

# Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7

First Dixie Café, 2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013

**January 10, 2015**

## **I. Call to Order**

President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at approximately **9:20** a.m.

## **II. Invocation**

Chaplain **Bill Covington** led the invocation.

## **III. Pledges**

The pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag was led by compatriot **Kevin Jorrey**.

The pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag was also led by compatriot **Kevin Jorrey**.

The SAR pledge was also led by compatriot **Kevin Jorrey**.

## **IV. Guest Introductions**

There were **two** guests in attendance: prospective SAR members **Martin Maier and Ned Myers**.

## **V. Recognitions/Awards**

There were no new awards to be presented at the January meeting.

## **VI. Program**

In colonial attire, **Bill Covington** made a presentation on the “Similarities of the *Magna Carta* and the *Declaration of Independence*.” Bill Covington noted that in President Roosevelt’s third inaugural address in January 1941, the following statement was made regarding the *Magna Carta*:

“The democratic aspiration is no mere recent phase in human history. It is human history. It permeated the ancient life of early peoples. It blazed anew in the middle ages. It was written in *Magna Carta*. In the Americas, its impact has been irresistible. America has been the New World in all tongues, to all peoples, not because this continent was a new-found land, but because all those who came here believed they could create upon this continent a new life—a life that should be new in freedom. Its vitality was written into our own Mayflower Compact, into the Declaration of Independence, into the Constitution of the United States, into the Gettysburg Address. Those who first came here to carry out the longings of their spirit, and the millions who followed, and the stock that sprang from them—all have moved forward constantly and consistently toward an ideal which in itself has gained stature and clarity with each generation.”

Several key points of discussion included the following:

1. Many British citizens view the beginnings of England as a constitutional monarchy as June 15, 1215 with the creation of the Magna Carta. Although King John attached his seal to the document, he did not sign it. From his perspective, the *Magna Carta* was merely a way to avert civil war. While the King did recognize the validity of the document, he would later attempt to minimize its importance.
2. While the document gives the notion of “representative government,” the barons of this time viewed “representative government” as limited to the nobility. From their perspective, representative government would be more similar to the House of Lords rather than the House of commons. No doubt these barons would be very surprised by the way in which representative government appears today.
3. In Article I of the *Magna Carta*, there is reference to the Church of England which is quite similar to the First Amendment of the *Bill of Rights* in which there is the notion of freedom of conscience.

4. The ability to inherit land and pass land down to heirs was an important component of the *Magna Carta*. Women during this time could inherit the land from the deceased husband; however, prior to the *Magna Carta*, these widows were forced to marry. The *Magna Carta* allowed for women to remain unmarried and for the surviving children to inherit upon her death. It was also noted later in the discussion that Martha Washington had been a very wealthy widow prior to her marriage to George Washington. As a result of their marriage, her inherited property would revert to him.
5. The *Magna Carta* provided for impartiality under the law similar to the equal protection provided under the U.S. *Constitution*. Prior to the *Magna Carta*, noble men were given greater protections and rights relative to commoners.
6. Certain American protections and rights for citizens as well as criminal defendants have their origin in the *Magna Carta*. Such protections include the prohibition of “unwarranted searches and seizures,” a “trial by a jury of one’s peers,” and the right to a “speedy trial.”
7. The *Magna Carta* gave barons the right to attack the King if the committee agreed that their rights under the charter had been violated. In the event that a baron died, his replacement on the committee would be filled by the committee rather than an appointment made by the King. Prior to the American Revolution, many delegates to the Constitutional Convention believed that the rights expressed under the *Magna Carta* might be used to avert a revolutionary war. Unfortunately, two events convinced the delegates to the Convention that war was inevitable.
8. One event which made war appear to be inevitable was the hiring of thirty-five thousand Hessian soldiers by King George III to put down the brewing American rebellion. In America, these Hessian soldiers had a horrible reputation for brutality, looting, and raping. Hence, the American colonists had much to fear from this development.
9. Another event which made war appear to be inevitable was the publication of Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* – a fictional argument for revolution which was instantly popular. In three weeks, fifteen thousand copies had been sold.
10. The British constitution is based on oral tradition; whereas the U.S. *Constitution* is written on paper. Constitutions based on oral tradition would be much easier to change by a simple act of Parliament.
11. There are four known copies of the *Magna Carta*. In 1939, one of these four copies began a tour in the United States. When war broke out in Europe, the touring copy remained in the United States for the duration of World War II. It is interesting and perhaps not by coincidence that President Roosevelt made a reference to the *Magna Carta* in his third inaugural address in January 1941.

