

# Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7

First Dixie Café, 2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013

March 14, 2015

## I. Call to Order

President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 a.m.

## II. Invocation

Chaplain **Bill Covington** led the invocation.

## III. Pledges

The pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag was led by compatriot **Kevin Jorrey**. The pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag was also led by compatriot **Kevin Jorrey**. The SAR pledge was also led by Treasurer **Ron Carter**.

## IV. Guest Introductions

There were four guests in attendance: **Janice Wehr**, **Haley-Beth Wehr**, **Janice Cohen**, and Texas SAR President **Bob Cohen**.

## V. A Message from the President of Texas SAR

Texas SAR President **Bob Cohen** discussed the new campaign of the state organization: "Celebrate the Past; Strengthen the Present; Shape the Future." With regard to the name of the organization, the expression "TXSSAR" should be abandoned and replaced by the expression "Texas SAR" and at the chapter level- "Arlington SAR." Doing so, will make the brand name more prominent. Additionally, SAR rosettes should be worn in public, since the Sons of the American Revolution does not represent a secret society. The SAR needs better marketing and a way to emphasize the brand. President Cohen believes that probably 80% of the U.S. population should be eligible to join either SAR or DAR. The Texas SAR has approximately 2,700 members – less than one-seventh of the current Texas DAR membership. **Janice Cohen** noted that the State Convention of the Texas SAR will recognize the Junior Charter members attending this event. Texas SAR President **Bob Cohen** asked those in attendance at the chapter meeting what was the minimum age required for SAR membership. He answered this question saying "birth." For increasing membership in the Texas SAR the stated strategies were: "recruit, retain, and re-instate." He also noted that the membership should metaphorically "sharpen the saw" by training the members in what they need to do to carry out this strategy. To capitalize on joint ventures between the Texas SAR and the Texas DAR, it was noted that the DAR state chapter which assists the SAR attain the most members is awarded a prize of \$500. It is necessary to fill-out a DAR finder form for the DAR state chapter to receive credit for this assistance. It was noted that both the Texas SAR and the Texas DAR are the largest state chapters in their respective national organizations. Other marketing items include the Texas SAR bumper sticker and the new website domain name [www.texassar.org](http://www.texassar.org). **Janice Cohen** noted that the Ladies Auxiliary to the SAR is holding a drawing for a King-Size quilt, with the proceeds of this raffle going to the Patriots Fund. As an example, this fund is used for SAR/Eagle Scout scholarships. Texas SAR President **Bob Cohen** noted that proceeds of the Texas SAR Challenge Coin goes to the Perpetual Fund.

## VI. Guest Lecture by Dr. Bob Cohen: The Role of Spain in the American Revolution

Chapter President **David Friels** introduced guest speaker and Texas SAR President **Bob Cohen**. It was noted that **Bob Cohen** holds BA, MA, & PhD degrees and has served for forty years at Texas A&M University at College Station, Texas. His area of expertise is as a swine specialist, and when he is away from work, he enjoys sports, woodworking, & music. He has been married to guest Janice Cohen for forty-five years.

The following points were made during his lecture:

1. Due to its association and alliance with France, Spain was involved in various ways in assisting the American patriots gain independence from England.
2. The Bourbon Pact was the alliance between Spain and France formed between King Louis XV and King Carlos III of Spain. If one nation was at war, then both nations would be at war as allies.
3. Following the Seven Years War (i.e., the French & Indian War in America), France was forced to give up all claims to Canada, the land east of the Mississippi River, and West Louisiana. Spain gave up a claim to Florida, acquired West Louisiana, and received the return of Cuba to the Spanish empire.
4. With regard to thirteen colonies, it was noted that Delaware declared independence from both Great Britain and Pennsylvania!
5. Prior to the American Revolution, the colonies typically did not have western borders. For example, the Georgia colony claimed land all the way to the Mississippi River.
6. The Texas city of Galveston was named after Bernardo de Galvaz, who became the Governor of West Louisiana (based at New Orleans.) During the Independence Day Parade following the American Revolution, Bernardo de Galvaz was placed to the right side of George Washington.
7. During the American Revolution, Spain was instrumental to the American patriots in sales of guns, pistols, powder and other supplies. These supplies were shipped along the Mississippi River and then to the Ohio River and to Virginia. To expedite these sales of provisions to the American patriots, goods were shipped and stockpiled at St. Louis by the Spanish.
8. During the American Revolution, France was interested in obtaining a victory over England; while Spain was interested in re-claiming Florida. In 1778, a pact was established between France, Spain, and the new states which would require that all three parties take part in an eventual peace treaty with England. This pact had been formed before France agreed to support the American Revolution. France joined the Revolutionary War in 1778, and Spain joined the Revolutionary War in 1779.
9. *Donativos* were a listing of those Spanish colonists in America who had donated money to help fund the American Revolution. Descendants of those on this list are eligible for SAR membership today.
10. Spain assisted the American forces by maintaining a blockade of British naval vessels. Spain also supported the American Revolution by attacking/capturing British troops at locations such as Pensacola.

