

Memorandum for the Record

11 April 2019

TO: Compatriots, Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution
FROM: Delegate Carl M Wiggins, VP and Webmaster, Cradle of Texas Chapter #33 SAR
SUBJECT: Report on the 124th Annual Convention, Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution
April 4 – 7, 2019, Omni Austin Hotel Southpark, Austin, Texas

Overview:

This Convention was hosted by the Patrick Henry Chapter. There were approximately 130 registered Texas SAR attendees (figure 1). Quite a number of SAR attendees also brought their spouses, many of whom are members of Texas chapters of the DAR, so the total attendance was probably over 200. The Omni Southpark is a first-class facility with excellent rooms and food. The only frustration was intermittent microphones throughout the general sessions. A visual highlight was the large number of attendees wearing Revolutionary Era uniforms throughout the 4 days and, in particular, the crisp performances of the Texas SAR Color Guard.

A table listing all committee meetings, general sessions and social awards and contests luncheons and banquet over the four days, Thursday, April 4 – Sunday, April 7 is provided as Attachment 1.

Thursday, April 4th 2019 Sessions:

Events began at 3 PM on Thursday, April 4th. I attended the presentation by Just Two Tailors from 3 - 4 PM. Rick Haven described a number of the various uniforms worn during the Revolutionary War, their construction and the services he can provide to those desiring a uniform. Rick ran a booth during the convention to help attendees make a uniform selection and be measured. See the enclosed brochure for details (Attachment 2). I was considering getting fitted up for a militia hunting shirt uniform, but was also interested in a regimental uniform. In the end, the tailors were so busy that I was not able to get fitted up for either. One of the things I noted was that a number of compatriots, including John Hamlin, actually brought and wore several different uniforms during the convention.

From 4 – 5 PM on Thursday, April 4th I attended a two-topic discussion: 1) an effort strongly supported by President Tom Jackson to identify Notable Texans among our compatriots; and 2) design of a medal to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Texas Society SAR in 2021. The idea behind the first topic was to determine who the members of the Texas Society really are in the large sense of what their contributions are to not just within the SAR, but to the community at

large. The Texas Anniversary medal is a way to celebrate the enduring history of the Texas Society SAR.

Regarding the first topic, I mentioned to them that, in the past, our chapter had promoted a “get to know your compatriot and their patriot” monthly meeting segment where a member gave a previously-prepared 5-10 minute biographical sketch about themselves and their patriot. I also mentioned that we stored this information on our BIOS page on the private side of our website.

Regarding the second topic, we were able to design a commemoration medal, later shown to all the convention attendees, which will be presented for consideration at the October BOM meeting. This design features a three-color drape with the a white Texas star on a blue background resting on top of white and red vertical ribbons that attach to a silver medal in the shape of the state of Texas and engraved with the commemorative anniversary dates. The Texas Society was organized December 8, 1896 so the 125th anniversary will be December 8, 2021.

Friday, April 5th 2019 Sessions:

Various committee meetings were held from 7 – 11 AM Friday morning and from 1 – 3 PM on Friday afternoon, April 5th. I attended the Council on Chapter Presidents at 8 AM, the Americanism Committee Youth Awards at 9 AM and the Communication: IT, Newsletter, Publicity Committee at 11 AM. Unfortunately the Communications/IT committee meeting, which I had already been strongly encouraged to attend by some of our chapter officers, coincided with the Genealogy/Registrars Committee meeting lead by Jack Muggli. I really did want to attend the Genealogy meeting as I also have strong interest there. John Anderson led the Communications/IT meeting in place of Chairman and TXSSAR Webmaster Ray Cox who was unable to attend the conference. Topics discussed included: 1) how to set up links to share information between chapter websites and the TXSSAR Facebook page; 2) plans to convert the State and/or National websites to run under WordPress (I mentioned that our website was running on WordPress); 3) online submission of SAR applications (now I know how it is supposed to work!); 4) fixing bugs with certain current online submission forms (I discussed the problem we had when trying to submit Law Enforcement Commendation Medal online form for Judge Ed Denman and learned how it was supposed to work); 5) plans to hire an outside commercial database management group for the State and/or National SAR websites; 6) the capability now exists to acquire SAR record copies online for \$10 with essentially real-time delivery; 7) chapter historian’s should send DVD’s of data to North Texas State College in Denton for archival.

