



Mother Nature was kind to the Society throughout 2009. Our outdoor activities went off without incident or umbrellas. In May we enjoyed perfect weather for the General Membership Meeting at the Virginia House. In October we stayed dry for Yorktown Day, and in November we had textbook fall weather at Fort Pocahontas for our Oyster Roast. Our thanks to Harrison Tyler for providing the perfect location and weather for an afternoon on the James River in Charles City County. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.

### **Membership**

Now, on to more pressing matters. I would be remiss if I did not stress that new members are the lifeblood of any organization. Ours is no exception. Our Membership Committee - Carter Reid and Bev Mauck - continues to do an exceptional job of following up on membership inquiries and the subsequent vetting of applications. We need your help in giving them more to do! We are consistently gaining 20-25 new members each year, but unfortunately attrition keeps us from making our goal of 500 members. If you have sons, grandsons, brothers, fathers, nephews, or uncles who are not yet members, please help us grow. The short form for membership takes 10 minutes to complete and typically only requires a birth certificate or two to prove qualifying descent. Carter, Bev, and I will be happy to assist with this so please do not hesitate to contact any one – or all – of us. Information is available at [www.vssr.org](http://www.vssr.org).

### **Dues**

Enclosed you will find your annual dues statement, please remit these by 4 January 2010. We have held dues at \$70 annually, and we hope that you will consider converting to a life member of \$1100. To make life membership more attractive for your children and grandchildren we have added a “12 and under” category for \$650. Your timely remittance of dues will be most appreciated. The administrative time our Society Assistant, Mary Stuart Cruickshanks, spends tracking down past due members is more than we need. To that end, please note: **In 2010, invitations to the George Washington’s Birthday Dinner will be sent only to those members whose dues are current. Ticket prices and more details will be included in the invitation.**

I want to thank the Society’s Officers and Board of Managers, past and present, for their contributions and dedication to moving us forward. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I close by wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season. I look forward to seeing you in what we all hope will be a very happy and prosperous 2010.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above and below the name.

Thomas G. Vance  
President