



# THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER #4 • TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Compatriot Richard Weitzel, President - Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, Editor

Jan-Feb 2023



## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President for 2023. Our 2023 Executive Committee is comprised of some new members and tenured familiar faces. I am looking forward to continuing many of the programs that have made our organization one of the premier chapters in TXSSAR.

A special, and heartfelt, thanks to Kevin Kanter, who was an outstanding President for two years, and set the standard for Leadership of the Chapter. Through Kevin's Leadership and Guidance, the Chapter participated in a vast array of events and activities, as evidenced by the number of points in the Stark Report and the Americanism Report - hats off to Kevin for a "job well done".

Compatriot Bob Watson will continue to serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee and promote our Mentor Program. This program is meant to make our new/potential members feel welcome in our organization and provide some "hand holding" to our new members to help them integrate successfully. If you are interested in becoming a Mentor, please reach out to Bob at [beaglebud@satx.rr.com](mailto:beaglebud@satx.rr.com). Additionally, Frank Keberman will continue to Chair our Compatriot Grave Marking Committee which has made our chapter notable within the Texas SAR. He has agreed to be our NSSAR Representative at the Audie Murphy VA Medical Center.

Compatriot Larry Luckett is our Registrar, and Larry and Bob are working together to assist prospective members, and our Chapter members who are assisting potential new members, with their applications. This is a critical part of our Chapter's health, and we continue to add new members, thanks to our Chapter members who help with applications, and Larry and Bob working diligently to approve, submit, and track applications. A great job being performed by many of our members.

We are actively seeking someone to take on the position of Publicity Chair. This position will require someone to "tell our story", by seeking the cooperation of newspaper, radio, and television professionals to assist him in getting out the word about our Chapter.

With the move of our ROTC/JROTC Committee Chairman Paul Reynolds to Ohio last summer, we are pleased to have Compatriot John Bell take on this great responsibility. He has already contacted 43 high schools and 3 universities. He will be seeking members to present our SAR Awards in person during April and May at these Awards Programs.

A sincere "thank you" to Compatriot Frank Rohrbough, for all he does for the Chapter, including producing six Newsletters, such as this January-February issue, every calendar year. Frank's Newsletters capture all of our Chapter's activities, and the Newsletters have become our "corporate memory" when names, dates, and Events are needed for our various Chapter Annual Reports.

Speaking of Annual Reports, Frank produces the "USS Stark Report" every year. The NSSAR authorized, in 1988, the USS Stark Memorial Award to memorialize those brave men and women who continue to stand at the forefront to preserve the freedoms our patriotic ancestors fought so long and hard to achieve. Its purpose is to recognize outstanding chapters and the most outstanding state society within the NSSAR for their participation with the Veteran community, and supporting activities of the NSSAR Veterans Committee. For 2021, Frank reported 20,835 points for service to the Veteran community, and in 2022 topped 2021 by reporting 25,626 points, thanks in large part to the many hours reported by Frank Keberman. Our Chapter has won the USS Stark Award for several years, which cannot be won in consecutive years. Thanks Frank!

Another critical Annual Report is the "Americanism Report". The NSSAR considers this Report to be the "road map" for the Chapters, since the 12 "Tabs" of the Report run the gamut of all of our Chapter's activities. For 2021, we reported 6,560 points, which made our Chapter #7 Nationally, and #1 in Texas, in the "151+ Members" category. For 2022, we reported 10,095 points, up considerably from the 2021 total. I suggest all of our members become familiar with the Americanism Report and the Tabs in the Report. We'll provide the links to the reading material in the very near future.

In closing, we will continue holding our monthly chapter meetings at the Petroleum Club featuring many interesting speakers who have agreed to enlighten us with many topics that you may find informative and interesting.

Respectfully, *Dick Weitzel*



### CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2023

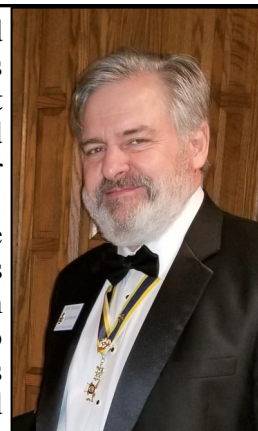
The following Officers were elected by acclamation at the December 14th Chapter Meeting and were Installed by Texas SAR President-Elect Sam Massey at our Chapter's Annual Gala on January 21, 2023 at the Petroleum Club.

