



# Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

## Chapter President's Manual

Edition 7.20

October 17, 2008



## Appendix I

### PATRIOTIC DAYS TO CELEBRATE OR OBSERVE

1. Washington's Birthday	February 22
2. Patriots' Day (Battle of Lexington & Concord)	April 19
3. Loyalty Day (enacted in 2007 by Public Law 85-529)	May 1
4. Memorial Day	May 30
5. Flag Day	June 14
6. Independence Day	July 4
7. Constitution Day	September 17
8. Victory at Yorktown	October 19
9. Veterans Day	November 11
10. Bill of Rights Day	December 15
11. YOUR Chapter Anniversary Date	<b>Arlington is Jan. 11, 1994</b>
12. TXSSAR Anniversary	<b>December 8, 1896</b>

## Appendix J

### THE CONTINENTAL LINE - NEWS FOR NEW MEMBERS

#### ORGANIZATION

Your new Compatriots in the Sons of the American Revolution welcome you. We are a group of men who have established a lineal descent from a Patriot who was loyal to and rendered active service in support of the cause of American independence. The objects of our Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational, and we seek to perpetuate the memory of those patriots who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is divided into individually incorporated state societies. You belong to the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. You will often see the Society referred to as TXSSAR. The TXSSAR is divided into districts and, of course, the districts are made up of the local chapters. The number of chapters in a district vary because the districts cover the more heavily populated areas of the state as well as the thinly populated areas in West Texas.

The National Society meets once a year in June in larger cities throughout the United States. The Texas Society meets once a year in March in towns where there is a local chapter to be the host. Local Chapters meet as decided by the members. Some chapters, especially the larger chapters, meet monthly for business, social interaction, to break bread together, and to hear talks of interest. Several chapters meet monthly except for the summer months, others meet quarterly, and one meets annually at Christmas for a black tie special occasion. In addition to these meetings, the Texas Society Board of Managers meets three times a year, in March, August, and in November, to assure smooth conduct of TXSSAR business. Some of our districts have one-day training meetings to help local chapter officers in their conduct of chapter affairs.

Nationally, we have a President General, Vice Presidents General representing areas of the country, and other National Officers. The TXSSAR has a President, a President-Elect, and the district Vice Presidents, as well as Historian, Chaplain, Genealogist, Registrar, Secretary, Staff Secretary, Treasurer, and Chancellor. Local chapters follow this general order of officers modified to fit the needs of each chapter.

The TXSSAR has programs utilized by the chapters to encourage patriotism and research into the period of the American Revolution. Each chapter is encouraged to participate in recognizing outstanding ROTC students at the high school and college level in their communities by the annual award of the Society's Bronze (high school) or Silver (college) medal and certificate. These medals are available from National Society headquarters in Louisville, KY. We have an oration contest each year for high school students where winners advance from chapter to district to state to national with winners at each level receiving prizes or scholarships. The Eagle Scout competition invites all new Eagle Scouts to write a short essay. These are judged locally and at the state level and each state winner advances to the national competition at the national annual meeting. Winners receive substantial scholarships. We also have a new poster contest at

## Appendix J

the local and state level designed for elementary level school students. The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal is available for award to high school level students as well as adults for outstanding service to the community.

To reap the maximum benefits from your membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, you should participate. Come to meetings, serve on committees, make yourself available for chapter offices, and have a wonderful time with your compatriots.

Ross L. Shipman  
Compatriot

## Appendix J

### THE CONTINENTAL LINE - NEWS FOR NEW MEMBERS

#### SOCIETY INSIGNIA

When you were given your certificate of membership you were also given a small Rosette for your lapel. This Rosette is in the colors of George Washington's uniform and represents your membership in the SAR. The Rosette is worn only on informal occasions and it is displayed in the left lapel of the suit or sports coat. You do not wear it on a sweater, sports shirt, top coat, or formal dress. When you wear it, no insignia of any other organization should be worn at the same time. Of course, the Rosette is not worn when you are wearing the Society Badge or other Society medals.

The Society Badge consists of the Society medal pendant suspended from a blue and gold ribbon. It is worn on the left breast of the coat. A small five pointed star worn on the ribbon indicates each approved supplemental ancestor. Chapter presidents and past presidents and state society presidents and past presidents wear the Society Medal on a neck ribbon.

There is a proper way to wear insignia and many improper ways. Look around you at your next chapter meeting. You will see insignia worn in many ways. This letter is designed to give you, the new SAR compatriot, the proper and the correct way to display awards and insignia.

