



124TH CONVENTION WRAP-UP

Post-Division Convention Communiqué

UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY®

OCTOBER 2019

124TH DIVISION CONVENTION
HERNDON, VIRGINIA
3-6 OCTOBER 2019

“Southern Heroines: Smugglers and Spies”

Virginia Daughters,

Thank you all for helping make our 124th Annual convention such a success!!

From those who braved the Northern Virginia traffic, to the Fourth District Chapters and members who donated and worked, to the Convention Committee who did all of the above plus met and planned, you did it!

The hotel staff were wonderful help.

We had excitement: the Fire Alarm Saturday afternoon.

We had a Patriotic, Memorial, and Historical event: The Honor Flight from Oregon "marching" through Historical Evening! That was truly remarkable and memorable.

Again, my sincere thanks to all who attended.

My best wishes to Sixth District for a successful 125th Division Convention.

Virginia Norton
Committee Chairman
124th Division Convention



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2019–2021 VIRGINIA DIVISION OFFICERS



Left to right: Kelly Fahel, Mary Wasenko, Pam Curtin, Sharon Loving, Pam Smith, Angela Smith, Janet Perkins

Elected Officers

- ★ President Sharon Loving (General Stuart Chapter 2195)
- ★ 2nd Vice President Kelly Fahel (Mary Custis Lee-17th Virginia Regiment Chapter 7)
- ★ 3rd Vice President Mary Wasenko (Fredericksburg Chapter 163)
- ★ Treasurer Pamela Curtin (Madison Chapter 1093)
- ★ Recorder of Military Service Awards Pamela Smith (Caroline Grays Chapter 2473)
- ★ Custodian Angela Smith (Caroline Grays Chapter 2473)

Appointed Officers

- ★ Vice President Annette Wetzel (Richmond-Stonewall Jackson Chapter 1705)
- ★ Recording Secretary Suzanne Robinson (Centennial-Maury Chapter 2296)
- ★ Registrar Helen Webster (Albemarle Chapter 154)
- ★ Historian Leslie Mahaffey (General William R. Terry Chapter 580)

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2019–2021 VIRGINIA DIVISION OFFICERS (CONTINUED) . . .

Appointive Officers

- ★ Corresponding Secretary Janet Perkins (Halifax Chapter 1321)
- ★ Assistant Registrar *position not yet filled*

District Chairmen

- ★ 1st District: Janie Dillon (Captain Milton Hall Harmon Chapter 2676)
- ★ 2nd District: Jennifer Thomson (General William R. Terry Chapter 580)
- ★ 3rd District: Carol Williams (Appomattox Chapter 11)
- ★ 4th District: Dawn Diehl (Loudoun Chapter 170)
- ★ 5th District: Barbara Joyner (President Davis Chapter 2197)
- ★ 6th District: Suzanne Townsend (City Point Chapter 2066)



2017–2019 Virginia Division President Ginger Stephens installs the 2019–2021 District Chairmen, standing, from left: Janie Dillon, Jennifer Thomson, Carol Williams, Dawn Diehl, Barbara Joyner, and Suzanne Townsend.

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124TH CONVENTION NOTES

Virginia Division Convention Numbers

We had 137 registered with 130 in attendance, including one more Honorary Division Presidents than we started with: **Congratulations to Mary Vial** on her unanimous election as the newest Honorary President of Virginia Division. Unfortunately, two of our six District Chairmen were unable to attend and no General Officers were able to attend, but in attendance were two Honorary Presidents General, eight Past Presidents of Virginia Division, and all of your 2017–2019 Virginia Division Officers (12, including the two Appointive Officers).



Voting strength was 124, with 63 needed to elect.

Hats off to Lynn Willis for keeping track of us all and for ensuring that Sunday’s election ran smoothly, despite the unexpected side trip she took Saturday night!

From the Editor:

This Convention Wrap-Up includes highlights from the 124th Convention – such as our new Division Officers – and information sent to me for inclusion. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this Wrap-Up, both information and photographs... mostly via Facebook – love the “save to phone” option! It’s a bit sparser than the 2018 Convention Wrap-Up, as I did not attempt to report on the entire Convention single-handedly & the Minutes of the 124th Convention will cover most of what I left out. Thanks again to all y’all who have contributed articles and pictures for publication in the *Old Dominion Bulletin* over the past 2 years. You made my job so much easier through your generous sharing.

Liz Shifflett, Outgoing Corresponding Secretary

EVENTS

Virginia Daughters Luncheon, Friday afternoon

Speaker Don Hakenson, “Steel Velvet”

Don Hakenson’s delivery of Eric Buckland’s presentation was fantastic. He painted a vivid picture of these vibrant and dedicated Southern Heroines.

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EVENTS (CONTINUED) . . .

