

M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR - Minutes of Meeting 16 September 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Hiles at 8:33 a.m. at Park located at 4380 Nocona Parkway, Columbia, MO: <https://www.dineatpark.com>

The colors were posted by the Color Guard consisting of COM Wayne Merrill, COM Russ DeVenney, and COM Billy Voight.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Paul Whatley. The Pledge to the SAR was led by COM Jim Lee. In the absence of Chaplain Bradford, COM Wayne Merrill offered the opening prayer.

There were 35 members and Guests in attendance (see appended list) . President Hiles recognized guests in attendance which included many members' wives including Waylene Hiles, Linda Coutts, Kathryn Lucas, Mary Miller, Ruth Miller, and Priscilla Bartlett. Other guests included junior member Nicholas Barber and his mother, Sarah and Mel Gilbert and Rachael Thomas and Terrel and Ruanne Stamps. Special guests were MOSAR President David Shaul and his wife, Joyce.

Birthdays since over the summer and this month included Linda Coutts in September, COM Charles Lee's wife on September 6 and their anniversary on July 19. COM Robert Bartlett and Priscilla anniversary and birthdays. Ruth Miller on July 16, Waylene Hiles on June 18, COM Mitchell Moore birthday on August 29 and anniversary on September 5, COM J. Y. Miller 53rd anniversary.

Members were reminded of the Book Table set up in the hall.

At 8:46, President Hiles announced a break for breakfast, served buffet-style.

President Hiles reconvened the meeting at 9:16 a.m.

President Hiles announced the installation of a new member, Rob Ingram. Sponsored by COM John Coutts, COM Wayne Merrill conducted the swearing in and welcomed COM Rob Ingram as the newest member of the Chapter.

President Hiles announced that three members has died since our last meeting: They were COM Garland Lessley, COM William Edward Bullard, and COM James Polly. After brief remarks about each of the Compatriots, the Charter was draped in their honor and memory by President Hiles and COM Wayne Merrill.

President Hiles presented the program entitled "Last Battle of the Revolution."

Inspired by a trick question seen on "Jeopardy!" the last battle was not Yorktown, where 600 French soldiers and naval personnel died, as well as 100 soldiers of the Continental Army; Hiles intimated that the last battle involved Indians.

COM Hiles noted that the only battle west of the Mississippi River was at St. Louis, the Battle of Fort San Carlos. <http://www.battleoffortsancarlos.org/>

The conflict between the British, North American Indians, Colonials, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and the Netherlands began as early as 1754 and was a world-wide conflict fought on sea and in the colonies of the various countries.

Arguably the last battle of the war before the Treaty of Paris as fought between the French and British near a garrison at Cuddalore, located on the Bay of Bengal, India in late June 1783. The conflict involved both land and sea battles. The naval battle of Cuddalore on June 20 resulted in a victory for the French. On land, the besieged French forces attempted to attack the surrounding British troops on June 25 but were ultimately repelled and prior to further action, news of a preliminary peace agreement between the two nations reached the belligerents.

So the last battle of the war was fought on the continent of Asia, the Indian subcontinent.

And in a side-note, the last battle of the War of 1812 was also fought on the Indian subcontinent between the Royal Navy and victorious American Navy, 6 months after the peace treaty was signed. Information traveled very slowly in those days.

COM J. Y. Miller put a call out for members to present programs for the coming year. Simply email him with your idea at j.y.miller@sbcglobal.net.

Secretary Mitchell Moore announced the minutes of the last meeting were on the website and asked if there were any revisions to be made. Hearing no revisions, COM J. Y. Miller moved to accept the minutes, COM Terril Jones seconded. Motion passed.

The members were distributed a copy of the Treasurer's Report of September 16, 2023 and reported by Treasurer Russ DeVenney. COM DeVenney moved the treasurer's report be accepted. COM J. Y. Miller seconded. Motion Passed.

COM DeVenney explained that the National and State dues would be increased this year and explained an option to "lessen the blow" to members by waiving local membership dues for one year. A detailed explanation and dues statement of "the Loyalty Reward" program devised by COM DeVanney and Com J. Y. Miller was distributed and discussed by chapter members.

MOSAR President Shaul noted that National Dues had not been raised for 9 years and the resulting lack of personnel, especially genealogists, caused applications to take 4 months to be processed, rather than the usual 4-6 weeks.

President Shaul noted that at the state and local level there is more flexibility to help members in special need and there is a small sum in a program at the state level to help special cases, such as for members in nursing homes unable to pay their dues.

