



# National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association

State Chapters: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York,  
New Jersey Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia

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The National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association (W3R®-US) is seeking people who can speak on one or more topics related to French aid to the United States during the American Revolution. We are anticipating requests for many dozens of such talks during 2020 and 2021 as a commemorative relay march through nine states on the East Coast is developed, publicized, and implemented. A smaller march in 2006 generated great public interest and participation before the route was declared a National Historic Trail.

The W3R®-US was incorporated in 2004 with the mission of developing the history of French aid to the United States during the Revolutionary War and of providing research reports, a web site, signage, travel guides, educational material and commemorations to support such a National Historic Trail.

In 2006 a small and intrepid group of re-enactors marched the entire trail on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original march. Their activities were publicized by the local news media, the W3R®-US, and our affiliated organizations. Thousands came out to attend commemorations and presentations by the marchers and others.

In 2009 the United States Congress established the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route as a National Historic Trail. We abbreviate this as WRRR-NHT. The National Park Service is responsible for developing this trail for public exercise and education.

In July, 2019, the Sons of the American Revolution began planning for a march down the trail in about 60 segments, each managed by a local chapter and involving affiliated organizations. Now that we have a good base of historical information, signage, and development plans we should like to expand and to publicize a Speakers Bureau to build public awareness and interest in the march as well as in the organizations that the speakers represent.

The Bureau will be structured and operated as follows:

A Speaker Manager will secure speakers for the Bureau from the W3R®-US and from other historical and patriotic organizations. There will also be academics and authors who are well-versed in this topic.

Speakers will complete a Speaker Information Sheet about topics, lecture hall requirements, and limitations on the geographic area in which the speaker can give a presentation. See the website links for an example.

The public website on which the Speakers Bureau will be publicized -- W3R-US.ORG will list only the presentation titles and the geographic area for each. The names and contact information of the speakers will be provided only to people who submit a request for a specific title that is available in their area. The Speaker Manager's reply will include the appropriate Speaker Information Sheet. The requestor will contact the speaker to arrange for a presentation.

Speakers may provide the presentations at no charge or may require payment for the speaker's time, food, travel, and overnight accommodations. Following the talk the speaker will file a report so that measures of the Bureau's effectiveness may be compiled.

If you are interested in this Bureau, please fill out the speaker information form and return it to me with a suitable photo of you at a presentation or at a commemoration related to one of your topics.

Many audiences of youths and adults are curious about this new trail -- so close to millions of potential visitors, such a good opportunity to get outdoors and to consider the thousands of French and U.S. soldiers who walked that same path in 1781 on their way to securing independence for the United States. You can help get these folks to learn about this historic international partnership and to visit the many paths and sites on this 7000-mile trail. Seize that opportunity!

Your colleague in publicizing well-based history,

Ralph D. Nelson, Jr.