

The Minuteman



Dallas Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Founded July 4, 1929

July 11, 2026

“writing – the mother of memory”

Volume 27, No. 7

Ventana by Buckner South Tower, Grand Hall

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

Breakfast – 8:00am

Meeting – 9:00am

PRESIDENT

Tom Manning

1st VICE-

PRESIDENT/PROGRAMS

Thomas F. Van Fossen

2nd VICE-

PRESIDENT/AWARDS

J. D. Martin

SECRETARY

Mark Harrison

TREASURER

Tim Chapman

Tom Washington (Asst.)

ACTING REGISTRAR

Mark Morgan

Gale Lewis (Asst.)

CHAPLAIN

Larry Luby

HISTORIAN

Andrew Novak

TRUSTEES

Gary Sisson

David Temple

Jerry Pinkerton

COLOR GUARD

COMMANDER

J.D. Martin

Keith McMenamy (Asst.)

President's Corner

Dallas Chapter Compatriots,

Greetings to all members of the Dallas Sons of the American Revolution!

How satisfying it was on July 11th to celebrate not only the Semiquincentennial or 250th anniversary of our nation's birth, but also the 97th anniversary of the Dallas chapter! We can take a moment to bask in the glory of these significant milestones, and to look back at the beginnings of our fledgling country and our upstart chapter in the depression year of 1929. We can be exuberant in our appreciation of the founding fathers who dedicated their very lives for the new country, as well our own patriot ancestors who fought and contributed in many ways to help gain our independence. In a like manner we look back at the Dallas Chapter founders such as Colonel John T. Tresevant, who is recorded in our history as the “prime mover in organizing the Dallas Chapter.” There have been MANY other “faithful workers” who have made our chapter what it is today.

Our greater responsibility, however, is not appreciating the past adequately, but in continuing the legacies of our great country and the outstanding Dallas Chapter. By continuing and expanding on the groundwork of the 97 years of the Dallas Chapter, we are promoting the patriotic spirit of the United States of America. may we dedicate ourselves to accomplishing more through the efforts of the Dallas Chapter than ever before.

Thank you all for being a part of our chapter!

Patriotically Yours,

Tom Manning

Chapter President

Tommanning.SAR@gmail.com

AGENDA – May 9, 2026 Meeting

Reading of the Declaration of Independence

The July meeting opened in a very special way to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our country. A special video made by Dallas Chapter Compatriots reading the Declaration of Independence. Tom Van Fossen portrayed John Hancock delivering the introduction. The text itself was read by Thomas Jefferson (Tom Manning), Benjamin Franklin (John Maloney), Robert Livingston (Jerry Pinkerton), John Adams (Larry Luby) and finally by Roger Sherman (Brent Harshman). Special thanks to Tom Van Fossen for organizing this effort and writing the script. Reagan van Heyst of the East Fork Trinity chapter filmed and edited the video. Thanks also to Randall van Heyst for his assistance. Credit was also given to our own late Compatriot Bill Watts, who had provided the camera equipment. This was an excellent production and a very fitting reminder of what we are celebrating during this 250th anniversary year.



Call to Order –

President Tom Manning



Rules of Engagement –

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

Invocation– Chaplain Larry Luby

Posting of Colors – Color Guard Commander J.D. Martin



Pledges

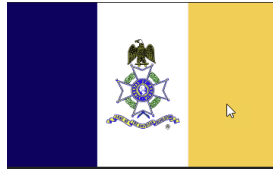
American Flag – Bill Richardson



Texas Flag – Tom Washington



SAR Flag – Richard Allen



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 – President Tom Manning:

We would like to welcome our special guests including:

- Barbara Baker, widow of past Chapter President Dr. Charles Baker
- Barbara Smith, widow of past Chapter President Tom Smith
- Former State Presidents, Bob Clark
- Asst. State Inland Registrar Jerry Pinkerton
- Past Chapter President and former State Chancellor, Mark Hansen
- Immediate Past Chapter President and current State Chancellor Brent Harshman
- Other former Chapter Presidents Robert Norcraft, Robert Kittrell, Nick Harper, Tom Van Fossen, Tom Whitelock, Mark Harrison, John Greer, Ron Turner, and Paul Ridenour



Featured Speaker

The featured speaker is Plano Chapter member Randall Bush. Randy brought an interesting talk entitled “The Cannons of Ticonderoga.” This was an excellent look back at one of the signature events of the revolution. Randy highlighted not only the details of the endeavor, but also the impact that bringing the artillery pieces to Boston had on the war.



Special Awards

The two newest recipients of the Bill Watts – Ben Franklin Lapel Pin are Dallas Chapter Compatriots President Tom Manning and Color Guard Commander J.D. Martin. Congratulations and thank you for your support of our youth programs.

New Members

Welcome to our newest members, Stephen, Christopher and Carter Crane. They are all descended from their patriot ancestor, Joseph Crane. Stephen was present to be inducted and represented his son, Christopher and grandson Carter. Stephen was accompanied by his wife Susan.



Member Anniversaries

Our anniversaries being recognized this month by President Manning include:

- Robert Aiton (5 years)
- Charles Garrett (25 years)
- Vaughn Garrett (25 years)

Congratulations, Compatriots!

