



THE SAN ANTONIO COMPATRIOT

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER #4 • TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Compatriot George Whittenburg, President — Compatriot Frank Rohrbough,

Jan-Feb 2020



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Compatriots: I want to thank everyone again for the opportunity to serve as Chapter President for 2020.

Please accept my sincerest gratitude confidence you demonstrated in electing me to lead this wonderful organization. Two seasoned compatriots have joined me in leadership roles; they are Compatriot Kevin Kanter as 1st Vice President and Dick Weitzel as 2nd Vice President. I am pleased that many of the other officers and committee chairman have agreed to continue in their service to the chapter as well. Their experiences will be invaluable to us all as we plan for and conduct our coming events in 2020 and remain focused on SAR's core objectives.

Our Officers and Committee Chairman are noted on **Page 2**. Worthy of special note, Compatriot Larry Loop has agreed to continue as Chairman of our Education Programs. This year, he conducted the first-ever Oration Contest by this Chapter and has already completed our Essay and Poster Contests for 2020. Contestants have already been nominated to the State Contests which will be judged at the Texas Society Annual Meeting in late March. For contest results, **go to Page 4**.

The new officers were installed at our Annual Gala on January 18th. Under the able leadership of President Dustin Whittenburg, our Chapter conducted a wonderful and fun-filled event. Our Keynote Speaker was Texas State Historian, Dr. Monte L. Monroe. He spoke on the Texas Revolutionaries, Ancestors, and Archives He addressed the importance of keeping "personal historical documents and family records". It was an honor to have former President-General Edward Butler install our Officers for 2020 at the Gala Celebration. More details, **go to Page 2**.

In February, we supported the Veterans Affairs National Program in "Salute to Veterans Week" by hosting Mini-Receptions each morning and afternoon at the Shavano Park VA Clinic each day during the period of February 10 -13, 2020. Compatriot David Brooks, thank you for engaging our members to staff our mini-receptions and greet the veterans as they arrived for their appointments and thank them for their service. For more details, **go to Page 6**.

Our Guest Speaker for our February Chapter Meeting was Judge Samuel Frederick Biery, Jr. who has served as on the United States District Court, Western District of Texas. He was very entertaining and with his quick wit and humor, shared stories of law and order in the "wild west" over his last 26 years on the Bench and the service of three Revolutionary War Patriots who settled in Texas.

The planning and business matters of the Chapter will be addressed at our monthly Executive Committee Meetings (held on the second Wednesday of each month, except July) at La Fonda Mexican Restaurant in Alamo Heights. All members are encouraged to attend these meetings. Our next EC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

We will continue holding our Chapter Meetings at the Petroleum Club on the third Wednesday of the month, with a brief recess for the summer; no Chapter meetings in July or August. For details about our coming events, **go to Page 6** or our Chapter Website at <http://www.sarsat.org>.



Respectfully, *George Whittenburg*

CHAPTER ANNUAL GALA

(Photo Below) At our January 18th Chapter Gala, Former President-General Edward F. Butler, National Society SAR, installed the new officers for our Chapter for 2020.

The following members (left to right) were elected by the chapter members at the December 11, 2019 Chapter Meeting: **George Whittenburg**, President; **Kevin Kanter**, 1st Vice President; **Richard Weitzel**, 2nd Vice President; **Michael Bowles**, Recording Secretary; **Frank Rohrbough**, Corresponding Secretary and Sgt at Arms; **Kenneth McAnear**, Treasurer; **Peter Baron**, Registrar, **Larry Loop**, Historian; **James Taylor**, Chaplain and Genealogist; and **Ed Snyder III**, Chancellor.



Chapter Gala (Cont'd)

This year we had 86 attendees from our Chapter, DAR Ladies and other Guests. We are most grateful to have such values support

from local DAR Chapters

(Photo at Right) Before the Installation of Officers for 2020, outgoing President Whittenburg recognized the services of Cynthia Watson, Green Mountain Boys DAR Chapter) who has now completed over 25 SAR Applications for prospective members under the TSDAR's "Finder Form Program". She was presented the Daughters of Liberty Medal and Certificate for her "outstanding service to the Sons of the American Revolution." President Whittenburg noted Cynthia has

received the SAR Martha Washington Medal in 2016 and an Oak Leaf Cluster in 2017 for her dedicated service over many years.

