



The Colonial Crier

The Texas Society Colonial Dames Seventeenth Century

Volume XIX, No. 1

Summer 2023

Be a Shining Light: Stand Together, Shine Together

President's Welcome Message

Dear Texas Dames,

I am honored to serve as the 42nd State President of the Texas Society Colonial Dames XVII Century. I appreciate the opportunity you have given me, and I pledge to serve you to the best of my ability.

"Be a Shining Light: Stand Together, Shine Together" is the motto for 2023-2025. This motto was inspired by the sunflower, and centers on teamwork. A sunflower is thousands of tiny flowers that together create a beautiful bloom. Sunflowers naturally turn to the sun, each turning the same direction in unison. In the same way, our members are all beautiful women who possess an amazing variety of talents and skills. When we combine those skills together we can plant the seeds of friendship, excitement, and enthusiasm within our members, chapters, and the Texas and the National Societies.

The most important part of our Colonial Dames experience is the bond we share, which makes membership recruiting and chapter revitalization easier. We all joined Colonial Dames because someone asked us, and we remained involved because of our relationships and sense of purpose. Set a goal for each member to invite three friends to a chapter meeting, share an issue of *The Colonial Crier*, and invite them to our State meetings. Reach out to the Lineage Research Committee if help is needed to find a qualifying ancestor. There are volunteers throughout Texas who are ready to help with lineage research, programs, genealogical training, or anything else needed to grow chapter membership.

Find new and creative ways to involve our younger members in the activities and leadership of our chapters and the Texas Society. They are our future! Create a place for them alongside our more experienced members. Share your successful ideas with the State Junior Membership Chairman and State Membership Co-Chairmen. They will share this success with all of our Texas chapters.

Review *The Colonial Crier* and become involved in the many exciting opportunities available in the Texas Society. Our State Officers and Committee Chairmen are here to serve you. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have ideas, concerns, or just want to get to know us better. Tell us what you need, and *together* we will make it happen!

In Dames Friendship!

Chris



Charissa Stubbs Womack
Texas Society President
2023-2025

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State President's Project The Sunshine Kids Foundation



Dedicated to children with cancer

The 2023-2025 State President's project will focus our shining light on The Sunshine Kids Foundation™ a national charity based in Houston, Texas, with the mission of Helping Children with Cancer Smile.

Founded in 1982, The Sunshine Kids Foundation adds quality of life to children with cancer by providing them with exciting, positive group activities and opportunities, so they may once again do what kids are meant to do...have fun and celebrate life! Young cancer patients participate in positive group activities which promote self-esteem, personal accomplishment, and just plain old fashioned fun.

Thousands of children from hospitals across the country have benefited from The Sunshine Kids Foundation's many programs such as national trips, local activities, in-hospital programs, back to school programs, holiday gift programs, senior send-off programs, the Sunshine Kids Scholarship Program, and many others. All activities are free of charge to the children, their families, and hospitals.

The Sunshine Kids Foundation partners with participating hospitals in Amarillo, Austin, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Lubbock, McAllen, San Antonio, and The Woodlands. Many of our chapters are located in or near these cities!

We can offer our support to these children and their families in a variety of ways such as: donations to State President's Project, product sales benefitting the State President's project, state and chapter donation drives for needed items, writing holiday cards, preparing holiday gift packages, and much more. Our chapters, and especially our members who cannot attend meetings, will have a variety of service project options available that will benefit these children.

Details about planned service projects, including the process chapters and members will need to use to support this worthy organization will be available in the Summer Packet. Information about this charity may be found at www.sunshinekids.org.

Let's work together to *Be a Shining Light* as we *Stand Together, Shine Together*, serve communities across Texas, and make a difference in the lives of these children and their families. God bless you and thank you for your service!

**THE STATE PRESIDENT'S PIN IS IN PROTOTYPE PRODUCTION NOW.
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT LORI KING WILL HAVE ORDER FORMS SOON!**

Charleen “Charlie” Mullenweg
State First Vice President



It is an honor to serve as First Vice President for the Texas Society! I look forward to planning fun and beneficial State Conferences in 2024 and 2025, as well as supporting the State Officers, Chairmen, Chapters and members.

In an effort to streamline our information flow, all state meeting registration forms, directory and product order forms, and donation forms will be created as separate documents and emailed with *The Colonial Crier* rather than embedding these forms inside each issue. These forms and *The Colonial Crier* will be posted on the Texas Society members only website for your convenience. This should make *The Colonial Crier* easier and cheaper to print for those members that prefer a printed copy and also make the forms you need easier to access.

STATE DIRECTORY

The 2023 State Directory, including the 2023 Revised Bylaws and Standing Rules, is a valuable resource for all Texas Dames. The Directory includes contact information for all State Officers, State Chairmen, Chapter Presidents & Officers, and every member of the Texas Society. Do you want to know if another member shares your ancestor or might have proved your Heraldry/COA ancestor, you can find that information in the State Directory! Fill out your order form **RESERVE YOUR COPY TODAY!** **Remember, forms are no longer embedded inside *The Colonial Crier*.**

Pickup at Fall Workshop \$20.00

Shipped to your address \$28.00

FALL WORKSHOP/BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

August 24-25, 2023

Austin Marriott North, 2600 La Frontera Blvd., Round Rock, TX 78681

BOOK YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS BY AUGUST 16, 2023

\$89.00 PER NIGHT (not including taxes & fees)

To reserve your room, copy/paste the link below into your internet browser or call Marriott Central reservations at 1-888-236-2427. When calling you must ask for the Colonial Dames block to get included in the \$89 discounted group block

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1686586819101&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND!

