The Delaware Crossing Patriot
Kansas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
May 2024
Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

The Revolution is coming!
Two Years - Two Months - Four Days

NEXT MEETING:
When: May 18, 2024

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, May 14, 2024.
Cost: **$25.00/person**

Program: "Fort Hood Terrorist Attack" Keara Torkelson

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

May 2024
4 BOG
15 DX EC Meeting
18 DX Chapter Meeting

June 2024
12 DX EC Meeting
15 DX Chapter Meeting

July 2024
17 DX EC Meeting
20 DX Chapter Meeting

The President's Corner

By Ken Ludwig

I never expected to be writing President's articles again to the chapter, but due to a turn of events, here I am again.

Many of you may not have heard about what has been going on in the leadership of the chapter, so I will try to get you up to speed.

In January, we elected David Yuengert as President, but we did not have a candidate for the Executive VP position. After taking office in our

March meeting, David developed a medical condition that precluded him from fulfilling his duties as President, causing him to resign. With the executive VP position open, that left us with no leadership for the chapter.

On April 11, the Executive Committee met in special session to come up with a solution to this problem. At this meeting, we discussed several potential solutions. Our chapter practice has been that once you have served as President, you are not expected to serve in that capacity again. Our constitution and bylaws has the President limited to two consecutive one year terms, which means that there is no preclusion to the ability to serve as President multiple times, there just has to be a gap in service.

The plan we settled on was to get a previous president to serve for a one year term while we identify a candidate to step into the Executive VP slot to be mentored the remainder of this year and ascend to the President position next year. Kirk Rush volunteered to serve as the Executive VP while a replacement candidate is identified and I volunteered to serve as President until March of next year. Our appointments were ratified in our April Chapter meeting.

The next President will preside over an exciting time, as they will be serving during the 250th celebration of our country's birth in 2026. I expect that there will be an uptick in interest in our society and many requests for our participation in events leading up to and including Independence Day 2026.

As outlined by Dennis Nelson in his recent article, Delaware Crossing is an active, vibrant chapter. At the annual state conference, we were awarded twice as many streamers as the next chapter. By many metrics, we are the best chapter in the state, and for our size rank very high nationally.

So now the chapter needs someone to step forward to become our Executive VP.

This is an EXTREMELY CRITICAL NEED!!!

As the immediate past president, I approached many qualified members of our chapter and was given many excuses as to why they could not serve.
When we were all inducted into the chapter, we pledged our support. Support comes in many forms including time, talents and treasure. Since you are reading this newsletter, you are a member in good standing that at a bare minimum means you have paid your dues for the year. The chapter now needs you to step up with your time and talents to join the leadership team.

The job of President is really not that time consuming. It can easily be fit around travel schedules and other family and home responsibilities. The rest of the Executive Committee is more than willing to help out if you have to miss something because of a prior commitment. There are many benefits as you get to know your fellow compatriots better plus there are opportunities to meet more people at the state and national levels.

I will gladly answer any questions you may have. Please call me at (913) 558-0292.

Rebecca Kline presents the Hanna White Arnett Certificate to Dewey Fry.

Dewey Fry Presented Prestigious DAR Award at KSDAR Annual Conference

I have written many articles for our Patriot newsletter, nearly all in the 3rd person format. This time I am writing in first person format due to the honor and pleasure of receiving the award. A few weeks ago, Pat was called by Rebecca Kline, KSDAR Regent. She asked if I would go to the KSDAR Annual Conference in Wichita to be presented a prestigious new NSDAR Medal. She explained that she first thought of me and in conferring with Honorary Vice President General Mary Frisch about who candidates would be, Mary did not hesitate to also name me (Dewey Fry); therefore, I accepted not knowing anything about the award.

The travel to Wichita was challenging. The winds were very high and gusting. We went through rain so hard I could not drive more than 40 mph. A huge bolt of lightning struck about 60-70 feet from us on the south side of I-35. It was very loud, had large (approximately 10 feet in diameter) pink ball of fire as it struck the ground. It was very loud and destroyed the automatic dimming sensor in my car, but we arrived safely in Wichita.

At the Regents Banquet I was presented the Hannah White Arnett Silver Medal of Distinction for Extraordinary Cooperation and Outstanding Service to the NSDAR. It not only a significant honor to receive the award but also an extreme pleasure as I looked into the smiling face and eyes of the KSDAR State Regent Rebecca Kline who was looking at me as my friend "Becky" Kline with a beautiful smile on her face and in her eyes as she presented the certificate and pinned the medal on my uniform coat.

I glanced at Mary Frisch and she too had a beautiful glowing smile. Just those smiles were worth the trip through more than a hundred miles of rain, gusty winds and lighting going to Wichita. This is the first Hannah White Arnett Medal to be presented in the State of Kansas.

