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

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

NEXT MEETING:
When: October 19, 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, October 15, 2024.

Cost: **$27.00/person**

Program: Revolutionary War Patriots buried in the K.C. Area by John Forbes

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

October 2024

16 DX EC Meeting
19 DX Chapter Meeting

November 2024

5 BOG Meeting
16 DX EC Meeting
19 DX Chapter Anniversary Meeting

December 2024

18 DX EC Meeting
21 DX Christmas Party

The President's Corner

By Ken Ludwig

Who else is tired of the political ads and mailers? Those made me wonder, what is some of the presidential election history?

The first presidential election lasted from Monday December 15, 1788 to Wednesday January 7, 1789. Of course, we all know that George Washington won the election. Since we were a new country, there were no formal political parties

like we have today, but informally there was the Federalist Party which consisted of people who enthusiastically endorsed the ratification of the constitution and the Anti-Federalists, who reluctantly, skeptically or conditionally supported or who outright opposed ratification of the constitution.

Did you know that there is only one President elected with 100% of the Electoral College votes? That was our first president, George Washington, who did it in both of his elections. There were some other presidents who got close to 100% as James Monroe achieved 99.57% in 1820, FDR received 98.49% in 1936, Ronald Regan got 97.58 in 1984 and this one surprised me as Richard Nixon had 96.65 in 1972.

So how did we get an election day? In 1792, there was a Federal law that allowed each state legislature to select an election day anytime in a 34 day period before the fist Wednesday in December. November was chosen because it was after the harvest but before the worst of winter has set in, which would impede travel to polling locations.

The development of the telegraph in 1843 was a technological change that impacted elections by providing a means of almost instantaneous communication across the nation. This had an effect on elections as a state with an early election day could have an impact by sharing the results on what voters do in a state with a later election. (we have a similar issue today because voters in Alaska and Hawaii feel their votes don't matter since all the states on the east coast have their results in and broadcasted almost before the polls open).

Congress responded to this development by setting Election Day to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Tuesday was chosen because in the middle 1800's we were still a very agrarian society so people could go to church on Sunday, spend Monday to travel to the polling location (typically the county seat) vote on Tuesday, and be available to sell their wares on Market Day, which was typically Wednesday. There is some pushback for a Tuesday Election Day in our present day, as many people have to work and Election Day is not a national holiday, but in a nod to our past, where elections were held over many weeks, we now have early / advance voting. Personally, I have not voted on Election Day for a long time, as I enjoy the convenience of voting anytime that works for me during the advance voting period. Some countries even hold their elections on-line, but with all the hacking and intrusions of AI into things, a purely on-line election scares me.

I will close with the statement that our patriot ancestors fought to provide you the ability to elect our leaders and I encourage you to exercise that right and vote in the upcoming election.

Raintree Montessori Students recite the preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

Your Color Guard at Work

During the past month Color Guard activities have slowed a bit. September was a significantly hot month and outside marching is not enjoyable; if not dangerous.

On Monday September 23, Color Guardsmen Dewey Fry, Larry Tatum and Clay Shropshire joined Color Guardsmen John More, and Troy Phillips and Past President Peter Grassl of the

Charles Roberson Chapter to participate in the Reading of the US Constitution Program at the Sixth Circuit Courtroom of the Douglas County Judicial and Law Enforcement Center in Lawrence.

While standing in the hallway outside the courtroom. Dewey Fry addressed the students in regard to participating in the Elementary School Poster Contest of the NSSSAR through the Charles Robertson Chapter, then the Color Guard processed by the students giving each a high five. The brief talked worked as the teacher has since contacted Peter Grassl to have students participate.

The Color Guard Advanced the Colors and Presented the Colors during the reciting of our Pledge of Allegiance, then we Posted the Colors and took seats in the Jury Box for the 1 ½ hour program. The Color Guard ended the program by Retiring the Colors. Color Guardsmen John More and Troy Phillips participated in the reading of the Constitution. After the Color Guard took their seat in the Jury Box, students from Raintree Montessori recited from memory the Preamble to the Constitution. Judges, staff, students 2nd Grade through high school all, at least once, read portions of the Constitution through the Amendments.

