

The MINUTEMAN



Dallas Chapter

Founded November 10, 1928

Texas Society - Sons of the American Revolution

April 12, 2025

"Love your Enemies. for they tell you your Faults"

Volume 26. No. 4

Ventana by Buckner South Tower, Grand Hall

8301 N US 75-Central Expressway - Dallas, TX 75225

Breakfast – 8:00am

Meeting – 9:00am

PRESIDENT

Brent Harshman

1st VICE-

PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS

Thomas F. Van Fossen

2nd VICE-

PRESIDENT/AWARDS

J. D. Martin

SECRETARY

Bill Watts

TREASURER

Tim Chapman

REGISTRAR

Mark Morgan

CHAPLAIN

Frank H. Pounders

ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Larry Luby

HISTORIAN

Tom Manning

TRUSTEES

Gary Sisson

David Temple

COLOR GUARD

COMMANDER

Bill Watts

Each month a new medal that anyone in the Sons of the American Revolution can earn will be presented in this newsletter. We continue with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.



The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal is a multi-purpose award designed to recognize individuals whose community (i.e., school, locality or state) achievements are noteworthy. It can be presented to both adults and minors and to Compatriots and non-Compatriots alike.

Compatriot Presentation

Requirements: A Compatriot may be awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal if either (1) he has served, subject to the restriction described immediately below, in at least four of the leadership

capacities covered under the Silver Good Citizenship Medal (see above), or (2) he qualifies by some other outstanding achievement in his community. Subsequent awards must be for different service than the service used for prior awards. SAR Service Restriction: The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal is not used to recognize service to the SAR. SAR service is only recognized by the service medals identified in this handbook and any nationally approved District or State Society service medal.

AGENDA

Call to Order –

President Harshman



Rules of Engagement –

This meeting is being filmed and recorded. By joining this in-person or virtual meeting of the Dallas Chapter of the TXSSAR, you acknowledge and agree that these proceedings may be made public.

Invocation – Michael Goode

Pledges

American Flag – Bill Watts

Texas Flag – Tom Van Fossen

SAR – Jerry Pinkerton

Mission Statement –

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

Welcome –

We would like to welcome our guests. We have with us our new State President Mel Oller who will be our speaker today. Immediate Past State President Tracy Pounders, State VP Americanism David Scott, Bill Watts Coastal Registrar and Chair of the Counsel of Chapter Presidents, Assistant Inland Registrar Jerry Pinkerton, Michael Goode Dist 6 VP and State Chaplain, Counsel of Chapter Presidents Secretary Tom Van Fossen, former Chapter President and State Chancellor Mark Hansen, Former Chairman Counsel of Chapter Presidents and former McKinney Chapter President Tom Milson, Jim Akers Dist 11 VP and former Denton Chapter President, Jack Haughton former Secretary General International Chapter and President of our new Ellis County Chapter and Chairman of the JROTC Committee, Brent Harshman State Chancellor and a very special welcome to any guests who are in attendance with us today.

250th Anniversary - American Historic Moment

Lexington/ Concord - “Something Personal” - Samuel Whittemore

Introduction of our morning Speaker –

Mel Oller – President, Texas SAR

I’ve been asked to talk about the State of the State. We lost some members at the start of the year but we have gotten back about half of them. We will probably win the National Award for the number of reinstatements again this year.



One thing that I would like to do is communicate with some of the groups that we haven't been communication with during the last few years. Most of you know that the business of the SAR is at the chapter level.

We have a large number of guys that never get to see what we do, what we feel is important. We're going to reach out to those people.

Something that's important to the state and is important to your chapter is our VP of Awards, Mark Harrison. National published about 3 years ago the states who participated in all the Youth Awards Contests. Texas was the only one that participated in all the programs. Now other states are participating.

Most of you are aware of the construction of the Museum. Phase one is completed and the second phase is started.

A feature that impressed me is a picture of George Washington and a picture of Ben Franklin who talk to each other. Kids can ask questions and receive answers.

I have a little concern about our membership. As you know national raised the membership cost to our members. There is concern that this increase is having an affect on new members.

National is working on our debt and things are improving slowly but surely.

Please participate in the zoom calls that are going to be scheduled in the future.

Questions from the audience;



Tom Van Fossen, Mel Oller and Brent Harshman
Presenting an Eagle and a Chapter Mug

What are the demographics of the members. Mel responded that he didn't participate in that discussion but is aware that actions are being taken. He also stated that we are having a hangover from Covid. Some people are still afraid of going out and participating in a group. We got in a bad habit of being told not to do anything, stay at home. We need to break that habit.

We need to do a better job of getting online. Today's people are online and we need to get online to get their interest.