The applause was very nice and there were many personal congratulations after the meeting including one of a few minutes with the Kentucky Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Dewey Fry

Rebecca Klein, Kansas Regent, pins the Hannah White Arnett Silver Medal of Distinction on Dewey Fry's lapel.

Dewey Fry address the KSDAR Annual Conference.

Dewey Fry's Hanna White Arnett Medal.

Kirk Rush of DX Commanding, Alan Martin of MC, Dewey Fry of DX, Brian Vazquez of TJ, Tom Chychota of HL, Clay Shropshire of DX, Larry Tatum of DX, Jeffrey Winters of MC and John Moore of CR.

Your Color Guard at Work

The Delaware Crossing Chapter Color Guardsmen were busy the last full week of April.

On April 20 several were at the Chapter Meeting. After the meeting Kirk Rush, Dewey Fry, Larry Tatum and Clay Shropshire of DX were with other Color Guardsmen from the Kansas Society at McLouth, KS to march in their Patriots Day Parade. In the photos from left to right were Kirk Rush of DX Commanding, Alan Martin of MC, Dewey Fry of DX, Brian Vazquez of TJ, Tom Chychota of HL, Clay Shropshire of DX, Larry Tatum of DX, Jeffrey Winters of MC and John Moore of CR.

If a Color Guardsman wants to march in a short parade this is the one to participate in. We are greatly appreciated and the march is only ¼ mile long. With a free lunch afterward.

The KSSSAR Color Guard led the parade as they have done for the past several years.

On Monday April 22 Kansas Society Color Guardsmen joined the Missouri Society Color Guardsmen in welcoming home 47 Veterans at 6:30 pm flight sponsored by the Central Heights High School from the Ottawa, Osawatomie, and

Garnett area of Kansas. KSSSAR Color Guardsmen were Dewey Fry of DX with the US Flag, Jeffrey Winters of MC with the Betsy Ross Flag, Clay Shropshire of DX with the POW/MIA Flag, and Alan Martin of MC with the Kansas Flag.

On Tuesday April 23 Kansas Society Color Guardsmen joined the Missouri Society Color Guardsmen in welcoming home 23 veterans at 6:30 pm flight sponsored by the Southern Lyon County Kansas High School. KSSSAR Color Guardsmen were Dewey Fry of DX with the Kansas Flag, Clay Shropshire of DX with the Bedford Flag, Alan Martin of MC with the Bunker Hill Flag, and Jeffrey Winters of MC with the SAR 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War Flag.

On Thursday April 25 the Color Guardsmen from the two states welcomed back home 24 veterans from an Honor Flight sponsored by the Wamego High School of Wamego, KS. The flight was due in at 10:25 pm but did not arrive until 11:20 pm, it then takes 30 to 45 minutes for the veterans to make their way to the baggage area where we generally wait. However, this time we were directed to the departure floor and welcomed them back in a hallway. Photos of Color Guardsmen welcoming back the veterans are difficult to take there, due to the narrowness of the two rows of formed by the Color Guardsmen and Patriot Riders.

KSSSAR Color Guardsmen were Dewey Fry of DX with the Kansas Flag, Clay Shropshire of DX with the Bedford Flag, Alan Martin of MC with the Bunker Hill Flag, and Jeffrey Winters of MC.

The Color Guard lined up to greet returning Veterans.

Returning Veterans receive a hardy welcome home.

Alan Martin and Dewey Fry great returning Veterans.

Ken Ludwig presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Mary Dempsey.

Beginning Genealogy Program

Mary Dempsey of the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri presented a good program on Beginning Genealogy. For those who have done no genealogy it covered how to start and what to look for and where to look for it. For those of us who have done significant genealogy research, it provided and interesting review of what we have learned over the years and a couple new references. It opened our eyes to the fact we should utilize the Midwest Genealogy Center more than we do.

President Kenneth Ludwig presented Mary Dempsey with a Certificate of Appreciation for her program presentation.

John Forbes with his Supplemental Certificate for Patriot David Haggard.

Presentation of Certificates, Awards and Streamers.

John Forbes was presented a Certificate for a Supplemental Application for his ancestor David Haggard who was a Private in Virginia serving under Captains Harris, Martin and Fry in the Regiments of Colonels Richardson and Matthews. John also accepted the certificate for his son Bradley Forbes.

According to family tradition, while David was in the military his twin brother Bartlett, who was not enlisted, would sneak into the camp and change clothes with David. David was then free to go home and visit his family and "no one would be the wiser."

Kevin Dyches and Rick Alley could not attend the March meeting due to other commitments. President Kenneth Ludwig Presented Kevin Dyches with a Certificate of Distinguished Service for serving as the Secretary for the past year; which is a challenging job every Executive Committee Meeting.

