



The Delaware Crossing Patriot
Kansas Society
Sons of the American Revolution
March 2026
Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

The Revolution is coming!
Four Months- Four Days

NEXT MEETING:

When: March 14, 2026

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

Reservations & Cost: For reservations, email Secretary@dxsar.org or call Clay Shropshire 785-521-8122 by 7:00 PM, Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Cost: **\$23.00/person**

Program: Chapter Awards

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

March 2026

- 11 DX EC Meeting
- 14 DX Chapter Meeting
- 21 Annual State Conference – Chanute, KS

April 2026

- 15 DX EC Meeting
- 18 DX Chapter Meeting

May 2026

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

The President's Corner



By Larry Tatum

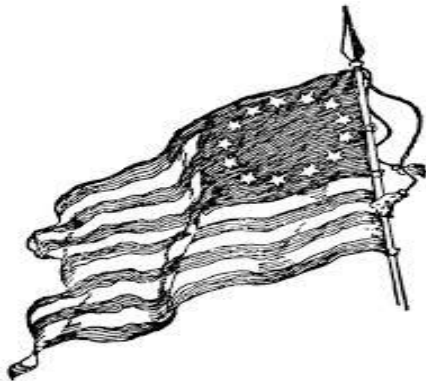
Last month's youth contest winners' presentations were particularly impressive. I am always amazed at how mature high school students are today. We should all try to attend next year's youth awards to acknowledge the hours spent producing these excellent entries and show our support to the Chapter's Contest Winners.

This month's program is the annual Chapter awards. Our members are involved in almost weekly events and meetings that it takes to consistently have the caliber of Chapter meetings and the State/National rankings that we have maintained continually every year.

The awards that will be presented don't come close to recognizing the work that has been done by our members. But the medals are important rewards, symbolic representation for their efforts showing that we do appreciate and support them.

We usually don't wear our medals at Chapter Meetings, but the custom at the DX is to wear them at the annual members award meeting.

So be sure to attend this meeting and show support by wearing your medals.



2025 Americanism Report
Filed by Dennis Nelson, Americanism
Chairman

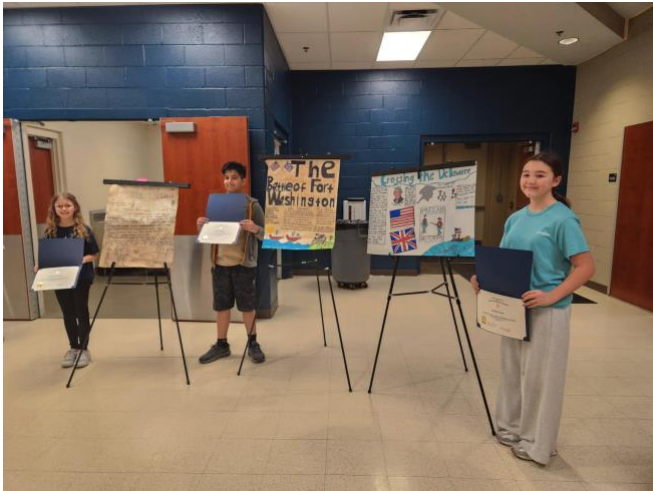
In the Americanism contest, DX reported 21,011 points compared to 19,582 for 2024. In the President General Streamer contest, DX reported 7,190 points compared to 6,780 points for 2024. Combined totals were 28,201 points for 2025 compared to 26,362 for 2024. Points can only be claimed for primary members of the chapter. Some highlights from the report are as follows:

- \$2,360 awarded to youth contestants from Kesler Youth Endowment Fund earnings
- 144 medals/certificates awarded to youth
- \$12,486 in donations to NSSAR charitable funds by members
- 92 programs presented by chapter members
- 38 certificates/medals were presented to non-SAR members
- 6 new members, 0 reinstatements and 7 supplementals
- State, district and national meetings attendance – 35
- 120 media references from Non-SAR sources
- 45 NSSAR in person or zoom committee meetings attended by official members
- Color guard attendance at events -266 including 9 parades, 9 Naturalizations, and 10 Honor Flight Receptions.

- Two members attended or participated in 50 patriot grave markings

Congratulations to all chapter members for their efforts whether it is active participation in the chapter, participation in the color guard and/or providing financial support through dues and donations.

The winners of the 2025 contests will be announced at SAR Congress in July and the release of individual chapter results in the fall of 2026..



Poster Contest winners.

