

Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7

Division Street Diner, 1800 Division Street, Arlington, TX 76012

July 12, 2014

- President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
- The pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag was led by compatriot **Kevin Jorrey**.
- The pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag was also led by compatriot **Kevin Jorrey**.
- Sergeant-at-Arms **Ray Wehr** led the SAR pledge.
- There were **two** guests in attendance:
Matt Anderson Shaw – guest of new Compatriot **Mike Smith** and family friend of the Anderson family, and
John Anderson III – son of Registrar **John Anderson**.
- Compatriot **Michael J. "Mike" Smith** was inducted as a new member of the Arlington Chapter. His application process was completed in June. Mike was originally from Bonham, Texas but now resides in Arlington. He is now retired after being employed as a civil engineer. Mike is also a current member of the Confederate Veterans of America.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Compatriot **Richard Coffey**, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- Officer and Committee Reports:
- Secretary **Roger Wehr** presented the **Treasurer's Report** on behalf of Treasurer **Ron Carter**:
 - The most recent balance of the checking account was reported.
 - An invoice paid by **Nancy Davis** of the local DAR chapter was presented in the amount of \$242.50 for the three banners used at the Independence Day Parade. The amount owed by our SAR chapter was half of that amount – **\$121.25**. (Check #1158)
 - Invoices for expenses incurred by Sergeant-at-Arms **Ray Wehr** in the amount of were **\$69.00** also noted. (Check # 1156)
 - It was noted that a suggestion had been made to "pass the hat" to collect funds for the **Fort Worth SAR chapter** in appreciation for use of its trailer during the Independence Day Parade. The total gift suggested was **\$50.00**. (Check #1157)
- Registrar **John Anderson** presented the **Registrar's Report**:
 - There were no changes in membership since last month when Mike Smith was approved. The chapter now has **34** active compatriots, including **4** junior members. The TXSSAR website for our chapter is suspect but shows **30** members, not counting **4** members with unpaid dues. If your 2014 dues are unpaid, please remit ASAP.

- Compatriot **Michael Smith's** was inducted, and the chapter welcomed Michael Smith and his guest.
 - **Kevin Jorrey's** supplemental application was approved by both TXSSAR and NSSAR policy. His supplemental packet should be en route to us now.
 - **Dennis Walton's** stepson (**Grant Hamilton**) and grandson (**Nicolas Hamilton**) have their applications in progress and were challenged in providing SAR acceptable sources for proof of his grandmother's DAR application. Grant Hamilton has those proofs now and will be resubmitting.
 - No other candidates are in progress at this time.
- Historian **John Anderson** presented the **Historian's Report**:
 - **John Anderson** reported that everyone should have received via US Postal mail a notice from Joseph W. Dooley, the current NSSAR President General, announcing the 2nd publication of a "NSSAR Member Today" and seeking your call at 1-800-488-7413. A brief call will ensure that your listing is complete, accurate and up-to-date. They are also seeking compatriot pictures. The member volume and/or CD is scheduled to ship in late December 2014 and cost approximately \$100 plus tax and shipping.
 - **John Anderson** encouraged everyone to make the call and provide their current information, even if members decide not to make this purchase.
 - **John Anderson** has ordered his own personal copy and will share.
- Chapter Webmaster **John Anderson** provided a **Web Activities Report**:
 - www.txssar.org/Arlington is the Arlington chapter home page.
 - Recent pictures are posted at www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2014.php Additions to the website photos include:

July 4th – **Arlington TXSSAR Chapter 7** participation in Arlington's Independence Day Parade
 - **John Anderson** thanked everyone for providing pictures and videos for our website.
- President **David Friels** presented information related to the **Awards & Activities Report**:
 - **David Friels** asked for clarification on the Chapter Awards Committee. **John Anderson** noted that the **Vice-President** of the Chapter **Bob Wehr** is in charge of every committee, based on the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. The various awards offered by our chapter include: Poster Contest, JROTC/ROTC Awards, & CAR Awards.
 - **David Friels** noted that he had received an e-mail from TXSSAR regarding recognition of local members of Police and EMT / Fire Departments. It was suggested that perhaps one person from our chapter could head up a committee to look for potential award winners from our area. Due to the amount of work involved with such awards, **David Friels** asked for any chapter members who have an interest in nominating anyone for this SAR award to contact him. **John**

Anderson noted that if the Police and Fire Departments were contacted that these Departments could suggest possible recipients of this SAR awards.

