

Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7

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

August 9, 2014

- ❖ President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at approximately **9:00** 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 led by compatriot **Kevin Jorrey**.
- ❖ Finally, **Kevin Jorrey** led the SAR pledge.
- ❖ Before making the invocation, Chaplain **Bill Covington** conveyed greetings from **Captain William Barron's Chapter** of TXSSAR of Tyler, Texas.
- ❖ There were **four** guests in attendance: **Gina Butcher** and her daughter **Jessica Butcher** - the 2014 Chapter recipient of the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest Winner; Dallas Chapter SAR Compatriot **H. Charles Baker** - the guest speaker; and Junior Chapter prospective member **Brett Wehr** - son of Compatriot Ray Wehr. There were **eleven** chapter members in attendance for a total of fifteen persons present at the **August** chapter meeting.

❖ **Program:**

- Vice-President **Bob Wehr** introduced **Dr. H. Charles Baker** as the guest speaker. Bob Wehr noted that Compatriot Dr. Baker has had a past history with Southern Methodist University in Electrical Engineering and was the past Dallas Chapter President of the TXSSAR. He is also the descendant of American patriots **David Baker** and his father **Thomas Baker**, who had been involved in the manufacture of gunpowder. Patriot David Baker was a participant in General Washington's crossing of the Delaware River and had fought at the Battle of Trenton. Patriot David Baker was also the founder of Bakersville, North Carolina and helped establish the Bakersville Baptist Church.
- **Dr. Charles Baker** of the Dallas Chapter presented a pictorial evolution of flags culminating in the present U.S. flag. The following information was presented:

1. **Vexillology** is the study of flags.
2. The 13-star, 13-stripe **Betsy Ross flag** was actually an American *battle flag* and not a U.S. flag.



3. The **Flag Act** of June 14, 1777 has never been repealed; hence, the 13-star, 13-stripe flag may still be saluted.
4. In American history, there have been 28 Flag Acts and 27 American flags – all of which are still considered *official flags*.

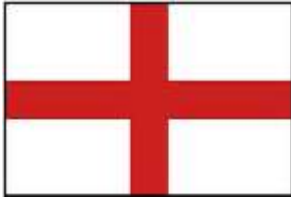
5. The following poem was written by English poet **Sir Edward B. Hamley**:

*"A moth eaten rag
on a worm-eaten pole
Does not seem likely
To stir a man's soul.
'Tis the deeds that were done
'neath the moth-eaten rag
When the pole was a staff
and the rag was a flag."*

6. The **colonial flag of Virginia** has remained as the state flag of Virginia- unchanged to this day. The flag depicts the Minerva –the Roman goddess of wisdom and sponsor of arts, trade, and strategy- standing on the chest of King George III with the inscription: *sic semper tyrannis* (tr., "thus always to tyrants.")



7. The flag adopted by King Richard of England – the **Cross of St. George**- remains the oldest flag in the world which is still in use.



8. Carried by Nathaniel Page on his ride to warn against the British invasion, the **Bedford flag** was the only flag carried by a patriot at the Battles of Lexington and Concord. The inscription on the Bedford flag reads: *Vince aut morire* (tr., "Victory or Death.") Based on the size of the flag, it is believed to be a cavalry flag.



9. The British **King's Colors flag** of 1603 is formed by combining the English **Cross of St. George** (red & white) with the Scottish **Cross of St. Andrew** (blue & white) flags.



10. The British **Red Ensign flag** of Queen Anne is the British flag that George Washington fought against; however, while recruiting troops in Cambridge, Massachusetts, George Washington modified this British flag by adding six white stripes for a total of thirteen red & white stripes – symbolic of the 13 American colonies. This modified flag is referred to as the **Continental flag**.



11. The modern flag for the United Kingdom modified the British **King's Colors flag** of 1603 by superimposing the **flag of Northern Ireland** over it, when Northern Ireland joined the United Kingdom.



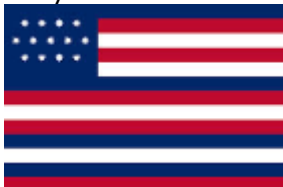
12. **George Washington's flag** is composed of thirteen white six-point stars on a blue background. George Washington had approximately 100 bodyguards, although only four of these men survived the war.



13. The biggest contribution of **Betsy Ross** to the modern American flag was the five-point star, which was difficult to cut from fabric but superior in strength when sewn on a flag.
14. The **Gadsden flag** is a U.S. Marine flag named after Col. Christopher Gadsden of South Carolina. This flag shares the expression "Don't Tread on Me" with the **U.S. Navy Jack** – a U.S. Naval flag which is flown on all U.S. naval ships during times of war.



