

# Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7

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

**September 13, 2014**

- President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at **9:10** a.m.
- Chaplain **Bill Covington** led the invocation.
- 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**.
- Chaplain **Bill Covington** led the SAR pledge.
- There were **two** guests in attendance: **Corey Walker** –prospective member- and compatriot **Howard L. Taylor** –guest speaker and past President of the Plano Chapter of TXSSAR.
- There were no new inductions into the Chapter; however, it was noted that compatriots **Grant Hamilton** and his son **Nicholas Hamilton** have been approved by NSSAR and will be formally inducted into the Chapter at a future date.
- A motion was made to **approve the minutes** of the previous meeting, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
  
- Program:

Vice-President **Bob Wehr** introduced Plano chapter compatriot **Howard L. Taylor** as the guest speaker. It was noted that Howard L. Taylor was the past President of the Plano Chapter of TXSSAR and has extensive knowledge regarding the geology and topography of Texas.

**Howard L. Taylor** noted that some reporters following the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, had reported disparagingly that “there was no particular reason for the location of the City of Dallas.” To dispel this notion, the guest speaker made an argument for the geographical and historical reasons for the locations of numerous Texas cities.

The conclusions reached during this lecture included the following:

1. Older cities are located on rivers.
2. Just upstream from low-water, there are gravel fords. The best fords (i.e., a shallow place in a river where one can cross by walking or riding an animal) are near the Balcones Fault.
3. The Central Corridor is defined by the plains between the Western Hill Country and the East Texas Forests. Generally speaking, the Central Corridor is east of the Balcones Fault.
4. Many major trails, rails, roads and highways passed through what would become cities of the Central Corridor. Major cattle trails include the Shawnee Trail to Kansas City, Missouri; the Goodnight-Loving Trail to Denver, Colorado; the Western Trail to Dodge City, Kansas; and the Chisholm Trail to Abilene, Kansas. The attitudes and migration patterns of the people of Texas are reflected in the geography of Texas.
5. In summary, there are geographical and historical reasons why Texas cities and highways are located where they are. For example, the split of the Chisholm Trail and Shawnee Trail at Hillsboro, Texas is approximately the same location where I-35 splits today.

➤ Officer and Committee Reports:

- Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **Treasurer's Report:**
  - The most recent balance of the checking account was reported.
  - One of the checks issued for a local winner of the 2013-2014 Poster Contest has not cleared. Some additional research will be done to determine whether the check has been lost by the winning recipient.
  - **Ron Carter** asked a question about being reimbursed for previous expenses related to August guests **Charles Baker et al.** He noted that he was concerned about whether the chapter treasurer should be able to reimburse himself for such expenses. If so, the question would then be whether the reimbursement should be made from the chapter's checking account or taken from petty cash. Several members, including David Friels, suggested that Ron Carter be reimbursed in whatever manner would be most convenient.
  - **David Friels** noted that this issue of reimbursement had arisen before and that a ruling could be made at this meeting in order to make the chapter policy official. He suggested that *as a general rule first-time speakers from outside of the chapter and the speaker's guests have their meal expenses paid from chapter funds.* This motion was "so moved" by **Bob Wehr**. The motion was voted on and approved by those chapter members in attendance.
  - **John Anderson** confirmed that the policy on reimbursements was now established so that the reimbursement issue would not have to be voted on every month. **David Friels** confirmed that such was the case.
  
- Registrar **John Anderson** presented the **Registrar's Report:**
  - Dennis Walton's stepson, **Grant Hamilton**, and grandson, Nicholas Hamilton, have their applications approved as of September 4<sup>th</sup>. Their new member packets should be in transit and their inductions are likely to be in October 2014.
  - With those two changes in membership since last month, the chapter now has **36** active compatriots, including **5** junior members. The TXSSAR website for our chapter on August 19, 2014 is suspect but shows **30** members, not counting **4** members with unpaid dues. If your 2014 dues are unpaid, please remit ASAP and be aware that 2015 dues will be payable in December 2014.
  - No other candidates are in progress at this time. John Anderson has had discussions with DAR members seeking to get their sons in SAR, but these applications are incomplete as of this time.
  - On Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 PM there will be a **TXSSAR Presidents and Registrars** online **GoToMeeting**. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome.
  - Cynthia Weatherby of Florida will present "Recruiting and Qualifying Community Leaders for Membership."
  - Peter Baron of San Antonio, Texas will present "Qualifying SAR Applicants, Including Acceptable Documentation Proofs, Using Ancestry.com". He will demonstrate how he helps applicants learn their genealogy and locate the proof documents using online sources.

