



Robert Rankin Chapter #62
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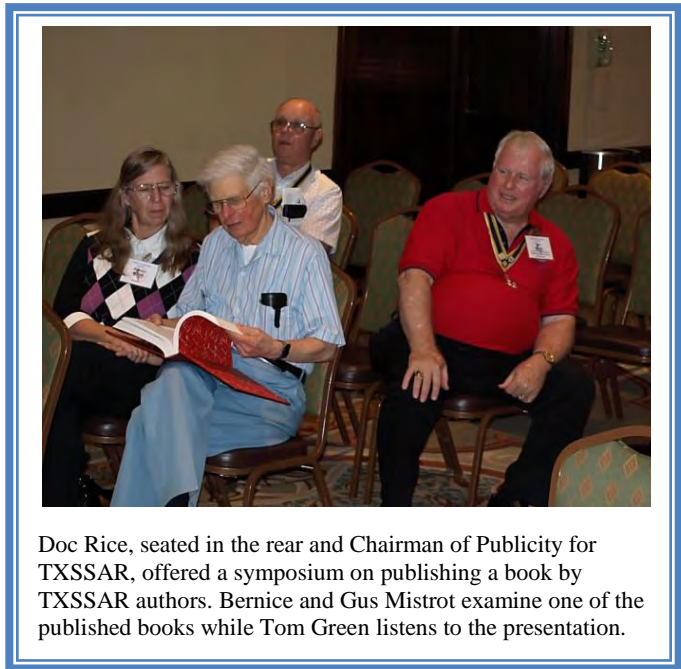
Special Board of Managers Issue

October 2010

Our Board of Managers Meeting

by Bobby R. Smith, President (2010-2011)

The BOM Meeting here in Houston was a grand event attended by sixteen Compatriots from the Rankin Chapter, almost the entire active group. They were joined by thirteen ladies. The roll call of those who were here included Ralph Aniol, Ray Cox, Allen Greene, Allan Henshaw, and the Jackson Three: Ash, Fred, and Tom, David Jones, Patrick Kerr, Kelly McBride, Theron McLaren, Gus Mistrot, Ed Raines, Bobby Smith, Stephen Tanner, and Doug Thornton. As always, I have asked our newsletter editor Tom Jackson to load the issue with photos.



Friday Night



The Robert Rankin Chapter hosted the Fall Board of Managers Meeting at the beautiful Houston Hilton Westchase over a three-day period starting October 29 and concluding on Sunday, October 31. The primary purpose of the BOM is for the state officers and state committees to meet, review and modify short and long-range plans, goals and objectives. A secondary objective is to encourage, educate, and enlighten compatriots from around the state. Mixed in throughout all of these meetings is a healthy dose of fun and fellowship.

The Friday evening symposium, designed and organized by Doc Rice, featured noted TXSSAR authors Tom Meineke (above left) from the Alexander Hodge Chapter and Past President General Judge Ed Butler (above right).

The Evening Banquet



In the two photos above, Rankin Chapter Chancellor Allan Henshaw (left) is at the podium introducing the speaker for the evening, Dr. Robert Ivany. Dr. Ivany, President of the University of St. Thomas, is shown standing at the podium in the photo above right. TXSSAR President Jim Jones is seated. Also shown in the photos is Vice President General South Central District Harry Fife (above left) and President Jones (above right).

Dr. Ivany enthralled the audience with his recollections of his time as the Army Aide to President Reagan at the banquet. Dr. Ivany, also received a Wounded Warrior coin and accompanying certificate from Rankin Compatriot Douglas Thornton, a WWII veteran and Wounded Warrior recognition recipient.



Additionally, the Rankin Chapter gave the West Point graduate a canvas print of Dr. Johnson's painting, "Birth of Freedom", artwork that was commissioned for the event. The painting, which is presented to Ivany by Compatriot Jackson shown in the photo to the left, contains thirteen different symbols of the American Revolution including butterflies and flowers.

More from the Evening Affair...

