

# **Sons of the American Revolution East Fork-Trinity Chapter No. 47 Texas Society**

**Meeting Minutes for: January 11<sup>h</sup>, 2024**

**Meeting Location: IHOP, 701 I-30 Garland, Texas**

**Attendees: (See signup sheet)**

**Meeting Called to Order at: 7:03 p.m.**

**Invocation – Walt Thomas**

**Pledge to the American Flag – David Routh**

**Pledge to the Texas Flag – Gary Snowden**

**Affirmation to the SAR – Bob Vickers**

**SAR Mission Statement – Randall Van Heyst**

**Welcome – Randall Van Heyst**

**Americanism Moment – Randall Van Heyst**

**(See attached sheet titled: *The Story Behind the SAR Insignia*)**

**Approval of the Minutes from the December meeting:**

**Motion made by Bob Vickers, seconded by Leslie Anderson, passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report by Gary Lovell.**

*GARY LOVELL: December 18 we had a starting balance of \$5,982.66. We had received some \$98.00 from the dinner bucket, and that was an accumulation of three months, I believe. We had some disbursements of \$715.00. This covered approximately three months, also getting some people caught up. An ending balance of \$5,365.22.*

*We have a CD, and the balance on it is \$6,166.78. So our total is \$11,532.00.*

**Color Guard Report by Michael Goode – (To Be Attached.)**

**Registrar's Report by David Powell –**

*DAVID POWELL: Okay. Short and sweet. We got -- this is last year. We got approved regular members 12, three memorials and one junior. So that actually national has done a better job on new applicants and we actually got everybody that we submitted last year was approved by the end of the year.*

*The only thing left is Bob Vickers in a supplemental which they are taking a full year to get that done. No new applicants as yet.*

**Vote on amendment to Slate of Officers from last month, changing Leslie Anderson to Michael Goode as Historian.**

**Motion to Amend Historian Position made by Gary Snowden, seconded by Leslie Anderson.  
Motion carried with 1 dissenting vote.**

**Memorial Induction of Hugh Stanley Ridenour, grandfather of Paul Ridenour.**

**Swearing in of Officers by Tom Van Fossen.**

**Presentation of Certificate to East Fork Trinity Chapter 47 for donating the new Ellis Chapter SAR Chapter Flag presented to President Randall Van Heyst by Tom Van Fossen.**

**Incoming President Remarks:**

*RANDALL VAN HEYST: Thank you very much for electing me to be president of the chapter. I look forward to doing a lot of good things with y'all. I look forward to really pushing forward trying to get more involved in the 250th celebration of American. We'll talk more about that probably in our next meeting.*

*With that said, my first act is, as President of the chapter, I'm going to appoint a bylaws committee to review our bylaws. On the committee I'm going to name Leslie Anderson, Tom Van Fossen and Bob Vickers to make up that committee. And I'm going to name Tom Van Fossen to chair that committee.*

**Door Prize provided and won by Walter Thomas!!**

**David Routh brought up possible participation in the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. Bill Watts to be contacted.**

**SAR Closing – Paul Ridenour**

**Benediction – Walt Thomas**

**Declaration of Adjournment – Randal Van Heyst at 7:39 p.m.**



**January 12, 2024**

**David B. Jackson, Secretary, East Fork-Trinity Chapter #47, TXSSAR**



**East Fork Trinity Chapter 47  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Monthly Report January 2024**

**Checking Account Balance**  
Dec. 18, 2023 **5982.66**

**Receipts:**  
Dec. 18 Dinner Bucket 98.00

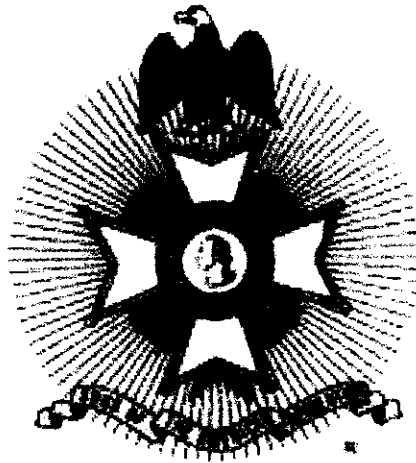
**Disbursements:**  
Dec 18 Quartermaster Reimbursement 315.00  
Dec 19 S.A.R Chapter 70 Flag 95.89  
Dec 27 Registrar Reimbursement 304.55  
**715.44**

