

Minutes of Meeting 20 APRIL 2024

M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR

President Alan Hiles announced breakfast early at 8:45, which featured the VFW's "Pancake Day" fundraiser served in the ballroom. The menu was pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits, gravy, and beverages for a special price of \$10 paid individually by members. At our next meeting we will have our regular breakfast for \$10 served by members of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary.

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Hiles at 9:15 a.m. at the Memorial Room of American Legion Post 202 located at 3669 Legion Lane, Columbia, MO 65201:

There was no color guard. The American Flag and SAR Flag is perpetually posted in the Memorial Room.

Chaplain Hank Hammons offered the opening prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Alan Hiles. The Pledge to the SAR was led by COM Raymond Miller.

A total of 26 members and guests were in attendance (see appended list). President Hiles recognized guests in attendance which included many members' wives Waylene Hiles, Kathryn Lucas, Ruth Miller, Mary Miller, and Stephanie Thomas. Other guests included junior member Nicholas Barber and his mother, Sarah. Other guests included prospective member Terell Stamps and his wife Ruanne Barber and our special "Friend of the MGC" Dr. William J. Krause II.

Birthdays this month included COM Russell DeVenney's wife, Laura on April 4, and looking ahead, COM Robert Bartlett will celebrate his 99th birthday on May 18.

Notable dates – April 20 is the 5th anniversary of the death of member Al Jones, the father of COM Terrill Jones. <http://mgcsar.org/bioAHJo.html>. Al Jones volunteered over 15,000 hours at the Truman VA Hospital and thousands of hours at other organizations.

Also, April 19 was the 249th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord which marked the beginning of the American Revolution.

President Hiles announce the Draping of the Charter for David Vernon Beem who died unexpectedly December 25, 2023. Married to Thelma, his wife of 49 years who predeceased him, COM Beem served for nearly 22 years in the Navy and was well-liked by all. His obituary is on the Chapter website: <http://mgcsar.org/bioDVB2.html>

COM Dr. Luke Lucas presented the program entitled, "Addison's Cato at Valley Forge, May 4, 1778". COM Dr. Lucas made use of the American Legion's innovative big screen television that allowed presentation of slides without the use of a projector.

COM Dr. Lucas informed members that most of the founders were highly educated with classical educations that included Latin and Greek and the most popular book, next to the Bible, may have been Plutarch's Lives, which included biographies of famous Greeks and Romans and expanded the Colonists' knowledge of the Greek and Roman republics which influenced the Framers of the American Constitution.

Joseph Addison's play, "Cato, A Tragedy" was an extremely popular play in England and colonial America in the 1700s and dealt with issues and themes of republicanism versus monarchism, individual liberty versus government tyranny, duty and virtue, etc., that were relevant to people of the day.

The play was said to be George Washington's favorite and centered on the conflict between Romans Cato the Younger and Julius Caesar and the transition of Rome from a republic to an empire. The virtuous ideals of Romans such as Cato are contrasted with the virtues demonstrated by the actions of Julius Caesar. Many famous lines in the 18th century play found their way into the everyday language and vocabulary of the day and may have included Nathan Hale's famous declaration, "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country." and Patrick Henry's, "Give me liberty, or give me death."

While the Continental Congress forbade the staging of plays at the time of Valley Forge from 1777-1778, COM Dr. Lucas cited proof that, in fact, the play was staged at Valley Forge on May 4, 1778. A letter from Colonel William Bradford to his sister makes clear reference to it and references the recently improved condition of the troops who by that time had received intensive military training from Baron von Steuben.

The troops of the Continental Army were nearly starving during the winter of Valley Forge and, although estimates vary, more than 2,000 of the 12,000 original troops died from disease, starvation, and exposure. However, the training from Baron von Steuben as well as the new Franco-American alliance on February 6, 1778 were some of the reasons that gave the troops hope in their fight against the world's greatest superpower of the day.

Addison's "Cato" and the ideals celebrated in the play may have inspired many of the soldiers to fight to the end, as Cato did, even if the end was ultimately doomed. The play was widely popular in the culture at the time and gives us insight into the psyche and spirit of the populace during the American Revolution.