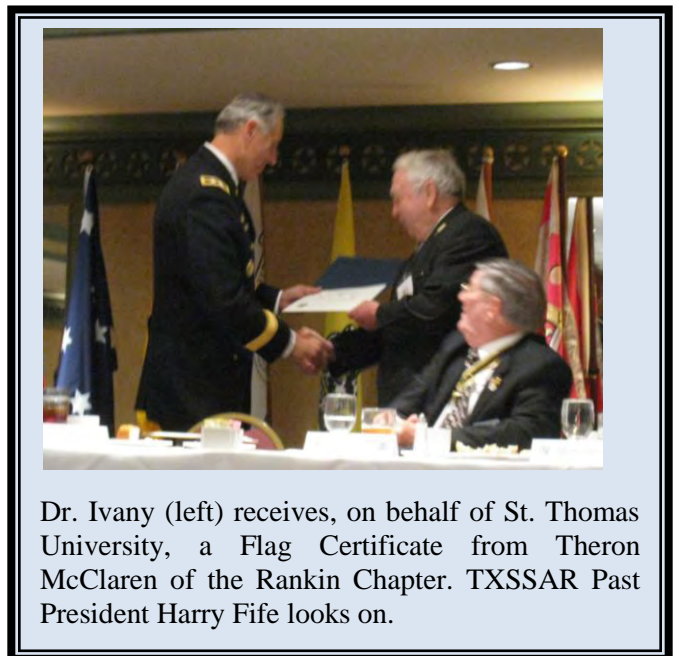


From left to right: Dr. Robert Ivany, Maj. Gen. USA (ret.), Stephen Tanner, Harry Fife (Vice President General, South Central District), Bill Marris (President-Elect, TXSSAR).

Steve Tanner has just presented Dr. Ivany with his Speaker COA & SAR coffee mug.



TXSSAR President Jim Jones (left) presents Dr. Ivany (right) with a framed Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate for Dr. Ivany's service to our country.



Dr. Ivany (left) receives, on behalf of St. Thomas University, a Flag Certificate from Theron McClaren of the Rankin Chapter. TXSSAR Past President Harry Fife looks on.



The brass assembles...

In the photo, from left to right, are Chancellor General Judge Tom Lawrence, Past President General Judge Ed Butler, TXSSAR President Jim Jones, Dr. Robert Ivany, South Central Vice President General Harry Fife, TXSSAR President-Elect Bill Marris, and TXSSAR Treasurer, Peter McClellan.

Odds and ends



Relaxing after a wonderful evening meal are, from left to right, Gail Raines, Virginia Evans, Ed Raines, and Olga McClaren. Standing behind the table is Bernice Mistrot on the left while Nancy McBride (in red) and Kelly McBride are on the right.



Shown above are some of the decorations that were created by Virginia Evans and Julie Brock.

Decorations were developed courtesy of Virginia Evans, Tejas Chapter Regent, and Julie Brock, Julie is the wife of Paul Carrington Chapter President George Brock.

Each table had a centerpiece of red, white, and blue silk flowers replete with American flags. The Hilton supplied black napkins and a glass candleholder with a base of blue marbles on a circular mirror.

Thank you Ladies!



Ash Jackson (left) receives from Charles Luna (right) the Alexander Hamilton Medal and Certificate. The Hamilton Medal is presented to those Compatriots who contribute a minimum of \$1,000 to the Patriot Fund. The Patriot Fund is used to fund scholarships for youth programs. Ash joins Tom Jackson and David Jones as the other two Rankin members who have received this recognition.



Rankin Compatriot and District 8 V.P. Raymond Cox leads the color guard as its Fifer. Gus and Bernice Mistrot stand just to his left in the photo.

The Birth of Freedom



About the Artist

James (Jim) J. Johnson, Jr. is a native Texan and a proud member of the SAR! He received his Bachelor's Degree in Art and Education at West Texas State University (B. S. '57). His Master's Degree in Public School Administration with a minor in Art was completed at The University of Texas at El Paso (M. Ed. '64). He was awarded the Doctor's Degree in Art Education with a minor in Art at Pennsylvania State University (D. Ed. '67). He has studied watercolor with well-known artists including Bror Utter, Buckley MacGurrin, Arnold Leondar, Zoltan Zabo, Warren Cullar, and Rob Erdle. Dr. Johnson taught drawing and art education for twenty-seven years at the University of North Texas. He also served as Visual Arts Studies Coordinator in the School of Visual Arts. Dr. Johnson retired, Emeritus, in 1995 from UNT. Prior to teaching at UNT, he taught seven years in the public secondary schools from 1957 through 1964 in the Ysleta Independent School District in El, Paso, Texas.

