

September, 2026



America 250 Next Meeting: **Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 10am**

Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St, Denton, TX 76201

Chapter Officers

President— Ronnie Rencher
Vice President— Mark Miller
Recording Secretary—Mike Frye
Secretary, Annual Reports —
Mike Connelley
Treasurer—Chris Strauss
Chaplain —Mike Frye
Registrar— Eric Berkheimer
Sgt at Arms—Todd Wilbur
Color Guard — TBD

Events

1. **Sept. 12, Denton Chapter Mtg**
2. **Possible Coffee Social in October TBD**
3. **Oct. 23-25 Fall BOM Mtg, Arlington, TX**
4. **Nov. 14, Denton Chapter Meeting**

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Chapter President's Message: Friends and Fellow Members,

September reminds us of our American heritage. As we observe and participate in Constitution Day celebrations throughout our area, we are reminded of the sacrifices of our Revolutionary ancestors whose sacrifices established a nation founded on liberty, self-government, and the rule of law.

As members of the Sons of the American Revolution, we have a responsibility to preserve that legacy. I encourage you to participate in Constitution day events and help educate our communities - especially young people - about the remarkable document that has guided our nation for nearly 250 years.

May we honor the patriots who pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to liberty and strive to be worthy stewards of their heritage.

God bless our veterans, our patriots and the United States of America.

With appreciation,
Ronnie Rencher

Coffee Social

August 2026 Coffee



Texas SAR Board of Manager's Meeting

Arlington Texas, October 23-25, 2026

What is it? - Every organization, corporation, partnership or non-profit organization such as the Sons of the American Revolution has to spend time “conducting routine business” and that is what is accomplished at the annual Texas Board of Managers Meeting for the Sons of the American Revolution. The host city location for the Board of Managers meeting typically moves around the various population centers within Texas. Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth along with their adjacent satellite cities typically host these events.

This year, October 23-25, 2026; the event will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 521 East Interstate 20, Arlington, Texas and the sponsoring chapters are Arlington, Fort Worth and Denton chapters of the Texas SAR Organization.



The poster is a circular emblem on the left side, featuring a man in a blue coat and tricorn hat holding a rifle, a woman in a red dress, and a large bell. The text "250th ANIVERSARY of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE" is at the top, "SAR" is in the center, and "SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION" is below it. A scroll at the bottom of the emblem reads "1776-2026". Below the emblem, it says "2026 FALL BOARD of MANAGERS MEETING" and "Co-Host Chapters: Arlington • Denton • Fort Worth".

2026
FALL BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

October 23-25, 2026

Co-Host Chapters:
Arlington • Denton • Fort Worth

Hilton Garden Inn Dallas / Arlington
521 East Interstate 20
Arlington, TX 76018

Hilton Garden Inn Dallas / Arlington South

A map of Texas is shown in the bottom right corner, with the state flag colors (blue and red) and a white star.

Yep, you guessed it. We / us “the Denton chapter” are one of the sponsoring chapters for this event and with that comes both an honor, a monetary reward and a responsibility.

The honor is that the Denton membership along with Arlington and Fort Worth, will be “stepping up” to help ensure the meeting runs smoothly.

The responsibility is we will probably be asked to provide members with assistance in registration, monitor the items that have been donated to the Silent Auction and ensure that the silent auction items get into the hands of the individual member that had the winning bid.

What is the “silent auction”? This is where items of historical, collectible interest will be displayed in a room and ultimately sold to the highest bidder in a “silent auction” concept. The room will contain history books on the Revolution, collectible items, autographed professional sports items, etc, etc. The funds collected are then placed in the Society bank account to fund youth programs and other programs of the Organization.

The monetary reward: we will ultimately receive from sponsorship of the State event a share of the net profit from the Board of Managers meeting led by the three chapters. The amount will be dependent upon the registration fee and the number of members attending. My educated guess is the amount will be more than \$1000.00 to \$1,500.00 per sponsoring chapter.

