

TJ Sentinel

March 2008 .. Issue 067



President's Message:

WHAT IS SAR?

When I tell people that I am a member of SAR, they often have a puzzled look on their face. To be fair, I probably had a similar look until I joined. However, I still did not know the history. When I started searching for the "rest of the story", I was amazed and proud. Here are some of the tidbits that I found.

The **National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)** is a Louisville, Kentucky-based fraternal organization in the United States. It is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation that describes its purpose as "maintaining and extending the institutions of American freedom, an appreciation for true patriotism, a respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, and the unifying force of *e pluribus unum* that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation and one people."

Membership in the society is open to any male of "good repute" who is at least 18 years of age who can prove lineal blood-line descent from an ancestor who actively supported the American Revolution. Acceptable ancestors include military veterans of the American Revolutionary War, including those who served in the Continental Army, Continental Navy, and state militias and navies; signers of the Declaration of Independence; members of the Continental Congress; and civilians who provided arms or supplies to the American cause, served on political bodies supporting the Revolution, signed oaths of allegiance, or those who gave similar support to the Patriot cause. Descendants of soldiers and sailors from allied nations such as France and Spain who fought in support of American independence may also be eligible. No chapter may discriminate against an applicant on the basis of race or creed.

The society claims a membership of 26,000 members in over 470 chapters in 50 state societies in the United States, as well

Next Meeting: March 8th
Breakfast @ 8am
West Dining Hall
Aldersgate Village
~ 8:45 am <Election of Officers>;
<Program TBA>

"Please note this address for Brian - zebrasrs@sbcglobal.net .

For attendance at the meeting, please respond to Brian Vazquez at sarbmv@sbcglobal.net ."

as branches in Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The organization was established in San Francisco, California in 1876 when a group of men who were descendants of Revolutionary War veterans gathered to celebrate the centennial of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States. The group formed an organization called the **Sons of Revolutionary Sires**. The organization grew and was reorganized under its current name April 30, 1889. The SAR was formally granted a congressional charter by an act of Congress on June 6, 1906. The act was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a member.

An alternative history states that The General Society of Sons of the Revolution (SR) was founded in New York, 1883. SR delegates from 33 state societies gathered in New York at Fraunces Tavern, April 30, 1889. This was the centennial for the inauguration of George Washington as the First President of the United States of America in 1789. They formed the "males only" National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). SAR member Number #1 is William Osborn McDowell, New Jersey financier and businessman. McDowell is often credited with being the founder of the SAR.

TJC webpage:

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

William McDowell worked with six women to organize the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution on July 29th, 1890.

According to one list, the following famous people are/were members. They are listed alphabetically.

- William Baldwin — Actor
- Hale Boggs — Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
- George W. Bush — President of the United States
- George H.W. Bush — President of the United States
- King Juan Carlos I — King of Spain
- Jimmy Carter — President of the United States
- Sir Winston Churchill — Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- Calvin Coolidge — President of the United States
- Dwight D. Eisenhower — President of the United States
- Gerald Ford — President of the United States
- Henry Louis Gates Jr.- Harvard University Chairman, African American Studies
- Ulysses S. Grant — President of the United States
- Warren Harding — President of the United States
- Benjamin Harrison - President of the United States
- Rutherford B. Hayes — President of the United States
- Herbert Hoover — President of the United States
- Lyndon B. Johnson — President of the United States
- Henry Cabot Lodge — United States

Guests: Tim O’Shea, Debra O’Shea, Matthew O’Shea, Ken Smith, Alicia Primm, Medford Shively, Wayne Wasson

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 February 9, 2008. There were 16 members and 7 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. President Vazquez asked Vice President Ken Coover and Compatriot Dennis Mize to present awards for the Eagle Scout essay contest. Vice President Coover and Compatriot Mize presented certificates to Matthew O’Shea and his brother Gabriel, who could not attend. The scouts are members of Troup # 9. Matthew won our Chapter essay contest and placed third in the State contest. He was awarded \$100 for third place in the State contest. Following the presentation of the awards, Matthew read his essay on the winter at Valley Forge. President Vazquez then distributed a list of genealogical websites and a member questionnaire regarding the Chapter. President Vazquez asked Compatriot Roger Johnson to distribute copies of the Chapter minutes from the January 12, 2008, meeting and to intro-

duce guests. Compatriot Dennis Mize moved that the minutes be approved as presented with one correction. Compatriot Elborn Mendenhall seconded the motion and it was approved by the members. Compatriot Johnson mentioned that thank you letters were recently received from Breakthrough House and the V.A. A Chapter Treasurer’s report was not available. Compatriot Martin Klotzbach then discussed items presented at the February 2, 2008, BOG including discussions of a proposed change in the National SAR headquarters location, upcoming State SAR annual conference, a flier titled “Kansas to Concord” prepared by State Membership Secretary Tim Peterman, approval of a new SAR chapter in Leavenworth and our Chapter’s third place finish among chapters in the State in Americanism points. Compatriot Klotzbach then discussed items needed for the V.A. Guest Ken Smith asked about recording volunteer hours provided at the V.A. Vice President Coover announced that we have a candidate for the orations contest. Compatriot Vern Thomas asked that members be sure to provide the number of any guests that will be attending future meetings when making their meeting reservation and mentioned that Compatriot Jim McHenry was recovering from surgery.

Under old business, President Vazquez reported that new membership cards would be available after the meeting and any cards remaining would be mailed to members. Under new business, President Vazquez announced that he will be ap-

pointing a Chapter officers nominations committee. In addition, President Vazquez reminded the members that SAR is a charitable organization and, accordingly, should not be involved in any political activities.

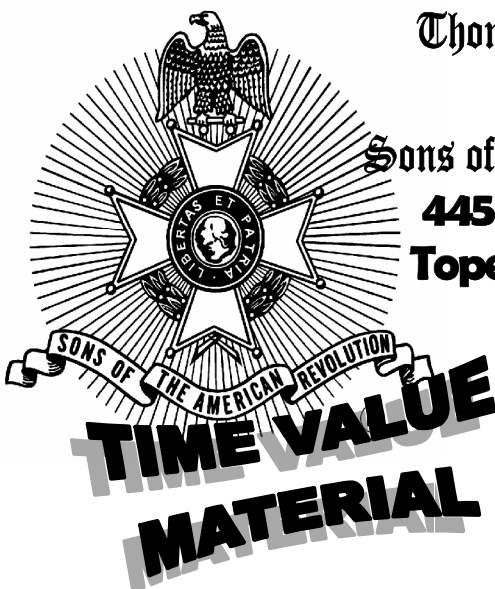
With the conclusion of business, President Vazquez gave the SAR recessional and the meeting was adjourned.

WHAT IS SAR? (cont. from page 1)

Senator

- Richard Lugar — United States Senator
- Douglas MacArthur — U.S. Army General
- William McKinley — President of the United States
- George S. Patton — U.S. Army General
- Franklin D. Roosevelt — President of the United States
- Theodore Roosevelt — President of the United States
- William Howard Taft — President of the United States
- Harry S. Truman — President of the United States

An article in the SAR magazine for California provided a complete list of Presidents who were members or who could have become members. Please see the article at: <http://www.californiasar.org/forms/PRESIDENTS.pdf> .



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