- Historian **John Anderson** presented the **Historian's Report**:
  - **John Anderson** reported that he has created a **private** chapter **Dropbox** website to share common and frequently accessed documents at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1izglvhvuhh9mzy/AAAXOVZ4zk-Kak3JcagRBQnHa?dl=0> including documents, graphics, pictures, *et cetera*. Since e-mailing documents is tedious, applicants and chapter members may find this **Dropbox** web space easier.
  - There is a folder in **Dropbox** where candidates can drop their paperwork to the registrar.
  - Also, there is a folder in **Dropbox** where members can share their "**Current Discussion**" documents. Examples could be about the diner, pending awards, SAR Shirts/Vests, and/or website links.
  - Invitations went to all members for all contents, and several members have accepted. Contact John Anderson if you have any questions, and please share your documents.
  
- Chapter Webmaster **John Anderson** provided a **Web Administrator's Report**:
  - [www.txssar.org/Arlington](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington) is the Arlington chapter homepage.
  - Recent pictures are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2014.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2014.php). Additions to the website photos include last month's meeting pictures.
  - Video scrapbook videos are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/videos.php](http://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** and opened the floor to those members who had updates on various chapter awards.
  - **Ray Wehr** noted that the **City of Arlington, Texas** had issued a **certificate** to our chapter for participation in the Independence Day parade. This certificate had been sent jointly to the DAR/SAR chapters. He stated that the DAR had forwarded a copy of the certificate to him. **John Anderson** noted that a copy of this certificate should be forwarded to chapter members through the **Dropbox**.
  - **David Friels** noted that he had established an original contact with the Arlington Police and Fire Departments. Prospective member **Corey Walker** was cited as a possible liaison between our chapter and the local fire departments. **Ron Carter** has also noted a possible prospective chapter member who is serving as a local Chief of Public Safety.
  - With regard to SAR JROTC awards, **Roger Wehr** cited a possible candidate for the SAR JROTC Bronze Medal who is also a member of local Boy Scout Troop 68. It was noted that usually the high school JROTC programs select the candidates; however, it is possible that the proposed candidate might be one who would write the required essay for the **JROTC Enhanced Medal**.
- **Ron Carter** noted that this year's **SAR Poster Contest** has two possible topics: 1) George Rogers Clark –OR- 2) the Battles of Lexington and Concord. He has noted that the AISD has certain requirements regarding how the information on the poster contest may be distributed. The deadline for returning entries to the chapter will be January 23, 2015. The top three posters from each participating elementary school will be submitted to our chapter for judging.
 

A flyer announcing the Poster Contest has been devised by **Roger Wehr**. An updated version of this flyer for the 2014-2015 Poster Contest will be presented at the next meeting.

- **Ron Carter** also discussed this year's **CAR Essay Contest**. The rules for this contest are posted on the TXSSAR website. While many of the CAR members may be procrastinating, the essay contest does provide three generous cash awards in the amounts of \$400, \$500 and \$2,500. Although each SAR chapter may submit only one essay to the state contest, there may have been only two entries for the entire state last year.

➤ Unfinished Business:

- **Dick Lee** gave an update on his research on **customized vests** for the chapter. He noted two possible methods of embroidery which were possible, and he presented a sample of the vest which he had obtained. **Dick Lee** noted that he was unhappy with the quality of the vest given its price, and suggested that the chapter abandons the idea of customized vests at this time.
  - A motion to abandon the purchase of chapter vests was made and seconded. Those chapter members in attendance voted in favor of this motion.
  - **Dick Lee** suggested that each member select a **shirt** of his own choosing which could be later embroidered with a customized chapter logo. Additional features such as compatriot names or officer titles could also be added if desired. Many of the group members were in favor of this new proposal, and it was suggested that a new search would be undertaken to find a local embroidery company which would be willing to do this type of work. Prospective member **Corey Walker** noted that such companies actually make very little profit on the embroidery and instead make profit on the sales of shirts.
  - **David Friels** suggested that the chapter continue to consider a dress-type shirt for more formal occasions. He also thanked **Dick Lee** and **Corey Walker** for their contributions. **Dick Lee** noted that he would be donating the sample vest to charity.

➤ New Business:

- Sergeant-at-Arms **Ray Wehr** related information regarding **charitable service** in conjunction with the **Veterans Administration Hospital** in Fort Worth. He noted that there are two possibilities: 1) a Fundraising Pantry or 2) Service.
  - Regarding the **Fundraising Pantry** proposal, the desired items for collection include: **grocery cards, gas gift cards, and snacks** (i.e., granola bars.) The items which were not needed include: clothing and canned goods.
  - Regarding the **Service** proposal, chapter members would need to become official volunteers for the VA which needs **drivers**. This process would involve filling out an application with the VA and submitting fingerprints.
  - **Ray Wehr** reiterated that the chapter has the opportunity to sponsor an SAR chapter event for "Donating to VA Services." However, he noted that it is important to make clear that our chapter can not say that we are representing the VA but merely contributing to its efforts. He also noted that the VA is very open to receiving voluntary support from our chapter.
  - **Ron Carter** noted that our chapter would receive credit in the annual TXSSAR accounting for our chapter's work with outside organizations, such as the VA.

