November, 2026

Ink & Quill

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, DENTON CHAPTER #23, TXSSAR INC.

SAR SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Denton Chapter

America 250 Next Meeting: **Saturday, November 14, 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
Genealogist - Eric Berkheimer
Sgt at Arms—Todd Wilbur
Color Guard — TBD

Events

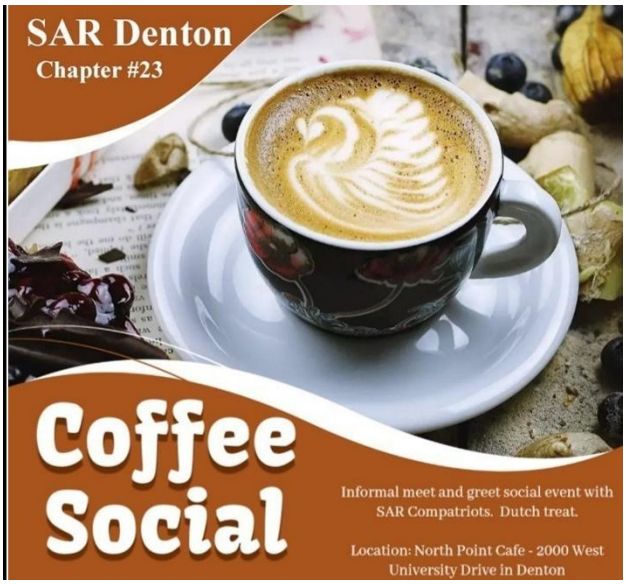
1. Nov. 14, Denton Chapter Meeting
2. December, possible Coffee Social
3. Jan. 9, Denton Chapter Meeting

Inside this issue

Page

President's Message.....2
Texas SAR BOM Meeting.....3-6
New Members Progress.....7
America 250 Marker Project.....8
Denton Chapter Color Guard.....9
250th Anniversary Dates.....10
November 1776 War Events,,,,,.....11-12
Denton Public Library News 13-14
Chapter Social Media Info.....15

October 10, 2026, Coffee Social
Join Us Next Time



October 10, 2026, 9am we had a Coffee Social at North Point Cafe, 2000 W University Dr. Denton, TX 76201
Members, spouses, and other guests attended.



SAR Denton Chapter Coffee Social







Chapter President's Message: Friends and Fellow Members, Compatriots:

As we look back on the defining moments of this past month, I am filled with immense pride in our chapter's **The Denton Chapter #23 of the Sons of the American Revolution** joined the K.M. Van Zandt Chapter #6 of Fort Worth, and the Arlington Chapter #7 co-hosting the 2026 Fall Board of Managers Meeting, held October 23–25 at the Hilton Garden Inn Dallas/Arlington South in Arlington, Texas. The meeting's theme, "The Ten Crucial Days: From Crisis to Victory," provided a fitting backdrop for a weekend of fellowship and shared commitment to preserving our nation's Revolutionary heritage.

Our chapter was responsible for the silent auction benefiting the Patriot Fund. Although the amount raised was modest, our involvement offered value beyond fundraising. The auction gave us an opportunity to connect with fellow SAR members and state officers, strengthen relationships, and share in the fellowship that makes these gatherings meaningful.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who donated items for the silent auction. Special thanks go to Compatriots **Bill Surles, Mark Miller, Eric Burkheimer, and Mike Connelly** for their support and participation.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we welcome a season of gratitude, fellowship, and reflection. For the Revolutionary generation, thanksgiving was more than a celebration of the harvest; it was also an occasion to acknowledge blessings amid hardship and renew hope for the future. In 1777, while the struggle for independence continued, the Continental Congress recommended December 18 as a day of thanksgiving and praise. Its proclamation called for gratitude for the support of American troops and their successes, along with prayers for independence and peace.

As members of Denton Chapter 23, we can carry that spirit of gratitude into our own Thanksgiving observances by remembering the sacrifices of the Patriots whose service we honor. As we gather with family and friends, may we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy, the fellowship of our compatriots, and the opportunity to preserve our nation's founding history for future generations. *We wish all our members and their families a peaceful and meaningful Thanksgiving.*

Thank you for your continued leadership, your patriotism, and your unwavering support of our chapter's mission.
In Patriotic Fellowship,
Ronnie

A Successful Texas SAR Board of Manager's Meeting

Arlington Texas, October 23-25, 2026

The Denton chapter was part of the three-part chapter committee that planned, organized and executed the Fall Board of Managers meeting for Texas SAR held in Arlington, Texas over the weekend of October 23-25.