- President:** Eilert (Dick) Weitzel
- 1st Vice President:** Blair Rudy
- 2nd Vice President:** Frank Kebelman
- Recording Secretary:** Michael Bowles
- Corresponding Secretary:** Frank Rohrbough
- Sergeant at Arms:** Frank Kebelman
- Treasurer:** Daniel Farris
- Registrar:** Larry Luckett
- Historian:** Larry Loop
- Chaplain:** Kevin Kanter
- Genealogist:** Larry Luckett

### CHAPTER

**(Photo Right)** Our Honored Guest Speaker was the Texas Society SAR President-Elect Sam Massey. We were pleased to have him Install our Chapter Officers for 2023.

In his opening remarks he brought greetings from Texas Society SAR President Jim Kuykendall and the need to continue supporting the goals and mission of the Texas and National Society SAR by recruiting new members and supporting the state and local communities. He noted that we have done great work in service to veterans locally and at the Texas Veterans Home recently in Floresville, TX.



### CHAPTER CONDUCTS GALA EVENT

We held our Annual Gala at the Petroleum Club on January 21, 2023. This year we had 59 total attendees which included

sixteen ladies. (See Photo on Page 4). We truly appreciate the valued support of our local DAR Chapters.

**(Photo Right)** The Chapter officers were elected at the December 14, 2022 Chapter Meeting to serve in 2023. Shown from left to right — President Richard Weitzel, 1st Vice President Blair Rudy, 2nd vice president Frank Kebelman, Recording Secretary Michael Bowles, Corresponding Secretary Frank Rohrbough, Registrar and Genealogist Larry Luckett, Treasurer Daniel Farris and Historian Larry Loop.



President Kevin Kanter welcomed all guests for this event and opened the event with the Posting of the National Colors by Compatriots Frank Rohrbough (Commander and US Flag Bearer), Blair Rudy (Texas Flag Bearer) and Frank Kebelman (SAR Flag Bearer) and Larry Loop (Guardsmen). He then recognized special guests Drake Peddie and our Guest Speaker Sam Massey and his wife Catherine.

**(Photo Left)** After serving two years as the President of the Texas Society SAR and our Installation Officer last year, we were pleased to have Drake Peddie return for this Gala as the President of the Texas Society War of 1812. He brought Greeting from the General Society War 1812.

## CHAPTER GALA EVENT (Cont'd)

icate in grateful recognition of her outstanding service to the Sons of the American Revolution during his time as President of the San Antonio Chapter.



**(Photo Left)** President Kanter presented the Lydia Darragh Medal to Cindy Watson in grateful appreciate for her continued long support of the Sons of the American Revolution. More specifically, she has assisted in the application process which has brought many new members into SAR.



As a means of recognizing DAR ladies they are eligible to receive an appropriate SAR medal such as the Medal of Appreciation, Martha Washington Medal, or the Daughters of Liberty Medal.

**(Photo Right)** One of the most notable awards presentation by President Kanter was the presentation of the SAR Distinguished Service Medal and Certificate to Compatriot Dustin Whittenburg for his outstanding personal service to the San Antonio Chapter during 2022. This award can only be presented by a Chapter President once each year and received by a member only once.



**(Photo Left)** Incoming President Dick Weitzel presented the Outgoing Chapter President Kevin Kanter the Meritorious Service Medal and Certificate in recognition of outstanding service to the Chapter.



## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**(Photo Right)** Our Historian Larry Loop provided an Historical Vignette on "First Blood" of the American Revolution shed on January 19, 1770 at the Battle of Golden Hill. The Liberty Pole in



New York City was first erected on the Commons in 1766. Soldiers in a barracks on the north side of the Commons saw this sign of defiance every day and tore it down in August, only to have 3,000 angry citizens confront them. Both sides were armed, but no one was hurt. The citizens erected another pole, but it was torn down in September. A third pole was erected, and this one stood until March 18, 1769, when it was torn down after that month's Stamp Act repeal celebrations.

Yet another pole was raised, this one sheathed in iron to protect it. On March 21, soldiers attempted to blow it up with gunpowder but failed. Two more attempts were made, but thwarted. This pole stood on the Commons until December, 1769, when the new Assembly complied with the Quartering Act by giving some money for the upkeep of the soldiers, an act which previous assemblies had refused. This caused a new round of protests at the Liberty Pole and soldiers tried to blow it up on the night of January 13, 1770. They stopped when citizens from the local Montagne's Tavern sounded the alarm and ransacked the tavern instead. The Sons of Liberty called for a meeting at the pole the next Wednesday, but the soldiers finally succeeded in blowing it up the night before. When it was discovered, a mob of citizens approached the nearby barracks. The soldiers lined up with drawn bayonets, but officers corralled them back inside.

