

**M. Graham Clark Chapter, SAR
Meeting Minutes 21 November 2020**

Opening: President Charlie Lee called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. There were 12 people in attendance. 9 were members and there were 3 visitors(see appended listing).

The opening prayer was given by Compatriot Wayne Merrill, in the absence of Chaplain Hiles. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Compatriot Mitchell Moore and the SAR Pledge was led by Compatriot Russell DeVenney.

Visitors in attendance were Laura DeVenney, Compatriot Russell DeVenney's wife; Mary Miller, Compatriot J. Y. Miller's wife, and Stephen Gaither, the speaker for the meeting.

President Lee asked if there were any November birthdays and there were none. He asked if there was anyone on sick call. Compatriot Miller stated that Chaplain Hiles was on quarantine for COVID and the Compatriot Robert Bland has suffered a stroke, per the word from Chaplain Hiles.

The meeting then adjourned for Breakfast at 8:39 a.m.

Reconvened: The meeting reconvened at 9:03 a.m. The Draping of the Charter was conducted by Compatriot Merrill in memory of Thomas H. Bogard, who was the 9th President of the chapter. Compatriot Merrill stated that Compatriot Bogard had moved a few years ago to be nearer family and was instrumental in the development of our chapter's Endowment Fund. At the conclusion of the memorial, Compatriot J. Y. Miller stated that he has placed Compatriot Bogard's information on the Deceased Members portion of the chapter website.

Speaker: President Lee then asked Laura DeVenney to introduce the speaker, Stephen Gaither. Mr. Gaither is retired Public Relations director at the Harry S Truman VA Hospital and the chair of the Fisher House Committee. The topic was the Fisher House.

The Fisher House is a project that is Veteran Hospital wide and there are presently about 90 such houses in Germany, England and America. These are places where families of veterans can stay free of charge while their veteran family members are in treatment locally. It is similar to the Ronald McDonald House concept. The goal is to come up with \$3 million to start building locally and just over \$1 million has been collected thus far. There is a Fisher House in St Louis, The Columbia Fisher House will be 3 stories high with 16 suites and will be able to house from 16 to 42 families. The plan is to have this Fisher House completed in 2022.

Mr. Gaither stated people can help with this process by contributing funds, sharing information with others who can do so, and volunteer there once it opens.

You can donate to this worthy cause at the following website: https://engage.fisherhouse.org/site/Donation2?df_id=2419&mfc_pref=T&2419.donation=form1

There is currently a raffle where tickets are being sold and the winner will get a doll house, locally made. Tickets ar \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$25.

After the presentation, President Lee presented to Mr. Gaither an Outstanding Citizenship Certificate and Lapel Pin. Compatriot DeVenney then made a motion to present a \$500 donation from the chapter to Mr. Gaither for the construction of the local Fisher House. Compatriot J. Y. Miller seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

For additional information, the website at <https://www.midmofisherhouse.org/> can be of help. The Friends of the Fisher House is located at <https://www.facebook.com/midmofisherhouse/>

Reports:

After the presentation, it was time for reports. President Lee asked Compatriot Kerr to give the **Secretary's Report**. Kerr reviewed the minutes from the October 2020 meeting. Compatriot Miller made motion to accept the report as posted on the website and reported by Kerr. Compatriot David Bartlett seconded. Unanimously approved.

President Lee called on Compatriot DeVenney to give the **Treasurer's Report**. DeVenney reviewed the report and stated there are still a few members to pay dues.

Compatriot Kerr has contacted 4 of these folks. Compatriot Miller made motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for audit and Compatriot Kerr seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Compatriot Lee asked Compatriot Coutts to give the **Genealogy Report**. Compatriot Coutts stated one application was pended at National but that is hopefully resolved. Compatriot Strader has a supplemental application at National. Samuel Thomas's application is at State and there are several still in need of from 1 to 3 documents. President Lee thanked Compatriot Coutts for his hard work as Genealogist.

Compatriot Lee called on Compatriot Jim Lee for the **Eagle Scout Report**. Compatriot Lee stated there were only 25 Eagle Scouts this year which is likely a reflection of COVID. We may need to have the team to review any Essays received. That will be the end of 2020 if we do.

ROTC/JROTC: President Lee stated he has the certificates and medals—3 for MU ROTC and 1 for Missouri Military Academy. These will be delivered to the respective schools in the next few weeks and the winner will be selected by the programs in May 2021.

President Lee asked Compatriot Kerr about the **Fogg and Americanism Reports**. Nothing new there, just let Kerr know if you have anything we might get points for.

Nominating Committee: President Lee reminded that there will be a Nominating Committee meeting after this meeting to develop a slate of officers for 2021-2022. This Committee consists of the Past Presidents: Compatriots Miller, Coutts, DeVenney, Merrill, and Kerr and also we will have President Lee and Vice President Bartlett sit in for input.

News: Compatriot DeVenney stated MOSSAR has cancelled the 2021 Convention. It still looks like National Congress will be held in the Seattle area in July, though that is "iffy".

Adjournment: There being no further business, President Lee called on Compatriot Jim Lee to lead in the Recessional and Compatriot Merrill to give the Benediction.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold H. Kerr II, Secretary

NAME	MEALS
Lee, Charlie	1
Bartlett, David	1
Kerr, Haroldd	1
Merrill, Wayne	1
Miller, J. Y & Mary	2
Lee, Jaes	1
Coutts, John	1
Moore, Mitcheell	1
DeVenney, Russ & Laura	2
Gaither, Stephen	1