

May, 2022



Ink & Quill

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, DENTON CHAPTER #23, TXSSAR INC.®



Next Meeting: Scheduled for **10am July 9, 2022**
at the Denton Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St .

President's Message

Our Denton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has a lot going on! We only need to witness the full agenda of our meeting on April 9, 2022, even considering the time we spent installing new officers.

Even so, we should remember that our Society is more than just a genealogical society. Our purpose remains three-fold: Promoting Patriotism, Preserving American History, and Promoting Education to our Future Generations, all while remaining non-partisan as a non-profit organization.

We each have the opportunity to contribute to the Promoting Patriotism part in our daily lives, whether it is in recognizing the United States flag as it passes by, standing for the pledge of allegiance, or more visible efforts, such as those of Compatriot Chris Straus. As most of us know, Chris has made it his mission to promote the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and Junior ROTC programs at our high schools and colleges by coordinating the recognition programs in the ROTC programs and participating in awarding SAR medals to deserving ROTC Cadets, and in the flag recognition program. Compatriot Mike Connelley has been instrumental in recognizing and coordinating awards for Denton police officers for their civic actions.

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Compatriot Jim Hobdy's Preserving American History through his awareness and reminders of the PBS production of "Ben Franklin" has certainly increased the awareness of SAR (and DAR) members' knowledge of Franklin's efforts beyond the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Several members attended the Medal of Honor parade in Gainesville on April 23, 2022 with children or grandchildren. That event qualifies, in my opinion as both Promoting Patriotism and Preserving American History.

In the area of Promoting Education to our Future Generations, we will be expanding our outreach by building on the tremendous successes of our oration contest district winner and state Knight Essay Contest winner, JB Lilly. I ask that each Compatriot and potential Compatriot be alert for the 2022 oration and essay contestants. It is not too early to identify those potential candidates, as well as candidates for the new "media-style" essay contestants. Each of these contests have the potential for significant cash awards, and are as a minimum positive additions to college applications as civic activities and contributions.

We also have opportunities in the Teacher of the Year contests, at the elementary school, middle school, and high school levels. In 2021, the most recent contest year, there was only one entrant for all levels in the entire state of Texas. Please review your contact lists for brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, and sons and daughters that will be good candidates for these state-funded cash awards. If your list is short on history teachers, school guidance counselors, principals, and school district-level friends and neighbors are likely sources for those teachers worthy of recognition. Please get your nominations—even potential nominations—in early, and if you are interested in coordinating this effort, please let me or Vice President Brandon Story know.

Chapter President Jim Akers

Minutes for Chapter Meeting
April 09, 2022
Denton Chapter #23, Texas SAR

10:11 AM

President Mike Connelley called the meeting to order. He led the attendees in the Pledge to the American Flag, the Texas Flag and National SAR flag.

Introduction of guests: Guests included prospective member James Mack, McKinney Chapter President Tom Milson, District VP Gary Barker, State Color Guard commander Bob Kubin.

An Ancestor's roll call was suspended for this meeting due to full agenda.

Induction of the new chapter officers was conducted by District VP Gary Barker. The slate included President Jim Akers, Vice President Brandon Story, Registrar and Genealogist Tom Richards, Treasurer Christopher Strauss, Chaplain Bill Rowell, Past President Mike Connelley, and Secretary of Annual Reports and Sgt. at Arms Johnny Loomis. Absent from the induction was Recording Secretary Mike Frye.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented by past president Mike Connelley to those chapter members who filled chapter officer roles for his two-year term as president during the rebuilding of the Denton chapter.

Chapter Treasurer Christopher Strauss said the current balance in the chapter bank account is \$2,463.44. The IRS form 990 was finally completed. Strauss explained there was difficulty this year in getting the IRS to ultimately accept the form. Treasurer report was accepted by those members in attendance.

Chapter Secretary report was presented by Past President Mike Connelley. The minutes from the past meeting in January 2022 were read and accepted by attending members.

Chris Strauss commented that the JROTC and ROTC awards are in the process of planning and will be given out to area schools by the end of April. Request for assistance from chapter members was asked and volunteers acknowledged to assist in this project.

Strauss also noted that the **October 2022** meeting location has been moved to the North Branch of the Library at address 3020 N. Locust Street, Denton 76209 due to a schedule conflict with the Emily Fowler branch for that October date.

Old Business: None

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New Business: State color guard commander Bob Kubin requested assistance of the Denton chapter for any chapter members with an interest in joining the color guard. It was mentioned that prospective members are working with the assistance of the K M Van Zandt chapter in Fort Worth.



Bob Kubin with Scott Smith



Bob Kubin with Brandon Story

Kubin mentioned the upcoming color guard event for May 21st at Frontier Village, Denison and the April 23rd Medal of Honor parade in Gainesville, Texas on April 23rd.

