



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

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

NEXT MEETING:

When: April 12, 2025

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, April 8, 2025.

Cost: **\$23.00/person**

Program: Compatriot Histories

CALENDAR & COMING EVENTS

April 2025

- 9 DX EC Meeting
- 12 DX Chapter Meeting

May 2025

- 3 BOG
- 14 DX EC Meeting
- 17 DX Chapter Meeting

June 2025

- 18 DX EC Meeting
- 21 DX Chapter Meeting

The President's Corner



By Vincent Clark

Dear Compatriots,

As I enter the presidency of our chapter, I would like to remind you of our organization's history and purpose. It is different from many other clubs and associations. The purposes of the Sons of the American Revolution are to promote the principles of our revolution and to honor our ancestors who fought in it.

The American Revolution was important because it was a revolution of ideas, of principles. One was the

rejection of kings--human beings who could not be prosecuted nor voted out of office. Across the colonies people tore down statues of the king. In place of rule by a king, the revolutionaries created a republic--where office holders are citizens like everybody else, are elected to office, and can be voted out by their fellow citizens.

The first of our founding documents, The Declaration of Independence, declared all people equal. Unlike England and most other countries at the time, there were to be no aristocrats with legal rights superior to ordinary people. Although slavery and other forms of inequality have marred this vision, it continues to be our national aspiration.

Our revolution was also dedicated to peoples' rights. To maintain these rights, Americans have created a government of shared powers so that no one branch could rule over all the others. Americans believe so strongly in these ideas that they have even struggled to export them around the world.

We the Sons of the Revolution endorse these principles and seek to honor our ancestors who fought to establish them. And we dedicate ourselves to them whenever we close our meetings with the words::

“Let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our

Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.”



Elizabeth Caton, Grace Wiegart, and Stellan Crawford.

Elementary School Poster Contest

On Thursday February 27, the final 18 posters at Pioneer Ridge Middle School were judge to determine the top 3. We requested the 6 Fifth Grade teachers judge the posters by 131 students to determine the final 18. It took Vincent Clark, Larry Tatum, Dan Dryer and Dewey Fry 2 hours to just the final 18.

On Friday February 28, Delaware Crossing Chapter members presented a program in the auditorium of Pioneer Ridge Middle School. President Vincent Clark was the Master of Ceremonies. Color Guardsmen Steven French, Larry Tatum, Dan Dryer and Dewey Fry participated in the exhibiting 8 colonial flags and the 250th Anniversary Flag. Dewey Fry described his uniform and a Brown Bess musket. He also demonstrated the cutting of a 5-pointed star with one cut of the scissors as done by Betsy Ross.

Each of the Fifth Grade Teachers were presented a Certificate of Commendation and Constitution Hall Pin celebrating of nations 250th Anniversary and a patriotic designed writing pen. Certificates of Patriotism were given to Mrs. Haywood to be presented to each of the 131 students.

The first three placed posters were displayed as the students were called to the stage to stand by their poster.

Third Place was Thomas Paine by Stellan Crawford. Second Place was George Washington by Grace Wiegart and First Place was Phillis Wheatley by Elizabeth Caton.

Students were treated to cupcakes and juice in the cafeteria after the program.

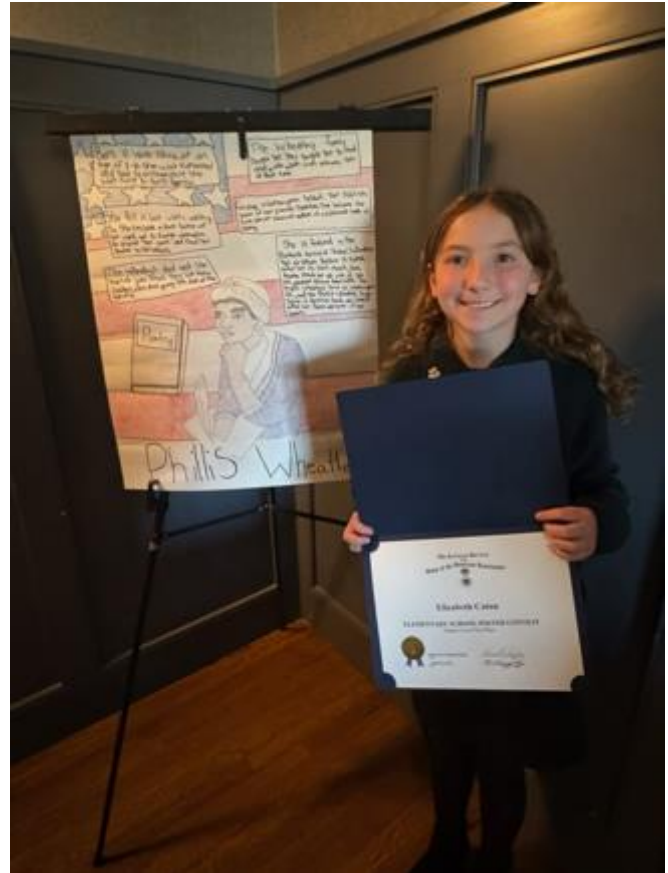
The three posters were taken by Dewey Fry to be judged in the Delaware Crossing Chapter Poster Contest which ended on March 7.