COM Dr. Lucas's presentation highlighted the common humanity the classical cultures shared with the people during the time of our patriot ancestors and was thought-provoking, sobering, insightful, and entertaining.

President Hiles thanked COM Dr. Lucas for his presentation.

Treasurer Russell DeVenney presented his treasurer's report dated March 31, 2024.

Secretary Mitchell Moore reported the minutes of the last meeting were on the web page. And asked if anyone had any changes to suggest. There were none. COM J.Y. Miller moved the minutes be approved, COM David Bartlett seconded, motion carried.

There were no other regular committee reports.

COM DeVenney presented a Convention Report (see attached) which described the programs, schedules, speakers and more for the Convention to be held at the Courtyard by Marriott, 3301 Lemone Industrial Blvd, Columbia, MO on April 26 & 27.

The chapter webpage has more Convention information on its first page: <http://www.mgcsar.org/>

There will be volunteer opportunities for all members, auxiliary members, and supporters and all are needed to volunteer, even as a “greeter” to assist guests as we host this convention.

Rob Ingram did the name tags. Attendance is very close to what was expected. This is COM Russell DeVenney’s third Convention he has spearheaded and he encouraged members to keep in mind that the groundwork is completed and it is happening and there are opportunities for all still to help out.

One of the highlights of the Convention will be the color guard made up of members from the various chapters.

The State Genealogist will present a program at 2p.m. on Saturday after the Awards Luncheon.

It was announced that COM Paul Whatley had resigned as Vice-President to replace COM Russell DeVenney as treasurer and that COM Hank Hammons had agreed to serve as Vice-President and we would need to find someone to replace him as chaplain.

COM J.Y. Miller moved to accept COM Whatley’s resignation as Vice-President and approve his appointment as Treasurer. COM Raymond Miller seconded. Motion carried.

COM J.Y. Miller then moved to accept COM Hank Hammons as Vice-President and COM Raymond Miller seconded. Motion carried.

A new Chaplain will be selected at the May meeting. COM Hammons will continue until then.

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 members can go 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.

A variety of online informational and orientation programs and courses are available via the SAR website at: <https://www.sar.org/courses/>

Our Chapter website is at: <http://www.mgcsar.org/>

COM David Bartlett informed members that the Chapter will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony on Memorial Day at the Boone County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m. and all members are invited to attend.

COM J. Y. Miller reported that next months' program will be presented by J.Y. Miller on "**The Cal Hubbard Story**"

The 50-50 drawing for \$11 was drawn by Ruth Miller and was won by COM Jym Tuttle.

The next meeting of the M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR will be **May 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** at the American Legion Post 202 located at 3669 Legion Lane, Columbia, MO 65201: <http://mgcsar.org/legion.html>

There was no Color Guard; and the Stars and Stripes are permanently in place at the American Legion in each meeting room.

The SAR recessional was then led by COM Raymond Miller, followed by the closing prayer offered by Chaplain Hank Hammons.

Meeting adjourned by President Hiles at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Moore

Secretary

RSVP 20 April MGC-SAR	
Barber, Nicholas & Sarah	2
Bartlett, David	1
DeVenney, Russ	1
Hammpns Hank	1
Hiles, Alan & Waylene	2
Jones, Terrill	1
Krause, William	1
Lee, Charlie	1
Lee, Jim	1
Lucas, Luke & Kathryn	2
Merrill, Wayne	1
Miller, J. Y. & Mary	2
Miller, Raymond & Ruth	2
Moore, Mitchell	1
Myers, Harold	1
Stamps, Terrell, & Ruanne	2
Thomas, Samuel & Stephanie	2
Tuttle, Jym	1
Whatley, Paul	1
	26



The M. Graham Clark Chapter of
The Missouri Society of
The Sons of the American Revolution
Chartered March 15, 1982
Incorporated April 23, 1889
Columbia, Missouri

26 & 27 April 2024 Convention Report

20 April 2024

1] We continue to make progress towards the planning of our hosting of the MOSSAR April 2024 Conference.