During this meeting I purchased the last two-volume set, Texas Society History – Biographies, Portraits and Genealogy, Volume I (1896-1980) and Volume II (1980-2005), from Communications Committee Chairman, Sam Massey, for \$50. I am donating these histories to our chapter library.

A box luncheon was held from 12 noon until about 1:30 PM on Friday, April 5th. I attended this event. The color guard opened the event (figure 2) Tom Jackson presented Silver Good Citizenship Medals for Education to three highly-deserving Compatriots and their wives: Dr. Robert and Dr. Jane Cohen; Larry and Barbara Stevens; and John and Mary Thompson (figure 3). Retired USAF General Joe Ashy was the guest speaker; he was also inducted into the Texas SAR (figure 4). General Ashy served as commander in chief of NORAD and United States Space Command and commander of Air Force Space Command.

I attended the Color Guard meeting after the luncheon. There was a special call for more color guardsmen to plan on attending the George Washington Birthday parade in Laredo next year. We want to have at least 20 and to encourage Tom Green to attend one more event there as he has been a prime mover of this event for the past 19 years. The Texas SAR Color Guard has had the honor of kicking off the parade every year at the international bridge joining Mexico and the United States.

The 1st General Session was from 3 – 5 PM and began with posting the colors by the Texas Color Guard, a truly impressive ceremony (figure 5). All of us first-time attendees were asked to stand. There were about 12 or so of us. President Jackson made a special effort to explain how things worked to us newbies as the session progressed.

Saturday, April 6th:

Judging for the Yearbook, Newsletter, Brochure and Poster competitions ran Saturday from 8 – 9 AM. We had been alerted to have our submissions in place before 8 AM or face disqualification. I had placed a hard copy of our YEARBOOK w/DVD on the display table on Friday afternoon. About 7 AM Saturday, I set up the rest of our display consisting of: 1) a hard copy of our 2018 YEARBOOK; 2) a copy of the DVD containing the expanded version of our YEARBOOK; 3) a placard explaining to viewers and judges that there were two versions of our YEARBOOK, hard copy and electronic/digital, with arrows pointing toward each; 4) a printed readme page explaining what was in the electronic/digital YEARBOOK version and how to operate it; and 5) a fully operational electronic/digital 2018 YEARBOOK running on my laptop with 15" display (figure 6). There were about 10-12 YEARBOOKS in competition (figure 7). All

but ours included 5" – 6" thick loose-leaf binders with plastic sleeves holding pages and photos. Maybe half of these YEARBOOKS/SCRAPBOOKS also included DVD's or CD's. There was only one other entry that was actually running their YEARBOOK on a laptop like ours. There were about 4 or 5 judges including John Hamlin and John Anderson. Just after 9 AM, John Anderson walked over and congratulated me saying that our YEARBOOK entry had won 1st place in a new category called Digital YEARBOOK. When I asked if we competed in Newsletters, John Hamlin said that our entry was disqualified because 2019 newsletters were submitted instead of 2018 ones. Bummer, Michael really does a great job on those.

The 2nd General Session began at 9 AM and ran until about 11 AM. Youth Oration Contest competition ran in parallel. I attended the General Session. There were committee reports and quite a number of awards to compatriots recognizing their service to the SAR and in the communities. Russell Dart, who was present along with Sue at the hotel but unable to attend any SAR functions, received the Silver Good Citizenship Medal, the Certificate for Distinguished Service for outstanding personal service, and a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his outstanding service as TXSSAR Finance Committee Chairman. I volunteered to take these awards from Drake Peddie so they could be presented to Russell at a later date.

