



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FREEDOM CHAPTER**



May 16, 2023 MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:35PM

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 – 23 **Guests** – 10

Minutes of Last Meeting: minutes from April 18, 2023 meeting were posted online after the May Meeting and a motion will be made at the June meeting to accept as written.

Treasurer's Report: \$ 4,867.70 as of April 30, 2023. Motion moved by Treas. Hayes to accept; seconded by 1VP Hamaker and unanimously approved.

Registrar's Report: Registrar Huntington. 8 applications currently in works; 6 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 Tom Jackson, Rankin Chapter, and Rowena Hayes, Regent of Heritage Trails DAR Chapter.

New Member: President Byram and 1st VP Hamaker inducted the following new members: Tommie Friday, Alex Black, Jeff Groah, Worth Davis, Charles Lano. Members received their certificates and rosettes.

Awards: Art Byram awarded:

Chapter Texas Bronze Service Medals to John C. Meredith, Loren Johnston

Certificate of Appreciation to Charles Lano, Susan Johnston

Ed Sellards awarded the **NSSAR Military Service Medal** to Charles Lano.

Program

John Schmonsees of the **'Revolutionary Experience 1776'** presented his organization's goals and vision to bring what motivated our nation's Founders to the youth of today by providing them with experiences and activities that bring history alive. These indoor and outdoor activities are targeted at 5th and 8th graders. John heads a group of over 50 high school and college students and in 2023 alone over 1,500 students have watched their plays and been immersed in a Revolutionary period experience. Freedom Chapter and Piney Woods Chapter Compatriots participated in these activities at the Humble Educational Center in 2022 and this year spent a few hours in a soldier's camp set up and reenactment at Jesse Jones Park in Harris County. A major project under serious investigation is the development of a "Revolutionary America Theme Park somewhere in Montgomery County. Fundraising is underway and potential sites are under review. John looks forward to working with Freedom Chapter at upcoming events such as the 250th anniversary reenactment of the Boston Tea Party in December.

Scouting Report: None.

Compatriot Robert Thomas was recognized for his upcoming 92nd Birthday and all sang Happy Birthday to him.

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

Upcoming Events and Color Guard Activities:

27 May -	Space Cowboys BB Game GC	Constellation Field	C
29 May -	Memorial Day	Conroe	N
29 May -	Avenue of Flags	Lake Charles	N
29 May -	Patriot Grave Marking	Lake Charles	C
10 Jun -	DAR Area Regents Counsel	Houston	S
01 Jul -	Stars and Stripes w. Symphony	Conroe	N
04 Jul -	Independence Day Parade	Oak Ridge North	N

Old Business

- Space Cowboys CG event rescheduled to May 27 due to weather.
- 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.

New Business

- Compatriot Grave Marking program for 3 Compatriots at Garden Park Cemetery(Cashner) and 1 Compatriot at Forest Park Cemetery.
- All Compatriots are encouraged to attend a Memorial Day Program. Please let Secretary Sellards know if you attended by sending him a short email identifying the location and type of event. Include if you were in colonial or continental uniform.
- ALL Compatriots are encouraged to celebrate Flag Day, 14 June.
- ALL Compatriots are encouraged to celebrate Independence Day by attending or participating in a Community event or Parade.
- Motion was made by 1st VP Hamaker to raise dues for 2024 from \$9.50 to \$20.00. Discussion resulted in tabling of motion until the Executive Committee developed a Budget and brought back to the Chapter the reasons why an increase is justified. The Chapter dues have remained the same for over 20 years. Discussion and Vote to be held at June Chapter meeting.

This Day in History – by Don Stone; 16 May 1836:1st Steamboat in the Pacific, May 16, 1842: 1st Wagon Train on the Oregon Trail; May 16, 1868: Senate fails to convict Pres. Andrew Johnson by 1 vote; May 16, 1929: 1st Oscars awarded; 16 May 1991: QEII addressed Congress.

SAR Closing/Adjourn: President Art Byram, 8:30 PM’till we meet again’