Lori King
State Second Vice President



It is truly an honor, and great pleasure, these next two years to serve the wonderful ladies of the Texas State Society in this position!

As recently announced on our State Society Facebook page, the outstanding organization that our new State President, Chris Womack, has selected as her State President's Project is the Sunshine Kids Foundation, based in Houston, with the mission of helping children with cancer SMILE!!

In correlation with this outstanding project, this officer will be responsible for offering items for sale to support it as Chair of the State President's Project Committee. The beautiful State President's pin and other sales items will be revealed soon!

Thank you to the following state members who have volunteered to be a part of this committee: Kathy Cotton-Windham, Laura Dahlberg, Cheryl Downing, Bev Hayes-Hartnett, Mary Betty James, and Jaime Pierce!

Plans are already underway for the 2024 State Conference to be held in Grapevine February 29 – March 2, 2024. Details will be shared once they are finalized. As State Conference Vice Chairman, this officer is enjoying working with our State President and First Vice President on those plans, and I look forward to welcoming all state members there!

Lastly, as information becomes available from the National Third Vice President General on the Society's needs for the Headquarters Building Fund, this officer will be reporting those needs to our state members when considering their donation opportunities.

Kathryn Beck
State Recording Secretary



The Texas Society Fall Workshop and Board of Management Meeting will be held on August 24-25, 2023 in Round Rock, Texas. Here are some guidelines to help you prepare for the meetings.

State Officers: State officers are required to present their reports if present or file their reports if they are absent. There is no time limit on officer reports.

Committee Chairmen: Chairmen who are attending the meeting should plan to give a brief report stating your goals for the upcoming year. If you are not attending, Chairmen may file a report by sending it to the State Recording Secretary. Committee Chairmen reports are limited to three minutes when presenting their report, so please be concise.

Chapter Presidents: Chapter Presidents do not give a report at the Fall Board of Management meeting. Chapter reports are only given at the annual State Conference.

Reports should be sent to me electronically in a MS Word document, using the Chairman template, or included in the body of your email. Please don't send a "pdf" formatted document. Include the following information on the subject line of your email: "Name of Chairman - 2023 Fall BOM e.g. "Headquarters Decorating - 2023 Fall BOM Report".

If you have questions or problems submitting your report electronically, please don't hesitate to email or call me. I look forward to reading your reports!

Mary Kate McRaney **State Chaplain**



Greetings! It is with gratitude and deep humbleness I step into this role ready to serve this distinguished Society and your exceptional Texas Administration for the next two years. It is my honor and pleasure to serve as State Chaplain and I look forward to collaborating with Chapter Chaplains, and encouraging innovative and inspirational ideas to support the office of Chaplain.

I look forward to seeing all Chaplains at the Fall Workshop! I will host a Chaplain training session on necrology reporting, introducing creative ideas for service programs, and how you as a Chaplain may be recognized at the State Conference.

As mentioned, Fall Workshop training will include detailed information and recognition opportunities for Chaplains. The first recognition is the *Chaplain Award*, and recognizes Chaplains who are a pillar of light in the chapter and community by displaying an exceptional servant's heart. Another opportunity for recognition is for Chaplains to sharpen their pencils and pen a prayer. This is a teaser with more information to follow! Attend Fall Workshop to find out the details and when to submit your prayer!

I encourage Chapter Chaplains to review Chapter yearbooks and applications and create a list of member birthdays. Send cards with birthday greetings and encouraging words of support. Please make sure your Chapter Treasurer reports member deaths in a timely manner so they may be included in the Hour of Remembrance at next year's State Conference. Submit a copy of the deceased member's obituary and photograph for inclusion in the Memorial Book that will be on display throughout the State Conference.

Chaplains are encouraged to send birthday cards to Chapter members who are 90 and older, and forward the names and birthdates of those members to the State Chaplain annually. The State Chaplain sends birthday cards to these members as well. Gather information on members with homebound challenges and check in with your chapter members regularly. Send cards to those in need. Our members 95 and older with at least 15 years of service do not pay dues at the national and state level. Once members no longer pay dues, it can be easy to lose track of them. It is my honor to serve you!

*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

In Memorium

Melanie Ann McNatt Nolan



Melanie Ann Nolan passed away on April 3, 2023. She was 79. She is survived by her son, Troyce Nolan, his wife, Alice, and his son, Jake, as well as her daughter, Angela Nolan Teague, and her husband Jonathan.

She is also survived by her brother Paul Braunschweig (Jody Braunschweig), and sisters Gladys Heys (Russ Heys), Beth Warner (Hugh Warner), and Theresa Linden (Norman Linden), along with many cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her father Rex Washington McNatt, her mother, Margaret Faye Braunschweig, and her beloved husband of thirty-one years, Rodney Jerome Nolan.

Born on December 14, 1943, in Oak Ridge, Louisiana, Melanie graduated from Collinston High School in 1961. In high school, she was selected to attend Louisiana Girls State, where she learned to be a steward of freedom, democracy, and patriotism. She was the first in her family to attend college, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology degree from Northeast Louisiana University in 1965.

She worked as a medical technologist at St. Francis Hospital in Monroe, Louisiana, and after starting a family, she and Rodney followed the oil industry to Houma, Louisiana; Ventura, California; Chicago, Illinois; and, Liberty, Texas. The two finally settled in Humble, Texas. In Humble, she became a devoted employee of Humble Independent School District for over thirty-five years. With joy, she spent her last years working in the Vision Services Department converting curriculum into braille for the district's students who were blind or vision impaired. Active in the community, she volunteered at the Humble Rodeo, served on the Committee for the Oaks of Righteousness, and knitted for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. She was a member of Kingwood Methodist Church.

