

The Minuteman



Dallas Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Founded July 4, 1929

September 12, 2026

“writing – the mother of memory”

Volume 27, No. 9

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

Tom Washington (Asst.)

REGISTRAR

Mark Morgan

Gale Lewis (Asst.)

CHAPLAIN

Larry Luby

HISTORIAN

Andrew Novak

TRUSTEES

Gary Sisson

David Temple

Jerry Pinkerton

COLOR GUARD

COMMANDER

J.D. Martin

Keith McMenamy (Asst.)

President's Corner

Greetings Dallas Chapter Compatriots,

Our chapter has had a successful summer, despite the unusually sultry Dallas weather.

As the host chapter for the recent SAR South Central District (SCD) conference, our volunteers did an outstanding job. With assistance from the Plano Chapter, we hosted an enjoyable trip to the Medal of Honor Museum for attendees. We also prepared meeting rooms for a grave-cleaning training session, breakfast, a buffet awards dinner, and a candidate forum for national positions, while ensuring registration ran smoothly. Thank you to all our volunteers, and to Drake Peddie for his leadership as VP General of the SCD.

We also had the pleasure of hearing from Secretary General Brooks Lyles, who represented President General Allen Greenly. He discussed the NSSAR's efforts to create a more functional, streamlined organization and overcome resistance to change. He emphasized that national staff members are actively working as change agents, tracking progress on national goals, and directly involving VP Generals in the process. Additionally, Secretary General Lyles highlighted the membership boost driven by the 250th Anniversary and stressed the importance of creating a welcoming environment to retain new members.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our chapter's 250th Anniversary bench has been completed and installed in Frankford Cemetery. We plan to hold a dedication ceremony this fall. While the planning, siting, production, and installation took about six months, it is a small investment for a monument that will serve as an enduring legacy of our chapter's participation in this historic occasion.

Patriotically Yours,

Tom Manning

Chapter President

Tomanning.SAR@gmail.com

AGENDA – September 12, 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– Chaplain Larry Luby



Posting of Colors – Compatriot Keith McMenamy



Pledges

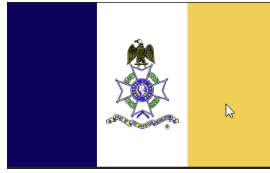
American Flag – Reagan van Heyst



Texas Flag – Jack Haughton



SAR Flag – Mike Milner



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:

- Several representatives of the DAR were welcomed. A partial list includes Linda Martin, Vicki Evans Williams, Pat Fernandez, Pat Thibodeau, Jeanette Prasifka
- Former State President, Bob Clark
- Asst. State Inland Registrar Jerry Pinkerton
- Past Chapter President and former State Chancellor, Mark Hansen
- Immediate Past Chapter President and current State Chancellor Brent Harshman
- District 6 VP and Northern District Color Guard Adjutant Dave Fautheree
- Other former area Chapter Presidents including Nick Harper, Tom Van Fossen, Tom Whitelock, Mark Harrison, Ron Turner, Paul Ridenour and Tom Milson

President Manning noted that we have a great crowd in attendance. The food and coffee were running a little short because of the number of attendees. He reminded all members to be sure to turn in their RSVP before the meeting and to identify any visitors that they might be bringing. This will help Ventana to be better prepared for us.



American Historic Moment

“Year in Revolution 1776: New York City” video

Featured Speaker

The featured speaker was Vicki Evans Williams, Chaplain of the Rebecca Boyce chapter of the NSDAR located in Waxahachie. Vicki gave an excellent presentation about the “Unsung Heroines of the American Revolution.” She gave an interesting review of some of the ‘sheroes’ (as opposed to the heroes) of our battle for independence. She was accompanied by Pat Fernandez and a cheering squad from the Ellis County SAR chapter.



Special Awards

Recognition for work on the SCD meeting

President Manning thanked all of the volunteers who helped put on the very successful South Central District meeting in August. In particular, he recognized Tom Van Fossen, Dave Fautheree and Tom Whitelock for their leadership and exceptional efforts.



Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal of Distinction

Pat Thibodeau of the NSSAR Susan Emma Daugherty Bannister Chapter chapter presented the Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal of Distinction to Dave Fautheree for his outstanding support of



the DAR.

Bill Watts - Benjamin Franklin Pin

Vice President Tom Van Fossen presented the Bill Watts – Benjamin Franklin Pins to the newest recipients, Dr. John Maloney – Dallas Chapter and Pat Hernandez – Rebecca Boyce Chapter DAR. Congratulations to both and thank you for your work supporting our youth.



New Special Member: Benjamin Franklin

While Benjamin Franklin and the other founding fathers never had a chance to be inducted into the SAR during their lifetimes, the decision was made to induct Benjamin Franklin as a special member of the Dallas Chapter and the Chapter Eternal. Vice President Van Fossen acting as Ben's sponsor (and mouthpiece) stood with Assistant Inland Registrar Pinkerton in inducting Franklin. Among his qualifications for this honor are:

- Member of the Committee of Five that drafted the Declaration of Independence and signed it in 1776
- Signer of the 1783 Treaty of Paris
- Signer of the US Constitution
- Served as a delegate from Pennsylvania to the Second Continental Congress beginning in 1776
- Minister to France starting in 1776, successfully securing crucial financial, military and diplomatic backing from the French government
- Served as the first Postmaster General under the Continental congress

Congratulations, Compatriot Franklin and welcome to the Dallas Chapter.



