

The Plano Compatriot Gazette

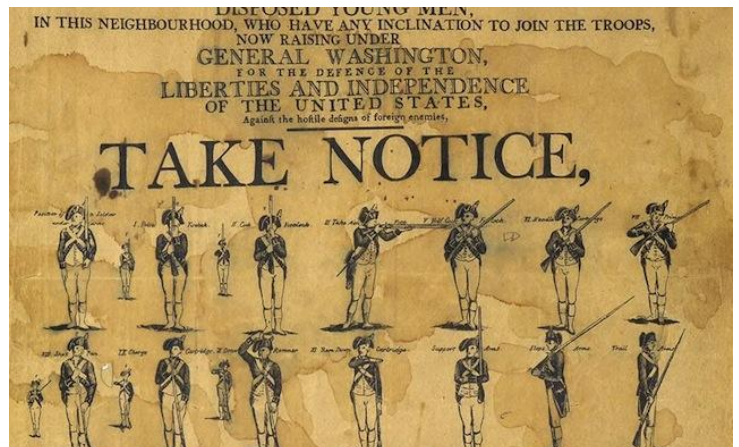
The Official Newsletter of Plano Chapter #37
Texas Sons of the American Revolution

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September 2026

Issue #9



Mission Statement

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War Patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and by educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country





President's Message

By Bob Johns, President



Report: The SAR South Central District Conference

Compatriots,

Our chapter's representatives along with representatives from numerous other chapters from 5 states participated in the recent South Central District Conference conducted August 20-23 in Richardson at the Hilton Hotel Conference Center. I'd like to relate the highlights of this very useful conference.

First, the South Central District is comprised of the SAR state societies of Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Texas. Obviously, a great opportunity to meet and interact with members and leaders of other chapters, 4 other state societies as well as the NSSAR National officers in attendance and our new Texas state society president Dustin Whittenburg. The Dallas chapter hosted the meeting and these officers were present:

Vice President General: Drake M. Peddie, Texas Society 2026-2027

Vice President General Nominee: TBD, Arkansas Society (2027-2028)

Immediate Past Vice President General: Philip H. Hunt, Oklahoma Society

SCD Secretary/Treasurer: Don Hayes, Texas Society

Color Guard Commander: Blair Rudy, Texas Society

Chancellor/Parliamentarian: Brent Harshman, Texas Society

Historian: Paul Ridenour, Texas Society

Chaplain: Michael Goode, Texas Society

Registration: Tom Manning, Texas Society

Report: The SAR South Central District Conference (Cont'd)

In addition, these national SAR Officers were present:

Treasurer General Scott Collins

Librarian General James Osbourn

Chancellor General Tracy Pounders

Secretary General Brooks Lyles

Registrar General Keith Weissinger

A highlight event drew a big audience at the start of the conference when the 25 member Color Guard including 6 members from Plano, raised the America 250 flag on the front lawn of the hotel at flag staffs beside the American flag and the Hilton flag.

Numerous committee meetings discussed upcoming events and proposed NSSAR changes, future conventions in New Orleans, Bentonville Arkansas, and New Orleans.

I hope to encourage attendance at these conferences by our chapter members for the value of meeting other members and learning more about SAR operations.



Chapter and State News Items and Upcoming Events

[Color Guard Upcoming Events - Major Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander](#)

Frisco Lakes Remembering 9/11 - 25 Years Later

11 September - 10:00 am; 9:15 am muster time

Place: Frisco Lakes Main Amenity Center, Ballrooms D&E (separate building to left of main building)

7277 Frisco Lakes Dr, Frisco TX 75036

Present and Post Colors at start of ceremony. Space is limited - if staying for entire event, register at [Link](#) by Sept 2

This is a **Chapter** Event.

Faith Lutheran School Constitution Day

17 September - 10:00 am; 9:30 am muster time

Place: Faith Lutheran School

1701 E Park Blvd, Plano TX 75074

Present and Post Colors

This is a **State** Event.

