



Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

Chisholm Trail News

Major K.M. Van Zandt Chapter

Fort Worth, Texas
10 February 2018



NEXT MEETING: February 17, 2018

TIME: 9:00 am

LOCATION: Woodhaven Country Club

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Hello Compatriots:

First, let me say Thank You for your confidence in me by electing me as your President for the coming year. It is a pleasure to serve you and I trust that I can do it, because past-president Connelley is a difficult act to follow. He accomplished marvelous things for our Chapter.

Next, this message is a short one being that I have only been in office for less than a month. I can promise you, however, that we will plan to continue a lot of Mike's programs with Veteran Recognition, participation with and support of the DAR, and our own programs. At present, we need members to step up and take the various Chairman duties for those programs. Compatriot Turner has reported that we have no entries for the Elementary School Poster Contest. We have not had any entries for the Knight Essay or Oration contests for this year, either, despite the available Cash Awards.

Of course, you know that Recruiting is one of my pet projects. Registrar Davidson spent many hours at the DAR House on the grounds of Fair Park during the State Fair. Recruiting can only flourish if you as members enlist the members of your family and your friends to make Application. I will have more to say on this subject in months to come.

Hope to see you at the meeting on February 17th.

Gerry

CHAPTER OFFICERS 2018-2019

President

Gerald A. "Gerry" Gieger

Vice-President

Charles O. "Chase" Sanger IV

Secretary

Ronald J. "Ron" Turner

Treasurer

L. Vaughn Oliver

Registrar

David R. Davidson

Chaplain

Roger L. Tate

Sergeant-at-Arms & Color Guard

Commander

Robert G. "Bobby" Gresham

This Month during the Revolutionary War (1776-1780):

In February of 1776, the eight-vessel American navy sails on its first "ocean-going cruise." Although the navy's mission is to protect American shipping and capture and destroy enemy warships, the first voyage is to the Bahamas in search of gunpowder.

At Moores Creek, North Carolina, North Carolina patriots defeat loyalists at the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge. The defeat ends Governor Martin's hopes of regaining control of the colony for the British crown.

In 1777, local patriots engage in skirmishes with Tories at Fort McIntosh, Georgia, and are forced to surrender the fort following a two-day siege.

In 1778, The Treaty of Amity and Commerce establishes commercial relations between the United States and France while additionally providing de facto recognition of the fledgling republic. Neither will conclude a separate peace with the British.

Baron Von Steuben, both a bogus general and baron, of Prussia arrives at Washington's encampment at Valley Forge. He commences training soldiers in close order drill and instills new confidence in the demoralized Continental army.

George Rodgers Clark, leading a force of approximately 150 colonials, covers almost 200 miles of land covered by deep and icy water. After threatening to offer no quarter, Rodgers secures the surrender of the British Fort Sackville at Vincennes (Indiana). This is the beginning of the end of British domination of America's western frontier.

In 1779, A local militia force led by Colonel Andrew Pickens defeats a larger force of Loyalists commanded by Colonel Boyd at the Battle of Kettle Creek, Georgia. The Loyalists lose 70 killed and another 75 wounded or captured, compared to 9 killed and 23 wounded for the patriots. Boyd, who is wounded during the engagement, dies shortly afterward. This victory provides a significant boost for patriot morale and prevents the southern Loyalists from rallying.

In 1780, Russia's Catherine the Great establishes the League of Armed Neutrality to halt British interdiction of neutral merchant vessels on the high seas. Later that summer, Denmark and Sweden join, followed by the Dutch. Eventually, Prussia, Austria, and Portugal will also become members.

Law Enforcement Accommodation Medal Award

Chapter President Mike Connelly, stands with our 2018 Law Enforcement Accommodation Medal Recipient, Officer Andrew Johns of the Fort Worth Police Department.



2018-2019 Chapter Officers

A new slate of officers was sworn in at the January chapter meeting. They are (from r to l):

President Gerry Gieger

Vice-President Chase Sanger IV

Secretary Ron Turner

Registrar David Davidson

Chaplain Roger Tate

Sergeant-at-Arms Bobby Gresham

Absent was Treasurer Vaughn Oliver.



SAR VetCorps



Texas SAR Secretary Drake Peddie presented Veteran Corps certificates to Bill Hawkins, James Alderman, Ron Turner, and Roger Tate.

If you are a veteran and desire becoming a member of the SAR Veteran Corps, please consider completing the Survey Form and submitting it to NSSAR Veterans Commission Chairman. You will need to submit a copy of your DD214. The survey form and complete instructions are located at:

<https://members.sar.org/media/uploads/pages/266/umjpK0NqjXW.pdf>.

We welcome content submissions for the newsletter. Please send items to the editor, Ron Turner at:

rjturner0815@gmail.com

Chapter Awards



President Connelley awarded a Meritorious Service Medal to Compatriot Paul Valentine for his long years at maintaining the chapter website, photography for the chapter, and for veteran assistance with Past-President Don Goodman.



