



Minutes for Chapter Meeting
March 18, 2023
Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter #6, Texas SAR

9:30 a.m.

President Bobby Gresham called the meeting to order.

- **Chaplain Ralph Smith** offered the invocation.
- **Color Guard Commander Vann Cunningham** led the pledge to the flag of the United States, the pledge to the flag of the State of Texas, and the pledge to the SAR.
- **President Gresham** welcomed our guests, which included Bella Kate Walker, Julia Grace, Lydia Grace, Cyndi Grace, Drew Grace, Preslee Hilliard, WOSAR Sherrye Woodworth and applicants Joe Wade and Steve Wilson.
- **President Gresham** turned the podium over to **Past President Mike Connelley** and **Immediate Past President Ron Turner** who presented the 2023 Youth Awards. **Past President Connelley** gave a brief description of the two awards and also asked for volunteers to judge the competitions next year.

Before getting into the award presentations, **Past President Turner** described the history of Challenge Coins and presented the FIRST of the new Chapter Challenge Coins, accompanied by a validating certificate, to **Treasurer Anthony Walker**, who in turn will present it to his daughter Brooke Walker, our 2022 C.A.R. Essay Contest winner. **Past President Turner** then offered up a special prayer for Brooke amidst her medical issues.

Past President Connelley then presented the Chapter 2023 C.A.R. Essay Contest award certificate and scholarship check to Bella Walker of Heath, Texas, daughter of **Treasurer Walker**. Her topic was *The Siege of Yorktown and the Influence of Black Patriots*. **Past President Turner** presented Miss Walker with the SECOND of the new Chapter Challenge Coins, also accompanied by a validating certificate.

Past President Connelley then presented the Chapter 2023 Knight Essay award certificate and scholarship check to Julia Grace of Burleson, Texas. Her essay was titled *Unsung Heroes of the American Revolution*. The essay focused on the role of women in the revolution and was particularly appropriate for Women's History Month. **Past President Connelley** also presented Miss Grace with an award certificate and scholarship check for her Third-Place finish at the state level of the contest. **Past President Turner** presented Miss Grace with the THIRD of the new Chapter Challenge Coins, again accompanied by a validating certificate.

- **Immediate Past President Turner** recognized the Chapter Challenge Coin design committee, consisting of himself, **Past President Connelley**, and **Compatriot Bob Jacobs**. These three

Compatriots were the only ones to submit an actual design, so they also made up the selection committee. He noted that **Compatriot Jacobs'** design was selected without changes for the Chapter Challenge Coin. **Past President Turner** presented **Compatriot Jacobs** with a new Challenge Coin and a certificate in recognition of his design, and a coin and certificate to **Past President Connelley** for his participation on the committee. Chapter Challenge Coins went on sale for \$10 per coin following the meeting adjournment.

OLD BUSINESS

- **President Gresham** called for the Treasurer's Report, which was presented by **Treasurer Walker**, moved by **Past President Turner**, and seconded by **Chaplain Smith**, and adopted.
- **Registrar Gerry Gieger** and **Assistant Registrar Ron Turner** provided the Registrar's Report.
- **Texas SAR Vice President District 5 Ron Turner** gave a report on his activities and upcoming Texas SAR events. He announced the grave marking for James Lemmon the following day, Sunday, March 19th, at 3:00 p.m. in Lancaster; the upcoming Texas SAR State Convention in Spring on March 30th-April 2nd; the Medal of Honor Parade on April 22nd in Gainesville (the trailer will go); and the upcoming visit of newly installed **Texas SAR President Sam Massey** to the Dallas Chapter on Saturday, April 8th. The Dallas Chapter has extended an invitation to all who wish to attend. **Vice President Turner** also noted the next Fall BOM will be held on October 20th-21st in College Station.
- **Color Guard Commander Cunningham** thanked the Color Guardsmen who participated in the United States Daughters of 1812 celebration and wreath laying at the grave of General Edward Tarrant in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery in Fort Worth on Saturday, March 11th. The color guard was commanded by **Drake Peddie**, President of the General Society Sons of the War of 1812 in Texas, and former Texas SAR State Color Guard Commander. The Van Zandt chapter participants included **James Alderman, Doug Schwetke, Bob Jacobs, Vann Cunningham, and Bobby Gresham**.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Past President Turner**, assisted by **President Gresham**, briefed the Chapter on the potential move to Diamond Oaks Country Club (DOCC). **Past President Turner, President Gresham, and Past President James Alderman** met with the club catering manager and determined that a meeting room can be rented for \$100 per meeting. A breakfast buffet meal will be provided at a cost of \$20 per plate (includes gratuity) and the Chapter must commit to a minimum of twenty (20) meals each meeting. The Chapter will meet at DOCC in April and May. A different meal alternative will be offered in each of the two months. If the Chapter approves the move at the May meeting, a vote will also be taken on the preferred meal option.

Several options on how to fund the costs of the room rental fee were discussed. The options included adding \$5 to the meal cost to cover the \$100 room rental fee; have the Chapter cover the costs out of Chapter funds (a hit of \$1,100 per year to the budget); or increase our Chapter yearly dues to help offset the room rental fee. For now, the price of our meals will increase by \$5 per meal to cover the room rental fee. **Past President Turner** also stated that we can expect increases to both the National and State portions of our dues. The last increase to National dues

went into effect immediately after Congress met in July and that may be the case this year. Any State increase will go into effect beginning in 2024 and an increase in the Chapter portion might further discourage dues renewals.

- **Past President Turner** discussed the need for a pull-up banner to assist in directing members and visitors to the meeting room. He presented a possible design for discussion. **Compatriot Kim Brimer** moved, and **Compatriot Jacobs** seconded a motion authorizing **Past President Turner** to proceed with the purchase of two (2) pull-up banners at an approximate cost of \$110.00 per banner. The motion was approved.
- There was no other old or new business.
- **President Gresham** asked for a motion to adjourn which was made and approved.
- **Color Guard Commander Cunningham** led the closing.
- **Chaplain Smith** offered the benediction.
- The meeting was concluded at 11:30 a.m.
- In attendance, per the sign-in sheet and observation, were 14 members and 9 guests for a total of 23 attendees.

Respectfully submitted,

Vann Cunningham, Color Guard Commander, &
Ron Turner, Vice President District 5, and Immediate Past Chapter President
Major K. M. Van Zandt Chapter #6, Texas SAR
(both filling in for an absent **Mark Parkison**, Chapter Secretary)