



The Delaware Crossing Patriot
Kansas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
January 2025
 Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

The Revolution is coming!
One Year- Six Months - Four Days

NEXT MEETING:

When: January 18, 2025

Where: Hilton Garden Inn. 12080 Strang Line Road, Olathe, KS 66062, 9:00am

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email Secretary@dxsar.com or call Clay Shropshire 785-521-8122 by 7:00 PM, Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

Cost: **\$29.00/person**

Program: Chapter Elections

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS
January 2025

- 15 DX EC Meeting
- 18 DX Chapter Meeting

February 2025

- 1 BOG
- 12 DX EC Meeting
- 15 DX Chapter Meeting
- 21-22 GWBC

March 2025

- 12 DX EC Meeting
- 15 DX Chapter Meeting
- 22 KSSAR Annual Conference

The President's Corner



By Ken Ludwig

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I always try to reflect on the year that has just past and to look forward to the future that the next year holds.

The past year has some chapter challenges as health issues caused some leadership challenges and the chapter was having some fiscal issues, but through the hard work of many compatriots, we

have gotten both of those issues resolved and are heading into 2025 on a firm foundation.

I encourage everyone to attend our next meeting on January 18th. It is our annual business meeting where we will elect our chapter officers for the next year and handle any other chapter business. I believe we are still looking for a Vice President of Programs. This position just lines up speakers for the year (only 8 or 9 meetings since we do not have programs for a few meetings of the year like the Christmas party, picnic, etc.). It also does not require monthly attendance at EC and chapter meetings like some of the other officer positions, so it is very flexible on when the duties are performed. If you feel to pull to volunteer in this capacity, please contact me.

2025 is just one year from 2026, the semi quinentennial (250th) anniversary of the founding of our great nation. There will be increasing numbers of commemorations of Revolutionary War events as we approach July 4, 2026 and beyond, providing many opportunities to honor our ancestors and their sacrifice to establish our nation.

I am anxiously awaiting details about national, state, and local celebrations, but I suspect we will be flooded with requests for our color guard join and be a part of many of these events. We are always looking for additional color guardsmen to join our ranks, with chapter and state funds to help acquire a uniform if needed.

I also hope that this 250th will renew a patriotic spirit in this nation and hopefully there will be men who want to find out if they have patriotic ancestors and seek to join our ranks. We need to spread the word that most people have a pretty good shot that if they dive into their lineage that they would find an ancestor that passes our qualifications to join our ranks and we will also need to be prepared to help them to prepare their applications. Definitely talk to your sons,

grandsons, nephews, neighbors and anyone else about the benefits of joining.

As I close this month's article, I would like to say that only about 20% of the membership of the chapter is active and attending meetings on a regular basis. If you are part of the 20% that are active, I thank you for your hard work and effort that you put forth to keep our chapter viable. If you are part of the 80% that are not active, I encourage you to start coming to our meetings and get involved. We are by far the best and most active chapter in the state and by the metrics that Dennis Nelson has shared; we stack up as one of the best chapters nationally compared to others of our size. Please join us and help us to become the best on a national basis.

I pray that each of you have a healthy and happy 2025!





Rumbaugh Oration contestant, CJ Pfanstiel.

Where are they NOW?

By Bruce Smith

I know that the Compatriots of the DX Chapter are proud of our youth contest participants at all contest levels. They represent us very well at the state and national contest levels. But as they pass their eligibility, we often lose track of them.

So, let's turn back the page to one of my first youth contest applicants, CJ Pfanstiel, who participated in the Rumbaugh Oration contest. His topic was Charles Carrol of Maryland, a member of the Continental Congress. The point was that Carrol professionally and factually made his points when others were resorting to overt mudslinging. Something we can certainly identify with today. CJ attended Blue Valley West High School with numerous academic, civic, athletic, and personal accomplishments to his credit.

His aim, stated on the oration application at the time, was:

Following undergraduate school, I intend to earn a joint MBA/JD to prepare me for a career in business, law, or politics

So, in his own words, let's see how he is doing:

"I was fortunate to begin studying at Notre Dame Law School a few months ago. And just a few years before that, I was lucky enough to have been a participant in the Rumbaugh Oration contest. I still remember how confident I was in preparing my speech and how nervous I actually felt giving it. The whole process, from conducting research to drafting, rehearsing, and eventually reciting my manuscript, was a significant learning experience for me. I gained a lesson in the utility of preparation and the value of learning more about our history and government. I took those insights with me to Rice University, where I secured an internship with Rep. Crenshaw in the U.S. Congress for a summer. There, I walked the halls of our nation's capital almost daily, stealing glances at historic paintings and statues memorializing some of our country's greatest leaders. Despite being surrounded by so much history, however, my most obsessive moments were spent writing policy memos while wedged in the corner of a crowded congressional office. The next year, I was able to continue interacting with policy measures, working for Chairman Creighton in the Texas Senate on a Rice University fellowship. Having gained an appreciation of American History partly from my experiences with the Delaware Crossing Chapter, I couldn't help feeling pride in contributing to it, even if just a little."

CJ seems to be progressing successfully with his career plan regarding the legal profession and political engagement!

Hopefully, he will become visible to us on the state or national scenes in a few years.



KSSAR Color Guard at the Wreaths Across America.

