



The Texas Compatriot

Texas Society
Sons of the American Revolution



Texas Members:

THANK YOU for your response in sending your dues early. Many of you did this making the Christmas and New Year Holiday season a little more enjoyable for our Texas Secretary and Treasurer. I am deeply in debt to Past Texas President and Secretary William "Bill" Marrs for making this happen. March 5, 2016, a Members paid for 2016 membership reconciliation meeting was held the residence of Jim and Dianne Jones in College Station (thanks Dianne for putting up with us).

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Meeting were Secretary Hank Voegtle, Treasurer Russell Dart, past Treasurer John Beard, Bill Marrs, Jim Jones and myself. Our records showed 2449 members were paid for 2016 with another 103 to process. We should have 2552 paid members as of March 5 or more once the reconciliation is complete in the next week or so. Thanks to you our

members and our officers, we did a great job this year. Those of you who may not have paid dues for 2016, we want you back. We can help you in the process. And, we will **not** charge a reinstatement fee.

Membership retention has been an issue for the Texas society for years. We nearly lose as many members a year as we gain. Many of these are referred to as Certificate Members in that once they receive their Patriot Certificate they do not pay dues the following year. We have discussed this problem in detail. A few years back Compatriot Mike Everhart wrote a Membership Retention Manual and spent many hours training officers and chapter presidents. At first there was some success. However, the past five to six years has only seen a growth rate of a couple of percent a year.

Texas DAR has stepped in to help us with membership growth and retention. The Ladies, led by Jane Cohen, formed the DAR SAR Relationship Committee. Texas DAR State Regent Judy Ostler is strongly supporting this effort.

I have always believed that in order grow membership; you must grow inwardly. And, the KEY to this Communications with our Texas Members.

First and foremost, we must again *publish and mail* to all members "**The Texas Compatriot**". This practice of mailing three issues to all members was discontinued in 2010 due to concerns about funding. It was decided to notify all members that had email accounts using the DADA Notification System and to mail hard copies only to those who requested one. Currently, Texas does not have a Compatriot Editor. As editor from 2007 to 2010, I published the last Compatriot this past June 2015. Our members deserve better than this. We must appoint a new Editor and again mail three issues a year. **Our Past Texas President, Dr. Valin R. Woodward Sr., with the help of his brother Cicero Smith Woodward, founded and edit the first "The Texas compatriot"**. It was a quarterly publication and they did this free from 1933 until February 1952.

Second, we must continue the **Texas is District Work-**

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shops. Many other organizations use workshops and I believe the strength of their organizations is directly related to this. First in mind in Texas is the DRT. Their District Planning sessions are exactly that. Agenda items are Registrar and Chapter Officer training; what is expected of the chapters and how to accomplish this. Items of concern or ideas on improvement are passed directly to the state officers attending. In our case, this interaction will be between, Chapter officers and members, state committees, and state officers. The District VI, V, and XI met in Richardson on August 8th. The second meeting was in **Austin**, District 4, on August 15th; and, again, other Districts members are invited. The third was in **Houston**, on August 22nd, with **District VP's 7, 8, and 9** and chapters members with 40 attending. Topics in the Workshops were varied; attendance, officer duties, organization, reports, youth programs, communications, education and also goals and strategic planning; national and state.

By far, most important for **Texas Society SAR and National SAR is Education.** Our organization is based in Genealogy and History. Our SAR Goal is to preserve the history and memories of our patriot ancestors. We need to share

the stories of our ancestors and the documents they created with students and adults. Flags Programs, Programs on Colonial Dress and Colonial Life.

Some compatriots also have programs portraying colonial era individuals or events from the Revolutionary War. Our members have been presenting these programs for years, and if allowed, will continue to present these in our public schools. Our State Education Chairman Bill Watts and his committee are working diligently to preserve and expand these programs, exploring the use of high tech digital media.

We can now add biographical stories on our patriot ancestors. Look on the NSSAR website for "Patriot Grave Reporting Form".

