



*Sons of The American
Revolution
Texas Society, McKinney
Chapter*

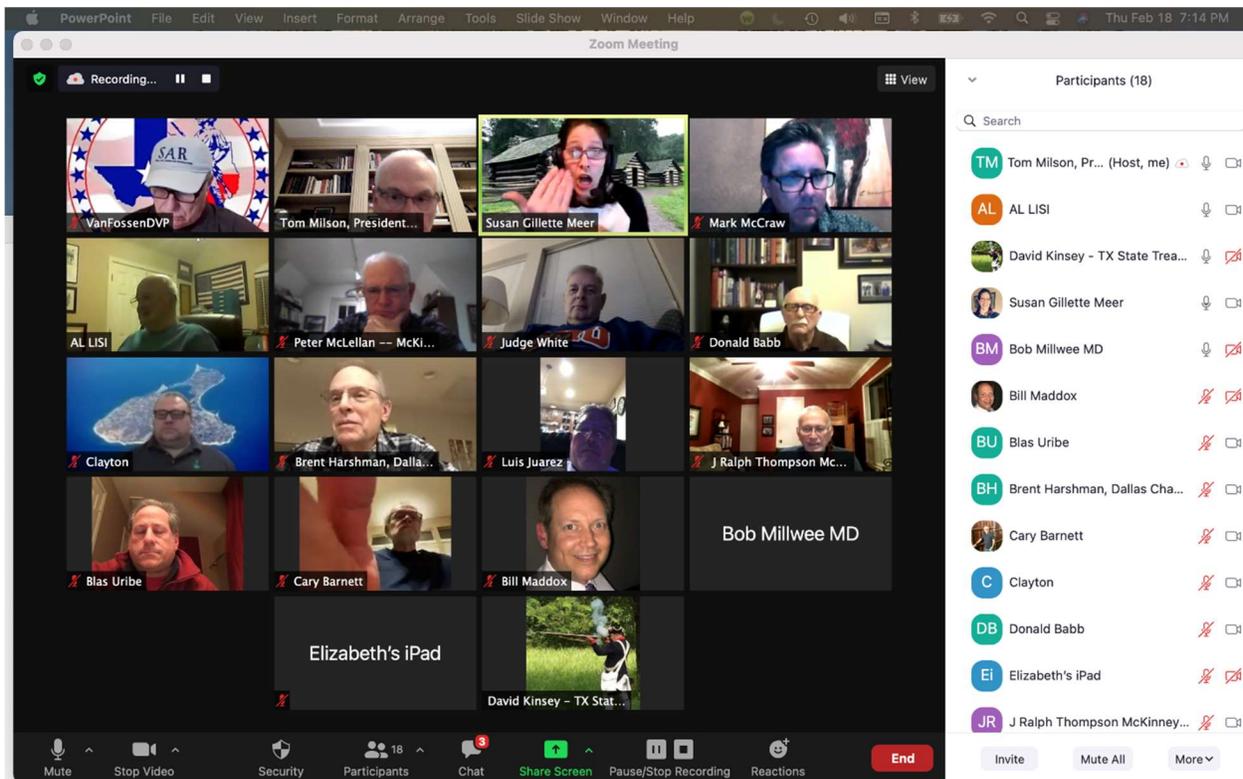


February 18, 2021

Meeting held via Zoom® teleconference due to pandemic

Attendees

There were 20, SAR members and guests in attendance for this Zoom® meeting. Attendees included: Tom Milson, David Kinsey, Blas Uribe, Jim Carter, Luis Juarez, Peter McLellan, Ralph Thompson, Tom Van Fossen – District VP, Nathan White, Donald Babbs, Bob Milwee, Clayton Tangen, Mark McCraw, Al Lisi, Bill Maddox, Cary Barnett, Brent Harshman- Dallas Chapter, George Bradford. Elizabeth and Kevin Hancock. Guest speaker and DAR member Susan Gillette Meer.



