

Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7

First Dixie Café, 2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013

December 13, 2014

I. Call to Order

President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at approximately 9:20 a.m.

II. Invocation

Vice President **Bob Wehr** 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**.

The SAR pledge was also led by compatriot **Kevin Jorrey**.

IV. Guest Introductions

There was **one** guest in attendance: prospective SAR member **Daniel Kolb** of Grapevine, Texas.

V. Recognitions/Awards

There were no new awards to be presented at the December meeting; however, there was discussion regarding past and future awards (e.g., "Americanism" awards, recognition of police and firefighters.) It was noted that more awards for heroism could be presented in the future, as needed.

Compatriot **Dennis Walton** made a motion that at least one but preferably two or three SAR chapter awards for heroism be awarded. This motion was seconded by both **Ron Carter** and **Bob Wehr**. The motion was approved by a vote by those in attendance. **John Anderson** noted that there should be a committee formed regarding these EMS/ Firefighter/ and Police awards. It was noted that Firefighter and prospective SAR member Corey Walker might provide useful insights in future chapter awards.

VI. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Month's Meeting

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

VII. 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 chapter meeting. During the December meeting, **John Anderson** thanked compatriot **Kevin Jorrey** for serving on his behalf at the November chapter meeting.

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **Treasurer's Report**:

The recent balance of the checking account was unchanged from the previous month's balance. The only noteworthy change was a charge for the breakfast meals of the guests from the December meeting.

NOTE: Treasurer **Ron Carter** later paid **Roger Wehr** by check for covering this expense out-of-pocket from the previous meeting.

Ron Carter asked that all members bring in an estimate of all expenses incurred on behalf of the chapter in 2014 (i.e., out-of-pocket expenses) to the January 2015 meeting. Likewise, some chapter members may have also made contributions to the petty cash fund in the past. By obtaining these estimates, the chapter may have a more accurate estimate of budget needs for 2015.

B. Registrar's Report

Registrar **John Anderson** presented the **Registrar's Report**:

1. Ron Carter, Mike Smith and John Anderson attended and represented the Arlington chapter at last month's TXSSAR BOM.
2. It was reported with sadness that long time chapter member and compatriot **Robert Alfred "Bob" Harris (#142790)** died just before the Thanksgiving holiday. He joined the Arlington chapter just after it reorganized in the summer of 1994. He held the chapter Treasurer office and other offices for many years. The chapter would not have continued through the 2000-2010 decade without his efforts. He will be missed.
3. As discussed months ago, our new chapter member **Rob Beauseau** joined our chapter in the spring of 2014 and then moved to California in the summer of 2014. It was gladly reported that he transferred and joined the Orange Co, CA chapter this Fall. We now have 31 active compatriots, including 5 junior members which agree with the TXSSAR website, which shows our chapter roster as of Dec. 8th, 2014 with 31 members. It also shows 4 members from 2013 with unpaid dues.
4. Be aware 2015 dues are 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 were included in our monthly meeting notices. Dues can be remitted via US Mail or online at <http://www.txssar.org/dues.htm>.
5. One junior application is complete and was sent to the TXSSAR Inland Registrar. He is **Mark Howard**, now age 18 and grandson of Peni Andrews of Arlington's Lucretia Council Cochran DAR Chapter.
6. Three applicants are in the preparation process. They are **Corey Walker**, **Daniel Kolb** and **Scott Huffman**. Hopefully, they will be ready to submit soon.

C. Historian's Report

Historian **John Anderson** presented the **Historian's Report**:

John Anderson made a trip to the University of North Texas Willis Library last week to deliver this year's additions to the TXSSAR archive and to do some searches through their collection. Compatriot **Jim Johnson** of the Plano and Denton chapter met him there.

D. Webmaster's Report

Webmaster **John Anderson** presented the **Webmaster's Report**:

1. The TXSSAR website at www.txssar.org is undergoing significant modernization revisions by Compatriot Ray Cox, TXSSAR Web Admin. He is attempting to make the website be responsive and better support mobile devices. Each device has its own screen size and scrolling characteristics. **John Anderson** stated: "Give it a try on your PCs, laptops, phones, *et cetera*. I think you'll like it."