## VII. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Month’s Meeting

A motion was made to **approve the minutes** of the previous meeting by **Ron Carter**. The motion was seconded by **Richard Coffey** and **Dennis Walton**, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## VIII. Officer and Committee Reports

### A. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **Treasurer’s Report**:

The recent balance of the checking account was reported. The only noteworthy change was a charge for the breakfast meals of the guests from the December chapter meeting.

**Ron Carter** noted that the 2014 expenses were covered by a combination of member dues and special donations from chapter members. With thirty chapter members, then about half of the annual expenses are covered by member dues.

It was noted that in the future the chapter might face the choice of **raising dues** in to cover annual expenses or consider a **fundraiser**. It was also noted that the chapter might be eligible to collect money from the **Arlington Tomorrow Fund**. This fund provides money to non-profit groups based on natural gas payments received by the City of Arlington. **Bill Covington** asked whether money received from the fund was a one-time payment, but this information was not known.

**John Anderson** also noted the funds which may be received by retail and supermarket outlets such as Kroger & Tom Thumb. **Ron Carter** noted that Wal-Mart takes requests for grants from non-profit groups. **Kevin Jorrey** noted that if gift cards were donated by various retail outlets, then these gift cards might be awarded to ROTC award recipients.

With regard to raising dues, **John Anderson** noted that he was opposed to doing so and favored the current method of raising funds by “passing the hat.” **Ron Carter** also noted that he was aware of other organizations in which raising the dues from \$7 to \$10 caused some members to drop out of the organization.

It was noted that of the \$52 annual dues paid by Arlington chapter members to SAR, \$9.50 was sent back to the Arlington chapter. Within TXSSAR, the Dallas chapter collects \$35 per member, while the San Antonio chapter collects \$75 per member.

## **B. Registrar’s Report**

Registrar **John Anderson** presented the **Registrar’s Report**:

1. As reported last month, **Robert Alfred “Bob” Harris (#142790)** died just before the Thanksgiving holiday. He joined the Arlington chapter just after it reorganized in the summer of 1994. He held the chapter Treasurer office and other offices for many years. The chapter would not have continued through the 2000-2010 decade without his efforts. He will be missed. His funeral was at the Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015.
2. Be aware that 2015 dues are payable now. Please remit ASAP. Members with unpaid dues are deemed inactive and ineligible to hold a chapter office. All current and previous members with known emails were included in our monthly meeting notices. Dues can be remitted via US Mail or online at [www.txssar.org/dues.htm](http://www.txssar.org/dues.htm)
3. One junior application was sent to the TXSSAR Inland Registrar. He is **Mark Howard**, now age 18 and grandson of Peni Andrews of Arlington’s Lucretia Council Cochran DAR Chapter. As reported by Mrs. Andrews, her check to the TXSSAR has been cashed which signifies membership approval by the TXSSAR.
4. Three applicants are in the preparation process. They are **Corey Walker**, **Daniel Kolb** and **Scott Huffman**. Hopefully, they will be ready to submit soon.

## **C. Historian’s Report**

Historian **John Anderson** presented the **Historian’s Report**:

**John Anderson** noted that there is nothing new to report at this time.

## **D. Webmaster’s Report**

Webmaster **John Anderson** presented the **Webmaster’s Report**:

1. The TXSSAR website at [www.txssar.org](http://www.txssar.org) is undergoing significant modernization revisions by Compatriot Ray Cox, TXSSAR Web Admin. He is attempting to make the website be responsive and better support mobile devices. Each device has its own screen size and scrolling characteristics. **John Anderson** stated: “Give it a try on your PCs, laptops, phones, *et cetera*. I think you’ll like it.”
2. Our chapter homepage is at [www.txssar.org/Arlington](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington). Since inception in June 2011, we now have had 2,292+ total hits (accesses) to this website. **John Anderson** has recently added a “**Frequently Asked Questions**” web page and is working with **Bill Covington** in setting up a “**Speaker’s Bureau**” web page.
3. Recent pictures are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2014.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2014.php)
4. Scrapbook videos are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/videos.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/videos.php)
5. John Anderson thanked everyone for providing pictures and videos for our website.
6. The online private chapter **Dropbox** can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1izglvhvuhh9mzy/AAAXOVZ4zk-KaK3JcagRBQnHa?dl=0>
7. Contact John Anderson if you need a new login or have access questions to **Dropbox**.

## E. Awards Report

Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **Awards Report**:

In February, judging will begin for the **poster contest** for students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and the **brochure contest** for students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The theme of the poster / brochure contest is either the **Battles of Lexington and Concord** OR **George Rogers Clark**. The brochure is to be a tri-fold brochure with judging criteria following the same rules as the poster contest. There is also a Knight Essay Contest for high school students.