Call to Order

Tom Milson, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Invocation

- Don Babbs, Chapter Chaplain, gave the invocation.



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Pledges

- Al Lisa, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.
- Blas Uribe, led the Pledge to the Texas Flag.
- Peter McLellan, led the Pledge of the SAR.

Program

- Mark McCraw, VP of Programs introduced speaker

Susan Gillette Meer is a 3rd generation DAR member of the Jacob Ferree Chapter in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, having served at the local, state, and national levels for 18 years. She is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, a lineage society with almost 3,000 members devoted to perpetuating the memory of those who encamped with the Continental Army from December 19, 1777 – June 19, 1778.

From December 19, 1777 to June 19, 1778, the Continental Army encamped at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, waiting until better weather to engage the British. What makes this period of the Revolutionary War so well remembered, despite there being no battle there? Take a journey to that cold winter with Pennsylvania Daughter, Susan Gillette Meer, and learn about the six months that changed the army for the better.

Check if your patriot was at Valley Forge. Valley Forge Muster Roll.ORG.



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McKinney SAR meeting 2/18/21

- Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
- 5.4 mi²
- 1.2 million people/year
- 26 miles of trails
- first state park of PA in 1893
- a national park in 1976



4:00 / 1:11:08

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Why Valley Forge?

1. The troops being at Valley Forge, between the British in Philadelphia and York, were a protection for Congress.
2. The Continental Army kept an eye on the British and prevented them from foraging in the countryside for food.
3. There was fresh water (Valley Creek) and good roads.
4. Valley Forge was defensible. The grounds were a natural fortress. They were far enough away from the British to prevent a surprise attack.



10:43 / 1:11:08



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December 19, 1777

March to Valley Forge By William B. T. Trego

11:10 / 1:11:08

Susan Gillette Meer

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8 Major Generals

Nathanael Greene, Marquis de Lafayette,
Baron Frederick Von Steuben

19 Brigadier Generals

Henry Knox, John Peter Gabriel
Muhlenberg, Anthony Wayne

Average age of the Generals = 40

14:05 / 1:11:08

Susan Gillette Meer



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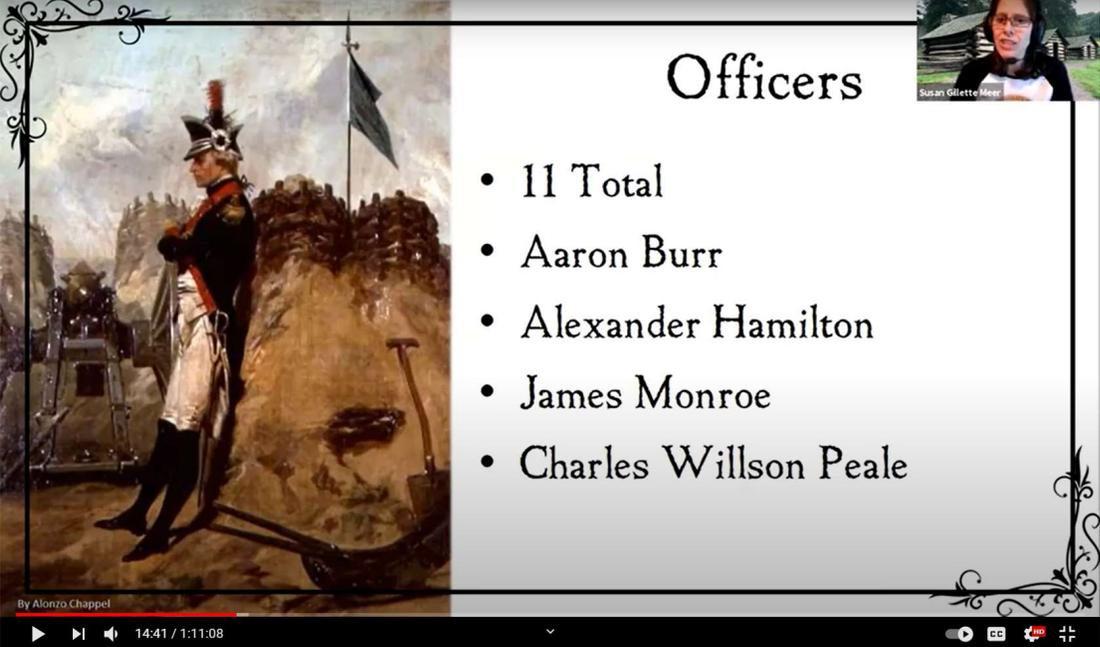