The Board of Managers meeting is where the Texas Sons of the American Revolution hold the various committee meetings in order to set forth what we, as an organization, have resolved in the current year in addition to setting forth new objectives, goals or programs that carry the organization forward into the next year. This was a new task / incentive for the Denton chapter; something we, the Denton chapter, haven't faced in some time.

How did the Denton chapter get "selected" for this particular project? Well, the State organization made the decision this past year to hold the Board of Managers meeting in North Texas and looked at Arlington, Fort Worth along with us, Denton, to host this meeting.

Being selected is both an honor and a "task" that must be completed**.** **Honored** in that the State had confidence in us to be partners with both Fort Worth and Arlington to pull this off. **The "task" is to commit** to host the meeting, ensuring that meeting space is available and prepare for the arrival of 40 to 50 State and chapter officers, in addition to spouses who would attend this event.

The three-chapter committee met, selected the site (Arlington, Texas), arranged rooms, chose the meals along with the meeting spaces and publicized the dates and location to all Texas SAR members.

One of the fund-raising events for the Texas SAR Organization occurs at the BOM meeting each year and that is the silent auction. A room is dedicated to this event and members from around the State donate items

for other members to bid on. The Denton chapter provided a large percentage of the items in the auction.

What were they, you ask. We provided probably 35 to 40 books on Revolutionary War history, military history, biographies on key founding fathers of the USA along with a variety of other topics.

The Denton chapter really stepped up in this regard with generous donations from chapter members. We had numerous books donated, one or two Revolutionary War uniforms, two original Dallas Cowboys football helmets, along with many other items of interest.

By the time October 2026 rolled around the attendees had signed up and the agenda of meetings was settled. The three-day event began with probably 60 to 70 attendees, including spouses with many past State SAR presidents in attendance along with all the current Texas SAR officers, current and past chapter presidents from around the state of Texas. The meetings all went well in addition to the social get-togethers between members from all around the State of Texas.



Ronnie Rencher and Eric Berkheimer “on duty” at the Board of Managers silent auction room.

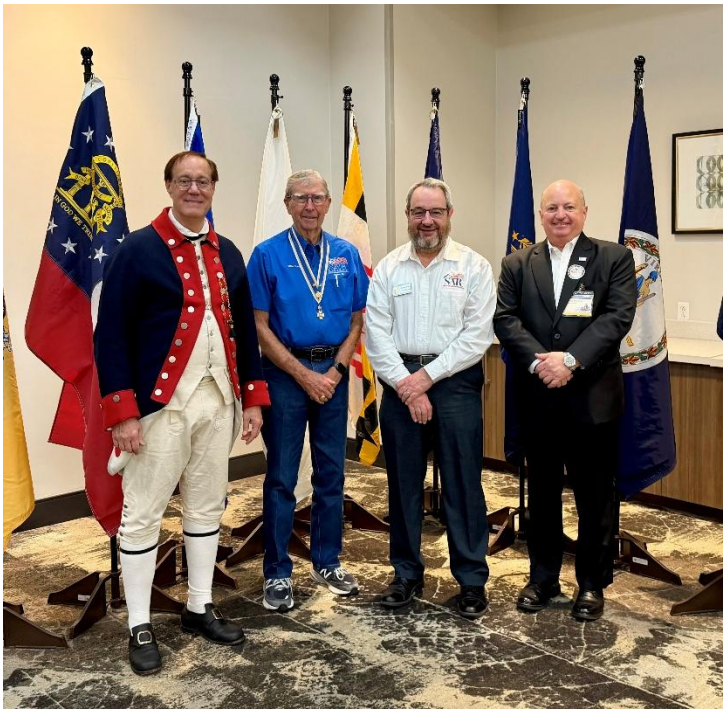
The business meetings all went well with no major issues or topics coming up. We, the Denton chapter, fulfilled our commitment to the event along with the Fort Worth chapter and the Arlington chapter. At some point down the line, the State will view all the costs for the meeting and the revenue received and the surplus funds will be divided between

the State of Texas organization and the three chapter planning committee that put on the conference, which includes us.