Historical Evening, Friday night

Historical Evening is always special. This year even more so, as we recognized our “first” first responders – father and son whose medals were numbered 7 and 8.

Vietnam Conflict Cross of Military Service

- ★ Sergeant William Frank Voinche, Jr., U.S. Air Force

Persian Gulf National Defense Medal

- ★ Lieutenant Colonel Ray Lawrence Oden, U.S. Army
- ★ Captain Mark Edward Cummings, U.S. Air Force

Homeland Defense Service Medal

- ★ Sheriff Anthony W. Roper of Clarke County, Virginia
- ★ Sergeant Anthony W. Roper, Jr. of Frederick County, Virginia

The beginning and end of Historical Evening were also inspiring. Following the processional, the Musical Concert was presented by the Tuscarora Brass Band under the direction of Mr. John Russell. This group’s talent and dedication were obvious as they delivered a splendid selection of period music in style – period clothing AND instruments!



This picture of the 26th North Carolina Regiment Band (accompanying their [YouTube “Dixie & Bonnie Blue Flag” video](#)), includes members of the Tuscarora Brass Band, which had that song on their playlist Friday night. So good!

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Historical Evening, Friday night (continued) . . .

The evening ended following a performance of “The Healing” by two of Loudoun 170’s members. Dawn Diehl and Linda Harrison wrote and performed this one-act play about two nurses serving on opposite sides of the War. Their moving performance was capped when they were awarded the Sidney Lanier Medal in recognition of their accomplishment.

But the most exceptional part of Historical Evening was the standing ovation given to an interruption: More than 100 Honor Flight veterans from different wars came through to be recognized for their service. What they received was unending applause and cheering, complete with Rebel Yells, that lasted until all of them and their guardians had gone through the room, having received thanks, hugs, and handshakes along the way.

Memorial Service, Saturday morning

We remembered 43 Daughters lost over the past year, including 14 Real Granddaughters, and laid a wreath at Laura Ratcliffe’s grave.

Presidents Evening, Saturday night

The Chapter reports this year again focused on special projects undertaken or planned by the Chapter. It was a fun evening of sharing and companionship.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Dawn Diehl (left) and Linda Harrison, post- performance.

Sidney Lanier Medals

- ★ Dawn Diehl, Loudoun Chapter 170
- ★ Linda Harrison, Loudoun Chapter 170

Right, Dawn Diehl, as a Southern nurse, describes the agony of yet another patient slipping away.



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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION (CONTINUED) . . .

My apologies if your Chapter won an award and is not recognized here. - ed.

Banners

- ★ Minnie C. Eller Banner: 5th District
Awarded to the best District achieving the organization's goals and objectives (based on points – see the Minutes for details).
- ★ Randolph-Walke Banner: 5th District
Awarded to the District that has seen the largest increase in net membership.
- ★ Alice Whitley Jones Banner: Lancaster Chapter 1406
Awarded to the Chapter that has completed the best historical project.
- ★ Mrs. John S. Goldsmith Banner: Appomattox Chapter 11, 3rd District
Awarded to Chapter giving the most support to the CofC of Virginia.



Best Chapter Newsletter

- ♦ Caroline Grays Chapter 2473

Best Chapter Scrapbook

- ♦ Centennial-Maury Chapter 2296 (7-40 members)
- ♦ Fredericksburg Chapter 163 (41+ members)

Best Chapter Yearbook

- ♦ Centennial-Maury Chapter 2296 (7-40 members)

Chapter Giving the Most Subscriptions to Libraries and Institutions

- ♦ Albemarle Chapter 154

Chapter Awarding the Most Vietnam Conflict Crosses of Military Service

(award offered in Honor of Kirk Gosnell, USMC, by his cousin, Dawn Diehl), a tie:

- ♦ Caroline Grays Chapter 2473
- ♦ H.A. Carrington Chapter 1055



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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION (CONTINUED) . . .

Chapter Returning the Earliest Annual Financial Report

- ♦ Stonewall Chapter 1388 (7-40 members)

Chapter with the Most New Members

- ♦ 1st District: A four-way tie!
 - ✧ Anna Stonewall Jackson-Ann Carter Lee Chapter 180
 - ✧ Hamilton Wade Chapter 949
 - ✧ Jefferson Davis Chapter 2477
 - ✧ Wythe Grey Chapter 136
- ♦ 2nd District: Albemarle Chapter 154
- ♦ 3rd District: Lunenburg Chapter 1654
- ♦ 4th District: Loudoun Chapter 170
- ♦ 5th District: Richmond-Stonewall Jackson Chapter 1705 (also won for Division)
- ♦ 6th District: Princess Anne Chapter 435

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

Major Updates from the 2019 Virginia Division Convention

- ★ Mrs. Mary Vial was elected Honorary President of Virginia Division.
- ★ A Special Committee was created to create a monument to the nurses at Chimborazo Hospital. Approximately 400 were male and enslaved. The Committee will work on the design, location, and fundraising. The initial estimate provided by Gary Casteel of Gettysburg, PA was \$120,000. The Division approved the sale of Christmas ornaments and paperweights to start the fundraising.