Two posters from homeschooled students were to be in the DX contest. However, one advised Dewey Fry that they would not be submitting a poster and the other was not submitted either. Therefore, the three posters from Pioneer Ridge Middle School were also the first three places of our chapter contest.

Elizabeth Caton, her mother, father and older sister attended our March 8, Chapter Meeting where Elizabeth was presented a First Place Certificate and a \$50.00 check. Her father, Jerrod Caton was presented a Certificate of Commendation. On a March 11, Dewey Fry went to Pioneer Ridge Middle School to return the posters of Grace Wiegart and Stellan Crawford and present Grace with certificate for our chapter Second Place and a Check for \$35.00 and to present Stellan Crawford a certificate and a check for \$15.00 for our chapter Third Place.

Elizabeth Caton's poster was taken to the Kansas Society State Poster Contest on March 15. Bruce Smith managed the judging which again was very close and took a significant amount of time. Her poster won Second Place. Her Poster was returned to her on March 28 in her Home Room at Pioneer Ridge Middle School, there she was presented with a Second Place State Level Certificate and a check for \$100.00.

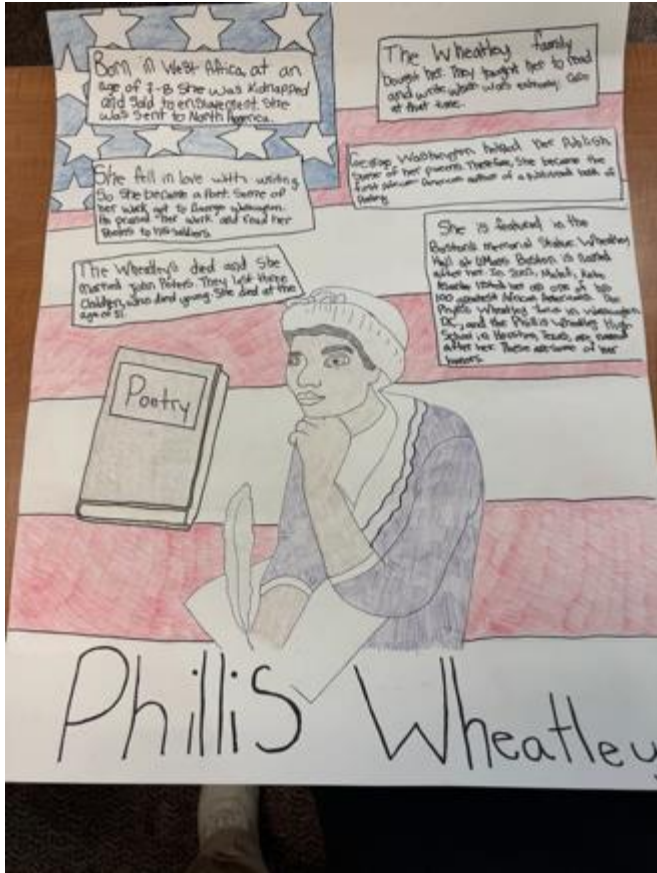
If you do not know who Phillis Wheatley was, please take the time to find out. You probably will be very surprised.



Elizabeth Caton with her First Place Certificate and Poster.



Dewey Fry presents Jerrod Caton with a Certificate of Commendation.



The Delaware Crossing Chapter's First Place Poster.



The five pointed star displayed by a fifth grade teacher, Dewey Fry and Steven French.



