



Ark-La-Tex Chapter Sons of American Revolution

Date of Meeting: 1/09/24

Call to Order: President Clarence Burns called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He stated that a quorum was present.

Members Present: President Clarence Burns, VP Joe Reynolds, Sec. Rodney G. Love, Treas. Danny Addington, Registrar Dennis M. Beckham, Chancellor Bill Sekel, Larry Chandler, Rick Blackwood, and Cody Howard.

Visitors Present: Carolyn Addington, Randy Lane

Invocation by: Rick Blackwood

Pledges: The United States of America, State of Texas, SAR Pledge was led by President Clarence Burns

Reading of minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were emailed to all members. A motion to accept the minutes by acclamation was made by Chancellor Bill Sekel and seconded by Rick Blackwood. Approval was unanimous.

Reading of the Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Danny Addington presented the treasurer's report. A motion to approve treasurer's report by acclamation was made by Chancellor Bill Sekel and seconded by Rick Blackwood. Approval was unanimous.

Registrar's Report: Registrar Dennis Beckham presented the Registrar's report. A motion to approve registrar's report by acclamation was made by Rodney G. Love and seconded by Chancellor Bill Sekel. Approval was unanimous.

Chancellor Report:

- *First half of year is Public Service Awards, May Public Service Month and Veterans Day Nov. 12 with everything done by Dec. 31.
- *Five Public Service medals & certificates paid for by Chancellor Bill Sekel
- *End of year report
- +USS Stark Report (services to veterans)
- *End of year National
- *End of year State
- *Chapter gets recognition for doing things for veterans
- *Flag certificates—be sure to check places at night to see if flag lite up, members are eligible,

New member sworn in: none

Program: Rodney Love read "*Letter by Jerry Thompson on Cemeteries*"

Presentations: none

Unfinished Business:

*Write check for \$210 from available funds to support TX SAR Project 250.
specifically the building of a SAR Monument at the Texas State Cemetery. This motion was passed at the previous meeting.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

The next meeting will be **March 12th**.

Cody Howard and Rick Blackwood were appointed to co-chair the fund raising committee.

Carolyn Addington reported on the Chapter participation in “Wreaths Across America” and the Atlanta Christmas Parade.

Cody Howard reported that he had preached at a funeral of a homeless friend. The deceased was honored as a veteran.

Adjournment: President Clarence Burns entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Chancellor Bill Sekel and seconded Registrar Dennis M. Beckham. The motion carried.

Closing Admonition: President Clarence Burns led members in the SAR Closing Admonition.

Benediction by: Cody Howard

Minutes submitted for approval by Secretary Rodney G. Love

Ark La Tex Chapter #69, SAR
Treasurer Report
January 9, 2024

Beginning Balance	\$1633.62
Deposits	110.00
Debits	9.95
Ending Balance	1733.67

Challenge Coins	50.00
Rodney Love (2)	
Rick Blackwood (2)	
Shawn Tulley (1)	

Donation WAA	10.00
Rick Blackwood	

Donation SAR Project	50.00
Tomberlain Pat, Patrick And Thomas	

Donation Veterans Cert. X200	80.00 (material value)
Bill Sekel Jr.	

Remaining Coins 61
Profit \$376.60

Danny Addington
Treasurer

Friends, just my spin on these crazy times we live in!

It's common on the news that people are destroying monuments and gravestones! As granny used to say, how in the Sam Hill does that help anything?

Here's the story.

We are caretakers of a small cemetery right across the road from our house! My grandfather was caretaker when we were growing up! We helped as they called it, clean up the cemetery! We were taught to respect the place of the Dead! Not a place to play or bother anything! And surely not to desecrate anything about this place! Now just to clarify doesn't mean we always did as we were told! We sure loved to hide up there and scare each other but I don't think that was really that bad! Just being kids!

And if you've never taken your girlfriend to a dark cemetery way back in the woods, parked and said, WHAT WAS THAT? Then you ain't never really been hugged real tight?

But back to the story! From time to time I get calls about people buried here from family members doing research on a family tree! I'm always glad to take a picture and send them! Just being a good neighbor.

A while back I got a call from a young man who was hunting the grave of his fourth great paternal grandpaw! He was delighted to know I knew where he was laid to rest! He was in the service and was passing through and asked would I meet him at the cemetery to show him the gravesite?

Of course we met that afternoon! He arrived and we exchanged greetings and I walked him to the headstone! He had tears in his eyes as he explained he never thought he would see his gravesite! I walked away to let him spend some time visiting! After a while he asked, Sir would you mind if I cleaned his headstone? I of course said that would be fine with me. He went to the car got out some supplies and kneeled on a towel and set about wiping and cleaning the headstone!

As it was getting dark I told this young man goodbye, shook his hand and walked slowly away toward home! But something compelled me to watch! As he finished the cleaning of the stone he put his supplies in the car and walked back to the front of the headstone!

He stood at full attention and said, "Rest In Peace Soldier! You've earned your place in history!"

And he gave a sharp salute and took three steps back and turned away to walk back to his car!

Folks I couldn't see good cause my eyes watered a little! Ok I cried! This young Marine was in full Marine Dress uniform! Blood stripe pants and sword! He had just cleaned the CSA headstone of his ancestor, whom he'd couldn't possibly have ever known!

Now friend that's the respect I'm talking about! That's my South!

This young man was taught to respect a resting place and a headstone! Soldier to Soldier!

Respect in action! A lesson surely some folks missed! But it sure made me proud to see it! My South in action!

And life goes on, on Thompson Hill.

Jerry Thompson