This is a welcome deposit to our chapter bank account that comes with our volunteer efforts at helping with the Board of Managers event. These funds will help supplement the sustainability of our annual youth programs and youth scholarship money we fund every year in addition to our support of the ROTC/JROTC programs within the Denton, Texas area high schools and colleges.

I hope that several of our chapter officers and/or chapter members will be volunteer helpers at this upcoming State Board of Managers meeting. It is not hard work or “heavy lifting” but should be viewed as an individual opportunity to see how the SAR Organization functions at the level above chapter involvement in addition to meeting with members from all around the State of Texas.

At our next chapter meeting, we will further discuss the chapter’s personal commitment to the Texas SAR Board of Managers meeting in Arlington, Texas over the last weekend in October 2026. The chapter will receive significant financial benefit from this State event; which we, as a chapter, need to personally support with our volunteer time and effort at this October 2026 meeting.

Mike Connelley, past chapter president

Some BOM Activities

Patriot Medal Nominations: The Patriot Medal is awarded only by a state society. It is the highest award given for service at the state or chapter level. We will be selecting the Patriot Medal recipients for next year at the Fall BOM meeting. **Follow link to see details**

Texas SAR Committees meetings: **Follow link to see list**

Pictures from the 2025 Fall BOM



Invitation to Join the DAR Monthly Meeting

Compatriots,

We have received a kind invitation to join the Benjamin Lyon Chapter, DAR, at their upcoming meeting on September 18th. This invitation is extended to our Color Guard and the entire SAR chapter.

The meeting will be held at the new Courthouse on Loop 288 in Room 2020. A social time will begin at 1:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 2:00 p.m. The program, "Texas Women (WACs) and World War II," will be presented by Dr. Andrew Torget, Professor of History at UNT.

New Member Progress

Recent Approvals: Terry Brantley
David Jones

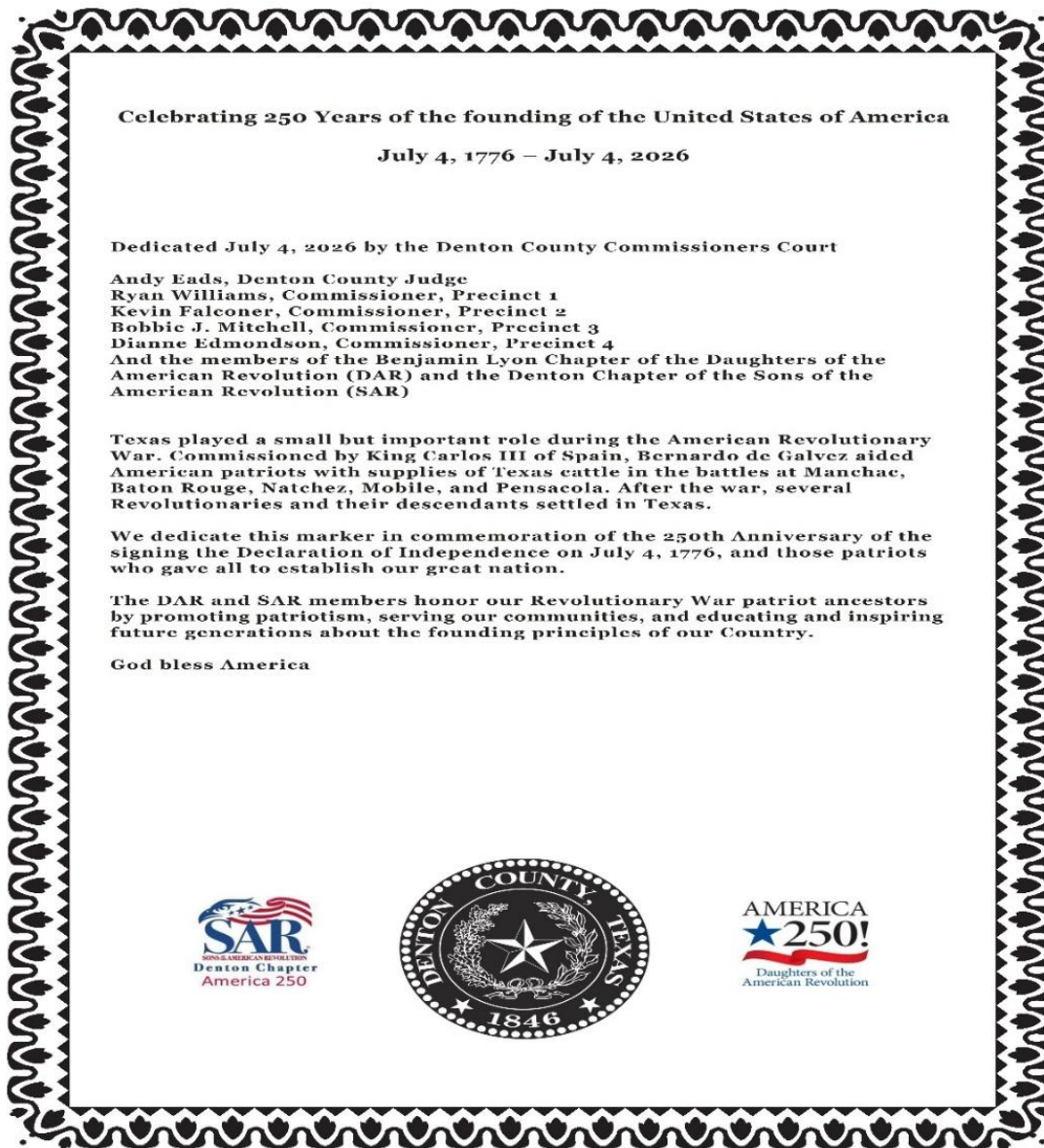
At National Waiting Approval: David Scott
Tom Huebscher
Dale Spaulding