The highest award of the National Society is the Minuteman Award and this medallion is worn around the neck suspended from a light blue neck ribbon. Other medals awarded by the Society are worn on the left breast, to the left of and on line with the Society Badge. They are worn in order of seniority from the wearers right to left as follows: SAR Society Badge, Minuteman Award, Gold Good Citizenship Medal, War Service Medal, Law Enforcement Medal, Patriot Medal, SAR Meritorious Service Award, Silver Good Citizenship Medal, Florence Kendall Medal, Silver ROTC Medal, Bronze ROTC Medal, and Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.

The Society Badge and Society medals in miniature size may be worn only on the left breast. When more than one medal is worn, all must be of the same size. The exception to this is, neck ribbon insignia of the Society are always full size and are worn independently of the other insignia and medals.

Past State and Chapter Presidents are authorized to wear a special pin on the neck ribbon that supports the regular Society Badge. This pin is worn at the apex of the "V" of the neck ribbon only. The rule is that only one such pin is worn at any one time, however this rule is almost universally ignored. You will see past Presidents General and Past Vice Presidents General and past State Presidents with two, three, or even four pins on their neck ribbons. I make a rule not to point out their error to them!

## Appendix J

When other decorations and medals are worn with the Society's insignia on ceremonial occasions, all should be in proper order from right to left and all should be of similar size. The order for wearing multiple decorations in SAR has been established as follows: FEDERAL DECORATIONS (in the established order of seniority); FEDERAL CAMPAIGN MEDALS (Medals earned prior to WWII, American Defense Service, U. S. Theatre, Asiatic -Pacific Theatre, European- African-Middle Eastern Theatre, Victory Medal (WWII), Occupation of Germany or Japan (WWII), Medal for Humane Action, National Defense Service, Korean Service, Dominican Republic Service, Viet Nam Service, Armed Forces Expeditionary, Armed Forces Reserve, United Nations Service, United Nations Medal, and later medals.); STATE DECORATIONS; STATE CAMPAIGN MEDALS; STATE ORGANIZATIONAL AND LONG SERVICE MEDALS; INSIGNIA OF HEREDITARY, PATRIOT, AND VETERANS SOCIETIES (in chronological order by the year of establishment); FOREIGN DECORATIONS (in the order in which they were awarded).

Go to your Chapter and to the State meetings and wear your decorations and medals with pride. At the Annual State meeting, it is the custom at the Saturday night banquet to wear a tuxedo with all the medals and decorations to which you are entitled including Combat Infantry Badges in miniature and pilot and parachute wings in miniature. This is the only occasion when everyone seems to wear everything, and with all of our retired military compatriots, this is a lot.

Ross L. Shipman  
Compatriot

## Appendix J

### THE CONTINENTAL LINE - NEWS FOR NEW MEMBERS

#### THE TEXAS SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

One of the highlights and one of the most fun events of the year in SAR is the Texas Society's Annual Meeting. This meeting is held every year in different cities and towns in Texas. These range from large to small. Tyler, Abilene, College Station, Galveston, Killeen, Austin, Kerrville, Plano, and San Antonio have been or will be sites for us to gather, meet, and have fun.

This Annual Meeting is planned for the second weekend in March every year. Usually Friday is the day for committee meetings and training sessions and Friday evening is an informal dinner, or some years, friends gather to go "out-on-the-town" to have supper.

Wives are not only included, but greatly welcomed at all of the social functions of the convention.

Sometimes the convention convenes on Friday evening and other times it convenes on Saturday morning. We go about the business of the TXSSAR including a memorial session for our departed compatriots. The nominating committee meets first on Friday and each chapter has one representative with one vote on this committee. The committee meets again on Saturday and brings a slate to the delegates assembled. The voting in the General Meeting is by chapter delegates and each chapter is represented proportionally by size - one delegate for each seven members - but the delegates have to be present to vote.

The Saturday luncheon is the time we hear the talks of the district winners in the Oration Contest for high school students. We usually have five contestants who give five -minute talks without notes. A panel of judges selects a winner to represent the TXSSAR at the National Convention in June.

After lunch we reconvene and finish the agenda for the Annual Meeting. On Saturday evening we have the formal reception and dinner and a talk from the President General of the National Society. Awards are made to the chapters winning the various contests and the TXSSAR Patriot Medal honorees are announced and awarded the rather handsome medal. Look around you at chapter meetings and you will see a compatriot wearing one. It is a bust of General of the Armies Douglas McArthur on a silver medal suspended from a navy blue ribbon. This is the highest award of the TXSSAR. This annual formal dinner is where you and your compatriots wear all medals and awards to which they are entitled. It is most impressive and enjoyable.