Dallas Chapter 97th Anniversary Commemoration

The Dallas Chapter was chartered as the 2nd chapter in Texas on July 4, 1929. Compatriot Tom Whitelock distributed a beautifully written history of the Chapter written in 1984 along with a list of Chapter Presidents and a copy of the Declaration of Independence. Tom invited two of our senior members, Compatriots Robert Kittrell and Nick Harper along with Barbara Smith, widow of Past President Tom Smith and Barbara Baker, widow of Past President Dr. Charles Baker. Collectively, they changed out the year designation from '96' to '97'.



Officer Reports

Secretary – Mark Harrison

Meeting Minutes were distributed by email earlier.

Treasurer – Tim Chapman

Treasurers Report – Treasurer Tim Chapman – copies were available at the check-in table.

Copies can be requested from Tim at [Dallas - Treasurer](#).

Registrar – Mark Morgan

2026 Registrar Activity

In Progress at Chapter – 18

At National for Review - 8

(4 Regular, 0 Junior, 4 Supp., 0 Memorial)

Approved - 8

Closed – 36

We have a total of 70 Applications

Total Active Members - 236

2026 New Approvals

New Members Approved - 5

Memorial Applications Approved - 0

Supplemental Applications Approved - 3

Total - 8

New Member Inductions YTD - 12

New Members Inducted Today - 3

New Members to be Inducted - 1

Total - 16

Historian – Andrew Novak (Acting)

Please submit any pictures or articles to our acting Historian Andrew Novak – info@sardallas.org.

Please note the new address for SAR related email.

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

Compatriot Moore has asked to be relieved of his duties as chapter Historian. Compatriot Andrew Novak has been named the acting chapter Historian by President Manning. He has also been nominated for the post with an election scheduled for the August meeting.

Color Guard – Commander J.D. Martin

Annual Park Cities Rotary July 4th Parade at Centennial Park, University Park





Liberty and Lace Ball – Dallas Central Library – June 27, 2026



Tom Van Fossen's family Compatriot Grave Marking – Johnstown, OH – June 14, 2026
Memorial Members of the Dallas Chapter – Kenneth Van Fossen and Ralph Van Fossen



Compatriot Grave Marking – Jacksboro, TX June 26, 2026 Dallas Chapter Memorial Member
Thomas J. Stewart with his Dallas Chapter grandsons Wayne Stewart and Jerry Pinkerton



Arlington SAR and DAR 250th Anniversary Celebration



Dallas Banjo Concert, Allen, TX



Patriotic Concert, Highland Springs Senior Living, Dallas – July 6, 2026



Future Activities

- Annual Plano International Festival and Naturalization Ceremony, Sat, Oct 17, Haggard Park, Plano



The Dallas Chapter Color Guard calendar is now available on the chapter website – texassar.org/Dallas/.

www.texassar.org/Dallas/



Upcoming Programs – 1st Vice President Tom Van Fossen

Richard Bonaparte of the McKinney Chapter – ‘John Tyson – The Reluctant Loyalist’

Committee Opportunities

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

JROTC Members

Veterans Affairs

Brochure Contest (MS)

C.A.R. Essay Contest

Eagle Scout Essay Contest (HS)

Knight Essay Contest (HS)

Oration Contest (HS)

Poster Contest (Elem)

Video Contest (MS & HS)

Speaker's Bureau

Greeter

State Fair Recruitment Table

New Business –

Open Elected Positions

The Nominations Committee has nominated Tom Washington for Assistant Treasurer and Jerry Pinkerton as the third Trustee. The election of both was unanimous.

Dallas Chapter 250th Anniversary Bench and Liberty Tree

Stay tuned for the announcement on the dedication date of the Anniversary Bench and a Liberty Tree that will be placed at Frankford Cemetery in Dallas.

South Central District Meeting – August 21 – 22, 2026

The Dallas Chapter will be the host for the South Central District meeting in Richardson on Friday and Saturday, August 21 – 22. Planning is underway. Former State President Drake Peddie is the VP General for this district. Representatives will be in attendance from the member states (Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas) along with several national officers. Stay tuned for more information on how you can assist.

Veteran's Donation Table

All members were reminded that we need donations for the VA. Please bring coffee cans and place on the table in the back of the room. A discussion was held concerning giving members a \$5 coupon off the price of their breakfast at the next meeting when they bring coffee worth at least \$10 for the veterans. Stay tuned for more information.

Spanish Texas during the American Revolution: Life and Legacy, 1775–1783 Exhibit

Compatriot Gus Hinojosa announced an important exhibit at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas. The exhibit of “*Spanish Texas during the American Revolution: Life and Legacy, 1775–1783*,” is currently on display. A full display will be held in Houston later this summer. More information is available at <https://theplatformmagazine.com/tpm-home/f/spanish-texas-exhibit-highlights-local-legacy-and-american-roots>.

Door Prizes

Door prize winners include Charles Haby, our newest member Stephen Crane and J.D. Martin. Congratulations, all!



BENEDICTION –Chaplain Larry Luby

SAR RECESSIONAL – All

NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY August 8, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Harrison, Secretary

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