Chapter President Jim Akers and immediate Past President Mike Connelley discussed the Texas SAR convention held this past weekend in Richardson, Texas. J B Lilley, our chapter Essay winner, was the winner of the State Essay contest; he received a \$2500.00 college scholarship and his essay has gone forward to National SAR competition. The Denton Chapter was recognized at the convention for the presentation of Flag Certificates during the past year. Denton chapter was also recognized for receiving the Colonel Joe Hill membership award for achieving 100% membership renewal in 2021.

The SAR is creating a new youth program which is for the original creation of a 5 minute “TikTok” type video on American History; details will appear this coming fall. Also discussed at the Convention was the “Youth Protection” program. Emphasis on not being alone with any of the youth activity programs of the SAR organization. There is a training program on the website and all members who work with the youth programs are urged to watch this particular video on the National SAR which can be accessed from the State website.

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President Akers and Past President Connelley also mentioned that SAR dues will be considered delinquent if not paid by 12/31 of each year. In the past a certain grace period was allowed after January 1st for non-paid dues but that is no longer the case. Dues are requested to be paid by 12/31.

Past President Connelley mentioned there will be a “new member” training program held on April 30, 2022 at 1:30PM at Cokers BBQ, 303 & Bowen Road, Arlington, TX. The meeting will be for Arlington, Denton and Fort Worth chapter new members / nearly new members. A reminder email will be sent out.

Chapter member Jim Hobdy mentioned he is in contact with the Denton ISD and is hopeful of developing a contact at that level to get more Denton ISD youth participating in the scholarship programs.

District VP Gary Barker mentioned that also discussed at the State Convention was the significance of the 501-C-3 non-profit status of the organization. Members and especially color guard members while in uniform should not express any political opinion that might reflect upon the “non-political” position of the SAR organization. Avoid political involvement while in capacity of an SAR member.

Closing prayer was led by Chaplain Bill Josher with Past President Mike Connelley leading the attendees in the SAR closing recessional.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:22AM with the attendance being nine chapter members, one prospective member and three guests for total of 13 attendees.

L. Michael Connelley

Editor's Note

The Chapter **website** is <https://www.txssar.org/Denton/>. On that site are the back copies of this newsletter, information about the Chapter, and links to the SAR State and National web sites.

We now have a **Facebook page**, www.facebook.com, search for **Denton TX SAR**. Please join and participate.

All of these communication devices take time to maintain. If you would like to help and/or take over one of these, please let me know.

Bill Surles, wsmerch@gmail.com

Mike's Comments:

The chapter has a good, solid group of new officers that were inducted at the April meeting. They will keep the Denton chapter moving forward in a positive direction. New members are continuing to apply along with several that are at National headquarters awaiting approval. Right now, the chapter is in the midst of presenting the JTROTC and ROTC cadet awards to area high schools and universities. All good signs for the future growth of the chapter.

Our chapter Knight Essay winner, J. B. Lilley, is awaiting the judgment of the National Knight Essay Contest as to the winning Essay on a National basis. We, as a chapter, are very fortunate to have had him as a high school entrant for the past two years. He has now won the Texas Knight Essay contest, picking up a \$2500.00 college scholarship at the same time. We are hopeful for his success at the National level and should be hearing some word in the next couple of months. The National Congress (think convention) will be held in mid-July in Savannah, Georgia. Hopefully the word on how well he has done should be coming out around the end of May.

Don't forget, our own children or grandchildren are eligible to enter any of the youth contests offered by the SAR organization. Look over the different youth competition contest that are offered. They run from elementary age groups, through middle school and on in to high school age youth. Keep that in mind this next fall when we begin the youth award program again. One new program that is to be offered this fall is the "5-minute video" on a topic relative to the American Revolution. No details out yet on this program but hopefully this will come out over the next couple of months.

Gainesville Medal of Honor Parade April 23, 2022



Ron presenting UNT/TWU Army ROTC award on 4/28/2022



REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANCESTOR RESEARCH RESOURCES



Genealogical research into your Revolutionary War ancestor begins with these resources available at the Denton Public Library (some from home with a DPL card!).

Index to Revolutionary War Service Records (Virgil D. White, 1995)
—Prepared from the National Archives set "General index to compiled military service records of the Revolutionary War, (series M860). Lists name, unit of service, type of unit, rank, resident state.

Revolutionary War Invalid Pension Claims, 1792-1794 —Contains a wealth of information on soldiers initially denied pensions, reassessed, and approved. Find the soldier's name, rank and state of residence, commander's name, claim reason, when and where injury

occurred, and much more. Soldiers from Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and North/South Carolina are represented.

Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants (Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck)—An alphabetical listing of people who were given land by state governments in the late 18th and early 19th centuries in return for military or other service or in compensation for damages from military operations. The entries include the claimant's name, the state, rank or reason for the grant, date, size of the grant, and whether the claimant or heirs received the land.

Forgotten Patriots - African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War : a Guide to Service, Sources and Studies. Published by the DAR, *Forgotten Patriots* identifies over 6,600 names of African Americans and American Indians who contributed to American Independence. It contains service details for listed Patriots, historical commentary on the time, illustrations, and an extensive bibliography of sources related to the topic It provides context to the service of these often overlooked Patriots and the challenges faced in documenting their service.

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