Vincent Clark, Steven French, Dan Dryer, Dewey Fry and Larry Tatum.



The Fifth Grade Teachers of the Pioneer Ridge Middle School.



Dewey Fry, Clay Shropshire, Troy Phillips, Steven French, Larry Tatum, Kirk Rush, Jeffrey Winters, Bruce Smith and Brian Vasquez at the March 19 Naturalization Ceremony.

Your Color Guard at Work

On February 14, a Color Guard composed of Steven French, Alan Martin, Dewey Fry, Jeffrey Winters and Clay Shropshire, Presented the Colors at program of the Shawnee Mission DAR Chapter to all the students at Shawanoe Elementary School in Shawnee. The program was in respect to a significant donation of books to the school.

On February 28, our Delaware Crossing Color Guardsmen Steven French, Larry Tatum, Dan Dryer and Dewey Fry participated in a program at Pioneer Ridge Middle School as part of the Elementary School Poster Contest which is covered in a separate article.

During the month of March your Delaware Crossing Color Guardsmen participated in several events.

At our March 8 Chapter meeting at which no photos were taken of the Color Guard; participating in the Color Guard were Steven French, Larry Tatum, Clay Shropshire, Dan Dryer, Kirk Rush, Dewey Fry and Dual Member Alan Martin.

On Sunday March 9, Color Guardsmen Dewey Fry, Clay Shropshire joined 12 MOSSAR Color Guardsmen at a Lone Eagle Honor Flight at MCI. A Lone Eagle Honor Flight is one veteran, who is nearing his last stages of life, coming home after visiting Washington DC.

Participating the KSSSAR Annual Conference on March 15, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Olathe, were Stephen French, Kirk Rush, Ken Ludwig, Clay Shropshire, John Forbes, Dewey Fry and Dual Members Alan Martin and Jeffrey Winters. On March 19. Dewey Fry, Steven French, Clay Shropshire, Larry Tatum, first timer Bruce Smith were joined by Color Guardsmen from three other KSSAR Chapters in presenting the Colors at a Naturalization Ceremony in Yardly Hall in the Midwest Trust Center on the Johnson County Community College campus. There were 352 applicants from 71 countries. Who became US Citizens during the ceremony in which they recited the Oath of Allegiance.

Joining the MOSSAR Color Guard at Truman Library on March 25, in a ceremony at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri honoring two Medal of Honor Recipients from Illinois were Kirk Rush, Dewey Fry, Steven French, Clay Shropshire, Bruce Smith, and Dual Members Alan Martin, Jeffrey Winters and Robert Grover.

The evening of March 28 at MCI, Color Guardsmen Kirk Rush, Clay Shropshire, and Dewey Fry participated in an Honor Flight sponsored by Southern Coffee County Kansas High Schools. 24 veterans returned from Washington DC on that flight.



Dewey Fry, Clay Shropshire, Troy Phillips, Steven French, Larry Tatum, Kirk Rush, Jeffrey Winters, Bruce Smith and Brian Vasquez.



Photo of new U.S. Citizens with the KSSSAR Color Guard.



MOSSAR and KSSSAR Color Guard at the Truman Library.



Alan Martin, Kirk Rush and Clay Shropshire.

KSSSAR Annual Conference

One of the earliest events of the Annual Conference is the Memorial. The Flag Folding is one of the most significant occurrences.

The most significant occurrence at the State meeting in Olathe was the election of KSSSAR officers and the administering of the Oath of Office to all new elected Chapter and State officers.

The most significant of those was the election of Timothy Peterman to KSSSAR President. Our newly elected Chapter President, Vincent Clark, and Vice-President & Secretary Clay Shropshire recited the oath along with others at the chapter level.

As is customary, the Color Guard form two lines for those dignitaries and all participants to pass through as they entered the meeting room. The annual photo shoot of attendees became a photo shoot of the color guard outside as it was a bit windy and most attendees did not wish to participate.



Alan Martin, Kirk Rush and Clay Shropshire.



Alan Martin, Kirk Rush and Clay Shropshire.



Alan Martin, Kirk Rush and Clay Shropshire.

March Chapter Meeting in Review

The program for the meeting was the presentation of awards to members. The following awards were presented to the listed recipients. Those not present will be presented at a later chapter meeting or delivered.