Mary Shirley McGuire Chapter DAR Constitution Day Bell Ringing

17 September - 3:00 pm

Place: Plano Veterans Park

2101 Bay Hill Dr, Plano TX 75023

Attend in Colonial Attire to support the Mary Shirley McGuire Chapter DAR as they ring bells as part of a Nationwide Kickoff to celebrate Constitution Week.

This is a **State** Event.

Mary Shirley McGuire Chapter DAR Meeting

24 September - 7:00 pm meeting, 6:30 pm muster time

Location TBD

Present and post colors

This is a **Chapter** Event.

Plano International Festival & Naturalization Ceremony

17 October - 11:00 am; 10:30 am muster time

Place: Haggard Park

901 E 15th St, Plano TX 75074

Carry colors alongside Plano Police Dept in the opening parade and ceremony. There will also be a Naturalization Ceremony.

Muster at Gazebo for rehearsal at 10:30 AM.

This is a **State** Event.

NHRA Fall 2026 Nationals - Ennis, TX

18 October - All Day event; Opening ceremony at 10:45 am; Muster at 10:00 am

Place: Texas Motorplex

7500 W Hwy 287

Ennis TX 75119

Contact: [Larry Kollie](#) or 972-903-9037

Notes: The Ellis County CG chapter, #70 will be participating in the ESPN televised opening ceremony of the fall 2026 NHRA Nationals. All TX state CG are invited to participate. Texas Motorplex will supply tickets to the facilities for SAR color guard participants as well as reserved parking passes. ***Please confirm your participation to Larry Kollie by August 31, 2026.*** Additional information regarding parking and admittance will be provided as it becomes available. If you are considering attending and planning an overnight stay in Ennis or Waxahachie, book your room now as they will fill up fast if not already. The event actually runs from Thursday -Sunday.

This is a **Chapter** Event.

SAR Youth Protection Training

Compatriots,

As we approach the time of contests in our SAR Society, ***please be reminded that all who participate in ANY SAR Sponsored event involving children are required to take the SAR Youth Protection Training -***

<https://www.bredenfoerder.com/youth-protection-training.html>

Please take the training provided at the link above, and print and retain the completion certificate for your records.

If you have taken this training even within the last two years, please review the video, as new information has been added.

Please reach out to any State or Chapter Officers if you have any questions.

In the Spirit of '76,

Mel Oller

Texas SAR Past President

MEMBER APPROVED FLAG PRESENTATIONS

The Summer Issue of SAR Magazine contains NSSAR Goals to be fully implemented by the National Organization, State Societies and Local Chapters. Among those is increasing the issuance of SAR Flag Recognition Certificates.

To refresh your knowledge of Flag Certificates, ***“The SAR Flag Certificate is presented to individuals, companies, and government agencies that fly the United States flag regularly and properly for patriotic purposes.”***

Previously, the Chapter President was required to sign a Flag Certificate prior to issuance. To make Flag Certificates easier to award and to involve the Chapter Membership in general, ***the President General has now delegated authority to award Flag Certificates DIRECTLY to every Chapter Member!***

That means any of us who observes neighbors, businesses, etc who fly the flag regularly can award that person or business a Flag Certificate. Simply send [VP of Medals and Awards Roger Hardin](#) the entity's name to place on the Certificate, sign it when you receive it from him and award it to the deserving party at your convenience.

How about each of us make an effort to award at least one certificate a year starting this year!

Bob Johns, President



SAR Name Badges Now Available Locally

We have developed a local source for member name badges. These badges are similar to those available from National for \$35 and attach to clothing with magnets. **They are \$18.25 if picked up at the store and \$25.75 if shipped within Texas.**

They may be ordered from AAI Trophies in Plano.

AAI Trophies and Awards
1710 K Ave
Plano TX 75074
972-422-9420



The Plano Chapter #37 ***Community Service Lapel Pin***

The Plano SAR Chapter Community Service Pin is a 1" lapel pin with artwork based on our 2" Commemorative Coin.

