

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

2025

NEWSLETTER



USS Alfred



The San Antonio Compatriot

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Nov-Dec 2025
Editor: Compatriot Bob Watson
beaglebud@satx.rr.com

Compatriot Frank Kebelman, President
kebelman@gmail.com

Issue #6



President's Message

SAR Mission Statement

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

Dear Fellow Compatriots,

As the end of 2025 draws near, I want to thank all our members and their families who worked so hard to help San Antonio Chapter #4 have another successful year. We have a great team and I am honored to have served as president of such a spectacular group of compatriots. I know there are many fine chapters in our Society, but I would not trade my membership in San Antonio Chapter # 4 for any amount of money. The officers, committee chairmen, and all the active members have given far more than I could possibly expect to insure we continue to grow and achieve new goals, to attract new members, and to properly set the stage for the coming 250th anniversary of the founding of this great republic. As we enter 2026, I will continue to support the chapter in other roles and make myself available for any task our wonderful incoming President Ron Finch chooses to offer me. I treasure the memories of your leadership, fellowship and generosity, and count myself a very lucky man to have had the honor to work with you as we continue to serve America by ***“promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.”***

Warmest regards and Semper Fidelis,
Frank

Chapter Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings:
2nd Wed. 11:30 AM
Jan 14th – Feb 11th
La Fonda Restaurant
8633 Crownhill Blvd
(Reservations not needed)

Chapter Meetings:
3rd Wed. 11:30 AM,
Jan-Gala-Feb 18th
Petroleum Club
8620 N. New Braunfels
Reservations are required:
txsarch4reservations@gmail.com

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Member's Corner

New Members: The chapter was pleased to induct six new members during the general meeting on November 19th. The new members were welcomed by the membership and treated to a nice lunch. We look forward to their contribution and participation in the many chapter events held throughout the year.



L-R: Michael Lackey, Thomas Verdoorn, Anthony Eldridge, Carl Hudson, Weldon "Burt" Cabaniss, William Meyers



L-R: (Receiving lapel pin)
Michael Lackey-Blair Rudy



L-R: (Receiving lapel pin)
Burt Cabaniss-Judge Butler



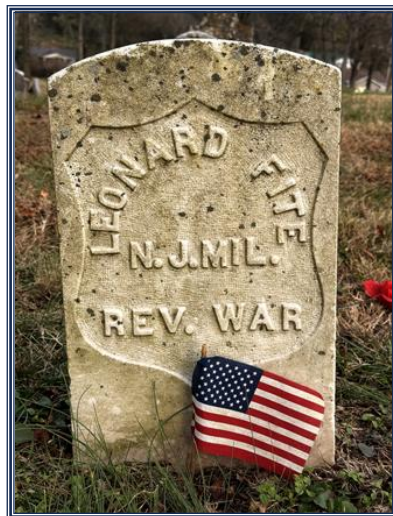
Member's Corner



Travel with Nick: In early December, Compatriot Nick Cartwright travelled to Nashville, TN for business. One afternoon, he found himself with nothing scheduled and remembering that his patriot ancestor, Leonard Fite, was buried in Tennessee, he searched for his burial location on Find a Grave and other online historical resources. Learning of his burial site, Nick set out to find the grave of his 6th generation grandfather, a revolutionary war patriot, who served in the Jersey Blues.

Accompanied by his mom, Dayna Cartwright, a member of the DAR Green Mountain Boys chapter, he found Fite's grave, which they discovered had been cleaned within the last decade, and someone had left a small American flag. They also located Fite's wife and their children in a family cemetery a town away, which has now led Nick, a historian, to piece together the reasons that Fite was buried in Tennessee to begin with, and away from his family. Fite survived the war and went on to become a farmer. He died in 1842. Nick and Dayna were thrilled to find their patriot and further explore his story.

NOTE: It would be a wonderful addition to the newsletter if other compatriots would share the story of their patriot ancestors. Please send information and pictures if available to beaglebud@satx.rr.com to be published in the newsletter for all to enjoy.



