The President shall perform the duties usually pertaining to that office, and shall, unless otherwise especially provided, appoint all Committees.

— MDSSAR Bylaws, Article III, Section 1 (Duties of Officers, President)

This simple statement covers a wide variety of activities that I’ve been involved in since my inauguration at the Annual Meeting in April 2015. As such, my report covers my activities at the state level, in addition to my work with my own chapter. I prepared and sent out to the MDSSAR state officers a plan for the first 100 days of my term, of which the following are covered in this report:

- Committee Operations
- Operational Handbook
- Chapter Development
- Non-Chapter SAR Meetings
- Progress Tracking

In addition, I was involved in additional short-term projects and in other SAR-related activities.

**Committee Operations**

The first month of a President’s term requires appointment or re-appointment of Committee Chairmen and members of the Board of Trustees for the Maryland 400 Fund. Committee Chairs are listed in the BOM agenda. The primary changes to the committees this year are: Duane Tackitt (#2) as Budget Chair; myself for the GW Luncheon; Paul Bannister (#3) as sole chairman of the Retention Subcommittee; Don Deering (#2) as the SAR Logo Tag Subcommittee Chair. The three Presidential appointments to the Maryland 400 Fund Board of Trustees are William C. Batton (#9); James D. Schaub, Ph.D. (#10); and George Satterthwaite (#11).

As part of the themes of my PARTY Line (Partnership, Assessment, Response, Transition, and You) to improve transparency and accountability, I have asked each chairman to work on documenting all their processes and procedures. This includes transition plans; assistants to each chairman still are to be identified. Similarly, I have requested work be done on developing written guidelines and procedures for the Maryland 400 Fund; 1VP Smithson has provided Chairman Adkins with recommendations based on his experiences as chairman last year.

**Operational Handbook**

I have begun work on an operational handbook, to include all procedures and guidelines for officers and committees. Sections for the Vice Presidents have already been drafted. As material comes from other officers and chairmen, they will be added as part of a first draft. Committee procedures will also be submitted to the chapters for review, to make certain everything is included that they need from the state society to make these programs successful locally.

**Chapter Development**

Also as part of my PARTY Line, I have requested that all chapters address the following:

- Where would you like to see your chapter in five years?
- Who are the contacts in your chapter for each of the SAR program positions/activities?
- What are your chapter’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats?
- Do you have procedures in place to make transitions?

This will be the first step in a dialogue with each chapter to develop a long-term, action plan for chapter development, tailored to local needs and circumstances. I expect to be following up with the chapters in June.
Non-Chapter SAR Meetings
Besides the June MDSSAR Board of Managers Meeting, I plan on attending in the next six months:

- the National Congress in Louisville, Kentucky at the end of June.
- the Atlantic Middles States District meeting in Bridgewater, New Jersey in August.
- The Fall Leadership meeting in Louisville, Kentucky at the end of September
- the Patriot’s Ball in Ellicott City, Maryland in December.

Since the Annual meeting, I have been attending as many chapter events as I can. As of today, I have now attended chapter meetings or events of six of 15 chapters. At three of these I presented the MDSSAR state wreath. A complete list of meetings and events that I have attended can be found at the end of this report.

Progress Tracking
I continue to help and track progress by the MDSSAR Vice Presidents of their activities (3VP on June BOM and Brooklyn Trip; 2VP on PR, Semi-Annual Meeting; 1VP on Annual Meeting). I continue involvement and monitoring of progress of Patriots Ball Committee, chaired by Immediate Past President Doug Favorite; the committee has now finalized plans for date, venue, meals, and music.

Additional Projects
There are other projects that have arisen that I have been involved in so far: the President General's Patriot Biography Initiative; my continued work on Chapter Health; and a recent set of funding requests.