Officers

- 11 Total
- Aaron Burr
- Alexander Hamilton
- James Monroe
- Charles Willson Peale

By Alonzo Chappel

14:41 / 1:11:08



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The Soldier

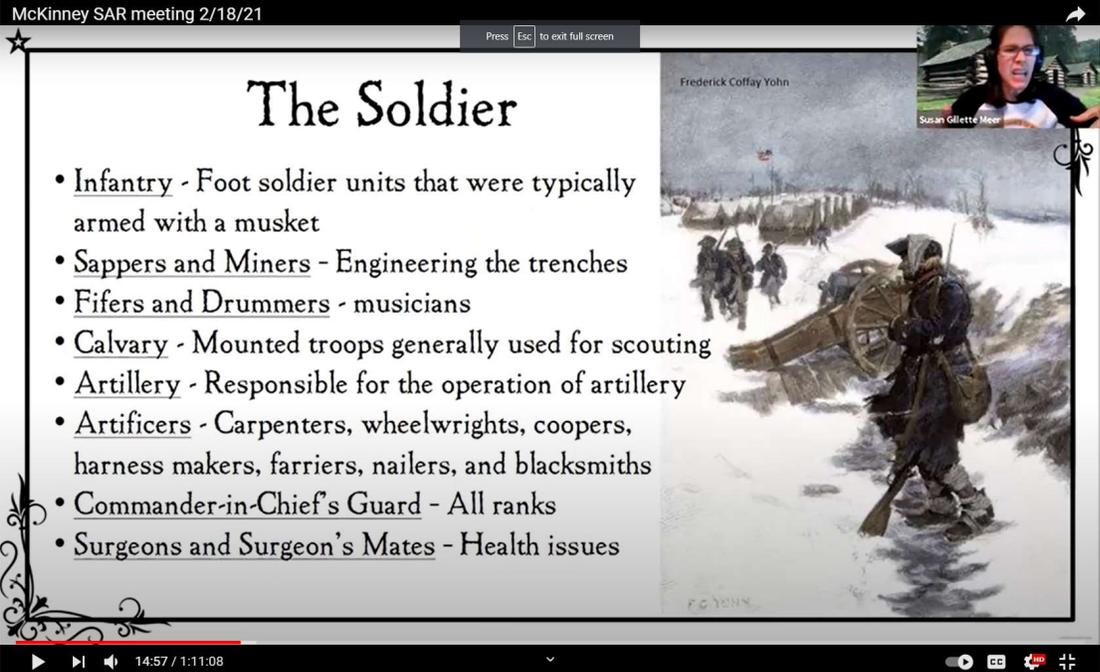
- Infantry - Foot soldier units that were typically armed with a musket
- Sappers and Miners - Engineering the trenches
- Fifers and Drummers - musicians
- Calvary - Mounted troops generally used for scouting
- Artillery - Responsible for the operation of artillery
- Artificers - Carpenters, wheelwrights, coopers, harness makers, farriers, nailers, and blacksmiths
- Commander-in-Chief's Guard - All ranks
- Surgeons and Surgeon's Mates - Health issues