Nick Cartwright at patriot ancestor
Leonard Fite's grave site



Chapter News



Guest Speaker: The chapter was honored to have Bexar County Commissioner, Precinct #3, Mr. Grant Moody as our guest speaker for the November General Membership luncheon. Mr. Moody has a very unique background and is especially suited for the position he holds. He is a graduate of the Naval Academy with a degree in Quantitative Economics and served on active duty in several Middle East War locations before leaving active duty and continuing his military affiliation in the reserves. Mr. Moody has worked in both large and small businesses as well as starting his own business, which he has sold. His experience in the business world as well as the military serves him well in Bexar County positions of leadership.

Commissioner Moody explained he was one of five representatives on Commissioner's Court that oversees all of Bexar County operations and activities. He also explained, unlike other counties, Bexar County serves a huge population of over 2-million and one of the largest areas in the state.

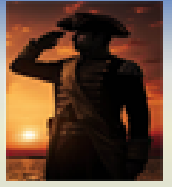
President Kebelman awarded Mr. Moody a SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medal for all the work he has done.



Commissioner Grant Moody



L-R: Commissioner Grant Moody
Pres. Frank Kebelman



Chapter News



Grave Marking: On Saturday, October 25th, San Antonio SAR Chapter #4, hosted a series of fifteen compatriot grave marking services to honor deceased members of the Texas Society SAR. Thirty SAR members from six different Texas chapters attended as did guests, which included DAR members Pam Dunlap and Grace Neal, a past Texas Society President Drake Peddie, a SAR Junior member, Kason Krueger, and Anthony Eldridge, a new SAR member to be officially inducted into San Antonio Chapter at the November chapter meeting.

The day began at 8:00 am in the rain at Mission Burial Park South and ended on a warm afternoon at 3:30 pm in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. Five cemeteries were visited throughout the day. By participating in these 15 ceremonies, the compatriots are eligible for their SAR Grave Marking medal. For her participation, Mrs. Grace Neal was awarded the Maratha Washington medal for outstanding service to SAR by participating in the grave marking ceremonies.



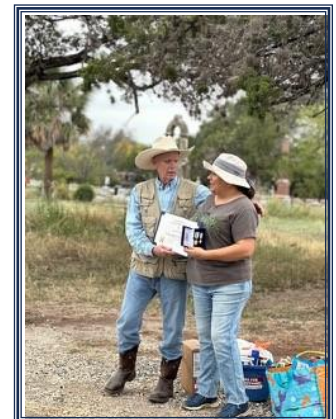
L-R:
Grace Neal, Pres. Kebelman

Grave Cleaning Class: Frank Kebelman is a master at cleaning headstones that have deteriorated and spends much time going to various cemeteries ensuring veteran member's graves are cleaned and preserved with honor. Frank conducts classes to various groups on the proper chemicals and techniques to clean the headstones without damaging them. He conducted a class for 20 DAR members.

Additionally, Valorie Finch was awarded a Medal of Appreciation for her support assisting in demonstrations.



Pres. Kebelman
Conducting Class



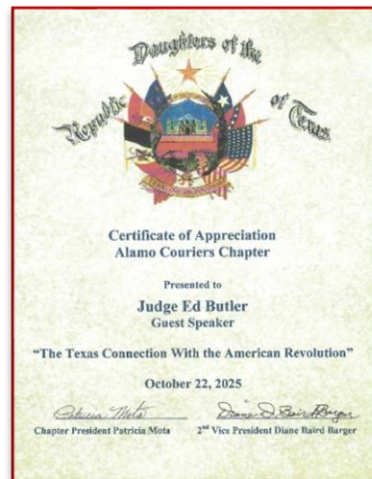
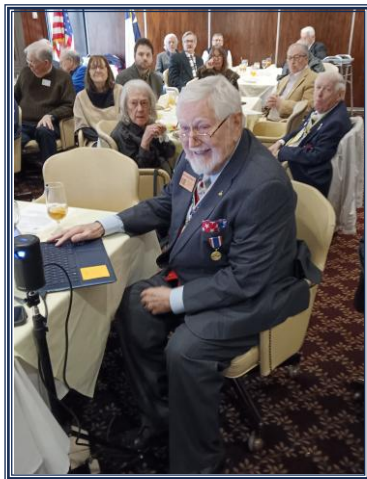
L-R: Pres. Kebelman
Valorie Finch



Chapter News



The Judge Speaks: Judge Ed Butler, a prolific author and speaker, was the principal speaker at the Alamo Curriers Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas on October 22nd. His topic, “**The Texas Connection with the American Revolution**” about the Texas Long Horned Cattle that were herded from San Antonio to New Orleans to feed the army. Approximately 70 DRT members and guests were in attendance. The DRT chapter presented Judge Butler with a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding presentation.