The Denton chapter, along with Arlington and Fort Worth were tasked with putting on this event; we jumped in, did what was necessary and all was successful. The share of the "profits" we receive will be used to supplement our youth scholarship awards that we give out each year…….A job well done. …Mike Connelley



Some Denton Chapter Volunteers – left to right: Bill Surles, Ronnie Rencher, Mark Miller



Left to Right: Steven Hole, President, Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter #6 Fort Worth, and from the Denton Chapter: Mike Connelly – past President, Eric Berkhimer – Registrar & Genealogist, and Ronnie Rencher - President

The Silent Auction Room



The BOM Theme:
December 25, 1776 – January 3, 1777



New Member Progress

Applications at National

Lonnie Roy
Dennis Thompson
Dale Spaulding
Thomas Huebscher
Bailey Sanders
David Scott

Applications at Texas State Registrar

JJ George
Wil Poteate
Forrest Broome

Applications at Texas State Registrar for Initial Review

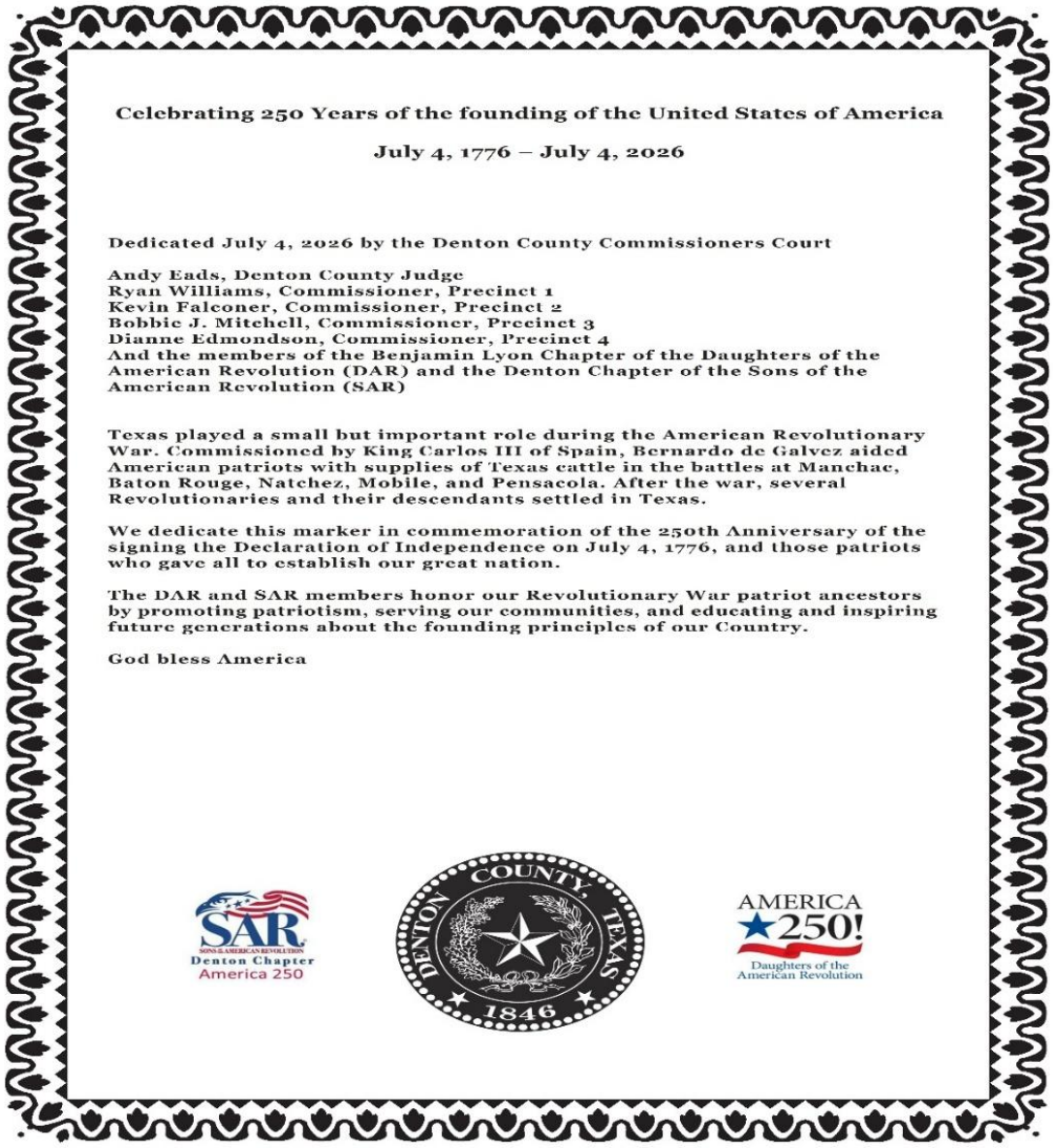
None

Actively Working - Strong

Charles Rand
Larry Voelkel
Brooks McGraw

The AMERICA 250th Marker Project

Project Progress as of October 1, 2026



Celebrating 250 Years of the founding of the United States of America

July 4, 1776 – July 4, 2026

Dedicated July 4, 2026 by the Denton County Commissioners Court

Andy Eads, Denton County Judge
Ryan Williams, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Kevin Falconer, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Bobbie J. Mitchell, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Dianne Edmondson, Commissioner, Precinct 4
And the members of the Benjamin Lyon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Denton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

Texas played a small but important role during the American Revolutionary War. Commissioned by King Carlos III of Spain, Bernardo de Galvez aided American patriots with supplies of Texas cattle in the battles at Manchac, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola. After the war, several Revolutionaries and their descendants settled in Texas.

We dedicate this marker in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and those patriots who gave all to establish our great nation.