Our next state meeting will be the 121st Texas Society Conference at the Hyatt North in Richardson, Texas, March 31-April 3, 2016. There is a Hotel reservation link on the Texas website plus the Conference Registration form. I hope you can all attend.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Texas society as its leader,

Larry G. Stevens
TX SAR President

Calendar of Events

April 1st—3rd, 2016

121st Annual Texas SAR Convention -Plano
Richardson Hyatt North

July 8-13 2016

126th Annual NSSAR Congress in Boston
Copley Hotel see NSSAR website

September 29—October 2016

Leadership and Trustees Meeting—Louisville, KY

October 14-16, 2016

TXSSAR BOM—Austin, TX
Holiday Inn Midtown

March 31-April 1, 2017

122nd Texas SAR Convention—San Antonio
El Tropicana Riverwalk

July 2017

127th Knoxville Tennessee location TBA

July 2018

128th Houston Texas location TBA

Books On American History during the Revolutionary

Duvall, Kathleen PhD, *“Independence Lost; Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution”*, Random House, New York, 2015. Kathleen DuVal teaches Early American History and American Indian history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Ms. DuVal writes of the conflicts on the frontiers of American Revolution in the South and the Mississippi Valley; the American Indians – Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks, and others, their alliances, their struggles.

2016-2017 Slate of Officers

Office	Candidate
President	Mike Radcliff
President-Elect	John Beard
Immediate Past-President	Larry G. Stevens
Secretary	Henry J. Voegtle, III
Communications Secretary	Samuel P. Massey, Jr.
Staff Secretary	Tom Jackson
Treasurer	Russell Dart
Registrar (Coastal Group)	Larry Peik
Registrar (Inland Group)	David J. Temple
Chancellor	Tracy A. Pounders
Chaplain	
Historian	Harmon Adair
Vice President, CM&A	John M Hamlin
District 1 VP	Larry Spradlin
District 2 VP	Ben Pollard
District 3 VP	Jimmie Massingill
District 4 VP	Ron Walcik
District 5 VP	Ronald Carter
District 6 VP	Drake Peddie
District 7 VP	Ron Brown
District 8 VP	Larry Blackburn
District 9 VP	Arthur G. Munford
District 10 VP	Stephen W. Lee
District 11 VP	Terry L. Holden
Trustee	Larry Stevens
Alternate Trustee	Robert Cohen

O’Shaughnessy, Andrew Jackson PhD., Oxford University, UK, *“The Men Who Lost America; British Leadership, the American Revolution, and the Fate of the Empire”*, Published with the assistance of the Annie Burr Lewis Fund, Yale University Press, 2013. This is a very good depiction of the turmoil between the Generals and Politicians in Britain which affect the entire campaign to keep America. Also, *“An Empire Divided: The American revolution and the British Caribbean”*.

Butler, Edward JD, “Galvez-Spain Our Forgotten Ally in The American Revolution; A Concise Summary of Spain’s Assistance”. Judge Butler’s book has received good reviews and awards from the history community. Reviewer Mimi Lozano of San Antonio, Educator and founder of the Society of Spanish Historical and Ancestral Research, reported, “Facts are presented, laid out clearly for the general public, but with an eye aimed at the heart of the descendants of the Spanish soldiers and the Spanish families living in the colonial Americas”.

Martinez, Leroy J.D., *“From Across the Spanish Empire: Spanish Soldiers Who Helped win the American Revolution War 1776-1783: Arizona, California, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas Military Rosters”*. I was requested to review this book for our organization by Genealogy Publishing Co. And, I can best describe this work as Spanish Ancestral Resource.

And, if you can find it:

Bailey, Thomas A, PhD, Stanford University, *“A Diplomatic History of the American People”*, Meredith Publishing Company, 1964 Seventh Addition. Especially important to our organization, the Sons of the American Revolution and to our country is the descriptions and history of the birth of American Diplomacy.