Certificate of Appreciation:

- Gary L. Hicks

Gary was also presented a Silver Henry Knox Medal by the KSSAR via Chapter President Kenneth Ludwig for his contributions of revising the KSSAR Constitution and By-Laws.

Certificate of Distinguished Service:

- Clay Shropshire-For one year as Chapter Secretary and being active in Color Guard.
- Stuart Conrad - for continued service as Chapter Chancellor and Parliamentarian.
- Daniel Dryer-for being Chairman of the JROTC Committee.

Chapter Henry Knox Medal, Bronze Oakleaf Cluster:

- David Pierson- For \$2550.00 sponsorship of wreaths for WAA)

Chapter Roger Sherman Medal:

- Kevin Dyches-For being Secretary for one year and Treasurer for one year.

Chapter Roger Sherman Medal, Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster:

- Steven French - for continuing to be Color Guard Commander and Chairman for the Law Enforcement Award, Fire-Safety Award and Emergency Medical Service Award.

Chapter Meritorious Service Medal:

- John Martin-for being Vice President of Programs for 3 years.
- Rick Alley-for continuing to perform as Webmaster and stepping up several meetings as Chaplain

Chapter Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Oakleaf Cluster:

- Dewey Fry-for continuing as the chapter DAR Liasson and Chairman of the following Committees: Medals and Awards, Elementary School Poster Contest, Veterans Appreciation, Wreaths Across America, Mentoring
- Tim Peterman-For being the Registrar/Genealogist and Chairing the Membership Committee.
- Kirk Rush- for being a Kesler Youth Fund Trustee, Eagle Scout Committee Chairman and stepping up a couple months as Acting Vice President.
- Bruce Smith- for being Chaplain, and for being Chairman of the following youth contest committees: Rumbaugh Oration, Knight Essay, Middle School Brochure and the new NSSAR Video Contest.

Bruce was also presented a Silver Henry Knox Medal by the KSSSAR via Chapter President Kenneth Ludwig for his contributions of revising the KSSSAR Constitution and By-Laws.

Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service:

- Larry Tatum- for being Chapter Representative to the KSSSAR Board of Governors, and the Patriot Newsletter Editor.

Lifetime Achievement Award.

The recipient of this significant award could not be in attendance. The award will be presented to him at the first DX Chapter meeting he attends.

The final presentation was to Vincent Clark, which was a Members Neck Ribbon as the gavel was passed to him as the incoming Chapter President. His first duty was to preside over the closing of the meeting.



Ken Ludwig passes the President's gavel to Vincent Clark.



Ken Ludwig presents a Certificate of Appreciation and the Silver Henry Knox Medal to Gary Hicks.



Clay Shropshire with his Certificate of Distinguished Service



Ken Ludwig presents Certificate of Distinguished Service to Dan Dryer.



Ken Ludwig presents the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal to Kevin Dyches.



Ken Ludwig presents the Roger Sherman Medal, Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Steven French.



Ken Ludwig presents the Chapter Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Oakleaf Cluster to Bruce Smith.



Ken Ludwig presents the Chapter Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Oakleaf Cluster to Dewey Fry.



Ken Ludwig presents the Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service to Larry Tatum.



Ken Ludwig presents the Chapter Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Oakleaf Cluster to Tim Peterman.



Kirk Rush presents the Eagle Scout Essay Medal to Haley Flores.

Delaware Crossing Youth Contestants show strongly at the KSSAR Annual Meeting

In addition to the election of our own Tim Peterman as the KSSAR president and the attendance of the PG nominee and current Secretary General, Michael Elston (VA), and PG Daryl Addington’s representative and current SCD VPG James Osborn (MO), another true highlight of the annual meeting was the participation of our chapter youth contest students in the KSSAR finals.

Recognized as having already been selected as KSSAR champions were Sydney Esch for the Rumbaugh Oration, Gavin Dykes for the Youth Video Contest, and Haley Flores for the Eagle Scout Contest.

Gavin’s national judging outcome will not be known until at least mid-May according to the timeline discussed within the video committee at the SAR Spring Leadership Meeting. Gavin was out of town on spring break with his family and could not attend. Gavin’s \$750 award was previously presented by State Chairman Bruce Smith (DX).