The Summer 2025 issue of SAR Magazine contains NSSAR's "2030 Operational Plan" which contains many goals, including some directed at local Chapters. We will be implementing those goals, one of which is to promote and improve community service by our Chapter Members.

Accordingly, we have created our new Community Service lapel pin. "Serving our Communities and Promoting Patriotism" being front and center in our SAR Mission Statement.

Any Chapter Member can earn the pin by participating in at least 3 events which focus on serving our communities and promoting patriotism. Events that are not sponsored by our or any other SAR Chapter, but by are sponsored by other community organizations, are also eligible..

Let's get involved—more of us—especially at the time of our country's 250th Anniversary!



The Plano Chapter #37 ***Christmas Dinner!***

This December we are again having a chapter dinner at Princi Italian Restaurant like we did last year. Dinner will be on **Tuesday, 1 December at 6:00**. There will be no formal chapter business meeting, no flags etc.

We are in a private area of the **Princi Italia Restaurant** located on the NE corner of the DNT at Parker Rd. The address is **3300 Dallas Parkway, Plano 75093**.

Dinner Includes:

- Appetizers for each table
- Caesar Salad

Entrée choice of:

- Pasta Bolognese with sides
- Shrimp Alfredo with sides
- Chicken Piccata with sides
- Water and Tea



Adult beverages, coffee and dessert, not included. If desired, these will be billed separately.

RESERVATIONS - Make your reservations by sending a check to Treasurer Ronald Carey for *\$40 per person*, including tip. The cost is **\$40 per person** check payable to **"Plano SAR Chapter 37"**. Mail your check to:

Ronald Carey
5504 Overland Drive
The Colony TX 75056

State Fair Volunteers Needed!

The State Fair opens this year on September 25th and goes until October 18th. We are looking for volunteers to help run the SAR recruiting table at the Jane Douglas DAR table on the fairgrounds.

Note that SAR members are eligible to sign up for either the **SAR Morning Shift** (10am to 2pm – Monday through Saturday or 11am to 2pm on Sunday) or the **SAR Afternoon Shift** (2pm to 5:30pm every day). Do not sign up for any of the other activities listed as these are the DAR positions. You can view the available shifts and sign up on the Signup Genius site at the link button below.

There is an orientation session to be held at the DAR house at 12 noon on Saturday, August 29. Parking passes or DART vouchers will be passed out at that time.

Remember, your shift enables you free parking and access all day to the State Fair!

[**Sign Up Now!**](#)



Compatriot Shelby Williams Presents Constitution 101!

The poster is for an event titled "Constitution 101!". At the top left, it says "SHELBY WILLIAMS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER". At the top right, it says "1776 ♦ 2026 AMERICA'S 250TH YEAR". The main title "CONSTITUTION 101" is in large white and gold letters. Below it is the tagline "What they don't teach in school". The background shows a building and an American flag. Below the title, there is a section with a portrait of Shelby Williams and the text "BY SHELBY WILLIAMS What the Constitution says, what it means, the context in which it was written, and what it means to us today." To the right, there is a section for a "SPECIAL GUEST" featuring a portrait of Benjamin Franklin and the text "Benjamin Franklin Darren York of Ben Franklin Live Non-partisan · All are welcome". At the bottom left, it says "Thursday, September 17th, 2026 6-8 PM Cinemark Legacy 7201 N Central Expy, Suite #100, Plano, TX 75025". A red button says "SEATING LIMITED — RSVP". At the bottom right, it says "First-come, first-served". At the very bottom, in small text, it says "POL. ADV. PAID FOR BY SHELBY WILLIAMS CAMPAIGN".

★ SHELBY ★
WILLIAMS
— FOR —
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

1776 ♦ 2026
AMERICA'S 250TH YEAR

10TH ANNUAL

CONSTITUTION

101

"What they don't teach in school"

De We People

BY

SHELBY WILLIAMS

What the Constitution says, what it means, the context in which it was written, and what it means to us today.