**Jan 11, 2024 Ending Balance:**

**Checking Account Balance** **5365.22**  
**C.D. Balance** **6166.78**  
**Outstanding Checks** **NA**  
**Total** **11,532.00**

  
**G.W. Lovell, Treasurer**  
**East Fork Trinity**

# The Story Behind the SAR Insignia



Most SAR members are familiar with the insignia found on the membership badge of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Few perhaps are familiar with its underlying history and significance. The insignia is not only one of the most beautiful of American hereditary societies; it is also one of the most steeped with history and replete with significance. The insignia was designed in the very early days of the Society by Major Goldsmith Bernard West, Vice-President of the Alabama SAR. The insignia consists of a cross of eight points suspended by an eagle. The cross is of white enamel and has four arms and eight points, each point being decorated with a gold head. Its source is the cross of the ancient chivalric Order of St. Louis, founded by Luis XIV in 1693.

## **Why the Order of St. Louis?**

The cross of the Order of St. Louis is identical to the SAR cross except in three details. The central medallion of the SAR symbol bears the image of Washington rather than that of St. Louis; the medallion is surrounded by the SAR Latin motto "Libertas et Patria" or "Liberty and Country," rather than the military order's motto "Bellicae Virtutis Praemium" or "The Reward for Virtue is War;" and the angles between the arms of the cross lack the French fleur de lis. Instead, the SAR surrounds the cross with the laurel wreath of republican victory.

### **French Aid Influential**

Several reasons made the St. Louis cross an appropriate pattern for the SAR insignia. The Grand Master of the Order of St. Louis, Louis XVI, lent the American rebels material and diplomatic aid which was indispensable for the defeat of the British. Moreover, a great many of the French officers who fought for the American patriot cause were chevaliers of the Order. Beyond that, the Order of St. Louis had had a significant presence in North America. During the French Colonial period, somewhere around three hundred chevaliers of St. Louis saw service in on the North American continent. Hence, it was in recognition of France's decisive aid and the Order's significant presence in North America that the SAR chose the St. Louis cross as a model for its own.

But the adoption of the cross of St. Louis was appropriate for other reasons as well. The Order of St. Louis was the first order of military merit. Earlier orders, like the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the Order of the Garter, were crusading or chivalric orders.

They were open to members of the nobility ready to undertake deeds of religion or chivalry. But those deeds were international in scope: all Christendom was to be the beneficiary of the knight's good deeds. By contrast, the Order of St. Louis was established to reward military service to one's own country and it was the first to do so. Since the SAR has as its purpose the remembrance and recognition of the military service of their Revolutionary War ancestors to their country, the adoption of the St. Louis cross seemed most apropos.

### **Legion of Honour Influence**

The laurel wreath is significant, for it is derived from another French order, the Legion of Honour. Instituted by Napoleon shortly after his advent to power, the Legion of Honour was intended to fill a vacuum left by the disappearance of the old royal orders during the Revolution. Napoleon, like Louis XIV before him, recognized the importance of rewarding faithful public service and recognizing merit.

Hence, he instituted the Legion of Honour, which to this day remains one of the most prestigious orders of merit in the world. Napoleon's order however differed from the old royal orders. Those either presupposed or conferred nobility. They were inextricably linked to the caste system. But with the Legion of Honour came a new basis for reward: personal merit rather than birth. Thus, it will not be surprising that the SAR insignia is also consciously modeled on the Legion of Honour badge. The laurel wreath is borrowed from the Legion of Honour.

Even the size of the SAR badge is designed to be exactly the same as the Legion of Honour's badge. But the SAR refused to follow the Legion of Honour in all respects. Unlike the five-armed Legion of Honour cross, the SAR cross resolutely retains the four arms of the cross of Christ. This is as if to declare that the excesses of deism and atheism of the French Revolution are to be eschewed by an American patriotic society; American is a nation under God.