NSSAR Congress—Louisville, KY — June 26-July 1, 2015



President General Thomas Lawrence

125th National Congress – This past June, Texas Paul Carrington Member and past TXSSAR President Judge Thomas E. Lawrence was elected President General for 2015-2016. A large group of Texans who attended, including 40 delegates. State delegates are determined by state society memberships and Texas was allowed 49 this year. Our State Secretary announces the number each year. **At Congress, the Texas tradition** is for all Texans attending to gather

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PG and First Lady Brock with PG and First Lady Tom Lawrence

Above and right: Tom and Mickey Jo Lawrence Below: Granddaughter Lizzy holds the Bible during the swearing in.



President General Tom Lawrence dons the George Washington signet ring.



President General Tom Lawrence sworn in with the family Bible held by granddaughter Lizzie

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for **dinner at a restaurant** near the Congress hotel. This year we made a reservation in the Galt Hotel. That made it easier for some of our members who have mobility problems. There were about 50 members and wives at the dinner, if not more. Photos of the dinner are included in this issue on page 6. Some members from Texas could not attend or the number could have been greater. We had a great time visiting and catching up. Tom Lawrence, Mickey Jo, children and grandchildren added to the fun. Tom became our President General for the next year with the SAR traditional George Washington Signet Ring Ceremony at the Wednesday evening Banquet. The next National Congress will be in **Historic Boston** in July 2016 and the hotel is at a great location for touring Revolutionary Boston. Registration and Hotel information is posted on the National site.

Many of our Texas Members and Chapters received awards and these were presented at our BOM in Galveston on October 10, 2015 to those that attended.

In the Congress Business Meeting, a **five (5) dollars dues increase** was approved by the attending delegates after much debate. This increase affects all new applications.

The **Americanism Committee announced a change in the Poster Contest** themes. They suggested that each state chose a topic for posters in the State Contest. In EVEN Number Years the state will select a theme for a Revolutionary War Event". And, In Odd numbered years, the state is to select from "Revolutionary War People" a specific person for the Poster Contest; such as General George Washington. In Texas, each chapter that sponsors a poster contest, will select their "best" and bring that poster to the Texas Spring Conference for state completion, and the poster selected the "best" will be forwarded for National Competition. Rules and timelines are now posted on the National Website.

Speaking of youth contests, President General Tom Lawrence, in his Presidential Address announced his plan to increase the interest among the chapters and state societies. He has formed a Council of Youth Programs whose members will be the youth committee chairs of our eight youth program contests; Poster; Brochure; CAR; Eagle Scout, JROTC; Essay; Oration; and American History Contest. This Council will design and make available a brochure describing all to be given to schools.

President Lawrence discussed his vision for his term and presents FIVE things he wants to achieve or set in the motion during his term. These are:

- Implementing the SAR Plans for the Future
- Enhancing the SAR Legacy
- Develop a Strategy to influence discussion on Education Standards
- Review National Committee structure, and
- Review the Structure of SAR.

Please see PG Lawrence's Induction Address posted on the National Site for more details.

NSSAR Congress—Louisville, KY



**TXSSAR
FRIDAY
DINNER
GALT HOUSE**



NSSAR Congress—Louisville, KY — July, 2015



South Central District Breakfast



Members from Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri gather for breakfast. The meal gives compatriots and their wives an opportunity to visit. These five states comprise the South Central District. Our own Texas Compatriot Stephen Rohrbough is the Vice President General of this district for 2015-2016. The Vice President General position rotates through the five states.

Top left photo: Tom Green, Frank Rohrbough, Stephen Rohrbough, Mike and Carol Radcliff; Top right photo: Larry Casey, John Beard, and Tom Jackson; Middle photo above: Bottom photo: Allen Greene, Jim Jones, Dianne Jones, Bill Watt, Laura Watt, Bobbie Munford, Art Munford, Larry Stevens, and Barbara Stevens



Right clockwise from 12 o'clock: John Beard, Ron Barker, Jim Jones, Allen Greene, Tom Jackson and Larry Stevens

Louisville NSSAR Fall Leadership and Trustee Meetings

Bill Marrs presented an update on the progress of our SAR IT upgrade project. Solid Light, the company we hired to design a historical living history exhibit displaying events and people to the American Revolution Era, give us an update. Tom Jackson made a presentation on the state of Social Studies education in our public schools during the Trustee meeting.