- **David Friels** suggested that Vice President **Bob Wehr** and other interested Chapter members put together a contact list for Police and EMT / Fire Departments for the purpose of SAR public service award nominations.
- With regard to JROTC/ROTC awards, **Roger Wehr** suggested that clarification may be needed from the TXSSAR for requirements on the **Enhanced JROTC Award**.

➤ Unfinished Business

- President **David Friels** gave a favorable review of the **Arlington "4th of July" / Independence Day Parade** and opened the floor for discussions on the event.
 - **Ray Wehr** presented some photos of the SAR chapter float from the Arlington Independence Day Parade. The logistics and construction of the trailer was discussed. The participation of the antique tractor group and the local DAR chapter and other contributors was highlighted. It was noted that a **1937 antique John Deere tractor** was used to transport the trailer in the parade and that our new chapter sign was displayed in the back of the trailer.
 - **Ray Wehr** commended everyone for a "great group effort" and thanked all of those who performed various tasks to make this parade entry possible. He noted that now that our chapter has proven that the parade concept is possible, future parade involvement should be much easier. "We have the technology..."
 - **John Anderson** asked about the SAR chapter description provided to the parade officials. **Ray Wehr** noted that several of the announcer stands had read the description for another group in the parade. He also described what he did during the parade to correct this mistake.
 - **John Anderson** asked about expenses and related to the parade. **Roger Wehr** noted that one of the biggest expenses involved the banners used in the parade – two SAR chapter banners and one joint **SAR/DAR/CAR banner**. The billed amount to our chapter was – **\$121.25**. (Check #1158) **Ray Wehr** noted his out-of-pocket expenses involving materials (i.e., PVC pipes, assorted Home Depot supplies) plus the \$25 rental space at the bus barn for a total of **\$69**. (Check #1156) The combined cost of both of these items was noted at **\$190.25**.
 - In appreciation for making their trailer available to our chapter, **John Anderson** suggested that our chapter should make a certificate of appreciation available to the **Fort Worth SAR chapter**. A gift amount of **\$50.00** was suggested by several members.
 - **Ray Wehr** also suggested that the antique tractor enthusiast group should also receive a donation for their help. **John Anderson** noted that a generous donation had already been made on the day of the parade. Nonetheless, it was suggested

that a certificate of appreciation might be given to the tractor enthusiast group and possibly presented at a future meeting.

- President **David Friels** made a motion: 1) to authorize the expenses cited above including the \$50 gift donation to the Ft. Worth SAR chapter; 2) for those in attendance at the meeting to “pass the hat” to raise these parade-related expenses; and 3) for the deficit between the two to be deducted from the chapter treasury. **John Anderson** seconded this motion and the motion was passed by those in attendance at the meeting.
- **Ray Wehr** and **Roger Wehr** were presented **SAR Certificates of Appreciation** for work related to the **Arlington “4th of July” / Independence Day Parade**. President **David Friels** thanked the two Compatriots on behalf of the Chapter.
- **John Anderson** and **David Friels** discussed the possibilities of presenting a **SAR Certificate of Appreciation** to the membership of the **Fort Worth Chapter** and specifically recognizing Compatriot **James Geiger** for his efforts in making the trailer ready for use.
- President **David Friels** noted the issue of **chapter vests** and other options which could be purchased by the Chapter for use at particular functions. He also noted three types of clothing which could also be customized: golf shirts, dress shirts, and vests. **Roger Wehr** also noted that there is a SAR emblem which can be sewn onto suit jackets; however, at \$25 per emblem, this possibility is somewhat cost prohibitive. **John Anderson** made a case for embroidery work which can be done locally at a reasonable price. President **David Friels** suggested that the chapter might decide on a particular color and style of shirt and that those members who were interested could purchase one on their own.
 - **Roger Wehr** noted in a meeting earlier in the week with **Ron Carter**, the vests used by the Fort Worth chapter had been discussed. **James Alderman** had been contacted via e-mail to obtain photos of the Fort Worth vests. **John Anderson** gave a description of the jackets used by the Fort Worth chapter. **Roger Wehr** suggested that this issue might be tabled until the photos of the various options and **Ron Carter** return for more discussion.
 - President **David Friels** took an informal survey of those in attendance to measure the level of interest in purchasing a chapter shirt and/or vest. This issue was tabled, although it was noted that there was agreement that the chapter would be purchasing a certain number of **chapter vests** for collective use, whereas individuals would be purchasing **chapter shirts** for individual use.
- New Business
 - Compatriot **Mike Smith** expressed a desire to recognize the genealogical research assistance given to him for his SAR application by **Paul Teem** – a Compatriot of the **North Carolina SAR** and also a member of the **Confederate Veterans** organization. Registrar **John Anderson** stated that it would be possible for him to write a thank-you note to **Paul Teem** for his help.