Through her passion for genealogical research, she became an active member of the Joseph Underwood Chapter of the Colonial Dames XVIIC, James Tull Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Seth Hurin Bates Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Her many offices include Tx State Registrar, TX State Second Vice President, Chapter President, Treasure, and multiple chairmanships. As a charter member of the Joseph Underwood Chapter, she was seen as Tech savvy building and managing the chapter's first web site. One of her favorite things to do was to assist others in tracing their lineage so they too could become members of these organizations. Honoring Veterans, she dedicated her time and talents to various support programs, including weaving sleeping mats for homeless Veterans with Operation Stand Down and fundraising for Wreaths Across America. Memorial contributions can be made in Melanie's name to Wreaths Across America, Houston.

Kristie Campbell **State Corresponding Secretary**



SAVE THE DATES:

November 1: Begin Preparing your Colonial Crier Article

November 30: Panic that you procrastinated and didn't write your article

December 1: Colonial Crier Submission Deadline

December 2 6AM: Beg for mercy and email your submission anyway!



Articles submitted to The Colonial Crier should be no more than ONE page in length, with a 1" margin or larger. PICTURES, PICTURES, PICTURES! We want to see pictures of your chapter activities! When in doubt include a photo! Label individual photos with your chapter name, and number pictures if there is more than one. Submit the article in MS Word, MS Publisher, or RTF format to only the email address **KristieTXDAR@gmail.com**. The Texas Society President and Corresponding Secretary reserve the right to edit for fit, accuracy & redundancy.

Geneva "Kay" Bakken **State Organizing Secretary**



Greetings to all our chapters and their members! Here are a few helpful hints to energize and build your chapter.

- ◆ Communicate with your members with a newsletter. Information is the key to a successful and happy chapter. Put the meeting date, place, and time for all meeting in the newsletter.
- ◆ Pick a Chapter community service project, maybe something you can use to support the Sunshine Kids Foundation, our State President's Project.
- ◆ Plan a supplemental workshop at a local library or someone's kitchen table. Ask everyone to bring a sack lunch.
- ◆ Pick one project everyone can get involved in, such as a canned goods for veteran's food bank.
- ◆ Place a sign in sheet at the door and ask friendly chapter member to greet people at meetings. This makes a new person feel welcome!
- ◆ Create a Phone Committee with the purpose of calling members to check on members, greet and remind them of upcoming meeting. This is something a housebound member can do!
- ◆ Keep your business meeting short and have a good program or get members to give programs on their ancestors, show and tell, or on a historic building in the area.

You must start somewhere and build on your successes! Let us build on our friendships and attract new members by the things we are doing in the community. Give a book to a library, be in a parade, give a program on colonial period at a school, get your chapters name out there. **People like to join organizations that do things!**

Janet Kres
State Treasurer



I look forward to working with you for the next two years! With the addition of Dower Rights as a new qualifying service for proving an ancestor, I expect there will be many, many supplementals completed by our members.

We have updated the Procedures Manual, which provides processes and deadlines for treasurer duties, as well as all other activities relating to the Texas Society. It is not too early to begin collecting dues, which must be received by the State Treasurer **before November 1, 2023.**

Chapter Treasurers, please collect all donations to State or National projects made by chapters or individual members in your chapter. **Please do not send donations directly to the National Society.** Your chapter and the State Society will only receive credit for donations sent to me. When considering donations to the State Society, please remember to include the State Conference Benefactor Fund in the discussion of donations to the State Society.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

2024 STATE CONFERENCE BENEFACTOR FUND

Our State Conference is a vital means of support for our Society by offering us a place to foster our friendships, exchange ideas, learn new things, and be a part of the projects that benefit our communities and our country. Your contributions to the Conference Benefactor Fund help the Texas Society provide everyone with a higher quality conference experience. **The names of our contributors are published in the conference program.** Fill out the **Conference Benefactor Order Form** and mail it to State Treasurer Janet Kres. **Remember, forms are no longer embedded inside [The Colonial Crier](#).**



Janet Hicks State Registrar



Why do members leave? Most of us worry when we lose chapter members to resignations and drops. As a former chapter registrar and president, I was deeply concerned about the reason that members left our organization and wondered what we could have done to retain them. It seemed that we worked diligently to find prospective members and get them admitted only to lose nearly as many each year to resignations and drops. So, what should we do to retain our members?

Unfortunately, this is not a “one size fits all” problem or solution. As the new State Registrar, I reviewed the members who resigned or were dropped last year to see if a pattern emerged. Although I don’t know the specific reason for each member we lost, what I discovered is what many of you would suspect. Several of the members who resigned or were dropped are older and may not be able to easily attend meetings. Others lived several miles from their chapters, often in other states. The remaining members who left were under 70 years old and lived in the same city as their chapter. It is more difficult to understand the reasons why this last group decided to leave, and they would need more individual investigation to determine the cause.

While it’s unrealistic to believe we can retain all members, what strategies can we devise to keep these valuable members? The first step is to understand why they are leaving and then develop a retention strategy.

