



THE EAST TEXAS PATRIOT

Sons of the American Revolution Chapter # 57 Longview, Texas



Volume 14, Number 2

April 2, 2020

The President's Message

As I write this, Spring is springing! Hopefully by the time you read this all the “green stuff” will be gone. During this time the BYLAWS Committee has been working on proposals for a more efficient way to conduct meetings and run the Chapter. When finished, you will receive a copy by email. Look over the new bylaws and bring any questions and/or suggestions to the next meeting. We will not vote on them until a later time. If you don't have email, please let me know so that we can make other arrangements to keep you informed of Chapter business.

At our next scheduled meeting, we will have the pleasure of inducting 2 new members into the Chapter. Another recognition will be the presentation of an approved Supplemental.

For those of you who are not familiar with the term SUPPLEMENTAL, let me explain. The application you completed and sent into the State and General Registrar proved one American Revolutionary Patriot. During your research you might have discovered more than one Patriot. That second Patriot would be a Supplemental Ancestor. You would have to research him/her in the same manner you would to determine the original Patriot. Depending on the relation to the original Patriot would dictate how many different generations you would have to research. Sometimes it is only linking brother to brother or father to son. Upon approval of the Supplemental, you receive a certificate and are eligible to purchase insignia that designates an additional Patriot in your family.

Your officers would like to see more members attend the meetings and bring prospects. If we are to attract more members, we need to tell others about SAR that you think might be interested. I also want to remind you that it is not the job of the Registrar to find new members. Hi job is to assist, NOT research, in the genealogy completion of the application. A prospect should be given a work sheet to begin the process. The Registrar can then ASSIST when needed. When all of the information is complete and essential proof is obtained, then the Registrar can complete the application on the official SAR paper and send it in.

What I am saying is that a chapter is more than a hand full of officers. It is **that** and **members** that are active, attend meetings, recruit new members, help obtain interesting speakers, and contribute to the Chapter with their talent and knowledge. (Please no dancing on the tables)!

I look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, June 4** at Jason's Deli in Longview at 6 PM.

See you at Jason's Deli.

Gary



Due to the seriousness of the virus that is disrupting our lives, the executive board of Chapter 57 has decided to cancel the April meeting and will begin meetings again on June 4 (if possible).



Minutes and Treasurer's Report of December 5, 2019

The East Texas Chapter #57, TXSSAR, held its bimonthly meeting on February 6, 2020, at Jason's Deli Restaurant in Longview, Texas at 7 PM. The meeting was called to order by President Gary Fletcher. The opening prayer was given by Chaplain, J.D. Denton. The pledges to the United States Flag, the Texas Flag and the SAR Flag were led by David Conner. Guests were introduced. Guests were Bobby Reid, and Allen McReynolds.

After dinner, the meeting resumed with the consideration of the Minutes of the previous meeting and the Treasurer's report as printed in the newsletter. Both were accepted as presented.

As a fund raiser, George Washington's Revolutionary Styled hat was passed for excess change from members.

Our program of the evening was to have been Gem Meachem. Unfortunately she was in Odessa and kept from coming by a surprise snowstorm. Stepping in to give the program was Nancy Fletcher, wife of President Gary Fletcher. Nancy is active in DAR, UDC and Colonial Dames. Her program was a book review on the book *George Washington's Secret Six* also known as the Culper Spy Ring. They were so secretive that one spy's name was only discovered in the 20th century, and another -a woman-remains unknown even today. This book by Brian Kilmeade explores this sophisticated intelligence network.

It was announced that the next meeting will be on April 2, 2020. Please send news items to Mickey Cole our Webmaster.

The meeting was adjourned with the SAR Closing and the benediction by Compatriot J.D. Denton.

John Bolton, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

January/February 2020

Beginning Balance (01/1/2020)		\$1,128.15
Deposits: New Member application fee	\$32.00	
Pass the Hat (Dec)	42.17	
Pass the Hat (Feb)	44.17	
Total Deposits:		\$118.34
Checks: J. Bolton – Stamps	\$22.00	
Total Checks:		\$22.00
Ending Balance (2/29/2020)		\$1,224.49

Mickey Cole, Treasurer

The Story Behind the SAR Insignia



Our SAR's insignia is steeped in historical significance. Most SAR members are familiar with the insignia found on the membership badge of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Few perhaps are familiar with the history and significance which underlie it. The insignia is not only one of the most beautiful of American hereditary societies; it is also one of the most steeped with history and replete with significance. The insignia was designed in the very early days of the Society by Major Goldsmith Bernard West, Vice-President of the Alabama SAR. The insignia consists of a cross of eight points suspended by an eagle. The cross is of white enamel and has four arms and eight points, each point being decorated with a gold head. Its source is the cross of the ancient chivalric Order of St. Louis, founded by Luis XIV in 1693.

The central medallion of the SAR symbol bears the image of Washington. The medallion is surrounded by the SAR motto "Liberty and Country" rather than the military order's motto "The Reward for Virtue is War". The angles between the arms of the cross lack the French fleur de lis. Instead, the SAR surrounds the cross with the laurel wreath of republican victory.

Recently, The Chaplain General of NSSAR, David Felts, presented this report on the medal.

Brothers, We see the symbol of the SAR quite often and think very little about it, except that it is attractive and dignified...Some research shows that the Cross itself was chosen in the late 1800s because it was reminiscent of the cross of Christ. The Maltese cross was used because of all that it stood for during the times when travelers in the Holy Lands needed a place to stay, a friend, or perhaps protection and medical care. Those who cared for the travelers were called in our language, "Hospitallers."

During the induction ceremony, the candidate for "Hospitaller" dedicated his life to God and to Service. He would serve God and the traveler at whatever cost to his life may come. We, Compatriots, are like those dedicated "Hospitallers." We are to care for the travelers on the road to seeking God's way of truth and true freedom in this great land we have been given in-trust to manage. We carry and are armed with the precious truth of "Freedom and Justice for all." We are to live so that our lives show that truth for all to see.

This is the beginning of a true SAR Gentleman. He is dedicated to and sold out to serve God alone in this great land that was given to us by God alone. He is pledged to doing no harm to anyone, but also to defend with his life the "Freedom and Justice for all" which is our precious inheritance. General George Washington worshipped God first thing every day. Yet he pled humbly and sincerely with God in the wilderness and snow at Valley Forge for strength and wisdom to win the war against tyranny. Further, Washington was very serious when he wrote out by hand his "Rules of Civility" that must be practiced in order to be "A Gentleman." All these rules are based on a deep respect for God and for His great creation. May God grant us this deep respect and dedication so that the SAR, the Nation, and the world may see and know the true "Freedom and Justice for all." May our great and Sovereign God, ruler of all, grant us the courage to serve him with truth and sincerity in the SAR.

Reverend David Felts, Chaplain General NSSAR

Officers of the Sons of the American Revolution, Chapter #57

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New Officers

John Bolton, Gary Fletcher, J.D. Denton, Carl Hedges, Barney Jones, Mickey Cole

Our next meeting will be **June 4, 2020 (if possible) at Jason's Deli in Longview. Dinner at 6:00 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. You are encouraged to attend and support Chapter #57.**