

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
WILLIAM HIGHTOWER Chapter #35



# NEWSLETTER

February 2016



## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

**President's Notes:** The man, known as the "Father of his country", was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia on February 11, 1732. That was not a typo. England was under the Julian calendar at the time of George Washington's birth. It was not until England changed to the Gregorian calendar, in 1752 that Washington would choose to celebrate his birthday on February 22. George always wanted to entertain life in military service. His half-brother, Lawrence, convinced him that a life at sea was the way to go but his mother would not hear of it and put her foot down when he insisted on joining the Royal Navy. He did enjoy adventure so when the opportunity arose to join a surveying expedition into the Virginia wilderness, he was eager to go. He joined the Virginia militia in 1753 and was commissioned a Major. One of his tasks was to supervise the building of a fort, which was called Fort Necessity. It was completed in June of 1754 and the French captured it in July of that year. Because of his knowledge of the Virginia wilderness, Washington was asked to join General Braddock, in March of 1755, in the campaign against the French held, Ft Duquesne. It was in this battle that General Braddock lost his life and Washington gained his fame as a military leader. Washington was elected to the Second Continental Congress and chose to wear his militia uniform. It was at a session on June 14, 1775, that John Adams stood and made a speech to have a combined army and nominated George Washington as Commander-in-Chief. He was unanimously elected the next day and sent on his way to command the army that had surrounded the British in Boston. It was not until eight years later that he resigned that commission and retired to do his first love, living the life of a Virginia planter. History knows that he was not forgotten.

If you missed the Feb. meeting, you missed out on the question on George Washington's birthday? You have the same opportunity that they did if you read the paragraph above, which they didn't and I hope that you did. February is Oration Contest month but for the second time in our chapter history, we had no contestants. After some chapter business, I took the available time to explain the pre-war period piece that I was wearing. We did have our election of candidates for the next year but we do have a few openings. To make this chapter work, it will take the assistance of every member, whether near or far.

These next three months are busy in that we are commencing our new business year. The chapter nominated and elected the current officers for the 2016/17 year with the exception of the Registrar who has been replaced by Michael Pryor and the Secretary position, which is yet to be filled. The Treasurer and the Historian have served for four

years and wished to be replaced. They are willing to retain that position until you step forward to replace them.

The Executive Board meeting will be held on March 3rd, at the home of Jerry Bullock. One of the objectives of that meeting will be to establish quantitative goals for the upcoming business year. These goals are only as good as the membership is willing to implement them. It takes every member to make a chapter. At least half of our members are unable to attend the meetings but that does not mean that you cannot be part of making the chapter work. I will be reassigning the members to committees in April. Support your committee through email at a minimum

Next month we will be introducing the new officers, then approving the budget and goals for the upcoming year. Don't forget to work on your patriot bio. You want this chapter to work? Get involved! Become an active participating member. We cannot do it without you. This is your chapter.

Stu Hoyt, Pres. WH#35, TXSSAR, NBSAR.net

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President Hoyt made his entrance this evening carrying a couple of Revolutionary War uniforms and hats. He also was wearing a new uniform that had been made for him. Over his shoulder was a haversack. He explained that one of the two hats, the one he was wearing, had been included by the tailor as a surprise gift called a "Fatigue Hat."



Chaplain Jerry Bullock came in full uniform as well as Registrar Patrick Hollis. President Hoyt's uniform was more representative of the pre-Revolution and may have been worn by units of Roger's Rangers, possibly Warner's Green Mountain Boys. The uniforms of Compatriots Bullock and Hollis were Continental Line uniforms.

On a more somber note, three Chapter members are fighting cancer, either personally or within their families. Sergeant At Arms, John Booth, is undergoing treatments and Compatriot Don Chandler has stepped into his position for the time being. Members were

asked to keep Compatriots Booth, Cliff Caskey (for his wife), and Joe Tafolla in their prayers.

February is normally the month when the Chapter holds its Oration Contest. However, for the second time since the Chapter was formed, the contest was cancelled due to lack of participation. A disappointed Committee Chair, Joe Cox, announced that the candidate had backed out at the last minute.

President Hoyt greeted associates Tom Jones and Jim Lanning on behalf of the Chapter. And he announced that the induction of Compatriot Evan Blauvelt has been delayed due to his being away at school. He also saluted a founding member who was in attendance, Everett Delashmutt, who had participated in the writing of the original By-Laws in 1987.

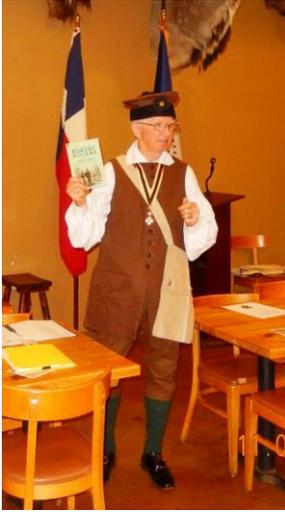
Compatriot Pat Hollis said he has been in touch with the editor of the Herald-Zeitung who said he is receiving positive feedback from subscribers who are enjoying the articles. This is excellent publicity for the Chapter so please send notes of appreciation to the editor. Some of the articles are posted to the Chapter's Facebook page and Web site.