- President **David Friels** reiterated information regarding the publication *The National Society, Sons of the American Revolution Member Today* – the second publication to feature listings submitted by SAR members. A post-card has been mailed to SAR members, and our members are encouraged to participate to make sure we get our names in it.
 - Sergeant-at-Arms **Ray Wehr** raised the possibility of our chapter performing a service project in October. One possibility mentioned was charitable service in conjunction with the **Veterans Administration Hospital** in Fort Worth. Ray Wehr will contact the VA Hospital and see if there is any help needed and in what way our chapter might be able to assist them.
- Program:
- Vice-President **Bob Wehr** introduced **Bill Covington** as the guest speaker. Bob Wehr noted that the high quality of the lectures presented by Bill Covington is a “great asset to our chapter.” Furthermore, it was noted that even while on vacation, Bill Covington had made **seven guest presentations** in a single month.
 - **Bill Covington**, noted that he had made three guest presentations at the Wilmore, Kentucky area at the **Thompson Hood Veteran Center** in the past two years. He noted that 106 men of a 258 bed facility had passed away in the last year. Bill Covington noted that this statistic highlights the fact that the members of our “greatest generation” are getting quite advanced in age and that our nation is losing many of these men – perhaps 1,000 men – on a daily basis.
 - Bill Covington began his presentation on **the role of privateers and the frigate *Neptune’s Militia* in the American Revolution**. In colonial attire as a privateer, he noted the following information:
 1. There are several **books** which serve as useful sources of information on privateers in the American Revolution. These books include: *Rebels Under Sail* by William Fowler; *Patriot Pirates* by Robert Patton; *Neptune’s Militia* by James Lewis; and *George Washington’s Secret Navy* by James Nelson.
 2. Every colony had seaports with two exceptions: New Jersey and Delaware.
 3. The Continental Army sometimes found it difficult to recruit when in competition with the more lucrative pay available for those who became privateers.
 4. A “Letter of Mark” allowed a privateer to escape execution by hanging – the fate of a captured pirate.
 5. *Neptune’s Militia*, a South Carolina frigate, has an interesting international pedigree. This frigate was designed by a Frenchman in Holland, manned with French sailors and Dutch/German marines in the American Revolution against the British navy.
 6. It took **seventy years** to settle the legal claims on this ship. The King of Luxembourg never received any of the prize money associated with *Neptune’s Militia*.

7. John Paul Jones, who had a "prickly personality" wanted *Neptune's Militia* but was unsuccessful in his attempts to obtain it.
8. One of the weapons used by marines onboard this frigate was a grenade made of *paper Mache'* which was as durable as wood. These weapons were loaded with broken glass and tacks which acted like shrapnel.
9. The original crew of the *Neptune's Militia* was composed of 550 men: 350 marines and 200 soldiers.
10. Approximately 5,000 American soldiers died on the battlefield during the American Revolution. By contrast 11,000 American POWs died during the American Revolution, many of them held in horrific conditions aboard prison ships.

➤ Meeting Adjournment:

At approximately 10:50 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. President **David Friels** concluded the meeting followed by the **Benediction** of Chaplain **Bill Covington**.

Attendance for the May meeting included **eleven** chapter members: John Anderson, Richard Coffey, William Covington, David Friels, Kevin Jorrey, Dick Lee, Michael J. Smith, Dennis Walton, Bob Wehr, Ray Wehr, & Roger Wehr.

Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **August 9, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.**

Roger Wehr
TXSSAR Arlington Chapter Secretary
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