The Youth Awards Luncheon was from 12 noon until about 2 PM. Awards were given for American History Teacher, Eagle Scout, Enhanced JROTC, Knight Essay, C.A.R. Essay and the Brochure and Poster Contests. There was an Oration Contest with six competitors followed by the Oration Contest Awards (figure 8). There was also a 4-H Oration competition winner presentation and award. These were an amazingly talented group of young mostly high school seniors.

At 2:15 PM Saturday, April 6th, there was a Memorial Service for the approximately 79 Texas Society Compatriots lost in 2018 plus a few from the previous year. Both Dr. Charles "Chuck" Bernard and Kirk B. Daniel from the Cradle of Texas Chapter were recognized.

The 3rd General Session began at 3 PM and ran until about 5 PM Saturday. During this session, first-time annual convention attendees were brought to the front and asked to identify themselves and say a bit about where they were from and their roles in their chapters, chapter achievement awards were made, the Newsletter and YEARBOOK contest winners were announced and ribbons were awarded, a few remaining committee reports were summarized, motions from the floor were made and voted on, new 2019 state officers were elected, and the Texas representative for VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT, NSSAR was elected by secret ballot. There were two nominees, Larry Stevens and Tom Jackson. Larry Stevens won.

The Cradle of Texas Chapter received two Silver Stars, one for participation in Wreaths Across America (I think, need to double-check) and one for participation in Daily School Flag Raising. We also received a first place blue ribbon for winning the Digital YEARBOOK competition.

A motion made from the floor by John Anderson in the previous session to change the by-laws to recognize all compatriots attending compatriot/patriot grave marking events whether in uniform or not had been tabled pending further discussion. It took a long time with many rewrites before the proper wording was finalized and it was approved in this session.

Chairman of the Perpetual Fund Trustees, James Jones, announced that due to recent fluctuations in the market, this fund was down by about \$27 K and that the TXSSAR budget needed to include this amount.

Another motion was made to accept last years' state financial budget since the budget for the 2019/20 year has not been formally presented. There was considerable back and forth because of known new operating costs (like the one just mentioned) but this was adopted since it was pointed out by Tom Jackson who had been advised by Russell Dart that the new budget would be similar to last year's.

John Hamlin, who serves both as VP and Chairman of the Americanism Contests, Medals and Awards made an impassioned plea for help because he was greatly overloaded. He also noted that besides the lack of support in his committee, there were about 11 other committee member vacancies at the TXSSAR.

The 2019/20 TXSSAR officers and committee chairmen were elected.

The Gala Banquet Dinner was held between 6:30 PM and 9:30 PM, Saturday, April 6th. This was a truly spectacular, awesome and inspiring event. It was black tie and patriotic uniform almost exclusively. There were many highpoints: posting of the colors by the color guard and change of command (figure 9); the grand entrances past the color guard by the TXSSAR officers and spouses; induction of new officers including the new TXSSAR President, David Temple; Bob Cohen's, Michael Radcliff's and Tom Jackson's elevation to Admirals in the Texas Navy; and finally, the highest award given for service at the state or chapter level - confirmation of the 2019 Patriot Medal Awardees who were nominated by their peers (John Anderson, Lawrence Connolly, John Hamlin, Robert Kitrell, Gary Lovell, and Reeves, Winn) (figure 10).

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Sunday, April 7th:

The Board of Managers (BOM) meeting was held between 9 and 10 AM. This was new president, David Temple's and his new officer's first official meeting. Upcoming TXSSAR meetings will occur in the Woodlands and in Arlington, TX. The NSSAR Annual Convention will be held in Costa Mesa, CA.