2026 Chapter Officers

President - Ron Finch
1st VP - Frank Keelman
2nd VP - Greg Surovic
Recording Sec. - Mike Bowles
Corresponding Sec - Frank Rohrbough
Treasurer - Greg Surovic

Registrar - Larry Lockett
Genealogist - Larry Lockett
Chaplain - Larry Loop
Historian - Dan Farris
Sgt.-at-Arms - Frank Keelman



Chapter News



Special Awards: President Kebelman presented Dawn Collum the Medal of Appreciation and Pam Dunlap the Martha Washington Medal at the Kerr DAR Chapter in Kerrville for their support of SAR activities.

Additionally, Pres. Kebelman presented Denise Stout and Joan Polk (not pictured) the Martha Washington Medal at the Honey Creek DAR meeting on November 15 at the Canyon Lake Community Center

L-R:
 Dawn Collum
 Pres. Kebelman
 Pam Dunlap



Naturalization Ceremony: Members of the San Antonio SAR Chapter #4 Color Guard supported two Federal naturalization ceremonies at the San Antonio Federal Courthouse on 24 October. Compatriots Blair Rudy, Frank Kebelman, Mike Skiles and Dewey Owens (William Hightower Chapter) were the color guard members. Along with the chapter members, Denise Stout and Joan Polk of Honey Creek Chapter NSDAR attended. Nearly four hundred new citizens were granted U.S. citizenship. The chapter will provide Color Guard support in 2026 and could use additional members. Please, consider donning colonial attire and joining other chapter members in this important event. If interested, contact Pres. Frank Kebelman, kebelman@gmail.com, or Frank Rohrbough, frankr@gvtc.com, for details.

L-R: Frank Rohrbough,
 Mike Giglio, Greg Surovic,
 Dale Tidwell, Frank
 Kebelman, Judge Richard
 Farerr



New Citizens with the
 Color Guard



Chapter News



Veterans Day in La Vernia: Compatriot Walter Scull, as part of the La Vernia Historical Association and the La Vernia Veteran's Memorial Board, helped with the Veterans Day ceremony at the La Vernia City Park on Veterans Day, November 11th.

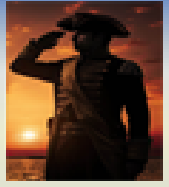
Lt. Col. Jeffrey Beene, Commander at the 343rd Training Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio Lackland was the speaker. The color guard for the program was from the Alamo Composite Squadron and music was supplied by the County Line Community Band. In addition to honoring veterans, this ceremony also commemorated the conclusion of the building of the memorial, which has been a 20-year effort. Many dignitaries were present to include members of the Susana Dickerson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Women Warriors of Wilson County. The event was well attended by many area Veterans. The program concluded with a group picture in front of the Veteran's Memorial.



La Vernia Veterans Memorial



Guest Speaker: Lt. Col. Jeffrey Beene,
Commander, 343rd Training Squadron



Chapter News



Veterans Day at Roseheart: The Roseheart Community in Northeast San Antonio holds a Veterans Day event annually to honor all those who have served. The chapter supports the event with a color guard and also musket firing. This year was no exception as our chapter provided Color Guard support as well as a musket volley after the flags were posted.

Additionally, a resident, who served in Iraq as a forward observer, led a small group forward to place a wreath and flowers to honor all those who served in the Iraq theater. During the ceremony, Compatriot Frank Rohrbough presented Col. Dr. Dennis Stuckey, USAF Ret, Roseheart HOA Pres. the NSSAR Flag Certificate.

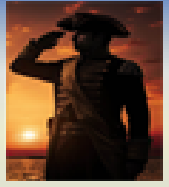
The ceremony concluded the playing of taps. The event was well attended by area residents and several city dignitaries.