Thursday, September 17th, 2026
6-8 PM

Cinemark Legacy
7201 N Central Expy, Suite #100, Plano, TX 75025

SEATING LIMITED — RSVP

First-come, first-served

SPECIAL GUEST

Benjamin Franklin
Darren York of Ben Franklin Live
Non-partisan · All are welcome

POL. ADV. PAID FOR BY SHELBY WILLIAMS CAMPAIGN



Thursday, September 17, 2026 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Cinemark Legacy, 7201 N Central Expy, Suite #100, Plano, TX 75025

General Admission

Free general admission. Seating limited — first-come, first-served.

RSVP Here

Going

Contribution Opportunities

Bonham VA Needs List

Dear Compatriots,

The Plano Chapter of SAR continues to support our veterans at the Bonham Veterans Center. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated by our veterans. Attached is a list of current needs. Please inform [BJ Bjorklund](#), chapter VP for Veteran Activities, if you feel called to help with items on this list. Thank you!

Bonham VA Needs Listing

We appreciate your interest in wanting to serve Veterans and below is an updated needs listing for Summer 2025. All items must be new and in original packaging.

Clothing & Comfort Items:

- Body Wash (no bar soap or hotel/motel toiletries)
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Electric Razors (for Veterans on blood thinners)
- Razors (disposable double to triple blade)
- Shaving Cream
- Nail Clippers
- Brushes and Combs
- Chapstick

Refreshments: Individually wrapped snack items to include ingredients are welcome, but no homemade food items. Items such as the following:

- Bottled water
- Coffee and Coffee supplies (8 oz cups, sugar/Splenda packets)
- Juices (small boxed)
- Individually wrapped snacks (no homemade)
- Danishes, donuts
- Chips
- Cookies (Variety Pack, Individual Bags)
- Candy

Miscellaneous:

- Plastic Models (Cars, Airplanes, Ships, Etc.)
- Leather crafts
- Dominoes (Big)
- Journals, notebooks
- Adult coloring books, with colors or colored pencils
- Paint by stickers
- Markers
- Postage Stamps
- Pens, stationary

Seeking Sponsorship for the following items/activities:

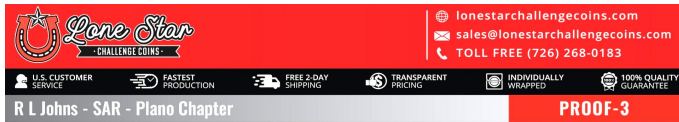
- Monthly Birthday Socials
- Bingo & Prizes
- Cooking Group – monthly or quarterly
- Bowling for Domiciliary Residents
- Bonham State Park Pass
- Sporting & Music Events - Baseball Games [Rangers/Roughriders] and movie tickets for Domiciliary residents.

Monetary and In-Kind Donations by mail, please send to:

**Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center
Center for Development and Civic Engagement (135)
Atten: Brenda Magness, CDCE Specialist
1201 E.9th Street
Bonham, Texas 75418**

- If you would like to make a monetary donation please make check or money order payable to *Bonham VA Medical Center*.
- You can also donate to the Bonham VA Medical Center using E-Donate online: Donating is just a click away with an online donation option that provides community members the account of their choice. E-Donate provides a quick, safe way for you to pledge your support to Veterans online. E-Donate also allows you to make a donation in memory of a loved one. Select *VA North Texas Health Care System* and choose a designated medical center and program, along with amount that you'd like to donate. Every penny of your donation goes to help Veterans.
- All donations must be coordinated with Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) for acceptance and delivery drop off. Should you have questions regarding donations please call **903-583-6282** or email brenda.magness@va.gov. Items may be mailed to the mailing address listed above.

The Plano SAR Chapter #37 ***40th Anniversary Commemorative Coin***



SIDE A

SIDE B



*PLEASE REVIEW ALL DETAILS OF THE PROOF TO ENSURE ACCURACY OF SPELLING, GRAPHICS AND PRODUCT SPECS BEFORE APPROVING AS CHANGES CANNOT BE MADE ONCE PRODUCTION BEGINS

**A Special Item to Mark the
40th Anniversary of the
Plano Chapter of the SAR**

The Plano Chapter #37 of the SAR observed its 40th Anniversary in 2025. To celebrate the event, the Chapter Board commissioned a Commemorative Celebration coin intended to both recognize our anniversary and to enhance our budget funds as a fundraiser.

