

M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR Minutes of Meeting 20 November 2021

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Alan Hiles at 8:33 a.m. at the Columbia Country Club on a sunny morning.

There was no color guard this day. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Russ DeVenney and the Pledge to the SAR by COM Hank Hammons. Opening prayer was offered by COM Alan Hiles.

Vice-President Hiles recognized guests who included future members Dale Roberts and Wesley Causey. In addition, there were 18 other members in attendance, as well as nine spouses. (see appended list)

Birthdays for the month of November included COM William Voight, and COM Bob Bartlett announced the birth this month of a great-great-grandson (and future SAR member).

Anniversaries for the month included COM Bruce Hillis and wife Lynn, celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary, and Dr. Luke Lucas and his wife, Kathryn Anne, celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary.

Those recognized for sick call included COM Garland Lessley receiving medical treatment, COM Hiles' wife, Waylene Hiles, recovering from surgery,

Vice-President Hiles announced a break for breakfast. Twenty-seven meals were served, buffet-style.

Vice-President Hiles called the meeting back to order at 9:10 a.m.

Report of Minutes by Secretary Mitchell Moore, who moved their approval, seconded by J. Y. Miller. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report by COM Russ DeVenney. Dues have been paid by 88 members and 10 members have been contacted and have promised to pay dues soon. COM J. Y. Miller moved for approval of the Treasurer's report and COM Charlie Lee seconded. Motion passed.

Genealogist's report by COM John Coutts. The applications of William (Billy) Voight and Kevin Klingerman are at National and should be approved within weeks, although staff shortages have caused delays. COM Coutts also reported that the applications of Dale Roberts and James Tuttle are signed and ready to go to State and COM Coutts expected them to be approved very soon. There are three supplements pending each for COM Harold Kerr (recently deceased) and COM John Coutts.

COM Wayne Merrill announced that during last weekend in April, 2024, the Chapter will host most the State Convention and preliminary planning for the event is underway. All members will be asked to assist to make the convention as successful as the last one we hosted in 2019. As during the Revolutionary War, no job is insignificant. The State Convention will be in St. Louis in 2022 and in Kansas City in 2023.

COM Charlie Lee reported the laying of a wreath at the Boone County Courthouse Plaza on Veterans Day, November 11.

Vice-President Hiles, introduced the day's speaker, COM Charlie Lee who gave a presentation on **“The Creation and Symbolism Associated with the Great Seal of the United States of America.”**

First used in 1782, after years of design and debate, both sides of the seal are on the back of the one-dollar bill in two circles.

The left-hand circle is a pyramid, dark on the West side symbolizing a lack of knowledge of the western part of the continent. The pyramid was uncapped and symbolized that we were not finished, but a work in progress. An “All Seeing Eye” symbolized that we could not do it alone and needed God's help. At the base of pyramid, in Roman Numerals, was 1776.

There are 13 layers to the pyramid and the symbolism of 13 representing the 13 original colonies is repeated on the other half of the seal in the number of arrows in the eagle's claw, the number of leaves on the olive branch in the eagle's other claw, the number of stripes on the shield, and the number of stars above the eagle's head, which faces towards the olive branch to signify peaceful intent.

The 13 stars arrayed above the eagle's head are in the shape of the Star of David, at the request of Haym Salomon and approval of a grateful George Washington. Haym Salomon, originally from Poland, acted as a spy for the army, and most importantly, helped raise enormous sums of money for the Revolution. Prior to Yorktown, when money hardest to find and the need essential, Washington relied upon Salomon to raise what was needed for the Battle of Yorktown. Salomon gave to the Cause his considerable fortune. Unfortunately, he died penniless, less than two years after the end of the war.

Vice-President Hiles thanked COM Charlie Lee for his presentation.

Under old business, the executive committee and any interested member were to meet (and did meet) after the Chapter meeting to discuss a slate of officers, committee chairs, and the like for next year.

Vice-President Hiles recommended to members the Museum of Missouri Military History which is only 30 miles south of Columbia.

<https://www.visitmo.com/things-to-do/museum-of-missouri-military-history>

There being on other new business, Vice-President Hiles called for discussion of any new business.

Regarding future programs, COM J. Y. Miller announced several are planned and there are open dates for members who want to present programs or have contacts with people who can present a program to the members. Anyone with an idea for a program should email COM J. Y. Miller.

Planned for the December meeting, is a presentation by COM J. Y. Miller on **Christmas at Valley Forge**. The January meeting program will be presented by an SAR prospect from southern Missouri, Kevin Stoll, who will present in WWI uniform on “Harry Truman in World War I.” The February meeting program will center on the election of Chapter officers and other business.

Presentations have not yet been confirmed for the March, April, or May meetings; although an educational program by the color guard is a likely possibility for at least one of the meetings. Members are encouraged to consider preparing and presenting a 20-minute program on their patriot ancestor(s) or some interesting aspect or event of the American Revolution.

COM J. Y. Miller conducted the 50-50 drawing and COM Paul Whatley won \$15.

Motion to adjourn until **December 18, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.**, at the Country Club of Missouri by COM Russell DeVenney, Second by COM Charles Lee. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 after the SAR Recessional led by COM Jim Lee and a closing prayer by Vice-President Alan Hiles.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Moore

Secretary

Bartlett, Bob & Pricilla
Causey, Wesley (guest of Hank)
Coutts, John & Linda
DeVenney, Russell
Frevert, Blake
Hammons, Hank & Val
Hiles, Alan
Hillis, Bruce & Lynn
Lee, Charlie & Carol
Lee, James
Lucas, Luke & Kathryn
Merrill, Wayne & Pat
Miller, J. Y.
Moore, Mitchell & Sharon Campbell
Moore, Richard
Roberts, Dale (guest of John)
Thomas, Samuel
Voight, William
Whatley, Paul