



## The Delaware Crossing Patriot

Kansas Society

Sons of the American Revolution

October 2017

Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

### CALENDER

#### NEXT MEETING:

When: Oct 21

Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S  
Strang Line Rd., Olathe, KS, 9:00AM

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email  
[Secretary@dxsar.com](mailto:Secretary@dxsar.com) or call Ken  
Ludwig (913) 897-0379 by 3:00 PM,  
the Wednesday before.

**BREAKFAST PRICE: \$17.00/person**

Program: Keith Nelson on Chouteau family

### COMING EVENTS

10/14-15 Shawnee Mission Festival

10/18 DXSAR EC meeting, at Oak Park Library,  
9500 Bluejacket St.

#### Editor's Note (Greg Millican)

Send news about your ancestor patriots, special events, career changes, history trips, etc., that may be included in the *Delaware Crossing Patriot*. You may reach me at [Gregory.millican@gmail.com](mailto:Gregory.millican@gmail.com), and phone number (913) 268-4932.



### The President's Corner

By Stu Conrad

The SAR pledge is a significant undertaking. Our ancestors pledged "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor" in support of independence. Yet we recite this pledge, by rote, without much thought. Let's spend a few moments looking at it more deeply. Here it is:

We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, *reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.* (Emphasis added)

For a bit of background, last month at the Executive Committee Meeting I closed the meeting by noting our organization's commitment to be non-political. The specific context was the recent controversy about American civil war generals, primarily those who fought for the Confederacy, and the bubbling outcry against Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and, yes, even Benjamin Franklin. The next day I was grateful to receive from one of our EC compatriots a well-reasoned article concerning this issue that drew a distinction between those who sought to dissolve the union, those who sought to preserve it, and those whom we regard as founders. As well-reasoned as this article was, I don't think the battle is over.

It becomes increasingly difficult to separate today's politics from our pledge and SAR's non-political stand.

For instance, how do we separate politics from a commitment to “...reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.” What are the “principles of liberty” that are referenced in this pledge? Are they limited to “one man, one vote,” or to just “doing what I want?” Perhaps each person must define those principles as they see fit and that might be, itself, a definition of sorts. One definition holds that liberty is “the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views.” There’s a wealth of stuff to pick through in that statement including dissecting what is a permissible restriction and what makes a restriction “oppressive.” Another definition holds that self-control is the key. Still another focuses on self-determination and self-government and that may be what “taxation without representation” is about.

Once that is resolved – no small task – one moves on to those principles as enshrined in our “Constitutional republic.” What may be the essential ingredient here? Balance of power? Division of power between separate but co-equal branches of government? There was a certain genius in the development of these constructs; a genius that should not be quickly overlooked or dismissed. We begin to see (if we haven’t seen already) the importance of education – particularly education in civics and history.

But here’s the real point of this long series of questions. The SAR asserts itself to be “apolitical,” that politics should have no part in our discussions. Of course that begs the question of what constitutes “politics.” Yet it strikes me that there is a basic inconsistency between an apolitical position and the SAR pledge. Our patriot forefathers were certainly not “apolitical” in the sense of being neutral. And we need to give some real thought to what we mean by our pledge. It used to be that the only real difference between political parties was their names. Sadly that seems no longer to be the case. There are those who want to replace our Constitution with something else and that Constitution yet may, in our lifetimes, require defense. The military takes an oath to defend “against

all enemies, foreign and domestic” and it may well be that the greatest threats to the principles of liberty and our Constitutional republic are from the inside rather than from other countries. Let’s give some real thought to our memorized rote-driven pledge really means.

(End of President’s Corner)

**Annual Picnic of the chapter September 16:**

The Delaware Crossing chapter annual picnic was held on September 16. The picnic was hosted by Dewey and Pat Fry. The picnic was followed by a memorial service for those recent passed away, followed by a flag retirement ceremony.