2. Our chapter homepage is at www.txssar.org/Arlington. Since inception in June 2011, we now have had 2,180+ total hits (accesses) to this website.
3. Recent pictures are posted at www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2014.php
4. Scrapbook videos are posted at www.txssar.org/Arlington/videos.php
5. John Anderson thanked everyone for providing pictures and videos for our website.
6. The online private chapter **Dropbox** can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1izglvhvuhh9mzy/AAAXOVZ4zk-KaK3JcagRBQnHa?dl=0>
7. Contact John Anderson if you need a new login or have access questions to **Dropbox**.

E. Awards Report

Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **Awards Report**:

In addition to the SAR **poster contest**, there is also a **brochure contest** for students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The theme of the brochure contest is either the **Battles of Lexington & Concord** OR **George Rogers Clark**. The brochure is to be a tri-fold brochure with judging criteria following the same rules as the poster contest.

F. Public Service Report

President **David Friels** presented the **Public Service Report**:

David Friels encouraged all chapter members to seek out schools and other organizations for presentation of flag certificates. An organization may receive a flag award only one time.

G. ROTC Report

Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **ROTC Report**:

Ron Carter noted that the ROTC medals and certificates for spring 2015 have been received and will be billed to our chapter. A \$20 invoice should appear in the 2015 chapter budget.

H. BOM Meeting Report

Those attendees of the November BOM Meeting (**John Anderson**, **Ron Carter**, and **Mike Smith**) reported their findings:

President **David Friels** noted that our chapter is officially supporting **Ron Carter** for **District VP of the TXSSAR**.

Ron Carter noted that the SAR has created a national incentive to recognize **Viet Nam era veterans**. He also noted the suggestion for each SAR member to devise an “**elevator speech**” regarding membership in the SAR. Ron Carter noted that he was able to use his own elevator speech at a townhall meeting for Congressman Joe Barton. John Anderson described the elevator speech as a speech lasting approximately twenty seconds. The intention of TXSSAR is to raise membership to 5,000 members in three years. Current TXSSAR membership is 2,200.

Similarly, it has been suggested that each chapter create a **brochure** for recruiting purposes. **John Anderson** noted that **Dennis Walton** has creative talents in this area. As an incentive, it was suggested that the winner of a chapter brochure contest might have the dues paid for that member. Dennis Walton requested more information on the brochure contest and was told that the brochure for the state (with chapter contact information) was due by the end of March.

Ron Carter also noted the opportunities for our chapter to interact with the AISD. For example, the AISD has requested the local DAR to present information to local elementary schools on flags.

John Anderson noted that the national **SAR website** is changing such that ancestor reports may be retrieved online – much like the national DAR website. The TXSSAR has donated \$5,000 to UNT for storage and archiving of SAR records. This donation will help digitize existing SAR records.

John Anderson also noted that the TXSSAR is interested in **marking the graves** of past TXSSAR Presidents.

John Anderson is also doing work related to the templates of a **chapter website** for other chapters within the TXSSAR to emulate.

John Anderson also noted that the **National SAR Convention** will take place in Houston, Texas in 2018. The next **state convention** will take place in March 2015.

Mike Smith described new programs from the SAR designed to help Viet Nam era veterans. Certain programs will teach and assist these veterans at no cost to the veterans in tracing their ancestry. One obstacle is the lack of WI-FI capability at the VA Clinics. It was suggested that colleges and universities may be better equipped to handle this aspect of the program. The “**Wounded Warrior**” Program offered by **Ancestry.com** gives veterans access to the \$400 world package, at no expense to these eligible veterans.

President **David Friels** thanked Compatriots **John Anderson**, **Ron Carter**, and **Mike Smith** for representing our chapter at the most recent BOM meeting.

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Shirts

David Friels proposed tabling the discussion of chapter shirts. This motion was seconded by **John Anderson**.

B. Assistance at the VA Clinic, Fort Worth

It was suggested that Sergeant-at-Arms **Ray Wehr** get in contact with compatriot **Mike Smith** regarding assistance needed at 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.