Patriot Biographies
I have been working with our chapters to achieve the President General’s initiative for state societies and chapters to submit by 1 June 2015 of a number of patriot biographies equal to 25% of their membership (on 1 Jan 2015). I volunteered to track our progress (National Committee would send out weekly summaries and I would then get more detailed reports of what they thought MDSSAR and its chapters had submitted, comparing with messages I received of submitted entries, sending status to chapters) and urge participation from all of our chapters and at-large membership. While final numbers are still being resolved, I can say that due to the efforts of our Compatriots — especially Christos Christou and Christopher Smithson — our state society and 12 of our 15 chapters have met their goals. Our state society stood as one of seven out of 59 societies to achieve the goal. I expect to be bringing flag streamers back from the National Congress, and I thank everyone for their efforts.

Chapter Health Project
I am tracking the activities of each chapter and entering them into copies of the Americanism Score Card. My goals are to submit entries next year from each chapter and MDSSAR and to have a Compatriot in each chapter to take over the data entry. As part of this, I am also tracking Compatriot attendance of various chapter non-meeting events (and who wore Colonial attire or presented wreaths) as well as what is published in local media outlets.

Galvez Memorial
Approved at the Annual Meeting, I supplied the inscription for the brick, which was limited to 16 characters on each of five lines:

HONORING GALVEZ
MARYLAND SOCIETY
SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION

Maryland Flag for Connecticut Venue
Also approved at the Annual Meeting, My activity was limited to monitoring the message traffic. The flag, flag stand and cross bottomy flag head were purchased and are now with the Governor Oliver Wolcott, Sr. Branch #10 SAR in Connecticut. There was a slight savings which will be reimbursed to the MDSSAR Treasury.
Marker Funding
Late in May there were two requests for funding that came across my virtual desk, both related to the arrival of *L’Hermoine* (a replica of the ship of that name that brought Lafayette back to America in 1780 with news of the dispatch of more French troops to support America’s cause). The one request sought several thousand in funds to support events related to the ship’s arrival in Annapolis, while the other was to fund a historic marker for the Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route. Both had short turnaround times and required Executive Committee review and voting rather than a vote of the Board of Managers, the latter of which would have occurred too late. The first proposal was voted down, the other, for $1,000, was approved as one immediate $600 payment to cover the marker’s printing and the other $400 to be approved at a later date. The new marker includes a copy of the previously funded MDSSAR painting of troops marching in Annapolis and will show the MDSSAR logo, unlike previous markers we have supported.

Both were commendable projects in Annapolis, but there was no cause for the sudden, last-minute circumstances under which they were presented. The ship’s arrival has been known of for months, so the proposal could have been presented at an earlier Board of Managers meeting. Without well-documented and -publicized procedures and guidelines, though, I expect we will see more of the same situations, as we have in the past. It is for that reason that I am pushing for the Operational Manual, mentioned above, and committee and Maryland 400 Fund procedures. It is my hope that these funding requests will be the last of their kind. I have already asked that Compatriot Robert Reyes, who proposed the marker, provide a more detailed, comprehensive plan for any remaining markers as a pilot for the expected new procedures of the Maryland 400 Fund and I expect to work with him to get that properly documented and submitted for consideration by the Fund’s Trustees.

Other SAR Activities
I continue to be active in my local chapter. I am also working on an out of state Patriot grave marking.

Chapter Tasks
I was installed on March 2015 as the Westminster chapter President and continue as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. This year I have done the following:

- I began compilation of the 2015 Americanism Score Card for the Westminster Chapter for consideration for the Americanism and President’s Streamer Awards.
- I participated in the Westminster Memorial Day Parade
- I presented two of the Outstanding Citizenship award to graduating seniors at Carroll County High Schools

