

The Minuteman



Dallas Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Founded July 4, 1929

May 9, 2026

“writing – the mother of memory”

Volume 27, No. 5

Ventana by Buckner South Tower, Grand Hall

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

Breakfast – 8:00am

Meeting – 9:00am

PRESIDENT

Tom Manning

1st VICE-

PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS

Thomas F. Van Fossen

2nd VICE-

PRESIDENT/AWARDS

J. D. Martin

SECRETARY

Mark Harrison

TREASURER

Tim Chapman

ACTING REGISTRAR

Mark Morgan

CHAPLAIN

Larry Luby

HISTORIAN

Vacant

TRUSTEES

*Gary Sisson
David Temple*

COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

J.D. Martin

President's Corner

Dallas Chapter Compatriots,

Greetings to all members of the Dallas Sons of the American Revolution!

As you will recall, we initiated a colonial clothing closet at the May meeting to promote growth of our chapter color guard. Any compatriots who would like to join the guard but haven't made the decision to purchase a uniform, might benefit from this collection of previously owned uniforms. Please consider bringing in unneeded colonial articles hanging unused in your own closet!

There has been a lot of excitement this year surrounding the 250th anniversary of our country's founding. It's an outstanding time to take advantage of the patriotic spirit permeating our nation and to join in the celebrations commemorating this special year. Also, there may be increased interest in becoming members of SAR. So, invite friends and relatives who have revolutionary lineage to consider joining our Society.

In our interest in honoring NSSR national mandates, our chapter is in the process of installing a 250th anniversary bench, as well as a 250th Liberty Tree, both in the historic Frankford Cemetery in north Dallas. We hope to have a dedication event for the bench this summer. Our chapter interest in pursuing these endeavors is emblematic of our dedication to the causes of honoring our nation's history as well as promoting patriotism and service to our community.

Patriotically Yours,

Tom Manning

Chapter President

Tommanning.SAR@gmail.com

AGENDA – May 9, 2026 Meeting

Call to Order –
President Tom Manning



Rules of Engagement –

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

Invocation– Secretary Mark Harrison

Posting of Colors – Color Guard Commander J.D. Martin and Eagle Scout Collin Brodner



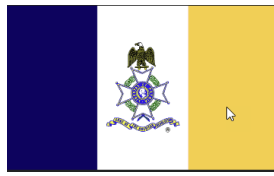
Pledges

American Flag – Wayne Stewart



Texas Flag – Gus Hinojosa





SAR Flag Randall van Heyst

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 – President Tom Manning:

We would like to welcome our special guests including:

- Former State Presidents, Bob Clark and David Temple
- Asst. State Inland Registrar Jerry Pinkerton
- VP Americanism David Scott
- Immediate Past Chapter President and current State Chancellor Brent Harshman
- District 6 VP and Northern Color Guard Adjutant Dave Fautheree
- Other former Chapter Presidents Tom Van Fossen, Tom Whitelock, Mark Harrison, John Greer, Tom Milson, Nick Gillam and Randall van Heyst.

Youth Contest Awards:

Vice President Tom Van Fossen introduced the outstanding young people representing the Dallas Chapter in the various SAR contests. We were honored to host these fine contestants and their families.

Americanism Poster Contest

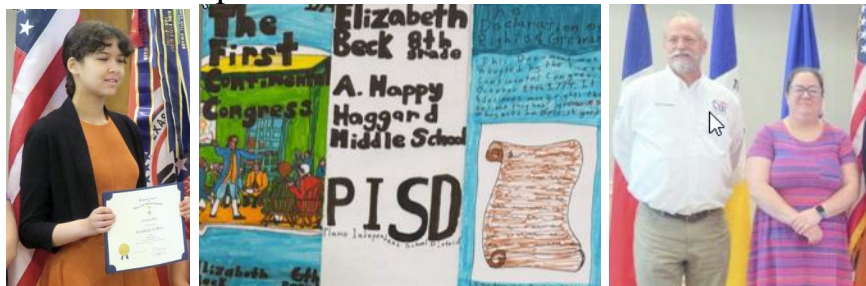
Zachary Selden of the Cornerstone Christian Academy in McKinney represented the chapter in the Texas SAR Poster Contest. Zachary previously received a certificate and \$100 check during a presentation at his school.



Americanism Brochure Contest

The Dallas Chapter entry in the Texas SAR Brochure Contest was Elizabeth Beck from Haggard Middle School in Plano. She was accompanied by her parents and younger sister along with her teacher. Elizabeth received a certificate and a \$100 check from the chapter.

Elizabeth's teacher, Ashlee Happy, was named the SAR American History Teacher winner for Texas and the outstanding middle school American History Teacher at the national level. She represented the Plano Chapter at the state contest.



Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest and Knight Essay Contest

Representing the chapter in both the Rumbaugh Oration Contest and Knight Essay Contest was Madeleine Finkelstein. Madeleine is a 9th grader at J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson. Madeleine was invited to compete in the oration contest at the Youth Awards Luncheon at the State Convention in Austin where she finished in 3rd place overall. She flawlessly delivered her oration on Molly Pitcher to the attendees.

Madeleine received a certificate and a \$300 check from the chapter for each of her entries. This is in addition to the \$500 check she received at the state convention from the General Society of the Colonial Wars in Texas.



Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest

Collin Brodner of Plano was the Eagle Scout Contest representative for the chapter. Collin will be graduating from high school soon and is planning starting his college journey at Collin County College this fall. Collin was able to share his essay as well as assisting with the presentation of the colors to start the meeting. He was presented with a certificate and a \$300 check for serving as the Dallas Chapter representative.

Presenting his award was the Texas VP Americanism, David Scott. David is also an Eagle Scout and shared comments about the path to becoming an Eagle Scout and recognized the other Eagle Scouts in the audience. He observed that the SAR is over represented in Eagle Scouts compared to the general population.



Congratulations to all of our Dallas Chapter youth contest winners.

Featured Speaker

Our featured speaker was our newly minted compatriot, Tom Washington. Tom is a direct descendant of John Augustine Washington, the brother of George Washington. That makes him a 5th Great Grand Nephew of our great general. Tom gave a full picture of his families heritage tracing back to Charlemagne through William the Conqueror to the first of the family to come to America, John Washington who came from England in 1632. He wove in family stories through George Washington's life through the final sale of Mount Vernon to the Mount Vernon Preservation Society for the long term health and support of the estate.



Special Awards

At the recent Texas SAR State Convention in Austin, a number of awards for chapter members as well as the chapter were presented. They include:

- Scot MacRae – Texas State Silver Good Citizenship Medal



- David Temple – Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal and 9 Oak Leaf Clusters



- Brent Harshman

- Gold Bernardo de Galvez Color Guard Medal
- Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding service and support of Texas SAR as Chancellor
- Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding service and support of the Texas SAR Centoaph Project at the Texas State Cemetery



- Tom Van Fossen

- Certificate of Appreciation for service on the Council of Chapter Presidents – 2023-26
- Silver State Henry Knox Medal for years of service to the State Color Guard
- Silver State Hannah White Arnett DAR medal and certificate
- Silver State Distinguished Service medal and certificate



- Dallas Chapter Awards

- Texas SAR Yearbook Award – 1st Place in Group 3
- Col. Joe M. Hill Patriot Fund Award (repeat winner - total contributions that exceed the previous year)
- Texas SAR Flag Presentation Award (repeat winner)
- Texas SAR Outstanding Public Service Award (repeat winner – chapter that gives all 5 Public Service Awards)

New Members

Welcome to our newest member, Joseph Ruzicka through his Patriot, William Jarratt.



New Supplementals

Dallas Chapter compatriot, Dr. Gary Sisson was recognized for his approved supplemental application for his patriot ancestor William Wiles. Unfortunately, Gary was not in attendance and will be recognized at a future meeting. Congratulations, Dr. Sisson.

Member Anniversaries

Our anniversaries being recognized this month by President Manning include:

- David Navorska (35 years)

Congratulations to Compatriot Navorska!.

Officer Reports

Secretary – Mark Harrison

Meeting Minutes were distributed by email earlier.

Treasurer – Tim Chapman

Treasurers Report – Treasurer Tim Chapman – copies were available at the check-in table. Copies can be requested from Treasurer Chapman at [Treasurer - Dallas SAR](#).

Registrar – Mark Morgan

2026 Registrar Activity

In Progress at Chapter – 22

At National for Review - 2

(1 Regular, 0 Junior, 3 Supp., 0 Memorial)

Approved - 8

Closed – 31

We have a total of 65 Applications

Total Active Members - 230

2026 New Approvals

New Members Approved - 5

Memorial Applications Approved - 0

Supplemental Applications Approved - 3

Total - 8

New Member Inductions YTD - 6

New Members Inducted Today - 1

New Members to be Inducted - 9

Total - 15

It was announced that Compatriot Gale Lewis has volunteered to start working with Registrar Mark Morgan as the assistant Registrar. As his training is complete, Gale and Mark will switch roles and Gale will serve as chapter Registrar and Mark will stay on as the assistant. Thank you for stepping forward Compatriot Lewis.



Historian – Larry Moore

Please submit any pictures or articles to current Historian Larry Moore – info@sardallas.org. **Please note that Larry now has a new address for SAR related email.**

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

Compatriot Moore has asked to be relieved of his duties as chapter Historian. If anyone is interested in exploring this role, please contact President Manning.