On January 19, several soldiers began posting handbills around town which demeaned the local citizens. Sons of Liberty leader Isaac Sears and others stopped them, but some escaped. **(Continued on Page 4)**

## CHAPTER GALA EVENT (Cont'd)

in the house were alarmed by the crowd and told their friends to leave, which they did, but the crowd followed them, harassing them with epithets.

When the soldiers reached Golden Hill, a small hill where wheat was grown, another group of soldiers arrived. This emboldened the first group and they turned to face the angry crowd. At this point, one of the soldiers cried out, "Draw your bayonets and cut your way through them!" They attacked the crowd, which began to flee, lunging at anyone who came across their path. Francis Field, an innocent bystander, was slashed across the face when he stepped into his doorway to see what was the matter. A food vendor and a fisherman were injured and another man took a near fatal bayonet stab.

Finally, British officers arrived and were able to get control of their men. None of the victims died, however. The following day, violence flared again and a sailor was stabbed with a bayonet. The Battle of Golden Hill is often called the "First Blood" of the American Revolution. The Boston Massacre would happen six weeks later.

The Battle of Golden Hill was even more significant than the Boston Massacre in that it was a protracted skirmish that lasted several days. The Boston Massacre would earn the greater place in history though, because of the actual casualties that occurred... and because of the more skillful propaganda machine of the Boston Sons of Liberty.

**(Photo Right)** During the social hour and much of dinner we were entertained by the music played by our talented Compatriot Jerry (Jay) Higginson. Jay started studying piano at the age of 7 and continued throughout college. He started as a music major and then switched to a double major in business and economics with a minor in music. He has played lounge music at several large hotels in Kansas City and has played for churches for over 50 years starting from his youth. For the Gala he selected old standards, classics, Broadway and TV hits plus early Americana as a salute to the SAR.

Compatriot Higginson longtime member of our chapter served as Chapter President from January 2008 to January 2009.

**(Photo Below)** We were pleased to have so many of our wives and DAR ladies



join us for this event. From left to right are: Front Row L-R: Diane Rohrbough, Martha Thorpe, Marilyn Loop, Linda Saidler. Standing L - R: Candy Rudy, Catherine Massey, Carol Ann Weitzel, Nancy Scull,

Britany Tadlock, Pat Anders, Martha Waters, Patricia Taylor, Jean Kanter, Cindy Watson, Karen McCloskey and Sharon Bowles.

## YOUTH AWARDS CONTEST FOR 2023

The 2023 Youth Contests have been concluded at the Chapter Level. The number of candidates for our contest

was down considerably this time, possibly due to Covid illnesses', restrictions and unavailable to advance to State Contests.

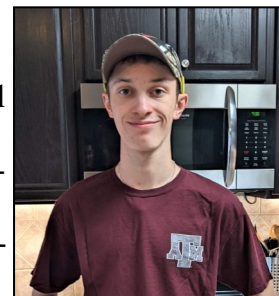
**Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest: (Photo Right)** Our Chapter Winner for this award is Rebecca Ann Crisp. She attends Louis D. Brandeis High School in San Antonio. Her topic was "The Principle of Popular Sovereignty". Her first Place Award was \$500. Ms. Crisp was the only one from our Region 3 and advanced to compete at State.



**Stella Knight Essay Contest:** We had 4 contestants for this contest this year. The winners are as follows:

### First Place:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Dalton Kyle Lacy "The Crimes of Liberty", Award \$500, Samuel Clemens High School **(Photo Right)**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Kendall Leininger, "Paul Revere's Ride", Award \$250, Home-schooled
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Eliron Rosin, "The Faults of the Founding The brave fights and losses", Award \$100, Veterans Memorial High-School
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Mireya Escobar, "Ideas to Actions", Certificate Only, no cash award, Communications Arts High School



Our Essay winner placed 9th at the Texas SAR Essay Contest. Certificates and monetary payments will be presented at a near future Chapter Meeting.

## LAREDO CHAPTER HOSTS SAR MEMBERS AT GEORGE WASHINGTON PARADE

The George Washington Parade is sponsored by the world renowned Budweiser Brewing Co. Leading the Parade were the highly recognized Clydesdale Horses pulling the historic Budweiser Beer Wagon. It is estimated that 350,000 plus parade-goers lined the 2.5 mile parade route to observe the 160 plus entries that include school bands, debutants floats, marching units, dancing units, etc. The Parade began in 1898 and is the anchor Event for the George Washington Celebration Association (GWCA) Festivities. For more details, go to <http://www.wbcalaredo.org>.

