

Meeting Minutes for TXSSAR Arlington Chapter #7

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

July 11, 2015

I. Call to Order

President **David Friels** called the meeting to order at approximately **9:10** a.m.

II. Invocation

Chaplain **Bill Covington** led the invocation.

III. Pledges

The pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag was led by **Kevin Jorrey**. The pledge of allegiance to the Texas flag was led by **Kevin Jorrey**. The SAR pledge was led by **David Friels**.

IV. Guest Introductions & Special Recognitions

There were **three** guests in attendance: compatriot **James Gibson**, applicant **Mark Holt**, and compatriot **Don Sharer**.

On behalf of the National SAR, the Arlington Chapter of the Texas SAR presented Mansfield resident and SAR compatriot **Captain Don Sharer** with a National SAR **Certificate of Patriotism**. It was noted that Captain Sharer had served in the military during the Persian Gulf War and that he would be eligible for the SAR War Service Medal. In his acceptance speech, Captain Sharer stated that our chapter had made "a helluva mistake" by allowing him the opportunity to speak. Despite his farming background from southern Indiana, his naval career began in 1961 as a pilot on F-4 jets with 234 missions flown over North Viet Nam. He had also participated in naval missions in the Mediterranean. During the Iranian Revolution of the late 1970s, Captain Sharer was **one of fifty-two American hostages held in Iran** for over fourteen months. Captain Sharer described the personal adjustments made from being held captive to his celebrated return to the United States.

V. 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**, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. **John Anderson** thanked Secretary **Roger Wehr** for taking notes at the meetings.

VIII. Officer and Committee Reports

A. Treasurer's Report

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

It was reported that no new checks had been written, and the petty cash total was reported.

B. State Activities Report

District VP **Ron Carter** also presented the **State Activities Report**:

The subject of the upcoming **2015-2016 Poster Contest** is the "**Winter at Valley Forge**." At the state level, instructions for the contest are being updated by **Steve Lee**. **Ron Carter** also noted that the **Texas SAR website** is improving due to the technical efforts of **John Anderson**. Since **Ron Carter** will be attending a Texas SAR presentation in August at a joint meeting, members were encouraged to contact him if there were any additional items that needed to be addressed at that time.

C. Registrar's Report

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

1. There has been no change in membership since last month. According to the Texas SAR online roster, our Arlington chapter has **33** active compatriots, including **6** junior chapter members as of June 18, 2015.
2. No current applications are pending, unless guests are present today.
3. A rumor is reported of a \$5 state dues increase for 2016 membership. This increase would make the total dues for an Arlington chapter member become \$57. Dues invoices are scheduled to be mailed to chapter members after Labor Day.

Ron Carter asked when our *chapter* dues were last increased. **David Friels** asked that a committee be established to consider the issue of chapter dues with members including **Ron Carter** and **Roger Wehr**. **David Friels** also noted that he prefers keeping dues as moderately priced as can be. **John Anderson** also noted the benefits of lifetime membership in the SAR. **Kevin Jorrey** asked whether dues could be paid online. **John Anderson** stated that it was possible to do so but warned of the possibility of being double-billed online.

C. Webmaster's Report

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

1. Our chapter homepage is at www.txssar.org/Arlington or www.texassar.org/Arlington
2. Since inception in June 2011, we now have had 2,798+ total hits (accesses) to this website.
3. Recent pictures are posted at www.txssar.org/Arlington/photos2015.php
4. Scrapbook videos are posted at www.txssar.org/Arlington/video2014scrapbook.php
5. **John Anderson** thanked everyone for providing pictures and videos for our website.
6. Once enrolled, the online **private** chapter **Dropbox** can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com>
7. Contact **John Anderson** if you need a new login or have access questions.

Historian **Kevin Jorrey** reaffirmed that **Dropbox** is a great tool for our chapter.

D. Historian's Report

Historian **Kevin Jorrey** presented the **Historian's Report**:

Kevin Jorrey noted that the chapter has compiled information which will be placed on CD. He also noted the ongoing project of the Arlington chapter to mark the graves of the SAR State Presidents who have been buried in Arlington. These two past Texas SAR presidents are: Dr. Bob Woodward and Benton C. Collier. **John Anderson** noted that the Texas SAR is not in favor of using the marking of these two graves as part of the state convention. It has been suggested that a ceremony in the Fall by the North Texas Color Guard may be a viable alternative. Drake Peddie is the color guard commander of this group. **Kevin Jorrey** presented the possibility of getting news coverage for this event.

Ron Carter also suggested that some of the expenses for these grave markings might be covered by the Arlington Genealogical Society.

E. Awards Report

Secretary **Roger Wehr** presented the **Awards Report**:

Roger Wehr noted that there were no new chapter awards presented during the past month.