Chapter Color Guard L-R
Blair Rudy, Greg Surovic, Dale Tidwell, Mike Skiles,
Unknown, Joe Weathersby, Ron Finch, Frank Rohrbough



L-R:
Frank Rohrbough
Col. Dr. Dennis Stuckey,
USAF Ret



Chapter News



Dues: Your 2026 dues are due now. They are considered late after **December 31st**, with a grace period until the **January 31st** after which, you will be dropped from rolls and face reinstatement fees. Follow the link below to pay your dues on line, which is the preferred, safe and efficient method for paying. There is still time to pay on time so **PLEASE**, do not let your dues expire and if you have not paid already, do so now. The chapter thanks all those who have paid.

<https://www.texassar.org/dues.htm>

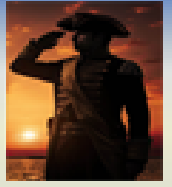
Totes for Vets: Each year, the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement at the Audie Murphy Medical Center conducts an *Adopt-a-Vet Holiday Food Drive*. The Center prepares a list of non-perishable food items/mixes for a holiday meal such as vegetables, stuffing, gravy, and dessert for placement in a tote bag for veterans. A \$25.00 gift card to buy a turkey/ham is also in the tote. The Center gives the bags to veteran families that are identified by the Social Services at Audie Murphy as nutrition deficient.

The San Antonio Chapter passed a tri-corner hat at the monthly October and November lunch meetings and collected \$986 from our Compatriots. Chapter member Larry Luckett, Project Lead, and Frank Rohrbough, Chair of the Chapter's Veterans Support Committee, used the money to purchase food and gift card items.

Compatriots Luckett and Rohrbough delivered over 20 tote bags of food and gift cards to the VA Engagement Center on 12/4/25. The Chapter contributed twice as many food totes as last year. The chapter's contribution helped the VA Engagement Center exceed its goal of spreading holiday cheer to 200 veterans' and families. A big "Thank You" to Chapter Compatriots who donated to this wonderful this program.



L-R:
Frank Rohrbough and Larry Luckett
with veteran's totes.



Chapter News



New Members Orientation: Past chapter presidents Blair Rudy and Peter Baron conducted a new and prospective member orientation at the San Antonio Genealogy and Historical Society complex on December 7th. This meeting was very well received with both new and current members in attendance. The meeting concentrated on Color Guard activities and awards, SAR medals and how to earn them, navigating the state, national, and chapter web sites, and purchasing colonial attire. A question-and-answer period followed the presentation. A very informative meeting for both the prospective, new, and current compatriots in attendance.



Blair Rudy with prospective members.

Wreaths Across America: The chapter members purchased over 60 wreaths to lay at the graves of veterans. This is part of a large nationwide campaign to place a wreath at all veterans' graves each year. Although there were several locations that wreath laying took place to include the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, the chapter participated at the City's National and the Blanco cemeteries on December 12th. Below left are DAR members and Ron Finch at the National Cemetery. On the Right is Blair Rudy with Honey Creek DAR chapter members at the Blanco Cemetery. The chapter thanks Compatriot and State Secretary Kevin Kanter for leading this chapter program.





San Antonio Chapter
Texas

The San Antonio Compatriot

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Chapter News



The following medals were presented to SAR and DAR individuals for outstanding service throughout the year. Other awards will be presented at the Gala.

Henry Knox

Edward Butler
Daniel Farris OLC
Randall Fleisher OLC
Francis M. Giglio
Stephen Rohrbough
Michael Skiles
Gregory Surovic

Good Citizenship

Jose Hernandez

Roger Sherman

John Bell OLC
Michael Bowles OLC
Ronald Finch
George Harcourt OLC
Walter Scull
Robert Watson OLC

Texas SAR Chapter Service

Jose Hernandez
Walter Scull
Michael Skiles
Gregory Surovic

250th Anniversary

Ronald Finch
Gregory Surovic

Texas SAR Chapter Service

Jose Hernandez
Walter Scull
Michael Skiles
Gregory Surovic

Texas SAR Chapter Service, OLC

Peter Baron
John Bell
Michael Bowles
Edward Butler
Daniel Farris
Ronald Finch
Randall Fleisher
Francis M. Giglio
Robert Hancock
George Harcourt
Kevin Kanter
Larry Loop
Larry Lockett
James Massingill
Gary Neal
Frank Rohrbough
Stephen Rohrbough
Blair Rudy
Edward Snyder
James Taylor
Robert Watson
Richard Weitzel
Dustin Whittenburg

