



Year 4, Issue 32

Robert Rankin Chapter #62

Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Rankin Register



April, 2009

Looking Forward

by David Jones, President (2009-2010)

The first month as President is a busy one and I am pleased to say that we have made significant strides. Our budget meeting was held with our Committee Chairmen present and our budget was drafted, distributed and approved at our April meeting. Copies were mailed to our non attending members. Also at our April meeting new committee chairmen were appointed.

The Rankin Chapter has always done a very fine job with our youth programs at the Chapter level and it is now time for us to step up to the next level. One of our new directions will be more active participation above the chapter level. To this end I have solicited and been appointed as Chairman of the TXSSAR History Teacher Committee and also am a member of the state Knight Essay Committee. Tom Jackson is a member of our state audit committee and secretary of the Council of Chapter Presidents and Patrick Kerr will be our first member, other than Allan and Ray, to attend our national convention.

Our chapter has always done a fine job of collecting dues and members donating significant sums to support various programs much like our patriots would equip their own regiments. To be able to expand our programs we need to expand our revenue base and to accomplish this we must not only grow our membership, but seek outside funding in the way of grants. The Athens Chapter Charles Luna has given us a roadmap and we intend to follow it.

Our April Meeting

Our primary speaker at our April meeting was Dr. Joe Allen Rice, Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston. He spoke on the battle of Lexington and Concord and offered details and insights that added to our understanding of this engagement. Joe earned his undergraduate degree at UT, and later earned his Ph.D. in Linguistics and American Literature from FSU. He is an active speaker and a published author and continues to work as a consultant in the creation of Procedures Manuals for use in industry. He is a member of the Paul Carrington SAR Chapter and is also a SRT.



Shown above, he is on the right having just received a Speaker COA and SAR coffee mug from Chapter VP Bobby Smith on the left. .

Dr. Rice debunked the often quoted thought that our patriot ancestors were poor shots by noting the musket in use was not an accurate weapon. He further cited that adding the proper amount of powder required care and attention- both in short supply on a

battlefield, and that as drizzle gave way to rain the effectiveness was further dampened.

A principal order of business at our April meeting is the appointment of committee Chairmen. The following slate was appointed by President David Jones, shown below after making the announcement.



President David Jones
sfga5@hotmail.com
 (defacto member of all committees)

Chapter Duties:

Membership Program	Frederick Jackson
Publicity	Bobby R. Smith
BOM	Stephen Tanner
Nominations	Tom Jackson
Awards	Tom Jackson
Wall Mart Grant	David Jones
<u>Americanism:</u>	
History Teacher	David Jones
History Student	David Jones
Eagle Scout,	Thomas A. Jackson
Knight Essay	David Jones
Oratory	Tom Jackson
Poster	Edwin Raines

Other Chapter Programs

CAR	Tom Jackson, Brian Thorne
Flag Certificate	Tom Jackson
Flag Presentation	Ed Raines
Public Service	Gustave Mistrot
JROTC	Patrick Kerr
Sea Cadets	Tom Jackson
Veterans	Bobby R. Smith

State Update

Ray Cox (shown below), our District VIII VP, state and chapter webmaster, and state chairman of information technology committee, updated the Chapter in April on technological changes at the state level. The first of two major points was the creation of a private website which can be accessed through a members only url. This was distributed at the meeting and was mailed to our members who are unable to attend. If you need this url please contact President Jones at sfga5@hotmail.com.



The second major point was our *state bulk mailer which will distribute our state newsletter*. To subscribe to the bulk mailer, go to the members' only website, click on the information button, click on the dada button in the pull down menu and follow the path.

(Why are his hands moving so fast? Magic?)
 Shown below is Compatriot John Davis, on the right, as he has received his five year pin and certificate from Rankin President David Jones, on the left.



During our April meeting Past President Jackson went into his cheerleader routine and went rah rah Rankin as he updated the Chapter on awards the State presented to the Chapter. Here he is with his mouth open on the left holding the “Ed Raines Award” with Ed on the right. *(Editor’s note: The State officials persist in calling this award the Americanism Award.)*



Ed Raines is shown below holding the poster award which will be presented to Sundown Elementary on June 2nd. An identical certificate framed in black will be presented to the student whose poster was picked 3rd in state.



Our Color Guard in Action

Shown below are members of our state color guard with our very own Patrick Kerr, Rankin Color Guard Commander, on the second row, far right. He was present at a

meeting of the Mary Montgomery DAR’s JAC during April, 2009.



Earlier in the month the Ebenezer Memorial Association dedicated a historical marker to the Ebenezer Cemetery, near Huntsville to commemorate its 155th anniversary. The presentation was steeped rich in color and tradition, which brought alive voices and images from the past for those whose ancestors are buried in the cemetery.



Members of the State Color Guard were present including Compatriot Kerr, shown above and on the end in his Continental Blues. Among those participating in the dedication was County Commissioner Robert Autery, Huntsville City Councilman Mac Woodward, as well as Dr. Bert Childers of Dallas a direct descendant of General Patton.

A Look at National News

*To increase or not to increase,
that is in fact the question!*

It would be interesting to know how this proposal (to raise application fees) came to be introduced to the Trustees at the Spring Leadership Conference. In other words, who made the initial proposal?



Former President General Nathan White, shown on the left, responded to the specific question asked above and wrote the following answer, which is reprinted with his permission.

“This proposal came in response to a different proposal -- a dues increase.

I support the increase in Application fees for the following reasons: 1) Many new members NEVER pay dues; i.e., they join, either to gain a certificate or their spouse, father, mother, or someone else has paid for their membership and they never attend a meeting or pay dues. We are in essence, giving away the membership when we charge a small amount for it. 2) There are several states that have life membership programs and while a dues increase cannot be postponed forever, each increase has a substantial detrimental effect on those state societies. 3) We also notice that dues increases usually result in a decrease in the number of dues payers, at least in the short run.

The real question is simply this: IF (and I said IF) there is going to be a need for increased expenses and a corresponding need for increased revenue, what is the best option? I have sponsored over 20 members and I have NEVER had anyone balk at the cost of admission. I believe the reason is that it is far less than they expected for such a prestigious organization.

I welcome your discussion, but don't just criticize the proposal, offer an alternative answer to the question--what is YOUR proposal(s).

(Editor's note: I apologize for running our newsletter over our standard two page format. Our little chapter is busy and the state and national news reported here is quite important. Left out of this issue was recognition of Ed Raines being present at History Day at McMeans Junior High. Keep it up Ed; we can't do it without you! JROTC presentations were also made this month. The Stars & Stripes Society received a State award for this interaction with the SAR and DAR and also a Gold Merit Award. Great achievements!)

Upcoming Events

*May 13th Regular Chapter Meeting at
America Buffet*

May 16 Armed Forces Day

May 25 Memorial Day

May 30 Traditional Memorial Day

June 14 Flag Day

July 4 Independence Day

*July 4 - 8 119th Annual Congress,
Renaissance Waverly Hotel*

Atlanta, Georgia,

*July 31 - Aug 1 Summer B of M Meeting
Cherotel Hotel, Lake Jackson, TX*

*Sep 9th Regular Chapter Meeting at
America Buffet*

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