This was the first time the program was conducted in a court room. It was done at the invitation of Chief Judge James McCabria. It appeared to be so successful it is most likely to repeated in future years.

There is a frontpage story of the event in the Tuesday September 24, 2024 edition of the Lawrence Journal World.

Wednesday September 25, Dewey Fry and Clay Shropshire joined several other Color Guardsmen from KSSSAR and MOSSAR at MCI awaiting the arrival of a Heartland Honor Flight due in about 9:30 pm. It was determined after 11:00 pm that the flight was not going to land withing the next 5 ½ hours and Heartland advised us to go home. The flight did land at MCI afternoon of September 26. Very few people were there to welcome them. The SAR was not advised of the arrival time and the Patriot Guard Riders had two or three there.

Members of the Court read sections of the U.S. Constitution.

Dewey Fry, John More, Clay Shropshire, Troy Phillips and Larry Tatum

KSSSAR and MOSSAR Color Guard at MCI Honor Flight.

Pat Fry, Dewey Fry and Tonya Adams.

Dewey and Pat Fry Presented DAR Awards

My wife Pat and I received a surprise at the Shawnee Mission Chapter of the NSDAR Chapter Meeting on Wednesday September 25, 2024. Pat wanted to go to the meeting of her chapter for a while although she was still not feeling well due to a concussion, she experienced at our Delaware Crossing Chapter Picnic on the previous Saturday. She did not yet trust driving alone. Therefore, she asked me to take her. She wanted to see the program which was a presentation by Ednas Wagner, Director of The Richard Allen Cultural Center & Museum in Leavenworth and John A. Bruce, President of the Alexander Madison Chapter of KC Area Ninth and Tenth (Horse) Calvary Association. The Ninth and Tenth were the Buffalo Soldiers. Due to time constraints, the program was significant curtailed from what it could have been.

Prior to the program Pat and I were called to the front of the room by Chapter Regent Leslie Harris, and Committee Chair Tonya Adams. Regent Harris made the verbal presentation and Tonya Adams, dressed in her 1970's hippy outfit, handed each of us a framed certificate and a lapel pin. Regent Harris cited many of the activities we had done over many years, I did not know how they gathered the information about each of us, until later.

To receive the award a letter of recommendation must be presented. Our Delaware Crossing Chapter President, Ken Ludwig graciously sent a letter for each us.

Each Chapter may present only two Daughters of the American Revolution Excellence in Community Service Award per year; Pat and I received both for 2024. We feel very honored to have been presented this award.

Dewey Fry

Pat Fry's Excellence in Community Service Certificate.

Pat Fry's Community Service Pin.

Dewey Fry, Alan Martin, Jeffery Winters, Larry Tatum, John More, Dan Dryer and Clay Shropshire.

The Delaware Crossing Color Guard presents the Colors.

Review of the DX Picnic, Memorial Service and Flag Retirement Ceremony

Thanks to the new shelter at Antioch Park the three events for the day were a success. The new shelter comfortably protected us from the rain, which was intermittent, but enough it would have caused cancelation of the Memorial Service and the Flag Retirement Ceremony, which would have been at the unprotected Fire Ring.

In the past the food tables had to be seat up outside of the shelter, now it can easily be set up in the shelter with the permanent serving table.
The food that needed to be heated was done right on the table at which it was distributed.
There was enough seating in the shelter to easily seat those from DAR Chapters and their guests as well as picnic attendees to witness the Memorial Ceremony and participate in the Flag Retirement.
The typical tasty food was again prepared by Pat and Dewey Fry. This was the 20th year they have done the preparation for the DX picnic.

Immediately prior to the Memorial Service, Dewey Fry representing the KSSSAR presented Susan Nelson a Certificate of Appreciation for making her 8th referral of a new member to the NSSAR through the Kansas Society.

