



The Colonial Crier

The Texas Society Colonial Dames Seventeenth Century

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Winter 2025

Be a Shining Light: Stand Together, Shine Together

President's Welcome Message



Charissa Stubbs Womack
Texas Society President
2023-2025

Dear Texas Dames,

Happy New Year! It is so hard to believe that 2025 is already here! I am looking forward to our State Conference in Conroe on February 27th through March 1st, and hope to see you there. President General Yvonne Hiteshue will be our guest of honor! Mrs. Hiteshue is from Ohio and this visit is her first to Texas. I cannot wait for her to see our Texas hospitality, our enthusiasm, and our caring friendship toward each other.

During our state conference, we will electing our next slate of officers and vote on updates to our bylaws. The bylaws updates have been emailed to the Board of Management, uploaded to the Texas members only website, and posted on our Facebook page. The deadline to register for the conference is February 6, 2025.

Our project supporting Sunshine Kids Foundation will come to an end in April 2025. I thank our chapters and members for your generous support for this project. This year's service project to make Chemo Kits for kids has been undertaken by many chapters, and I am looking forward to seeing the results of our efforts. During the Sunshine Kids breakfast held on Friday morning during the State Conference, I will be highlighting the support each chapter has given to this project. I am asking each Chapter President to please send an email to me at chris.womack1@outlook.com, and tell me what your chapter has done from April 2023 through April 2025 to support the project. Some chapters have given a single cash donation, some have created projects donated to affiliate hospitals, and others have given supplies, chemo kits, and other items in support of our project.

Please tell me the projects your chapters completed, the estimated number of hours volunteered by chapter members, the estimated amount of in-kind donations your members contributed, and what your chapter enjoyed the most about the project.

During the breakfast, I will present give the Sunshine Kids representative a large check to show our cash donations, and a separate large check for the estimated value of your in-kind donations. It will be rewarding to see this visible reminder of how much our two years have provided in support of cancer kids. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness, encouragement, support while I have served as your state president. It has been one of the highlights of my life to be able to serve in this role, and I cannot say enough how much I appreciate your trust in me. We are so blessed to belong to this wonderful organization.

In Dames Friendship,

Chris

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Lori King **State Second Vice President**



Fellow Texas Dames,

This state officer (and our State President) is overwhelmed by the support we have received this administration for our State President's Project: The Sunshine Kids Foundation. Your support both monetarily through your chapter and in the form of items for the children shared at the 2024 State Conference Breakfast and the upcoming 2025 State Conference is outstanding and exhibits the generous and compassionate hearts we have in our State Society. We will look forward to seeing your creative contributions for the Kids Breakfast in February! Mrs. Womack will also be presenting a check at that same breakfast to a representative of The Sunshine Kids Foundation which will impressively illustrate the generosity of our state members.

There are members still purchasing the beautiful State President's Pin/Pendant in support of this organization, as well as the blue or white pashmina scarves, padfolios and lovely tote bags! The stock on these items is dwindling, but this officer is still accepting orders by mail and will also be offering them along with the fabulous State President's Project Committee at 2025 State Conference in Conroe! The terrific thing about these items is that they don't just pertain to this administration, all the items can be used for any occasion into the future!

We are in the midst of planning what will be an outstanding 2025 State Conference including a visit from our President General, a fun field trip to the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville, reports from our wonderful chapters, awards, and just a whole lot of fun! We look forward to welcoming you to 2025 State Conference!

Lastly, please remember to make your chapter donations to the Headquarters Decoration Committee and Headquarters Maintenance Fund through your chapter treasurer. It takes our support to keep our lovely national headquarters beautiful!

Sunshine Kids Chemo Kit Announcement

Chapters are asked to label their chemo kits with the age group and gender of the child the bag is intended for. For example: Girl, Ages 3-6 or Boy, Ages 7-9

Remember to keep it small with about 8 to 10 items per chemo kit. Place the items in a small box or small cotton bag/tote (something easy to store). Include 1 headcover appropriate for the age group your chapter selects, 1 pair fleece socks, 1 small toy, 1 small book or puzzle book, 1 stick of lip balm, 1 small bag of hard candy, 1 small bottle of hand lotion, 1 small bottle of face cleanser, 1 small bottle of face moisturizer.