Folkfest will be coming up April 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter will be setting up their booth and displays and members and their families are encouraged to attend. Compatriots who have uniforms are asked to wear them. Compatriot Hollis confessed he had been looking for a cannon but gave up the cause when he discovered that a good brass cannon costs between \$5000 and \$8000!

President Hoyt announced that the Historian is missing Chapter information in his yearbooks prior to 2002. Information for 2001 includes only the Minutes for December and some pictures and no yearbooks exist prior to that. Compatriot Lou Colantoni had discovered a ribbon he had received when going through some old papers and had passed it to President Hoyt who displayed it. It will eventually be attached to the top of the SAR flagpole. President Hoyt also has two stars to attach to the streamer and Compatriot Hollis also has some memorabilia to contribute. Members were encouraged to look for information that would "fill the gaps" in the history of our distinguished Chapter.

According to the By-Laws, now is the time for the Nominations Committee to issue the slate of officers for the next fiscal year. Compatriot Joe Cox is the acting chairman and is joined by Compatriots Bullock, Caskey and Colantoni. The slate for FY2016-17 is: President, Stu Hoyt; Vice-President, Steve Polk; Registrar, Mike Pryor; Chaplain, Jerry Bullock; Treasurer, Terry Hardeman; Historian, Travis Tate, However, Compatriots Hardeman and Tate are filling their posts only until they can be replaced. The Chapter Secretary, Tim Killam, has already stepped down due to the demands of his occupation. There are possible replacements for Compatriots Hardeman and Tim Killam.

Because February is also John Stark Month, President Hoyt spoke to the Chapter about General Stark. He coined the phrase "Live Free or Die." John Stark and Robert Rogers were close friends. Stark had been captured by the Abenaki Indians who eventually



admired and respected him enough to make him a warrior chief. Rogers also spent time with the Indians thus they both had learned stealth and tactics which they applied in later battles. When Rogers recruited his band of militia (for NH), he was given the rank of Captain and then made Stark his Lieutenant. Stark was only a colonel in the Continentals. When they passed him over for general, he resigned and went back to NH where they asked him to raise a regiment to defend the western Grant (NH) against the British incursion by Gen. John Burgoyne. It was only later that the Continentals recognized his strengths and promoted him to general. Stephen Hoyt was a LT. in Capt. Hale's Company in Stark's 1st NH Regiment at Bunker Hill. His father, Stephen Hoyt, was with Roger's Rangers when he was killed returning from a "scout". Pictured is President Hoyt holding a copy of "Journals of Robert Rogers of the Rangers."

#### President Hoyt's comments:

- \*The Committee list will be reviewed and distributed in April. Still in need of Chairmen for the Essay Committee, the Awards Committee, the Publicity Committee and the Eagle Scouts Committee
- \*Still need ancestor biographies to post on our website and at National
- \*George Washington Parade to be held in Laredo, Saturday, February 20. The Ramada Inn is booked. Laredo provides the float and the route is 2.5 miles long. Release form needs to be signed.
- \*Veterans need DD Form 214 – Military Service and War campaigns
- \*Visited any vets? Notify President Hoyt for the Stark Report
- \*Those working with DAR re recruitment entitles the DAR for a medal
- \*Executive Board meets with Compatriot Hollis at his home, Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### President Hoyt's goals for 1016/17:

- \*Recruitment of at least 10 new members. Recruitment is ongoing. President Hoyt has had posters printed for the Chapter to take home and share with family and friends, thus encouraging more interest and applications into the SAR.
- \*Locating and placing flags on 200 veteran's graves. It costs \$27 for a gross of flags which is quite reasonable.
- \*Enhance our speakers' bureau. Refer to web site
- \*Promote historical articles via the media
- \*Organize a Color Guard to attend events. The Chapter had a large group at on time. This really brings a crowd's attention to us.
- \*Select a history teacher for History Teacher of the Year Award
- \*Recognize outstanding members

#### Announcements and Reminders:

- \*Compatriot Joe Cox has forwarded the winning Essay to State, so that deadline has been met.

\*The schedule for the George Washington Proclamations: San Marcos on Tuesday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>; Wimberley on Thursday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>; New Braunfels on Monday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

\*Compatriot Pryor has created a beautiful web site and a Facebook page for the Chapter. Have family and friends "Like" the Facebook page. This brings attention to the Chapter. On the web site click on "Gallery" and then "Speakers Bureau" for pictures of a speaker in action.

At the March meeting there will be a presentation of the 2016/17 chapter officers, awards for previous service, chapter financial audit results, and approval of the 2016/17 budget. These will fulfil the first quarter requirements under the chapter by-laws. Bring spouses and families as we honor our Chapter patriots.



Chaplain Bullock gave the benediction.

The next meeting at Granzin's is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nbtxsar> Website: <http://www.nbsar.net>