15. The **Serapis flag** was used by John Paul Jones, who is considered the "Father of the U.S. Navy."



16. The **Moultrie flag**, which evolved into the state flag of South Carolina, originally did not have a palmetto tree on it; the palmetto tree was added to the flag following the role of the tree in defending the fort on Sullivan's Island from British cannon balls. The fort on this island was later re-named Fort Moultrie.



17. The **flag of Guilford Courthouse** was used at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, considered a pyrrhic victory for the British. The American victory at Yorktown can be linked to the heavy British losses incurred at this particular battle.



18. In 1812, Kentucky and Vermont were added to the union. The official flag in 1812 has fifteen stars and fifteen stripes. This **Star Spangled Banner** was the one referenced in the poem "Ode to Fort McHenry" / and the U.S. national anthem by Francis Scott Key. He was an American lawyer who witnessed this battle while petitioning the British for the release of an American prisoner.



19. The **28th Star** on the U.S. flag is the **Texas star**.



20. The **Third Flag Act** limited the U.S. flag to thirteen stripes. NOTE: There are 27 American flags, but **28 Flag Acts** in American history.

21. **George Washington** is responsible for both the idea of the **stars** and the **stripes** on the present U.S. flag.



❖ **Awards & Community Recognition:**

- **Jessica Butcher** was recognized as the **2014 Chapter recipient** of the **George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest Winner**.
- **Ron Carter** announced that the essay topic for next year would be the life of **General George Rogers Clark**, the founder of Louisville, Kentucky. Due to the large volume of material available on this topic, Ron Carter suggested that information be gathered and then narrow down the topic. Furthermore, he suggested that the essay writer wait one day before proofreading the essay to catch writing mistakes.
- Former Chapter President **Ron Carter** was also recognized for his contributions to the chapter with a **chapter certificate of appreciation** signed by all of the chapter officers and with an **official SAR golf shirt**.
- President **David Friels** also mentioned the desire of our chapter to recognize members of the local police and fire departments.
- **Ron Carter** mentioned that we should also consider contacting the chief of police for Dalworthington Gardens, who may have an interest in becoming a member of our chapter in the future.
- President **David Friels** and Registrar **John Anderson** mentioned their attendance at the Fort Worth Chapter of TXSSAR. Our chapter presented a chapter **certificate of appreciation** and gift (Check # 1157) to the Fort Worth chapter and at the same time was recognized for the Arlington Chapter's successful involvement in the **Arlington Independence Day Parade**.

John Anderson noted that the Fort Worth chapter was impressed by the presentation of their trailer that had "never been decorated like this before!" The Arlington chapter float entry in the **July 4th parade** has now inspired the Fort Worth chapter to explore their own new possibilities with the trailer.

- A motion was made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting by **Ron Carter**. The motion was seconded by Compatriot **Dennis Walton**, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

❖ **Officer and Committee Reports:**

- Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **Treasurer's Report**:
 - The most recent balance of the checking account was reported.
 - A new invoice will be presented by **John Anderson** for payment of rosettes used at chapter member induction ceremonies.
 - SECRETARY'S NOTE: The three invoices from the previous month were paid and deducted from the checking account balance.
 - Check #1156 was paid to **Ray Wehr** in the amount of were **\$69.00**.
 - Check #1157 was paid to the **Fort Worth SAR chapter** in the amount of **\$50.00**.
 - Check #1158 was paid to **Nancy Davis** in the amount of **\$121.25**.

- SECRETARY'S NOTE: During the week of the July meeting **\$140.00** was added to Petty Cash.
- SECRETARY'S NOTE: During the last week of July, Secretary **Roger Wehr** deposited **\$200.00** (i.e., 2 - \$100 deposits) from Petty Cash into the SAR Checking Account.
- SECRETARY'S NOTE: There is one check which is still outstanding in the amount of **\$15.00** (Check #1154) from the 2014 Poster Contest.
- Registrar **John Anderson** presented the **Registrar's Report**:
 - There were no changes in membership since last month. 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.
 - **Kevin Jorrey** received a Supplemental Application Certificate. Kevin Jorrey is the first member of our Arlington Chapter membership to have two patriot ancestors documented by the NSSAR.
 - **Dennis Walton's** stepson (**Grant Hamilton**) and grandson (**Nicolas Hamilton**) have their applications in progress. TXSSAR has approved these applications and they have been forwarded to NSSAR for their review and approval.
 - 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.
 - **John Anderson** and his wife made a trip to the Willis Library at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, seeking old Arlington Chapter roster information. The Willis Library was not able to provide any information prior to the 1970s.
- Chapter Webmaster **John Anderson** provided a **Web Administrator's 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

July 19th – **David Friels’** and **John Anderson’s** presentation to the Ft. Worth Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter of **certificate of appreciation** for the use of their parade trailer by the Arlington Chapter in the Independence Day Parade in Arlington, Texas.

