



THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

Volume 1: History & Constitution

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INTRODUCTION

The 2008 Virginia Society Official Handbook represents yet another major revision and reorganization of the previous edition. All four volumes have been re-written to include new guidelines, procedures, committees, and policy. Significant changes have been made to both the Constitution and Bylaws.

Volume 1 contains the History & Constitution of the Virginia Society.

Volume 2 contains the Bylaws of the Virginia Society.

Volume 3 contains Duties of the Elected Officers, Procedures, and Committees for the Virginia Society.

Volume 4 contains information on procedures for Medals and Awards of the SAR at the Chapter, State and National levels.

The History of the Virginia Society will, of course, by its existence be added to from time to time. Changes to this section may appear without vote by the membership.

The Constitution and Bylaws are subject to change only as prescribed within those documents.

Procedures, Committees and the awarding of Medals, etc., are more likely to be the subject of modifications and are now set forth in separate volumes to provide ease in accommodation of such changes should they occur. Any such changes/modifications will be undertaken as prescribed within this Handbook.

Suggested changes/modifications to the Constitution and Bylaws should be submitted to the President-Elect of the Virginia Society.

Michael J. Elston
President
Virginia Society SAR

**HISTORY OF VIRGINIA SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

Chartered July 7, 1890, Richmond, Virginia

The movement to organize the Virginia Society was started in the city of Washington in 1890. At a conference held in the nation's capital on February 10th, several Congressmen from Virginia constituted themselves as a committee to organize a Society in Virginia without delay.

On February 28th the committee reassembled at the Capitol, adopted a constitution and bylaws and elected the following outstanding Virginians as officers:

President: Honorable William Wirt Henry of Richmond (Grand-son of Patrick Henry)

Vice President General: William H. F. Lee,
A member of Congress from Burke's Station, Fairfax County, (son of Robert E. Lee)

Vice President: Colonel George Washington Ball of Alexandria
(nearest living male relative of George Washington)

Secretary: Thomas Nelson Page of Hanover County, a man of letters

Treasurer: Joseph Poryall of Richmond

Registrar: J. William Jones of Richmond, a well-known historian

Lieutenant J. C. Cresap, USN, of Annapolis, Secretary-General of the National Society, and Professor G. Brown Goode, Ph.D., Registrar of the District of Columbia Society, formally chartered the Virginia Society at Richmond on July 7, 1890. There were 62 charter members.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY

*	Hon. William Wirt Henry	1890-1897
*	CAPT Charles Urquhart Williams	1897-1900
*	Dr. Joseph A. White	1900-1902
*	Hon. Lunsford L. Lewis	1902-1912
*	GEN Charles J. Anderson	1912-1913
*	Josiah Stanton Moore	1913-1914
*	Arthur B. Clarke	1914-1922
*	COL Eugene C. Massie	1922-1924
*	Hon. Rosewell Page	1924-1925
*	Hon. Amos Johnston Ackiss	1925-1926
*	Elmore Delos Hotchkiss	1926-1929
*	William Eldridge Crawford	1929-1930
*	Dr. Joseph Dupuy Eggleston	1930-1931
*	Hon. Don P. Halsey	1931-1932
*	William Macfarlane Jones	1932-1933

*	Hon. William Henry Sargent, Jr.	1933-1934
*	Walter Baker Livezey	1934-1935
*	Philip St. George Cooke	1935-1936
*	Tom Moore	1936-1938
*	CAPT James Dearing Fauntleroy	1938-1939
*	William Irvine Gilkeson	1939-1940
*	G. Guy Via	1940-1941
*	BG Harrison Jackson Price	1941-1942
*	William Thomas Old	1942-1943
*	A. Herbert Foreman	1943-1944 ¹
*	Joseph Kent Roberts	1944-1945
*	Walter F. Lipford	1945-1947
*	Archie G. Ryland	1947-1948
*	Marcellus E. Wright	1948-1949
*	Crawford S. Rogers	1949-1951
*	John J. Fairbanks, Jr.	1951-1952
*	Wallace Hicks	1952-1953
*	Kenneth C. Patty	1953-1954
*	Donald W. Shriver	1954-1955
*	COL James G. Martin, IV	1955-1955
*	R. Paul Belford	1955-1956
*	COL E. Griffith Dodson	1956-1958
*	COL Robert P. Waters	1958-1959
*	Joseph H. Cottrell	1959-1960
*	Robert V. H. Duncan	1960-1961
*	CAPT Robert P. Abernathy	1961-1962
*	E. Turpin Phillips	1962-1963
*	Rev. R. Allen Brown	1963-1964
*	COL Bruce C. Gunnell	1964-1965
*	COL Claude H. Smith	1965-1966
*	COL Carroll Wright	1966-1967 ²
*	L. Ralston Curry	1967-1968
	Charles R. Haugh	1968-1969
	Donald W. Baldwin	1969-1970 ³
*	CDR Cary J. Randolph	1970-1971
*	Dr. Carl E. Stark	1971-1972
*	COL Irving B. Morgan	1972-1973
*	Thomas Page Nelson	1973-1974
	MAJ J. Thomas Burch	1974-1975
*	Gerald P. Finn	1975-1976
*	Judson P. Mason	1976-1977 ⁴
*	Braxton H. Tabb	1977-1978