Delaware Crossing Chapter Elementary School Poster Contest at Pioneer Ridge Middle School.

Certificates of Patriotism were made to be distributed to 128 Fifth-Grade students by their teachers in their Home Room classrooms following the Program and treats on Friday February 27.

A printed booklet containing the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, for each student, was given to Mrs. Haywood to distribute to each Home Room teacher then to each student. The Fifth-Grade teachers selected the best 18 posters from those made by the students. Those 18

were judged on Thursday morning February 26, by Larry Tatum, Clay Shropshire and Dan Dryer with assistance from Dewey Fry. The top 3 were determined which were announced at the Program on Friday.

This year the students gathered in the auditorium before the start of classes. This was the first time in 10 years of the Poster Contest at PRMS this was done. It required the Color Guard to Advance the Colors prior to the Announcements made over the PA system which ends with the reciting of our Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael Warren was the MC for the program, During the first few minutes of the program the Principal, Mr. Josh Kindler and Assistant Principal, Mr. Ryan Colston were thanked for their continuing support of the SAR Poster Contest.

Larry Tatum, Clay Shropshire, Dan Dryer and Dewey Fry participated in their Color Guard Uniforms. They stretched out each of 8 Colonial flags and the 250th Anniversary of the US Flag of the SAR as each was described by Michael Warren.

Dewey Fry gave a brief description of his uniform representative of the of George Washington; demonstrated the cutting of 5-pointed star with one cut of the scissors as Betsy Ross had done when making what many believe to be the first Flag of the United States; and described the loading and firing of a Brown Bess Musket using a 210–215-year-old 3rd Edition Brown Bess Musket.

At the program each of the 6 fifth-grade home room teachers and the fifth-grade IR teachers were presented Certificates of Commendation for encouraging and guiding the student in making the posters. Each teacher was also presented 2 US 250th Anniversary lapel pins for their personal use and a framed print of the Bill of Rights for their classroom. The prints of the Bill of Rights were printed in 1964.

The Third Place Poster, “Crossing the Delaware” was announced and the student artist asked come

stand by it on the stage. The Second Place Poster, "The Battle of Fort Washington" was announced and the student artist as to come stand by it. Then, the First Place Poster, "Daily News" was announced and at student artist asked to come stand by it. The students in the auditorium gave each a rousing applause.

After the program in the auditorium, the students proceeded to the cafeteria to enjoy cupcakes that had been arranged to depict a US Flag and juice boxes were provided for each student and teacher plus a few more.

The winning posters were displayed and the students that made them were asked to stand by them. The students were presented with the certificates for 1st through 3rd places at Pioneer Ridge Middle School. For the first time, Mr. Kindler attended and was presented a Certificate of Commendation and a 250th Anniversary of the USA lapel pin. Dewey Fry went to office to present the same type of certificate and pin to Mr. Colston, he met Mr. Colston and presented them to him. Then Mr. Colston was on his way to attend the gathering in the cafeteria. On the way out of the office, Mr. Colston and Dewey met Dr. Brian Huff, the Superintendent of the Gardner-Edgerton School District. Those 3 administrators expressed that they thoroughly enjoyed the event in the cafeteria. It was learned later Mr. Kindler also looked in on some of the program in the auditorium.

Dewey had left the 3 winning posters at the school office so that they would be available for the program in case something happened to him. He found out that much of the office staff including the Principal had looked at them. Suspecting this would happen Dewey never indicated which was 1st, 2nd and 3rd. When the receptionist saw the order of finish, she said that it was the order they had chosen. That must mean we did a pretty good job of judging.