If they no longer live near your chapter, help them find another chapter in their area and encourage them to transfer their membership. One of my chapter members asked to resign because she was moving to another city. When I spoke with her, I encouraged her to transfer her membership to a chapter in her new city and offered to help her contact members in that chapter. Joining a chapter near her new home is a great way for her to meet people and she saw an immediate advantage in transferring her membership. While our chapter lost a member, our State and Society retained a long-term member.

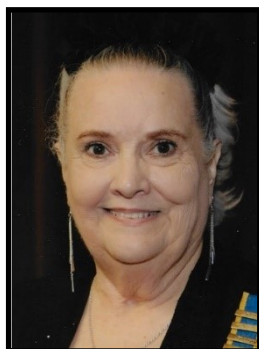
If they are older and cannot attend meetings, perhaps you can arrange for rides to meetings, send them newsletters to keep them informed of chapter activities, or set up a group to call members who cannot meet in person. Remember, the National membership dues for members ninety-five (95) years of age and older who have been members of the National Society for fifteen (15) years or more is waived. We sometimes forget these members.

Talk with members who wish to resign to understand their issues. If they cannot attend meetings due to the chapter meeting times, your chapter may want to offer activities outside of your usual meeting times to keep them engaged. Or perhaps there is another chapter who meets their schedule that they can transfer to.

Make sure that your Chapter, State and National has the right contact information for all your members. The member or your chapter Treasurer can update their contact information on the National website.

Work within your chapters to devise strategies to keep members and grow our society. If all attempts fail and the member decides they cannot continue in our society, encourage them to resign rather than be dropped. Resigning their membership makes it easier to reinstate them later. Remember, the State Executive Board and Membership Committee are here to help in any way we can.

Carolyn Modica State Historian



Chapter Historians serve a vital role in capturing and documenting the chapter history and memorabilia. Do you know the history of your Chapter organization and charter? If not, who in your chapter would? Who were the people involved? Where is your chapter charter? Is it displayed at chapter meetings and events? For the older chapters, are any of the Charter Members still living in the community? If so, invite them to a meeting or mail a card signed by all the members remembering and appreciating their dedication and sacrifice to create the chapter. Write a biography of your Chapter Presidents. The decisions made today become the memories of tomorrow.

One of the responsibilities of my office is to create a scrapbook for the State President's term of office. Please send me pictures of your activities, including those involving service in support of The Sunshine Kids Foundation and those with State President Womack at your chapter functions.

Consider nominating someone in your chapter or your community for the Texas Society History Award. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2024. Award winners are recognized at the 2024 State Conference in 2024. Please let me know if you need assistance!

Texas Society History Award

The Texas Society History Award may be given to a person who has performed outstanding work in historical preservation in the area of literature, art, or music. Although this is a Texas Society Colonial Dames XVII Century award, the recipient does not have to be a member of The Society but can be someone who deserves our recognition for their part in preserving our United States, Texas, or Colonial history. The State Historian and State President select the award recipient and may form a committee of members to assist in the selection. This does not have to be an annual award. **Nomination forms are found in the Summer Packet, which will be available in August.**

Ann Jones
State Librarian



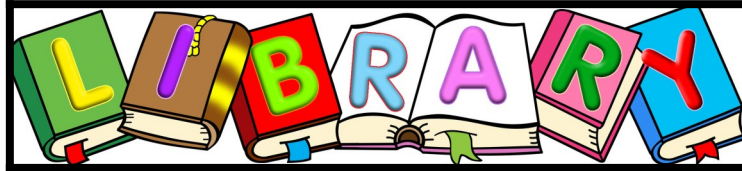
Chapter Librarians serve a vital role in fulfilling two parts of the Object of our Society. One is to maintain a Library of Heraldry and the other is to develop a library specializing in seventeenth century American colonial data. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to donate books to the National Society Library or to a library in your local community.

When considering a donation to the National Society Library, please check the National members only website for the Librarian General's relist of needed books. Chapters across the nation donate to the Headquarters Library, so it is important not to duplicate books. Monetary donations are also welcome!

Remember, all donations (monetary, hours, and books) **must be verified in writing by the receiving library**. Chapter Librarians, please include these donation verifications with your annual report this January. Book donations should assist in the documentation of lineages and support genealogical research.

Consider hosting a book drive in support of The Sunshine Kids Foundation, the State President's project. Books must be new, as they will go to children with cancer.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you!



Nedra Patterson
State Financial Examiner



All chapters should have a Financial Review of the records of the Chapter Treasurer at the close of the financial (fiscal) year of the chapter. This is done to protect the Treasurer and the chapter.

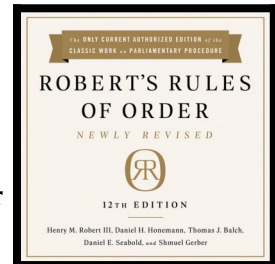
The Chapter President shall appoint three chapter members to conduct the Financial Review. The Audit Results Form will be available in the Summer Packet, and I will also send the form to each chapter President. It should be signed by the reviewers and sent to me by December 1, 2023. The Chapter should retain a copy of the signed form for their records. If you need any assistance, please let me know!

Susan Reno State Parliamentarian



Texas Society Bylaws and Standing Rules were completely revised in 2023, and are posted on the Texas Society members only website. If you haven't already done so, it's time to update your chapter bylaws. Remember, bylaws changes approved by the National Society are automatically applicable to the Texas Society and Chapter Bylaws without a vote required by the chapter membership. Likewise, changes to the Texas Society bylaws are automatically applicable to the Chapter Bylaws without a vote required by the membership. Chapter bylaws cannot take the place of State or National bylaws. Roberts Rules of Order newly revised apply in those situations that bylaws do not address.

