



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FREEDOM CHAPTER**



January 24, 2024 MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:30 PM

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

SAR Mission Statement – led by Art Byram

Invocation – Don Hayes

Members Present – 23 **Guests** – 10

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

Treasurer's Report: \$9,810.57 seconded by John Meredith and approved.

Registrar's Report: 29 new members in 2023.

Scouting Report: Marshall announced that 33 Eagle Scouts were awarded the SAR Certificate of Achievement in 2023.

Ancestor Roll Call: None tonight due to the length of awards.

Recognition of Guests: 1st VP Hamaker recognized Past State President and Chapter President Jim Kuykendall, State Secretary and Past Chapter President Mel Oller; State Treasurer Don Hayes, Past Chapter President John Thompson, and DAR ladies present.

New Members: 1st VP Hamaker inducted William Berry. He was presented with a membership certificate and a rosette by President Art Byram.

Awards:

- Jim Kuykendall and Don Kluth were presented a Framed Letter of Congratulations for earning their 250th Anniversary Gold Medal by President Art Byram.
- Secretary Ed Sellards presented the SAR War Medal to Ed Kelly, Captain USN, Retired.

- Secretary Ed Sellards presented the SAR Military Service Medal to Matthew Hoffman
- 1st VP Hamaker presented the Service to Veterans Medal (4th award) to Ed Sellards.
- President Art Byram presented 10-year service pins and certificates to John Meredith and Mel Oller.
- 1st VP Hamaker presented 5-year service pins and certificates to Art Byram and Richard Huntington.
- 1st VP Hamaker presented the Youth Education Medal to Ed Sellards, Don Hayes, and the YEM bronze Palm to John Thompson.
- President Art Byram presented the Bronze Henry Knox Achievement Medal to Ed Sellards and David Hamaker.
- 1st VP Hamaker presented Certificates of Appreciation to John Meredith, Pete Slough, David Zimmerman, and Jeff Calendar for their support of the Chapter in 2023. In addition, a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to the Manager of Spring Creek BBQ for his outstanding service to our Chapter in 2023.
- 1st VP Hamaker presented the TXSSAR Bronze Galvez CG Medal to Mike Miles.
- 1st VP Hamaker presented the TXSSAR Silver Galvez CG Medal and the NSSAR Bronze Color Guard Medal to President Art Byram.
- President Art Byram presented the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal to Marshall Brown for his work with the Eagle Scouts.

Program Slate of Chapter Officers for Mar '24 – Mar '26

President	David Hamaker
1 st VP	Ed Sellards
2 nd VP	John Thompson
Secretary	Don Kluth
Treasurer	Don Hayes
Registrar	Richard Huntington
IT & Comms	John Meredith
Sgt at Arms	William Myers
CG CMDR	William Myers
Newsletter	Matthew Hoffman
Armorer	Loren Johnston

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

Upcoming Events and Color Guard Activities

25 Jan	Genealogy Fair	Library	Conroe	Chapter
27 Jan	Rev War Days and Tea Party Play		Humble	Chapter
1 Feb	US Naturalization Program		Byran	State
10 Feb	Battle of Pensacola Reenactment, Jesse Jones Park			Chapter
16-17 Feb	George Washington Parade		Laredo	National
15-16 Mar	DAR Annual State Event		Austin	State
5 Apr	CAR Annual State Event	HCU	Sugarland	State
27 Apr	Medal of Honor Parade		Gainesville	National

Old Business

- Compatriot Ed Sellards announced that Michael Miles and Matthew Hoffman are well on their way to earning their Gold 250th Anniversary Medals
- 2 December 2023 Dickens on the Strand Parade in Galveston was well attended with Freedom Chapter having 7 Compatriots participating. State President Sam Massey and First Lady Catherine Massey were also in attendance.
- 9 December 2023 Tea Party Celebration at Lone Star College was attended by John Thompson, Charles Lano, and Ed Sellards.
- 9 December 2023 Kiwanis Christmas Conroe Parade had a huge turnout. Ten uniformed Freedom Chapter were joined by four DAR ladies and 4 members of the Captain Edward Weyman CAR Chapter.
- 15 December 2023 Lady Washington DAR Luncheon Color Guard; attended by David Hamaker, Charles Lano, John Thompson, Art Byram, and Don Hayes. State President Sam Massey was also in attendance.
- 16 December 2023 Wreaths Across America in Montgomery Texas; attended by 18 Compatriots. Approximately 50 members of the community were present. State President Sam Massey in attendance.
- 16 December 2023 Boston Tea Party 'party' hosted by Art and Susan Byram at their home. Twelve compatriots and wives gathered in fellowship. Two new Compatriots, Rodney Kottwitz and John Bull were inducted into the Chapter.
- Status of the 250th Anniversary Bench. President Art Byram informed all that the Freedom Chapter Bench, being built for the Montgomery County Veterans Park Education Center, is on track. Rain delays for the building may push opening ceremonies back into the later summer or fall. Discussion on the floor to formally recognize the owner of the firm (which is donating the entire cost to build this

bench) was joined in by Mel Oller, Art Byram, David Hamaker, Don Hayes, Ed Sellards, and others. A NSSAR Bronze Good Citizenship and Certificate were deemed very appropriate and will be ordered. Chapter Officers will present to the owner later in the Spring.

New Business

- Compatriot Ed Sellards gave a summary of the three EOY Chapter Reports. All reports saw over a 30% increase from 2022.
- Compatriot John Hamilton reported on the winner of the Chapter American History Teacher of the Year Award, Ms. Gabriell Hiller of Creekside Park Middle School, Tomball ISD. Gabriell will be presented with a \$250 Grant at the February Chapter meeting where she will be in attendance to read her essay and receive the award. She has also been chosen to be the Texas Society's 2023 American History Teacher of the Year Winner !!
- CG events for upcoming months are posted. Our newly appointed CG Chapter Commander is William (Bill) Myers.
- Compatriot Art Byram reported on a great training session with the Captain Ed Weyman CAR Chapter, 28 January. Compatriots Myers, Hoffman, Byram, and Kuykendall were in attendance. Big thanks to Bill and Matthew for their efforts in 'training' the young patriots about Flag Etiquette.
- President Art Byram announced that Loren Johnston has accepted the position of Chapter Armorer and will be conducting black powder training classes at his home in February and March. All interested should contact Loren for more details.

This Day in History – 24 January 1776, by John Thompson; Henry Knox arrives at Cambridge Massachusetts from Fort Ticonderoga with 59 cannons for General George Washington and the Continental Army, traveling 300 miles over mountain and rivers in freezing and below zero temperatures. This herculean event brought not only critical cannon to the Army but boosted the morale and spirits of the struggling Continentals.

SAR Closing/Adjourn: President Art Byram, 8:05 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.'