Substitutions are acceptable. Just keep it small enough that the items can be easily stored and distributed. Thank you for your generosity to the Sunshine Kids Foundation.

Mary Kate McRaney State Chaplain



Greetings and Best Wishes! It is with heartfelt joy to wish you and your families a new year of blessings!

As we step forward into the new year, may I start with a friendly reminder to Chapter Chaplains, please remain mindful of responsible reports so we may streamline the reports that follow the chapters to our State & National Offices timely. Review your membership for the members who turn ninety and above so we may send greetings and well wishes. In prior years, chapters have reported they lost track of those members ninety-five and older whose state and national dues are waived because of their age and years of service. These members may not attend meetings and we do not want these precious members who served before us to be forgotten by our chapters.

Chapter Chaplains are asked to have their Chapter Treasurer report member deaths to the national website as promptly as possible. Please forward an obituary and photograph for each deceased member to the State Chaplain for inclusion in the state Memorial Book. If the members' next of kin did not publish an obituary, please send a good quality photograph and a bio of your member. If your chapter does not have one, consider creating a chapter memorial book as a permanent record of deceased members, complete with obituaries and photographs.

It is with sadness, but beautiful thoughts of our beloved who served before and with us, I share the following, since January 1, 2024 -December 12, 2024. Texas has said a sweet farewell to twenty members. These members will be honored at the Hour of Remembrance at the State Conference. If your chapter has a deceased member, Chapter Chaplains are encouraged to attend the State Conference so they may participate in the Hour of Remembrance memorial service. All in attendance will have the opportunity to honor these dear members by sharing thoughts and memories.

If the Chapter Chaplain is unable to attend, please designate a chapter member or officer to attend in her place. Only the Chapter Chaplain or her designated alternate are required to wear all white and nude shoes to this service.

Chapter Chaplains should plan a chapter memorial service for their deceased members. Beautiful prayers and scriptures are found in the booklet "Prayers, Poems, Scriptures, and Meditations," written by our own Sandy Bassett. The booklet is available for purchase on the national website under the member tab, select online forms, and selecting supplies. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have. I hope to see you at State Conference!

*In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven*
Matthew 5:16

Geneva “Kay” Bakken
State Organizing Secretary



I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

This is the time for members to come together and celebrate the year by meeting for a holiday lunch with our friends. I know everyone is busy, but this time of year is about family and friends coming together to celebrate. We need to take the time to appreciate one another and celebrate our accomplishments as a chapter.

Our chapters need to provide opportunities for our members to express their interest in the society's committees and goals. For example, Colonial Heritage, Community Service, Heraldry & Coats of Arms, Marking & Preservation of Historic Sites and our Veterans Service. We need to make a presence in our communities to establish the foundations of good citizens in our cities and state. The world around us is changing, women's lives, family structure, interest, daily schedules are different, and it is important that we are present during these changing times. It should be our mission to support patriotism in our communities. Help explore new ideas and opportunities for our members to be involved at these levels.

Your chapter may need to look at various meeting times and places, as well as different ways of communicating with members so your chapter can be successful and grow.

Remember to update your bylaws with the national and state changes. Please send a copy of your Chapter bylaws to Susan Reno, TSCDXVIIC State Parliamentarian.

Ann Jones
State Librarian



Ladies, I am proud to say that many of our Texas chapters continue to donate many working hours to the libraries of Texas.

Working as fast as our sunflowers grow, our local librarians help with lovely donations for the state's libraries.

All our donations to our libraries require written acceptance of the donation that is signed by a library staff member. This is the only way your chapter will receive the proper credit for a "book donation" or a "monetary donation."

Volunteer Hours with associated local libraries will also require specific forms to be signed. Signed forms **MUST** accompany the annual Chapter Librarian's Report to get credit for your chapter.