Chapter Presidents, please send me a copy of your chapter's bylaws. I would like to review them and create a model for chapter bylaws that can be used for chapters who need assistance with revising their bylaws. If you need any assistance, please let me know!



The State Bylaws and State Procedure Manual are posted on the Texas Members Only Website. The Procedure Manual details the processes for each Officer and Chairman position, and includes a Master Calendar of due dates and deadlines.

Please contact Kay Bakken, State Bylaws Committee Chairman, if you would like to report changes that are needed in the State Procedure Manual.

Chairman Needed Community Outreach Committee

Chapters are encouraged to nominate a Texas Dame for the Dames Who Make A Difference Award, and to submit excellent community outreach projects to the Chapters Who make a Difference Award. These awards are presented at the State Conference Community Outreach Luncheon. **Nomination deadline is February 1, 2024.**

Dames Who Make A Difference

The Texas "Dames Who Make a Difference" award recognizes Texas Dames who volunteer many hours of service in their community in various ways. Chapters are encouraged to select a candidate from your Chapter early to allow plenty of time to list and describe all of your member's achievements. You may include photos, newspaper articles, letters, etc. in order to describe your applicant's service.

Chapters Who Make A Difference

The Community Outreach “Chapters Who Make a Difference” Award recognizes individual chapters for their contribution to the community through special projects. Member participation, time spent, donations and impact on the community will be judged for this award. You may submit photos, newspaper articles, letters, etc., to show your chapter’s project achievements.

A Chairman is needed for this committee. If you are interested, please contact Chris Womack at chris.womack1@outlook.com. Until a Chairman is appointed, please submit nominations to Chris Womack.



Carol McBeth Chairman, Pocahontas Projects Committee



The purpose of this committee is two-fold: first, to promote the donations of funds to further the Pocahontas Scholarship Award for Americans of Indian descent, both male and female, in all levels of dental, medical, and nursing training; and second, to promote contributions for the maintenance of Pocahontas’ burial place, Pocahontas Memorial Garden, at Gravesend, England.

Please contact me at clmcbeth105@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Pat Herron Chairman, Junior Membership Committee



Look for more information in the summer packet and at the Fall Workshop/ Board of Management Meeting about the Outstanding Junior Membership Award. Chapters are encouraged to recognize and involve our Junior members. **Award Nominations are due January 15, 2024** and the Outstanding Junior is announced at the 2024 State Conference.

The nomination for Outstanding Junior follows a point system for CDXVIIC activities as outlined in the National Handbook; other patriotic & hereditary organizations; church, civic and cultural activities; and schools and awards.

The Texas Society Outstanding Junior award winner will be entered in the National Society Outstanding Junior Contest. If you have any questions, contact Pat Herron at pferro5@gmail.com.



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

We are excited to chair this committee in the Womack Administration!

Come to the Heraldry/COA Interest Group Meeting at Fall Workshop!!!

COA Applications

The National Society leadership is new; however, we are happy to report that Wanda Samek remains the chairman of the National Heraldry & Coats of Arms Committee. We are excited about this for our Texas Dames. Please continue to send COA applications to the following:

Wanda Samek
Chairman Heraldry & Coats of Arms Committee NSCDXVIII
P. O. Box 52279
Denton, TX 76206-2279

After you receive your approved COA, be sure to send (email or snail mail) a copy of the **first page** of the approved COA to jjmc1987@att.net or

Jennifer McStravick
14107 Decker Dr.
Magnolia, TX 77355-8476



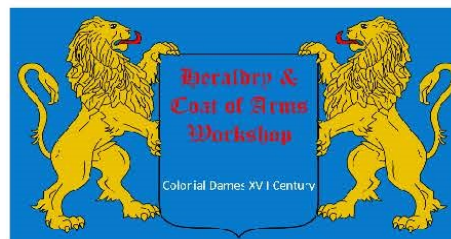
Knights Pin Update

The Knight Pins have SOLD OUT! BUT this Committee is investigating the possibility of creating more of these beautiful pins for those who have achieved verification of "at least" one Coat of Arms (COA) application. We will keep you posted!

Handy-Dandy Heraldry Page & COA WORKSHOP PP Presentation!

Check out the helpful resources for completing a COA on the "Handy-Dandy Heraldry Page." Log into the National Society website and go to Members, Resource Library (Directives & Forms +), Standing Committee, Heraldry & Coats of Arms.

NEW: Check out the new COA Workshop PowerPoint Presentation & Script that YOU can download and use at your next COA workshop!



Share Your HERALDRY MINUTES

Do you give a Heraldry Minute at your chapter meetings or in your Newsletters? This is one of our directives from our national chair:

"Suggest including a 'Heraldry Minute' during each Chapter meeting that provides tips, guidance information, or to promote the program."

Consider these topics for your Heraldry Minutes:

- Kings, Queens, Knights – their lives
- Battles & Battlefields
- Castles, Churches, Abbeys
- Crusades
- COAs – Pictures & Descriptions
- Tips on COA Applications

Consider sharing your minute(s) with this committee by emailing them to kjewells@gmail.com. Minutes shared will be given credit to the dame/chapter providing it.

Lori King **Chairman, Music Committee**

Music can be such an important part of our lives! While we will not be forming a State Chorus these next two years, it is my hope that we will share information with our chapter members about 17th Century music in a variety of ways.

As State Music Chair I will be, among other things, creating and sharing with the chapters, a "Music Minute" sheet comprised of several "minutes" that can be shared at chapter meetings.

