

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MAJOR K. M. VAN ZANDT CHAPTER,
TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization, which was organized and chartered in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 1st, 1932, is and shall remain Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, hereinafter referred to as "Chapter." The Chapter was chartered by, and is subordinate to, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Inc., a Texas Corporation, hereinafter referred to as "TEXAS SAR."

The Chapter is organized and operated solely to carry out the purposes of the TEXAS SAR. If there is a difference between the Chapter and TEXAS SAR, the Constitution and Bylaws of the TEXAS SAR shall prevail at all times.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Chapter are as specified in ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES of the Constitution of TEXAS SAR.

The objectives of this society are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of those, who by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American People; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the Community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as the documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American People.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

The membership requirements of this Chapter are as specified in ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP, ARTICLE IX - INITIATION FEES AND DUES, and ARTICLE X - EXPULSION, of the Constitution of TEXAS SAR.

SECTION 1. Any biological male shall be eligible for membership in the Society who is a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unflinching in loyalty to, and rendered active service in the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress, or of any of the several Colonies or states; or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence; or as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence; or as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature; or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain; provided, however, that no person advocating the overthrow of the Government of the United States by use of force or violence shall be eligible for membership in this Society.

SECTION 2. The acceptance of any eligible man to membership shall first be subject to the approval of the National Society, and further subject to approval of the Board of Managers of this Society, or a committee created by the Board of Managers for such purpose, and the Local Chapter of which he is to become a member.

SECTION 3. There shall be the following classes of members:

- (1) Active Members and Perpetual Members. An Active Member or Perpetual Member shall be any member of the age of eighteen years and over, excepting those members described in Sections 4 and 5 of this Article, who meets all the requirements for membership as defined in this Constitution and in the Bylaws of the Texas Society.
- (2) A Junior Member is a male under the age of eighteen years who has met the membership requirements of the Sons of the American Revolution. A Junior Member cannot vote.
- (3) There shall be no honorary members.

SECTION 4. An Active Member is one who is in good standing and not a Perpetual Member. By good standing, as used in this Constitution and in the Bylaws of this Society, is meant as a member who is current with payment of his dues and who has not been suspended or expelled from the Society.

SECTION 5. An Active Member of this Society in good standing who has been active in good standing and who has been approved as an Emeritus Member by the National Society shall be designated an Emeritus Member of this Society. An Emeritus member who has received Emeritus I status from the National Society shall be exempt from further payment of Texas Society dues.

SECTION 6. Applications for membership shall be made through any Local Chapter.

SECTION 7. The official designation of the members of this Society shall be "Compatriot."

The Bylaws of this Society shall provide for the payment of an initiation fee and annual dues. If any member other than a Perpetual Member fails to pay the annual dues within the required time, he shall be dropped from active membership in the Society. A dropped member shall not be entitled to vote, hold office, or take part in the proceedings of a Local Chapter or of this Society, but may become an Active Member again as prescribed in the Bylaws. A dropped member is entitled to none of the privileges of membership.

ARTICLE IV - EXPULSION

SECTION 1. If any member is by final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction convicted of any felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, he shall automatically cease to be a member of this Society.

SECTION 2. Any member of this Society who advocates, or has advocated, an overthrow of the Government of the United States, the State of Texas, or any other state of this nation, by force or violence, or who advocates, or has advocated any treasonable act against the Government, whether or not an overt act is actually committed, shall be expelled from this Society upon being found guilty of such offense by the Board of Managers.

SECTION 3. If any member is deemed guilty of an offense designated in Section 2 of this article, he shall be charged therewith in writing. The charge shall be filed with the State Secretary who shall forthwith deliver it to the President of this Society and each member of the Board of Managers, by mail or otherwise, a copy thereof, and shall also deliver by mail otherwise a copy to the accused. A meeting of the Board of Managers for the purpose of hearing such charge shall be called within but not to exceed sixty days after the receipt thereof by the State Secretary unless a regular meeting of the Board of Managers is held within such a period of time. The accused shall receive not less than seven days' notice of the time and place of the meeting of the Board of Managers. The Board of Managers shall hear the evidence and determine the guilt or innocence of the accused.

No member shall be expelled except upon the vote of two-thirds of the Board of Managers present at such a hearing.

SECTION 4. If any member of this Society is found guilty by the Board of Managers of an offense set forth in Section 2 of this Article, and expelled from this Society, he shall be entitled to appeal such expulsion to the next Annual Meeting of this Society by giving written notice of such appeal within five days from the date of expulsion. Pending final action by this Society at its Annual Meeting, the accused shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of the Society.