The coin is a full color 2" antique brass coin. The front shows a rendering of the famous Minute Man sculpture by Daniel Chester French, presently standing in Concord in recognition of the Battle of Lexington-Concord. The reverse celebrates our chapter and gives our founding date.

This impressive coin is available to all chapter members for a \$20 donation to the chapter. Donations will enable our chapter to fund even more of the activities and awards we engage in to support veterans, youth awards, public service awards and more.

Please consider making your donation this calendar year. Personally, I have purchased five of the coins to use for recruiting awareness and for recognition.

Make your donation check payable to **Plano SAR Chapter #37** and send it to **Treasurer Ronald Carey at 5504 Overland Drive, The Colony TX 75056**. You will receive one of the coins in return.

Let's make this a successful recognition program and fundraising opportunity.

Upcoming America 250 Patriotic and Travel Events

[CSPAN America 250 Lectures](#)

Compatriots,

CSPAN has some America 250 lectures available for streaming from their website. They are usually about an hour long and are either university faculty giving a lecture in their classroom or notable historians giving a presentation at various institutions (e.g., the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Museum of the American Revolution).

As the year progresses, CSPAN will have more available.

Here are links to a some of them:

[Creation of the Continental Army in 1775 | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[British Army During Revolutionary Era | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Boston's Freedom Trail | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Walking Tour of Revolutionary Philadelphia | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Benedict Arnold | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[George Washington's Character | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Colonial School for Black Children | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Paul Revere's 1775 "Midnight Ride" | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[\[The Revolutionary - Samuel Adams\] | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[Religion in Colonial America | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[British Recruitment of Slaves During American Revolution | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

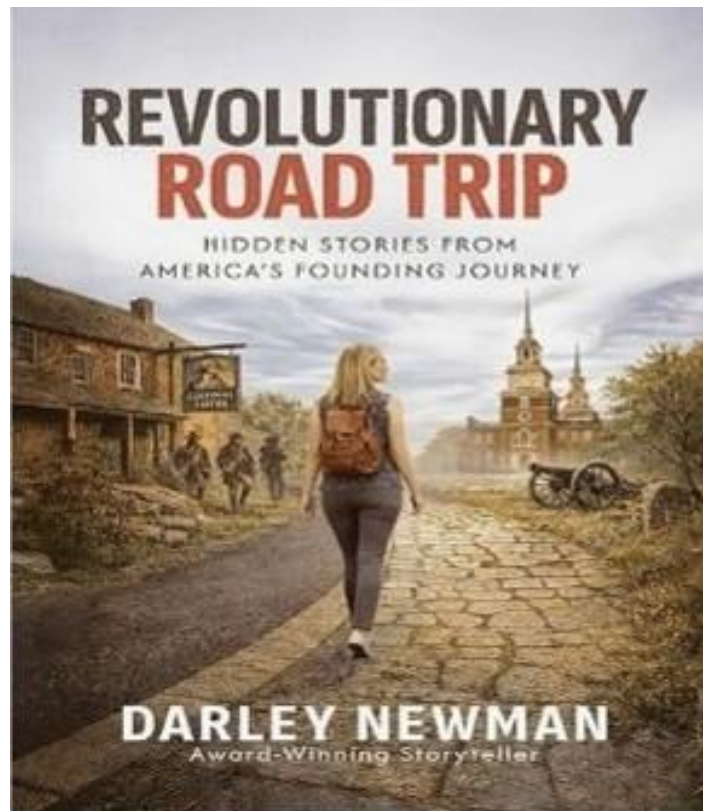
[Washington's Lieutenants in Revolutionary War | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

[1783 Treaty of Paris | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)

Enjoy!

Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander

Revolutionary Road Trips



The National Parks Foundation is publicizing a new book written about Road Trips that have a connection to the America 250 Celebration. The book explores Revolutionary War sites across the 13 colonies, sharing stories from guides and historians, while mixing historical insights with travel advice.

Here's an example of what's inside:

- Untold stories from historians, guides, and community members whose boots are on the ground at historic locations across all 13 original colonies.
- Mini trip itineraries and recommendations for visiting historic sites, personal reflections on why this history matters now more than ever.
- Lighthearted adventures: like tasting Martha Washington's recipe for Cherry Bounce, alongside deeply moving moments, like an emotional trek with a military historian at Camden Battlefield.
- Two dedicated chapters on South Carolina's pivotal and often overlooked role in the American Revolution

Chapter members may be interested in making some of the road trips or just reading interesting information about them. Author Darley Newman is an American producer, television host, writer, and entrepreneur.

Revolutionary Road Trips

**Municipal Archives & Records Center
719 S. Santa Rosa Ave
San Antonio, Texas 78204
1 January 2026 - 31 December 2026**

Exhibition: Rancheras: Spanish Texas Women and Their Contributions to American Independence

City of San Antonio



Rancheras: Spanish Texas Women and Their Contributions to American Independence uncovers the overlooked role of women ranch owners in eighteenth-century Texas and their influence during the American Revolution. Through original wills, petitions, and census records, the exhibition shows how women exercised legal and economic authority under Spanish colonial law while managing cattle networks that supported frontier economies and wartime efforts. By linking Texas, Spain, and the Revolution, Rancheras reframes familiar narratives and highlights how local women and regional history shaped global events and the struggle for independence.

Learn More Here!

What We Did In August!

At the 4 August Chapter Meeting!

Our 4 August meeting of the Plano Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, was one to remember! We enjoyed an outstanding and entertaining presentation on the Pirates of the American Revolution by Kimberly Kemball-Cook, who brought the fascinating Anne Bonny to life. Did you know that women also sailed—and made their mark—during the age of piracy?

Kimberly has been a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 2019. She currently serves as Chapter Regent of the Susannah Biggers Bibb Chapter, NSDAR, in Plano, and is also a member of the Texas State Speaker Staff. Her portrayal of Anne Bonny was engaging, informative, and thoroughly enjoyable. We look forward to seeing Kimberly bring more figures from history to life in future presentations.

Thank you, Kimberly, for sharing your time, talent, and enthusiasm with our chapter!



At the 4 August Chapter Meeting!

At our August 4 monthly meeting, the Plano Chapter, Texas Society SAR proudly presented the **Patriot Grave Marking Medal** to Compatriot **Dave Fautheree**—Plano Chapter Color Guard Commander, Northern Region Color Guard Adjutant, and District 6 Vice President.

This national recognition honors Dave's exceptional dedication to locating, documenting, and commemorating the final resting places of Revolutionary War Patriots.

To earn the medal, a Compatriot must serve in a significant role planning and conducting Patriot grave-marking ceremonies; participate in at least 15 such events since 1 March, 2011; and submit detailed grave-site documentation—including photographs, addresses, GPS coordinates, and related records—to the appropriate state and NSSAR Patriot Graves committees.

Most recently, Dave participated in four Patriot Grave Marking Ceremonies during the 136th SAR National Congress in Greensboro, North Carolina, held 10 - 16 July, 2026. Those ceremonies honored five Patriots at each location.

Thank you, Dave, for your leadership and service in preserving the memory and legacy of America's Revolutionary War Patriots.

Photo 1: Plano SAR President Bob Johns presents the Patriot Grave Marking Medal to Compatriot Fautheree.

Photo 2: Texas State Color Guard Commander Bill Sekel, Compatriot Dave Fautheree, and Stan Pennington of the Patrick Henry Chapter in Austin stand at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park in North Carolina, where Patriot markers were placed.



The America 250! Colonial Experience *Chateau McKinney Senior Living Center* *8 August 2026*

Michael Becker of the Plano Chapter SAR (left) and Brent Murray of the Arlington Chapter SAR (right) joined members of the John Abston Chapter NSDAR and McKinney Chapter SAR today to bring history to life at the **America 250! Colonial Experience** at Chateau McKinney Senior Living Center.