Other ways to meet the directives of this committee which have previously been shared and are still pertinent are:

Present informational programs on 17th century music to chapter. (This kind of program would be an ideal time to invite a guest and pique their interest in our unique society and even used as a tool to recruit!)

Invite local musicians/music organizations to present chapter music programs. (Most of us have a friend or family member who plays an instrument.)

Sing the National Anthem at every meeting.

I encourage chapters to be creative and explore various, fun, and entertaining ways to inform your chapter members to gain an appreciation of Seventeenth Century music's history



Music is the universal language of mankind.
. . . Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Belinda Brouette & Caitlyn Samek **Co-Chairman, Page Committee**



One of the best ways to learn about the Colonial Dames XVII Century is to volunteer to help with our state meetings by becoming a State Page. Pages are an important part of the meeting because they are the people behind the scenes who make the state meeting flow smoothly. State Pages can also become National Pages, and help with our National Conference in Washington, DC. There are no age limits for Pages in Colonial Dames XVII Century, so anyone can join.

The only requirement for paging is to wear all white clothing and white or nude shoes. One outfit is needed for daytime and one semi formal or formal event for the evening, with white gloves.

Contact Belinda Brouette at belinda.brouette@gmail.com or Caitlyn Samek at caitlyn@sameks.us.

Lori King, Kristie Campbell, & AbbySue Campbell Administrators, Texas Society Facebook Page

Social Media is an excellent way to let Dames throughout Texas know about the activities in your chapter, and especially to connect with our younger members. Use the Texas Society Facebook page to post chapter activities such as:

Meetings

Social Events

Service Projects

Workshops and Training Events

Administrators reserve the right to edit or remove posts that do not comply with the National Society policies on appropriate posts to social media.

If you need assistance ask an administrator: Kristie Campbell, Lori King and AbbySue Campbell.



Chairmen Needed Technology Support Committee



One of our goals for this term is to redesign the Texas Society website to make information, forms, member meetings and announcements much easier to access, and updated to include a secured members only section. Another of our goals is to automate the chapter annual reports process to make it easier for chapters send their reports to state officers and committee chairmen, and subsequently for the Awards Chairman to process our annual awards.

Important information is posted on the Texas Society members only website, so be sure to check it regularly. The State Bylaws and Standing Rules and the Texas Society Procedures Manual are available online for download. The Procedures Manual contains detailed information about the processes for each State Committee and for many of the Chapter Committees.

If you are interested in becoming the Chairman or a member of the Technology Support Committee, please contact State President Chris Womack at chris.womack1@outlook.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Kay Miller-Campbell **Chairman, Veterans Service Committee**

Greetings Texas Dames! I am excited to be serving as your State Chairman for the Veterans Service Committee. I know that Texas Colonial Dames are dedicated in recognizing and supporting those who gave so much to preserve our freedoms. As we begin to get started on another Colonial Dames year, I wanted to remind all chapters of ways you can support and take part in veterans related activities.

Find a local VA Clinic or church your chapter may be able to partner with. – I know my chapter works with a local church who supports veterans on Tuesday evenings once a month. We provide fruit trays and desserts to help with refreshments for their monthly meetings. We have also helped sponsor a hot dog lunch for them on National Vietnam Veteran’s Day which is always on March 29.

Check with your local nursing homes and see if they can provide you a list of veterans they may have at the residence. I am sure they would welcome “thank you cards”, books, goodies bags to recognize the veterans in their facilities.

Wreaths Across America – Think about your chapter becoming a Local Sponsorship Group. Not only do you raise money for more wreaths to be provided but your chapter also makes \$5.00/wreath through your sponsorship group.

These are just a few of the ways we can be supportive of our Veterans. If you would like to share how your chapter supports and encourages your local veterans, please do not hesitate to share with me at kmiller5469@comcast.net.



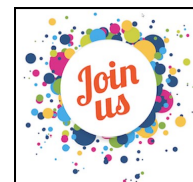
DON'T FORGET TO FLY YOUR FLAG ON JULY 4TH!

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS



In the past, the Texas Society Awesome Texas Chorus performed during our State Meetings. However, since the COVID pandemic, we have not found enough participants to sing in the Chorus, and most importantly do not have a Director. If your special talent is directing a choir and singing, and you want to help us revive the Awesome Texas Chorus, please notify Chris Womack at chris.womack1@outlook.com. Once we have enough interest and a leader, the Awesome Texas Chorus can return.

There are many other places you can put your talents and skills to work. Consider joining a State Committee, such as lineage research, silent auction, technology, or the teller committees, just to name a few. Everyone is welcome!



CROSS TRAILS CHAPTER Spring, Texas

Cross Trails Chapter enthusiastically participated at the State Conference in February. Members were busy presenting on Heraldry and giving officer reports. We were also seen paging and selling State President products. Our chapter report highlighted our enthusiasm and its results. We were happy to see three of our chapter dames elected to state officer positions for the next term.

In April we enjoyed an interesting tour of the Lanier Theological Library and beautiful chapel. A delicious lunch followed with opportunities to chat.



Gifts for Teachers

Chapter members donated teacher items at our January meeting and filled 7 boxes with supplies. We added US flags, flag facts and hand-written Thank You notes as well as Colonial Dames brochures to each box and these were delivered to 5 area elementary schools.



Kathy Cave Wells (*right*) presented Thank You Boxes and Valentines to teachers Amanda Campoverde, Lisa Cantu' & Sarah Deason at Navasota's Brule Elementary.



