



*The Delaware Crossing Patriot*  
*Kansas Society*  
*Sons of the American Revolution*  
 March 2025  
 Metro Kansas City's Oldest & Largest Chapter, Founded 1960

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

**NEXT MEETING:**

**When:** March 8, 2025

**Where:** Milburn Country Club, 7501 W 69<sup>th</sup> St., Overland Park, KS 66204, 9:00am

**Reservations & Cost:** For reservations, email [Secretary@dxsar.org](mailto:Secretary@dxsar.org) or call Clay Shropshire 785-521-8122 by 7:00 PM, Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

**Cost:** **\$23.00/person**

**Program:** Chapter Awards

**CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS**

**March 2025**

- 5 DX EC Meeting
- 8 DX Chapter Meeting
- 14-15 KSSSAR Annual Conference

**April 2025**

- 16 DX EC Meeting
- 19 DX Chapter Meeting

**May 2025**

- 14 DX EC Meeting
- 17 DX Chapter Meeting

**President's Corner**



By Ken Ludwig

We are fortunate that we have one of our own ascending to the President of the state society as our Tim Peterman is being sworn in during the State Conference which is happening at the Hilton Garden Inn March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to attend. This meeting will never be any closer than this.

Our current state president just sent a note out about what I believe is the first 250<sup>th</sup> event in the state of Kansas. The DAR is having a Patriot

Marker dedication in Burrton, KS on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. They are honoring Timothy Matlack, who was chosen in 1776 to inscribe the Declaration of Independence on vellum.

Our meeting at the Milburn Country Club in February was a success! It is a very nice facility that we have access to because our Scott Crossette is a member. At the meeting we voted to move our future meetings to this location. Scott has reserved this facility till the end of the year so please join us going forward at a meeting. Thank you, Scott!

My emergency service as President this past year has come to an end. I would like to thank the Executive Committee for all their help this past year in helping to keep this chapter strong and vibrant.

Please join me in welcoming Vincent Clark as the next president, and please give him the same level of support that you have provided me!

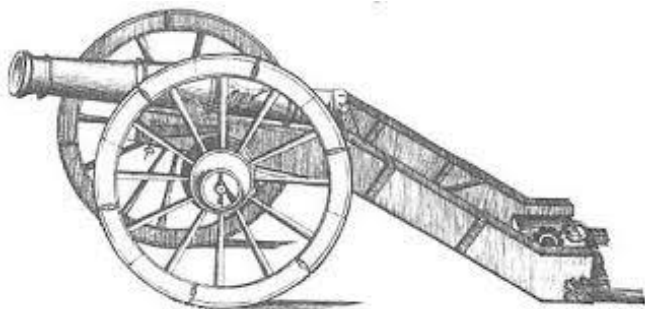


**2024 Americanism Report Filed  
by Dennis Nelson, Americanism Chairman**

In the Americanism contest, DX reported 19,437 points compared to 18,426 for 2023. In the President General Streamer contest, DX reported 6,780 points compared to 6,485 points for 2023. Combined totals were 26,217 points for 2024 compared to 24,911 for 2023.

Some highlights from the report are as follows:

- \$2,560 awarded to youth contestants from Kesler Youth Endowment Fund earnings
- 162 medals/certificates awarded to youth
- \$6,700 in donations to NSSAR charitable funds by members
- 82 programs presented by chapter members
- 33 certificates/medals were presented to non-SAR members
- 3 new members, 3 reinstatements and 3 supplementals
- State, district and national meetings attendance – 30
- 115 media references from Non-SAR sources
- 35 NSSAR in person or zoom committee meetings attended by official members
- Color guard attendance at events -222 including 6 parades, 7 Naturalizations, and 11 Honor Flight Receptions.



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 though dues and donations.

The winners of the 2024 contests will be announced at SAR Congress in July and the release of individual chapter results in the fall of 2025..



*First Place Winners, Gavin Dykes, James Dykes and Sydney Esch with the DX Color Guard – Steven French, Dewey Fry, Kirk Rush, Dennis Nelson, Alan Martin, Clay Shropshire and Dan Dryer.*

### **Delaware Crossing Chapter Youth Awards** **by Bruce Smith**

A portion of the Delaware Crossing Chapters Youth Awards were presented at our February 15, 2025, chapter meeting at the Milburn Country Club in Overland Park.

I say a portion, as our poster and brochure contest winners will be determined at the March 15, 2025, meeting and the Eagle Scout Award will be presented at that time.

The awards kicked off with the playing of the winning video entry. As many know, this is the inaugural year for this SAR contest. It is exciting to receive a good response in terms of entries. The

winning video was produced by Gavin Dykes. This 3 minute, 30 second “recruiting” video portrayed a call to arms for enlistment into the Continental cause after the confrontation at Lexington and Concord. He received the first-place award of \$500 along with a certificate. Gavin is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Lexington Trails Middle School who looks forward to competing in our High School contests next year. He was accompanied by his parents James and Elda Dykes (received the commendation for parental support). Gavin is also the KSSSAR Video contest winner and will receive his award at the annual meeting in March. Hannah Lalli (is a home schooled 8<sup>th</sup> grader) and Sydney Esch received certificates for their video contest participation.

His older brother James (Garrett) Dykes, a Senior at DeSoto High School, then took to the podium where he read is chapter contest winning Knight Essay: A Tale of Two Generals. This essay covered the early life setbacks of Gen. Benedict Arnold and Baron von Steuben that molded each man’s personality. Each took a different approach to overcoming adversity with negative long-term outcomes for one and positive for the other. James Dykes the Elder, using colonial terminology, received a commendation for parental support. James Essay was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in this year’s KSSSAR essay Contest. Sydney Esch was the second-place finisher and received an award of \$200 plus a certificate.

Finally, Sydney Esch, who was accompanied by her mom, Beth, presented her Oration. Sydney is a junior at St. James Academy. The oration is entitled: A Girl Riding for Freedom. It recounted the story of Sybil Ludington who has been named in accounts as having ridden under the orders of her father, to rally the militia under his command to defend Danbury, CT. Sydney received the \$500 first place prize and a certificate. Her father, Samuel, who was unable to attend, received a commendation for parental support. Sydney is the KSSSAR Oration winner and will receive her award at the annual meeting in March.

Thank you as always to Dewey Fry for printing the award certificates and to this year's judges, Gary Hicks, Ken Ludwig, and Clay Shropshire. We all can take great pride in these outstanding young men and women and their commitment to goals that mirror those of the SAR in preserving our nation's heritage. In some cases, we are closing out their participation in our programs, while others we look forward to working together again in the future.



*James Dykes reads his Knight Essay.*



*Sydney Esch and her mother Beth.*



*Bruce Smith presents the First Place Rumbaugh Oration Award to Sydney Esch.*



*James Dykes, Sr., Bruce Smith and First Place Knight Essay Winner, James Dykes, Jr.*



*Elda Dykes, Bruce Smith and First Place Video Winner, Gavin Dykes.*