Special Award

Compatriot Reagan van Heyst (East Fork Trinity) – 2026 Video Production Award for the production of the ‘Dallas SAR Reads the Declaration of Independence’ video. A certificate and \$200 check were presented to Reagan along with our thanks for a job very well done.



Color Guard Promotions

President Manning presented commissioning certificates to several Color Guard members.

- Dallas Chapter Color Guard Commander J.D. Martin was promoted to Major
- Dallas Chapter Color Guard Adjutant Keith McMenemy was promoted to Lieutenant



With the assistance of Northern Color Guard Adjutant Dave Fautheree, the following commissions were presented:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| - John Maloney – Corporal | Jerry Pinkerton - Captain |
| - Tom Van Fossen – Captain | Mark Harrison - Captain |
| - Brent Harshman – Captain | Tom Manning - Captain |



New Members

No new members were inducted at this meeting.

Member Anniversaries

Malcom Gish – 20 years

Stephen Linville – 50 years

Robert Mencke – 25 years

Congratulations, Compatriots!

Officer Reports

Secretary – Mark Harrison

Meeting Minutes were distributed by email earlier and were accepted as published.

Treasurer – Tim Chapman

Treasurers Report –copies were available at the check-in table.

Copies can be requested from Tim at [Dallas - Treasurer](#).

Attendance at the meeting included 49 SAR members and 13 visitors.

Registrar – Mark Morgan

2026 Registrar Activity

In Progress at Chapter – 21

At National for Review - 8

(4 Regular, 0 Junior, 4 Supp., 0 Memorial)

Approved - 11

Closed – 42

We have a total of 82 Applications

Total Active Members – 242

2026 New Approvals

New Members Approved - 8

Memorial Applications Approved - 0

Supplemental Applications Approved -3

Total - 11

New Member Inductions YTD - 15

New Members Inducted Today - 0

New Members to be Inducted - 3

Total - 18

Historian – Andrew Novak

Please submit any pictures or articles to our Historian Andrew Novak. When submitting photos, please identify the event, the date, and the location. Please contact Compatriot Novak at AndrewNovak@sbcglobal.net.

JROTC

Compatriot Wayne Stewart reported on the start of the JROTC recognition activities for the year. Wayne, J.D. Martin and Tom Van Fossen will once again be coordinating this effort for our Dallas County schools.

Future Color Guard Activities

Annual Plano International Festival and Naturalization Ceremony, Sat, Oct 17, Haggard Park, Plano



Wreaths Across America

The Dallas Chapter will be participating in the Wreaths Across America activities on December 19 at the Historic Frankford Cemetery. Use the QR code below to sponsor wreaths at \$17 each or visit the website www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/TX1686. Either method will give the Dallas Chapter credit and ensure the wreaths are delivered to the correct cemetery. Stay tuned for more information on the reporting time.



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

Appointed Positions

Color Guard Commander
Color Guard Adjutant
Sergeant-At-Arms
Chancellor

Veterans Committee Chairman

Public Service Committee Chairman
Oration Contest Chairman
Poster Contest Chairman
Eagle Scout Chairman
Assistant Secretary

Member Retention Chairman

Communications & Media Chairman
Chapter Membership Chairman
C.A.R. Liaison
DAR Liaison
Assistant to 2nd Vice-President
Assistant Registrar
Assistant Historian
Assistant Chaplain

Upcoming Programs – 1st Vice President Tom Van Fossen

Katherine Power and former Dallas City Councilwoman Sandy Greyson will present an interesting program on the Historic Frankford Cemetery and Church at the October 10 meeting. That cemetery is the site of our Dallas Chapter 250 Anniversary Bench and Liberty Tree and will be our host for Wreaths Across America.

New Business –

State Fair SAR Recruiting Table

The Dallas Chapter will once again be manning a recruiting table at the Jane Douglas DAR house during the Texas State Fair from September 25 through October 18. A few slots still are available. Contact Tom Whitelock for information or check the [SAR State Fair Sign-up Link](#).



A new QR code for prospective new members to get information and indicate interest in joining SAR is now available. This new scan code will be a great new tool for use at the State Fair.



Dallas Chapter 250th Anniversary Bench and Liberty Tree

Stay tuned for the announcement on the dedication date of the Anniversary Bench and a Liberty Tree that will be placed at Frankford Cemetery in Dallas. The bench has been installed and the granite marker for the tree are on-order.