E. Parade Report

Secretary **Ray Wehr** presented the **Parade Report**:

President **David Friels** noted that the chapter is indebted to **John Anderson, Ray Wehr** and his helpers for the “huge success” of the chapter entry in the Independence Day Parade. David Friels noted that two floats created for the parade represented “twice the effort for **Ray**” and that the “DAR was extremely happy” with the efforts of our chapter. The float entered in the 2015 Parade won Second Place in the Amateur Float division. It was noted by many members in attendance that **John Anderson** had moved two trailers. According to Ray Wehr, “the greatest help provided was getting the trailers where they were needed.” It was also noted that the Arlington chapter of SAR was mentioned in a Channel 4 TV news broadcast prior to the parade. Feedback on the parade included the following points:

1. Unlike the previous year, the announcers for the parade correctly identified our chapter’s entry as the “Sons of the *American Revolution*” rather than the “Sons of *Confederate Veterans*.” The write-up for our 2015 parade entry was written by Ms. Donna Darovich.
2. The antique tractors were a big visual plus for our entry. Kevin Jorrey noted that “heads popped up” in the audience when the antique tractors rolled through the parade.
3. The trophy won by our entry will be shared with the local DAR chapter. (The local CAR chapter did not participate.)
4. Our chapter entry was #68 and can be found on the cable video rebroadcast.
5. A last-minute decision to change plans on the logistics of the trailer after the parade caused much anguish and grief to John Anderson, who had agreed to the change in order to maintain good relations. However, in the future, such last minute changes will not be possible.
6. The Fort Worth SAR chapter will receive a \$50 check from our chapter for the courtesy of using the trailer. It will not be necessary to make any additional certificates of appreciation as in the past.
7. The expense submitted to our chapter by the local DAR chapter included a \$50 expense for nails. It was noted that this amount would not be paid until the DAR chapter meets again.
8. It was suggested that copies of the photographs taken at the parade should be sent to the Texas SAR for inclusion in the state newsletter.
9. Weaponry was not displayed on the floats since the Arlington Police Department prefers “no guns” in the parades. It was noted that another group had brought a loaded AK-47 to a previous parade.
10. It is important to set reasonable expectations/parameters for future parade entries.
11. The joint work with the local DAR has yielded goodwill from this group and possibly a new membership application from a husband of a DAR member.

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Viet Nam War

President **David Friels** discussed the upcoming 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Viet Nam War in White Settlement on August 1st. He noted that Dawn Needles of the DAR has requested help in passing out flags from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. **Kevin Jorrey** said that he might be able to help with this event.

X. New Business

A. Genealogy Lock-In and the Heart of Texas SAR Chapter

Bill Covington announced that there will be a genealogy lock-in on October 16th in the Waco area. The new librarian overseeing this event is excited that Bill Covington will be able to make an appearance. Brochures from the Arlington chapter may be needed for distribution at this event. It was noted that the Heart of Texas chapter in this area has not actively participated in this event, perhaps due to the deaths of two key figures of this chapter. **David Friels** thanked **Bill Covington** for all of his efforts as well as his presentations.

B. “Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due”

Bill Covington gave an account of a conversation with Drake Peddie, compatriot of another local SAR chapter. According to Drake Peddie, the Arlington chapter is “still meeting today due to the efforts of Ron Carter and John Anderson.”

C. Recent Trends in the Treatment of Historical Figures

Dick Lee, expressed concern over the recent graffiti and treatment of historical figures – notably Robert E. Lee - in the news. He expressed concern over the danger of attempting to erase history. He also noted that there are parallels which can be drawn between the American Revolution and the Civil War. **David Friels** noted that Dick Lee had made an excellent point. **Bob Wehr** also affirmed the comments of Dick Lee and pointed out the damaging effects of “political correctness” in the culture and news media (e.g., the disparate treatment of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans versus the treatment of Atheists in news reporting on the local Independence Day Parade.)

D. Future Chapter Presentations

Bill Covington will make a presentation to the chapter in August. The daughter of Dick Lee will make a presentation to the chapter in September.

XI. Meeting Adjournment, SAR Closing Admonition & Benediction

At approximately 10:25 a.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Before the meeting ended, compatriot **Dick Lee** noted that our meeting date coincided with the birthday of his mother on **July 11, 1895**. 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 July meeting included **three** guests and **eleven** chapter members: John Anderson, Ron Carter, Richard Coffey, Bill Covington, David Friels, Kevin Jorrey, Dick Lee, Dennis Walton, Bob Wehr, Ray Wehr, & Roger Wehr.

Our **next chapter meeting** is scheduled for **August 8, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **First Dixie Café** located at **2400 West Pioneer Parkway, Suite 105, Pantego, Texas 76013**.

Roger Wehr
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