### **The Eagle Denotes Patriotism**

Also distinctly American is the eagle which suspends from the cross. Badges and insignias of European orders had used a trophy (a war helmet), a wreath, or a gold loop to symbolize their chivalric purposes. But the purpose of the SAR was not chivalry, but patriotism.

Hence, the SAR appropriately adopted the eagle which the Society of the Cincinnati had previously selected for their insignia. The SAR was conceived to mirror the Society of the Cincinnati, though open to all sons of Revolutionary sires without regard to primogeniture. All of these choices and historical influences produced a uniquely American symbol.

### **Bibliography**

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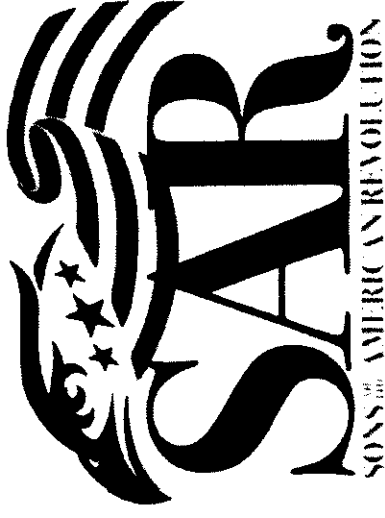
Source: <https://www.sar.org/the-story-behind-the-sar-insignia>.

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**East Fork Trinity Chapter Officers**

<b>Benjamin Roper</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Randall van Heyst</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>David Jackson</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Gary Lovell</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>David Powell</b>	<b>Registrar</b>
<b>Leslie Anderson</b>	<b>Historian</b>
<b>Walt Thomas</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>
<b>Sam Massey</b>	<b>Texas SAR President</b>
<b>Tom Van Fossen</b>	<b>District VI VP</b>
<b>Randall van Heyst</b>	<b>Color Guard Commander</b>
<b>Jason Gray</b>	<b>Color Guard Adjutant</b>
<b>Michael Goode</b>	<b>Veterans Coordinator</b>
<b>Harmon Adair</b>	<b>JRROTC Coordinator</b>
<b>Gary Lovell</b>	<b>Education Coordinator</b>
<b>David Jackson</b>	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>
<b>Paul Ridenour</b>	<b>Webmaster</b>
<b>David Routh</b>	<b>Qtr Master / Medals &amp; Awards</b>
<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Sergeant of Arms</b>



**East Fork Trinity Chapter No. 47  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Texas Society**

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
Dinner 5:30PM  
Meeting 7:00 PM**

**IHOP**

**701 I-30 Service Road  
Mesquite Tx 75150**

**Chapter Website: [WWW.txssar.org/EastForkTrinity](http://WWW.txssar.org/EastForkTrinity)**



Regular Meeting Thursday January 11, 2024

**Call To Order** – Benjamin Roper

**Invocation** – Walt Thomas

**Pledge to the American Flag** – David Routh

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

**Pledge to the Texas Flag** – Gary Snowden

Honor the Texas flag: I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas one state under God, one and indivisible.

**Affirmation to the SAR** – Bob Vickers

We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

**SAR Mission Statement** – Randall van Heyst

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 of our Country.

**Welcome** – Benjamin Roper

**Americanism Moment** – Randall van Heyst

## **New Business**

**Approval of the Minutes** - from the December Meeting as posted from the Secretary E-mail sent December 15, 2023.

**Treasurer's Report** – Gary Lovell

**EFT Color Guard Report** – Michael Goode

**Registrar's Report** - David Powell

**Voting on Amended 2024 Officer Slate** – Benjamin Roper

**Outgoing Presidents Remarks** – Benjamin Roper

**Induction of 2024 Officers** - Tom Van Fossen

**Incoming Presidents Remarks** – Randall van Heyst

**Birthdays** – Glenn Atterberry, Chester Eastin, David Jackson, and Derek Vickers

**Door Prize Drawing**

**SAR Closing** – Bob Kubin

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of Free Men.

**Benediction** – Walt Thomas

**Declaration of Adjournment** – Randall van Heyst