- (a) Will cost \$150.00 Audio-visual equipment rental costs. Rob Ingram is furnishing his own equipment and setting up each event. [Savings \$50]*
- (b) Rob has printed all of the Name Tags. Starting Monday he will Print some missing Name Tags and make corrections on a few others. He will be around for 'all' the Events (unless called into work). If he is there, we are furnishing him Meals.*
- (c) Gifts for the Dignitaries. Wayne (describe)*

2] Registration:

- (a) Registration Forms, not perfect but adequate. We allowed for (50) SAR Men to Register and pay the \$45 Registration Fee. We had (65). {Note: There were an additional (10) – (15) additional 'Free' Meals. So the extra Registration Fees should cover the 'shortage'.*
- (b) We reserved (50) Hotel Rooms and as of a few days ago we used (45).*
- (c) I estimated 'donations' of \$100. We received \$845. {Charles Lee volunteered to send a Hand written Thank You Note to each of the Donors. He wrote around (20).*

3] With the help of Beverly Hagenhoff, Co-President of the *MID-MISSOURI QUILTS of VALOR*, we will put out the 'decorations' before the Banquets and Awards Luncheon and remove & store them after each. Ruth has volunteered to help Laura & Bev. However, if you are able and can help either before the Meal or after it will go faster.

4] After the Saturday Awards Luncheon, the State Genealogist, Doug Neff will present a Genealogy Program. (This is free to the attendees.)

5] Wayne has successfully booked Dr. Chuck Henson, JD as our Friday Night Guest Speaker. He will present a similar Program as he did for us. However, this time he will have his 'power point'.

6] Public Service and Heroism Commendations:

- (a) The Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal – (by Russ DeVenney)*
- (b) The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal – (by Edward Gray)*
- (c) The Life Saving Commendation Medal – (by Mitchell Moore)*

7] *Paul Whatley has submitted a draft of a Proclamation to the Mayor's Office for a presentation at the Friday Night Banquet. Ward 5 Councilman Donald Waterman will read a Proclamation from the Mayor's Officer. His wife Amy will also attend.*

9] Currently we have had (65) registrations. (Not including nonpaying guests.)
[Note: I estimated (100) people would eat at least (1) Meal. I currently figure we have (147). Unfortunately, there are a great number of Members & Wives who did not purchase 'all' of the Meals. There was no way to anticipate this.] We projected purchasing a total of (415) meals. We will purchase (388). We expected (50) SAR Member Registration Fees at \$45 each. To date we have (65).

10] Meal Tickets and Dietary Restrictions;

(a) The Meal tickets are finished. I printed them 2 nights ago and Laura & Bev cut them apart. Note: The Name Tags are in the holders, we just have to add the Meal Tickets & Dietary Tickets to each.

(b) I have documented the requests for certain Dietary Restrictions. We picked out (3) Vegan Meals for (2) people. There are gluten free considerations, but over all the Banquet Manager assured me that they are used to these requests.

11] The (150) Program Books will be delivered by the Robertson's on Thursday.
Note: We have to be careful to conserve the distribution.

12] Over all, everything seems to be in line with our Budget. *Fortunately, the Revenue Seems to be benefiting us positively. All of the Income has been deposited.*

(a) We still have an \$800.00 Deposit on the Conference.

(b) The Program Book has been paid for at \$399.06. We save \$100 of the Budget.

(c) There are Costs for dignitary gifts to account for.

(d) Rob may have some printing expenses.

(e) I will write checks for the Singer, Guest Speaker, the Genealogy Presenter and Photographer.

(f) We will also have some Misc Administration Expenses.

13] We need people at the Registration Desk starting a Noon on Friday 12:5:30 PM and again on Saturday 8 AM to 11:30 AM and 3:30 to 5:00 PM.

Currently:

Friday: Billy Vought & Wayne Merrill volunteered and Rob Ingram will be close too.

Saturday: Blair Pickard can come about Noon. We could use others, even if you are not registered.

Russ DeVenney & Wayne Merrill