¹ President General, NSSAR 1947-1948

² Vice President General, NSSAR

³ Vice President General, NSSAR

⁴ Vice President General, NSSAR

*	Dr. Walter A. Porter	1978-1979
*	Dr. Howard L. Hamilton	1979-1980 ⁵
	Roderick D. Brown	1980-1981 ⁶
*	CAPT John T. S. Kearns	1981-1982
*	George S. Knight	1982-1983
*	Conrad P. Mook	1983-1984
*	Kenneth Calloway King, Jr.	1984-1985
*	Reon G. Hillegass, Jr.	1985-1986 ⁷
*	Chester E. May	1986-1987
*	James L. Mayer	1987-1988
*	James S. Cremins, Sr.	1988-1989
*	Walter W. Brewster	1989-1990
*	COL Richard G. Sauner	1990-1991 ⁸
*	The Rev. W. Ramsey Richardson	1991-1992 ⁹
*	Dr. Thomas Wirt Sale, Jr., MD	1992-1993 ¹⁰
*	LTC Carlos J. Ricketson	1993-1994 ¹¹
	John D. Sinks, PhD	1994-1995
*	LTC Donald E. Dye, Jr.	1995-1996
	MAJ Lorange D. Lisle	1996-1997
	Bruce A. Wilcox	1997-1998 ¹²
*	COL Paul M. Frantz	1998-1999 ¹³
*	Dr. David H. Harpole, Sr., MD	1999-2000
	Dr. Donald F. Reynolds, DDS	2000-2001
	Richard S. Austin	2001-2002 ¹⁴
	Dr. E. Trice Taylor, DDS	2002-2003
*	James Robert Justice	2003-2004
*	CAPT John N. Dickie	2004-2005
	Lawrence E. McKinley	2005-2006 ¹⁵
	James M. Bayne, AIA	2006-2007
	Joseph W. Dooley	2007-2008 ¹⁶
*	Arthur D. Batten	2008-2009
	William Lee Simpson, Jr.	2009-2010
	Robert L. "Bob" Bowen	2010-2011 ¹⁷

⁵ President General, NSSAR 1982-1983

⁶ Vice President General, NSSAR

⁷ President General, NSSAR 1996-1997

⁸ Vice President General, NSSAR

⁹ Chaplain General, NSSAR 1993-1994 & 1998-2001

¹⁰ Surgeon General, NSSAR 1997-1998

¹¹ Vice President General, NSSAR

¹² Librarian General, NSSAR 1999-2001; Historian General, NSSAR 2002-2003; Registrar General, NSSAR 2004-2005; Treasurer General, NSSAR 2005-2006; Secretary General, NSSAR 2006-2007; President General, NSSAR 2007-2008

¹³ Vice President General, NSSAR

¹⁴ Librarian General, NSSAR 2002-2003

¹⁵ Vice President General, NSSAR

¹⁶ Genealogist General, NSSAR 2008-2011; Treasurer General, NSSAR 2011-2012; Secretary General, NSSAR 2012-2013; President General, NSSAR 2013-2014

¹⁷ Vice President General, NSSAR 2007-2008; Historian General, NSSAR 2012-2013 (partial year)

	Mark S. Brennan, Sr., Esq.	2011-2012
	Henry P. "Phil" Williams II, PhD	2012-2013
*	Kent S. Webber	2013-2014
	W.A. "Bill" Broadus, Jr.	2014-2015
	Reverdy E. Wright, PhD	2015-2016
	Edward W. Truslow	2016-2017

* Deceased

The first Minute Books of the Virginia Society, which are of historic interest, are in the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Among the distinguished compatriots acting as Secretary of the Virginia Society were William MacFarlane Jones and Kenneth C. Patty. Compatriot Jones, who joined the Virginia Society in 1893, was in charge of the Headquarters office from its opening until his death in December 1951. The Honorable Kenneth C. Patty took the office of Secretary-Registrar in 1954 and served faithfully until he passed away in March 1967.