Junior Ann Marie McStravick (*left*) delivered Thank You boxes & homemade baked goodies to her alma mater Decker Prairie Elementary with her mom Jennifer McStravick (*right*). DPES Principal Brenda Blackmon (*center*) was thrilled!



Mary Beth Schmidt added some homemade cookies when she presented Thank You boxes to Tomball's Lakewood Elementary Asst. Principal Kathy



Vietnam Veterans Day

Dames from our chapter honored veterans on National Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29th, with a pick up lunch in Tomball. For the second year, we provided homemade treats and US flags with tags of "Thank You" to offer our appreciation and respect to those who served in Vietnam.

JOHN BREWER CHAPTER

Victoria, Texas

The John Brewer Chapter installed its officers for the 2023-2025 term with a luncheon and installation ceremony at The Club at Colony Creek. The Chapter Librarian shared the book, *Maine Families in 1790, Vol. 3*, which was approved for donation to the National Society Colonial Dames Headquarters Library.

Our speaker was Mr. Al Ridley who spoke of his service in the U. S. Navy during the 1960s, when he was stationed in San Diego aboard the USS Eldorado (AGC-11). This ship was a Mount McKinley-class amphibious force command ship, named after a mountain range in Nevada. The ship was designed as an amphibious force flagship, a floating command post with advanced communications equipment and extensive combat information spaces to be used by the amphibious forces commander and landing force commander during large-scale operations.



USS Eldorado

John Brewer Chapter Officers, 2023-2025



Seated (L to R): Martha Tarkington, Treasurer; Marilyn Stewart, Secretary;
Dr. Martha Jones, Vice-President; Joan Mathieu, President

Standing (L to R): Pauline Hendryx, Co-Registrar; Rhonda Hahn, Co-Registrar; Dolores Tyng, Historian;
Barbara Seger, Librarian; Mary Helen Dunnam, Parliamentarian; Not pictured: Maria Wheeler, Chaplain

JOHN CHAMPION CHAPTER

Bellaire, Texas

John Champion Members Help Houston Foster Care Kids Prepare for Prom and Graduation

On March 25th, 2023, members of the John Champion Chapter participated in a service day to help young people in foster-care get ready for prom and graduation. Sponsored by the HAY (Houston Alumni and Youth) Center, chapter members helped the students select complete prom outfits from donated garments, accessories, and shoes. The HAY Center provides programs and annual events for kids and young adults, ages 14 to 26, while they are in foster-care and as they transition to independent living. This was a very important event for many of the high school students who may have never dreamed of attending their prom in new clothes. There were several different “stations” that needed volunteers to help the kids select clothing and accessories, provide minimal alterations, check in volunteers, etc. Additionally, graduating seniors were able to select new clothes appropriate for graduation ceremonies. It was rewarding for the John Champion members to share in the kids’ excitement as they tried on and selected the perfect prom outfit from rooms full of new clothes and accessories.



JOSEPH UNDERWOOD CHAPTER Kingwood, Texas

The Joseph Underwood Chapter had a busy spring! In March, we invited other local lineage societies to join us for a Taste of Texas Tea Tour, including the 2021-2023 Texas Society State President Vene Gregg. We first toured Daughters of the Republic of Texas Pioneer Memorial Log House downtown, then shopped at the British Isles Grocery, enjoying tea and snacks at both. Then we ended at the *Your Cup of Tea* tea room, for a delicious lunch and a lecture on the history of tea. In May, we were honored to have State President Chris Womack join us to install our 2023-25 chapter officers and have lunch at Spring Creek Barbeque.



Taste of Texas Tea Tour
attendees at the
DRT Pioneer Memorial
Log House

Chapter President Marsha
Richards and State President
Chris Womack



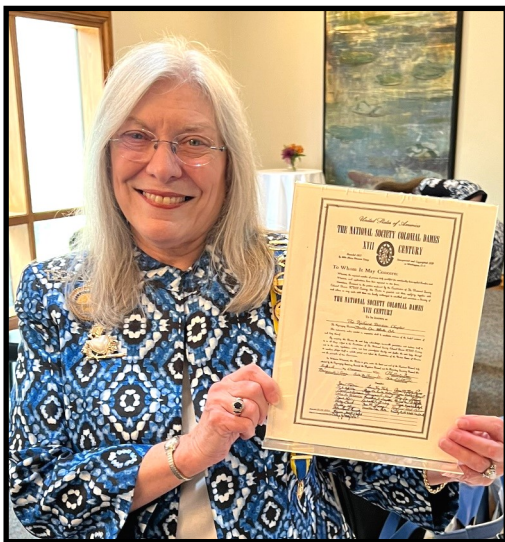
RICHARD BORDEN CHAPTER

Tyler, Texas

The Richard Borden Chapter, Tyler, was so honored to have newly-installed 2023-2025 State President Charissa “Chris” Womack attend our May meeting at Hollytree Country Club and present a very informative program on Colonial Criminal Justice. We enjoyed learning of President Womack’s State Project and look forward to “Shining Together” and supporting her in this wonderful endeavor. Our chapter was also honored that President Womack installed our new chapter officers with a beautiful program. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2023-2025!