If you do not have "Book Donation Approval Request Forms", please let this officer know and I will be happy to assist you. My email is aejones222@aol.com.

Hope to see you soon,

Ann E. Jones, Texas State Librarian, TSCDXVIIC

Janet Hicks State Registrar



A good way to jump start new applications and supplementals is to leverage information found in previously approved applications. The Approved Application Project displays the public domain areas (Gen 7-Gen 16, the Ancestor's Children, and the Proof of Service) of most of the society's approved applications. You can access the Approved Application Project on the CDXVIIC National Members website under the "Members" tab. Members can search the database by a member's national number or by the ancestor names including qualifying information like the ancestor's colony, birth, and death dates. When you find a common ancestor, you can view their record and download the application to your computer.

- While any application you find might give you valuable information, please remember to reference only applications with National Numbers 22,000 and higher on your applications or supplementals. If find find multiple applications for the same ancestor, review the most recent ones to find the one that most closely matches your common ancestor and provides the most approved information.
- Always include a copy of the referenced application with your submittal because this application is now technically a proof. Make notations in the upper right-hand corner to point out what generations the applications is being used for and include the national number and ancestor for this application. This is the only way national can recognize this referenced application since page one is not included in the download.
- Beginning with the first common generation, type exactly as it appears on the record copy all the information – names, births, death, and marriage dates, places for everything – for that generation. Then, in the proof section of the application for that common generation, type exactly as it appears on the record copy all the sources that are used as proof.
- Finally, state "# xxxxxx, application for Yyy Zzzz". So, if you are using a previously approved application for a member (Example-Betty Phillips) whose National Number is #032333 and your common ancestor is Jacob Howard and the mutual generation is Gen 7, then you would type "#032333 Jacob Howard/Gen 7"-then copy the proof line exactly as written. If the application is a supplemental, then you would type #032333 Jacob Howard Supp/Gen 7-then copy the proof line exactly as written. Always refer to the application the proofs were originally approved with, not application that have "used" the proofs. Also, always use the Ancestor's name, not your name or the name of the applicant whose application you are referencing. DO NOT USE #032333 Betty Phillips/Gen 7. Do this same thing as above for all the common generations.

Make sure to include documented proof from a primary source for the parent-child link between your ancestor and the common ancestor found on the record copy (previously approved application). This source should be listed after the proofs from the record copy in the "Proof" section of for that generation.

On the last page of the application, list all the information about the children of the ancestor by the wife named in the last generation. This information should be found on the previously approved application.

On the last page of the application, under Ancestor's Service, list the service, the state of the service and the year the service was performed. For example, if your ancestor was a landowner in Virginia in 1685, then state: Landowner, VA, 1685. Second, state the proof of service---for example – Deed in Henrico Co., VA. Finally, state the source of the proof – for example – “Wills and Deeds of Henrico Co VA”: 289. The statement of the proof of service must accompany every application.

I hope this information helps you understand how to use a previously approved application to make it easier to complete new member applications and supplementals. If you have questions on using the Approved Application Project information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Alana Inman State Historian



I hope everyone has been taking time this year to promote American history and the history of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century through chapter meeting programs, activities, and donations of time and/or funds. I congratulate you on all your efforts and know they have been rewarding for your chapters and communities, but please remember doing the work ourselves is not the only way we can encourage an appreciation of our nation's past.

We can also promote history by supporting those in our communities who go above and beyond to work or volunteer in the field of historic preservation.

Please nominate someone for the **Texas Society History Award** in appreciation of their service. The award can be given to anyone, including non-members, who has performed outstanding work in historical preservation and deserves recognition for preserving American, Texas, or colonial history. Perhaps you have a friend who is a regular museum or archives volunteer, or know a government official who has been a strong supporter of efforts to preserve and promote history in your area. Maybe a staff member at your local library or archives is of immeasurable help in your members' genealogical research.