On Saturday the Council of Chapter Presidents meet and they meet again on Sunday morning with the new Board of Managers of the TXSSAR. The Board of Managers consists of all elected state officers, the immediate Past President, our National Trustee, Past Presidents of TXSSAR, and past and present General Officers of the National Society who are members of the Texas Society.

## Appendix J

The General Society of the War of 1812 meets for breakfast on the Sunday of the annual TXSSAR meeting.

Entertainment and excursions are a highpoint for our wives (and some of our compatriots). At the Brownsville meeting, this included a shopping trip to Matamoros, Mexico. In Killeen there was a tour of Fort Hood and in Tyler there was a garden and home tour. Always they are interesting and fun. Of course, the hospitality room is a center of activity in our host hotel.

These are fun meetings - we see our friends and compatriots from throughout the state, and we work together to have the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution be what we think it should be. Make your reservations, pack your bags, buy your spouse a new outfit, get in a car with compatriots from your chapter, and come, work, and have a really great time!

Ross L. Shipman  
Compatriot



## Appendix J

### THE CONTINENTAL LINE - NEWS FOR NEW MEMBERS

#### TEXAS SOCIETY PERMANENT FUNDS

**PATRIOTS FUND.** At the 1978 Annual State Convention, the Texas Society created the permanent fund that is now named the Patriots Fund. This is an agency which the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution created to manage the assets of the Society as they relate to (1) Gifts received by the Society, and (2) Assets turned over to the Society.

The Patriots Fund is administered by a Board of Trustees that includes the President and the Chancellor of the Texas Society and five other members appointed by the President. The five appointed members each serve for a term of five years with one term expiring each year. Vacancies occurring during a term are filled by Presidential appointment.

While the Trustees are empowered to manage the fund, only the Society shall have authority to initiate and execute projects and undertakings according to the general purposes and objects of the fund.

Funds available for expenditure vary according to current rates of interest and returns on investments of the fund principal. An average year recently had \$8,600 available for projects. This was allocated for scholarship awards in the state oration contest and for travel funds for the winner to go to the National Convention. Also, money was allocated for the Eagle Scout Scholarship and his expenses to the State Convention. Money was allocated for ROTC medals and for the Elementary School Poster Contest. The state Expansion Committee received money for expenses and we bought microfilm of the 1920 Texas Census for the SAR research library at our National Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky.

Individual members contribute to this fund by gifts and through their wills. A great many compatriots, when they are paying their annual dues, round off the dollar amount with the difference between dues and amount paid designated for the Patriots Fund.

**PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP FUND.** The State Society has a Perpetual Membership available. The cost varies by the members age when the Perpetual Membership is purchased. For those in the 18 to 25 years old category, the price is \$650; 26 to 36 years old, the price is \$575; and over 36, the cost is \$ 500.<sup>1</sup> Perpetual Members never again have to pay annual dues to the State Society, to the National Society, nor to the local chapters except where chapters have a fee above the regular dues. This fund is designed to be self supporting so income generated will cover the national and local dues. The member's name is forever on the rolls of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Names of Perpetual Members are listed in the State Directory, even after the Compatriot dies. We also have available a Memorial Perpetual Membership that arranges for memorial contributions at the time of a Compatriot's death to be made in the name of

<sup>1</sup> This article was written several years ago and the rates for Perpetual Membership have changed. See the TXSSAR web site ([www.txssar.org](http://www.txssar.org)) for current rates.

## Appendix J

the deceased, to establish a Perpetual Membership in the Sons of the American Revolution.

To be a part of this Memorial Perpetual Membership, the compatriot should instruct that his obituary include a statement similar to this:

In lieu of flowers or other memorials, the family asks that a tax deductible contribution be made in the name of the deceased to the Perpetual Membership Fund of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, (see the TXSSAR web site - [www.txssar.org](http://www.txssar.org) - for the current Treasurer's address).

The compatriot should also leave instructions for his family or executor, in writing, to add sufficient funds from the estate to total the \$500 fee.<sup>2</sup> The compatriot is forever inscribed on the rolls of the Texas Society with friends and compatriots. This would be a fitting, distinguished, and lasting memorial.

Ross L. Shipman  
Compatriot

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.