President Connelley awarded the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal to Compatriot James Alderman for his many years of service to the chapter, especially during Past-President Goodman's term as chapter president.

New Member

At our January meeting, President Mike Connelley and Registrar-elect David Davidson inducted new member Erich Wisdom.



Reporting Your SAR Activities

In late December and early January each year, the chapter secretary is busy completing reports for submission to the Texas Society SAR. These reports capture practically every activity for the chapter throughout the calendar year. Over the next few months, you will read about these reports and what activities you should be reporting to the chapter secretary monthly.

The first report is the USS Stark Memorial Award Report. This award was “established to memorialize those brave men and women who continue to stand at the forefront to preserve the freedoms our patriotic ancestors fought so long and hard to achieve. Its purpose is to recognize outstanding chapters and the most outstanding state society within the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for their participation with the Veteran community and supporting activities of the NSSAR Veteran’s Committee.”

The list of activities the chapter may earn points for includes:

1. Chapter member appointed to VA Hospital Council or VAVS Committee.
2. Each hour served in VA Hospital Volunteer Service.
3. Each SAR Member visiting a Veteran in a Hospital, Nursing Home, or the Veteran’s home (# of visits or # of hours NOT recorded in #2).
4. Each gift (personal care item) donated to Veteran in a VA Hospital or Nursing Home. (can include playing cards, combs, puzzles, etc.)
5. Each dollar donated to VAVS projects and coupon books (maximum of \$1500).
6. Each Publication donated to a VA Library or Reading Room (magazines, paperback books, etc.).
7. Each Veteran outing or party that includes Veteran patient (must include # of veterans at event).
8. Special Observance (a Chapter sponsored event – Non-SAR meeting).
9. Participation in the SAR Wounded Warriors Program (presenting SAR Certificate and Challenge Coin).
10. Participation in the Operation Ancestor Search Program (group presentation or assisting Veteran to build their own family tree).
11. Special Observance (attending in cooperation with other veteran’s organizations – Non-SAR meetings, extra points for wearing colonial attire).
12. Marking a Revolutionary Patriot grave and other funeral/grave related.
 - a. Initial Revolutionary War Patriot’s Grave Dedication items (only Chapter receives this credit).
 - b. Attendance at a Revolutionary War Veteran’s Grave Marking
 - c. Flags and Wreaths placement on a Veteran’s Grave (at Wreaths Across America ceremonies).
 - d. Patriot Grave Registry information donation to the NSSAR (location and documentation of new Patriot Grave information donated to the National Patriot Graves Registry Committee).
 - e. Participation in a Veteran’s funeral (a visit to funeral home counts if you cannot attend the funeral service). Report the following: Reading Dedication, or Bugler, Pallbearer or Honorary Pallbearer, Attendance, Points per mile (maximum 50 miles per funeral). Report if funeral is for an Active Duty Veteran Killed in Action.
13. Donating new or used Men’s and/or Women’s Clothing (use the IRS suggestions on determining the fair market value of used clothing; clothing must be given to either a VA facility or other organization whose primary clients are veterans.
14. All new or used but working items, such as TV’s, Computers, etc.

The Chapter Secretary encourages you to submit any of the above to him at the end of each month. It’s much easier to compile the stats monthly rather than waiting until the end of the year. By the end of the year, you may not remember everything that needs reporting.

Next month...the annual report.

Distinguished and Special Guests from the DAR



After our January chapter meeting, DAR representatives posed with new President Gerry Gieger and out-going President Mike Connelley. They are (l to r):

Gwen Boyd	Regent	Mary Isham Keith Chapter
Linda Johnson	Past-Regent	Mary Isham Keith Chapter
Donna Moore		Nathaniel Mills Chapter
Sharon Katz	Regent	Nathaniel Mills Chapter
Dede Samuelson	Past-Regent	Fort Worth Chapter
Alice Stone	2nd Vice-Regent	Nathaniel Mills Chapter
Judy Ramos	1st Vice-Regent	Nathaniel Mills Chapter

Bitcoin like Continental Currency?

[CNBC] Former US Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan in a recent interview compared Bitcoin with Continental currency, arguing that Bitcoin will suffer the same fate as it is not supported by a commodity like gold, either.

Bitcoin is cryptocurrency and has no central bank or administrator, instead using peer-to-peer transactions without an intermediary. Continental currency, issued first in 1775 by the Continental Congress was practically worthless by 1782.

General Charles Lee

Charles Lee was a former member of the British Army who moved to the colonies and transferred to the Continental Army in 1775. It was a huge promotion for him, and he only had one senior officer in his new military—George Washington.

Just how loyal he was to his new cause has long been up for debate, though, and it's not clear exactly what sort of damage he did to the rebel cause.