At TX State Registrar for Initial Review:
Forrest Broome
Bailey Sanders
Lonnie Roy
Dennis Thompson
JJ George

In Progress:
Justin Day
Michael Hill
Jason Wood
Andy Eads
John Cartright

The AMERICA 250th Marker Project

Project Progress as of September 1, 2026



Waiting for decisions from the Denton County officials.

1. Obviously, the marker will not be dedicated July 4, 2026.
2. Denton County has suggested that the marker be placed at the new Denton County Annex and Courthouse.
3. The marker was mentioned during the Commissioners Court proceedings, and the Judge said **it would happen**.

Comments, questions: wsmerch@gmail.com



Contact acting Commander Brandon Story brandondstory@aol.com for details.

A SAR Color Guard Story



Our small SAR chapter Color Guard unit in North Georgia was asked one year to be in a small North Carolina town July 4 parade, in which we did.

An observer took a video of the parade and shared it with me after the parade. The video shows the police car leading the parade with a short break of nothing. Then it showed the very tops of four Colonial flags coming up a slight hill. Slowly emerging were four uniformed SAR Color Guard members carrying the flags and flanked by militia musket

bearers on each end of the line.

I know every spectator watching the Color Guard marching in that Fourth of July parade felt a strong sense of patriotism and were proud to be an American.

That is what SAR Color Guard units do. It is the “pay” we receive for volunteering our time and energies to promoting patriotism.

That is what the Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard “COULD” do. Yes, it takes time, priority and a little cash. But to be in that parade and pass by a little boy, flag in hand, and saluting our flag will remain in my mind forever.

Joining and participating in the Denton SAR Chapter Color Guard is up to you.

Join the Denton Chapter Color Guard

Members can participate individually or we can attend as a Color Guard unit representing the Denton SAR Chapter. New Color Guard members are welcome. Color guard members wanting to attend are to contact Color Guard Commander David Cook. It is significant to note that several events are designated as National Events which earns 20 points toward national and state Color Guard medals.