Many chapter members expressed that inflation is to be expected in these times, and the increase in National and State dues was justified and minimal, while the loss of approximately \$1,400 in revenues to the local chapter would prevent worthy projects from being continued or initiated.

After discussion by the members, COM Mitchell Moore moved to adopt the Loyalty Reward program and waive chapter fee for one year. COM J. Y. Miller seconded. Motion failed. Therefore Members will pay their full dues for 2024. Dues statements will be E-mailed soon.

COM J. Y. Miller reported that he has been dealing with mailing list and website problems due to changes made by the provider and lack of tech support from the provider. A different provider is being worked with and the changes are not likely to be noticed by most members thanks to the persistence and dedication of COM Miller.

COM DeVenney reminded members that the **2024 MOSSAR State Convention** will be **April 26-27, 2024** in Columbia, at the Courtyard by Marriott, hosted by the M. Graham Clark Chapter. A planning meeting was held on the 13th of June to prepare. MOSAR President Shaul attended. COM DeVenney distributed a Convention Report and Time Line with the most up-to-date information. Volunteers are needed and there is a wide variety of opportunities to assist in making the convention a success.

President Shaul addressed the membership suggested members who join the SAR do so for a variety of reasons and different levels of participation. Some people join to register their lineage and thus preserve family history. A second group join and enjoy attending the meetings. The most active group participates in SAR activities. Every one of our patriot ancestors has a story.

The difficulty in maintaining the story for generation to generation means that tens of millions of Americans are descended from Patriots and do not know it.

President Shaul noted that the definition of a Patriot is “that person who contributed to the revolutionary process.” That would include the wives and mothers of the men involved. Their contributions were vital. Even with the Daughters of the American Revolution being long established, only about half of the women who contributed to the revolutionary process are duly recognized.

COM DeVenney and President Shaul each emphasized that importance of the Women’s Auxiliary and spouses’ support for the success of the upcoming state convention. The cost to join the Women’s Auxiliary is \$5 per year.

President Shaul’s wife made several plates of frosted cinnamon rolls for the silent auction and one plate as a door prize for one lucky member whose name was drawn: COM Raymond Miller.

The 50-50 drawing for \$26 was won by COM Paul Whatley.

Genealogist John Coutts reported that there were no pending memberships at nation, although the application of Jeffery Smith was approved in February and that of Dayton Shepard has been approved and 2 supplementals for COM Whately have been approved.

COM Coutts is working on 3 applications and inquiries from a few prospective members.

Members are reminded that the Chapter has its own Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MGCSAR1776> and now a LinkedIn page, and also a video of highlights of this year.

Members are reminded about Youth Protection Certification and directed members to the website at: <https://www.sar.org/courses/youth-protection-training> The online program is free and all members are encouraged to complete the program and be certified as soon as possible. Our chapter website is at: <http://www.mgcsar.org/>

The next meeting of the M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR will be October **21, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.** at Park at 4380 Nocona Parkway, Columbia, MO.

COM Wayne Merrill reported that the Color Guard was represented at this year’s State Fair as well as planning to attend the event at Arrow Rock at the Old Tavern. Built in 1834, the Old Tavern was restored by the DAR.

The Color Guard did not retrieve the colors due to space limitations. The SAR recessional was then led by COM Fred Bianco, followed by the closing prayer offered by COM Wayne Merrill.

The meeting was adjourned by President Hiles at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(s) Mitchell Moore

Secretary

| MGC -- 16 SEPTEMBER 2023 | |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| NAME | # |
| Barber, Nicholas & Sarah | 2 |
| Bartlett, Bob & Priscil | 2 |
| Beem, Dave | 1 |
| Bianco, Fred | 1 |
| Coufts, John & Linda | 2 |
| DeVenney, Russ & Laura | 2 |
| Gilbert, Mel & Rachael Thomas | 2 |
| Hammons, Hank + Stamps, Terrell & Ruanne | 3 |
| Hiles, Alan & Waylene | 2 |
| Ingram, Rob | 1 |
| Jones, Terril | 1 |
| Lee, Charlie | 1 |
| Lee, Jim | 1 |
| Lucas, Luke & Kathryn | 2 |
| Merril, Wayne | 1 |
| Miller, J. Y. & Mary | 2 |
| Miller, Raymond & Ruth | 2 |
| Moore, Mitchell | 1 |
| Shaul, David - State President & Joyce | 2 |
| Thomas, Samuel | 1 |
| Tuttle, Jym | 1 |
| Voight, Billy | 1 |
| Whatley, Paul | 1 |
| | |
| | |
| | 35 |