The DAR and SAR members honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

God bless America

SAR Sons of the American Revolution Denton Chapter America 250

DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS 1846

AMERICA 250! Daughters of the American Revolution

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

- ***November 16 - Battle of Fort Washington, NY***
- ***November 20 - British capture Fort Lee, NJ***

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.



Battle of Fort Washington, Manhattan, New York

MAP Location 4

After inflicting another defeat on the American army at the Battle of White Plains on October 28, Howe chose to focus his attention on Fort Washington. With General Washington stuck on the opposite side of the Hudson, the last American stronghold in Manhattan was completely alone.

Seeing how precarious the American position was, Howe launched a three-pronged assault on Fort Washington and its outer defensive works. The combined British-Hessian assault force of 8,000 men grossly outnumbered the fort's 3,000 defenders. Nonetheless, the Americans enjoyed initial success, inflicting heavy casualties and repulsing two Hessian charges.

That success did not last. The tide began to turn when 3,000 men under British General Hugh Percy punched through the outer defensive lines to the fort's south. Almost simultaneously, General Edward Mathew and General Charles Lord Cornwallis overwhelmed the fort's eastern defenses, sending the Continentals scrambling backwards. With the outer works breached and hemmed in on all sides by a superior force, Magaw realized the situation was hopeless.

At 3:00 P.M., after a fruitless attempt to gain gentler surrender terms for his men, Magaw surrendered Fort Washington and its 2,800 surviving defenders to the British.

Battle of Fort Lee, New Jersey

MAP location 5

Gen. William Howe ordered Lt. Gen. Charles Cornwallis to capture Fort Lee removing the Continental Army's defenses along the Lower Hudson River. On November 20, 1776, Cornwallis' force crossed the Hudson River and landed north of Fort Lee. Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene heard of the approaching British army. Unable to withstand the attack, Greene ordered the abandonment of Fort Lee.