During the last years of the war, Lee was respected for his capabilities as a military leader, his decisions on the battlefield, and his devotion to the cause. Originally, no one questioned his former British allegiance—he wasn't the only formerly British soldier on the field by any means.



In December 1776, he was captured by the British. He spent the next two years a British prisoner. The events of this time are unknown, but there are plenty of rumors. According to the British General Howe, Lee spilled the beans on Washington's strategies and told his adversaries just where to find all of the Americans' weak spots. Documents substantiating his treason were kept quiet for a long time; they came into the public eye almost 70 years after the fact.

Whether or not Lee was actually betraying his commander is unclear. Some theorize that he was feeding false information to the British. Events after his rescue in April 1778 make the object of his loyalty even less clear.

With the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse descending into complete chaos, Washington and his army stepped into the battle just as Lee was leaving it. Harsh words were exchanged, leading to Lee's suspension from his post. It's thought talking back to George Washington was the best course of action. He was permanently removed from the military and died two years later, leaving behind unanswerable questions about whether he was a traitor or a hero.

Get Well Soon!

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to our fellow Compatriot Jerry Cope who has been in the hospital battling pneumonia. Jerry also suffers from a weakened condition due to his fight to recover from a cancer diagnosis. Jerry is a member of the Color Guard and the Arlington Chapter. We pray for God's divine mercy and healing grace for Jerry. Get well soon, Jerry!



January Minutes

Please review the minutes for our January chapter meeting prior to attending the next meeting in February.
<http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/docs/minutes/minutes201801.pdf>.

Sea Cadet Annual Awards Banquet



Compatriots John Anderson and Ron Turner attended the Annual Awards Banquet for the Lone Star Squadron and Training Ship Lone Star at the Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base on Saturday evening, February 3rd. They presented PO2 Dylan Nguyen with the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Certificate and Medal. PO2 Nguyen's father joined the group for pictures after the banquet.

Top 10 Revolutionary War Movies

Hugh T. Harrington publishes in the *Journal of the American Revolution* his list for the top 10 American Revolution films. They are:

1. **John Adams** (2008) – Paul Giamatti
2. **April Morning** (1988) – Tommy Lee Jones, Chad Lowe
3. **Mary Silliman's War** (1994)
4. **Drums Along the Mohawk** (1939) – Henry Fonda, Claudette Colbert, Director John Ford
5. **Johnny Tremain** (1957)
6. **The Crossing** (2003) – Jeff Daniels
7. **All For Liberty** (2009) – Clarence Felder, Chris Weatherhead
8. **The Devil's Disciple** (1959) – Kirk Douglas, Burt Lancaster, Laurence Olivier
9. **The Scarlet Coat** (1955) – Cornel Wilde
10. **America** (1924) – Lionel Barrymore, Director D. W. Griffith (Silent Movie)

You can read more at <https://allthingsliberty.com/2013/01/top-10-revolutionary-war-movies/>.

Texas SAR Annual Convention
5 April 2018 – 8 April 2018
Hyatt Regency North Dallas
701 East Campbell Road
Richardson, Texas 75081

The 123rd Annual Convention Registration 2018

Registration is now open for the upcoming state convention. Online registration is available at http://www.txssar.org/reg_apr18.htm or you can register using a printed version at http://www.txssar.org/pdf/Reg_Apr18.pdf.

You can register and pay fees for the following:

Compatriot Registration Fee, Ladies Friday Tour Package, Friday Lunch Buffet, Saturday Youth Awards Luncheon, Saturday Evening Banquet, and Raffle Tickets for the Reproduction 1777 Charlesville Musket.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel before March 23, 2018. Rooms are limited. Make your [reservation online](#) or call the Hyatt at 972-619-1234. If calling, you must identify yourself as being with the “SAR” or “Sons of the American Revolution” and request the special rate to obtain the discounted rate. Parking is FREE.

We hope that our chapter will have a large representation at this year’s convention!

The Color Guard is always recruiting

Several times a year the Chapter is asked to present the colors or provide a color guard or honor guard for various civic functions. We are always looking for new members. Please contact the chapter color guard commander, Compatriot Bobby Gresham, at email address: gresham817@att.net.

Membership Status

Our chapter membership levels as of February 4th are:

Active / Current Member =	96
NSSAR Life =	4
TXSSAR Perpetual =	13
Active / New Member =	1
Dual w/Other Primary State =	1
Emeritus =	1
Inactive by Member Request =	2
Junior SAR Member =	4
Not Paid (Current Year) =	18
Not Paid (Dual State) =	2
Reinstated / Transferred In =	1
Transferred In =	1
Memorial =	0
Deceased =	0

The membership currently is 100.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!!!

Visit our chapter website at <http://www.txssar.org/KMVanZandt/index.htm>.