Mike Smith noted that veterans at the VA clinic also need people to push these vets in wheelchairs. He also noted that one of the veterans from Fort Worth is alleged to be the sailor in the iconic photograph by Alfred Eisenstaedt – “VJ Day in Times Square.”

IX. New Business

A. Wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery

Compatriot **Dennis Walton** raised the issue of the wreaths for the tombs of all soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The wreaths are priced at \$15 per wreath, and the goal is to collect enough funds for the wreaths on approximately 250,000 tombs.

B. Chapter Annual Report for TXSSAR

The Chapter Annual Report is due with TXSSAR by January 14, 2015. It was noted that last year’s report was a complex task which required input from all chapter officers.

X. Program

President **David Friels** made a presentation on the “Culper Spy Ring (a.k.a. the Sawtucket Spy Ring)” by playing the role of Abraham **Woodhall**. This presentation was inspired by the AMC series “Turn: Washington’s Spies” and further research by **David Friels** of Washington’s Spies: The Story of America’s First Spy Ring by Alexander Rose and George Washington’s Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger. In 1776 and 1777, a Setauket, New York farmer and his friends formed an unlikely group of spies, called the “Culper Ring” (a.k.a. the “Culpepper Ring”) which eventually helped turn the tide for the Americans during the Revolutionary War.

Several key points of discussion included the following:

1. The key members of the Culper Spy ring were as follows: 1) Austin Roe, 2) Robert Townsend, 3) Abraham Woodhall, 4) Anna Strong, 5) Lieutenant Caleb Brewster, and 6) Major Benjamin Tallmadge -who reported directly to General George Washington via Express Riders.
2. Other supporting historical groups and figures in the Culper Spy Ring included **informants** (i.e., Captain Nathan Woodhull, Nathaniel Ruggles, Joseph Lawrence), **whaleboat men** (i.e., Joshua Davis, George Smith), **couriers** (Jonas Hawkins, Austin Roe), Amos & Mary Underhill of New York City, and William T. Robinson.
3. Abraham Woodhull was a central figure in the spy ring by being linked to the informants, the couriers, and key members: Austin Roe, Robert Townsend, and Anna Strong.
4. The geographic flow of information was from New York City to Setauket (55 miles) by boat to Fairfield, CT (24 miles) by Express Riders to White Plains, NY (42 miles) – for a total distance of approximately 121 miles.
5. On September 15, 1776, the British troops occupied New York City, and on November 25, 1783, the British troops left New York City.
6. The danger of Americans spying on the British was highlighted by the execution of Nathan Hale on September 22, 1776.
7. In January 1777, General Washington appointed Captain Benjamin Tallmadge to be Sackett’s contact with the army. Tallmadge recruited Abraham Woodhull to be an agent in October 1778, and the first Culper letter was sent on October 29, 1778.
8. Express Riders were assigned to carry letters between Tallmadge and General George Washington in January 1779.
9. Former American hero and later traitorous turncoat Benedict Arnold offered his services to Sir Henry Clayton in May 1779. Some American intelligence was later compromised, and the British were able to intercept a covert message between Washington and Tallmadge in June 1779. One American agent - Higday - was nearly captured and although surviving his near capture was no longer of use as a covert agent for the Americans.
10. Benedict Arnold obtained command of the American forces at West Point on August 3, 1780, and later made a deal with British General Clinton on August 30. Arnold also proposed a clandestine meeting with John Andre’. In September 1780, John Andre’ was arrested by the Americans and exposed traitor Benedict Arnold was forced to defect to England.

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 Vice President **Bob Wehr** with the benediction.

XII. Attendance Summary & Next Meeting Information

Attendance for the November meeting included **one** guest and **eleven** chapter members: John Anderson, Ron Carter, Richard Coffey, David Friels, Grant Hamilton, Nicholas Hamilton, Kevin Jorrey, Mike Smith, Dennis Walton, Bob Wehr, & Roger Wehr. Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **January 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **First Dixie Café** located at **2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013.**

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