Sydney presented her oration on Sybil Ludington at the Youth Luncheon and received her state \$750 award and certificate from State Chairman Bruce Smith (DX). We are tracking toward recording Sydney’s oration in early May for submission by the May 15 national deadline. The list of oration finalists is generally targeted for release around June 1.

Haley Flores presented her Eagle Scout Essay at the Youth Luncheon . She received her \$750 award, certificate, and medal from State Chairman Kirk Rush (DX). Her application has been sent to the national contest, and we are hopeful she will receive a good placement based on her strong credentials.

Please wish these three fine students well as they move forward into the national competitions. Our exceptional Knight Essay competitor, James Dykes, who won the state contest in 2023 and 2024 and finished 5th and 2nd nationally in those years, finished in 3rd place this year against a strong field of essay entries. We appreciate his dedication to supporting our chapter through this contest. State Chairman Stu Conrad (DX) has arranged for James to receive his award. In the live judging for the Sgt. Moses Adams Middle School Brochure Contest and the Elementary School Poster Contest, our DX entrants were Gavin Dykes (DeSoto School District) and Elizabeth Caton (Gardner-Egerton School District). Both had excellent submissions, Gavin’s brochure being on Lexington and Concord and Elizabeth’s poster being on poet Phyllis Wheatley. The latter highlighted a less well-known, but significant person from the

Revolution period. After all, if George Washington pays attention to your poetry and reads it to the troops, you have made a big impression!

Both contestants were awarded second place within their respective categories, and each will be presented with a \$100 state prize by Bruce Smith (brochure) and Dewey Fry (poster).

Alan Martin and Gary Hicks were among a great group of compatriots from across the state who assisted with judging the brochure and poster contests.

Delaware Crossing Chapter Awarded Streamers at the KSSAR Annual Meeting

President Ken Ludwig accepted recognition streamers on behalf the Delaware Crossing Chapter. The Chapter received the most streamers within the KSSAR during 2024, finishing in first place with 18 streamers. These included the: King Eagle Scout, Knight Essay, Sgt. Moses Adams Brochure, Elementary School Poster, Rumbaugh Oration, Youth Video (new award approved for this year), JROTC, Flag Certificate, Flag Retirement Certificate, Wreaths Across America, Partners in Patriotism, Membership Retention at 95%, DAR Referral, Color Guard Growth, Attendance at 5 State Meetings, Americanism, USS Stark, and Liberty Bell.

We are blessed to have officers, committee chairmen and compatriot members who support these efforts and keep the chapter at the forefront of achievement within the KSSAR.



The four State Poster Contest entries.



Sydney Esch gives her Rumbaugh Oration.

Notice – The following is a preview of the DX Questionnaire that will be distributed in mid-April.

Fellow Compatriot,

The Delaware Crossing (DX) Chapter is pleased to have you as a member in good standing in the Sons of the American Revolution. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support, as shown by your annual dues renewal and donations.

In mid-April, to better understand the needs and interests of a diverse group of members, we will ask you to complete a brief informational survey. The notification will arrive by email. It should take just a few minutes to complete. Once deployed, you will receive a note to ensure you look for it in your email. More information about this will come as time gets closer.

Our intent is to understand what may be done to encourage our members to become more engaged in ongoing chapter activities and in attending chapter meetings. We know that we are stronger with the input, ideas, and participation of a broader base of our membership. We would appreciate your candid, constructive responses, as this is the only way we can evolve our approach to addressing the needs of our membership.

We have provided some response choices, but space is provided to share your comments, as appropriate. Please be succinct and specific in your verbatim

comments. Indicating that something represents an issue or problem for you does not necessarily assist with formulating a solution. So, when you indicate the topic-specific issue, we also ask you to provide what you believe could or should be done as an improvement action to remediate it. Identifying an issue without a subsequent resolution suggestion may not lead to the solution you were hoping for.

While there can be many interests among our members, one thing we should keep in mind is the stated mission of the SAR:

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

Our activities should be directed toward supporting this mission.

Thank you.

The Delaware Crossing Chapter Executive Committee

Greetings, Fellow Compatriot,

The Delaware Crossing (DX) Chapter is pleased to have you as a member in good standing in the Sons of the American Revolution. We greatly appreciated your continued support as shown by renewal of your annual dues. To better understand the expectations, needs and interests of our chapter's diverse membership, we ask that you complete this brief survey provided herein by selecting the URL link in this email, which will direct you to an online survey. It should take just a

few minutes to complete this. Our intention is that the survey will aide our Chapter’s leadership to better understand what may be done to encourage our membership to become more engaged in ongoing chapter activities and in attending chapter meetings.

