



The Delaware Crossing Patriot Kansas Society Sons of the American Revolution

April 2026

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

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

NEXT MEETING:

When: May 16, 2026

Where: Milburn Country Club, 7501 W 69th St., Overland Park, KS 66204, 9:00am

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email Secretary@dxsar.org or contact Clay Shropshire 785-521-8122 or winemakerclay@gmail.com by 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

Cost: **\$23.00/person**

Program: Rick Bond – Lewis & Clark

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

May 2026

- 2 BOG
- 13 DX EC Meeting
- 16 DX Chapter Meeting

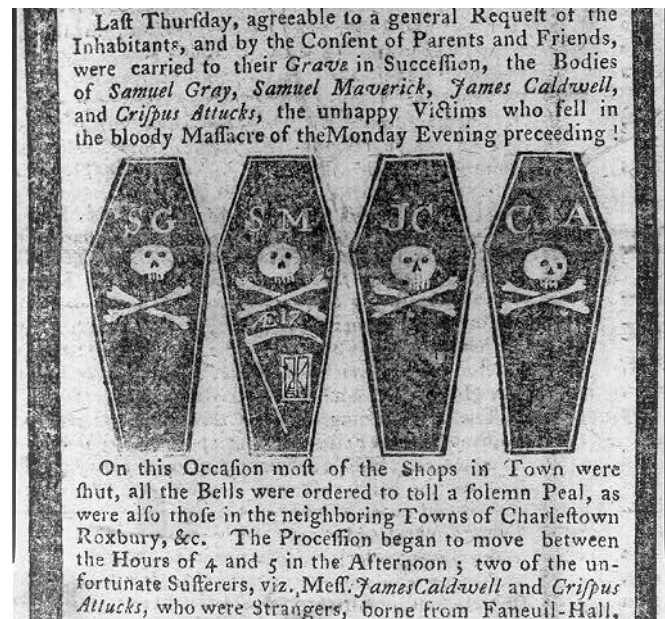
June 2026

- 6 Old Shawnee Days Parade (truck & trailer)
- 17 DX EC Meeting
- 20 DX Chapter Meeting

July 2026

- 15 DX EC Meeting
- 18 DX Chapter Meeting

The President's Corner



By Clay Shropshire

I found something interesting on the Internet when I asked, "When did community involvement begin to decline?" It suggested that between 1900 and the mid-1950s Americans joined churches, volunteer groups, labor unions, and social clubs but the trend has been heading downward. It was heading downward when Delaware Crossing was founded in 1960.

People today are less inclined to join organizations and even less inclined to get involved. The same

problem is occurring among organizations and groups of all types across the country. It is happening to women's groups just as much as men's groups.

The big question is how long this can continue before groups and organizations curtail their outlets to only a few in an area that once boasted many chapters or associations? Delaware Crossing was the only SAR chapter in the Kansas City metroplex at one time. We have since increased the number of chapters on both sides of the state line. However, each of those chapters are facing the same issue of trying to fill vacant officer and chair positions, along with hoping to have attendees at meetings.

I do not presume that this trend will reverse anytime soon, if at all. This is today's reality, but we do not have to surrender without a fight. This chapter needs volunteers to be officers and committee chairs from some of its younger members. Otherwise at some point in the future, there may not be a Delaware Crossing Chapter of SAR. You cannot have a chapter with no officers or leaders even though you have over one hundred members.



April Chapter Meeting in Review

Our Chapter Meeting on April 18 was led by Clay Shropshire, and the program was presented by Mary Dempsey from the Mid-Continent Research Center. She gave a wonderful tour of the facility, explaining all of the new equipment and what individuals could accomplish in each area.

This genealogy library has grown in the last twenty-five years from a small department in the basement of the Mid-Continent Library on Truman Road near the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library to a standalone new building next to it connected by a hallway. Mary Dempsey proclaimed it to be the largest standalone genealogy research library in the United States.

Several SAR members have done significant research at the facility over the years and seen the collection of reference materials increase dramatically. Now the equipment has been improved to aid the research of the material and the copying of it for our records. It partners with the Johnson County Central Library making it possible to obtain some reference material from the Mid-Continent Research Center at the Johnson County Central Library.



Clay Shropshire presented Mary Dempsey with a Certificate of Appreciation

Another year has been completed in the Delaware Crossing Chapter Level of the Elementary School Poster Contest. Once again, all contestants came from the Pioneer Ridge Middle School. The first, second, third places from the PRMS school contest won the same placement in the Delaware Crossing Chapter Contest.