Frederick Coffay Yohn

Susan Gillette-Meer

14:57 / 1:11:08





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The Women and Children

- 400+ women with children
- Women married to officers
- Women helping the officers
- Camp Women there for survival
 - Nurses, Washerwomen, Cooks, Prostitutes
- Soldiers: Molly Pitcher, Deborah Sampson, Anna Marie Lane



17:25 / 1:11:08

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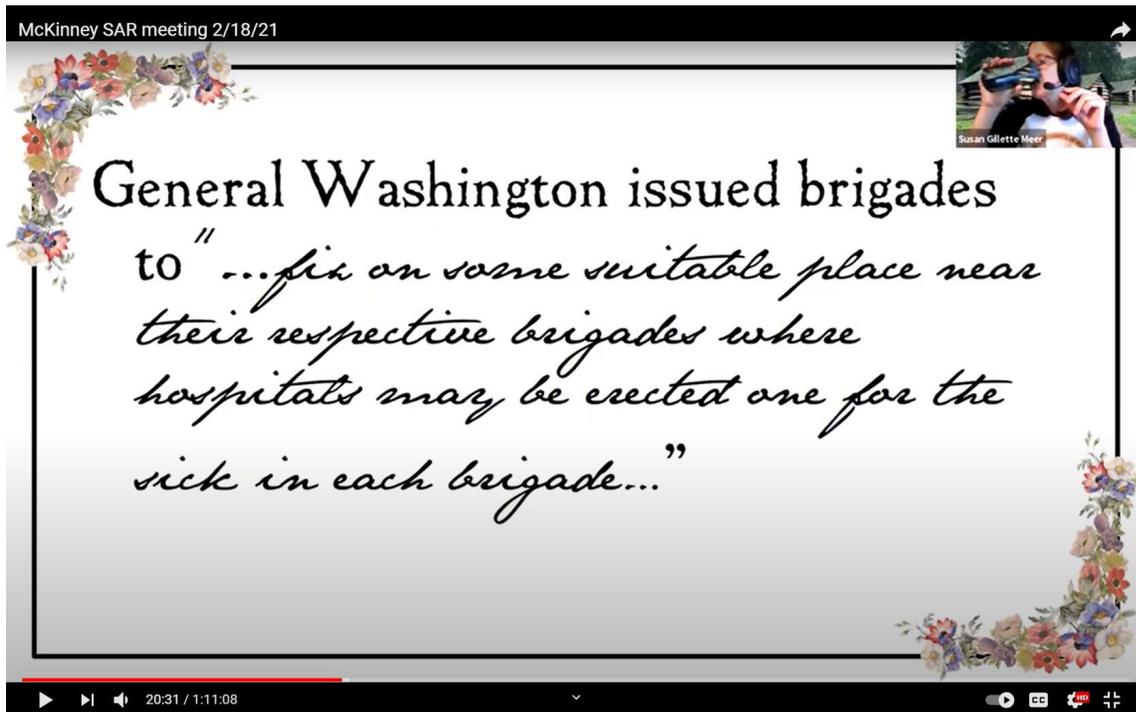
Building the Huts



18:12 / 1:11:08



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Valley Forge Illness



Health reports were at first neglected, then reported *daily*.

- Lack of clothing caused exposure to the elements
- Small pox
- The "itch"
(today known as scabies from mites)



20:46 / 1:11:08

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The Itch

Glouster June 20 1777
to make an Ointment to Cure for
the Etch with take the Bark of
Babery [bayberry] Roots and the
Root of Hibocis [hibiscus] and
Some tobacco and put them to
geather and make an ointe mint
and after you have taken Brime
Stone three mornings Running or
Saffron [saffron] or anything to
Keep it from your Stomach and
oint three Nits Running and you
will find your Self intierly free
from the Etch

6
Glouster June 20
to make an Ointment to Cure
for the Etch with take the Bark
of Babery Roots and the Root of
Albourn and some tobacco and put
them to geather and make an ointe
mint and after you have taken
Brime Stone three mornings Running
or Saffron or any thing to Keep it from
your Stomach and oint three
Nits Running and you will find your
Self intierly free from the Etch