To nominate a history champion, all you must do is write a paragraph of 500 words or less describing who you are nominating and why you feel they deserve the award. Describe the professional or volunteer work the nominee has performed related to historic preservation or education and the impact it has made. Points will be awarded based on the extent of a nominee's work, such as number of years or breadth of activities, and the significance of its impact. Twenty-five percent of a nominee's score will be dependent upon extent of work, and seventy-five percent will be dependent upon significance.

Please mail or email nominations to me by February 1, 2024 at 1707 Texas Street, Liberty, Texas, 77575 or alanainman@hotmail.com.

PROPOSED STATE OFFICERS 2025-2027

President – Charleen “Charlie” Mullenweg

First Vice President – Janet Hicks

Second Vice President – Ann Jones

Chaplain – Martha Ginn

Recording Secretary – Barbara Glodt

Organizing Secretary – Sarah Sumner

Corresponding Secretary – Lori King

Treasurer – Janet Kres

Registrar – Kimberley Calaway

Historian – Belinda Brouette

Librarian – Susan Reno

Financial Examiner – Kay Bakken

Kay Bakken Bylaws Committee

The State Society has added two clubs to the Standing Rules, The State Heraldry Club and State Officers Club. **These club meetings are open to all the members**, but only club members may vote to conduct club meetings. Be sure to check out these two new meetings at the State Conference.

The State Bylaws Committee recommends changes to our state bylaws. These changes are necessary to clarify state officer qualifications, and establish rules for chapter officer vacancy and emergency succession. The proposed changes were distributed to the Board of Management, published on the State members’ website, and uploaded to the State Facebook page 60 days prior to the State Conference. The proposed changes are included as an attachment with this issue of The Colonial Crier.

I want to make it plain that these are tweaks necessary following major revision of the bylaws in 2022.

Marsha Richards Credentials Committee

Each chapter should send a **State Conference Credentials form** to the State Credentials Chair to be received by February 3, 2025. An email will be sent to verify receipt of the form by this chairman. The directives and form can be found in the State/National Committee Directives packet that was emailed to all chapter presidents in September and also on the state members’ only website in the Summer Packet 2023-25 (Committee Directives).

Delegates must be elected at a chapter meeting prior to submission of the form, and the form must be signed by both the chapter president and treasurer. Chapter membership numbers were emailed to each chapter president and may be adjusted if there have been new members, resignation/deaths, etc.

Please remember that Delegates by Virtue of Office are “extra” votes; use your total membership number when calculating the number of chapter delegates you need to elect, regardless of the number of Delegates by Virtue of Office that you have!

Jennifer McStravick & Kathy Wells
Co-Chairs, Heraldry & Coats of Arms Committee

President General Yvonne Hiteshue includes increasing interest in Heraldry and Coats of Arms as one of her projects during her administration, & she has actively worked to promote this with members. Of note are the creation of a unique Heraldry library at the national headquarters and the introduction of a Heraldry Club including a new pin that can be worn on your official ribbon. Thank you to President General Yvonne Hiteshue for helping to grow interest in the Heraldry and Coats of Arms committee.

The new Heraldry Library is an annex to the national library. Included in the collection is a complete set of the translated Domesday books. Each book in this collection has a special crown label to ensure it is re-shelved correctly after use. Librarian General, Vicki Lynn Presley, a retired professional librarian, is quite pleased with how the Heraldry Library turned out.

There is a lovely desk and chair that President General Hiteshue uses quite often. A workstation is available for researchers and a printer and computer will be added before the National Conference. Notebooks on the workstation are transmittal lists of approved COA applications from the past four years. The windows were refreshed with new hardware and window frames and new adjustable lighting, floor, and baseboards were installed. The door was replaced with a sliding door to conserve space. Effective use of the Heraldry Library should be quite enjoyable due to its quiet and remote location.

There are plans to hang the charter for the National Heraldry Club over the fireplace. It will be a beautifully framed document incorporating calligraphy and a fanciful heraldic border.

President General Hiteshue's dream of a Heraldry Library was met with this well-planned project. A "grand opening" of the library will take place in conjunction with the National Conference in April 2025.