## VII. Induction of Chapter Officers for 2015

Before the new officers were sworn into office, President **David Friels** made a motion to keep **Bill Covington** as Chaplain. This motion was seconded by **Dennis Walton** and approved by those members in attendance. Texas SAR President **Bob Cohen** presided over the induction of new Chapter officers: President: **David Friels**; Vice President: **Bob Wehr**; Secretary: **Roger Wehr**; Treasurer: **Ron Carter**; Registrar: **John Anderson**; Historian: **Kevin Jorrey**; & Chaplain: **Bill Covington**. The term for chapter offices runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. Ron Carter thanked Bob Cohen for his participation in the chapter ceremony.

## VI. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Month's Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting by **Ron Carter**. This motion was seconded by **Dennis Walton & Bob Wehr**, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## VIII. Officer and Committee Reports

### A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **Treasurer's Report**:

It was reported that the deposit from the Texas SAR may have been made to the chapter at this time; otherwise, there has been no new activities on the chapter account in the last thirty days. The recent balance of the checking account was reported. The petty cash was also reported. The value of the petty cash on hand was in line with what has been suggested by the TXSSAR.

## B. Registrar's Report

Registrar **John Anderson** presented the **Registrar's Report**:

1. According to the TXSSAR 2015 Roster of Members with Dues Paid as of 25 March 2015, the Arlington chapter now has **31** active compatriots, including **5** junior chapter members. One of the three 2014 members with unpaid dues for 2015 is now paid. So, we have **32** paid compatriots and unchanged from last month.
2. As previously reported, Junior applicant **Mark Howard** -grandson of Peni Andrews of Arlington's Lucretia Council Cochran DAR Chapter- was approved earlier this month. Therefore, we will have **33** active compatriots and **6** junior chapter members.
3. No current applications are pending, unless guests are present today.
4. Changes have been made to the SAR application process regarding DAR membership applications. Texas SAR President **Bob Cohen** reiterated that DAR applications approved after January 1, 1985 may now be used as proof of lineage for SAR applications.

## C. Historian's Report

Historian **John Anderson** presented the **Historian's Report**:

**John Anderson** made a video presentation documenting the activities of the Arlington SAR chapter from March 2014 to the present. Complimentary DVDs were presented to those in attendance who were interested in obtaining a copy. President **David Friels** thanked John Anderson for his work on this video presentation. **John Anderson** noted that the DVDs were provided for free, but those who were interested in making a donation for the cost of the DVD could make a donation to the Arlington Chapter's treasury. Regarding future activities of the chapter, **John Anderson** noted that two past Texas SAR Presidents are buried in cemeteries in Arlington. These past Texas SAR presidents are: Dr. Bob Woodward and Benton C. Collier. The long-term goal of our chapter is to have these tombstones marked. The cemeteries involved will agree to allow it, provided that the families grant permission to do so. President **David Friels** thanked John Anderson for his work in this endeavor.