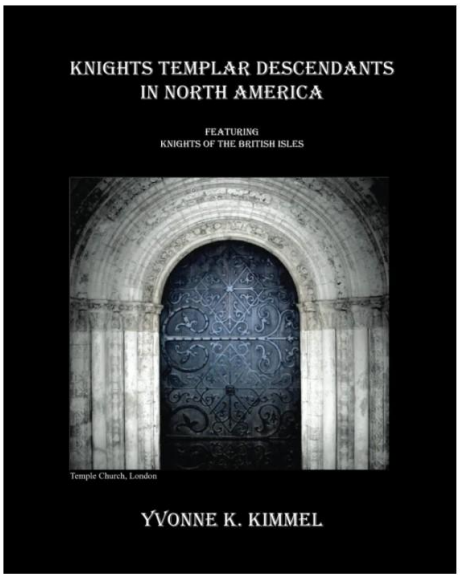
The quick action at Fort Lee, although not truly decisive, marked a new period for the American army. The capture and retreat from Fort Lee started the brutal march through New Jersey. Through extraordinary leadership the army survived and fought decisively one month later at Trenton and Princeton. Fort Washington and Lee mark true low points for the cause but were followed by new signs of hope for the Revolution.

Denton Public Library News

New Genealogy Books at the Denton Public Library

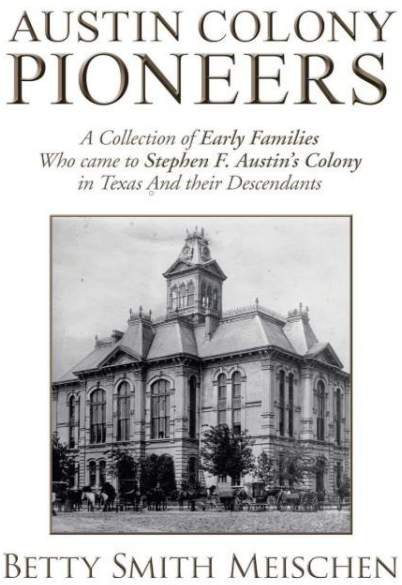
Whatever your research focus, the Genealogy Collection at the Emily Fowler Central Library adds new books every month to support your work. Here are a few recent arrivals:

- ***Revolutionary War Soldiers of Boone County: A History of the Revolutionary War in Boone County, Kentucky, With Biographies of Its Patriots*** **by Anthony W. Frohlich (G 976.9363 FRO)**
- ***Albemarle Parish Vestry Book, 1742-1786 Surry and Sussex Counties, Virginia*** **by Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis (G 975.556 DAV)**
- ***Scottish Baronial Families, 1250-1750*** **by David Dobson (G 929.72 DOB)**
- ***History and Genealogy of the Mayflower Planters and First Comers to Ye Olde Colonie*****, Two Volumes in One by Leon Clark Hills (G 974.402 HIL)**



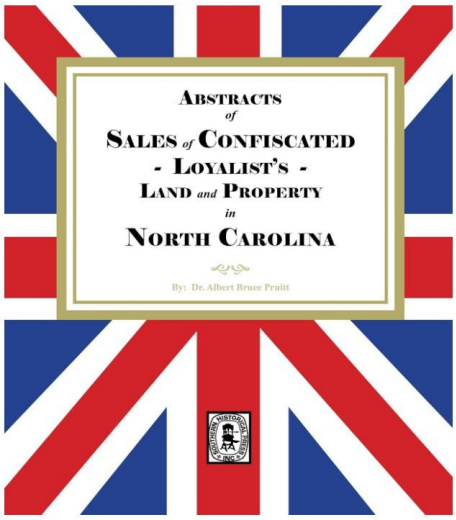
- ***Knights Templar Descendants in North America: Featuring Knights of the British Isles*** **by Yvonne K. Kimmel (G 271.7913 KIM)**

- ***Anabaptists at Strasbourg: A(ugspurger) to Z(immermann) : A Source Book for Napoleonic France*** **by Neil Ann Stuckey Levine (G 289.7443 LEV)**



- ***Austin Colony Pioneers: A Collection of Early Families Who Came to Stephen F. Austin's Colony in Texas and Their Descendants*** **by Betty Smith Meischen (G 976.4 MEI)**

- ***Ukrainian Genealogy: A Beginner's Guide*** **by John D. Pihach (G 947.7 PIH)**



- ***Abstracts of Sales of Confiscated Loyalists Land and Property in North Carolina*** **by Albert Bruce Pruitt (G 975.6 PRU)**

- ***A Researcher's Guide to Virginia's Historical Records*** **by Barbara Vines Little (G 975.5 LIT)**

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