

Minutes for Chapter Meeting

August 15, 2026

Major K. M. VanZandt Chapter #6, Texas SAR



9:30 a.m., August 15, 2026 **President Steve Hole** called the monthly chapter meeting to order. There were 14 members in attendance, 7 prospective members, and 3 guests.

- **Treasurer Greg Riffel** provided the opening prayer.
- **Past President Bobby Gresham** led the chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
- **Compatriot Jacob Wilson** led the chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.
- **Past President James Alderman** led the chapter in both the Pledge to the SAR and the SAR Mission Statement.

Recognition and Awards:

- **President Hole** presented **Vice President Jeff Sparks** with the National 250th Anniversary Gold Award as well as the State 250th Anniversary Silver Award.
- **President Hole** recognized the following prospective members who were in attendance: Andrew Bush, Bob Gurney, Kelly Seis, Bradford Shaw, Rick Wyly, Monte Fite, and Steve Clark.
- **President Hole** recognized Eagle Scout Grant Burnette and his parents Alex and Carly Burnette. Grant was the chapter SAR Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest winner. Grant joined the Boy Scouts in May 2022 and achieved his Eagle Scout ranking in August 2024. His contest winning essay was on his actual patriot ancestor Micajah Brooks and was titled Witness to Victory – Micajah Brooks.

Program:

- **Vice President Sparks** gave a presentation on The Battle of Long Island and the Maryland 400. The presentation detailed The Maryland 400's great courage and sacrifice preventing the capture and defeat of General Washington's fledgling Continental Army.

New Business:

- None noted for the August 15th meeting.

Continuing Business:

- **President Hole** gave an update on the chapter trailer and informed the chapter that at 11:00 a.m. on August 12, 2026 a Board of Managers (BOM) meeting was held to discuss the future plans of the trailer. After a lengthy discussion two Compatriots pledged donations toward the refurbishment of the trailer. Due to the pledge of the donations **Registrar Ron Turner** made a motion for the Chapter to pay for the remaining balance toward the refurb. The motion was seconded by **Past President Gieger**. The motion was approved. At the end of this announcement at the chapter meeting **Past President Alderman** made a motion that **Secretary Bruce Morgan** have full authority to spend the budgeted \$6,000 on the refurbishment of the trailer. The motion was seconded by **Past President Gieger**. The motion was approved.
- **President Hole** gave an update on the Fall State SAR BOM steering committee meeting:
 - The Fall BOM Meeting will be hosted by the Maj. K.M. Van Zandt, Denton, and Arlington SAR chapters.

- The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Dallas / Arlington South October 23 thru October 25th.
- The steering committee met with the hotel's sales director and the food menu has been finalized.
- The Denton Chapter volunteered to plan and conduct a Silent Auction from which all proceeds will be used for the Texas SAR Patriot Fund.
- The Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter has a Replica George Washington Battle Sword for the featured raffle item and tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.
- The Arlington chapter will be in charge of the give away bags for the registered members.

President Hole then called for Officer Reports:

- **Vice President Sparks** informed the chapter that the two remaining SAR Lifesaving awards to be presented to the individuals of the Haltom City Fire Department will be done off site due to scheduling conflicts for the firemen. He reminded the chapter that the deadline to purchase wreaths for the Wreaths Across America campaign is November 27th. Lastly, Mayor Maddie Parker canceled for the September meeting so the presentation will be on Nathan Hale.
- **Chaplain Ralph Smith** was not present but it was noted that he did not provide any updates.
- Minutes for the July meeting was presented by **Secretary Bruce Morgan** via email to the Chapter members. One correction was found and addressed in the posted minute.
 - **Past President Gieger** made a motion to accept the minutes..
 - **Past President Alderman** seconded the motion.
 - The motion was adopted.
- The Treasurer's Report was presented by **Treasurer Greg Riffel**.
- **Registrar Turner** was not present so a report was not available for the month of August.
- The Color Guard report was presented by **President Hole**:
 - **President Hole** announced that today (August 15th) was **Registrar Ron Turner's** birthday. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Ron!**
 - The SAR South Central District Meeting to be held August 21st in Richardson and will be a National Color Guard event if anyone wanted to attend

Announcements:

- **President Hole** made an announcement reminding everyone of the September Chapter meeting on September 19th and the SAR SCD meeting to be held in Richardson on August 21 & 22nd. **President Hole** also announced that the information booth at the Texas State Fair will need to be manned and urged members to check their schedules.
- **Compatriot John Anderson** announced that the State SAR History Book Vol 3 has been completed. The book covers the state chapters histories from the time period of 2006 thru 2025. The book will be available for purchase in the following formats: PDF and Hard Bound. More information will be given later this year or early in 2027.
- **Past President Gieger** noted that the chapter has not given any flag certificated in the past 3-4 months. He urged all chapter members to participate in this program and identify candidates to receive the award.

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

The Benediction was given by **Treasurer Riffel**.

At 11:21 a.m. the motion to adjourn was submitted by **Past President Gieger** and seconded by **Vice President Sparks**.

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