SECTION 5. An appeal from the Board of Managers to the membership of this Society shall be governed by the rules applied by the Courts of this State to an appeal from an administrative board created by any law of this State, and the substantial evidence rule shall be applicable.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The elected officers of this Chapter shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Genealogist, and Chaplain, whose duties shall be those prescribed by the Bylaws. They shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the November meeting of the Chapter and shall hold office for a two-year term, until their successors are elected and qualified. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person. The offices of Registrar and Genealogist may be held by the same person (adopted November 17, 2001).

SECTION 2. All nominations of officers shall be made from the floor. Nominations made by a committee for such purpose shall be considered nominations from the floor.

SECTION 3. Assistant Registrars, Historian, Sergeant-At-Arms / Color Guard Commander, and the Quartermaster shall be positions that are appointed by the President. The positions of Sergeant-At-Arms / Color Guard Commander and Quartermaster may be held by the same person.

SECTION 4. Following a two-year calendar election cycle, the said officers shall be elected in November and installed in the following January. Names and addresses of officers elected shall be immediately forwarded to the State Corresponding Secretary.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF MANAGERS

SECTION 1. The Board of Managers of this Chapter shall be comprised of the following members:

- A. The officers named in ARTICLE V, SECTION 1, of this Constitution upon election and installation during their respective term of office.
- B. Those members in good standing who have been Presidents of this Chapter.
- C. Chairmen of Standing Committees.
- D. All present and past State Officers of TEXAS SAR who during such term of TEXAS SAR office were and are now members of this Chapter.

SECTION 2. The Board of Managers shall have such power and authority as confirmed by the Constitution and Bylaws of this Chapter.

SECTION 3. Not less than five of the then existing membership of the Board of Managers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and an affirmative vote of the majority of those present shall be necessary for adoption.

ARTICLE VII - MANDATED MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The Chapter shall hold at least two chapter meetings annually. The first meeting will be held in the beginning of the year. The second meeting shall be held at least thirty days prior to the Fall Meeting of the TEXAS SAR Board of Managers.

SECTION 2. The Chapter shall be strongly encouraged to hold monthly meetings, with the possible exception of the month of December, due to the holiday season.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution supersedes the original Constitution of this Chapter that was written by Fort Worth Attorney Samuel B. Cantey, Jr., of Cantey, Hangar & McMahan, and adopted at the Organization Meeting on April 1st, 1932, but the whereabouts of which are not now known. This Constitution may be superseded by a new Constitution, amended, or in any manner changed, at any regular meeting of the Chapter, or at any special meeting

called for that purpose, provided that a quorum is present. A copy of such proposed new Constitution, amendments, or change shall be provided to each member of the Chapter not less than thirty days prior to the meeting at which the same is to be voted upon. Any change voted on by the members at the meeting shall be incorporated therein upon final adoption. A two-thirds vote of the members present shall be required for adoption.

ARTICLE IX - EFFECTIVE DATE

This Constitution shall be in full force immediately upon its adoption, and the meeting at which it is adopted shall be governed thereby.

Robert G. Gresham, Chapter President

Kevin J. Shellman, Chapter Vice-President

Mark D. Parkison, Chapter Secretary

JULY 15, 2023

Notes:

- 1) Original: April 1, 1932
- 2) Modified: April 17, 2004
- 3) Modified: July 19, 2014
 - a) Article IV Section 1 (February changed to November)
 - b) Article VI Section 1 (The said officers shall be elected to serve a calendar year.)
 - c) ARTICLE V Section 1-3 (Renumbered)
- 4) Modified: May 20, 2023

BYLAWS
OF THE
MAJOR K. M. VAN ZANDT CHAPTER,
TEXAS SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

ARTICLE I - APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership application requirements of this Chapter are as specified in ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP of the Bylaws of TEXAS SAR.

ARTICLE II - FEES AND DUES

Fees and dues for this Chapter are as specified in ARTICLE XVIII- FEES AND DUES of the Bylaws of TEXAS SAR.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. PRESIDENT - The President shall be the official executive officer of the Chapter and shall be responsible for calling and conducting all meetings of the Chapter and the Board of Managers. He shall appoint the chairmen of all committees unless otherwise provided for, subject to the approval of the Board of Managers. He is the Ex-Officio Chairman of the Board of Managers and a member of all committees of this Chapter. He shall be responsible for the budget and represent the Chapter in public.

