



Heading by Megan Sanford

May 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Having my Monday morning coffee and looking out the back window, I see those spring projects looking back at me. It has been a good spring so far getting the yard in shape, and my office cleaned out. I have the "plan" in place for the remaining yard tasks, so I am not really thinking much about yard work today. I am thinking about our chapter's last two years.

Our April chapter meeting was great. The annual awards were presented and the guest speaker, Assistant Fire Chief Chris Denton, did a great job talking about Edmond's local fire services and



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future endeavors. Compatriot Terry Handley's presentation on proper flag etiquette and disposal followed, and contained some great information about the proper exterior display of the flag and disposal of worn out flags. We conducted our regular monthly business and heard the committee reports. The meeting ended with the Nomination Committee's recommendations for our next chapter officers.

Our new chapter President will be Compatriot Mark Reichardt, Compatriot Joe Sieber will be our Vice-President, Compatriot Terry Handley will be taking over as our Secretary/Treasurer. Tom Rupert will stay on as our Chapter Chaplain, and our Registrars will be Phil Cook and Craig Crow. Compatriot Eric Koonce will be our Chapter Genealogist.

I am very excited about our future leadership. I have worked closely with these gentlemen on various projects the last two years, and I owe a great deal to them for the health of the chapter they are going to lead. Early on, I had a vision of the chapter becoming "Outward Looking". Coming out of Covid might have caused our membership to become complacent, and we needed to reach out to a public that was wondering about their future as well. Strengthening the face of our Society, the Color Guard, was imperative. We created an

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▪ Chapter [meetings](#) are held on the second Monday of every month except June, July, and August.



excitement to make public appearances and assist our brother chapters in creating their own Color Guards. We made available the opportunity to carry and use period proper muskets, and got involved at the state and district levels doing Patriot Grave Markings and flag presentations. On the local level, the Color Guard presented the colors at two Oklahoma City Thunder basketball games, marched in several new parades, and have committed to marching two new parades later this year. This has been a key to our success, but there was excitement in other areas of the chapter as well!

Our Veterans program really took off as we have representation on the VAVS (Veterans Administration Volunteer Services) Committee. Under Compatriots John Schaller and Terry Handley our involvement at the VA Hospital has increased. We have donated books, snacks, and presented almost 400 Christmas cards to veterans in the hospital or were there for regular doctor's appointments. I was honored to make presentations of the NSSAR Wounded Warrior coins, and attend three funerals of Killed in Action veterans recently identified by our government from World War II and the Korean War. I see this picking up steam in the future as new AND prospective Compatriots are wanting to get involved.

We increased our involvement with several DAR chapters statewide, including chapters in Cushing, Enid, Lawton, Stillwater, and Ponca City. We increased the number of Wreaths Across America events with area DAR chapters, and began working to increase memberships for both societies with referrals. I hope this continues in the near future as we have planned to sponsor new SAR chapters in Lawton and Enid.

As my term ends as chapter President, may I say I too have grown and become healthier. I have come to know many of your stories and your convictions. Most of all, I have learned to pray for things in your lives: health issues, family deaths, and marriage problems. I also have a lot of fun! Travelling to Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Kentucky for various events with some of you was just plain entertaining. I hope to do more after turning the reins over to our new chapter leadership. I also wish to thank many of you who caught my visions of growth. The health of our chapter is great because of it. Thank you for allowing me to share! HOOZZAH!

The chapter's 100th Anniversary Celebration on April 27 had to be postponed due to the possibility of severe weather. The anniversary committee has elected to move the new date to September 21,

2024 because we were heading into vacations and other commitments. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The raffle drawing for the musket and the quilts will be moved to that date as well, so by buying more tickets you get a better chance to win! See the committee members of Ron Reber, Trent England, Terry Handley, Sean Drake or Mark Reichardt with any questions or how to acquire tickets for the event itself or the raffles.

Our final chapter meeting before taking the summer off will be Monday, May 13th at the Johnnie's Hamburgers at 33 East 33rd Street in Edmond. We will begin gathering at about 6pm for food and fellowship, then the meeting will begin at 6:45pm. Our guest speaker will be Michael Beach, who will be presenting his program on Oklahoma cemeteries and his OETA Television special on grave markings. We will be swearing in our new officers, and will be having a changing of the command ceremony for our Color Guard. I hope to see you all there.

--

Craig Crow
President
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