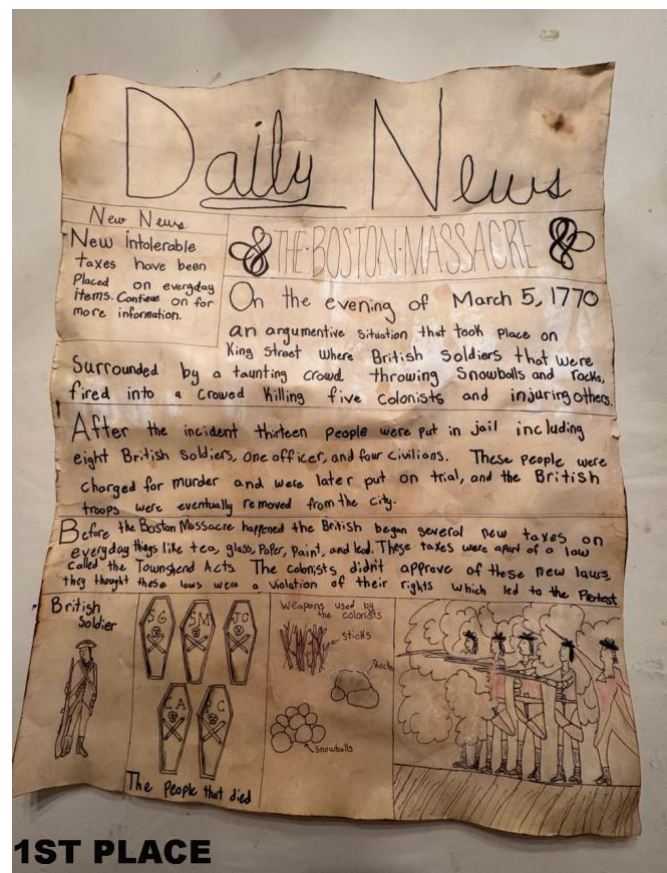
After the students went to their classrooms, Dewey Fry went the auditorium to get something

he had left in the podium. some eight-grade students were sitting on the stage for a music class.

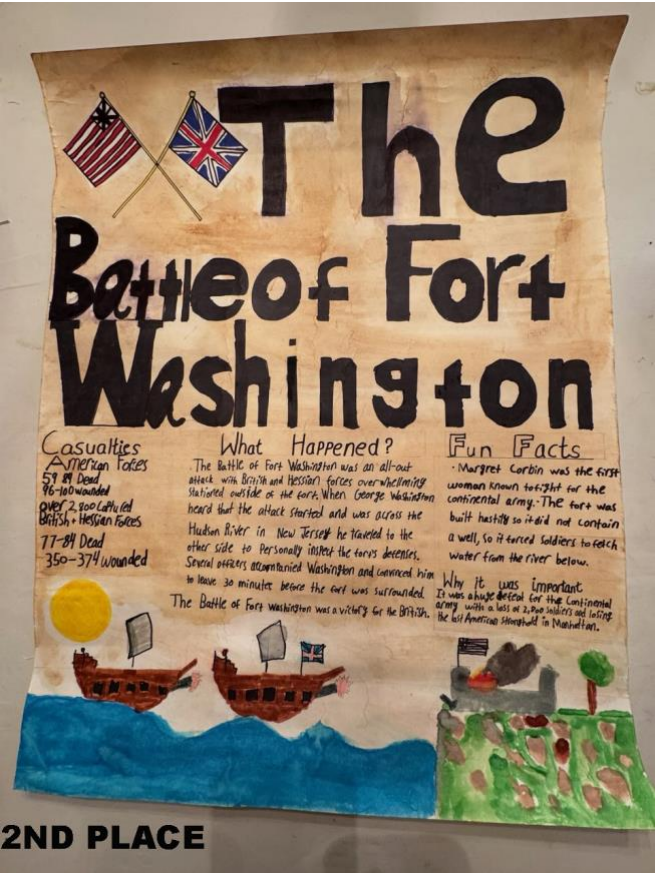
When they saw Dewey, they all started waving and saying HI! The effect of this Poster Contest at Pioneer Ridge Middle School lasts for many years in the student's mind.

Dewey has been recognized by many students at the high school level and beyond and they have expressed what the learned from it and how much they enjoyed it.

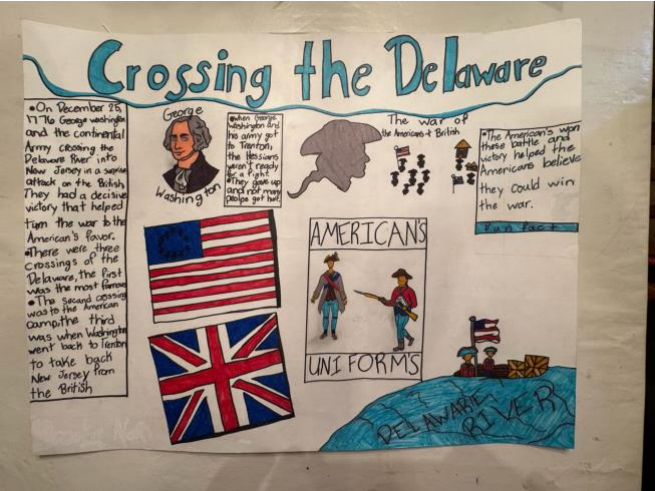
There are photos accompanying this article, however, the students are not identified and will not be without permission form their parents which due to time restraints has not yet been obtained.



