

Minutes for Chapter Meeting  
January 17, 2026  
Major K. M. VanZandt Chapter #6, Texas SAR



9:30 a.m., **President Ron Turner** called the January 17, 2026, meeting to order. There were 22 members in attendance and 1 prospective member.

- **Color Guard Commander Vann Cunningham** led the chapter in the pledges to the American Flag, the Texas Flag, and the SAR Flag, along with the SAR Mission Statement.
- **Chaplain Ralph Smith** provided the opening prayer.
- **President Turner** introduced Robert Morris as a prospective chapter member.

Presentations:

- **President Turner** presented **Past President Mike Connelley** with the Chapter Service Medal for his participation on the 2026 officer nominating committee.
- **President Turner** presented **Color Guard Commander Cunningham and Compatriot Anthony Walker** with the Certificate of Commendation for their officer service to the chapter for 2024 and 2025.
- **President Turner** presented **Compatriot Jeff Andre** with the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bronze Medal Certificate.
- **President Turner** presented **Past President James Alderman** with the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gold Medal Certificate.

2026 Officer installation was conducted by Texas SAR **District 5 Vice President Art Munford**. Officers inducted for the 2026 – 2027 time period were as follows:

- President – Steve Hole
- Vice President – Jeff Sparks
- Secretary – Bruce Morgan
- Treasurer – Greg Riffel
- Chaplain – Ralph Smith
- Registrar – Ron Turner
- Color Guard Commander – Vann Cunningham

The officer induction was concluded with **President Turner** presenting **Incoming President Steve Hole** with the SAR Presidential Ribbon. As his first act as President of the Chapter, **President Hole** then presented **Outgoing President Turner** with the following recognition and awards:

- Past Chapter President Certificate and Pin Set.
- Meritorious Service Award Certificate and Medal Set.

**President Hole** then called for Officer Reports:

- **Vice President Jeff Sparks** gave an update on the Wreaths Across America ceremony on 12/13/25 at Oakwood cemetery and the current chapter tally for 2026.
- **Vice President Sparks** also updated the chapter on the conversation had between himself, **President Hole**, and the present as well as future Regents of the Mary Isham Keith and Six Flags DAR chapters.
- **Chaplain Smith** offered his services as a prayer companion for the Chapter if a member was in need.
- Minutes for November were presented by **Past President Alderman** for the November meeting via email to the Chapter members, dated 11/29/2025:

- **Past President Gerry Gieger** made a motion to accept the minutes as presented.
- **Past President Bobby Gresham** seconded the motion.
- The motion was adopted.
- The Treasurer's Report was presented by **Treasurer Greg Riffel**:
  - **Registrar Turner** made a motion to accept the report as presented.
  - **Past President Alderman** seconded the motion.
  - The Motion was adopted.
- The Registrar's Report was presented by **Registrar Turner**:
  - The Chapter currently has 2 supplemental applications at National.
  - The Chapter currently has 2 new member applications at State.
  - The Chapter currently has 2 supplemental applications at State.
  - The Chapter has 4 applications awaiting signatures.
  - The Chapter has 4 applications in active development.
- The Color Guard report was presented by **Color Guard Commander Cunningham**:
  - An announcement was made regarding a color guard event with the DAR at the Naturalization Ceremony on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
  - An announcement was made regarding the George Washington Birthday Parade in Laredo sponsored by the Laredo SAR.
  - **Past President Alderman** made an announcement regarding the Mt. Gilead Memorial Day Celebration.
- Youth Activity Announcement was made by **Past President Connelley**:
  - The winner of the Chapter Essay Contest and Oration Contest was awarded during the month of January.

**President Hole** then opened the floor for the discussion of any continuing business:

- **Past President Alderman** brought up the difficulty of placing a commemorative 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bench in a city governed cemetery. It was discussed to possibly investigate approaching a private cemetery for the project.
- **Past President Gieger** urged the Chapter to continue with recognition of the Community Service Awards as well as the Flag Certificates.
- **President Hole** brought up the previous discussion regarding the SAR Podium Flag.

**President Hole** then opened the floor for the discussion of any New Business:

- **Compatriot John Anderson** thanked the Chapter for their continuing relationship with the Arlington Chapter of the SAR and the DAR and invited the Chapter members to a Banquet hosted by the Arlington Chapter on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Texas Ranger Country Club.
- **President Hole** announced the February speaker will be the Texas SAR **President Mel Oller**.
- **President Hole** displayed his SAR business cards.

Closing Admonition was rendered by **Past President Gieger**.

Closing Prayer and parting words were given by **Chaplain Smith**.

11:17 a.m. the motion to adjourn was submitted by **Past President Alderman**.

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Bruce Morgan, Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter, Texas SAR