Chapter Distinguished Service

Larry Lockett

DAR Awards

Medal of Appreciation

Linda Saidler
Rita Schimpff
Nancy Scull

Martha Washington

Sharon Bowles
Valerie Finch
Laura Surovic
Carol Ann Weitzel

Good Citizenship

Rosie Giglio

250th Anniversary

Valerie Finch

Lydia Darrough

Candy Kebelman

Daughter of Liberty

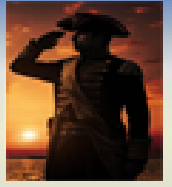
Robin Butler
Jean Kanter OLC
Marilyn Loop
Diane Rohrbough
Marie Rohrbough
Candy Rudy
Patricia Taylor OLC
Cynthia Watson



San Antonio Chapter
Texas

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TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Chapter News



Award Photos - Several awardees listed were not present





Chapter News



Award Photos (Cont.)



Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal:

Lt General William Hallin, USAF Ret., was presented this medal for his years of service in the Vietnam conflict as part of the Vietnam service recognition program. Gen. Hallin had a long, distinguished career and commanded several organizations. "Welcome Home" sir!

Pictured L-R: Compatriot Frank Rohrbough and Gen. Hallin





Miscellaneous

Colonial Attire

Nothing promotes SAR in the community much more than period dress. It draws attention and promotes questions about SAR. Public display of colonial attire is a good recruiting tool. It is not required, but members who wish to participate in chapter activities are urged to obtain some combination of colonial attire. The following list of suppliers, not in any specific order is not endorsed by the SAR nor do they have any specific affiliation with the SAR. Not all suppliers offer all items.

<http://jas-townsend.com/> – Jas. Townsend & Sons

<http://sampsonhistorical.com> - Sampson Historical

<http://heritagecostume.com> - Heritage Costumes

<http://www.militaryclothing.com/Revolutionary-War.aspx#> – Military Uniform Supply

<https://ebay/fortlaramietradingpost/> - Fort Laramie Trading Post

<http://www.ushist.com/> – USHist

<http://www.crazycrow.com/> – Crazy Crow Trading Post

<http://fugawee.com/> – Fugawee Footwear

<http://missouribootandshoe.com/> – Missouri Boot and Shoe

<http://www.hamiltondrygoods.com/> – Hamilton Dry Goods

<http://www.cg-tinsmith.com/> – Carl Giordano-Tinsmith

<http://www.lepierreleathers.com/> – Le Pierre Sutler

<http://www.gggodwin.com> – G. Gedney Godwin

<http://www.taylor-rosehistorical.com> – Logsdon & Co. Historical O

<http://lvaregiment.com/> – First Virginia CL, Quartermaster

<http://www.revwarssupplier.com> – Weeping Heart Trade Company

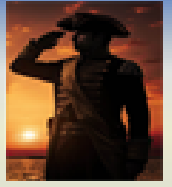
<http://www.thequartermastergeneral.com> – The Quartermaster Gen

<http://www.avalonforge.com> – Avalon Forge

<http://cockedhats.com> – George Franks, Hatter

A list of equipment suppliers will be in the next newsletter for those seeking additional items for their uniforms.





Miscellaneous



USS Alfred

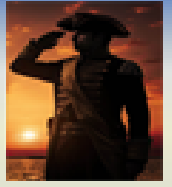
The USS Alfred was the foundational vessel of the U.S. Navy. Its story represents the bold, early efforts of the American colonies to challenge British naval supremacy. The act of John Paul Jones raising the Grand Union Flag aboard the Alfred is an iconic moment in naval history, symbolizing the birth of American naval tradition.