The Elementary School Poster Contest is for 5th Grade students in Kansas. The 5th Grade in the Garder-Edgerton School District attend the middle schools instead of elementary schools as in other districts.

This was our 13th year of the contest at PRMS. There were 128 5th Grade students at PRMS this year. There are 6 home rooms. The 6 home room teachers select the top 18 posters which were then judged by Delaware Crossing members to select the final 3.

A program was presented in the Auditorium the following day in which Color Guardsmen Present and Post the Colors. The MC, Compatriot Michael Warren, described 9 flags as the Color Guardsmen display them. A Color Guardsman briefly describes the uniform and a Brown Bess musket. He asks a teacher to demonstrate how to cut a five-pointed star with one cut of the scissors as Betsy Ross did in making US Flags.



Dan Dryer helping display the Bunker Hill flag

The teachers were recognized for their efforts with Certificates and some added gifts. This year each home room and 5th grade room were presented a framed copy of the Bill of Rights in honor of our nation's 250th Anniversary. The home room teachers are Mrs. Alison Haywood, Mrs. Jovanna Crowe, Mrs. Jennifer Cusick, Mrs. Shawna Meinhardt, Mrs. Brittany Renner, and the 5th Grade IR teacher is Mrs. Whitney Slenker.



Teachers holding their framed copies of the Bill of Rights

At the end of the program, the first, second and third place posters were revealed and the student artist was asked to come stand beside their poster.



DX First, Second, and Third Place Poster Winners

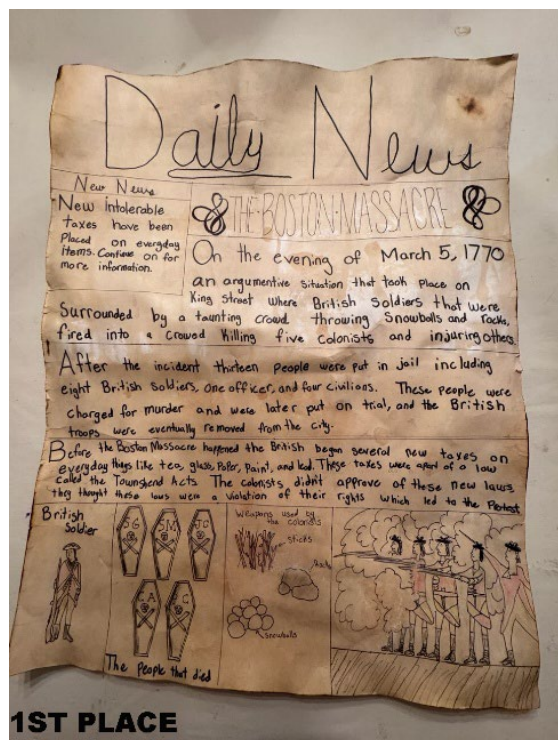
Following the program all the students and teachers process to the cafeteria (commons) and enjoy cupcakes displayed as US Flag and juice boxes and were allowed to view the three winning posters more closely.

This year Mr. Josh Kindler, the Principal, Mr. Ryan Colston, the Assistant Principal and Dr. Brian Huff, the District Superintendent, attended the gathering in the cafeteria and openly expressed how impressed they were with the poster contest.



Pat Fry arranges cupcakes to resemble an American flag

The Delaware Crossing Chapter first place poster artist and parents were invited to the Delaware Crossing Chapter meeting where the student was presented with a certificate and check for \$50.00.



Delaware Crossing First Place Poster



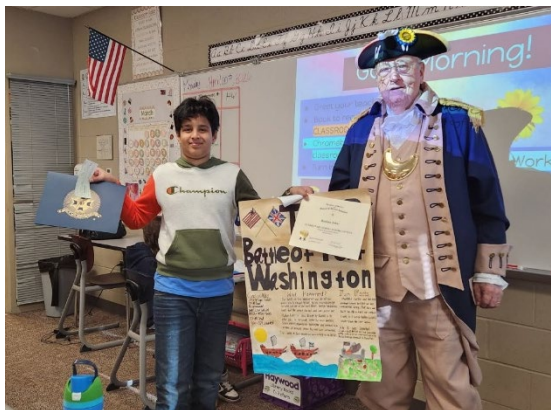
Dewey Fry presenting the Chapter First Place winner with a check at the Chapter meeting in March

The poster was then entered into the Kansas Society SAR poster contest. This year the Delaware Crossing Chapter winner came in second at the state level.

After the state contest, DX Poster Contest Chairman, Dewey Fry, visited Pioneer Ridge Middle School and presented the 2nd and 3rd place Chapter Level winners with a certificate and a check and presented the State Level 2nd place winner with a certificate and \$100.00 check. The posters were returned to the students during the presentations.