Since the organization of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, more than 9,000 men have become members. The Virginia Society has grown in recent years with emphasis placed on:

- Promoting the objectives of patriotism, historical research and education;
- Increasing membership and the number of Chapters for more effectiveness;
- Continuing the growth of the Knight-Patty Fund, Inc;
- Participating in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest on both State and National levels;
- Participating in the Stella and George Knight Essay Contest, on both State and National levels;
- Publicizing the Virginia Society through as many of the various media as possible;
- Preserving the papers of over 6,000 members of the Virginia Society;
- Promoting and celebrating patriotic anniversaries, especially those pertaining to the Revolutionary War as it occurred in Virginia or involved Virginia Patriot Units;
- Locating and marking the graves of Revolutionary War Patriots.

Five of Virginia Society's most distinguished members have served as President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

1. Herbert Foreman was President General in 1947-1948
2. Dr. Howard L. Hamilton PhD, from Charlottesville was President General in 1982-1983
3. Reon G. Hillegass, Jr., from Norfolk, was President General in 1996-1997
4. Bruce A. Wilcox from Alexandria was President General in 2007-2008 and was elected during the 2007 National Congress hosted by the Virginia Society in Williamsburg
5. Joseph W. Dooley from Falls Church, was President General in 2013-2014.

The successful effort to honor George Mason of Gunston Hall, the brilliant statesman and author of the Fairfax Resolves in 1774, on a United States postage stamp was led by Conrad Mook of the George Mason Chapter. The stamp was issued in May 1981.

The annual commemoration of the Battle of Yorktown on October 19 has received major support from the Virginia Society. As part of this observation the Virginia Society annually sponsors a wreath laying ceremony at the grave of General Thomas Page Nelson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The Virginia Society is a member of the Yorktown Day Association.

The annual commemoration of the Battle of Point Pleasant (now in West Virginia) in early October was initiated by and receives major support from the Virginia Society. As a part of the Memorial Ceremony, the President of the Virginia Society and other State Society Presidents and SAR Chapter Presidents place memorial wreaths on the graves of the Virginia militiamen buried there.

In the spring of 1983, the Virginia Society commemorated the presence of Virginia patriots at Valley Forge by dedicating a monument at the Valley Forge National Park. The monument was made possible by gifts from many compatriots throughout the Virginia Society and by a bequest from the estate of a former member.

The Wilderness Road State Park and U.S. National Park cooperative venture received official status in the National Societies list of Historic Celebrations during the fall Trustees Meeting in 2004. The Virginia Society participates in the wreath laying event on the 2nd weekend of May each year which is hosted by the Martin's Station Chapter. The wreath laying commemorates the pioneers who traversed the Wilderness Road and those who manned and defended the outpost at Martin's Station. The outpost served as a beacon of light on the Wilderness Road as the pioneers journeyed through the Cumberland Gap.

The Virginia Society is composed of 27 chapters throughout the commonwealth and a Headquarters Chapter which serves compatriots who are members of the Virginia Society and generally reside beyond a chapter's or the state's borders.

CHAPTERS OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY

Clinch Mountain Militia Chapter	Tazewell
Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter	Fredericksburg
Col. George Waller Chapter	Martinsville
Col. James Wood II Chapter	Front Royal
Col. William Grayson Chapter	Haymarket
Culpeper Minute Men Chapter	Culpeper
Dan River Chapter	Danville
Fairfax Resolves Chapter	McLean
Fincastle Resolutions Chapter	Roanoke
Fort Harrison Chapter	Harrisonburg
Gen. Daniel Morgan Chapter	Greater Augusta County
Gen. William Campbell Chapter	Abingdon
George Mason Chapter	Arlington
George Washington Chapter	Alexandria
James Monroe Chapter	Montross
Lt. David Cox Chapter	Independence

Martin's Station Chapter	Cumberland Gap
New River Valley Chapter	Narrows
Norfolk Chapter	Norfolk
Overmountain Men Chapter	Gate City
Rappahannock Chapter	Tappahannock
Richard Henry Lee Chapter	Irvington
Richmond Chapter	Richmond
Rockbridge Volunteers Chapter	Lexington
Thomas Jefferson Chapter	Charlottesville
Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter	Newport News
Williamsburg Chapter	Williamsburg

STATE MEDAL OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The State Medal of Distinguished Service (Distinguished Service Medal or DSM) was authorized by the National Society in 1998. It is the highest medal that may be awarded by a state society president during each year of his term of office and is presented to a compatriot for distinguished service rendered to the state society during a state society president's term of office. It should be presented at the state society annual meeting at the conclusion of the incumbent president's term of office. The DSM is presented by the state society president and does not require any other approval. The following is a list of Virginia Society compatriots who have been awarded the DSM.

