



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FREEDOM CHAPTER**

January 19, 2022 MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:30PM

David Underdown

Pledges

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag – Mel Oller

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag – David Hamaker

SAR Pledge – Ed Sellards

Presentation of Colors: Compatriots Byram and Sellards

Invocation – Dr. Wally Shook, Guest

Members Present – 21

Guests – 8. Compatriot Mel Oller introduced guests for the evening, including **Past President General** of the NSSAR, Mr. Tom Lawrence, TXSSAR State Webmaster, Ray Cox, and Piney Woods Chapter President Mike Anderson.

Minutes of Last Meeting: minutes from November meeting posted online (no meeting held in December)

Treasurer's Report: \$5,996.13

Registrar's Report: 2 applications at State; 10 applications at National; 22 approved and 2 Supplementals approved in 2021

Scouting Report: None

Awards: None

Roll Call: Revolutionary War Ancestors Honored

Induction of New Members: None this month

Program 'Colonial Fifing'

Compatriot Ray Cox, Texas SAR Society Webmaster gave a great program of the use of the fife during the Revolutionary War for Command and Control of all activities in the daily life of a soldier. There were Fife Calls for every activity of the day and Ray played over 14 individual examples. Fifers were young boys or older men and were picked by officers to perform these important duties. The sound of the fife and drum could be heard even when the cannon roared and hundreds of rifles were fired. The Swiss are

credited with first using the fife for military 'communications' in the 16th C and it was soon adopted by all the major European powers. Ray emphasized that fife and drum calls were based on the common and popular songs of the day. Who knew that there are 200 verses to Yankee Doodle Dandy and that the American Patriots took a song written in derision and turned it into a badge of honor...stuck a feather in his hat and called it 'Up with Rebels, Down with the British'.

Old Business

- 7 Dec 2021 WWII Vet Charles Saunders Burial in Winnie, Texas. Compatriots Oller, Underdown, Byram, Thompson, Hamaker, and Sellards attended.
- 11 Dec 2021 Conroe Kiwanis Parade. Attended by Compatriots Hamaker, Sellards, Johnston, Dunlap, Slough, and Meyers.
- 19 Dec 2021 Wreaths Across America, New Montgomery Cemetery. Over 20 Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts, and 10 JROTC Cadets (Montgomery HS) assisted Freedom Chapter in honoring over 125 Veterans with wreaths on their graves. Compatriot Hamaker served as master of ceremonies. Once again, many thanks to the Texas Bank for Sponsoring 2021 Wreaths Across America. Attended by Compatriots Underdown, Thompson, Sellards, Hamaker, Meredith, Stuewe, and Johnston
- 15 Jan 2022 Piney Woods Chapter Meeting attended by Compatriots Thompson and Sellards

New Business

- Compatriot Hamaker continues to encourage all Compatriots to become part of the Chapter's Color Guard. He thanked all who participated in the Chapter's inaugural Wreaths Across America Program and all other recent efforts. He also reports 2022 WAA Sponsor commitment is in the final stages of approval.
- Compatriot Hamaker is coordinating the 2022 Orations Youth Contest for early February at the Paidela Classical School, located at the Church at Creeks End.
- Compatriot Thompson reports that Piney Woods Chapter invites Freedom Chapter Compatriots to participate in their Educational Patriots Day Program at the City of Humble Museum.
- Compatriot Sellards thanked all who donated the 400+ items for veterans that were taken to the VA Hospital in Houston.
- Compatriot Sellards reported that the Chapter's 2022 Youth Essay Contest winner is Audra Gosch, Senior at Magnolia H.S.
- Compatriot Sellards reported that the Chapter's 2021 Americanism Report will reflect a 100%+ increase from the 2020 Report.
- Compatriot Sellards reports that the Chapter's 10 High School JROTC Programs will be receiving their Bronze Youth Medals in March.
- Texas SAR Division 2022 Reunion to be held in Richardson, Texas at the Hilton Hotel, 31 Mar- 3 Apr.

- Recommendation for Freedom Chapter to host/co-host Texas SAR Division Reunion for 2023 was brought forward by Compatriot Mel Oller and incoming Officer slate will meet to discuss and decide shortly.

President Dave Underdown Reports the Chapter Slate of Officers for 2022 – 2024

Art Byram, President	David Hamaker, 1 st VP	_____ 2 nd VP
Ed Sellards, Secretary	Dave Morton, Treasurer	Jeff Lehr, Registrar
John Meredith, IT	Bill Myers, Sgt of Arms	Don Stone, Chaplain

This Day in History – None this month. Get well DON STONE! We are all Praying for your recovery.

SAR Closing/Adjourn: David Underdown 7:40 PM ...'till we meet again'