President Kenneth Ludwig presented Rick Alley with the Chapter Henry Knox Achievement Medal for serving as Webmaster for several years and maintaining our website well and keeping our subscriptions of online services current and functional.

Dewey Fry presented to Steven French, DX Color Guard Commander, 15 of the 17 streamers awarded by the Kansas Society SAR to the Delaware Crossing Chapter for participation in the SAR programs. The streamers will be mounted to our Chapter Streamer Pole. Delaware Crossing earned the most streamers of the 13 Kansas chapters.

Ken Ludwig presents the Henry Knox Medal to Rick Alley.

Ken Ludwig presents Kevin Dykes with the Certificate of Distinguished Service.

Steven French receives the Chapter's Ribbons from Dewey Fry.

Attendees were interested in the SAR educational materials.

Educational Outreach by Bruce Smith

The Midwest Parent Educators (MPE) Annual Conference was held at the KCI Expo Center on April 4-5, 2024. This is one of the largest home school groups in the Midwest and a potentially impactful group with which to establish contacts for Youth Contests and Educational Outreach efforts. They have a following of about 5000 families across the Midwest. A booth was attended to provide information on SAR, KSSSAR, and Delaware Crossing. Booth hours were from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

There were 700 families registered for the meeting (they do not capture individual attendee headcount figures), though in many cases, entire families were in attendance. The families came from Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas; however, as you would expect, the majority were from Kansas and Missouri.

In addition to a booth presence, Bruce Smith gave a one-hour talk on the SAR and its mission, Youth Contests, and available educational resources from SAR (including a website and app demo). It was interesting how many attendees had never heard of the SAR while being familiar with the DAR. This reinforces why establishing a presence with groups like this is so important.

Introductions to SAR were made via a flyer placed in the meeting welcome bag, one premeeting post on the MPE Facebook page, three items in the MPE silent fundraising auction, free booth raffles for elementary and middle school books on the Revolution and Colonial periods, and a free Constitution, Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence pocket pamphlet as a booth and meeting entrance giveaway.

The SAR Flag book, SAR Youth brochure, and SAR Education Outreach brochure were also dispensed. The DX chapter travel trunk items were displayed.

A signup sheet was located at the booth to allow for follow-up with interested parents after the conference and before the next contest cycle. Based on the information provided, about 50 potential students were identified in Kansas and another 50 in Missouri. A number of those from Kansas could potentially be eligible for DX activities.

Parents stopping at the table spent considerable time learning about the SAR and the various contests and educational opportunities available. It was also great to have the students present to ask questions and indicate things that were of specific interest to them. As we know, a parent can be interested, but the student must also be motivated.

The younger students especially enjoyed the Patriot Chest items, and a number made several repeat visits to see them.

Additional follow-up with MPE is planned to explore additional outreach opportunities. A number of parents expressed interest in genealogy support in general, with some perhaps leading to potential membership, access to chapter meetings to hear speakers, and Patriot Chest demonstrations at monthly group get-togethers, to name a few areas of interest. It will be fun to see what of these come to fruition over the coming months.

A special thank you goes out to Debra Smith, who attended the booth on Saturday and assisted with the booth breakdown after the meeting.

SAR table at MPE Annual Conference.

Bruce Smith with SAR display.

High interest was shown for the SAR Patriot Chest items.

Students and parents at the Midwest Parent Educators (MPE) Annual Conference.

Bruce Smith presents Saratoga Campaign Program.

The Saratoga Campaign by Bruce Smith

Following his presentation on the Battle of Brandywine on February 10, 2024, Bruce Smith was invited back to the Ft. Scott Chapter meeting at the Fort Scott Inn on April 13 to speak on the Saratoga Campaign. Attendees also included compatriots from the new Little Balkans Chapter and the local DAR.

This topic was divided into two parts. After a somewhat humorous interlude, which might be described as "how many SAR compatriots does it take to get the slideshow connected to the screen," Compatriot Bruce Smith spoke on Part I: The Prelude to Saratoga.

The talk reviewed Burgoyne's plan and the Battles of Oriskany, Fort Stanwix (Ft. Schuyler), Ticonderoga, Hubbardton, Skenesboro, Fort Anne, and Bennington, which preceded Saratoga. The focus was on the drain of manpower, about 28% of Burgoyne's expected strength, logistical concerns, erosion of Native Peoples' support, the Colonial preparations and response to this phase of the campaign, and the personalities involved. These places and events were a recurrent part of Bruce's earlier life in upstate New York, and a number of personal photos from his more recent visits were shared.

Part II: The Battles of Saratoga will be presented on June 8. It will cover Saratoga proper: Freeman's Farm, Bemis Heights, and the Siege of Burgoyne's encampment, plus the surrender and aftermath.

Bruce Smith stresses important Battle moments.