We appreciate your candid responses as an effective means to evolve our approach to address the needs of our membership. Choices are provided, but space is provided to share your own personal comments. Please be succinct and specific in your verbatim comments. Simply indicating that a topic represents an issue or problem for you, does not necessarily assist with formulating a solution. Your detailed responses should indicate what a topic’s specific issue is, and what you believe could or should be done as an improvement action to remediate it. Identifying an issue without a subsequent proposed resolution may not lead to the solution you desire. While there can be many interests among our members, one thing we should keep in mind is the stated mission of the SAR: *The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country. Our activities should be directed toward supporting this mission.*

1. Why did you become a member of the SAR (check all that apply, please comment as you deem appropriate. (Check all which apply!):
 - a. To honor my patriot ancestry _____
 - b. Acquired support to prove my patriot ancestry lineage and thus pursue the certified SAR membership. _____
 - c. Because other men in the family are SAR members _____
 - d. Because women in the family are DAR members _____
 - e. A SAR member encouraged, aided in my research, and sponsored me _____
 - f. I enjoy learning about Revolutionary War History _____

- g. I wanted to learn more about the Revolutionary War era _____
- h. To be involved in comradery with men having similar interests _____
- i. To participate in various chapter interests dealing with, but not limited to education, veterans, youth outreach, event planning, newsletter, color guard, memorial services, grave markings, parades, and other activities _____
- j. Historic preservation _____
- k. Other (please specify):

2 . How many DX chapter meetings did you attend in 2024?

- a. None _____
- b. 1-3 _____
- c. 4-6 _____
- d. 7-9 _____
- e. 10-12 _____
- f. If less than 7 , please provide a comment below:

g. Comments:

3. If you checked item “i” in question 1 above, please indicate the chapter level activities you have participated in over the past 1-3 years (post-COVID):

- a. Education outreach _____
- b. Veteran outreach _____
- c. Youth Contests _____
- d. Financial planning _____

- e. Event planning _____
- f. Newsletter production _____
- g. Color guard _____
- h. Memorial services, parades, grave marking, other similar services _____
- i. Program committee _____
- j. Holiday celebration, picnic preparation _____
- k. Publicity _____
- l. Fundraising _____
- m. Bylaws _____
- n. Speaking on a topic _____
- o. Officer, committee chairman _____
- p. None _____
- q. Other (please specify) _____

r. Comments

4. Which special DX chapter events did you attend in the past two years (please check that apply):
- a. Youth awards meeting in February _____
 - b. Chapter awards meeting in March _____
 - c. Chapter picnic and memorial service/flag retirement in September _____
 - d. Wreaths Across America in December _____
 - e. Chapter holiday party in December _____

- f. Annual George Washington Birthday Party (regional with SAR and DAR Chapters) in February _____
- g. Initiation(s) into the Chapter _____
- h. Other(s) _____

i. None _____

j. Comments:

5. How do you get information about DX chapter events/activities (check all that apply)?
- a. Chapter newsletter _____
 - b. Emails _____
 - c. Chapter website (www.dxsar.org) _____
 - d. Chapter Facebook _____
 - e. Chapter meetings _____
 - f. Word of mouth _____
 - g. Other: _____

6. How would you rate the level and quality of information you receive from the chapter on a scale of 0 (poor) to 10 (excellent): _____ (provide a whole number)

- m. War of 1812 (Second War of Independence) _____
- n. Contemporary military or other topics with a **directly** demonstrable connection to the American Revolution _____
- o. Other

Please elaborate on any topic above:

- 9. Would you be a committee chairman or committee member if asked?
- a. Yes / Maybe / No (If no, why??)

- 10. Would you assist by helping with a specific chapter or committee activity if asked?
- Yes/Maybe/No If not, why

- 11. Would you be a chapter officer if asked?
- Yes/No/Maybe..... If No/Maybe, please provide response? _____

- 12. Would a Chapter Policies and Procedures manual be helpful for new and current members of the Chapter? Yes/Maybe/No If not, why?

- 13. Any other feedback you wish to provide for the good of DXSAR?
