



The Delaware Crossing Patriot Kansas Society

May 2015

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

NEXT MEETING:

When: May 16th 9:00 a.m.
Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S Strang
Line Rd. Olathe, KS

Program: The Trail From Concord to
Lexington – Brooks Lyles

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, e-mail
reserve@dxsar.com or call Richard Cox at 913-
387-7598 by 3:00 PM, the Wednesday before

COMING EVENTS CALANDER

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| May 9 | BOG – Emporia |
| May 16 | Chapter Meeting – Brooks Lyles “Road from Concord to Lexington” |
| June 20 | Chapter Meeting – Craig Dillavou U.S. Secret Service, Tales from Experience |
| Jun 27-Jul1 | National Congress |
| Jul 18 | Chapter Meeting – Gary Hicks as Alexander Majors |
| Aug 15 | Chapter Meeting – Bob Capps “Volontaires Estrangers de Lauzon” |
| Sep 19 | Annual DX Picnic & Flag Burning Ceremony |
| Oct 17 | Chapter Meeting |

May Program: Be sure to attend the May chapter meeting. KSSSAR President, Brooks Lyles, will be presenting a very interesting and timely program on “The Road from Concord to Lexington”. Brooks will be joining us from the Henry Leavenworth chapter and; as the newly inducted State President, this is an excellent opportunity to catch up on the 'State of the State'



The President's Corner

Brian Revard, Pres. DX

You may get a call! This month the Executive Committee will be calling members to remind them of the May 16th chapter meeting. Some members have indicated that they would like a reminder call about monthly meetings.

KSSSAR President Brooks Lyles will be presenting a program titled "Road from Concord to Lexington" Please join us on the 16th for breakfast, welcome Brooks, and visit with friends.

We are looking for members that would like to help with the calling committee. If you would willing to make five to ten meeting reminder calls every month, let me know! We could use the help.

Check out the newsletter for upcoming programs. Also, make plans to attend the September picnic and flag retirement ceremony.

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather and congratulations to all of the 2015 high school and college graduates!



Eagle Scout Presentation

Eagle Scout Chair, and DX Color Guard Commander Kirk Rush presented an Eagle Scout Certificate to Colin Smith. Colin is a newly minted Eagle Scout from Troop 124.

Kirk was present at Colin's Eagle Court of Honor on April 26th at the Community Covenant Church in Lenexa.



The chapter makes such presentations to each new Eagle that we are made aware of. Not only is it an important recognition for the Scout, his parents and his troop but it helps to further the relationship that the SAR has with Scouting.

Delaware Crossing has a long and storied history of supporting the Scouting program – as the founding chapter of the NSSAR Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Scholarship program. If you know of any Scouts who have or are about to be awarded their Eagle, please let Kirk know.

Calling Committee – 'Get Thee to a Meeting'

An Opinion of the Editor

Over the past couple of years, Delaware Crossing has been facing a crisis manifested in a steady decline in the number of members who attend our monthly meetings. We currently have on the order of 142 total chapter members in good standing. If you take into account junior members, members who may be unable to attend because of age and/or infirmities, and those members who live out of the area, we still have roughly 100 members who should be attending monthly meetings.

Over the past year, we have actually been averaging less than 20. The members of the Executive Committee account for 8 or 9 of those, and spouses account for 2 or 3!

So it is fair to say that the general membership is pretty much non-existent when it comes to attending meetings.

Over the last several years we have tried to address the issue by mixing up the types of programs presented, using contests and incentives to increase participation and increasing efforts to reach more members through the newsletter and email-blasts as reminders.

As President Revard noted in this month's *President's Corner*, the Executive Committee will be resurrecting the "calling committee". It has been used in the past, but it has never gained sustainable traction.

The EC hopes that by continuing to make personal contacts with a 'target market' of members, we can gain a commitment to attend on a regular basis.

The issue of participation is mission critical to the existence of the chapter. Primarily, an active and interested chapter grows, expands the ideals of the Society, and makes the Society part of the community in which we live. **A chapter that is only drawing 5 or 6 members who are not already officers and chairmen, is a chapter that dries up and dies.**

The other side of the coin is financial. The chapter already subsidizes the cost of the meeting as a benefit to the membership. However, in addition to that, if we fail to have 25 attendees the chapter

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incurs additional costs in room rental. While the finances of the chapter are strong – it doesn't take a mathematician to figure out that this is not sustainable in the long run.

But far and away what is more important is the persistence of apathy among the vast majority of our members.

If you joined Sons of the American Revolution merely to have a paper certificate to hang on the wall of your den, then that is fine – we're glad to count you among our members and appreciate your support through annual dues.

But if you joined because you have pride in your Patriot Ancestors; pride in our Founding Fathers, the country and what the SAR stands for – then you really need to get back in the game.

We have many opportunities to connect and be involved with what the chapter stands for. You can get involved with recognizing Scouting; you can connect with schools and kids through promoting the Knight Essay and Rumbaugh oration contests.

You can connect with the community in recognizing residences that fly the Flag properly; you can help liaise with the CAR and DAR; you can help support veterans.

If none of that is appealing, you can be part of a vibrant chapter that comes up with new ideas and new opportunities to promote the “...principles of liberty, and our Constitutional Republic...” Sound familiar? It's from the pledge you took when you joined the SAR.

“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”

At the May meeting, the program will be presented by the State Society President. Let's make this a 'jumping off point' to a renewed level of participation and show the State Society that the “Metro's Oldest and Largest Chapter”... still is!

April Program Enlightens Members About What Education Used to Be

John Forbes presented the program at the April chapter meeting; “McGuffey's Eclectic Series”. John brought along copies of books used in the late 19th century, at the Shawnee Indian Mission.

From the 'Eclectic Primer' through the 'Fourth Reader' attendees paged through the material that emphasized many morals that are lost to current generations.



The overall curriculum would have consisted of these texts (think liberal arts and humanities) as well as a mathematical series (Ray's Eclectic Arithmetic).

It was fascinating to read the material which at the time was presented to students who would in modern venues be from 1st to 8th grade equivalents; but with material which, certainly by the “Fourth Reader” could very well be expected of college level students.

The 'Readers' drew heavily on classical literature as well as prose and commentary from our founding fathers. The questions for each lesson were not simply validations of completion but required thoughtful and logical comprehension of the meaning and intent of the narrative.

See if you can define these words taken from the Primary Speller:

- Ex Parte (ok attorneys, no fair)
- Et caetera
- Fortiter
- Jeu de mat