Your Color Guard at Work

Henry Leavenworth Muster

The evening of December 12, 2024 Kirk Rush in Dewey Fry of Delaware Crossing was a part of a Color Guard commanded by Tom Chychota of the Henry Leavenworth Chapter of KSSAR in the HL Chapter's Annual Muster program. In addition to the above three other KSSAR Color Guardsmen participating were, Bill Marshall of the Konza Prairie Chapter, Vernon Welkner of Henry Leavenworth, Alan Martin and Jeffrey Winters of the Monticello Chapter, Brian Vazquez of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter, John Moore of the Charles Chapter. Jim Beasley, a Color Guardsman from the newly founded James Smith Talbot Chapter of MOSSAR in St. Joseph also participated. A very young boy by the name of Evan, was the drummer for the Color Guard. The Colors were posted before the meeting with only the US Colors presented and posted by Alan Martin at the beginning of the meeting.

All other participated in the program presenting and posting individually the flags of the first 13 states. One Color Guardsman would advance, and post the state flag and an accompanying Color Guardsman would like a candle in a period replica lamp. The MC then would present something about the state and SAR and DAR members attending would rise and say the name and service

of their patriot ancestor from that State. All Color Guardsmen, except the Commander and Drummer got to advance and post at least one flag and light one candle.

The Commander and Drummer stood at the starting location for the Color Guard pairs and commanded and drummed from their position.

Wreaths Across America

On December 14, Delaware Crossing Color Guardsmen participated in the KSSAR Color Guard Commanded by Eastern District Adjutant Kirk Rush in the ceremony at Johnson County Memorial Gardens. Delaware Crossing Color Guardsmen were, Kirk Rush, Dewey Fry, Dan Dryer, Ken Ludwig, Dennis Nelson and Clay Shropshire. The Colors were advanced from behind the crowd north to a position behind the MC at the columbarium. The Colors were presented at the beginning of the ceremony, for the wreath mounting for each of the Armed Services and for Taps at the end to the ceremony.

After Taps, the Color Guard Retired the Colors and ceremonially laid wreaths at the very end of the program.

In addition, several Color Guardsmen form the Color Guard for our December meeting that evening.

Naturalization Ceremony

On Tuesday Morning December 17, 2024 Color Guardsmen in a Naturalization Ceremony at the Robert J. Dole US Courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas. 89 applicants from 39 countries took their Oath of Citizenship during the ceremony. After the Oath of Citizenship is administered, the Color Guard Advances the Colors to the front of the courtroom in front of the judge facing the audience, Presents the Colors and leads the new citizens and audience in our Pledge of Allegiance.

This is the first time they recite our Pledge of Allegiance as a new citizen. The new citizens and family members significantly enjoy having their pictures taken with the Color Guard at a reception following the ceremony.

On this day, the Judge Holly Teeter joined the photo session.

Color Guardsmen from left to right. Alan Martin, from Monticello Chapter, Dewey Fry, Dan Dryer, and Larry Tatum from Delaware Crossing Chapter, Jerry Vest from Monticello, John More from Charles Robinson Chapter, and Clay Shropshire from Delaware Crossing.

As another year has ended, Dewey Fry has now Presented the Colors at Naturalization Ceremonies to more than 19,000 new citizens and lead more than 9,000 in reciting our Pledge of Allegiance for their first time as a new US citizen.



Kirk Rush and Dewey Fry.



Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, Judge Holly Teeter, Dan Dryer, Larry Tatum, Jerry Vest, John More and Clay Shropshire with the family of a New American Citizen.



KSSAR Color Guard at the Wreaths Across America event.



Kirk Rush, Alan Martin, Dewey Fry and Brian Vazquez.



Kirk Rush, Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, Brian Vazquez, John Forbes and Ken Ludwig.



Clay Shropshire, John More, Jeffrey Winters, Dan Dryer, Dennis Nelson, Ken Ludwig, Brian Vazquez, Dewey Fry, Alan Martin and Kirk Rush.



Dewey Fry, Worshipful Master John Allee and Past Master Perry Siplon.

Presentation of Flag Display Commendation Certificate

On Saturday December 7, 2024 I (Dewey Fry), Flag Committee Chairman, present a Flag Display Commendation Certificate to the Overland Park Masonic Lodge No. 436. It turned out to be much more than a simple presentation.

The incoming Senior Warden, aka Vice-President, Jon Allee contacted me in mid-September and as if I would present the Lodge a certificate when he took office at the Worshipful Master. He said the flag was tattered being replaced. He also asked if I would Present the Colors. I replied I would. I went to the portion of the meeting in which the new officers were installed which is very formal, and a bit long. During it the past Lodge Masters for their 100 year history were read, the

name Kyle Kesler, a DX member was read for 2011.

As I arrived, I saw the flag on the outside pole was very tattered. The flag in the lodge was already posted. I then ask about the request to Present the Colors, which was explained as taking down the old and putting up the new on the flag pole outside. I was a bit surprised but agreed to do it. That ceremony was after the meeting inside. I was assisted by two Lodge brothers. I lowered old flag slowly during the playing to Taps detached it, attached a new flag and raised it rapidly. They were very appreciative and greatly impressed with my Color Guard Uniform.

The presentation of the certificate to new Master Jon Allee and immediate past Master Perry Siplon was the final act of the ceremony outside.



Dewey Fry raises the new flag at the Overland Park Mason Lodge.