

# TJ Sentinel

October 2007 .. Issue 062



## President's Note

Please use the computer address at [sarbmvc@aol.com](mailto:sarbmvc@aol.com) to provide me notice of your attendance on October 13th.

## Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance (6/9/07)..\$1647.58

Income .....\$103.02

Expenses .....\$149.81

Ending Balance (9/8/07)..... \$1600.79

Cert. of Deposits(9/8/07)....\$3,714.02

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On this day (1 October) in 1776, Benjamin Franklin and Robert Morris receive information that the French are going to purchase arms and ammunition in Holland and send them to the West Indies for use by the American Patriots. Meanwhile, Silas Deane, the secret congressional agent in France, wrote to Congress pleading for information,

**Bring your dues check to the meeting—\$47; Life members-\$12.**

**TJC webpage:**

[http://members.cox.net/tjchptrtopekaks/TJC\\_SAR.htm](http://members.cox.net/tjchptrtopekaks/TJC_SAR.htm)

**Next Meeting: Oct. 13  
Breakfast @ 8am  
West Dining Hall  
Aldersgate Village  
~ 8:45 am <TBA>**

Morris, had instructed Deane to meet with French Foreign Minister Charles Gravier, Count de Vergennes, to stress America's need for military stores and assure the French that the colonies were moving toward "total separation" from Great Britain.

Deane managed to negotiate for unofficial assistance from France, in the form of ships containing military supplies, and recruited the Marquis de Lafayette to share his military expertise with the Continental Army's officer corps. However, it was not until after the arrival of the charming Benjamin Franklin in France in December 1776 and the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777 that the French became convinced that it was worth backing the Americans in a formal treaty.

"...For Heaven's sake, if you mean to have any connection with this kingdom (France), be more assiduous in getting your letters here."

Covert French aid began filtering into the colonies soon after the outbreak of hostilities in 1775. Silas Deane, a Connecticut delegate to the Continental Congress, left for France on a secret mission on March 3, 1776. The Committee of Congress for Secret Correspondence, consisting of Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Harrison, John Dickinson, John Hay and Robert

On February 6, 1778, the Treaties of Amity and Commerce and Alliance were signed, and in May 1778 the Continental Congress ratified them. One month later, war between Britain and France formally began when a British squadron fired on two French ships. During the American Revolution, French naval fleets proved critical in the defeat of the British, which was assured after the Battle of Yorktown in October 1781.

Source: Patriots learn of increased French support, [http://www.history.com/t\\_d\\_i\\_h\\_d\\_o/?action=tdihArticleCategory&id=51266](http://www.history.com/t_d_i_h_d_o/?action=tdihArticleCategory&id=51266) (last visited Sep 29, 2007).



NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*

**Guests:** Dr. 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 September 8, 2007. There were 19 members and 2 guests present. Following the breakfast, members and guests met in the Wesley Auditorium.

President Brian Vasquez opened the meeting and asked Compatriot Elborn Mendenhall to give the invocation. President Vasquez then led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the pledge to SAR. Compatriot Martin Klotzbach gave a presentation on the National SAR conference in Williamsburg, Virginia and the South Central District meeting in Branson, Missouri. After the presentation, he took questions from members and guests. Compatriot Roger Johnson then distributed minutes of the last meeting and introduced guests. He also announced that the Chapter received an Outstanding Service Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs for service given to the Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center. Compatriot Elborn Mendenhall moved that the minutes as presented be accepted. Compatriot Carl Smith seconded the motion and it was approved by the members.

Under old business, Compatriot Martin

U. S Constitution-still sailing after 200 years.

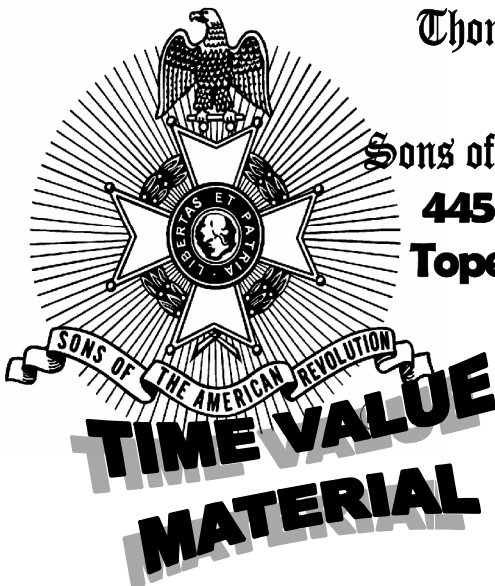


Klotzbach announced that dues of \$47 for non-life members (\$10 State SAR, \$25 National SAR and \$12 Thomas Jefferson Chapter) and \$12 for life members (\$12 Thomas Jefferson Chapter) would be payable at the October 2007, meeting.

Under new business, Compatriot Phil Baker announced that Kansas will be a National

Heritage Site. Compatriot Ken Coover discussed our Chapter's participation in the youth oration, essay and Eagle Scout essay contests and the promotion of these youth activities. President Vasquez then discussed the State SAR Americanism activities and awarding a flag certificate. Compatriot Rich McReynolds suggested a home near the Berkshire Country Club for the flag certificate. Compatriot Phil Baker suggested adding the Americanism award criteria to our Chapter website. Compatriot Martin Klotzbach suggested we increase our contributions to the VA in the future and announced several upcoming SAR activities including awarding books to the Seneca, Kansas School District, naturalization ceremonies at the Federal Court House, SAR leadership meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, Topeka area scholarship program and an October 26<sup>th</sup> carnival at the VA Medical Center. Compatriot Dennis Mize then discussed the Eagle Scout essay contest and suggested that members view the criteria for participation at the National SAR website ([www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)). President Vasquez then announced the death of long time Thomas Jefferson Chapter member Roland Parr.

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



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