21:12 / 1:11:08



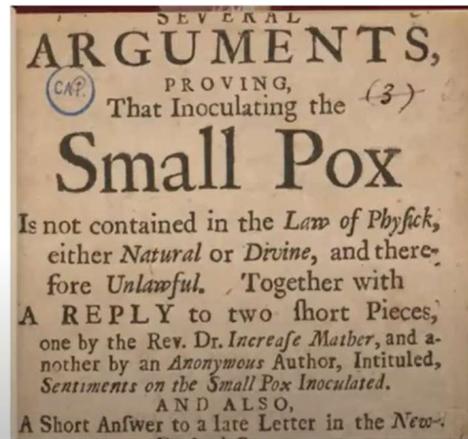
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Smallpox Inoculations

- Soldiers were inoculated during the winter so they had time to recover.
- 30% vs. <2%



22:14 / 1:11:08

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George Washington in a letter

"...we have, by a field return this day, made no less than 2,898 Men now in Camp unfit for duty, because they are bare foot and otherwise naked..."



24:53 / 1:11:08



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Soldier's Rations

- 1-1/2 pounds of flour or bread
- 1 pound of beef or fish
- 3/4 pound of pork
- 1 gill of whiskey or spirit

- 1-1/2 pounds of flour
- 1/2 pound or pork or bacon
- 1/2 pint of peas or beans
- 1 gill of whiskey or spirits

Townsend and Son Inc.

26:37 / 1:11:08

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Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben

- 47 year old
- Prussian
- Did not speak English; spoke German and French
- Drafted a progressive training program for soldiers
- Started with 100 chosen men to train

Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, by Charles Willson Peale

27:28 / 1:11:08



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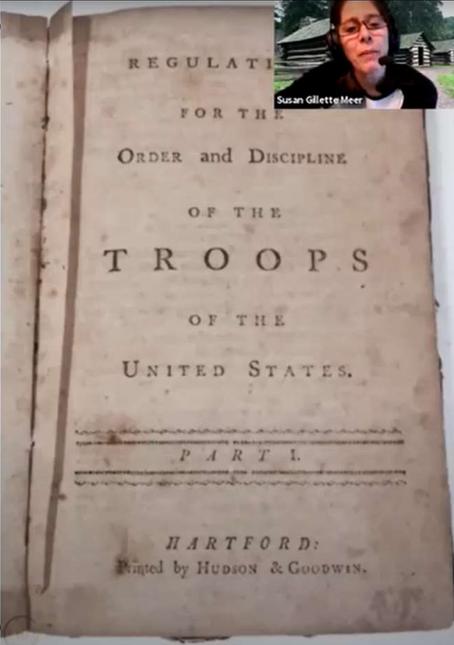
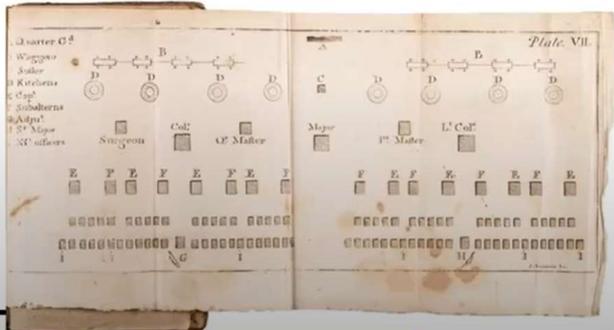


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Baron von Steuben

Regulations, for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States



28:45 / 1:11:08

Susan Gillette-Meer

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Valley Forge Myths

- No battles were fought at Valley Forge.
- No cannibalism occurred at Valley Forge.
- No one starved or froze to death.
- The winter was not incredibly harsh.