“We are the face of the Sons of the American Revolution at the national, state, and chapter levels. Accordingly, as we further the Patriotic, Historic, and Educational Goals of the SAR let us have fun, enjoy the comradely, and practice safety for yourself and others. Yours in Patriotism

K. Scott Collins National Society SAR Color Guard Commander”



America 250 Decade Of The American Revolution



*The National SAR has created this **Decade of the American Revolution** calendar to list Revolutionary War signature events each year that will be the focus of the NSSAR main celebration. Every State Society and all State Chapters should download the programs for the year and celebrate with us in your local area.*

December 16, 2023 Boston Tea Party

August 14, 2024, 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's U.S. Tour

September 5, 2024, The First Continental Congress

April 19, 2025, Battles of Lexington and Concord

Military Branch 2025 100-year Birthdays

March 2026 The British Evacuate Boston

April 2026 - Halifax Resolves, NC—First colony to authorize its delegates to vote for independence

May 2026 - The American colonies rapidly shifted toward independence

June 2026, Siege of Charleston

July 4, 2026, Declaration of Independence adopted

July 5, 2026, Declaration of Independence signed

September 1776 British Capture New York City

2027 Battle of Saratoga

2028 French Alliance

2029 Siege of Vincennes/Battle of Kettle Creek

2030 Battle of Kings Mountain

2031 Siege of Yorktown

2032 Battle of Blue Licks

2033 Treaty of Paris

Visit <https://america250sar.org/rd/> for details of each event.

In September 1776, the American Revolution centered on the British New York campaign, marked by the loss of New York City, a morale-boosting American battlefield victory, and a devastating fire.

British Occupation and Kips Bay

- **September 15:** British forces under General William Howe launched an amphibious landing at Kip's Bay on Manhattan Island.
- The untrained Continental Army retreated in panic, allowing the British to capture and occupy New York City.

Battle of Harlem Heights

- **September 16:** General George Washington's reorganized forces fought back in the Battle of Harlem Heights.
- The Continental Army won this tactical engagement, which helped restore confidence after earlier defeats, though American officer Thomas Knowlton was killed.

Nathan Hale Captured

- **September 21:** Captain Nathan Hale was caught behind enemy lines gathering intelligence for Washington.
- The British hanged him for espionage without a trial.



The Great New York Fire

- **September 20–21:** A massive fire swept through the western part of lower Manhattan shortly after the British occupation began.
- The blaze destroyed roughly 10 to 25 percent of the city, leaving large sections in ruins while both sides blamed each other for starting it.

Yorktown Battlefield

By Todd Wilber

I invaded Virginia in the last week of July. I made sure to visit the Yorktown Battlefield.

The visitor's center had some interesting artifacts. Washington's field tent is on display. There was a Hessian flag from the Ansbach-Bayreuth regiment. Plus, weapons, etc.

The Yorktown Victory Monument was impressive. 98 feet high with inscriptions on all four sides. Congress adopted a resolution in 1781 that a monument should be built to commemorate the victory but it was not until 1881 that it was actually started. It was not officially declared finished until 1885.

There are two battlefield driving tours. One covers the battlefield and the other the allied encampment. Both are worthy of the time to drive. The high points are the restored Redoubt #10 and the Surrender Field. Surrender Field has an observation deck that looks over the field. Around the base of the observation deck are cannons that were captured at Yorktown and were inscribed as such. Unfortunately, they displayed in the open with no protection from the elements.

If ye get out East I highly recommend a visit to Yorktown.



National Society Sons of the American Revolution

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SARmagazine>



Also see the Denton Chapter Facebook page

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



Editor's Note

The Chapter **website** is <https://www.txssar.org/Denton/>. On that site are the back copies of this newsletter, information about the Chapter, and links to the SAR State and National web sites. NOTE: **There is now a Chapter calendar on the website.** Right-most tab: <https://www.texassar.org/Denton/calendar.htm>

All of these communication items, including the Chapter Newsletter, take time to maintain. If you would like to help and/or take over one of these, please let me know.

Bill Surles, wsmerch@gmail.com