James J. Johnson, Jr., "The Birth of Freedom"

There are thirteen symbols symbolizing the thirteen original colonies:

1. Eagle symbolizes the American Nation (top, center)
2. Shield and motto symbolizes unity (upper center under eagle)
3. Bell symbolizes Liberty (top left)
4. U. S. A. (hidden in crown)
5. Crown and "GR" symbol of King George III (top left next to bell)
6. Gustavus, code name for Benedict Arnold (behind Washington's right shoulder)
7. George Washington (center, under eagle)
8. Six Pointed Star used in George Washington's standard (upper right)
9. Thomas Jefferson (lower left)
10. "13" (Jefferson's left shoulder)
11. Independence Hall symbol of Freedom (below Washington)
12. Butterflies and Flowers design from Boston Tea Party casks (lower right)
13. Benjamin Franklin (right, above butterflies)



Compatriot Tom Jackson stands to announce the winner of the Symbolism Interpretation Contest as George Harcourt. George received a basket of Scottish drink, food, and miniature art!

Tom remains standing to reveal one of the mysteries of the watercolor. At his table, clockwise from him, are Bernice and Gus Mistrot, Wendell and Linda Edwards, Nancy and Kelly McBride.

Tom Jackson commissioned the watercolor for the event. With permission of the artist, Tom hired a local gallery to reproduce and frame the original and copies that were donated to the Chapter for the silent auction. Sales grossed seven hundred dollars.

From Ideas to Fruition

The genesis of the Rankin Chapter hosted Board of Managers meeting was during the Chapter annual banquet in March 2009. Allan Henshaw challenged the chapter and Tom Jackson (in a weak moment) volunteered to be in charge if he were aided by three others. David Jones, Allan Henshaw, and Patrick Kerr joined him. Thus began the process that culminated in the TXSSAR Fall 2010 Board of Managers Meeting.

The principal chores of the Host Committee are to find a suitable hotel followed by the selection of a speaker, in that order. The site selection, started in June 2009, consumed approximately eighty hours involving Tom and a friend of the Chapter, and culminated with the signing of a contract in June 2010.

Critical to the success of the luncheon and dinner banquets is the selection of speakers. Verbal and written requests were made of prominent Houstonians from various occupations during the summer of 2010. The approaching elections in November resulted in numerous negative replies. Rankin Compatriots Ralph Aniol and Doug Thornton had both heard Major General Robert Ivany speak at different events and recommended him to Tom Jackson. The rest, as is said, is history.

The concept of a fire fighters luncheon involving local chapters was the idea of TXSSAR Convention Chairman George Harcourt. The idea was discussed at a Rankin planning meeting, enhanced to include the issuance of flag certificates, and was approved. The original Rankin idea, a salute to local schools that promoted SAR contests and programs, was shelved in favor of the fire fighter theme.

The determination was made that the event needed the participation of at least four chapters for critical mass to occur while the participation of five chapters would be considered a success. Tom Jackson and Stephen Tanner solicited the participation of

Chapters at the Austin BOM, TXSSAR President Jim Jones added support through his column in the Texas Compatriot, and District Vice Presidents Ray and Allan contacted their respective chapters.

Rankin members worked the event from the other end as well by contacting various fire fighter groups. An embarrassment of riches ensued as Rankin President Bobby Smith obtained a City of Houston candidate (a first for the Rankin Chapter), Tom Jackson obtained two candidates from Cy Fair VFD, and Marti Thorne secured an additional two candidates from West Houston. Meanwhile, only the Cradle of Texas and Bernardo de Galvez Chapters were successful in their endeavors. [Gus Mistrot accepted the challenge](#) to spread the wealth and coordinate the presentations. He did and in the process persuaded the Alexander Hodge, Paul Carrington, and Piney Woods Chapters to approve a Rankin candidate. Ultimately, there were six chapters recognizing eight firefighters and EMS personnel! As an added bonus, the luncheon speaker, Hank Schmidt, was the prior City of Katy Fire Chief!

Critical stand-alone segments of the BOM are the ladies hospitality, the raffle, the silent auction, the welcome bag, nametags, registration and treasury, outside greetings and speakers, and publicity. [These were ably handled by Ed and Gail Raines, David Jones, Patrick and Sylvia Kerr, Marti and Alex Thorne, Steve Tanner, Tom Jackson, and Ralph Aniol, respectively.](#)

A completely separate phase of the BOM was the enhancements. The Chapter was challenged to enhance the experience of the attendees and the Chapter responded. [Bobby and Nita Smith hired a renowned jazz pianist, Charlie Prause](#) to play prior to the banquet. [Allan Greene and Tom Jackson](#) worked together on the Symbolism Interpretation Contest, while Patrick Kerr and Tom Jackson interrupted various meetings to announce winners of door prizes donated by [Pat and Sylvia Kerr!](#)