delaware Society is the smallest of the constituent societies, our members have a large role in the leadership of the General Society. Five of the General Society’s committees are chaired or co-chaired by Delaware members. Immediate Past President General George Forrest Pragoff is chairman of the committee on nominations, Bryan Scott Johnson is chairman of the history

committee, Christopher Rogers Kloman is chairman of the education committee, James Keith Peoples is chairman of the museum committee and Emile Pragoff III is co-chairman of the state associations liaison committee. As this Triennium winds down, we took this opportunity to ask each of them to discuss his work with the General Society.

Explaining his role as chairman of the committee on nominations, Forrest writes:

“The committee has the responsibility for selecting a slate of six men to be nominated for General Officer positions at the 2013 Triennial. Each of the fourteen constituent societies appoints

one representative to serve as a voting member of this committee. The current president general is a non-voting member. Those past presidents general who are not the voting representative of their respective constituent societies are invited to attend meetings of the committee. They may address the committee, but they do not have voting rights.

Our committee has established written criteria for General Officer candidates, developed a strategy for including members from all fourteen of the constituent societies in leadership roles over extended periods, and received leadership candidate forms from twelve capable members. Our

committee has followed this process in order to provide our voting members with information that will enable them to make well-informed choices for the slate. We have experienced broad participation in the process and we expect to select a strong team of prospective nominees.”

In the current triennium, the role of the history committee has focused on programs to educate members about the history of the Society and War for American Independence. Under the leadership of Scott Johnson, the committee is accomplishing its first charge by the publication of articles in *Cincinnati Fourteen*. The George Rogers Clark Lecture series is foremost among the committee’s efforts to educate society members about the War for American Independence. Lecturers so far this triennium have included Professor David Hackett Fischer of Brandeis University, who spoke on “George Washington and the Extraordinary Allen McLane,” and Professor Pauline R. Maier of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who spoke on “The People and the Ratification of the Constitution.” The 2012 Clark Lecture will be presented by Walter Bellingrath Edgar, Carolina Trustee Professor and George Washington Professor Emeritus at the University of

South Carolina, who will be speaking on “The American Revolution in the South.”

Chris Kloman, chairman of the education committee, is most pleased with the creation of the director of education position. Although not yet on site for one year, Eleesha Tucker has done a remarkable job in advancing the education of American students with regard to the Revolutionary period and the war in particular. “We are equally pleased,” he writes “with the continuing interest in and ever-widening use of our flagship text, *Why America Is Free*, now entering its revised second edition. Many Cincinnati members, and their wives, have been instrumental in promoting *Why America Is Free* in their respective states along with the remarkable Values Through History program. A more recent effort has been the promotion of *La Route de l’Indépendance ... de Versailles à Yorktown*. Anyone who has not seen this unusual and fascinating French *comix* is urged to contact Eleesha Tucker and purchase copies and distribute to schools that teach French in his area. We plan to contact the American Association of Teachers of French to enlist their support in the promotion and distribution of the work. The 2009 Annual Report included a list of twenty-five people, battles and

events of the Revolutionary War we consider important for all Americans to know something about, and we are now asking each of the fourteen constituent societies to supplement this list by devising a local list of ten people, battles, or events associated with the war most significant to their state—or nation, in the case of France.”

For the past two triennia, the museum committee had been led by Chairman Peoples, who is pleased with the strides the museum department is making. “In the realm of acquisitions,” he writes, “we have, using the acquisitions policy enacted at the end of the last triennium, increased our holdings of Eagles. These purchases have been augmented by the long-term loan and promised gift of an important collection of Eagles pledged by Gary Young (Va.).”

“The museum has welcomed a new collections manager, Whitney Robertson. She has been charged with ensuring the collection is properly documented, stored and displayed, including maintaining the collections database, processing acquisitions, monitoring museum environmental conditions and contributing to emergency preparedness and security. Most recently, she has been developing a comprehensive maintenance and care plan for