Figure 1. Registration



Figure 2. Color guard at box lunch awards



Figure 3. Silver Good Citizenship awards



Figure 4. Induction of Gen. Joe Ashy into TX SAR

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Figure 5. 1st General Session

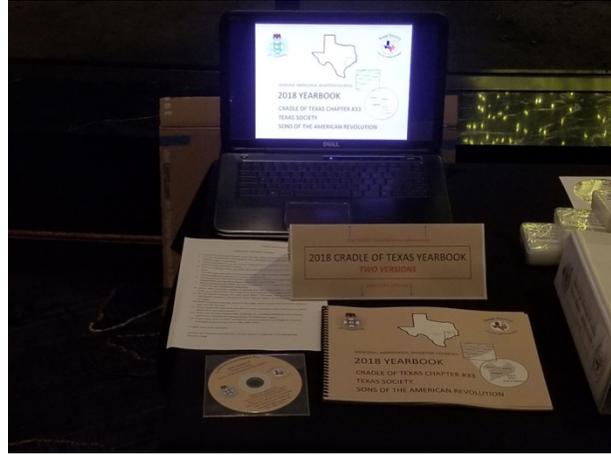


Figure 6. Cradle of Texas YEARBOOK display



Figure 7. All YEARBOOK competitors



Figure 8. Oration contest competitors



Figure 9. Color Guard kicks off Gala Banquet



Figure 10. Patriot Awardees congratulated

Attachment 1



TEXAS SOCIETY



SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
124TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
 APRIL 4 - APRIL 7, 2019
 PATRICK HENRY - HOST CHAPTER

Date	Committee	Time	Meeting Room
<u>Thursday April 4th</u>			
	Just Two Tailors	3pm	Room 104
	Notable Texans & 125th Medal Discussion	4pm	Southpark A
	Candidates for National Office	5pm	Southpark B
	Hospitality Room	Daily	Room 102
<u>Friday April 5th</u>			
	EXCOM	7am	Board Room 14th Fl
	Audit Finance Committee	9am	Board Room 14th Fl
	→ Council of Chapter Presidents	8am	Conference Center
	→ Americanism Committee Youth Awards	9am	Conference Center
	ROTC Committee	9am	Room 104
	By-Laws Committee	9am	Southpark B
	Patriot Graves Committee	9am	Southpark A
	State Meeting	10am	Conference Center
	Veterans Committee	10am	Southpark A
	Education Committee	10am	Southpark B
	Membership Retention	10am	Room 104
	DAR Liaison	11am	Southpark A
	CAR Liaison	11am	Southpark B
	→ Geneology/Registrars	11am	Omni DEF
	→ Communication: IT, Newsletter, Publicity	11am	Room 104
	Perpetual Funds, Trustee, Projects Endow	11am	Conference Center
<u>Lunch Break Oaks Room Box Lunch</u>			
		12pm	Oaks Room
<u>Friday Afternoon</u>			
	Long Range Planning	1pm	Omni DEF
	Color Guard	1pm	Southpark A
	District VP's	1pm	Southpark B
	Oration Committee	1pm	Conference Center
	Part Preidents	2pm	Southpark B
	Ladies Auxillary	2pm	Conference Center

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Attachment 1 (concluded)

<u>Afternoon Break</u>	2:30pm	
1st General Session	3pm	Omni DEF
<u>Presidents Reception</u>	5:30pm	
Open Cash Bar	5pm to 7pm	Upper Lobby Foyer
Appitizers Hor d'oeuvres	6pm to 8pm	Oaks Room
<u>Saturday April 6th</u>		
Nominating Committee	8am	Omni DEF
2nd General Session	9am	Omni DEF
Ladies Auxiliary Tour Neill-Cochran House	9am to 11am	Van departs at 9:15am
Oration Contestants	9am to 12noon	Southpark A
<u>Youth Awards Luncheon</u>	12 noon	Oaks Room
Memorial Service	2:15:pm	Omni DEF
3rd General Session	3pm	Omni DEF
<u>Social Hour</u>	5:30pm	Upper Foyer
Gala Banquet Dinner	6:30pm	Omni ABC
Silent Auction & Raffle Awards	8:30pm	Omni ABC
<u>Sunday April 7th</u>		
1812 Society Breakfast	7am	Oaks Room
Religious Service	8:15am	Omni DEF
BOM Meeting	9am	Omni DEF

Attachment 2



Rick Haven

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386-467-3590