PG Lawrence



Charlie Newcomer, Tom Jackson, and Bill Marrs

Pictured right: PG Tom Lawrence, Tom Jackson, TXSSAR President Larry Stevens, Chris Hammon, and Past TXSSAR President Tom Green. Dr. Hammon presented the evening program. He was then sworn in by PG Lawrence as a TXSSAR member.



Bob Cohen and Jim and Dianne Jones



Hank Voegtle and Sam Massey



Jim and Pat Taylor and Robin and Ed Butler



Wanda and Nathan White

Leadership Meeting—February 2016 — Louisville, KY

Louisville Spring Leadership and Trustee Meeting – February 25-28, 2016

A refreshing change occurred at Leadership. Some Committees met on Thursday at 3:00 pm and at the First Session of the Trustees Meeting was called to order. Nearly two hours of business was completed on Thursday which allowed more discussion time for issues on Friday Afternoon and Saturday morning. Friday evening, President Tom Lawrence and Mickey Jo hosted a Caribbean accented” party” with a Steel Drum Band from the University of Louisville bringing us the special rhythms of the Islands. My back still hurts from attempting the Limbo, at my age? Our speaker for the evening was the renowned historian Andrew O’Shaughnessy who spoke of the American Revolution in the Caribbean. Great speaker; very educationally.

Saturday evening, the Lawrence’s had another surprise. After a few introductions, President Lawrence turned the evening over to the Rock and Roll Band the Monarchs who are based in Louisville. Their beginnings were in the 1960’s and 1970’s and their music brought many to their feet and to the dance floor. As I said, what a refreshing change; the best Leadership have attended in the past 10 years.

SAR Spring Leadership Business and News

Outreach Education Director Colleen Wilson discussed the new changes in the Education Website; not complete yet; and that there would be more focus on education programs at the chapter level. Colleen says to go to the website; there are many programs available now.

SAR Headquarters are in the process of contracting with an organization to digitize our records; some 2.2 million; contacts include LDS. Cost is a factor.

The “Museum” design project with Solid Light was presented, first with a presentation by Solid Light on their concept what would best work of us at our new headquarters location. Solid Light will receive a final payment of \$49,000 on approval by the Trustees. One of the problems discussed during this formative period was the SAR Artifacts where only about 250 were determined to in the 1763 to 1801 timeframe. This caused a different plan than a traditional museum. The proposal is for using the newest available technology including augmented reality, memory wrist bands that interface with smart phones and that can store the digital imagery to be downloaded on a computer.

Following this was probably the most meaningful discussion of the Trustees Sessions led by past Texas President and past National President Nathan White of McKinney, Texas. This was presented as a motion to prioritize the needs of SAR in Louisville. This consisted of five items ranked in priority; 1., pay off our debt; 2., move forward with branding; 3., complete the digitizing program; 4., complete the elevator project; and 5., complete the buildout of the first floor to committee approval including the Education Center, all subject to available funding.

The new class of 2016 Minutemen was named, our own Past TXSSAR President Jim Jones is a member of this class. Also named were Russell DeVenney, David Boring, Rudy Byrd, Stephen Renouf, and John Dodd. The SAR Color Guard Committee voted Karl Jacobs of California the Color Guardsman of the year. The last Texan to receive this award was Texas Past President and “Mr. Laredo” Thomas B. Green.

The SAR Genealogical Research Library in Louisville now has a video. Members can see what the Library looks like and the valuable information it contains. This video was made possible by your donations as members of Friends of the Library. The video can be viewed on the Library website at library.sar.org.



