



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
FREEDOM CHAPTER**



April 18, 2023 MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:30PM

Art Byram

**Pledges**

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag – led by Art Byram

Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag – led by David Hamaker

SAR Pledge – led by Art Byram

Invocation – John Thompson

**Members Present** – 16 **Guests** – 6

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** minutes from March 21, 2023 meeting posted online. Motion moved by Sec Sellards to accept the minutes; seconded by 1VP Hamaker and unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$ 4,391.81 as of February 28, 2023. Motion moved by Treas. Hayes to accept; seconded by 1VP Hamaker and unanimously approved.

**Registrar's Report:** 1VP Hamaker for Registrar Huntington. 7 applications currently in works; 8 applications at National; 4 new members to date

**Ancestor Roll Call** – None this month due to length of program and awards.

**Recognition of Guests** – 1VP Hamaker recognized Mike Anderson, past President of Piney Woods Chapter, State Secretary Mel Oller, SRT Chapter President Rusty McLaughlin, and Rowena Hayes, Regent of Heritage Trails DAR Chapter.

**New Member:** 1<sup>st</sup> VP David Hamaker welcomed Compatriot Tim Van Heuser, transferred into our Chapter from New England.

**Awards:** President Art Byram announced the Texas Society Awards that were presented at the annual conference hosted by Freedom Chapter 30 March – 2 April 2023

1. TXSSAR Outstanding Chapter Award
2. TXSSAR Flag Certificate Award

3. TXSSAR Americanism Award
4. TXSSAR 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Newsletter  
(1VP David Hamaker /Editor)

## Personal Awards: Medals and Certificates

**Chapter Texas Bronze Service Medals:** Loren T. Johnston III, Don E. Hayes, William D. Myers, Jr., John C. Meredith, Melvin L. Oller

**Certificate of Commendation:** Hiram Dunlap, John Hamilton, Charles Lano, David C. Hamaker, Edwin R. Sellards, John K. Thompson, Susan Hutchison Johnston, Rowena Hayes.

Secretary Sellards read a note from National President General Bruce Pickette congratulating Freedom Chapter for hosting the 2023 Texas Society Convention and thanking President Byram and his wife Susan for their fine hospitality.

**Speaker/Program:** Ms. Laura Politte of the Genealogy Room Conroe Main Library. Laura shared the latest and greatest services at the Main Library in Conroe, highlighted by the special Preservation Pad Equipment for copying more challenging items. She encouraged us all to stop in for a visit and go online to reserve the use of the equipment. Laura also reminded us to get and/or update our Library Card, as it can allow you access to most of the databases on the library website without even leaving home. Ms. Politte is looking into reviving the Genealogy fair that was held in the Library a few years back.

**Scouting Report:** None; Secretary Sellards delivered 100 Eagle Scout Certificates and Folders to Marshall Brown, via Rusty McLaughlin.

[CG EVENT CATEGORIES:        N: National                    S: State                    C: Chapter]

## Upcoming Events and Color Guard Activities:

19 Apr -	JROTC Presentation	Willis	C
22 Apr -	Grave Marking Program	San Antonio	C
22 Apr -	Medal of Honor Parade	Gainesville	N
23 Apr -	DAR 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program	Jones Forest	C
27 Apr -	JROTC Presentation	Montgomery HS	C
28 Apr -	JROTC Presentation	Magnolia HS	C
28 Apr -	JROTC Presentation	Klein HS	C
29 Apr -	JROTC Presentation	Klein Oak HS	C
27 May -	Space Cowboys BB Game GC	Constellation Field	C
29 May -	Memorial Day	Conroe	N

## Old Business

- Chapter Youth Awards Winners Announced: Orations – Joe Fruehwirth; Essay – Allison Fruehwirth; JROTC Enhanced – Cristian F. Mazariegos.
- 11 School JROTC Programs will be presented Youth Medals & Certificates in April/May; JROTC Presentation at Conroe HS 14 April

- Grave Marking Programs for both Patriots and Compatriots are being planned by Compatriots Thompson and Hamaker for later in the year.

## **New Business**

- Space Cowboys CG event rescheduled to May 27 due to weather.
- 1VP Hamaker elected as Southern Color Guard Commander.
- Chapter Treasurer Hayes has volunteered to serve as Assistant State Society Treasurer.
- Chapter Secretary Sellards accepted the position of Vice Chair for the State Veterans Committee.
- Compatriot Mel Oller will remain as the Texas Society Secretary.
- Compatriots are requested to send 1VP Hamaker a record of SAR Medals awarded for the Chapter master list being compiled.
- Compatriot Bill Myers has agreed to take over management of the Chapter Facebook page and Compatriot Mel Oller has agreed to take over the management of the Chapter Website. Thanks to John Meredith for his many years of superior service to Freedom Chapter!
- Chapter President Byram proposed an increase (amount to be determined) of Chapter dues for 2024; to be discussed further at the May Chapter meeting.
- 1VP Hamaker invited all Compatriots that may have a War of 1812 ancestor to consider joining the newly formed Colonel Tom Owings Chapter of the Society of the War of 1812.
- Compatriot Grave Marking Program, hosted by San Antonio Chapter, will be held at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Saturday, 22 April; will be attended by David Hamaker, Ed Sellards, Don Hayes, Loren Johnston III and his wife Susan.

**This Day in History** – by John Thompson; 18 April 1775 ‘The **Miracle** Midnight Ride of Paul Revere’..... Crossing the Charles river in a small rowboat during a full moon, the tides and winds shifted causing the HMS Somerset to swing on its anchorage chain, allowing Paul to pass undetected and return to safety.

**SAR Closing/Adjourn:** President Art Byram, 8:10 PM .....’till we meet again’