

The MINUTEMAN

Dallas Chapter

Founded November 10, 1928

Texas Society - Sons of the American Revolution



August 9, 2025

"writing – the mother of memory"

Volume 26, No. 8

Ventana by Buckner South Tower, Grand Hall

8301 N US 75-Central Expressway - Dallas, TX 75225

Breakfast – 8:00am

Meeting – 9:00am

PRESIDENT

Brent Harshman

1st VICE-

PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS

Thomas F. Van Fossen

2nd VICE-

PRESIDENT/AWARDS

J. D. Martin

ACTING SECRETARY

Mark Harrison

TREASURER

Tim Chapman

REGISTRAR

Mark Morgan

CHAPLAIN

Frank H. Pounders

ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Larry Luby

HISTORIAN

Tom Manning

TRUSTEES

Gary Sisson

David Temple

COLOR GUARD

COMMANDER

J.D. Martin

The newest medal that anyone in the Sons of the American Revolution can earn is now available. The Bill Watts – Ben Franklin Lapel Pin.

Bill Watts – Ben Franklin Lapel Pin.

The criteria and requirements are:

Participate in 5 SAR Youth activities and complete the Youth Protection Training online.



Send a list of the events (from January 1, 2025 forward), the date, the place, your name, proof of your YPT certificate, and your Chapter to Tom Van Fossen. The Dallas Chapter will award you the lapel pin. It is to be worn on all clothing, not just business or colonial.

The Bill Watts – Ben Franklin Lapel Pin will be available to other Texas Chapters as well as DAR & C.A.R. members.

AGENDA

Call to Order –

1st Vice President Tom Van Fossen

Rules of Engagement –

This meeting is being filmed and recorded. By joining this in-person or virtual meeting of the Dallas Chapter of the TXSSAR, you acknowledge and agree that these proceedings may be made public.

Invocation– Larry Luby



Posting of Colors – J.D. Martin and Keith McMenemy

Pledges

American Flag – Jim Battles



Texas Flag – John Morton



SAR Flag – Dr. Gary Sisson



Mission Statement –

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

Welcome – 1st Vice President Tom Van Fossen

We would like to welcome our guests:

Jane Douglas DAR Chapter representatives Linda Martin and Claudia Taylor, Former Council of Chapter Presidents President & Former McKinney Chapter President - Tom Milson; President of the East Fork Trinity Chapter Randal van Heyst.

American Historic Moment

Former State President Bob Clark arranged for Kelsey Peterson, the Leadership Giving Officer for American Ancestors, to make a presentation on Genealogical Databases and Resources of the New



England Historic Genealogical Society.

Featured Speaker

1st Vice President Van Fossen introduced today's speaker, Richard V. Battle, an author, speaker and advisor from Austin. He presented highlights of his book, 'AmeriCANS Who Made America! 18th Century – Birth of the Republic'.



New Member Inductions

Acting Coastal Registrar Jerry Pinkerton and Chapter Registrar Mark Morgan presided over the induction ceremony of our newest member, Keith Wayne Hefner. His patriot ancestor was John Crafton.



Welcome to the Dallas Chapter, Keith!

Special Awards

Bill Watts – Ben Franklin Lapel Pin

The latest recipient of the new Bill Watts – Ben Franklin Pen is Jerry Pinkerton. Tom Van Fossen presented his pin and certificate.

Member Anniversaries

A few anniversaries were recognized by Compatriot Van Fossen.

August anniversaries included:

Kevin Bassett (30 years)

Will Hartnett (40 years)

John Vollet, III (60 years)

Congratulations to each of these Compatriots.

In Memoriam

At the July meeting, Lee C. Ritchie was recognized for reaching his 50 year SAR anniversary. Unfortunately, Compatriot Ritchie passed away shortly before the last meeting.



Lee Canfield Ritchie

1951-2025

SAR National # 109116

TXSSAR # 3078

Dallas Chapter

Patriot: John Field, Sr.

Member since 31 July 1975

Officer Reports

Acting Secretary – Mark Harrison

Meeting Minutes were distributed by email earlier.

Treasurer – Tim Chapman

Treasurers Report – Treasurer Tim Chapman – copies available at the check-in table.

Registrar – Mark Morgan

In Progress at Chapter - 15

At National for Review - 19

(4 Regular, 3 Junior, 9 Supp., 1 Memorial)

Approved - 8

New Members Approved - 7

Memorial Applications Approved - 0

Supplemental Applications Approved - 1

Total - 8



Closed – 36

We have a total of 78 Applications

New Member Inductions YTD - 7

New Members Inducted Today - 1

New Members to be Inducted - 1

Total - 9

Total Active Chapter Members 240

As we approach the end of 2025, we encourage everyone who has not paid their 2025 dues and who wish to remain active members of NSSAR to pay their dues not later than **30 August 2025**. Dues paid after 30 August 2025 will be applied to 2026, resulting in a break in membership if you have not paid 2025 dues.