*Photo of Chimborazo Hospital
from the Library of Congress.*

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Major Updates from the 2019 Virginia Division Convention (continued) . . .

- ★ A Special Committee was created to manage the Homeland Defense Security Award, in compliance with UDC General's bylaws.
- ★ Standing Rule 14 was added to the Virginia Division Bylaws to provide framework for awarding grants from the Monument Defense Fund.
- ★ The Moses Ezekiel Award was created. The award will be presented annually to the graduating senior at Liberty University with the highest GPA in Studio Arts. The Division approved the sale of a Moses Ezekiel shirt, with Moses Ezekiel on the front and a list of all Jewish Confederates from Virginia on the back to raise funds for the award.
- ★ The Richard Poplar Scholarship was created. The scholarship is for African Americans with Confederate ancestors. The other criteria for the scholarship will be determined when the corpus of the scholarship is complete. The Division approved the sale of Richard Poplar shirts to begin the fundraising.
- ★ Richard Poplar shirts with the list of 1400 Black Confederates from Virginia will be sent to Governor Ralph Northam, Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax, and Attorney General Mark Herring.
- ★ \$1 was added to the Division application fee to cover postage. The increase will go into effect on January 1, 2020.
- ★ \$150 was added to the Division annual budget to cover expenses for the Division Press Book.

Executive Committee Recommendations

The following Recommendations from the Division Executive Committee were not read at the Virginia Division Convention in October 2019. All are informational only and did not require a Convention vote. These are being published here as information for our members. These will also appear in the 2019 Virginia Division Minutes of the 124th Convention when they are published in Spring 2020.

- ★ To purchase a marker, not to exceed \$800, for Martha Bily, a past Division President, whose grave is currently unmarked. Funds to come from the Historical Works Fund.
- ★ The speaking fee donation from Mr. Holien of \$50 be split equally; \$25 to go to the Mary Moore Williams Scholarship Fund and \$25 to go to the Monument Defense Fund.

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Executive Committee Recommendations (continued) . . .

- ★ To purchase inside front cover and inside back cover or centerfold in the UDC Magazine 125th Anniversary issue not to exceed \$1,500 with funds coming from State Fund.
- ★ To purchase the inside back cover in the March, 2020 UDC Magazine issue not to exceed \$750 to come from State Fund.
- ★ To donate \$1,999.99 to Virginia Division SCV Heritage Defense Fund to come from Historical Works Fund.
- ★ To approve a fund raiser using the Caleb Glover image on a t-shirt; 10.49 each/50 shirts for a cost of \$524.50 plus shipping. We will sell each shirt for \$20 with proceeds going to the Monument Defense Fund.

CONVENTION WRAP-UPS FROM CHAPTERS

Fairfax Chapter 1410

Fairfax Chapter was one of the Fourth District Chapters that hosted the 2019 Virginia Division Convention. Members attending the Convention were Chapter President Virginia Norton, who also served as Fourth District Chairman and Convention Chairman, Charlotte Clinger, Jennifer Smith, and Virginia Berg, who served as a Timekeeper. Other Chapter members donated items that were included in a Chapter gift basket that was raffled off at the Convention (not pictured).



Left to right: Charlotte Clinger, Jennifer Smith, and Virginia Norton, with Division Convention gift baskets that were raffled off at Convention.

At the Convention, Fairfax Chapter received recognition for Outstanding Productivity for Supplementals.

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CONVENTION WRAP-UPS FROM CHAPTERS (CONTINUED) . . .

Princess Anne Chapter 435

Our Chapter would like to thank the Division Granddaughters Clubs for their generous donations to support our Chapter's project: the restoration of the Robert E. Lee portrait at Stratford Hall by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association (RELMA).



Chapter President Therese DeSanto was given a private viewing of the portrait at Stratford Hall in early September (left).

Our goal is \$2000, and we welcome Chapter donations. Any extra will go toward the portrait's original frame that also needs restoration.

If you would like to join us to see a living portrait of Lee, please do. We are thrilled to have Bud Spivey scheduled to portray "Robert E Lee: The Gentleman" at our November meeting (contact me for details).

*Therese DeSanto, President
Princess Anne Chapter*

125TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE VIRGINIA DIVISION

Sixth District extended the invitation to the 125th Virginia Division Convention, to be held 1–4 October 2020 in Suffolk, Virginia at the Suffolk Hilton Garden Inn (the Riverfront Hotel on Constance Road).

Mark your calendar & see you next year!