Compatriot Rick Ramirez, President of the Laredo SAR Chapter, has hosted SAR Members coming to Laredo for over 12 years. The chapter provides a float for those who prefer to ride. This year there were 9 Texas SAR Members and 3 ladies in Colonial Attire who participated in Parade.

**(Photo at Right)** SAR Members who participated in the Parade were lead by Texas SAR President-Elect Sam Massey. Attendees shown included (L-R) Blair Rudy (San Antonio), Texas Society President-Elect Sam Massey, Rick Ramirez (Laredo), Kevin Kanter (San Antonio), Michael Goode (East Fork Trinity), David Hamaker

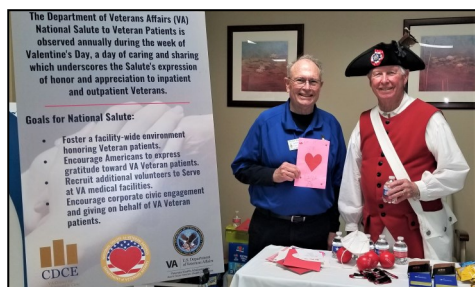


(Freedom), Catherine Massey, Candy Rudy, Jean Kanter, Tom Van Fossen (Dallas), Robert Vance (Ruidoso New Mexico), Mark Worthen (Paul Carrington).

## SALUTE TO VETERANS WEEK

After two years of not conducting this event due to COVID Restriction, the Veterans Administration conducted a national program celebrating “National Salute to Veterans Week” across the country at all Veterans Health Care Systems. As a Volunteer Supporting Organization, we were invited to participate in the event during the week of February 13—17, 2023. Our Chapter hosted a Mini-Reception at the Shavano Park Veterans Clinic for all veterans who had scheduled appointments Monday and Tuesday. We held our receptions during the period 9:00 to 11:30 A.M. during clinic hours. We provided a variety of packaged items to include granola bars, peanut butter crackers, cookies, mixed chips, candies and bottled water to every veteran. Each veteran was greeted, offered refreshments and given a heart-felt “thank you” for their service to our country.

**(Photo Left)** Shown serving at the Shavano Park VA Clinic are Compatriots Mike Bowles and Event Coordinator Compatriot Frank Rohrbough.



**(Photo Right)** Shown are Compatriots John Booth, Larry Loop and Mike Bowles.



Several of the veterans we greeted served during the Vietnam War Era. We explained that the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam Commemorative

Program was authorized by Congress in 2012 to recognize the unsung patriotism of our Vietnam War veterans who served on active duty during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

**(Photo Left)** To honor Vietnam Era veterans who had appointments at the clinic Compatriot Bowles placed the Commemorative Lapel Pin on a veteran stating “A grateful nation honors you and thanks you for your service”. Another veteran who served as a Navy Seal was recognized for his service in Vietnam and for his 24 years of service to our country. During this week 12 veterans who receive health care services from the VA Medical Center or one of its outlying clinic were pinned with the Lapel Pin.



On Thursday morning we attended the Main Event at the Audie Murphy Memorial Medical Center in

San Antonio which was held in the Recreation Center. **(Photo Right)** Those attending this event included (L-R) President Richard Weitzel, Frank Rohrbough, Stephen Rohrbough and Larry Loop. Following the Opening Ceremony with remarks from Dr. Julianne Flynn, MD Executive Director of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, we were paired with LaKeisha Howard, Volunteer Service Specialist, Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) Office (formerly the VA Volunteer Services (VAVS)). She escorted us to the 5th and 6th Floor to visit patients in the Specialty Units.



We visited 10 patients in their rooms and greeted each veteran with a “Thank you for your service” and a Valentine Card from one of the local Elementary Schools.

On Friday we conducted our Mini-Reception at North Bexar VA Clinic. Attending were Compatriots Frank Rohrbough, Frank Keberman and Bob Watson. We recognized each veteran as they came into the clinic for their appointments. They were offered refreshments and a Valentine Card.

Two members from the CDCE Staff, Audie Murphy Memorial Medical Center in San Antonio, Jason Gray (Chief CDCE), and Edward (Scott) Traeger (Volunteer Service Specialist) visited with us to extend their appreciation for our participation in Salute to Veterans Week.

## MORE CHAPTER AWARDS FOR 2022



On behalf of Past President Kevin Kanter President Weitzel presented Chapter Service Medals to several members who were not presented their Awards at the December 2022 Chapter Meeting.