- **Ray Wehr** suggested that our chapter begin to consider a tentative timetable for this project. He noted that April, May, and June as well as the Flag Day and Memorial Day holidays were open for the VA. **Roger Wehr** noted that May and June may be close to the Independence Day Parade planning.
  - **John Anderson** suggested a possible fundraising event in collaboration with another group such as the DAR or the Fort Worth SAR chapter. He noted that the Fort Worth chapter has a larger membership which might be desirable for collaboration. **Ray Wehr** asked whether it would be easier for the Fort Worth chapter of SAR if our chapter already had a plan in place.
  - **David Friels** asked if **Ray Wehr** would be willing to contact the Fort Worth chapter on behalf of our chapter regarding collaboration on a VA service project.
- **Corey Walker** asked about the timing of **Fire/Police SAR awards**. David Friels answered that this year the timing of the awards would be open; however, next year, he hopes that the SAR awards for Fire/Police would be awarded in September to coincide with the 9/11 remembrance.
  - **Ron Carter** encouraged all members to get **flag certificates** out to schools. David Friels also suggested that we do as many flag certificates as we can "for the good of our chapter."
  - **David Friels** pointed out that **chapter dues** will be due soon and that at the chapter level, our chapter collects a fee of \$9.50 per member, but if we choose now is the time to adjust the fee. Based on his within TXSSAR, the \$9.50 is consistent with many of the other chapters and is considerably lower than \$40, which is at the high end of chapter dues in TXSSAR. (Dallas - \$12.50; Plano - \$40; Fort Worth - \$9.50)
    - **John Anderson** noted that our chapter should look at an annual forecast of expenses and revenues. If the trend is upward, then there is no reason to raise dues.
    - **Ron Carter** made a motion to keep dues at the current level. The motion was seconded and approved by those in attendance. David Friels also noted that our chapter could "pass the hat" if needed.
  - **David Friels** discussed the topics of **location and day/time of chapter meetings**. He discussed the pros and cons of moving chapter meeting location to the **First Dixie Café** in Pantego near Bowen and Pioneer Parkway. The location, lack of a minimum charge, and the ability to store SAR flags were considered to be benefits of the move. One unknown was whether the SAR chapter sign could be moved to the new location. **David Friels** noted that the chapter comments on a move to a new location had been supportive due to noise and atmosphere issues at the present location. He also noted that the Saturday morning meeting times would not change.
    - Others attending voiced their support for the First Dixie Café location.
    - **Ron Carter** made a motion that the October chapter meeting be held at the First Dixie Café. **Dick Lee** seconded this motion. **David Friels** amended the motion such that the location of meetings beyond the October meeting be determined at the October chapter meeting. He also noted that our chapter desires to maintain "good terms" with the Division Street Diner. The motion was approved by those in attendance.
    - **John Anderson** noted that the chapter website would be changed to reflect the location change for the October meeting.

- **Roger Wehr** asked whether our chapter sign should be taken down following the meeting. **Ron Carter** responded that we should keep our sign up at the Division Street Diner until it is determined where the future meetings will take place. **David Friels** confirmed that time for the October meeting would be the same and the a reservation would be maintained for the November meeting at the Division Street Diner until a decision is made regarding location at the next meeting.
- **John Anderson** asked about logistics of moving chapter property from the Division Street Diner. **David Friels** and others volunteered to take possession of these items following the meeting.
- **John Anderson** re-opened the prior discussions on a possible presentation of a SAR Award for a fallen Arlington police officer. **Roger Wehr** noted that this officer represented one of only seven Arlington police officers who have died in the line of duty. **John Anderson** noted that the timing of this SAR award might be too late for the family of the fallen officer and that we should avoid reopening of old wounds. **William Covington** noted possible points of contact with the officer's family. **David Friels** noted that he would be supportive of this posthumous award so long as it was received in the right light by the family. **Roger Wehr** volunteered to make contact with the pastor of this family for his insight in this matter.

➤ Meeting Adjournment:

At approximately 10:55 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. President **David Friels** concluded the meeting followed by the **Benediction** by Chaplain **Bill Covington**.

**Attendance for the September meeting** included **ten** chapter members: John Anderson, Ron Carter, Richard Coffey, William Covington, David Friels, Kevin Jorrey, Dick Lee, Bob Wehr, Ray Wehr, & Roger Wehr.  
Two Guests: Corey Walker and compatriot Howard L. Taylor

Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **October 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **First Dixie Café** located at **2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013.**

Roger Wehr  
TXSSAR Arlington Chapter Secretary  
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