



THE MINUTEMAN



Volume VI, Issue 1

Dallas Chapter Founded July 4, 1929

January 2001

President's Message

by J. Mark Hansen

ON OUR RITUALS

I've been thinking about the attraction our Society's rituals hold for me, and, pleasingly, how like a worship service our meetings are.

My love of ritual was born of my mother, who ushered us children to church on Sundays, and, invariably, no matter how late our arrival, marched us down the center aisle to a front pew. (I was uninspired, as a young Congregational Protestant, by the comparatively plain interiors of our churches and the black Geneva gowns of our clergy, secretly admiring the pomp and circumstance of Roman Catholicism. As one who now pledges funds to support a church, however, I've developed an appreciation for the dictum "less is more.") My love for ritual was nurtured in the Boy Scouts, and galvanized by the military life I led for 27 years, first as a dependent, then as a commissioned officer myself. Now, as a courtroom lawyer ("May it please the Court . . ."), I frequent other bastions of secular ritual.

The SAR appealed to me in part because it, too, had its liturgies. Our rites are timeless reminders of a past and people we revere. Our meeting places may be unprepossessing, but they are sanctuaries no less, consecrated each month by word and song.

We begin each Dallas chapter meeting by invoking the presence of the Almighty, a reminder – echoed in our Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag, immediately afterward – that we are a nation "under God." Next, we honor the flag of Texas, symbolic of a polity once a nation unto itself, now part of a greater one. The last of our Affirmations of Faith is "in the principles of liberty and our constitutional republic," which we "solemnly pledge ourselves to defend . . . against every foe," paying fealty to the heroes of the American Revolution of whom we are descendants. A hymn follows these binding promises in our order of worship: "America," sung to the tune of "God Save the Queen," recalling our ancient umbilicus to England. After a eucharistic breakfast, announcements, and confirmation of new members (during which they, "mindful of the sacrifices of [their] patriot forefa-

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January Meeting

Rob Hofmann, a Director of the Circle 10 Council, Boy Scouts of America, will be the featured speaker at our January 13 meeting.

For future program suggestions, feel free to call 1st VP Gary Sisson at 214-528-0543.

Dr. Mary Lynn Johnson, dressed in colonial garb gave a fascinating look at "Cooking and Everyday Life in Colonial Times" at our December meeting. (See p 3.) >>



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thers,” receive a rosette in the blue, buff and white colors of the Continental uniform), we have a gospel reading – our Americanism presentation – and, finally, the sermon (by our guest speaker) on a topic of patriotic, historical, or educational interest. Our meetings close with a benediction and remembrance of “our obligation to our forefathers,” who gave us “our Constitution, the Bill of rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.”

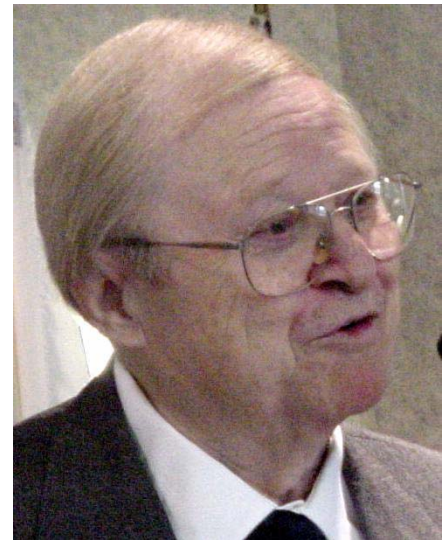
These rituals of our Society are more than nostalgic. They are expressions of continuity – an uninterrupted connection, succession, union, and cohesion – between our forebears and ourselves. They comfort me, inspire me, and warm my heart. I shall never tire of their observance.

THE MINUTEMAN is the monthly newsletter of the Dallas Chapter-Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, a non-profit organization. (Photos by Charles Baker)

Meetings are held on the Second Saturday of each month at Luby's Cafeteria, 6221 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, Texas. Coffee served with fellowship at 7:30, breakfast at 8:00, and meeting from 8:30 'til 9:30. Guests are welcome at our meetings.



New Compatriot **Brad Stephenson** is sworn in at the December Chapter meeting as his sponsor, Texas State President **Dick Arnold**, looks on approvingly.



Dallas Chapter 2nd Vice President and Texas State Treasurer **Cliff Slagle** gave the Americanism Presentation at our November meeting.

OFFICER REPORTS

Registrar's Report:

Chapter membership now stands at 298.
October meeting: 42 members, 7 guests.

Don Hay, Registrar

Treasurer's Report:

Regular Checking: \$ 1459.03
Endowment Funds: \$ 30,046.26

Jack Carney, Treasurer



Extra Notice of vote to amend Dallas Chapter Bylaws

This is the third of two required notices concerning a vote that will be taken at the January 13 meeting of the Dallas Chapter to amend the Chapter Bylaws. The complete text of the proposed changes was included in the President's Message that was published in the November, 2000 issue of **THE MINUTEMAN**. The gist of the proposed change is to bring the Bylaws into conformity with what has been the practice over the past several years concerning the dates leading up to the annual installation of Chapter Officers.

The date of appointment of the Nominating Committee would be specified as November (rather than August); the report of the Committee, and nominations from the floor, would be in January (rather than October); the election would be in February (rather than November); and the installation of officers would be in March (rather than December). Other than these changes of dates, no other changes are proposed.



DUES DUE-DATE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 31, but read on ...

By the time you read this edition of **THE MINUTEMAN**, you should have received your annual dues notice. **Due to a problem at the State level, through no fault of President Dick Arnold, dues notices did not get out until mid-December. Therefore, compatriots will have until January 31 to pay their 2001 dues.**

That's not the only financial decision SAR members need to make, however. It is very likely that the cost of Perpetual (Life) membership will be raised at the State Convention coming up in March. Current dues for 18-25 year-olds will likely go up from \$575 to \$775. Dues for Life Membership for men 26 years and older will likely go up from \$500 to \$675 for men under 50, and, from \$500 to \$600 for men over 50.

There is also a proposal on the table to increase the annual dues from the present \$43 to \$45 in a couple of years. **All of these facts are reason enough to ponder whether you should pay for a Life Membership now, before January 31.** It is especially advantageous for younger men. In that way, you will be insulated from all dues increases in the future.

Compatriot **Henry Rather** looks dashing in his red blazer as it is announced that he will receive the Patriot's Medal at the Texas SAR State Convention in March, 2001.



Compatriot **James Johnson**, in Minuteman uniform, serves samples of Colonial cooking as his wife **Mary Lynn**, our speaker, describes recipes for Thomas Jefferson's Sweet Potato Biscuits, Coconut Cookies, Oatmeal-Raisin Cookies, and other surprises.