DX President Ken Ludwig, KSSSAR Vice-President Timothy Peterman and Dennis Nelson performed the Memorial Service recognizing all who had reported to have died in the recent past few months. Ken acted as the MC, Tim Peterman read each name and data about the deceased and Dennis Nelson rang the bell after each presentation by Tim.

Color Guardsmen Dewey Fry and Alan Martin assisted Boy Scout Landon Dill from Troop 123 as he cut the Union and each stripe from the flag when described by Ken Ludwig during the ceremony. DX Color Guard Commander Steven French received each portion from Landon Dill after it was cut and then retired all in the flame.

Eight DAR Chapters had a representative who retired one flag each to the flame despite the KSDAR Fall Forum Meeting in Lawrence at the same time. They were as follows and appear in that order in the accompanying photo with Ken Ludwig, the boy scout and the Color Guard:

Dee Clark-John & Hatte Possum Chapter.

Bonnie Frederick-Mission Hills Chapter.

Betty Miller-Shawnee Mission Chapter.

Anna Laura Matney Cecil-Captain Jesse Leavenworth Chapter.

Char Ludwig-Three Trials West Chapter.

Cindy Sims-Prairie Rose Chapter.

Christina Kiene- James Ross Chapter
Marla Thompson- Quivira Crossing Chapter (not holding certificate).

The Color Guard retires the Colors.

Dewey Fry presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Susan Nelson for referring 8 new members to the NSSAR.

Dennis Nelson, Ken Ludwig and Tim Peterman conduct the Memorial Service.

Scout Landon Dill, Alan Martin, Steven French and Dewey Fry.

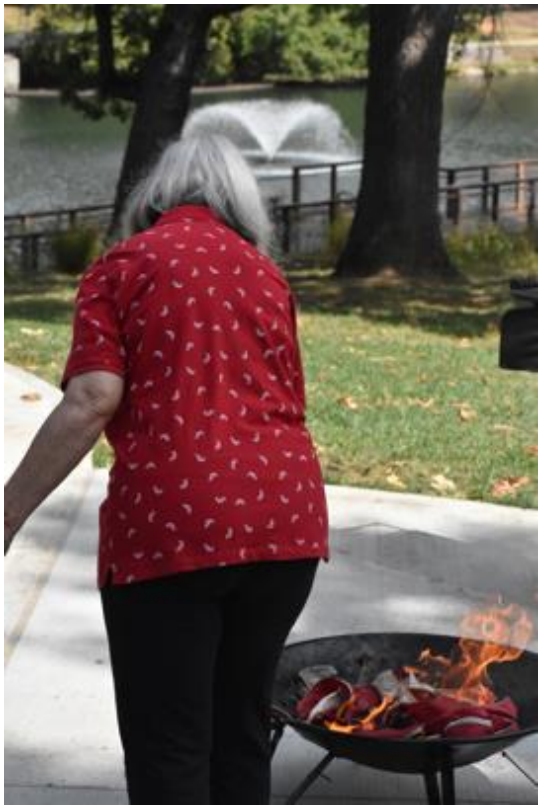
Alan Martin, Landon Dill and Steven French prepare the Flag for Retirement.

Alan Martin, Landon Dill, Steven French and Dewey Fry.

Scout Landon Dill cuts the final Stripe from the Flag.

Steven French lowers the Stripes into the flames.

Representatives of the DAR Retire U.S. Flags



Ken Ludwig presents Scout Landon Dill with his Flag Retirement Certificate.

Landon Dill and Ken Ludwig.

front row: Ken Ludwig, Christina Kiene, Cindy Sims, Char Ludwig, Anna Laura Cecil, Betty Miller, Landon Dill, Dee Clark, Marla Thompson, Bonnie Frederick and Clay Shropshire. back row: Steven French, Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, Jeffery Winters, Dan Dryer, Larry Tatum and John More.