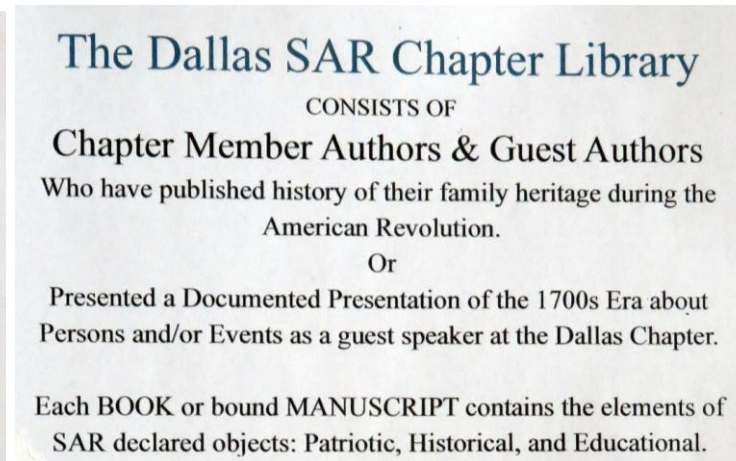
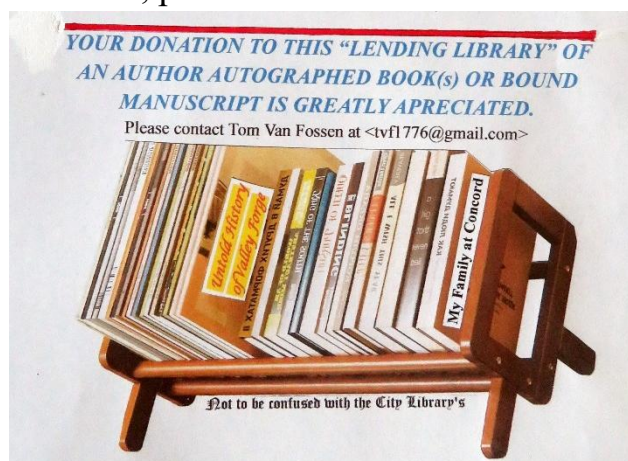


Veteran's Donation Table

All members were reminded that we need donations for the VA. Please bring coffee cans and place on the table in the back of the room. There is a new program in place to encourage donations to the VA. If you bring donations of \$10 or more, you will see a \$5 reduction in your breakfast cost.

Dallas Chapter Lending Library Project

Compatriots Van Fossen and Whitelock announced the kick-off of an innovative new program. We have been blessed over the years of having many of our members author books about historical topics or their family history. In addition, we've had a number of great presenters who also have very interesting books to their credit. We are establishing the Dallas SAR Chapter Library as a home for these publications and to give our members the opportunity to check out these wonderful works. Details are still being finalized. If you have a book that you authored or one of our presenters has authored, please contact Tom Whitelock.



Book Review

Compatriot Mark Hansen gave a brief book review on a book he had read recently. The name of the book was “American Crown: From Revolutionaries to Royalty, the Story of Prince William’s American Heritage”. The thesis of the book is that Prince William of the UK is connected through his mother, Princess Diana to his 3X Great Grandfather in America. The question was asked if we need to start planning to induct Prince William into the SAR and the Dallas Chapter.

Compatriot Grave Marking

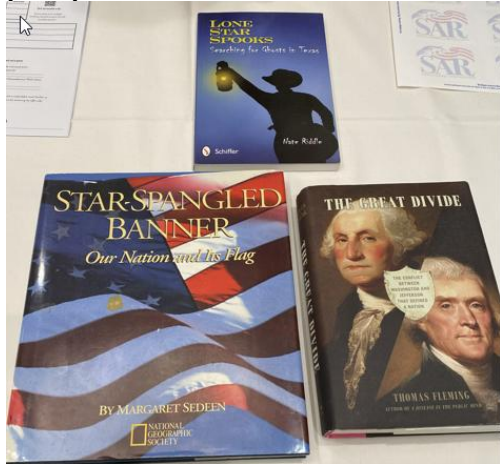
Dr. Gary Sisson announced that the Edmund Terrill Chapter will host a Compatriot Grave Marking ceremony for Compatriot Col. Joe Meredith Hill. He was the past President of the Texas SAR and a WW1 and WW2 veteran. He served many years as a Dallas city judge. The ceremony will be held at Ladonia Cemetery, Ladonia, TX on Saturday, October 17 at 3PM. Contact Gary Sisson for more details

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

Compatriot Gus Hinojosa announced the exhibit that was shared at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas earlier this summer is kicking off in Houston for the official display. The exhibit of “*Spanish Texas during the American Revolution: Life and Legacy, 1775–1783*,” is currently on display through the end of January, 2027. The exhibit is at 1100 Bagby Street in Houston. More information is available at <https://theplatformmagazine.com/tpm-home/f/spanish-texas-exhibit-highlights-local-legacy-and-american-roots>.

Door Prizes

Door prize winners include our speaker today, Vicki Evans Williams, Glenda McMenamy and prospective member Joel Stinson. Congratulations, all!



BENEDICTION—Chaplain Larry Luby

SAR RECESSIONAL – All

NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY October 10, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Harrison, Secretary

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

