

The Minuteman



Dallas Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Founded July 4, 1929

October 10, 2026

“writing – the mother of memory”

Volume 27, No. 10

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
Jerry Pinkerton (Asst.)*

TREASURER

*Tim Chapman
Tom Washington (Asst.)*

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 McMenemy (Adjutant.)*

President's Corner

Greetings Dallas Chapter Compatriots,

As we get deeper into this Fall, I'm thinking about things that are important to our Chapter while we approach the end of 2026. SAR in general has experienced a nice surge in membership interest, and several factors are affecting that surge. The 250th anniversary of our country has generated new interest, and the Dallas chapter has felt that uptick. We have inducted 16 new members during the year and three more applications have been approved and await induction.

I believe member retention is strong as well, because we are a busy chapter that accomplishes many good things on a consistent basis. We have excellent programs at chapter meetings. Our new Bill Watts—Ben Franklin program has generated involvement in youth programs, and color guard events promote involvement of compatriots. Our support of the recent SAR South Central District Conference generated involvement, as has the chapter's recruiting of new members at the Jane Douglas DAR house at the State Fair of Texas. We also have a number of planned color guard events this Fall including a naturalization ceremony, a grave marking of a former Texas SAR and Dallas Chapter President, and a Wreaths Across America national veteran grave-honoring program.

We have a strong relationship with the historic Frankford Cemetery, which will be the home of our 250th Anniversary bench, our Liberty Tree and the Wreaths Across America event. We have an outstanding partnership with the Susannah Biggers Bibb DAR Chapter, and our chapter works extensively with other SAR chapters in the greater Dallas area.

All in all, our chapter is excelling in many areas due to the hard work of members and leadership in all areas. Thank you all for the momentum we have established, because there is so much more we need to accomplish!

Patriotically Yours,

Tom Manning

Chapter President

Tommanning.SAR@gmail.com

AGENDA – September 12, 2026 Meeting

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– Tom Washington



Posting of Colors – Compatriots Keith McMenemy and J.D. Martin



Pledges

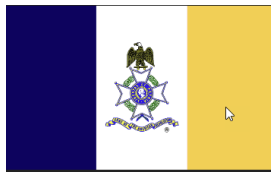
American Flag – Mike Milner



Texas Flag – Ron Turner



SAR Flag – Paul Ridenour



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:

- Our speakers today are Sandy Greyson and Kathy Wells Power from the Frankford Historical Cemetery and the Frankford Preservation Foundation
- Former State President, Bob Clark
- Asst. State Inland Registrar Jerry Pinkerton
- Immediate Past Chapter President and current State Chancellor Brent Harshman
- Other former area Chapter Presidents including Nick Harper, Tom Van Fossen, Tom Whitelock, Mark Harrison, Ron Turner, Paul Ridenour and Tom Milson
- Prospective member, Rich Milner, the father of one our newest members, Mike Milner. Today is Rich's 89th birthday.



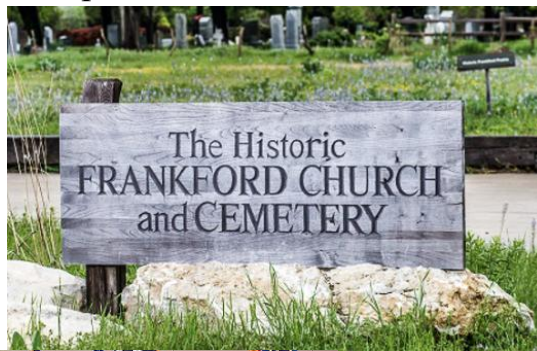
American Historic Moment

“1776: Year in Revolution”



Featured Speaker

The featured speakers were former Dallas City Councilwoman Sandy Greyson, (President – Frankford Cemetery Association) and Kathy Wells Power (President – Frankford Preservation Foundation). They discussed the history of the beautiful cemetery and historical church. In addition, Kathy described the existence of the original blackland prairie and natural springs that is part of the property. The historic Frankford Cemetery will be the site of our chapter’s 250th Anniversary Bench and Liberty Tree and will host the Dallas Chapter in the Wreaths Across America in December.