Residents and their families stepped into the Revolutionary era by signing a replica of the Declaration of Independence, sampling cookies said to have been favorites of Martha Washington and Thomas Jefferson, viewing period artifacts, and taking photos with SAR and DAR members in Colonial attire.

Events such as this reflect the Sons of the American Revolution's mission: to 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.



The South Central District Annual Conference
The Hilton Richardson , Richardson TX.
20 - 22 August 2026

On Friday, attendees had the option to tour the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington—an awe-inspiring, visually striking, and deeply moving tribute to the fewer than 4,000 service members who have received our nation's highest military award for combat valor.

Later that afternoon, Compatriots participated in a Grave Cleaning and Restoration training session led by Drake Peddie, Vice President General for the South Central District, and Paul Ridenour, South Central District Historian.

A highlight of the conference was the raising of the SAR flag in front of the Hilton by Color Guardsmen representing chapters throughout Texas.

Plano Chapter SAR members in attendance included President Bob Johns; Color Guard Commander Dave Fautheree; Treasurer Ronald Carey; Vice President for Awards & Medals Roger Hardin; Vice President for Youth Activities Alan Roach; Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Becker; and Media Director Gary Coleman.

We are grateful to have had this important district event so close to home and appreciate everyone who helped make it a meaningful weekend of patriotism, education, and fellowship.



The South Central District Annual Conference
The Hilton Richardson , Richardson TX.
20 - 22 August 2026

Honoring our nation's colors at the SAR South Central District Annual Conference.

On Friday evening, 21 August, 2026, SAR Color Guardsmen from across Texas proudly presented the colors before the banquet at the Sons of the American Revolution South Central District Annual Conference in Richardson, Texas.

The Color Guard was assembled by Texas Society SAR Color Guard Commander Bill Sekel. Prior to entering the banquet hall, SAR Secretary General T. Brooks Lyles of the North Carolina Society conducted a formal inspection of the Guardsmen.

We are grateful to these dedicated compatriots for their service, patriotism, and commitment to preserving the legacy of the American Revolution.



The South Central District Annual Conference
The Hilton Richardson , Richardson TX.
20 - 22 August 2026

The march into the banquet hall at the SAR South Central District Annual Conference, 21 August, 2026.

Following their inspection and final preparation, SAR Color Guardsmen, led by Texas Society SAR Color Guard Commander Bill Sekel, marched into the banquet hall to present the colors.

In addition to the flag of the United States, the Color Guard proudly carried the flags representing the five state societies of the SAR South Central District: Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The presentation was a meaningful display of patriotism, fellowship, and respect for the heritage shared by Sons of the American Revolution compatriots across the district.



Compatriot News

Compatriot Anniversaries for September

Happy Anniversary, Compatriots!

Dr. Steven Driever	2000
Major Dave Fautheree	2022
Christopher James Fritz	2025
Michael Jerry Garner	2024
Drake Peddie	2003
Daniel Peddie	2010
Mark A Phariss	2007
Michael J Radcliff	1997
John Rothermel	2006 - 20 Years
Stephen C Seachord	2000
Joe H Smith	2022
Charles R Stephenson	2011
James D Wallace IV	2025
James D Wallace V	2025
Bradford N Gaian	2023

Patriot Stories

**Contributed by
Compatriot Zachary Countryman
Regarding his Patriot Ancestor
Conrad M. Countryman**

Family history traces our ancestors back to one Johan Frederick Countryman, who we believe arrived on Nutters Island (Nuttan Island/Governor's Island), New York on June 13th, 1710. He was originally from Enzberg, Germany, and likely travelled to America (via Holland and England) with Rev. Joshua Kocherthal and his Palatine refugees. The original German surname has long been disputed, and I've seen numerous variations proposed by relatives who have done more research than myself! Some variations include Gunderman, Gunterman, Conderman, and Cunterman, but eventually "Countryman" became the main spelling in America. Johan died in West Camp, New York, and his ancestors settled in upstate New York.

