



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
FREEDOM CHAPTER**

**April 20, 2021 MINUTES**

**VIA ZOOM**



**Call to Order:** 6:05 PM

Mel Oller, District Vice-President

**Pledges/Invocations**

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag – Bob Mennell

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag – Bob Mennell

SAR Pledge – Bob Mennell

**Members Present - 17**

**Speaker:** TXSSAR President-Elect and Freedom Chapter member Jim Kuykendall

Compatriot Kuykendall recapped efforts of the Society's Long Range Planning Committee to provide all Texas Chapters improved Officer and new member training guides/manual via the Texas Society's Private website. Jim gave the membership a shout out to Mel Oller, past Chapter President and Area 8 VP, for being a recipient of the Society's highest honor for 2020-2021, the SAR **Patriot Medal!** Mel Oller was also recently elected as the TXSSAR Secretary and Compatriot Ken Graalum has stepped up to be the new Area 8 VP. Jim informed all that the membership numbers for the state have remained steady even in this year of the pandemic and that over 300 compatriots attended a state meeting over the past year, a true testimony to the involvement and participation within our Society! Upcoming State BOM meeting is scheduled for NASA Clearlake for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in August. Currently, the 2023 TXSSAR Convention is set to be held in The Woodlands.

**Roundtable Introduction:**

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** minutes from March 16 meeting posted online

**Treasurer's Report:** \$5,996.47

**Registrar's Report:** 10 National applications approved to date for 2021.

**Scouting Report:** none

**Old Business**

Compatriot John Thompson presented a program to the Lions Club in Conroe to over 25 attendees earlier this month. Thank you, John!

TXSSAR annual Convention was held once again via Zoom, President Drake Peddie presiding. Freedom Chapter was well represented with at least eight members attending.

### **New Business**

Compatriots Oller, Thompson, and Sellards videotaped the TXSSAR 2021 Orations Winner, Troy Nguyen, for submission to the National SSAR Awards Committee.

Compatriots Thompson, Hamaker, Mennell, Sellards, and Oller attended the TXSSAR Color Guard Rally at Wimberly Texas on Saturday 10 May. Thirty-four members from throughout the state were in attendance. Our musket salute and flag ceremony was featured, via video recording, at the Annual State Convention 16-17 April.

Compatriot John Thompson proposed an increase of the Chapter's award for the JROTC enhanced program from \$100 to \$150 and it was approved.

Starting in the month of May the Chapter will resume meetings in person!! The location was to be confirmed by Art Byram.\*

Investigating Wreaths Across America location(s) still in progress.

Compatriot Ed Sellards presented SAR JROTC Bronze Medals to Cold Spring and Willis HS Air Force ROTC Units on 10 and 14 April, respectively. Thank you to Bob Mennell for assisting and taking photos on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Compatriots Dave Hamaker and Bob Mennell assisted our presentation on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Two more presentations are scheduled for April 21 and April 22. Freedom Chapter provided medals to ten local high school JROTC programs and hopefully we will be able to make presentations to all in 2022!

Compatriot Art Bynum attended the Louisiana SSAR State Meeting in person earlier in April.

**This Day in History:** Don Stone – This week in history, 18-20 April

- 18 April 1775 700 British troops were sent from Boston to seize weapons and powder at Lexington, Mass.
- 19 April 1775 75 Minute Men engaged British forces on the Village Green in Lexington. Colonel John Parker gave his immortal command, "Don't fire unless fired upon".
- 20 April 1861 Colonel Robert E. Lee, resigned from the U.S. Army.

**SAR Closing/Adjourn:** Mel Oller 7:17 PM 'till we meet again'.....

\*The location for May's meeting has been confirmed! Freedom Chapter will be returning to Spring Creek BBQ, located near the Home Depot and I-45/Research Forest Drive. May's meeting will be on Wednesday, 19 May. Future meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday as in the past.