Special Awards

Bill Watts - Benjamin Franklin Pin

Vice President Tom Van Fossen reported that the Bill Watts – Benjamin Franklin Pin has been earned by the first out-of-state recipient. Compatriot Robert Vance, President of the New Mexico SAR has met the requirements and will receive the pin at the Texas SAR state convention in April. Robert is a frequent participant in Texas SAR Color Guard events and even volunteered for 2 days at the Texas State Fair in the DAR house. Congratulations, Robert.



New Members

No new members were inducted at this meeting.

Member Anniversaries

Donald Jones – 45 years

Joseph Lanza – 35 years

Jerry Pinkerton – 15 years

Congratulations, Compatriots!

Officer Reports

Secretary – Mark Harrison

Meeting Minutes were distributed by email earlier and were accepted as published.

Treasurer – Tim Chapman

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

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

Attendance at the meeting included 29 SAR members and 9 visitors.

Registrar – Mark Morgan

2026 Registrar Activity

In Progress at Chapter – 18

At National for Review - 8

(5 Regular, 0 Junior, 3 Supp., 0 Memorial)

Approved - 12

Closed – 44

We have processed a total of 82 Applications

Total Active Members – 242

2026 New Approvals

New Members Approved - 8

Memorial Applications Approved - 0

Supplemental Applications Approved - 4

Total - 12

New Member Inductions YTD - 16

New Members Inducted Today - 0

New Members to be Inducted - 3

Total - 19

Historian – Andrew Novak

Please submit any pictures or articles to our Historian Andrew Novak. When submitting photos, please identify the names, event, the date, and the location. Please contact Compatriot Novak at

AndrewNovak@sbcglobal.net.

JROTC

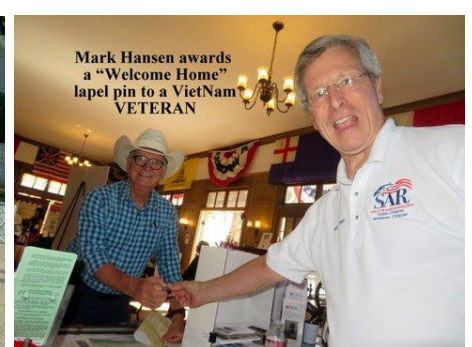
Compatriot J.D. Martin reported on the start of the JROTC recognition activities for the year.

Wayne, J.D. Martin and Tom Van Fossen will once again be coordinating this effort for our Dallas County schools.

Color Guard Activities

Texas State Fair

A number of chapter members have once again manned the SAR table at the Jane Douglas DAR House. Our representation at the state fair continues to be a great way to reach out to prospective members and to educate the public.



Dallas Central Library – Heritage Day

The Family History Center at the Dallas Central Library held a Heritage Day featuring Heritage Auction as they evaluated historical artifacts. Compatriot Mark Harrison and Linda represented the chapter at an information table at the event.



Future Color Guard Activities

Annual Plano International Festival and Naturalization Ceremony, Sat, Oct 17, Haggard Park, Plano. Muster at 10:30 AM.



Wreaths Across America

The Dallas Chapter will be participating in the Wreaths Across America activities on December 19 at the Historic Frankford Cemetery. Use the QR code below to sponsor wreaths at \$17 each or visit the website www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/TX1686. Either method will give the Dallas Chapter credit and ensure the wreaths are delivered to the correct cemetery. Stay tuned for more information on the reporting time.



Compatriot Grave Marking

The Edmund Terrill SAR and the Martha Jefferson Randolph DAR chapters are hosting a Compatriot grave marking for former Texas SAR state and former Dallas Chapter President Col. Joe Meredith Hill. The ceremony will be held at the Ladonia Cemetery in Ladonia, TX on October 17 at 3:00 PM. Muster time is at 2:45.

Fall BOM

The Texas SAR Fall BOM meeting is scheduled for October 23 – 24 at the Hilton Garden Inn – Dallas Arlington South in Arlington. All SAR members are invited to participate. Registration information is available on the Texas SAR website.

