

Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7
First Dixie Café, 2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013

November 8, 2014

I. Call to Order

President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at approximately **9:15** a.m.

II. Invocation

President **David Friels** led the invocation.

III. Pledges

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.

IV. Guest Introductions

There were **three** guests in attendance: **Brett Wehr** – son of Compatriot **Ray Wehr, J.R.** “**Jim**” **Sibelius** – Arlington Fire Department Battalion Chief, and **Ryan Pugh** – Arlington Firefighter.

V. Recognitions/Awards

President David Friels presented Arlington Firefighter **Ryan Pugh** with the SAR **Fire Safety Commendation Medal with Certificate**. AFD Battalion Chief Jim Sibelius described recipient Ryan Pugh as a “great candidate” and “the first guy” to come to mind with regard to this particular SAR award. Before becoming a member of the Arlington Fire Department (AFD), Ryan Pugh had served in the military as part of humanitarian relief in Haiti as well as in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom. His duties included serving in the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) and performing some tasks which are similar to those he performs today with AFD. He, like other members of his family, has an extensive history of public service in both military and non-military roles.

VI. Program

President **David Friels** introduced **J.R. “Jim” Sibelius** –AFD Battalion Chief- as the guest speaker. Jim Sibelius presented an overview of the Arlington Fire Department – an “Organization of Achievement.”

Several points of discussion included the following:

1. One goal of the AFD is to be positioned as the pre-eminent fire department in the region through providing state of the art services by highly trained professionals.
2. Institutional values of the AFD include being prepared for duty and serving with honor.
3. The services provided by the AFD include fire suppression, advanced life support, vehicle extraction, and hazardous material response.
4. In 2013, the City of Arlington had 35,572 incidents; 976 fires; 17,928 EMS calls; and 16,668 other responses for a total of 48,785 Fire Department Unit Responses by the seventeen fire stations.
5. The per capita cost of the AFD is \$112 which is quite efficient relative to Richardson (\$172), Plano (\$171), and to a comparable city located in Minnesota (\$178).
6. The City of Arlington is conducting a “Vial of Life” program in which a person’s medical records can be stored in an easily identifiable red/white container and stored in the person’s refrigerator. Certain fire stations may have these containers readily available for distribution to the public.

VII. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Month’s Meeting

A motion was made to **approve the minutes** of the previous meeting by **Dennis Walton**. The motion was seconded by **Ray Wehr**, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

VIII. Officer and Committee Reports

NOTE: President **David Friels** appointed Registrar **John Anderson** to be his representative at the **TXSSAR BOM** during the weekend of the November meeting. Treasurer **Ron Carter** and Compatriot **Mike Smith** also planned to attend the **TXSSAR BOM**. Consequently, certain officer reports were presented by proxy.

A. Treasurer’s Report

Secretary **Roger Wehr** brought a copy of the **Treasurer’s Report**:

The recent balance of the checking account was unchanged from the previous month’s balance.

B. Registrar’s Report

On behalf of **John Anderson**, Compatriot **Kevin Jorrey** presented the **Registrar’s Report**:

1. Counting last month’s inductees, we now have 36 active compatriots, including 5 junior members. The TXSSAR website shows our chapter roster as of Oct. 15, 2014 with 32 members not counting 4 members from 2013 with unpaid dues.
2. Be aware 2015 dues will be payable in Dec. 2014. Please remit in a timely manner. Members with unpaid dues are deemed inactive and ineligible to hold a chapter office. All current and previous members with known emails are included in the monthly meeting notices.
3. A big “thank you” is due to the **Dallas Chapter** for its recruitment support provided at the Texas State Fair. Maintaining an organization booth, they gathered “Interested in Membership” contact information from attendees from all over the state. Tom Whitelock forwarded me six contacts (Arlington & Grand Prairie) to which I’ve already started communication.
4. Two new regular applicants are in the preparation process. They are **Corey Walker** and **Scott Huffman**. Hopefully, they will be ready to submit by next month.
5. One new junior application is complete and ready for submission. He is 17 year old **Mark Howard**, grandson of Peni Andrews of Arlington’s Lucretia Council Cochran DAR Chapter.

C. Historian's Report

On behalf of **John Anderson**, Compatriot **Kevin Jorrey** presented the **Historian's Report**:

John Anderson reported that a trip to the University of North Texas Willis library is planned for a weekday in early December. Contact him if you have interest in riding along. John Anderson will be delivering this year's additions to the TXSSAR archive and doing some short searches through their collection.

D. Webmaster's Report

On behalf of **John Anderson**, Compatriot **Kevin Jorrey** presented the **Historian's Report**:

1. Our chapter homepage is at www.txssar.org/Arlington. Since inception in June 2011, we now have 2,100+ total hits (accesses) to this website.
2. Recent pictures are posted at www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2014.php
3. Video Scrapbook videos are posted at www.txssar.org/Arlington/videos.php
4. Thanks to everyone providing pictures and videos for our website.
5. The online private chapter Dropbox can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1izqlvhvuhh9mzy/AAAXOVZ4zk-KaK3JcagRBQnHa?dl=0>
6. Contact John Anderson if you need a new login or have access questions.

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Shirts

The discussion of chapter shirts was tabled for a future meeting.

B. Assistance at the VA Clinic, Fort Worth

Sergeant-at-Arms **Ray Wehr** noted that there was nothing new to report regarding the proposal to assist the the VA Clinic in Fort Worth. As noted in previous meetings, one of the great needs of the VA clinic would be \$5 gas cards, granola bars, and packages of crackers and cookies.

Kevin Jorrey noted possible ideas for corporate donations. **David Friels** supported this notion and even suggested the possibility of chapter members "passing the hat."

Dick Lee noted that the VA Hospital is "a place in chaos" and that "the only thing that works well there is the guy who sells popcorn."

Dennis Walton noted that unless there is continued chapter support to the VA, the VA may find that the perceived cost of interacting with our chapter may be greater than the perceived benefit.

X. New Business

There was no new business raised by any of the members in attendance at the meeting.

XI. Meeting Adjournment, SAR Closing Admonition, & Benediction

At approximately 11:00 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. President **David Friels** concluded the meeting with the SAR closing admonition and benediction.

XII. Attendance Summary & Next Meeting Information

Attendance for the November meeting included **three** guests and **eight** chapter members: Richard Coffey, David Friels, Kevin Jorrey, Dick Lee, Ivor "Sonny" Parks, Dennis Walton, Ray Wehr, & Roger Wehr.

Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **December 13, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **First Dixie Café** located at **2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013.**

Roger Wehr
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