



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
FREEDOM CHAPTER**



November 14, 2023 MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:30 PM

Art Byram

1<sup>st</sup> VP Hamaker led the CG (Miles, Lano, Hayes, Kluth) in the posting of the Colors

**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 – Don Stone

**Members Present** – 30    **Guests** – 10

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** minutes from the October 2023 meeting posted online, seconded by David Hamaker, and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$11,040.22; seconded by John Thompson and approved.

**Registrar's Report:** 25 new members to date. 4 applications at National; 10 Supplemental applications at National.

**Scouting Report:** Ed Sellards announced that approximately 35 Eagle Scouts will be awarded the SAR Certificate of Achievement by Compatriot Marshall Brown for 2023.

**Ancestor Roll Call:** Led by Art Byram

**Recognition of Guests:** 1<sup>st</sup> VP Hamaker recognized State Secretary Mel Oller; State Treasurer Don Hayes, DAR ladies present, and guest Richard Zdunkewicz, District 7 VP and tonight's speaker.

**New Members:** 1<sup>st</sup> VP Hamaker inducted Mike and Adam Miles, Edward Kelly, and Billy Varnado. Each were presented with their membership certificate and a rosette by President Art Byram.

**Awards:**

- Coushatti Trace DAR Rep Cecily Kelly presented Freedom Chapter with a Certificate of Appreciation for participating in 2023 US Constitution Week.
- Don Kluth was awarded the TX Bronze Galvez Medal by David Hamaker and both the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bronze and Silver Medal by Art Byram.

- Bill Myers and Don Kluth were awarded the Compatriot Grave Marking Medal by State Secretary Mel Oller.
- Ed Sellards and David Hamaker were awarded the Patriot Grave Marking Medal by State Secretary Mel Oller
- Ed Sellards was awarded the SAR Wounded Warrior Challenge Coin and Certificate by Art Byram.
- Tommie Friday was presented the Military Service Medal by Ed Sellards.

**Program ‘You Can Thank the French for Texas’ by Richard Zdunkewicz**

In the late 1680’s the Spanish established missions in Tejas because they were fearful of French encroachment and to save the souls of the Indians. Earliest missions were:

- Mission de San Francisco de la Espada (de Tejas)
- Mission Santissima Nombre de Maria

The Spanish abandoned these for various reasons in October 1693.

The French seemed less than enthusiastic about Louisiana and areas west until 1698 when Lemoyne de Iberville and his brother Bienville established Fort Biloxi. In 1700 Bienville and Louis Saint-Denis set out to explore the Red River country, the area that is northwest of Opelousas and present-day Natchitoches. His company included 22 Canadians and 7 Indians – among them Richard’s 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, Nicholas Chauvin de la Freniere. In 1714 another French Expedition into Tejas was led by Louis Juchereau de Saint-Denis and Nicholas Chauvin de la Freniere. The French interest, while not permanent, stirred the Spanish to send more Spaniards to Tejas in the early 1700’s to protect their interests.

Richard Zdunkewicz, Chairman of the TXSSAR Monument Committee, provided the Chapter with an update on the Society Monument being built for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It will be situated near the SAR and CAR monuments that are already in the State Cemetery in Austin. Funding for the project is well underway with funds received or pledged currently at 35-40% of projected costs. Individual Compatriots and Chapters are highly encouraged to support this major effort. Freedom Chapter has donated \$500 on behalf of the Chapter and over \$1,500 has been donated by individual members.

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

**Upcoming Events and Color Guard Activities**

C	15 Nov -	Peachtree Elem School Presentations	Conroe Library
C	17 Nov -	School Presentation/Heritage Museum	Conroe
C	29 Nov -	School Presentation/Keenan Elem	Montgomery
S	02 Dec -	Dickens on the Strand Parade	Galveston
C	08 Dec -	School Presentation/Heritage Museum	Conroe
C	09 Dec -	Christmas Parade	Conroe
C	13 Dec -	School Presentation/Heritage Museum	Conroe
C	15 Dec -	Lady Washington DAR Christmas Lunch	Houston
C	13 Dec -	Flagging Graves Old Montgomery Cemetery	Montgomery
N	16 Dec -	Wreaths Across America	Montgomery
C	16 Dec -	Boston Tea Party/Art Byram’s Home	Klein

## Old Business

- Secretary Sellards made a motion that the Chapter donate \$500.00 to the Texas SAR's Austin Monument Project in accordance with the State President's challenge of donating the equivalent of \$3.75 per chapter member. The motion was seconded by William Myers and was unanimously approved.
- State Secretary Oller encouraged all Compatriots to pay their upcoming dues online.
- Chapter Compatriot Grave Marking Program set for 4 Nov at The Methodist Church, The Woodlands and at Cashner Cemetery in Conroe.

## New Business

- Matthew Hoffman has been appointed as the new Freedom Chapter's Newsletter Editor.
- Bill Myers has been appointed as Freedom Chapter's new Color Guard Commander.
- John Hamilton has taken on the responsibility of Chairing Freedom Chapter's History Teacher of the Year Committee.

**This Day in History** – by Don Stone; 13 November 1775: Patriot Troops under General Brigadier General Richard Montgomery captured Montreal in an early effort to get the French Canadians to side with the 13 Colonies. Unfortunately, he died December 31 trying to capture Quebec and the hopes of having Canada side with the American Cause is abandoned. Benedict Arnold gains prominence for his role in the failed attempt to lay siege to Quebec.

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

## *Sons of the American Revolution Mission Statement*

*'The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.'*