(Photo at Left) President Whittenburg recognized 3 DAR ladies for their outstanding service to our Chapter by presenting them the NSSAR Martha Washington Certificate and Medal. Shown from left to right are Marilyn Loop (Alamo DAR Chapter), Karla Moore (Alamo DAR Chapter) and Jean Kanter (Green Mountain Boys DAR Chapter). Each of these ladies are credited for having brought 3 new members to SAR and our chapter.



CHAPTER GALA (CONT'D)

Outgoing President Dustin Whittenburg recognized many of our chapter members for their valued service to the chapter at the December 11, 2019 Chapter Meeting by giving them their Chapter Service Medals (or an Oak Leaf Cluster) and Certificates. However, special Awards were given during the Gala.

(Photo at Right) For her valued support and assistance throughout the year, Dustin recognized his wife, Brooke Whittenburg, with the presentation of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution Lydia Darragh Medal and Certificate. Congratulations Brooke!

Lydia Darragh was an American woman said to have crossed British lines during the British occupation of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania during the American Revolutionary War, delivering information to George Washington and the Continental Army that warned them of a pending British attack. Other special SAR Awards are noted at the bottom of this page and on page 2.



CHAPTER GALA (CONT'D)

(Photo at Right) Our Guest Speaker was Dr. Monte L. Monroe, PhD. He was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott on September 26, 2019 as the Texas State Historian. Dr. Monroe is responsible for increasing public knowledge about the rich and diverse history of the state, and encouraging the teaching of Texas history in public schools. He spoke on "Texas Revolutionaries, Ancestors, and Archives".



He noted that 3 Patriots of the Revolution settled in and are buried in Texas. More specifically, his message directed to our members "to retain our personal family history by keeping letters, photos and documents." He noted that letters from soldiers serving overseas during previous and on-going Wars, are the memories we will cherish forever. He said: "The history we have is the history that is left, most such materials are lost through ignorance, catastrophe or neglect".



(Photo at Left) For his presentation Past President Bob Hancock presented Dr. Monroe a gift basket from the Alsations Bakery in Castroville, TX.

OTHER SERVICE AWARDS



(Photo at Right) Compatriot Paul Reynolds was recognized for his years of service as Chairman of the ROTC Awards Program. Accordingly, President Dustin Whittenburg selected Compatriot for the highly prized SAR Bronze Distinguished Award which is awarded to only one member of the chapter during the year.

(Photo at Left) President George Whittenburg presented the SAR Meritorious Service Medal to his brother Dustin for his service as President of the San Antonio Chapter during the past year. Dustin was also presented with his Past President's Pin that can be worn on his President's Neck Ribbon.



HISTORICAL VIGNETTE BY HISTORIAN LARRY LOOP

At our Gala Compatriot Larry Loop, Chapter Historian, gave a historical review of the Battle of Cowpens, South Carolina that occurred on January 17, 1781. On this day in history, General Daniel Morgan wins the Battle of Cowpens, a victory military strategists often call the single most brilliant victory of the American Revolution. After its defeat at Saratoga, the British army redirected its efforts to subdue the southern states, quickly conquering much of Georgia and South Carolina and destroying most of the American southern army in the process.

In early January, Tarleton learned of Morgan's location and set off to find him. Morgan retreated at first, but decided to stand his ground at an area known as the Cowpens, a sparsely wooded and hilly meadow in a bend of the Broad River. Morgan's strategy included three lines of soldiers, a first line of sharpshooters hidden behind trees, a second line of militia 150 yards back from them and a third line of experienced Continental soldiers 150 yards behind them and hidden by a low hill. As Tarleton attacked, the sharpshooters were to fire on them and then draw back to the second line, which was to fire two volleys and then retreat up the hill. Then, as the British pursued them up the hill, they would run into the third line of experienced soldiers coming at them downhill. The first two lines would weaken and disconcert the British soldiers and the third line would finish them off. Meanwhile, a cavalry charge would come from around the hill and flank the attacking soldiers.

