

Patriot Biographies, Annual Report, 13

April 2019

National has decided to terminate the competition as a separate contest. The initiative will continue and be recorded in the Americanism Score Sheet. I have confirmed that it is part of the Score Sheet, in tab 11. Each entry will count for 5 points toward the chapter's annual total.

The totals are now more publicly available in the new Patriot Research System (PRS). At present, the PRS indicates there are 371 entries credited to Maryland, up from 369 in my last report. The new PRS system allows for some reporting of the chapters, however, I have found that the results are not accurate and I will need to consult with the national Patriot Records Committee to rectify the situation.

At 2018 Fall Leadership I asked about the Maryland 400 Biographies not yet being added. The national Patriot Records Committee appeared unaware of the offer of these biographies. I spoke with President Adkins and we identified the point of contact for Maryland on the Maryland 400 biographies as Christos Christou. I was informed by the national chairman, James Wood, that he and Christos had communicated, and Compatriot Woods expressed great enthusiasm for our state's contribution of these biographies. Since that time, however, Compatriot Christos has stepped aside, citing other commitments. The current plan is to make certain the national committee has downloads of the Maryland 400 Biographies to date so that they can be added to the PRS. This is in progress.

I spoke at the January 2019 Board of Managers Meeting of the need to get volunteers for another PRS project: incorporation of approved SAR applications from Maryland into the PRS. The National Patriot Records Committee (the successor of the Graves and Patriot Biographies Committees) is trying to get State Societies to perform data entry into the PRS of all of the state societies' SAR applications. A number of states have already taken up this challenge, including North Carolina and California. The Committee asked me to bring this up to MDSSAR. I received the names of two volunteers and am in the process of getting this project started.

Chapters are still encouraged to make every effort to add more Patriot Biographies to the national PRS and to become involved in the Application transcription project. Volunteers to the latter who do enough entries may qualify for the SAR Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal. The medal requires 40 hours of service; as the average time for data entry is around a half hour, a volunteer would need to enter 80 applications. Maryland has several thousand in need of transcription. For the present, I serve as the Maryland Point of Contact.

Respectfully,

James F. Engler, Sr.
Patriot Biographies Chair