First Place Winner.



Second Place Winner.



Third Place Winner.



Fifth Grade Teachers are presented with Certificates, 250th Anniversary Pins and copies of the Declaration of Independence.



Clay Shropshire, Dewey Fry, Dan Dryer and Larry Tatum.



Mr. Kinder, Dewey Fry and winning students with their posters.



Fifth Grade Pioneer Ridge Middle School Students.



Students with their winning posters and the DX Color Guard.



Cupcakes arranged to form the U.S. Flag by Pat Fry.



Dan Dryer presents the Bunker Hill Flag.



DX Color Guard with the First Place Contest Winners.

Delaware Crossing Chapter Youth Contest Awards 2025-2026

The Delaware Chapter has many events that compatriots look forward to each year:

The annual picnic with flag and memorial ceremonies,

The Holiday Meeting with a great dinner and music,

The March meeting with installation officers and compatriot recognition,

Shawnee Parade,

Genealogy Day at the Johnson County Library, and others.

But my personal favorite is the Annual Youth Awards chapter meeting in February.

It is a reinforcement of the Delaware Crossing Chapter's commitment to support the educational goals of the National Society Sons of the American revolution (SAR), and a way to show appreciation for the hard work of the youth responding to the call for applications to contests involving themes related to the Nation's Founding.

This year, we were again blessed with another group of outstanding young American's competing in the Eagle Scout (Arthur and Berdena King), SAR High School Essay (George and Stella Knight), SAR High School Oration (Joseph Rumbaugh), and SAR Youth Video contests.

Thanks go to those chapter compatriots who agreed to serve as judges for each of these contests. This can be a difficult assignment given the quality of the submissions received.

Thanks to: Gary Hicks, Ken Ludwig, Kirk Rush, Clay Shropshire, and Bruce Smith for participating as judges for one or more of these contests.

Our Chapter Contest first place, and other placements, by contest, are as follows:

Eagle Scout Contest:

First place: Brendan Gillaspie of Troop 123 in Lenexa, KS and is a high school senior. His essay was entitled: The Questioned Opening of the American Revolution. The subject was the Battle of Point Pleasant, present day West Virginia, in October 1774.

He was accompanied by his father and mother, Denis Plumly and Christina Gillaspie.

Brendan is also the winner of the Kansas Society SAR Eagle Scout Contest.

Second place: Nathan Mestel

SAR High School Essay Contest:

First place: Gavin Dykes, is a freshman at DeSoto High School. His essay was on the Patriot, Hercules Mulligan. He was accompanied by his parents, with mom Elda, receiving a certificate of commendation. Parents, Elda and James, have become fixtures over the past several years at the chapter's Youth Awards ceremony, having previously had their son Garrett (James) participate in the essay contest for three years with a national second and fifth during that period.

Gavin is also the winner of the Kansas Society SAR High School Essay Contest.

Second place: Dayanna Nicolas

Third place: Nathan Mestel

Fourth place: Sydney Esch

SAR Youth Video contest:

First place: Dayanna Nicolas, is a senior and valedictorian at Bishop Ward High School. Her oration highlighted the contributions of spy, James Armistead Lafayette. Dayanna's mom, Liliana Reyes, was awarded a certificate of appreciation, but unfortunately prevented from attending at the last minute due to illness.

Dayanna is also the winner of the Kansas Society SAR High School Video Contest.

Second place: Sydney Esch

SAR High School Oration Contest:

First place: Dayanna Nicolas. Her oration highlighted the contributions of spy, James Armistead Lafayette. Dayanna's mom, Liliana Reyes, was awarded a certificate of appreciation. Dayanna was recognized as the second-place entry in the Kansas Society SAR High School Oration Contest.

Second place: Sydney Esch

I would be remiss if I did not give a shout out to Sydney Esch, now a senior at St. James Academy. Sydney has submitted entries to the oration and essay contests for three consecutive years, and the video contest for the two years of its existence. She submitted entries having three distinctly different topics this year!

We wish these students all the best during the remainder of their academic year, and we look forward to the recognition of our state contest winners at the Kansas SAR Annual Meeting in Chanute, KS, at the SEK Event Center on March 21. I encourage as many compatriots as possible to support these students at the Youth Awards Luncheon there.



Bruce Smith presents a first place certificate.



Bruce Smith presents a first place certificate.