Originally, the USS Alfred was built in Philadelphia in 1774 as a merchant ship named the Black Prince. In 1775, the Continental Congress purchased it and three other merchant vessels to form the nucleus of the Colonial Navy. It was converted into a warship, renamed Alfred in honor of Alfred the Great, the 9th-century English king who was credited as the founder of the English navy, and converted to a 24-gun frigate.

Lieutenant John Paul Jones personally hoisted the Grand Union Flag (often called the "Continental Colors") on the Alfred's mast on the Delaware River on December 3, 1775. This was the first time this flag, featuring the 13 alternating red and white stripes with the British Union Jack in the canton, was ever flown on an American warship. The USS Alfred was the first ship to fly the Grand Union Flag, which was a precursor to the Stars and Stripes. The Alfred was selected as the flagship for Commodore Esek Hopkins, the first Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Navy. Commodore Esek Hopkins created the first American naval squadron and embarked on its maiden voyage in February 1776.

The fleet's first major mission was a raid on the British island of New Providence in the Bahamas. The goal was to seize a large cache of gunpowder and cannons. The raid was largely successful; with the marines (the precursors to the U.S. Marine Corps) landing and capturing Fort Montagu and Fort Nassau, seizing dozens of cannons and supplies. This provided critical material for the struggling Continental Army.

(Alfred-Cont. next page)



Miscellaneous



(Alfred-From p 10)

Returning to port in April 1776, Alfred encountered the British 6th-rate HMS Glasgow off Block Island. It was an indecisive, night engagement, leaving Alfred with significant damage. This was the first major naval combat between a Continental fleet and the Royal Navy.

The Alfred was repaired and continued to be used to cruise along the North American coast in search of the enemy. In 1777, now under the command of Captain John Paul Jones, it made way to France. On its return journey, it was intercepted by two British warships. After a valiant fight, the outgunned Alfred was captured on March 9, 1778.

After capture, the Alfred was taken into service, but not as a warship. It was used as a merchant ship and finally sold in 1782.

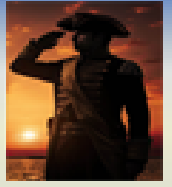


USS Alfred

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Alfred

<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn/explore/photography/american-revolution/continental-navy-ships/continental-ship-alfred.html>



Membership Milestones

Congratulations and a thank you goes to these members for their many years of continued support of SA.

5_yrs of Service

Jackson Chambers
Bennett Gurecky
Weldon Chambers
Leslie Lentz
Joe Weathersby
Yancey Swearingen

10_yrs of Service

Curtis Wubbena
Kevin Kanter

15_yrs of service

William Udovich
Alexander Rubin

20_yrs of service

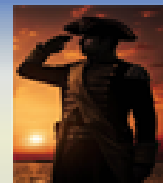
Edward Snyder

25_yrs of service

Maxie Perdue
James Taylor

35_yrs of service

Joseph Ware



Membership Milestones

Birthdays

November

Daniel	Grether	Alexander	Rubin
Clay	Embrey	Luther	Soules
Morris	McKee	Michael	Raymond
George	Becknel	James	McConnell
Randall	Fleisher	Robert	Green
Curtis	Wubber	Warren	Pfeiffer
George	Harcour	Blaine	Sullivan
Ernest	Kerr	Bryce	Sullivan
Jonathan	Springer	Bryce	Sullivan

December

Kenneth	Williamson	William	Elmer
Samuel	Smith	Hal	Jennings
Nicholas	Finch	Kevin	Kanter
Larry	Loop	Patrick	McCloskey
Quade	Sullivan	Luther	Soules
Frank	LeBlanc	Mark	Ware
Thomas	Brown	Robert	Giffin
Christopher	Bowles	Jason	Chall
Ernest	Hanavan	Robert	Hancock



San Antonio Chapter
Texas

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Note: Event Point of Contact indicated in the **CONTACT** boxes

Coming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Gala *
January	11	12	13	14 Executive Committee Meeting*	15	16
	18	19 <i>M L King Day</i>	20	21 No Membership Meeting *	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CONTACT
* Frank Kebelman
**Frank Rohrbough

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
February	8	9	10	11 Executive Committee Meeting*	12	13
	15	16 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	17	18 Membership Meeting *	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

CONTACT
* Frank Kebelman

Attachment 3

Chapter Website: txssar.org/SanAntonio/