As Texas' current administration works through its last few months, we are reminded of all the exciting Heraldry and Coats of Arms activities that were presented or introduced to Colonial Dames 17th Century members. Let us not forget all those applications that are submitted and approved by the National Heraldry and Coats of Arms Chair Wanda Samek and Co-Chair Joan Vranessa. These Texas ladies spend countless hours receiving them, opening them, reviewing and approving them, and creating a cover letter and certificates that are mailed to those that submit them. These ladies deserve our thanks for the many hours they serve for our benefit. Mrs. Samek also created a PowerPoint presentation and script for chapters to use. Be sure to let them know how much they are appreciated when you see them.

We hope that we have stoked your interest in finding an armorial or gateway ancestor. Many Texas Dames successfully submitted first-time applications to the Heraldry and Coats of Arms committee. New armorial ancestors were found and proven. Many chapters added a Heraldry and Coats of Arms committee chair and had programs at their meetings or held a workshop. The Heraldry and Coats of Arms committee introduced a beautiful new state heraldry stick pin and the Texas Society approved a new Texas-based Heraldry Club more to come! We thank you for your commitment to this fun and exciting committee and know that you will continue the good work of all aspects of Texas Society Colonial Dames 17th Century.

Jennifer McStravick [jjmc1987@att.net] and Kathy Cave Wells [kjcwells@gmail.com]

Jennifer McStravick & Kathy Wells
Co-Chairmen, Heraldry & Coats of Arms Committee

NATIONAL HERALDRY CLUB

Such exciting news: We now have a National Heraldry Club!

You have the opportunity to become a **Charter Member**. By simply becoming a lifetime member before the end of this administration. Of course, members may join any time after that, but will not be considered charter members.

What are the qualifications? You simply need to have one or more approved COA.

What do you get for these dues? You become a member of the club, can attend an annual closed event at national conference, and receive as a gift the national heraldry club pin which may be worn on or off the ribbon.

What does it cost? The price for lifetime dues and the pin is \$180. The cost of manufacturing this pin was double the cost of the PG bow pin! But we can proudly say that this pin was manufactured in the USA.



Make your check out to NSCDXVIIC and on the notation put National Heraldry Club dues. Information will be posted on the website and on Facebook on how to place orders for mail delivery.

Please send your check to Lorraine Sims, NHC Organizing Treasurer, 11280 Lady Jane Loop #103, Manassas, VA 20109-7893. rainsims1211@gmail.com 703-965-2378

Name (printed clearly) _____

email address _____

phone number _____

address _____

Yes, I have at least one approved COA _____ (initial here)

Signature _____

Check made out to Treasurer General, NSCDXVIIC for **\$180.00 plus \$6 shipping and handling**. On the notation line of your check, please write National Heraldry Club dues.

CROSS TRAILS CHAPTER Spring, Texas

Cross Trails dames were honored to hear State President Chris Womack give a presentation on Colonial Criminal Justice at our October chapter meeting as we celebrated Colonial Heritage Month. Tomball City Councilwoman Lisa Covington joined our meeting and signed a Proclamation of October as Colonial Heritage Month. Proclamations were also received from the cities of Navasota and Richmond and Grimes County. Used Pill Bottles were collected to send to 3rd world countries, calendars and notepads were collected to give to Camp Hope, and candy and hats were collected to add to bags for Sunshine Kids Foundation. Books on Texas history and colonial forts were ordered and will be donated to local schools.



EDUCATING OUR YOUTH & PROMOTING PATRIOTISM W/PREAMBLE PENCILS & POCKET CONSTITUTIONS

Pencils with the Preamble to the US Constitution were given to (2,109) 5th grade students across (9) campuses in (4) different school districts. Tags taped to the pencils challenged students to memorize the Preamble by reciting it while brushing their teeth. (31) 5th grade social studies teachers were also given a bell to ring, a Constitution Activity Book, a Pocket Constitution and a US flag with stand with the Preamble and American Creed on it. (300) Pocket Constitutions were given to high school students. Schools gave thanks on Facebook and Twitter accounts.