<u>President</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>DSM Recipient</u>
Paul M. Frantz *	1998-1999	(no medal awarded)
Dr. David H. Harpole, Sr., MD *	1999-2000	(no medal awarded)
Dr. Donald F. Reynolds, DDS	2000-2001	Richard S. Austin
Richard S. Austin	2001-2002	John N. Dickie *
Dr. E. Trice Taylor, DDS	2002-2003	Lawrence E. McKinley
James Robert Justice *	2003-2004	John D. Sinks, Ph.D.
John N. Dickie *	2004-2005	(no medal awarded)
Lawrence E. McKinley	2005-2006	O. Donald Philen, Ph.D.
James M. Bayne, AIA	2006-2007	Carter B.S. Furr
Joseph W. Dooley	2007-2008	Robert L. Bowen
Arthur D. Batten *	2008-2009	R. Wayne Rouse
William L. Simpson, Jr.	2009-2010	Joseph W. Dooley
Robert L. "Bob" Bowen	2010-2011	Dr. Christopher N. Sheap, M.D.
Mark S. Brennan, Sr.	2011-2012	Myron E. "Mike" Lyman, Sr.
Henry P. "Phil" Williams II, PhD	2012-2013	Rev. Canon Henry N.F. Minich
Kent S. Webber *	2013-2014	W.A. "Bill" Broadus, Jr.
W.A. "Bill" Broadus, Jr.	2014-2015	Edward W. Truslow
Reverdy E. Wright, PhD	2015-2016	William L. Schwetke
Edward W. Truslow	2016-2017	Michael J. Elston

* Deceased

CONSTITUTION OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Society shall be “Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution” as set forth in its Certificate of Incorporation under the laws of the Commonwealth dated February 23, 1923, approved by the State Corporation Commission, filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and duly recorded in the Clerk’s Office of the Chancery Court of the City of Richmond.

NOTE: While the official name of this Society is the “Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution” it is appropriate to shorten this to “the Virginia Society.” In even less formal situations the proper name is often again shortened to “VASSAR.”

ARTICLE II - PURPOSES

The purposes of the Virginia Society are declared to be patriotic, historical and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of the men who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorial; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble of the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

ARTICLE III - SEAL

The seal of this Society shall be a disk two and one-half inches in diameter, with the words “Sons of the American Revolution” around the top of the outer circle, and the words “Virginia Society” at the bottom thereof; with the busts of Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington in the inner circle; the words “Vox” (the Voice) “Penna,” (the Pen) “Gladius” (the Sword) being inscribed above said busts in the order named, and beneath said busts in the order named the dates “1765” (when Patrick Henry took his seat in the House of Burgess), “1776” (when Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence), and “1781” (when George Washington led the combined American and French forces to victory at Yorktown); and below these dates, the words “Organized July 7, 1890.”

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Any man shall be eligible for membership in the Virginia Society who, being of the age of eighteen years or over and a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in loyalty to, and rendered active service in, the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militia man or minute man, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress or any of the several Colonies or States; as a signer of the Declaration of Independence; as a member of a committee of Safety or Correspondence; as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature; as a foreign national of, but not limited to, France, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland or Germany who rendered service in the cause of American Independence; or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain; provided, however, that no person advocating the overthrow of the Government of the United States by use of force or violence shall be eligible for membership in the Virginia Society. Every member of the Virginia Society shall be subject to all the rules and regulations of the National Society.”

ARTICLE V - LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section 1: A chapter may be established in any community by ten or more persons eligible for membership and willing to take on the responsibilities of operating a chapter, with power to elect its own officers, to regulate its own business, and to engage in any activity, not inconsistent with this Constitution. Every member of a local chapter shall become at the same time a member of the Virginia Society and of the National Society and shall be subject to all the rules and regulations thereof.

Section 2: Members wishing to form a NEW Chapter must first coordinate their efforts with the Virginia Society Secretary who will inform the Virginia Society Executive Committee and seek their approval. To conclude the process, the new Chapter membership will complete the Virginia Society *Application for Charter* and submit it to the Virginia Society Secretary who will verify that the Charter Members are currently members of the Virginia Society and the National Society. Subsequently the Secretary will submit the *Application for Charter* to the Executive Committee for their approval. Once approved by the Executive Committee the new chapter will be added to the role of active chapters within the Virginia Society."