- Video scrapbook videos are posted at www.txssar.org/Arlington/videos.php
- **John Anderson** thanked everyone for providing pictures and videos for our website.
- President **David Friels** presented information related to the **Awards & Activities Report**:
 - An update was given regarding the 2014 Poster Contest. Although our chapter entry did not place at the national level, it was considered as a finalist. For the benefit of the guests in attendance, it was noted by **Ron Carter** that our chapter had received **192** poster contest entries. The posters involve research on an assigned historical topic and artwork on an 18 x 24 poster.
 - **Ron Carter** requested help from any interested party in presenting SAR Flag Certificates. It was noted that he had presented three flag certificates this year and that such presentations can provide opportunities for our chapter to make presentations in local schools. Those chapter members who are interested in making presentations are encouraged to contact **Ron Carter**.

❖ **New Business**

- At the July meeting, Sergeant-at-Arms **Ray Wehr** raised the possibility of our chapter performing a service project in conjunction with the **Veterans Administration Hospital** in Fort Worth. Ray Wehr established a contact with the VA Hospital which suggested that it was “wide open to anything.” One possibility which was mentioned to him was the purchase of small increment gas/gift cards. These cards would be used by veterans to compensate them for travel costs to the VA Hospital. Due to the time constraints of the August meeting, **Ray Wehr** suggested that he would bring back additional proposals to the next chapter meeting.
- Dallas Chapter Compatriot and Guest Speaker **H. Charles Baker** suggested to our chapter that our members begin the process of receiving community funds through **Kroger** and **Tom Thumb** community involvement programs related to **customer reward cards**. He noted that the Dallas chapter had recently received a \$40 check from Kroger based on the purchasing activity of the Dallas Chapter members at Kroger grocery stores.

❖ **Unfinished Business**

- There was additional discussion on chapter shirts and chapter vests. From the previous meeting, it was established that the chapter would invest a certain number of **vests** which could be used collectively by members for certain occasions. Regarding chapter **shirts**, individual members would be responsible for purchasing these shirts individually.
 - Secretary **Roger Wehr** noted that the price of the shirts ordered from the national website may be as expensive as a more formal button down shirt. He noted that there may be a cost advantage in buying these shirts as a group; however, it would require agreeing on information and colors.
 - **Dennis Walton** noted that the chapter should be cautious regarding the quality of shirts received by online vendors. The shirts being offered by the National SAR website may be of higher quality than those being sold by online vendors.

- **Ron Carter** noted that he was interested in modifying the embroidery on a shirt which would allow highlighting the Arlington chapter. Many members affirmed that they were interested in having the designation of the "**Arlington Chapter**" included in the embroidery and that these members also favored this proposal.
- Compatriot **Dick Lee** described his idea for what a chapter vest could be: no collars, no sleeves, and cream color, with an embroidered emblem – a vest similar to what is currently used by the Lion's Club.
- **Ron Carter** made a motion that Dick Lee should become the new vest representative for the chapter and should be empowered to make purchases for a certain number of these vests on behalf of the chapter. Dennis Walton seconded this motion, and the motion was passed from those in attendance at the meeting.
- **Ray Wehr** made the case that with a given proposed shirt design, there should be a set time when individual members could decide whether or not they would like to be a part of the group purchase. **David Friels** voiced agreement with this suggestion made by Ray Wehr.
- The decision over chapter shirt design will be carried over to the September chapter meeting and will be voted on more formally at that time.

❖ **Meeting Adjournment:**

- At approximately **10:45** 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 **August meeting** included **eleven** chapter members: John Anderson, Ron Carter, Richard Coffey, William Covington, David Friels, Kevin Jorrey, Dick Lee, Dennis Walton, Bob Wehr, Ray Wehr, & Roger Wehr.

Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **September 13, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.**

Roger Wehr
 TXSSAR Arlington Chapter Secretary
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