32:00 / 1:11:08

Susan Gillette-Meer



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Facts about Valley Forge



- Black and white soldiers camped together.
- Native Americans also camped at Valley Forge.
- There were more desertions at Valley Forge than at any other period during the Revolution.
- Nearly 2,000 soldiers died while stationed at Valley Forge, many buried in unmarked graves or taken to outside hospitals to die.

34:04 / 1:11:08

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ValleyForgeMusterRoll.org

THE MUSTER ROLL

SEARCH: Last Name: State: Regiment:

ID	Last Name	First Name	Rank	State	Regiment
PA03885	Klein	George	Sergeant	Pennsylvania	3rd Pennsylvania
PA17508	Klein	Jacob	Private	Pennsylvania	German

Sergeant George Klein *Non-Commissioned Officer*

State: Pennsylvania Ethnicity: ID: [PA03885](#)

Division: 2nd Regiment: [3rd Pennsylvania](#)

Brigade: [3rd Pennsylvania](#) Company: Capt William Craig

NOTES: Enlisted Nov. 4, 1776 For The War
aug 10, 1778 Borne On Roll

DEC 1777	
JAN 1778	
FEB 1778	
MAR 1778	
APR 1778	
MAY 1778	
JUN 1778	

Personalized Products
Available for Purchase

38:37 / 1:11:08

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General discussion and questions for Susan followed. Tom Milson, Chapter President, thanked her for the presentation and virtually presented Susan with a Certificate of Appreciation, which will be mailed to her upon receipt of her mailing address, which she was invited to email Tom Milson her mailing address.

Awards

None

Old Business and Announcements

- Tom Milson states we still need volunteers to be mentors/squad leads, Contact David Kinsey for details.
- John Greer and David Kinsey are preparing a "New Member Orientation meeting." Contact David Kinsey if you are interested in attending one of the meetings.
- TXSSAR State Convention still scheduled for April 14-18. Will be a virtual meeting by ZOOM. More details in the coming weeks. Delegates will be needed from the McKinney Chapter.
- NSSAR in conjunction with George Washington's Mount Vernon has invited its members to join in a virtual celebration of Washington's birthday on Monday February @@, 2021 at 6 PM CST
- The Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest (3rd to 5th grade) and Sergeant Moses Adams Brochure Contest (6th to 9th grade) deadline for submission to the Chapter is April 15, 2021. Contact Tom Milson for information. Submission to the State is May 15, 2021, so that should give the Chapter a month to choose/judge the entrants.
- Next meeting is on March 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm expected by ZOOM. Program: "Battle of Kings Mountain" by speaker Lamar Tate, National Park Ranger, Kings Mountain Park.
- Jim Carter, Al Lisi, and Tom Milson attended the Arlington SAR Chapter February Program, regarding the Medal of Honor Museum scheduled for Groundbreaking in Arlington, TX, later in 2021. Tom suggested getting the woman who did the presentation, to also do the same presentation for our chapter.



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New Business

- Minutes from last meeting have been published on the website by Preston Kinsey, Chapter Web Master. No request for motion was made to accept last month's meeting minutes, and went straight to voice vote, no discussion, motion approved by voice vote.

- Treasurer's Report: Ralph Thompson, Treasurer read report. "2/18/2021. The bank balance as of January's report was \$2598.19. Two dual member dues checks totaling \$40.00 were deposited as received. The current balance in the bank account is \$2638.19."

David Kinsey made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, motion seconded by Alfred Lisi, no discussion, motion approved by voice vote.

New Member Induction Ceremony

None

Other Announcements

- David Kinsey on dues status; dues collection about to be reconciled with nationals.

- David Kinsey, 8 delegates plus 1 at large, plus Nathan White, as he does not count against total as he is a former state and national level officer, so 10 delegates total Kinsey believes.

Benediction: Don Babbs, Chapter Chaplain gave the benediction.

Recessional: Lead by David Kinsey

Adjournment: President Tom Milson adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Blas Uribe, Secretary