SECTION 2. VICE-PRESIDENT - The Vice-President shall serve as an understudy of the President and, in the absence of the President, assume the duties of the President's office. He will be responsible for scheduling speakers for the chapter meetings. He shall also perform other assignments he receives from the President.

SECTION 3. SECRETARY - The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the official records of the Chapter, recording the minutes of all meetings in a neat and legible manner, keeping the register of all members, advising TEXAS SAR of membership changes, providing notification of all meetings, conducting the correspondence of the Chapter, and, in the absence of the President and Vice-President, presiding over Chapter meetings. He shall be responsible for compiling and submitting the end-of-year reports to TEXAS SAR and NSSAR. He shall also provide the chapter with written monthly minutes of the prior meeting. He shall perform other duties the President may assign to him.

SECTION 4. TREASURER - The Treasurer shall have the general supervision of collecting, safekeeping, and depositing all funds of the Chapter, dispersing funds only with the prior approval of the President, maintaining the financial records in ready form for an audit at any time, and shall conform to the following:

- A. All funds shall be deposited in the name of the Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter in such accounts and depositories as shall be designated by the Board of Managers.
- B. Disbursements shall be made by check signed as designated from time to time by the Board of Managers.
- C. He shall provide the chapter with an accounting, verbal or written, of any financial changes monthly.
- D. He shall prepare an annual budget, for the upcoming year, at the November meeting.
- E. The Treasurer shall file an I.R.S. Form 990-N in a timely manner to the I.R.S. annually.
- F. He shall perform other duties as assigned by the President.

SECTION 5. REGISTRAR - The registrar shall receive all applications for membership, examine applications for completeness, and forward the required copies and related documentation to the State Registrar; maintain records of all applications received, dates of receipt and mailing to the State Registrar, and results of interim actions ending in final approval of memberships; and maintain a membership roster. This position may be divided among several members, separated into "Online" and "Traditional paper" teams to help with the work load. He shall give the chapter an update, verbal or written, on the progress of new member applications or supplementals on a monthly basis. He shall also be responsible for compiling data on membership for the year and giving it to the Chapter Secretary by the beginning of December.

SECTION 6. GENEALOGIST - The Genealogist shall render all reasonable assistance to prospective members in establishing their eligibility for membership.

SECTION 7. HISTORIAN - The Historian shall collect and preserve all historical and genealogical material relating to the chapter and its members; and maintain liaison with the Texas SAR Historian and the Texas SAR Archivist.

SECTION 8. CHAPLAIN - The Chaplain shall open and close meetings of this Chapter with the service usual and proper for such occasions. He shall, as nearly as practical, stay informed, and keep the Chapter informed, of the health, illness, hospitalization, death, or misfortunes of Chapter members.

SECTION 9. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS / COLOR GUARD COMMANDER - The Sergeant-At-Arms / Color Guard Commander shall retain custody of the Chapter's flags and flag stands and ensure that all flags are properly displayed at all regular meetings and special meetings of the Chapter. He shall coordinate Chapter flag activities and have responsibility for awarding SAR flag certificates. He shall participate as a member of the Chapter Color Guard (adopted November 17, 2001). The Sergeant-At-Arms / Color Guard Commander shall co-ordinate all requests for the Chapter's Color Guard or Honor Guard. He shall endeavor to recruit such members that will project the proper image to the general public. He may, from time to time, call on the Chapter's Color/Honor guard to drill (practice) as is necessary. He is encouraged to collect surplus uniform items and hardware that will help, not only our Chapter, but others as well. He shall give the Chapter an update, verbal or written, on the status of the Color/Honor Guard, to include any upcoming events that the Color/Honor Guard may wish to participate in, on a monthly basis. He shall compile a report on who attended which Color/Honor Guard event and submit it to the Chapter Secretary by mid-December.

SECTION 10. QUARTERMASTER – The Quartermaster shall have the duty of keeping an accurate inventory of all “chapter property”. This not only means the quantity of items but also location and condition of items. It shall be his responsibility to maintain the Chapter's property and submit requests for the repair or replacement of items under his care. Some items that might fall under his care are Medals, Awards, etc. He shall give the chapter a monthly report on the status of the chapter's property.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Chapter Board of Managers shall be the custodian of all Chapter assets and shall have charge of and manage the business and affairs of the Chapter, prepare a budget to allocate moneys for the desired programs and activities, be responsible for subsequent performance against the budget, and shall meet at such frequency as called for by the President.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Regular meetings shall be scheduled monthly, normally on the third Saturday of each month, with the first meeting in January and the last meeting in November, with the provision that special meetings may be called at other times by the Board of Managers for special events. No regular meeting may be held in December. The decision whether to hold regular meetings in July and August shall be made by the Board of Managers in June of each year. Notification of the time, date, and place of meetings shall be made electronically. (April changed to January, March changed to November; email added to list: July 19, 2014). If a meeting cannot be held in person (face-to-face), then the meeting may be held via teleconference.