You may obtain your 2025 Dues Invoice by [clicking here](#) and either pay online by [clicking here](#) or by USPS Mail, (remit to State Treasurer, Don Hayes, PO BOX 9387, Spring, TX 77387-9387).

The 2026 dues invoices are expected in September and will be due by end of year.

Historian – Tom Manning

Please submit any pictures or articles to:

Historian Tom Manning -tommanning.sar@gmail.com

When submitting photos, please identify the event, the date, and the location.

The Texas SAR History – Vol 3 is being compiled at this time. All Compatriots are asked to submit a brief bio of your service with the SAR. A form is available on-line at https://www.texassar.org/pdf/TexasSAR_CompatriotQuestionnaire.pdf. This information is being requested to be submitted ASAP. You can send to John Anderson, Texas SAR Historian at historian@texassar.org. Please submit your bio information as soon as possible.

Color Guard – Commander J.D. Martin

Bill Watts Memorial Service



The memorial service and Grave Marking ceremony for Compatriot William Byron 'Bill' Watts was held on July 26 at Rest Haven Funeral Home and Cemetery. State Chaplain Michael Goode officiated a beautiful service before a full room of SAR compatriots, DAR and CAR members as well as some of Bill's friends and family. The service was officiated by State Chaplain Michael Goode. State Color Guard Commander David Hamaker led a small contingent posting the flags. Bill's biography was given by Compatriot Tom Van Fossen with his Eulogy was delivered by Chaplain Michael Goode. Finally, a moving tribute to Bill was given by Compatriot Tom Whitelock.





Following the retiring of the colors, the color guard led a contingent of mourners from the chapel to the burial site for the internment and the Compatriot Grave Marking. Bill’s ashes were carried by Compatriots Van Fossen and Jerry Pinkerton. Chaplain Goode and Tom Van Fossen led this portion of the service. Northern Color Guard Commander Bill Sekel presided over the firing of muskets by several color guard members. Finally, a moving playing of ‘Taps’ highlighted the graveside service. All-in-all, it was a fitting tribute to our friend and compatriot, Bill Watts.

JROTC – J.D. Martin & Wayne Stewart

Nothing to report

Upcoming Programs – 1st VP Tom Van Fossen

Wayne Stewart, Dallas Compatriot
 His new book about his family and the wars in Texas: “Texan in Blue, Captain Francis Asbury Vaughan of the First Texas Calvary”.

Committee Opportunities

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Public Relations & Publicity | Brochure Contest (MS) |
| Community Service Awards | C.A.R. Essay Contest |
| Member Recruitment & Retention | Eagle Scout Essay Contest (HS) |
| C.A.R. Liaison | Knight Essay Contest (HS) |
| DAR Liaison | Oration Contest (HS) |
| Annual Audit | Poster Contest (Elem) |
| American History Teacher | Video Contest (MS & HS) |
| Web and Social Media | Speaker’s Bureau |
| Color Guard Members | Greeter |
| JROTC Members | |

It was announced that Compatriot Scot MacRae has agreed to serve as our C.A.R. liaison. He has also agreed to serve as the state chairman of the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest.

Please discuss with Compatriots Van Fossen or Harrison

Old Business

Nothing to report

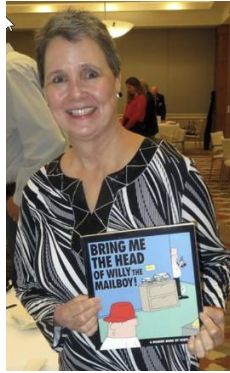
New Business

Door Prizes

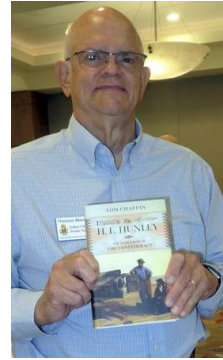
1st selection – Claudia Taylor



2nd selection – Jeanette Prasifka



3rd selection – Tom Manning



NEW BUSINESS –

Texas State Fair – DAR House

Claudia Taylor and Linda Martin from the Jane Douglas DAR Chapter were invited to bring an update on staffing plans for the DAR House at the State Fair Grounds for the upcoming Texas State Fair. The house will be open throughout the fair from September 26 – October 19, 2025. There will be 2 shifts each day for SAR members to staff our table. You can signup for either the morning or afternoon shift at [Texas State Fair 2025 Sign Up](#). There will be an orientation meeting at the DAR house on September 13. Details to follow. Signup soon as slots are going fast.

Next Meeting — Saturday, September 13 @ 9am

Speaker: Compatriot Wayne Stewart

“Texan in Blue, Captain Francis Asbury Vaughan of the First Texas Calvary”

BENEDICTION – Larry Luby

SAR RECESSIONAL – All

NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY September 13 @ 9:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Harrison, Acting Secretary

DIRECTIONS TO LOCATION MEETING LOCATION (A) PARKING AREA (B)

