



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
FREEDOM CHAPTER**



February 20, 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 William Myers

Invocation – Don Stone

**Members Present** – 28    **Guests** – 21

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** minutes from the January 2024 meeting posted online, seconded by David Hamaker, and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$10,046.19; seconded by John Thompson and approved.

**Registrar's Report:** None.

**Scouting Report:** Compatriot Bonnett brought encouraging news regarding increased scouting activities in Montgomery County and encouraged Freedom Chapter Compatriots to get involved and donate time and funds.

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

**Recognition of Guests:** 1<sup>st</sup> VP Hamaker recognized State President Sam Massey and First Lady Catherine Massey, State Secretary and Past Chapter President Mel Oller; State Treasurer Don Hayes, Past NSSAR PG Tom Lawrence, Rowena Hayes, Regent Heritage Trails, all DAR ladies present, Mrs. Gabriele Hiller and family.

**New Members:** 1<sup>st</sup> VP Hamaker inducted Erik Jeffreys and Anthony Emert. They were presented with a membership certificate and rosette by President Art Byram.

**Program:** Chapter History Teacher of the Year

**Compatriot John Hamilton introduced NSSAR past PG Tom Lawrence**

Tom addressed the Chapter about the History Teacher of the Year Program that he introduced to the NSSAR under his administration in honor of his mother and father.

Compatriot Hamilton announced that Mrs. Gabriele Hiller was selected as the 2024 Chapter and the TXSSAR History Teacher of the Year. Gabriele, Creekside Middle School, Tomball ISD, read her winning essay to the Chapter. She discussed her various methods of bringing history alive to her students and emphasized critical thinking skills that would benefit them in all their classes.

**TXSSAR President Sam Massey inducted Chapter Officers for Mar '24 – Mar '26**

President David Hamaker  
 1<sup>st</sup> VP Ed Sellards  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**Awards:**

- Compatriots Stuewe, Hodges, and Underdown were awarded Certificates of Appreciation for support of the Chapter.
- Ben Bonnett was awarded the 5-year service pin and certificate.
- Loren Johnston was presented the Youth Education Medal.
- Dave Morton was awarded the 20-year service pin and certificate.
- Dave Morton was presented the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal.
- Compatriots Hamaker and Sellards were awarded the Bronze Meritorious Medal.

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

**Upcoming Events and Color Guard Activities**

15-16 Mar	DAR Annual State Event		Austin	S
5 Apr	CAR Annual State Event	HCU	Sugarland	S
20 Apr	Honor Flight	Hobby A/P	Houston	N
27 Apr	Medal of Honor Parade		Gainesville	N

1 Jun

Honor Flight

Hobby A/P

Houston

N

### **Old 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. Gabriele Hiller of Creekside Park Middle School, Tomball ISD. Gabriele will be presented with a \$250 Grant and has also been chosen as the TXSSAR American History Teacher of the Year.
- Our newly appointed Chapter Color Guard Commander is William (Bill) Myers.
- Compatriot Art Byram reported on a great training session with the Captain Ed Weyman CAR Chapter, 28 January.
- President Art Byram announced that Loren Johnston has accepted the position of Chapter Armorer.
- Status of the 250<sup>th</sup> 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. The bench will be placed inside the front door. Rain delays for the building may push opening ceremonies back into the later summer or fall.

### **New Business**

- Chapter Patriot Chest Program was discussed and \$500 was allotted to begin purchasing items. State Treasurer Don Hayes confirmed that the Chapter qualifies for a \$375 reimbursement from NSSAR funds. This will aid in the upcoming increased education outreach programs to local schools.
- JROTC Medals will be presented to 14 schools this year. This increase reflects picking up all five Klein ISD Schools. Thank you outgoing President Byram for helping make this happen. Chairman Sellards has announced that he is seeking a new candidate to head the Chapter's JROTC program outreach starting in 2025.
- TXSSAR State Meeting will be held in San Antonio April 10-12. Hotels rooms are booked but if interested in attending you will need to register online with the TXSSAR website.

State Secretary Mel Oller announced that the TXSSAR Monument has been almost completely funded. It is planned to be dedicated in 2026.

Incoming President Hamaker, Past Chapter Presidents, Past PG Lawrence and TXSSAR Pres Massey joined for a memorable photograph at the conclusion of the meeting.

**This Day in History** – U.S. v. Peters Case was announced on this date, February 20, 1809, by Chief Justice John Marshall. By a unanimous vote the Court ruled that the individual States Legislature and cannot annul the judgements, nor determine the jurisdiction, of the courts of the U.S. This ruling was in contrast with the belief of President James Madison.

**SAR Closing/Adjourn:** President Art Byram, 8:15 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.'*