## D. Webmaster's Report

Webmaster **John Anderson** presented the **Webmaster's Report**:

1. Our chapter homepage is at [www.txssar.org/Arlington](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington) Since inception in June 2011, we now have had 2,474+ total hits (accesses) to this website. **Bill Covington** has recently provided some of his topics for our new "**Speaker's Bureau**" webpage.
2. Phase 1 of the website redesign to support "Responsive Web Access" is now complete. The effort is to provide the best user experience based upon his access device. Since mobile devices are getting more popular, I felt compelled to provide responsiveness to their screen widths.
3. Recent pictures are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2014.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2014.php)
4. Scrapbook videos are posted at [www.txssar.org/Arlington/videos.php](http://www.txssar.org/Arlington/videos.php)
5. John Anderson thanked everyone for providing pictures and videos for our website.
6. The online private chapter **Dropbox** can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1izglvhvuhh9mzy/AAAXOVZ4zk-KaK3JcagRBQnHa?dl=0>
7. Contact John Anderson if you need a new login or have access questions to **Dropbox**.

## E. Awards Report

Treasurer **Ron Carter** presented the **Awards Report**:

There were ninety poster contest entries submitted to the Arlington Chapter. Secretary **Roger Wehr** also noted that one SAR Eagle Scout certificate had been presented to **Nicholas Pewitt** and that Troop 68 of Arlington will have another Eagle Scout ceremony in the near future.

## IX. Unfinished Business

### A. Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Viet Nam War

Compatriot and Viet Nam veteran **Mike Smith** presented information regarding the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Viet Nam War. In the previous meeting, a flyer of the upcoming Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Viet Nam War was distributed to those members in attendance. It was noted that this commemoration will take place on May 9, 2015 beginning at 9:00 AM at the NAS Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base with an estimated attendance of 3,000 veterans. SAR members will be distributing American flags to all attendees at the May 9<sup>th</sup> event. There will be recognition to those Viet Nam era veterans who were either in service or in country (i.e., Viet Nam, Thailand, Japan, et al.) For those SAR members who qualify for such recognition, please send an e-mail to compatriot **Mike Smith**. A motion was made by Mike Smith for the Arlington chapter to support and attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration. The motion was seconded by **Ron Carter** and **Bob Wehr**. President **David Friels** suggested that our chapter collaborate with the local DAR chapter in this effort. **John Anderson** also noted that the Fort Worth SAR would make an excellent partner for this project. **Ron Carter** did note that the May 9<sup>th</sup> event coincides with the Arlington Chapter meeting in May and suggested that further discussions be tabled until the April chapter meeting. Compatriot **Mike Smith** also noted the "*Wear the Red*" campaign (i.e., wearing a red shirt on Friday to remember those who were deployed.)

### B. "Elevator Speeches"

Texas SAR President **Bob Cohen** discussed the importance of the elevator speech. **John Anderson** had developed his own elevator speech which will be used in the future for the purpose of recruiting new members.

## X. New Business

### A. Poster Contest

**Ron Carter** made a motion to make available funds in the amount of \$35, \$25, & \$15 to the Poster Contest winners at the chapter level. This motion was seconded by **Dennis Walton** and approved by those in attendance. **Ron Carter** noted that the Arlington SAR had received ninety poster entries. **Bob Cohen** suggested receiving posters from entities such as the 4-H, and **Ron Carter** also suggested receiving additional entries from those students who are taught through home-schooling.

### B. Arlington Family History Fair

**Ron Carter** discussed the activities and outreach at the LDS Family History Fair. Approximately 150 people participated at this local event.

### C. Arlington's Independence Day Parade

**John Anderson** noted that acquiring a trailer may be an obstacle for participation in the 2015 parade. **Mike Smith** noted the possibility of contacting those trailer manufacturers/distributors located near Interstate 820 East.

### D. Assistance to Mansfield ISD Teacher

**David Friels** discussed a request for assistance by a teacher of the Mansfield ISD. The teacher was interested in designing a period room design for her "Paul Revere Project."

## XI. Meeting Adjournment, SAR Closing Admonition & Benediction

At approximately 11:35 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. President **David Friels** concluded the meeting with the SAR closing admonition and Chaplain **Bill Covington** gave the benediction.

## XII. Attendance Summary & Next Meeting Information

**Attendance for the January meeting** included **four** guests and **thirteen** chapter members: John Anderson, Ron Carter, Richard Coffey, William Covington, David Friels, Kevin Jorrey, Dick Lee, Sonny Parks, Mike Smith, Dennis Walton, Bob Wehr, Joshua Wehr, & Roger Wehr.  
Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **April 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **First Dixie Café** located at **2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013.**

Roger Wehr  
TXSSAR Arlington Chapter Secretary  
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