SECTION 2. Conduct of meetings shall follow procedures outlined in the TEXAS SAR Chapter Manual as applicable. Members are welcome to bring guests and are responsible for any cost incurred for themselves and their guests. Compatriots from other SAR chapters, DAR ladies, and C.A.R. members are welcome guests. The Chapter shall not normally be obligated to pay their costs. However, the cost of the speaker's meal shall be borne by the Chapter.

SECTION 3. In the event of the inability or incapacity of the President to perform his duties, a majority of the Chapter Board of Managers may call special meetings to transact Chapter business as required.

SECTION 4. Regular scheduled meetings and special meetings may be held without a quorum. However, Chapter business transactions shall require a quorum. Such quorum shall comprise a minimum of ten percent of the Chapter "active" membership but not less than five members in good standing. An "active" member is defined as a member in good standing who has attended at least one meeting in the past two fiscal years and who is current with his due's payment.

SECTION 5. The official Chapter year shall commence each year on January 1 and end on December 31 of the same year.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. There shall be the following standing committees composed of not less than two members each: EAGLE SCOUT, ROTC/JROTC, CIVIC & PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS, COMMUNICATIONS, TCU AWARDS and FLAG.

SECTION 2. Special Committees shall be appointed by the President when needed, subject to the approval of the Board of Managers.

SECTION 3. The duties of the Standing Committees are as follows:

A. The EAGLE SCOUT COMMITTEE shall have responsibility for planning and executing the Eagle Scout Program, as described in the TEXAS SAR Chapter Manual, for the Longhorn Council.

B. The ROTC/JROTC COMMITTEE shall have responsibility for planning and coordinating the ROTC/JROTC Student Recognition Program for Fort Worth area high schools and colleges. Duties include ordering and presenting medals and certificates and reporting to the State Committee Chairman.

C. The AMERICANISM & PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS COMMITTEE shall have responsibility for planning, organizing, and conducting Americanism Programs and Contests in the Fort Worth area elementary schools and high schools, the selection of Law Enforcement, Fire Prevention, and EMS personnel for meritorious service recognition, and the selection of worthy candidates for the Heroism and Life Saving awards.

D. The TCU AWARDS COMMITTEE shall have responsibility for maintaining the TCU Awards Trust Fund, suggesting the annual amount of the scholarship, coordinating the TCU Awards Program with the TCU History Department, and making the awards presentations.

E. The COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE shall be comprised of a Web Master, who will be responsible for the Chapter's website and a Publicist who will be responsible for the Chapter's newsletter.

F. The FLAG COMMITTEE will be responsible for the Flag Certificate program. He should encourage other compatriots to help him to identify eligible individuals and assist in any other way necessary. He will also be responsible for implementing the chapters Flag Retirement program. He will report to the Chapter Secretary, by November on the status of the programs so that the Chapter Secretary may include this information in the annual reports. He may be asked, from time to time, to give a written or verbal report on the status of the programs.

SECTION 4. A NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall be appointed by the President in June of each election year consisting of three Past Presidents, one of whom shall be designated Chairman. In the event three Past Presidents cannot serve, the NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall consist of a Past President who shall be designated Chairman, and two other members appointed from the general membership (Adopted April 17, 2004). (November changed to September: May 17, 2014)

A. The NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall consider the qualifications of all candidates proposed by the membership, provided that the names are received by the Committee by the October meeting. (January changed to October: May 17, 2014)

B. The NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall report one name for each office to be filled. The report shall be printed in the Official Call to the November meeting and the Chapter's newsletter for November. The Nominating Committee report shall be read to the November meeting, when additional nominations may be made from the floor. No name shall be placed in nomination without the consent of the nominee. (February changed to November: May 17, 2014)

ARTICLE VII - INSIGNIA

Chapter officers and members are entitled to wear any of the various medals of the Society as prescribed by pertinent regulations of the NSSAR. The cost of insignia shall be the responsibility of the member and shall not be for the Chapter's account except for a) the SAR rosette which is given to each new member as part of the ceremony welcoming him into the Chapter membership, b) special awards given by the President, and c) special awards voted by the Board of Managers. The neck ribbon may be worn only by current and past Chapter Presidents and current and past TEXAS SAR officers as prescribed by NSSAR regulations.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be changed, altered, amended, or substituted in whole or in part by a two-thirds vote at a regular or special meeting of this Chapter, provided that a copy of such proposed change, alteration, amendment, or substitution shall be provided to each member of the Chapter not less than thirty days prior to the meeting at which the same is to be voted upon, and provided that a quorum is present at such meeting. Any change voted by the members at the meeting shall be incorporated therein upon final adoption. A two-thirds vote of the members present shall be required for adoption.