1 Fellowship at the picnic



2 Color Guard at the picnic, Kirk Rush, Dennis Nelson, , Ken Ludwig, (covered by flag) Lyman Miller (MC)



3 Boy Scouts participate in flag retirement ceremony



4 Burning of the retired flag



5 Tim Peterman (second from right) read the summary of the stars and stripes of the retired flag.

**A memorial service:** Honoring the deceased:

Robert Eugene Burt DX Oct 30, 2016

Fred Mitchelson MC Nov 30, 2016

Robert Earl Jones, Jr post DX Dec 20, 2016

Shelby Dumond Saint Martin, post DX Jan 15, 2017

Douglas Albert Young, Jr. MC Mar 5, 2017

Lee Wellington Patrick, Jr. MAL Sep 3, 2017

**Final Results of 2016 Americanism Contest by Dennis Nelson, Americanism Chairman:**

The NSSAR has posted on its website the details of the 2016 Americanism/President General's Streamer Award contest. Americanism recognizes chapters that participate in outreach education efforts and who acknowledge community leaders for their efforts to perpetuate the goals of the SAR. The President General's Streamer contest recognizes chapters for their efforts to achieve the administrative goals of the SAR and who contribute to the success of the SAR. The President General's Cup recognizes chapters that best achieves the goals of both Americanism and President General's Streamer award contest. DX competed with 26 chapters that submitted reports for the 100-199 member category.

In the Americanism contest DX finished 3rd with 9,047 in points. In 2015, DX finished 11<sup>th</sup> with 4,798 points.

In the PG Streamer contest, DX was 6th with 5,197 points. In 2015, DX finished 1<sup>st</sup> with 6,983 points.

In the President General's Cup contest, the points for Americanism and PG Streamer are combined and divided by the number of members in the chapter to arrive at an average of overall points per

member. DX scored in 14 categories qualifying to compete for the President General’s Cup by scoring in at least 12 out of 16 categories. DX finished 2nd with a 107.68 average points per member.

Congratulations to all chapter members for their efforts whether it is active participation in the chapter and/or providing financial support though dues and donations. These results clearly demonstrate that DX is one of the best SAR chapters in NSSAR for both outreach and administrative support of SAR programs.

*(End of Americanism Report)*

**Kesler Youth Endowment Fund Update by Dennis Nelson Trustee:**

The Delaware Crossing Chapter is very fortunate to have the Kesler Youth Endowment Fund. This endowment fund started many years ago is a permanent fund in that all donations to the fund are not spent. Only the earnings each year may be spent by the chapter for youth contest awards and expenses.

Currently the Fund earns about \$1,600 that is spent on youth contests as follows:

Eagle Scout First Place \$500

Rumbaugh Orations Contest First Place \$500

Knight Essay Contest First Place \$400

5<sup>th</sup> grade Poster contest expenses for one school (140 students) \$200

Total \$1,600.

There are however more contests to participate in at the chapter level:

JROTC Enhanced contest (similar to the Eagle Scout contest) award \$500

History Teacher of the Year award

Brochure contest on the 5 founding documents for middle schoolers

All of these contests have additional awards or expenses. Also, the chapter doesn’t have the funds to award second or third place.

When you receive your dues notice, there is a line for a tax deductible donation to the Kesler Youth Endowment Fund. The earnings from your donation will help increase both the number of contests and the awards to youth. Youth contests is one of the key missions of the SAR i.e. educating our youth about our founding and the Revolutionary War. Thank you in advance for your support.

*(End of Kesler Youth Endowment Report)*

**Summary of upcoming October 21 program:**

***Chouteau Family’s Impact on Missouri and the Francois Chouteau & Native American Heritage Fountain***

The history presentation will cover the early years of the Chouteau family who were the most prominent Fur Traders in Missouri. It will touch on their connection to the Revolutionary War battle in St. Louis, their involvement in the Lewis & Clark Expedition, treaties with the Native Americans, and Francois Chouteau’s trading posts in Kansas City area. The program will follow-up with an introduction of the Francois Chouteau & Native American Heritage Fountain project to be constructed near Chouteau’s first trading post in Clay County, Missouri.

*(End of Patriot News letter)*