**(Photo Left)** Dustin Whittenburg (5th OL Cluster) for his service as Chairman of the Veterans Committee. **(Photo Right)** George Harcourt (14th OL Cluster) for planning and conduct of the 2022 Chapter Gala.

**(Photo Lower Left)** Larry L. Loop (6th OL Cluster) for services as Chapter Historian and Chairman of the Youth Awards Program.

**(Photo Right)** John Bell (Medal) for services as Chairman of the ROTC Awards Program.



## FLAG APPRECIATION EVENT

Compatriots Blair Rudy and Flag Program Chairman John Booth presented the National Society Sons of the American Revolution Certificate of Appreciation to the Blanco County Fire Department's Emergency Services District-2 in recognition of its American patriotism on January 18, 2023 for flying the American Flag.

The Certificate was presented to Chief Ben Oakley. **(Photo Right)** Compatriot Rudy announced the event at the February 15th Chapter Meeting while showing the Blanco County News which covered the event.



## GEORGE WASHINGTON PROCLAMATIONS



**(Photo Left)** Mayor Rhonda Stell of Johnson City presented a Proclamation to Compatriot Blair Rudy.

In recognition of President George Washington Day on February 22, 2023 Compatriot Blair Rudy prepared three proclamations to present to Blanco County Officials as follows: Johnson County, February 7 at 6:00 p.m., Blanco County, February 14 at 9:00 a.m., and Blanco City, February 14 at 6:00 p.m. Each official also receive a Chapter Challenge Coin.

The Proclamations reads in part:

“Whereas, the San Antonio Chapter Sons of the American Revolution wish to encourage all citizens to recognize the epochal contributions of George Washington to our nation by celebrating his birthday on February 22, 2023.”

“Now, therefore by virtue of the authority vested in me ... do hereby proclaim February 22, 2023 as George Washington Day”.

## GUEST SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

Once again we were delighted to have Professor Arnold Alvarado, a chapter member, return as our Guest Speaker. A noted teacher of American and European history, he spoke to us at our November 16, 2022 Meeting about “The Constitution — its Origins and Framework.” He continued with that topic speaking on “Political Theory and the Constitution.”

Compatriot Alvarado provided a very interesting history on the “Balance of Nature” referring to Plato’s support the balance of nature concept that proposes that ecological systems are usually in a stable equilibrium. Our founding fathers were well-educated and well-read. They wanted a system of government that provided “checks and balances” which provided protections of government from the people and protections of people from the government. The first consideration provided a central government at the federal level and the state level — federalism versus states rights.

Thus the Constitutional Congress convened in the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to form a document starting with the Preamble to the Constitution. It reads in part “form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessing of Liberty”. Compatriot Alvarado remarked that the Framers understood that human nature would drive political divides — matters based on the “heart” would be more supportive in House of Representative and such matters would receive a more deliberative review in the Senate. The Framers wanted to divide the power among the different branches of government which would ensure that no single branch would become too powerful. Article I outlines the powers of the Congress, Article II the powers of the Executive Branch and Article III the powers of the Judicial Branch.

Compatriot Alvarado spoke without any notes thus showing his extensive knowledge of American history and the insights the Framers considered when drafting the U.S. Constitution. During the First Congress in 1789, James Madison introduced a bill to add a Bill of Rights to the Constitution. Compatriot Alvarado noted that the Constitution was later modified to include the Bill of Rights, which protects the people from the government, that was ratified by the states and added to the Constitution on December 15, 1791. **(Photo Right)** President Weitzel presented Compatriot Alvarado the SAR Bronze Good Citizen Medal and Chapter Coin.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

**Texas Society SAR 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference:** March 30-April 2, 2023; Houston CityPlace Marriott at Springwoods Village, Spring, TX, March 30 (Thursday) - April 2, 2023 (Sunday) (Registration Required, Hotel Reservations NLT March 11th via TXSSAR Website).

**Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings:** Scheduled for March 8 and April 12, 2023, La

Fonda Mexican Restaurant, Alamo Heights (Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday each month 11:30 A.M.)

**Chapter Meetings:** Scheduled for March 15 and April 19, 2023 at the Petroleum Club at **11:30 A.M.** A News Release will be sent out before each Meeting to make your reservation. Those Compatriots with Standing Reservations should use [txsarch4reser-](mailto:txsarch4reservations@gmail.com)

[ervations@gmail.com](mailto:ervations@gmail.com) to notify the Treasurer if they will NOT attend the Meeting. This will avoid the Chapter paying for meals incurred by their absence.

**For more information, please go to our Chapter Website at:**

[www.txssar.org/SanAntonio](http://www.txssar.org/SanAntonio)