Several generations later, and we get to my Patriot Ancestor, Conrad M. Countryman. Most of what is known about Conrad's Revolutionary War service is from a pension claim letter (with special thanks to Plano SAR chapter registrar Duane Carter for finding this document!). Conrad served in the New York troops under Capt. Samuel Gray in the batteau service. He also served as a sergeant under unknown officers (possibly Col. Jacob Klock), and was present at the battles of Fort Stanwix, Oriskany, [new] Dorlach, Johnstown, and West Canada Creek.

I'm related to Conrad through his son Henry/Heinrich, who moved his "clan" from upstate New York to northern Illinois. My extended family still resides in northern Illinois to this day.

Connect!

[Upcoming Meeting Tidbits and Officer Connection Information](#)

1 September 2026 Chapter Meeting Discussion and Vote Regarding Our Revised Chapter Bylaws!

Connect with our Officers!

President [Bob Johns](#)

Treasurer [Ronald Carey](#)

Color Guard Commander [Dave Fautheree](#)

VP Medals and Awards [Roger Hardin](#)

VP Chapter Programs [Melvin Richards](#)

VP Veterans Affairs [BJ Bjorklund](#)

VP Youth Activities [Alan Roach](#)

VP Media/Historian/Yearbook [Gary Coleman](#)

Registrar [Duane Carter](#)

Sergeant at Arms [Michael Becker](#)

Chaplain [Rocky Miller](#)

Secretary/Webmaster [Randall Bush](#)

[Plano SAR Chapter #37 Website](#)

The Minutes

of the

4 August 2026

Chapter
Meeting

Plano Texas

Chapter #37

Sons of the
American
Revolution

- President Bob Johns called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- Chaplain Rocky Miller led the Invocation.
- Compatriot Bill Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.
- Compatriot Zachary Countryman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.
- Compatriot Roger Hardin led the SAR Pledge.
- President Bob Johns read the SAR Mission Statement.
- Self Introductions. There were 28 Compatriots and Guests in attendance.
- The History Minute entitled “The Roman Republic and the American Revolution” was presented by Duane Carter, Registrar.
 - Compatriot Carter was presented the Historian Honor Award by President Bob Johns.
- VP of Programs, Melvin Richards, introduced the Featured Speaker, Ms. Kimberly Kemball-Cook, who presented the topic “Anne Bonny and the Original Women of Piracy”.
- The minutes of the June 2026 meeting were approved; the committee reports were accepted.

- The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Ronald Carey.
- The Color Guard Report was presented by Major Dave Fautheree, Color Guard Commander. Commander Fautheree presented the following Awards:
 - The Silver 250 Award to Compatriot Roger Hardin.
 - The Gold 250 Award to Compatriot Ronald Carey.
 - The DART Certificate of Appreciation to President Bob Johns.
 - President Bob Johns presented the National Patriot Grave Marking Award to Commander Fautheree.
- The Veteran's Report was presented by Assistant VP of Veterans Affairs Bob Coberly.
 - The US Legacy Service and Pride Award was presented to Compatriot Roger Hardin.
- The Youth Activity Report was presented by VP of Youth Activities Alan Roach.
- Old Business/Announcements was presented by Bob Johns, President.
 - Compatriots Tom Van Fossen and Drake Peddie reminded all to attend the upcoming South Central District Annual Convention in Richardson on 20 - 22 August.

- New Business was presented by Bob Johns, President.
 - President Bob Johns presented the Distinguished Service Award to VP Media/Historian/Yearbook Gary Coleman.
 - President Johns informed the Membership that the Chapter Bylaws are being revised by the Chapter Steering Committee. The proposed revisions will be presented for discussion and review at the September Chapter Meeting.
- Chaplain Rocky Miller led the Benediction.
- The Adjournment/Recessional was led by Bob Johns, President.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randall Bush

Secretary

Plano Chapter #37 of the Texas

Sons of the American Revolution