Plano Flags of Honor

The Plano Flags of Honor event will be held once more at Red Tail Pavillion (at Oak Point Park in Plano). The event runs from November 7 – 14. The color guard has been invited to participate in a flag presentation and to assist the Boy Scouts in a flag retirement ceremony on Saturday, November 14 at 3:00 PM. Stay tuned for details.

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

Appointed Positions

Color Guard Commander
Color Guard Adjutant
Sergeant-At-Arms
Chancellor

Veterans Committee Chairman

Public Service Committee Chairman
Oration Contest Chairman
Poster Contest Chairman
Eagle Scout Chairman
Assistant Secretary

Member Retention Chairman

Communications & Media Chairman
Chapter Membership Chairman
C.A.R. Liaison
DAR Liaison
Assistant to 2nd Vice-President
Assistant Registrar
Assistant Historian
Assistant Chaplain

Upcoming Programs – 1st Vice President Tom Van Fossen

The speaker at the November 14 meeting will be Jim Andrews. He has a very interesting presentation about Colonial and Revolutionary War era currency and will display some historical examples.

New Business –

New appointed positions

President Manning announced two appointed positions for the chapter.

- Compatriot Larry Moore was appointed as the Data Administrator. Responsible for implementing a Google Share environment for the chapter.
- Compatriot Jerry Pinkerton was appointed as Assistant Secretary. This is part of Jerry's role as trustee of the various chapter funds.

Compatriot Dan Reed Celebration of Life Service

The celebration of life ceremony for Compatriot Dan Reed of the Plano Chapter will be held on October 17 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. There will not be a formal color guard planned for this event although you are welcome dress in street clothes or colonial. Compatriot Reed is a long-term SAR member and was very active in the color guard.

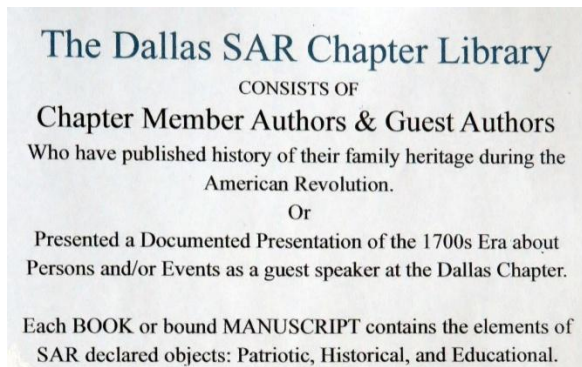
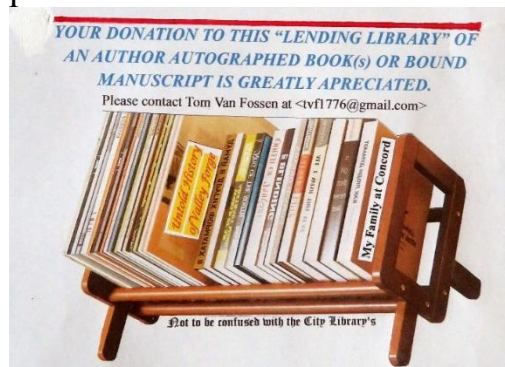
Veteran's Donation Table

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. There is a new program in place to encourage donations to the VA. If you bring donations of \$10 or more, you will see a \$5 reduction in your breakfast cost.



Dallas Chapter Lending Library Project

Compatriot Whitelock reminded us of the kick-off of an innovative new program. We have been blessed over the years of having many of our members author books about historical topics or their family history. In addition, we've had a number of great presenters who also have very interesting books to their credit. We are establishing the Dallas SAR Chapter Library as a home for these publications and to give our members the opportunity to check out these wonderful works. Details are still being finalized. If you have a book that you authored or one of our presenters has authored, please contact Tom Whitelock.



Door Prizes

Door prize winners include Andrew Novak, Jeanette Prasifka and Jon Tompkins. Congratulations to all!



BENEDICTION –Chaplain Larry Luby

SAR RECESSIONAL – All

NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY November 14, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Harrison, Secretary

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

