

Message to the Guard

Nr. 1

March 3rd, 2022

Good afternoon, fellow Guardsmen.

By way of quick introduction as your new Color Guard Commander I have been a member of the VASSAR CG for several years and the editor of the (draft) VASSAR Color Guard Handbook, which some of you may have already had a chance to read (you can find the draft handbook posted in *Dispatches*). I served in the British Army reserves for 3 years and the US Navy (Surface Warfare) for 27. But I am not a Rev War reenactor, so I know I have some catching up to do. Please bear with me.

As your Color Guard Committee Chairman, I am supported by a superb team:

- Dale Corey (Adjutant)
- Brett Osborn (Northern Region CG Vice-Commander)
- Kimball Thompson (Eastern Region CG Vice-Commander)
- Gary Hall (Central Region CG Vice-Commander)
- Spurgeon Keith (Southwestern CG Vice-Commander)
- Paul Christensen (Safety Officer)

The Committee is supported by two additional non-voting advisors:

- Ken Bonner (Immediate Past CG Commander)
- Dave Burks (Insurance matters)

The CG Committee will hold periodic Zoom meetings to discuss, resolve, and set CG policy issues as required. My intention is to ensure you are kept informed and ensure lines of communication are transparent and open. I welcome input from you.

Some of you may be unaware of VASSAR's new regional structure. Let me translate this for you in terms of how it affects our Color Guard structure. The

State is now divided into four VASSAR regions – North, East, Central, and Southwest. The division of chapters by region is provided in the attached Word document for reference. Each region has a Color Guard Vice-Commander (listed above), who, over the next few months, will be equipped with a full CG set of flags, stands, etc. This should provide a degree of regional autonomy in CG support. I am mindful of the increasing cost of travel and accommodation – especially over the past several months – and this may help to defray Guardsmen’s expenses over the coming year, while still providing solid CG support to our Society.

One of my requests is that Guardsmen continue to network with each other in their region. This will enhance our ability to develop a broader support structure, while keeping the respective regional CG Vice-Commanders firmly in the loop.

Finally, **I am focused on safety**. I have spent enough time around weapons over the past several decades to appreciate that this is an area that requires constant vigilance, training, and attention to detail. I know you share this same concern, and I ask for your continued vigilance and expertise to keep our events safe.

You may contact me either by email (camelhuish@aol.com) or on my cell at 757-286-8316.

-- If I have reached you by mistake; are no longer an active member of the CG; or wish to be removed from the email list, please let me know.

I look forward to serving you and hope to build on the great work of our previous VASSAR CG Commanders.

Yours,

Chris Melhuish