Morgan's strategy worked brilliantly and just as planned. Tarleton's forces were decimated as they pursued the "fleeing" second line. Nearly the entire army was killed or simply collapsed on the ground in exhaustion and fear. Military strategists have called the victory at Cowpens the greatest tactical victory of the war and one of the greatest of all time. Source: <http://www.revolutionary-war-and-beyond.com>.



CHAPTER YOUTH CONTEST AWARDS



At our February Chapter Meeting, President George Whittenburg announced our Chapter Winners of our first ever SAR Oration Contest and the Knight Essay Contest.

(Photo at Left) Our Joseph S Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest Winner is Candace Landrum from East Central High School. Landrum spoke on women's rights contrasting them from colonial times to today. As our first place recipient, Landrum advanced to Texas Society Regional Contest and won that contest thus earning a place at the State Contest in late March. She will be presented her Certificate and \$500 check at a later date when she can attend a chapter meeting. She will be asked to give her Oration presentation at that time. Our second place winner was Ethan Apawan from Louis D. Brandeis High School. He spoke on the question of the federal government's role in the economy and its regulation of citizens' rights which are guaranteed by the American Bill of Rights. He highlighted two issues being addressed today — the right to bear arms and freedom of speech.

Our Chapter also conducted its Stella Knight Essay Contest in late February. Our winner is Whitney Stewart from Sandra

Day O'Connor High School. Her topic was the "Effect of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* on the framing of the United State Constitution." She will receive her Certificate and a \$500 honorarium at our April Chapter Meeting. Her essay was forwarded to the Texas SAR State Contest in late March

Our second place winner was Ethan Apawan from Louis D. Brandeis High School. His topic was "Money in the Nation". His certificate and \$100 honorarium will be mailed to him in March.

The documents prepared for the Youth Contests will be posted on the Chapter Website at SARSAT.com.

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER



(Photo at Left) On February 20th, our Guest Speaker was Judge Samuel “Fred” Frederick Biery, Jr. who has served as a Judge in the United States District Court, Western District of Texas from 1994 until the present including six years as the Chief Judge of the Western District of Texas. Judge Biery is well known for encouraging and even enforcing civility among attorneys practicing in his court. His opinions are recognized as using common language and common sense. His rulings are well respected by all who appear in his court and by all of his peers. He has tirelessly worked to fairly enforce the laws of the State of Texas within ethical and legal bounds, striving to treat all who appear before him respectfully and fairly.

His quick wit and humor was appreciated as he took questions from the attendees. For his presentation he was given two books, entitled “The American Revolution” by Mort Kunstler and “Independent Dames - What You Never Knew About the Women and Girls of the American Revolution” by Laurie Halse Anderson.

Other Service Awards



(Photo at Left) Immediate Past President Dustin Whittenburg received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Alamo Chapter, Texas Society DAR for the support our chapter gave when the DAR hosted the Traveling Vietnam Exhibit of the “Wall That Heals” Event at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in February 2019. The Certificate was signed by Debbie Delgado, Alamo Chapter DAR Project Chair for the Exhibit. Shown are Compatriots George Harcourt and current Chapter President George Whittenburg.



(Photo at Above Right) Immediate Past President Dustin Whittenburg recognized Compatriot Henry Garcia, Chair of the Membership Committee, by awarding him with the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate for his valued service to the chapter.

FEBRUARY PRESIDENT’S DAY 2020: GEORGE WASHINGTON’S CHARGE TO A NATION

Presidents Day was originally created in 1885 to celebrate George Washington’s Birthday. Today it is viewed as a day to honor all American Presidents.

It is an opportunity for us to remember those who have served our nation, reflect on their success and failures, and it is a chance for us to thank God for a system of government that has allowed us to have peaceful transfers of power.

In September 1796, worn out by burdens of the presidency and attacks of political foes, George Washington announced his decision not to seek a third term. With the assistance of Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, Washington composed in a “Farewell Address” his political charge to the nation.