It was suggested that the chapter might issue a **Chapter Certificate of Appreciation** for the efforts made to resolve the burial issues related to chapter Compatriot **Bob Harris**. Ron Carter reported that he had been contacted by the Pantego Police Department following the death of Bob Harris. Unfortunately, it was not discovered until later that veteran Bob Harris was eligible for burial in a national cemetery for his service in World War II. Ron Carter suggested that our chapter present an award to the person responsible for helping with burial issues related to Bob Harris following his demise. This idea met with approval from both David Friels and Dennis Walton. Ron Carter also noted that it would be wise for members to have contacts and next-of-kin information available to avoid similar problems in the future.

## F. Public Service Report

President **David Friels** presented the **Public Service Report**:

David Friels noted that he was having difficulties getting contacts for the Arlington Police Department but had established contacts with Pantego and Dalworthington Gardens.

## G. ROTC Report

There was nothing new to report with regard to the 2015 ROTC Awards.

## H. Veterans Affairs Assistance

**Ray Wehr** and **Mike Smith** were not available at the meeting to discuss the proposed assistance to the VA hospitals. **John Anderson** had noted that **Mike Smith** was experiencing a health related issue, and President **David Friels** stated that "we will keep Mike Smith in our prayers."

## IX. Unfinished Business

### A. Nominations for Chapter Offices

The Nominating Committee for the Chapter nominated the following individuals for the following offices for 2015-2016:

President: David Friels

Vice President: Bob Wehr

Secretary: Roger Wehr

Treasurer: Ron Carter

Registrar: John Anderson

Historian: Kevin Jorrey

Chaplain: Ray Wehr

Sergeant-at-Arms: Bill Covington

At the February meeting, nominations from the floor will be taken. President David Friels noted that any chapter member who is willing to serve in any capacity will be put to good use. Two chapter members **Richard Coffey** and **Dennis Walton** will be working on the poster contests and the chapter brochures, respectively.

The March meeting is considered to be the Annual meeting. David Friels and John Anderson discussed inviting TXSSAR President Bob Cohen to the Arlington Chapter's Annual meeting. Within the TXSSAR, Ron Carter is the new District Vice President.

The term for chapter offices runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016.

## **B. Chapter Brochures & TXSSAR “Elevator Speeches”**

**Dennis Walton** has been at work devising a brochure which could be used in conjunction with the TXSSAR “elevator speeches.” With new members in mind, he has proposed devising a business card with contact information to the chapter.

**John Anderson** praised **Dennis Walton** for this “excellent start” in this endeavor. John Anderson also noted that the elevator speeches should emphasize the role of the SAR in education. He has noted that the SAR is well thought of in the realm of education and public service. With regard to public service, the SAR is also involved with the Boy Scouts of America. **John Anderson** noted that the SAR Eagle Scout scholarship has increased from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

President **David Friels** also thanked **Dennis Walton** for his great ideas.

## **X. New Business**

### **A. Senior Ed Courses in Genealogy**

**Ron Carter** presented information regarding the Tarrant County College (TCC) offering of Senior Ed Courses in genealogy. All courses are \$20 for persons 55 years of age and older. There is an additional \$5 fee if the course involves the use of a computer. Parking at TCC for participants is free. The TCC locations which will be offering courses in genealogy include the Northeast Campus, the South Campus, and the Southeast campus. For more information, contact Wayne James at the following e-mail address:

[Waynejames76012@aol.com](mailto:Waynejames76012@aol.com)

### **B. Remembrance of Deceased Chapter Compatriots**

**Dennis Walton** inquired about an SAR grave marker for Bob Harris. It was noted that the National Cemeteries have restrictions on markers on the graves. Another possible suggestion which was raised was the possibility of giving an SAR challenge coin to the loved ones of a deceased chapter member such as Bob Harris.

## **XI. Meeting Adjournment, SAR Closing Admonition & Benediction**

At approximately 10:49 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Compatriot **Kevin Jorrey** concluded the meeting with the SAR closing admonition and Chaplain **Bill Covington** gave the benediction.

## **XII. Attendance Summary & Next Meeting Information**

**Attendance for the January meeting** included **two** guests and **nine** chapter members: John Anderson, Ron Carter, Richard Coffey, William Covington, David Friels, Kevin Jorrey, Dennis Walton, Bob Wehr, & Roger Wehr.

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Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **February 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **First Dixie Café** located at **2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013.**

Roger Wehr  
TXSSAR Arlington Chapter Secretary  
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