Out of State Grave Marking
I started working in September 2013 on getting marked the grave of CAPT Joseph Ogle, my patriot ancestor through whom I became a member of SAR. Raised in Frederick County, Maryland, he served in the Virginia state militia for Ohio County (now part of West Virginia). I am the Immediate Past President (President 1 Jan 2003 to 31 Dec 2009) of the Ogle/Ogles Family Association (O/OFA), a family genealogy group. O/OFA will be holding its triennial convention (October 2015) in St. Louis, Missouri, just across the Mississippi from where my Patriot is buried (he was an early settler to the area, arriving in 1785). I am coordinating with the local SAR and DAR chapters to perform a joint Patriot Grave Marking service among the three groups during the O/OFA convention. The dedication is scheduled for 27 September 2015. The monument is ordered, the DAR plaque delivered. This is an on-going activity for me, but so far,

- St. Clair County, Illinois’s county government, which manages the cemetery where CAPT Ogle is reputed to be buried, has donated a plot for the marker.
- The Belleville Chapter DAR has delivered their DAR marker.
- The Lewis and Clark Chapter SAR will be providing the Color Guard.
- The O/OFA brass marker has been delivered to the monument company.
- Final Program is being developed.
- A biography and speech prepared that will likely be submitted by the local Congressman into *The Congressional Record*
Conclusions
I continue to move forward on my PARTY line, and look forward to working with all my Compatriots this year.

Respectfully submitted,
James F. Engler, Sr.

Album

With the New Officers at the Annual Meeting, 18 April 2015 at Baldwin’s Station, Sykesville, MD

Attending SGT Lawrence Everhart Chapter’s marking of Patriot George Poe’s Grave, 26 April 2014

At GEN William Smallwood Chapter’s Monocacy Cemetery Marking, 24 May 2015 with members of SAR, DAR, the Society of 1812 and the Daughters of 1812

Presenting War Service medal to Westminster Chapter’s Compatriot Lou Abel (right) at the Westminster City Memorial Day Parade, 25 May 2015

Attending The Little Meadows Chapter Meeting 6 Jun 2015 with 1VP William Smithson (not shown) and 2VP Don Deering

Presenting the MDSSAR Wreath at the COL John Eager Howard Chapter’s Commemoration 7 Jun 2015
Meetings Attended
Below is a list of the meetings and events I have attended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/23/2015</td>
<td>Nick's Airport Inn 14548 Pennsylvania Ave. Hagerstown, MD 21742</td>
<td>Attended Christian Ardinger Chapter SAR Dinner/Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/26/2015</td>
<td>Israel's Creek Meeting House Cemetery Walkersville, MD</td>
<td>Attended SGT Lawrence Everhart Chapter’s Revolutionary War Patriot George Poe Grave Marking Ceremony NB: Presented State Wreath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/24/2015</td>
<td>Monocacy Cemetery Beallsville, MD 20839</td>
<td>Attended GEN William Smallwood Chapter’s Commemoration Ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriots : James Allnut, Jr.; Lawrence Allnut; Robert Doyne; Dawson Edward Jones; Nathan Tolbert Talbott; Robert Willson NB: Presented State Wreath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/25/2015</td>
<td>Monroe Ave. Westminster, MD</td>
<td>March with Westminster Chapter SAR in Westminster, MD Memorial Day Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/2/2015</td>
<td>South Carroll High School 1300 W Old Liberty Rd Sykesville. MD</td>
<td>Presented Westminster Chapter’s Award for Senior Taylor Boeckmann of the SAR Outstanding Citizenship pin and certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/4/2015</td>
<td>Century High School 355 Ronsdale Rd Sykesville. MD</td>
<td>Presented Westminster Chapter’s Award for Senior George Weiber of the SAR Outstanding Citizenship pin and certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/6/2015</td>
<td>Perkins Restaurant 24584 Garrett Highway McHenry, MD 21541</td>
<td>Attended Little Meadows Chapter Luncheon/Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/7/2015</td>
<td>Grey Rock Mansion, Pikesville, MD</td>
<td>Attended COL John Eager Howard Chapter’s Annual Memorial to COL John Eager Howard NB: Presented State Wreath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/13/2015</td>
<td>Fifth Regiment Armory 219 29th Division St. Baltimore, MD 21201 - 2288</td>
<td>Conducted MDSSAR Board of Managers Meeting</td>
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