This Constitution and these Bylaws were prepared by Past President Donald G. Pray and adopted by a two-thirds vote at the Regular Meeting on January 17, 1998, after copies were duly provided to the Chapter membership by Official Call not less than thirty days prior to the Meeting.

S/Ed Maddox DVM

Edward P. Maddox, President

S/Billy C Collins

Billy C. Collins, Vice-President

S/James L Bracey

James L. Bracey, Secretary

JANUARY 17, 1998

This Constitution and these Bylaws were prepared and adopted by a two-thirds vote at the Regular Meeting on April 17, 2004, after copies were duly provided to the Chapter membership by Official Call not less than thirty days prior to the Meeting.

S/ Donald P. Goodman

Donald P. Goodman, President

S/ James E. Haynes, Sr

James E. Haynes, Sr, Vice-President

S/ B. Gene Shields

B. Gene Shields, Secretary

APRIL 17, 2004

ARTICLE XIV - EFFECTIVE DATE

This Constitution and these Bylaws were prepared by Past President L. Vaughn Oliver and adopted by a two-thirds vote at the Regular Meeting on July 19, 2014, after copies were duly provided to the Chapter membership by Official Call not less than thirty days prior to the Meeting.

S/ Russell Leavens

Russell Leavens, Chapter President

S/ L. Mike Connelley

L. Mike Connelley, Chapter Vice-President

S/ Ralph Smith

Ralph Smith, Chapter Secretary

JULY 19, 2014

STANDING RULES

1. TEXAS SAR has unilaterally decided to be self-insured insofar as liability insurance is concerned. It follows that this Chapter also has no liability insurance to cover any liability or responsibility for members and officers acting in pursuit of business of the Chapter (Adopted January 17, 1998). Since the sponsor of an event is responsible for liability insurance, the Chapter is not required to obtain this type of insurance to participate in any public events. The Chapter member that is pulling our “parade” trailer should have liability insurance through their automobile insurance policy.

2. The TCU Awards Program is established in honor and memory of those TCU graduates and faculty members who co-founded the Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter and who have served as Chapter presidents in years past.

The TCU Awards Program is a unique program established by this Chapter in cooperation with the TCU History Department to recognize history students who have distinguished themselves in some patriotic fashion as set forth in the objectives of the Society. The award is named the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter, Award. The award will be presented annually at the Spring Banquet of the TCU History Department and include an award of up to \$1500.00 in the form of an educational credit to assist the student with their educational costs. Candidates for the award shall be proposed by the TCU History Department. The candidate must be an American citizen. The candidates will be either Freshman, Sophomores, or Juniors. The TCU Awards Trust Fund is established to fund this award (Adopted January 17, 1998). Value increased from \$200 to \$250 (July 19, 2014). The TCU Awards committee will make a recommendation to the membership of the amount of the award prior to the presentation of the award.

3. The Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter SAR Youth Fund is established to assist the Chapter in administering the elementary and secondary students’ programs of the Chapter.

The Trustees of the fund shall be the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. A simple majority of Trustees will be required to dispense funds. The interest of the fund and no more than 10% of its principal may be expended in any one year. Members of the Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, and others are encouraged to make provision in their estate planning to make contributions to the fund. The fund is also authorized to accept funds from other

individuals, corporations, labor unions, businesses, and foundations. At the appropriate time, members are encouraged to specify contributions to the Youth Fund instead of flowers as a memorial. The Treasurer of the Fund shall report at least every six months the financial status of the fund. (Adopted April 19, 2003).

4. The Chapter financial assets shall be maintained in three separate accounts: the Operating Funds, Goodman Youth Fund, and the Pray TCU Awards Trust Fund, and the accounts shall not be commingled (Adopted January 17, 1998) (Pray added July 19, 2014). (Goodman Youth Fund added -Adopted July 19, 2014).

5. The Chapter constitution, Bylaws and the Standing Rules shall be reviewed by one or more of the current officers, at least once a year. It will be annotated that a review has been done and by whom in the Secretary's Report to the Chapter, no later than the November meeting.