

Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7

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

May 9, 2015

I. Call to Order

President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at approximately **9:00** a.m.

II. Invocation

Chaplain **Bill Covington** led the invocation.

III. Pledges

The pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag was led by **Kevin Jorrey**. The pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag was led by **Kevin Jorrey**. The SAR pledge was led by **David Friels**.

IV. Guest Introductions & Special Recognitions

There were **three** guests in attendance: **Haley-Beth Wehr** – 2015 Poster Contest Winner, and prospective SAR chapter members **Jim Jacobson** and **Adam McConnell**.

V. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Month's Meeting

A motion was made to **approve the minutes** of the previous meeting by **Ron Carter**. This motion was seconded by **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**:

It was reported that checks had been written for the poster contest winners in the amounts of \$35, \$25, and \$15. A check was written for the Galvez statue and will soon be mailed. The balance for the chapter account and the petty cash totals were announced.

B. Registrar's Report

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

1. According to the TXSSAR 2015 Roster of Members with Dues Paid, the Arlington chapter now has **33** active compatriots, including **6** junior chapter members. The new member to our chapter will be inducted in the summer.
2. As previously reported, SAR applicant **Mark Howard**, now 18, was approved and will be inducted in the summer. Therefore, we will have **33** active compatriots and **6** junior chapter members.
3. No current applications are pending, unless guests are present today.

C. Webmaster's Report

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

1. Our chapter homepage is at www.txssar.org/Arlington or www.texassar.org/Arlington. The latter website is the new way to obtain information on SAR activities at the state level. **John Anderson** and **Dennis Walton** encouraged members to sign up for and join the DADA list.
2. Since inception in June 2011, we now have had 2,610+ total hits (accesses) to this website.
3. John Anderson has recently accepted a Texas Society State position as Vice-Chairman of the Information Technology Committee. This position will entail serving as an emergency back-up contact more than anything else. **David Friels** congratulated John Anderson on behalf of the chapter.
4. Recent pictures are posted at www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2015.php
5. Scrapbook videos are posted at www.txssar.org/Arlington/videos.php
6. John Anderson thanked everyone for providing pictures and videos for our website.
7. The online private chapter **Dropbox** can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1izglvhvuhh9mzy/AAAXOVZ4zk-KaK3JcagRBQnHa?dl=0>
8. Contact John Anderson if you need a new login or have access questions to **Dropbox**.

D. Historian's Report

Historian **Kevin Jorrey** presented the **Historian's Report**:

Kevin Jorrey thanked **John Anderson** for providing the leading edge technology which is now being utilized by our chapter. Kevin Jorrey recalled that two past Texas SAR Presidents are buried in cemeteries in Arlington. These two past Texas SAR presidents are: Dr. Bob Woodward and Benton C. Collier. The goal of our chapter is to mark these graves in a manner similar to the one for chapter compatriot **Ray Bommer**. **Dave Friels** described the manner in which the SAR marker was mounted on Ray Bommer's grave. **John Anderson** noted his desire to have his own grave marked with the SAR marker as well. **Dennis Walton** noted his desire for cremation in his own situation but suggested that some SAR marker or other designation be made for those compatriots who are cremated. He noted that a memorial could be created similar to the one being created for Galvez.

E. Veteran's Co-ordination Report

Veteran's Co-ordinator **Mike Smith** was unavailable for this report due to his ongoing work with the Viet Nam Veteran's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

F. Brochure Report

Brochure Creator **Dennis Walton** reported that a stack of brochures had been given to **John Anderson** for distribution at the Viet Nam Veteran's 50th Anniversary Celebration. This celebration has been postponed. David Friels thanked Dennis for his efforts and for his excellent job.

G. Awards

Secretary **Roger Wehr** gave a brief review of the recent JROTC awards and thanked those who were able to make presentations at the local high schools on behalf of our chapter.

H. Independence Day “4th of July” Parade

Event Co-ordinator **Ray Wehr** described the theme of the upcoming parade as the 50th Anniversary Parade conducted by Arlington, Texas. He noted that this parade is the largest Independence Day Parade in the state of Texas. Our chapter's application to participate in this parade is in process. It is likely that there will be two floats entered by our group: one for SAR and one for DAR. Based on past experience, the Bus barn will be the likely site for storage and construction of the floats. There will likely be seating capacity for sixteen. Members should begin thinking whether they would like to participate in this event riding or walking. Many of the materials from the previous year's parade are still available. The trailer from the Fort Worth SAR chapter may be available for this upcoming parade.

IX. New Business

David Friels announced that there will be a short program by **Lt. Mike Taylor** in the upcoming June chapter meeting.

X. Guest Lecture by Ron Carter: Thomas Paine, “The American Crisis” & “Common Sense”

The following points were made during Ron Carter's lecture:

1. Thomas Paine is largely known for his popular pamphlet series signed “Common Sense” which begins with the famous quote: “These are the times that try men's souls.”
2. Thomas Paine was born in England in 1737 and apprenticed under his father -a corsetmaker. Paine used this skill to make sails for ships.
3. One of Paine's occupations was to serve as an excise tax collector; however, he would only collect taxes from those individuals whom he did not like.
4. As a writer of broadsides, Paine caught the attention of Benjamin Franklin who saw the potential of Paine in stirring up the revolutionary sentiments of the American colonists. Franklin wrote a letter of introduction on Paine's behalf to Dr. Benjamin Rush – founder of the Pennsylvania Medical School and the “Father of Modern Psychiatry.”
5. Through Dr. Benjamin Rush, the pamphlet series “Common Sense” is released to unnamed publishers. Publishers of such works could also be subjected to charges of treason.
6. Even though the first publication of Paine's work sold immediately, Paine made no income from this work, which he considered to be his gift to the American people. 500,000 copies of the work were sold in the American colonies which had a population of 1,500,000.
7. Thomas Paine served as a private in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Paine also went to France during the French Revolution but ended up being thrown in prison.
8. James Monroe, the American ambassador to France, negotiated Paine's release from a French prison and smuggled him back to the United States.
9. Thomas Paine's writings after the American Revolution came under attack due to an anti-religion theme; nonetheless, the Quakers came to his rescue in his failing years.
10. The state of New York gave land to Thomas Paine, and today in Rome, New York, there is a monument to the author of “The American Crisis.”

XI. Meeting Adjournment, SAR Closing Admonition & Benediction

At approximately 10:05 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. President **David Friels** concluded the meeting with the SAR closing admonition and Chaplain **Bill Covington** gave the benediction.

XII. Attendance Summary & Next Meeting Information

Attendance for the May meeting included **three** guests and **ten** chapter members: John Anderson, Ron Carter, William Covington, David Friels, Grant Hamilton, Kevin Jorrey, Sonny Parks, Dennis Walton, Ray Wehr, & Roger Wehr.

Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **June 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **First Dixie Café** located at **2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013.**

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