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND BOARD OF MANAGERS

Section 1: OFFICERS OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY

The elected officers of the Virginia Society shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Third Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Chancellor, a Chaplain, a Historian, a Surgeon, and a Registrar. The first Vice-President shall be the President-Elect.

All officers shall be elected at the annual business meeting of the Virginia Society to serve for one year or until their successors shall have been elected.

The order in which the officers of the Virginia Society are listed is the order of rank. Should the office of President become vacant, the next ranking elected officer shall succeed to the presidency. Should any other elected office become vacant, the President shall assign those duties of that office to other members of the Virginia Society until the next annual business meeting of the Virginia Society.

There is no over-riding need to appoint an individual to fill a vacant position other than that of the President. Such vacancies can be filled through the normal nominating process at the following annual business meeting of the Virginia Society. Should there exist a need to fill a vacant elected officer position, and then it shall be filled by an interim appointment, approved by majority vote of the Executive Committee and affirmed by the General Membership at the next suitable meeting if one occurs prior to the next annual meeting. No such 'interim appointment' will automatically assume a position in the normal or traditional sequence to the Presidency of the Virginia Society.

Section 2: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Virginia Society Executive Committee is composed of the; President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chancellor. The President of the Virginia Society shall be the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The affairs of the Corporation and the 'day-to-day' affairs of the Virginia Society shall be conducted by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be the administrative committee of the Virginia Society and shall have the power and authority to manage the affairs of the Virginia Society.

It shall:

- a). Receive reports of the State Chairmen
- b). Review and recommend resolutions to the Board of Managers
- c). Recommend changes to the Constitution and Bylaws for submission to the Board of Managers and subsequent submission for a vote by the General Membership of the Virginia Society
- d). Recommend new and changes to general policy issues to the General Membership
- e). It shall prepare and present an annual budget to the Board of Managers for review and approval and subsequent submission to the General Membership.

A minimum of four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting official business of the Virginia Society.

Section 3: THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Board of Managers shall be composed of the elected State Officers of the Virginia Society, the immediate Past President, and two representatives from each local chapter. The chapter representative shall be elected or appointed by the respective chapters.

The Board of Managers shall:

- a). Review and approve the budget presented by the Executive Committee with appropriate changes for submission to the General Membership.
- b). Receive and approve the nominating committee's report of a slate of officers for the upcoming year to be presented to the General Membership.
- c). Approve any changes or amendments to the Constitution or By Laws of the Virginia Society for presentation to the General Membership.
- d). Approve the required trustees for the Knight-Patty Trust Fund, approve the use of funds disbursed by the Howard Hamilton Fund, and receive reports from the Trust Funds as specified.
- e). Approve any resolutions that are to be presented to the General Membership.

. A minimum of one half of the members of filled offices of the Society plus a representative from at least one half of the chapters of the Society shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1: The annual business meeting of the Virginia Society shall be held in February of each year to commemorate the birthday of George Washington.

The semi-annual meeting of the Virginia Society shall be held in August or September of each year to commemorate Constitution Week.

Section 2: Special meetings may also be held at the call of the President at any time; and shall be called whenever requested, in writing, by fifteen or more individual members of the Virginia Society. Such special meetings may transact only business specified as the reason for requesting a special meeting.

Section 3: Members representing at least one half of the chapters in the Virginia Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business at any general or special meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - POWERS OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Receive the report of the Nominating Committee as submitted by the Board of Managers and elect the officers of the Virginia Society

Section 2: Approval for establishing the Virginia Society's budget shall be reserved to the General Membership at the annual business meeting. Revisions to the budget may be approved by the General membership at the semi-annual business meeting or any special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 3: Fees and dues of the Virginia Society shall be established by the General Membership of the Virginia Society.

Section 4: The establishment of permanent programs that fulfill the purposes of the Virginia Society shall be reserved to the General Membership of the Virginia Society.

Section 5: Final approval of all changes to the Constitution and By Laws of the Virginia Society shall rest with the General Membership.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the General Membership of the Virginia Society by a vote of two-thirds of those present; provided, that no proposal to amend this Constitution shall be finally acted on unless it shall have been first authorized at a prior meeting of the Virginia Society by a vote of two-thirds of those present and a notice of the date of the meeting at which the amendment is to be finally acted upon, together with a copy of the proposed amendment, shall have been shall be posted on the Virginia Society website and transmitted by mail, email, fax or other effective means as appropriate by the Secretary or designated person to the President and Secretary of each chapter at least 60 days prior to such meeting.