



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FREEDOM CHAPTER
August 18, 2020
MINUTES**

Call to Order: 6:02 PM – Art Byram 1st Vice President VIA ZOOM

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag – Art Byram

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag – Art Byram

SAR Pledge – Art Byram

Invocation – Jim Kuykendall

Introduction of Guests: Mel Oller introduces Kermit Breed, President of Piney Woods Chapter and Brandon Gaines of the Independence Chapter

Members and Guests conduct Roll Call of Revolutionary War Ancestors

125th TxSSAR Annual Conference Debrief

Compatriot Jim Kuykendall provided recap and highlights of the 1st ever State Virtual Convention, held 7-8 August 2020, via ZOOM. He complimented the State Officers and entire Society for how the meeting was conducted. He believes that the Society has set the Standard for future Virtual meetings nationwide. 35 Chapters were represented on the Nominating Committee for the State slate of Officers. Officers elected were:

Drake Peddie: President

Jim Kuykendall: President-Elect

Tracy Pounders: Staff Secretary

Jim Clements: Secretary

Dave Kinsey: Treasurer

Long Range Planning: primary focus on Chapter Officer training and development. The current President's Manual will serve as the focus and reference tool for training and the use of Zoom will continue to be the primary communication vehicle for most cost effective delivery. Remaking our organization and making it more attractive to new members is critical for our growth and survival. A new member manual and the assignment of a chapter mentor is highly encouraged and will be an important tool in building current as well as future membership.

Old Business

Minutes of Last Meeting – accepted

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of 7/30/20 - \$3,945.08

Registrar's Report - 13 Applications approved in 2020; 3 currently at State and 1 at National; 7 applications are in process. David Hamaker reported on the SAR Patriot System and how he has volunteered to assist the National committee by entering membership applications into the system; he has entered over 70 with about 100 yet to go. A number of members gave him thanks and appreciation for his hard work. Kudos to Dave for his hard work.

Members Present - 15

New Business

Patriot Biographies – please add your own when possible. Ed Sellards reminds all compatriots that if they submit a bio, please send a copy to him for Chapter records. Each bio submitted counts 5 points in the Chapter annual report.

Scouting Activities – Ben Bonnett reports that many Eagle Scout Certificates will be presented when the health crisis subsides. A Flag retirement ceremony will be conducted on Veterans Day, location to be announced.

Upcoming events - Ed Sellards reports 2 events to be held in The Woodlands for Patriots Day, 11 September. 1): 7:30-8:00am, main Fire Station on Grogan's Mill Road; 2): 5:30-6:30pm, Town Green (next to the Library) on Lake Robbins Dr.

Announcements - Mel Oller reports that Tx SAR 2020 Convention cancellation refunds were completed and mailed to all registered members. Compatriot Kevin Kantor won the Freedom Chapter sponsored raffle, a Traditions Kentucky Flintlock Rifle.

Dues notices will be mailed in October for 2021. All Compatriots are highly encouraged to remit as soon as possible upon receipt.

Congratulations to John K. Thompson for his election to office of President of the Texas Society of the War of 1812.

Compatriot Art Byram offered his appreciation and thanks to the Chapter for the nomination of his granddaughter's essay; subsequently won 3rd place in the 2020 TxSSAR Society youth essay contest.

This Day in History: Don Stone – 1) 1587: Virginia Dare 1st child of English parents born in America; 2) 1913: VFW organized in Denver, Colorado; 3) 1920: the 19th Amendment to U.S. Constitution ratified giving women the right to vote in the entire U.S.; 4) 2020: Pres. Trump pardons Susan B. Anthony for her conviction by voting illegally for U.S. Grant in the 1872 election.

Closing/Adjourn: 6:59 PM by Art Byrum... 'Until We Meet Again'