

TJ Sentinel

January 2009 .. Issue 075



Thomas Jefferson Chapter of the Kansas Society Sons of the American Revolution

Meeting Notice: The 2009 State SAR meeting will be 20-21 March in Topeka at the Ramada Inn. Mark your calendars.

++++
December 15, 1791

The Bill of Rights becomes law

On this day in 1791, Virginia becomes the last state to ratify the Bill of Rights, making the first ten amendments to the Constitution law and completing the revolutionary reforms begun by the Declaration of Independence. Before the Massachusetts ratifying convention would accept the Constitution, which they finally did in February 1788, the document's Federalist supporters had to promise to create a Bill of Rights to be amended to the Constitution immediately upon the creation of a new government under the document.

The Anti-Federalist critics of the document, who were afraid that a too-strong federal government would become just another sort of the monarchical regime from which they had recently been freed, believed that the Constitution gave too much power to the federal government by outlining its rights but failing to delineate the rights of the individuals living under it. The promise of a Bill of Rights to do just that helped to assuage the Anti-Federalists' concerns.

The newly elected Congress drafted the Bill of Rights on December 25, 1789. Virginia's ratification on this day in 1791 created the three-fourths

Next Meeting: January 10th
West Dining Hall
Aldersgate Village
8:00 am <Breakfast>
8:45 am <Presentation: TBA>

For attendance at the meeting, please respond to Brian Vazquez at sarbmvsbcglobal.net ."

majority necessary for the ten amendments to become law. Drafted by James Madison and loosely based on Virginia's Declaration of Rights, the first ten amendments give the following rights to all United States citizens:

1. Freedom of religion, speech and assembly
2. Right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of a well-regulated militia
3. No forcible quartering of soldiers during peacetime
4. Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure
5. Right to a grand jury for capital crimes and due process. Protection from double jeopardy, self-incrimination and public confiscation of private property without "just compensation."
6. Right to "speedy and public" trial by jury and a competent defense
7. Right to trial by jury for monetary cases above \$20
8. Protection against "excessive" bail or fines and "cruel and unusual" punishments

(cont. pg 2)

TJC webpage:

http://members.cox.net/tjchptrtopekaks/TJC_SAR.htm

Please remember to save your extra 2009 calendars and donate them to the VA. Staff use them throughout the year to mark appointment for veterans.

++++

In Memoriam: Donald B. Thomas , 75, Topeka, died on December 14, 2007. He had been a member of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter NSSAR since 1997.

++++

Leavenworth National Cemetery

Basehor Elementary fifth-graders and their teacher, Michelle Ablard, raised money to buy wreaths for the national event Wreaths Across America.

From article by Kaitlyn Syring, Basehor Sentinel, December 18, 2008
(www.basehorinfo.com/news/2008/dec/18/youths-honor-veterans-wreaths/)



Photo by Kaitlyn Syring

TJ Sentinel

Published by the Topeka Chapter of
the Kansas Society Sons of the
American Revolution
Monthly except July and August

Richard L. McReynolds, Editor
4600 SW Alexander Ct.
Topeka, KS 66610
785-267-4017
tjchptrtopekaks@cox.net
President: Brian Vazquez

Guests: Dr. Medford Shively,
Alicia Primm, Dr. Allan Bearman

Minutes: Members and guests of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met for breakfast in the west-dining hall at Aldersgate on December 13, 2008. There were 18 members and 3 guests present. Following the breakfast, members and guests met in the Wesley Auditorium. President Brian Vazquez opened the meeting and gave the invocation. President Vazquez then led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the pledge to SAR. Compatriot Bob Petro discussed the local Humane Society need for contributions to its building campaign. President Brian Vazquez then asked Compatriot Ramon Powers to introduce the speaker, Dr. Allan Bearman, Washburn University his-

tory professor. Dr. Bearman gave a presentation on religion and the American Revolution. After the presentation, Dr. Bearman took questions from the members and guests.

President Vazquez then asked Compatriot Roger Johnson to present the minutes of the November 2008, Chapter meeting and introduce guests. President Vazquez moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was approved by the members.

President Vasquez then asked Compatriot Richard Kleinschmidt to give the Treasurer's report. Compatriot Kleinschmidt mentioned that the Chapter has 19 life members and experienced an 18% drop in overall membership. He then reported that the Chapter had \$1,067.68 of income and \$1,136.62 in expenses for the period November 8, 2008, to December 13, 2008, and an ending checking account balance of \$2,991.81 at December 13, 2008. In addition the Chapter had certificates of deposit of \$3,834.22 at December 13, 2008.

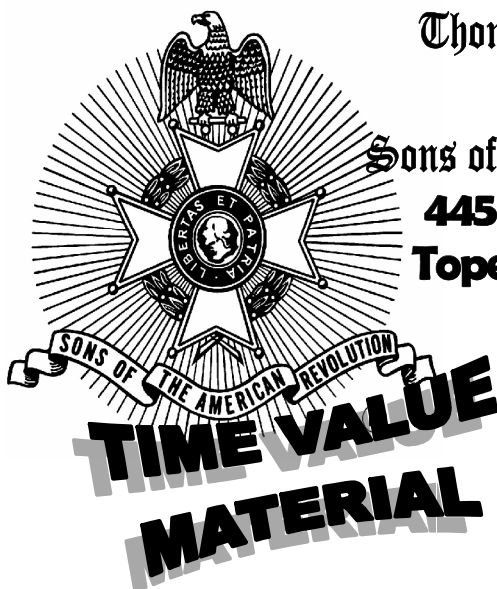
President Vazquez then asked for committee reports. Compatriot Orval Knodel mentioned that he

will meet with State SAR President Peter Grassl next week to discuss the 2009 annual State SAR conference. He also mentioned that Compatriot Barney Ellis was seeking the National SAR Secretary General position. Compatriot Ramon Powers moved that the Chapter endorse Compatriot Ellis for this position. The motion was seconded by Compatriot Bob Petro and approved by the members. Compatriot Martin Klotzbach then discussed color guard and ladies auxiliary activities. Compatriot Bill Powell asked if the Chapter's missing flag cabinet had been located. President Vazquez said that a search for the missing cabinet was not successful. President Vazquez announced that his mother had genealogy charts for sale to interested members.

With the conclusion of business, President Vazquez gave the SAR recessional and the meeting was adjourned.

++++
Bill of Rights (continued from page 1)

9. Rights not enumerated are "retained by the people"
10. Rights not given to the federal government or prohibited the state governments by the Constitution, "are reserved to the States... or to the people" (Source: www.history.com)



Thomas Jefferson Chapter
Kansas Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
445 N.W. Valencia Rd
Topeka, KS 66615-9635