TXSSAR BOM — Galveston

Galveston BOM — Oct 9-11, 2015

Galveston at the Hilton on the Boardwalk was a very good meeting and well attended. The Bernardo de Galvez Chapter 1 hosted this meeting, led by President Larry Tidwell, Pete Lenes, and John Hamlin with lots of chapter members and ladies helping, should be thanked by all who attended for their hospitality and for making sure everyone had a good time. Celebrating Bernardo de Galvez, our Saturday luncheon had an educational Spanish theme. Senor Henri Penes the Houston Spanish Consulate Ambassador and Past PG Judge Edward Butler, author of a book titled *Bernardo de Galvez*, were our guest speakers. Señor Penes spoke a little about de Galvez but spent time discussing Spain today since the 1976 Civil War. This was a very inspiring talk. The Judge presented a program on Bernardo de Galvez and the Spain during the American Revolution.



The following actions were taken:

New CPA Contract – A motion was approved for the engagement of Danny Pena III, CPA to conduct the audit of TXSSAR financial statements for 2015 along with the preparation of the IRS Form 990. The cost of the services was approved at \$5,250.

TXSSAR Archives — Historian Harmon Adair, Jr. reported that \$5,000 was appropriated for the University of North Texas to commence scanning of old information and data. UNT is pursuing a grant to help in this regard and the scanned information may be accessible on the UNT portal (Since spring, 2015). The \$5000 for 2015 has been sent to UNT.

TXSSAR Convention — The State Meetings Committee moved to authorize an expenditure of up to \$2000 to be used at the discretion of the State President for a reception at the Texas SAR Annual Convention annually. This motion was unanimously approved.

George Washington Parade February 20 - Tom Green proposed the following motion which was passed unanimously:

“To authorize the Treasurer to disburse an expenditure of \$150 from the operating account for the benefit of participation in the George Washington Day Parade and to help defray the cost of Compatriot Rick Ramirez and the Laredo Chapter.”

Perpetual members — The Perpetual Committee made the decision to pay the National dues of Perpetual Members, who were 80 years old on October 1, 2015. This resulted in a savings with the National Dues increase of \$5 effective January 1, 2016. *There were 35 on the list sent to Secretary Hank Voegtle at a total cost of \$7,395.* The number purchased was 34 at a cost of \$7,190



John P. Lenes, Larry D. Tidwell, Gordon Robinson, John Hamlin, Bill Whatley and Gene Shaner



Pictured right: Larry Tidwell, Larry Stevens, Tom Green, Spanish Consul Penes, and Ed Butler

Chapter News—Community Service



Above: TXSSAR President Larry Stevens presents “Why America is Free” founders Jan Smulcher and Donna Passmore with the TXSSAR the Silver Good Citizenship award for their work with Lineage associations including SAR to incorporate American Revolution into the schools.

TXSSAR President Larry Stevens attended a DAR/Heart of Texas, SAR meeting in Temple on February 6th, 2016. President Stevens presented The Honorable Jimmie Dee Aycock the Silver Good Citizenship Award for his public service in the House of Representatives and in the field of education.



The Paul Carrington Chapter awarded its George Washington Medal to Steve Lufburrow, CEO of Goodwill Industries, Houston on February, 23rd, 2016. The George Washington Medal is awarded each year by the chapter for outstanding community service.



March 4, 2016--Heroism Medals in Chief Rushin's office at the Plano Police Building. It was held at 11:30 am that Friday. Present were Dan Reed, Larry Melton, Don Sielert, Howard Roach and Leon Stirm--and me! There were 3 officers who received the SAR Heroism Medals and Certificates because they rescued a 5 year old boy from a burning house. They happened to get there before the fire truck!! They were officers Mark Jones, Joel Scott, and Russell Harris. One officer was a motorcycle cop, the other 2 were in patrol cars and happened to be in the neighborhood

Chapter News—New Leadership



Feb 24th—
Independence
Chapter —
Swearing in
new officers:
President Jim
Jones (not pre-
sent), George
Nelson, Warren
Evans, Mervin
Peters, and Bob
Cohen being
sworn in by
President Larry
Stevens.