THANKING OUR VETERANS:

VA FALL BABY SHOWER & HONOR FLIGHT

Members contributed (100) onesies and (57) pairs of socks to be added to the (75) moms-to-be backpacks at the DeBakey VA Fall Baby Shower, while the chapter provided (75) large bottles of Baby Lotion using proceeds from our silent auction.

Honor Flight Houston once again took veterans to Washington DC to see the memorials. Members wrote Thank You notes that were given to these veterans in their Welcome Home packets on their return flight.



GOVERNOR THOMAS HINCKLEY CHAPTER

Fort Worth, Texas

The Governor Thomas Hinckley Chapter/Fort Worth met Saturday November 9 at Ridglea Country Club. The Governor Thomas Hinckley Chapter is so proud to welcome our new members. We hope to have a fun and informative season with our lovely luncheon speakers. We were very pleased to have Honorary Vice-President General Sandy Bassett as our speaker. Her program was on "Manners, Superstitions and Protocol of the 19th Century". Our next meeting is on Saturday January 11, and our speaker will be Cecelia Van Donselaar, who will speak on "Headstones of Historic Pioneers Rest Cemetery." Honorary President General Dorothy Thompson will speak on May 10 about "My Favorite Handkerchief".



JAMES RIVER CHAPTER

Grand Prairie, Texas

The ladies of the James River Chapter held their November meeting at the Woman's Club of Grand Prairie. An entertaining program of colonial treasure and intrigue was presented by Melalee Camak followed by a delicious traditional Thanksgiving buffet luncheon.

To continue our goal of welcoming new members to our society, our Lineage Research Committee has been diligently assisting prospective members with ancestral research to complete their applications. In addition, our chapter members have been actively working to complete and submit supplemental applications to honor our ancestors.

To be supportive of President General Hiteshue's project of promoting interest in Heraldry and COAs, our chapter was happy to donate a heraldry book to the new Heraldry Library room at national headquarters in time for this beautiful addition becoming a reality.



Pictured L-R (seated): Asha Smith, Robin Carter, Melalee Camak, Rita Smith; (standing): Lisa Kight-Alcala, Gina Smith, Dorothy Norred, Patty Lemoine, Connie Mize, Doretha Johnson, Jan Barrett, Pamela Knight

JOSEPH UNDERWOOD CHAPTER Kingwood, Texas

The Joseph Underwood Chapter kicked off the year with our October meeting and enjoyed a presentation on “NSCDXVIIC History: Our Story Told in Pieces of the Past” presented by State Historian and chapter vice-president Alana Inman. Our November speaker is James Anderson from the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, and his talk will be on “WWII Experiences of Southeast Texas Servicemen.” In celebration of Colonial History Month, the chapter designed and installed a display for the display window at the Kingwood Public Library on Heraldry and COAs, which has generated interest from library users. We are also looking forward to our Christmas Soup ‘n’ Sandwich Potluck Lunch, where we will be collecting fleece socks for our Chemo Kits for Kids. We are starting the paperwork for marking a historic building in downtown Humble also, and plans are well underway for our hosting of the Friday morning breakfast at the 2025 State Conference.



ROBERT WOODSON CHAPTER

Conroe, Texas

The Robert Woodson Chapter Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century met at the Carriage Inn in Conroe and was honored with the official visit by the Texas State President, Chris Womack, who presented an interesting and unusual program entitled "Colonial Criminal Justice, The Origins of Our Liberty from the Colonies to the Constitution." Proclamations from for Remembrance Day, Constitution Week, October Heritage Month, and November's Veteran's Day were on display.



Pictured are members & guests attending the meeting: Back Row: Sue Hereford, Ginne' Liles, & Coyla Holmes; Front Row: Pat Sheridan, Janis Hoag, Molly Kratt, Shirley Slawson, Laura Dahlberg, State President Chris Womack, Judy Weidner, Kaye Stone, Eugenia Letbetter, & Melissa Belcher-Robinson

**TEXAS SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD
2023-2025**



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