Certificates 2025 State Conference Participation



Special Award



Bill Watts
Patriot Medal - 2024
Tom Milson
Patriot Medal - 2024



Previous Patriot Medal Winners of the Dallas Chapter



2024 Chapter Awards 130th Annual State Convention

- **Texas SAR Outstanding Chapter Award, Group 4**
- **Texas SAR Yearbook Award, 2nd Place, Group 3**
- **Col. Joe M. Hill Patriot Fund Award** - Repeat Winner (total contributions that exceed the previous year)
- **Texas SAR Flag Presentation Award** - Repeat Winner (Chapter having recognized individuals, companies or organizations for US Flag displays)
- **E. A. Limmer Award, Group 4** (Chapter with the highest % of approved supplemental application)
- **Texas SAR Outstanding Public Service Award** - Repeat Winner (Chapter that gives all 5 Public Service Awards)

Dr. Gary Sisson Golden Sledge Hammer Award 2024

Sisson Golden Sledgehammer Award

Previous Award Winners - * Deceased

2001 – Tom Whitlock
2002 – Ralph McDowell *
2003 – Charles Baker *
2004 – Tom & Montye Whitelock
2005 – E. Thomas Smith *
2006 – James Templin *
2007 – Allen Christian *
2008 – Robert Northcraft
2009 – David Temple
2010 – Harmon Adair
2011 – James Fairbairn *

2012 – Robert Kittrell
2013 – George Ramphrey
2014 – Nick Harper
2015 – John Morton
2016 – Jerry Pinkerton
2017 – Mike Petridis
2018 – Tom Van Fossen
2019 – Joseph Slonaker
2020 – Mark Harrison
2021 – Brent Harshman
2022 – Bill Watts
2023 – Mark Morgan



Mark Hansen is this
years winner!



New Member Incuction

★ **Silas Van Fossen** | *Jacob Van Fossen*
(*Tom Van Fossen's great-grandson*)



Proud great-grandfather

Six Generations of Van Fossens

Member Anniversaries

- ★ Gregory Garrison | 10 years
- ★ John Marshall, Jr. | 10 years
- ★ Robert Tanner, Jr. | 20 years

OFFICERS REPORTS

Secretary – Watts

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Gary Sisson and seconded by Jerry Pinkerton. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

250th Anniversary Bench at the Oakland Cemetery. We are taking donations and Tim Chapman has started a fund to collect the money.



For a donation of \$250 you can have your Patriot Ancestor's name on the Bench. We have space for 10 patriot names & their State.

Tom Van Fossen, Tom Manning, Tom Whitelock, Ken Raney, Brent Harshman, Jerry Pinkerton, Mark Harrison and Bill Watts have already donated to have their Patriot names & State on the Bench.

TOP OF THE BENCH

**Sons of the American Revolution
Celebrating 250 years of
American Freedom 1776-2026**

BOTH BENCH SIDE ENDS

Bench Donated And Manufactured By
Texas Gravestone Care LLC

Dallas Chapter, Texas Society

FRONT



BENCH LEGS OUTSIDE

S
A
R

LEGS FRONT
AND BACK

S
A
R



BENCH LEGS OUTSIDE

GRAY GRANITE BENCH: 4-0 X 1-6 X 0-4 P5

Treasurer – Chapman



The chapter received the deposit from Texas SAR.

Registrar – Morgan



In Progress at Chapter — 13
At National for Review — 11
(4 Regular, 0 Junior, 7 Supplemental)
Approved — 4

Closed — 31

We have a total of 93 Applications

New Members Approved — 3
Memorial Applications Approved — 0
Supplemental Applications Approved — 1
Total 4

New Member Inductions YTD — 0
New Members Inducted Today — 1
New Members to be Inducted — 4
Total 5

Total Active Chapter Members 254

Historian – Tom Manning



Send pictures of events for future yearbooks to:

Tom Manning tommanning.sar@gmail.com

When submitting photos, please identify the event, the date, and the location.

Color Guard – Commander Watts

March 27 – 30, Thursday – Sunday Texas SAR State Convention National Event due to the attendance of Darryl Addington, SAR President General





On March 27th the SAR flag was raised at the Hilton Hotel to start the 130th State Convention. President Tracy Pounders along with many other dignitaries attended the event.

April 9, 2025 Wednesday – Providence
Christian School Patriots Day

Today we have the Gainesville Medal of Honor Parade, a funeral for Compatriot Larry Melson, former Plano Chapter President and the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Sunny vale DAR Chapter.

OLD BUSINESS –



JROTC

We will need volunteers to present the medals to the individuals who are nominated. We presented medals at WT White High School.

Committee Member Opportunities to Serve

Public Relations & Publicity	Community Service Awards
Member Recruitment & Retention	C.A.R. Liaison
DAR Liaison	Annual Audit
American History Teacher	Web and Social Media
Color Guard Members	Brochure Contest (MS)
CAR Essay Contest	Eagle Scout Essay Contest
Knight Essay Contest (HS)	Oration Contest (HS)
Poster Contest (Elem)	Video Contest (MS & HS)
Speaker's Bureau	JROTC Members
Greeter	

**For more information concerning volunteer opportunities please contact;
Mark Harrison
Tom Van Fossen**

2025 State Convention – Tom Milson

I want to thank all of you for your help during the State Convention.
All your work made for a successful convention.