Dewey Fry presenting a check to the State 2nd Place winner



Dewey Fry presenting a certificate to the Chapter 2nd Place winner



Dewey Fry presenting a certificate to the Chapter 3rd Place winner

For their protection, the names of the students are not displayed in this article. Photos are included covering the program, the treats following the program, the Chapter Meeting and the final presentations at the school.

One interesting fact is that the PRMS 3rd place poster this year was created by the younger sister of the National 2nd Place winner in 2019, who was the first 2nd place National contest winner from the Kansas Society. She was the first of consecutive 2nd place National contest winners from Pioneer Ridge Middle School.

On Sunday, April 19th Delaware Crossing Chapter and KSSSAR Eagle Scout Chairman Kirk Rush attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for new

Eagle Scout Aiden Young of Troop 295 at Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Overland Park, Kansas. Chairman Rush presented Aiden with the SAR Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition and a Congratulatory Letter.



Eagle Scout Aiden Young of Troop 295



Chairman Kirk Rush at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor

In the evening on April 24, Color Guardsmen Dan Dryer and Clay Shropshire attended the JROTC graduation ceremony at Washington High School in Kansas City, Kansas. They presented the Delaware Crossing JROTC Outstanding Cadet Award to Cadet Asier Pena-Rosa. Aiding in the presentation was Col. Patrick McCormack. Master Sgt. Richard DeLacy was the MC for the evening and SMSgt. Clifton McFadden assisting backstage organizing the awards. Washington High School has a very strong JROTC program with an enlarged enrollment starting in the fall.



Dan Dryer and Clay Shropshire presenting the certificate to Cadet Asier Pena-Rosa with Master Sgt. Richard DeLacy and Col. Patrick McCormack



I regrettably accepted the resignation of Compatriot Tom Black as Chapter Secretary. He decided it was too much for him to handle at this point in his life. We hope he will continue to attend chapter meetings and give us an opportunity to get to know him better.

Your Color Guard at Work

There was an Honor Flight sponsored by the South Lyon County High School on April 14.



Color Guardsmen awaiting the arrival of an Honor Flight at KCI. Attending were Jeffrey Winters, Bruce Smith, Clay Shropshire, and Alan Martin along with others from Kansas and Missouri.

After the April Chapter Meeting, several members headed to the town of McLouth, Kansas for their annual Patriot's Day Parade. The Color Guard, headed by Brian with Kirk, Troy, Jeffrey, Alan, and John, led the parade and afterwards we were treated to a delicious BBQ lunch. Clay drove the truck while Steven French and Debbie Martin rode in the trailer.



McLouth Patriot's Day Parade attendees: Steven French, Clay Shropshire, Brian Vazquez, Kirk Rush, Troy Phillips, Jeffery Winters, Alan Martin, and John More.

In the morning on April 24, the Color Guard Presented Colors at Richard Warren Middle School for a Liberty Tree Planting. This is the second Liberty Tree that has been planted here. Compatriot Jerry Gross brought his students out to participate. Compatriots Rob Lofthouse and Mark Davis led the ceremony.



Jerry Gross, left, had some of his students assist with putting dirt around the newly planted tree.



Brian Vazquez led the Color Guard with Alan Martin and Clay Shropshire Presenting Colors. Rob Lofthouse and Mark Davis led the ceremony.

The SAR participates in various events throughout the year. These include grave markings, parades, DAR events, civic events, Naturalizations of new citizens, and Honor Flights. Yes, the Color Guard members Present the Colors or march out in front of a vehicle and trailer. However, all members are welcome to attend and support the event. If it is a parade, then members can ride in the truck or on the decorated trailer to show attendees there are more in the SAR than just a few men in uniform carrying flags.

We all have patriot ancestors that should be honored by us today. As I stated last month, we are in the midst of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the founding of the United States of America. All SAR members should be proud of the sacrifice their ancestors made, not just Color Guardsmen.

With that said, an upcoming event is the annual Old Shawnee Days Parade on June 6. We will have a truck and decorated trailer for compatriots to ride instead of having to walk. Put on comfy clothes, an SAR shirt or hat, and wave to the crowd. We will be joined by ladies from the Mission Hills DAR Chapter.



Truck and decorated trailer for parade riders

We are still in need of a Chapter Executive VP, a Chapter Secretary, and a Newsletter Editor, just to name a few. If anyone is able to help out the Chapter at this time, please contact Clay Shropshire at 785-521-8122 or winemakerclay@gmail.com.