Photo above: Seated (L to R): Sharon Logan, Vice President; Shelley Rardin, President; Chris Womack, State President; Ross Waldrop Krape, Treasurer; Paula Warren, Chaplain
Standing (L to R): Laura Giles; Laura Omer; Lisa Watson-White; Cheryl Giordano, Parliamentarian; Marsha O’Dell Young; Pauline Harder, Recording Secretary; Tami Hurley; Norma Holley; and Carma Weaver.
Not pictured Dolly Buenting, Historian, and Patsy Bass, Librarian



Chapter President Shelley Rardin is holding an 8.5” x 11” acrylic display which holds a copy of the Richard Borden Chapter Charter. This display provides an easy way to display the chapter charter at every meeting.

STAR OF DESTINY CHAPTER

Denton, Texas

Star of Destiny Chapter's 2023-2025 officers were installed by Texas State President Chris Womack on May 6, 2023. It was a special honor for the chapter since President Womack is a member of Star of Destiny Chapter and is our Organizing President. This event was the first official function President Womack attended since taking office. Members attended a special luncheon and some wore tiaras for fun as the chapter event was held on the same day of the coronation of King Charles III.



Star of Destiny 2023-2024 Chapter Officers (L-R): Lori Billiter, Historian; Joyce Garb, Librarian; Jane Sanzone, Registrar; Cheryl Janes, Treasurer; Diane Willey, Secretary; Judy Flowers, Chaplain; Joyce Ogle, First Vice President; and Sue Russell, President.

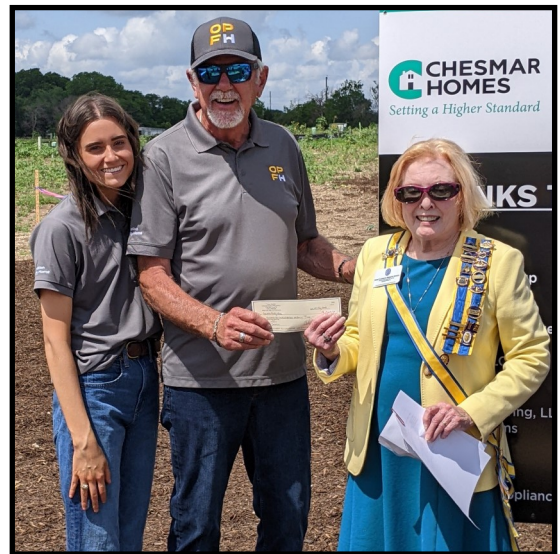


OPERATION FINALLY HOME

Vene Smoote Gregg State President's Project, 2021-2023



On June 1, 2023, Honorary State President, Vene Gregg, presented a check from the 2022-23 State President's Project proceeds to Operation Finally Home Founder, Dan Wallrath, at a new veteran's home site in New Braunfels! This last year's proceeds totaled \$13,613! Thank you to all Texas Society Dames who contributed to this very worthy organization. All bathroom items donated and collected at 2023 State Conference were also presented to Dan and his other representatives from OFH.





**Operation
Finally Home**

June 2, 2023

Texas Society Colonial Dames XVII Century
3736 Bee Caves Rd
Suite 1 PMB 206
West Lake Hills, TX 78746-538

Dear Friends at the Texas Society Colonial Dames

Thank you so much for your support of Operation FINALLY HOME and helping us raise funds toward the building of a mortgage-free home for one of America's many wounded, ill or injured veterans, surviving spouses and their families. It is with your support that Operation FINALLY HOME will continue to make a positive impact in the lives of heroes such as yourself, who have sacrificed so much to defend our freedoms and values.

Please know how grateful we are for your service and continued commitment to your fellow service men and women who so desperately need security and peace back in their lives. We know you understand first-hand how this gift is life changing.

We cannot thank you for the generous check and all the wonderful bathroom items. The Roberts Family will be beyond grateful to have the bathrooms stocked and ready. It was a pleasure in getting to meet you all and have Mr. Dan Wallrath there as well to receive the check.

We thank you and they thank you!

God Bless,

Ashleigh Chesser | Controller
Operation FINALLY HOME
1659 State Highway 46 West, Suite 115-606
New Braunfels, TX 78132
Phone: (806) 441-5712
Ashleigh.chesser@operationfinallyhome.org
www.operationfinallyhome.org

Betty v., Susan, Sylvia, Vene, Lori, Kay, Kaye & Betty H.

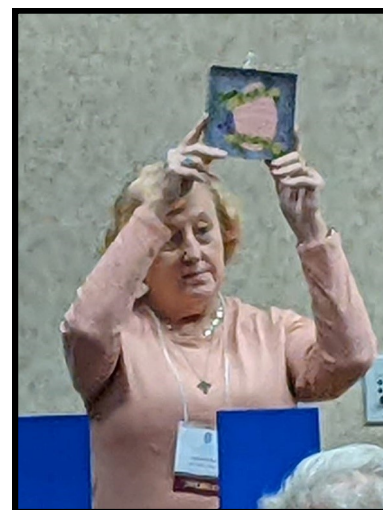
It was a pleasure meeting you wonderful ladies the other day. I wanted to say how moved I was at all the donations that were provided. There are so many goodies for the Roberts bathroom that it might stock a few families! And then the monies was too kind. This will all go towards the Roberts home. He has 4 kids and his mother-in-law will live with them so these all will be put to great use. God Bless you all for your service!

1659 State Highway 46 West, Suite 115-606
New Braunfels, Texas 78132

725 Cool Springs Blvd., Suite 600
Franklin, TN 37067

OperationFinallyHome.org
(615) 732-6142

TSCDXVIC STATE CONFERENCE—FEBRUARY 23-25, 2023



TSCDXVIC STATE CONFERENCE—FEBRUARY 23-25, 2023



TEXANS AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE—APRIL 5-8, 2023



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