96 total attendance, 48 Friday Lunch, Youth Luncheon 147, and Banquet 139. The important thing to remember is we didn't lose money. The silent auction was very successful. The raffle was a little different. We sold tickets at the chapter level and it was successful. Thank you, Tom Whitelock for the success of the silent auction and raffle.

Michael Goode talked about a memorial service for TL Holden. At the present time we don't have a date. More information will follow

Jack Carpenter talked about his experience attending the new Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington. The museum was opened by President Bush when he cut the ribbon to open the museum.



Please visit the merchandise table before you leave.

DOOR PRIZE –

This month's Winners!

BENEDICTION – Michael Goode

SAR RECESSIONAL – All



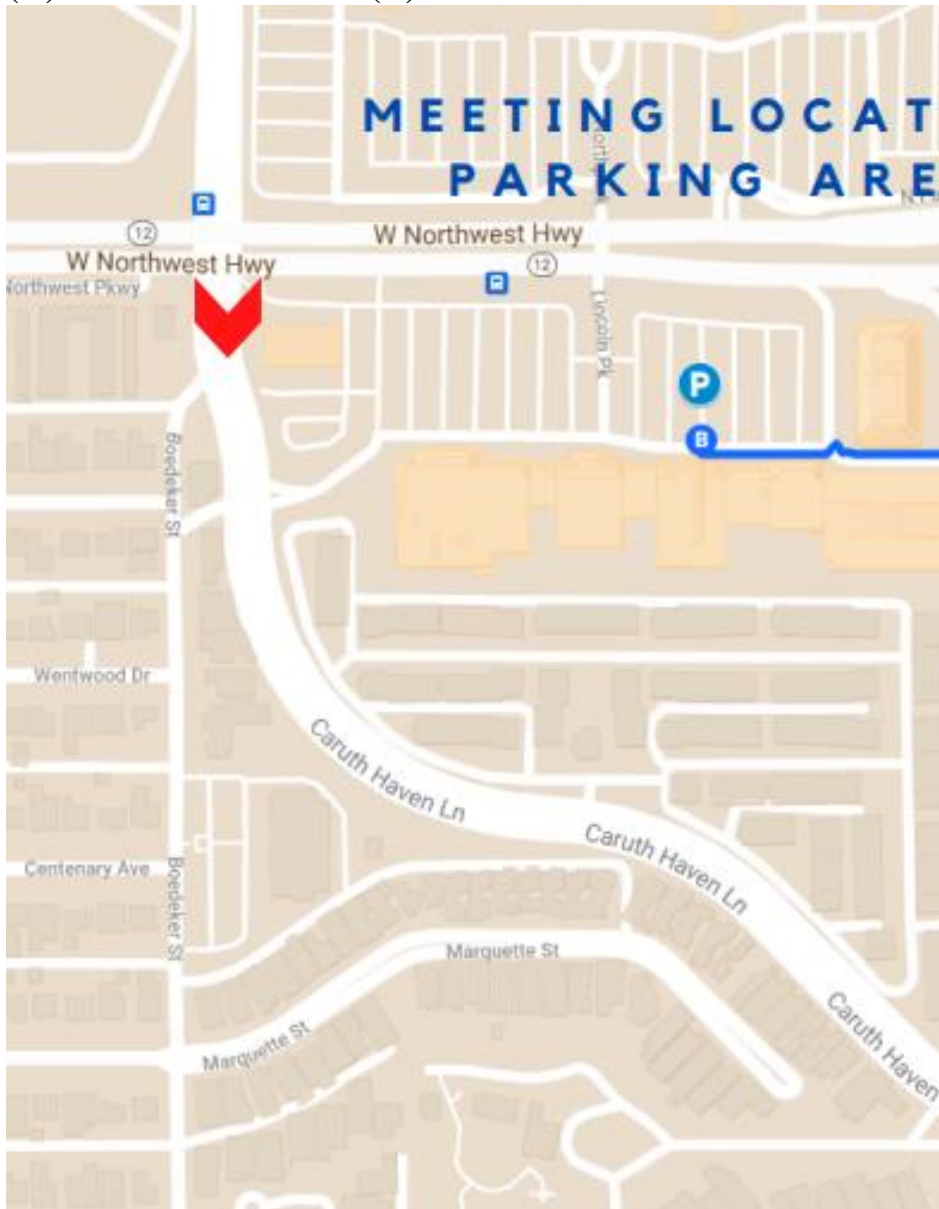
NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY May 10th @ 9:00 AM

Youth Award Ceremonies

Respectfully submitted,
William B. Watts, Secretary

William B. Watts

DIRECTIONS TO LOCATION MEETING LOCATION (A) PARKING AREA (B)



Connect

President | Brent Harshman

brentharshmanSAR@gmail.com | 512-217-3798

Website

www.txssar.org/Dallas

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1692158937849494>

YouTube

@sardallaschapter3011