Color Guard – Commander J.D. Martin

Medal of Honor Parade - Greenville

On April 18, the annual Medal of Honor Parade was held in Greenville. Because of the scheduling conflict with the State SAR convention in Austin, our participation in the parade was reduced. Color Guard Commander J.D. Martin led several guardsman from multiple chapters to proudly represent the Texas SAR.



Texas SAR State Convention - Austin

One of the highlights of the state convention was the dedication of the Texas SAR Monument at the Texas State Cemetery. A large contingent of the Texas SAR Color Guard represented the organization and made the ceremony special. Texas Governor Greg Abbott was the keynote speaker and was inducted into the Texas SAR during the ceremony. This project has been in fund raising and planning mode for several years and was pulled off beautifully.



A Peep at the Coops – Feathered Freedom at Moss Haven Elementary School

On May 3, a small but elite group of color guard members supported the Moss Haven School's Peeps Community Day.



Future Activities

Additional information will be coming out on each of these events. Please stay tuned.

- May 23 – Survive 1776 Program, J. Erik Johnsson Central Library, Dallas
- June 20 – Audie Murphy Parade in Farmersville
- July 4 – Park Cities 4th of July Parade -

It was announced that the Dallas Chapter Color Guard calendar is now available on the chapter website – www.texassar.org/Dallas/.

www.texassar.org/Dallas/



In addition, a trunk will be available at every meeting where members can drop off any color guard related uniform items. These will be available for other members to use to build their uniform. We need a volunteer to take over management of the uniform trunk.



JROTC – J.D. Martin & Wayne Stewart

2nd Vice President J.D. Martin reported the status of the JROTC medal presentations. As of May 9, his report includes:

- 30+ total schools in the program
- 27 schools requested SAR participation and 12 schools requested SAR presentations
- 11 ceremonies are complete
- 1 is scheduled for May 15
- 15 schools have been provided certificates and medals for their own presentations

The entire program for the year is expected to be complete by May 15. Thanks to all who assisted.



Upcoming Programs – 1st Vice President Tom Van Fossen

We've seen a change in plans for speakers for the June 13 meeting. The previously announced speaker, David Huntley has informed us of a health issue that will prevent him from being with us at the meeting. Hopefully we can invite him back at a later date as he recovers. Plano Chapter (dual member with Dallas) Compatriot Dave Fautheree will step in and will address "The Spanish Involvement in the Revolutionary War".



Committee Opportunities

Public Relations & Publicity
Community Service Awards
Member Recruitment & Retention
C.A.R. Liaison
DAR Liaison
Annual Audit
American History Teacher
Web and Social Media
Color Guard Members
JROTC Members
Veterans Affairs

Brochure Contest (MS)
C.A.R. Essay Contest
Eagle Scout Essay Contest (HS)
Knight Essay Contest (HS)
Oration Contest (HS)
Poster Contest (Elem)
Video Contest (MS & HS)
Speaker's Bureau
Greeter
State Fair Recruitment Table

New Business –

Proposed changes to the Bylaws

- Enable special elections to fill officer vacancies
- Permit the president to appoint assistant officers and committees as needed
- Add an Assistant Treasurer position and define its duties
- Clarify wording inconsistencies
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of chapter trustees
-

Final changes to the document to be sent via email to the chapter 16 May 2026

Dallas Chapter 250th Anniversary Bench and Liberty Tree

Fundraising for the granite commemorative bench sponsored by the chapter is complete and the bench is on order. The bench and a liberty tree will be placed at Frankford Cemetery in Dallas. Some additional donations may be required for the tree and related dedication expenses. Site selection work is underway with the cemetery board. Stay tuned for dedication information.

South Central District Meeting – August 21 – 22, 2026

The Dallas Chapter will be the host for the South Central District meeting in Richardson on Friday and Saturday, August 21 – 22. Planning is underway. Former State President Drake Peddie is the VP General for this district. Representatives will be in attendance from the member states (Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas) along with several national officers. Stay tuned for more information on how you can assist.

Spanish Texas during the American Revolution: Life and Legacy, 1775–1783 Exhibit

Compatriot Gus Hinojosa announced an important exhibit at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas. The preview of “*Spanish Texas during the American Revolution: Life and Legacy, 1775–1783*,” will be held on May 23. Look for announcements for the extended exhibition later this summer. See this link for more information: <https://theplatformmagazine.com/tpm-home/f/spanish-texas-exhibit-highlights-local-legacy-and-american-roots>.

T Club

All 5 “Tom’s” were in attendance sporting their custom ‘T’ hats.

- T1 – Tom Whitelock
- T2 – Tom Van Fossen
- T3 – Tom Milson
- T4 – Tom Manning
- And the newest member –
- T5 – Tom Washington



Door Prizes

Door prize winners include our youth contest poster winner, Zachary Selden as well as Compatriot Scot MacRae. Congratulations, all!

BENEDICTION – Secretary Mark Harrison

SAR RECESSONAL – All

NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY June 13, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Harrison, Secretary

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