Washington’s address included his carefully thought out counsel to the American people as they would ensure the success of the great American experiment. He reminded them that religion and morality must remain the foundation and the fabric of our society. Washington’s words, spoken over 200 years ago, are just as relevant to Americans today.

In fact, since 1896, Washington’s Farewell Address has been read every year on the floor of the Senate by a United States Senator. This takes place close to Presidents Day each year on February 22, commemorating Washington’s birthday. The member selected to read the address alternates between political parties.

I hope you will take just a minute today to learn more about Washington’s decision and to read an excerpt from Washington’s poignant Farewell Address. Source: www.myfaithvotes.org

CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN “SALUTE TO VETERANS WEEK” EVENT

Veterans Appreciation Week: During the week of February 10—13, 2020 the Veterans Administration conducted a national program celebrating “National Salute to Veterans Week” across the country at all Veterans Health Care Systems. Our Chapter participated in this annual event by hosting a Reception at the Shavano Park Veterans Clinic for all veterans who had scheduled appointments Monday thru Thursday.

We provided refreshment to include veggie trays, fruit trays, baked goods and bottled water to every veteran. Each veteran was greeted, offered refreshments and given a heart-felt “thank you” for their service to our country. We scheduled 8 shifts to provide mini-receptions during the morning and afternoon clinic hours. Our members greeted 251 veterans during this event. President George Whittenburg joined 12 members in this year’s event; they included Compatriots Gerald D. Ball, Larry Loop, Bud Davenport, Dick Weitzel, John Jansma, Paul Reynolds, Dustin Whittenburg, Bob Watson, Roy Leonard, Melvin McElfresh, Frank Rohrbough and Richard Wright.



Photo at Below) Shown from right to left at one of the shifts are: Larry Loop (Past Chapter President), John C. Tausch and his wife. Tausch is a 98 year old, WWII Navy Veteran, who lives in Helotes. He was at Pearl Harbor on the day of the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941.

On Friday, February 14th, Compatriot Frank Rohrbough participated in the “National Salute to Veterans” Event that was hosted by the South Texas Veterans Health Care System at the Audie Murphy Medical Center for all Veterans Service Organizations and Representatives of the Military Community and City of San Antonio.

All were welcomed at the Opening Ceremonies by the Assistant Director/Chief Experience Officer Mrs. Trisha Lodde and Mrs. Joyce Brown, Chief, Voluntary Services. **(Photo at Right)** Compatriot Rohrbough greeted Entesham Ahmed, a chemotherapy patient, and gave him a blanket and Valentine’s Day Card.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING EVENTS

Texas Society of SAR 125th Annual Conference: March 26-29, 2020 at The Westin Hotel at the Woodlands, TX; Registration is on the TXSSAR Website (George Whittenburg)

Annual Pioneer Ball: April 18, 2020 at La Villita, **Color Guard Assemble** at 6:00 PM; Opening Ceremony begins at 7:00 PM. Present the Colors. (Frank Rohrbough)

Pilgrimage to the Alamo: April 20, 2020 4:00 PM, (Assemble at 3:30 PM) Procession Begins at 4:00 PM from the Vietnam Memorial in front of the Tobin Center and walk is silence to the Alamo. Present the

Chapter Wreath (Frank Rohrbough)
Next Chapter Executive Committee Meetings: March 11, 2020; La Fonda’s Alamo Heights Mexican Restaurant at 8633 Crownhill Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78209 (Meetings are now held on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 11:30 A.M, except for July 2020.)

Chapter Meeting: March 18, 2020; Petroleum Club (7th Floor), 11:30 A.M. Reservations are required via reservations@sarsat.org. (Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday each month, except July and August, at 11:30 A.M to 1 P.M.)

Frank Tejada Middle School History Faire: Saturday, April 4, 2020, 9AM - 4 PM. (All members are invited) Contact Compatriot Larry Loop at lloop1@gvyc.com to learn more.

Poteet Strawberry Festival and Parade: Saturday, April 4, 2020; Invited to Participate with Boerne SAR Chapter; Assemble at 9:00 AM and Ride in the “Boat Float”; Parade begins at 10:00 AM. **(All Members and Families Are Welcomed)**

For more information, please go to our Chapter Website at:

www.sarsat.org