Boerne Chapter
officers inducted
for their second
year of a two
year term.
Officers Regis-
trar Larry Kinter,
President Nathan
Taylor, Sec/
Treasurer John
Weir, Vice Presi-
dent Max
Strozier



Arlington Chapter
Officers were
sworn in on March
12th.
President John An-
derson, VP Roger
Wehr, Secretary
David Friels,
Treasurer Dennis
Walton, Registrar/
Historian Kevin
Jorrey, and Chap-
lain Bob Wehr

TXSSAR Color Guard Activities

The George Washington Parade was spectacular again in 2016. David Hoover our NSSAR Color Guard Commander from New Jersey joined us for the two and one half mile "walk". President Stevens and First Lady Barbara, flanked by South Central Dist. VP and Past Texas President Stephen Rohrbough on the right and Frank Rohrbough on the left, walked in front to the combined National and Texas SAR Color Guard with twelve flag bears and two riflemen. This was followed by the Ramirez family truck and lowboy trailer carrying twenty more SAR members, family and guest. After, there was a meeting at the hotel hosted by Tom Green and Texas color guard participation medals were present. Rick Ramirez was presented with the Texas Patriot Medal for his long service to the Texas society and the Laredo Chapter



Ladies Auxiliary — Service to Veterans



First Lady Mickey Jo Lawrence, of Texas, chose as her project, "Help a Veteran." Ladies at the Fall 2015 Leadership meeting made lap quilts and shawls for veterans in the Louisville area. Auxiliary members were presented programs on both *SAR Veterans Programs* and *Needs of Women Veterans*.



At the Spring 2016 Leadership members held a "housewarming" for three homeless women veterans who were being moved into a donated and renovated three bedroom home. The charities Sheppard's Hands and Lady Vets Connect.



Chapter News—Patriotic Education



John Knox with the help of Wayne Courreges presented his flag history speech to the children of Vacation Liberty School at Heritage Baptist Church, Georgetown, Texas on July 17th.



Larry Stevens and Ray Cox present programs at Eagle Springs Elementary in Atascocita, Texas.

Larry Stevens -Colonial Life Trunk at Willow Creek Elementary

At the Eiseman Theatre in Richardson, Texas Concert for the Elementary School Children .

Color Guardsmen participating: Larry Melton, Alan Johnson, Don Sielert, Dan Reed, Bill Watts and Don Babbs



TXSSAR News— Miscellaneous

A District 5, 6, and 11 meeting was held at the Texas Land and Cattle Steakhouse in Richardson. District 6 VP Drake Peddie arranged the meeting. Members attended sharing chapter information and listening to presentations by Bills Marrs on IT and Bill Watts on education. *Pictured l-r: David Temple, Mike Radcliff, Drake Peddie, and Larry Stevens.*



Dec 5th, 2015 — The Bernardo de Galvez Chapter #1 of Galveston sponsored and entry in the Dickens Strand Parade. The chapter rented a carriage for the Ladies and Catherine Massey, Barbara Stevens, and Sue Lenes rode. Pictured above: Sam Massey, Gene Shaner, Tom Jackson, John Thompson, Pat Kerr and Larry Stevens

The Fredonia Chapter Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution recently held its bimonthly meeting. The program featured Dr. Perky Beisel, Associate Professor, Department of History, Stephen F. Austin State University who spoke on “The Gilded Age Family of Frost Thorn (of Nacogdoches)”.



Pictured from left Farrar Bentley, Chaplain; Dr. Beisel; Daniel Rogers, President



TXSSAR President Larry Stevens with NSDAR President General Lynn Young at the filming of the Genealogy Road Show at the Julia Idelson Library in Houston. Several potential new members were identified.

In Memoriam of our Past TXSSAR Presidents



John Anderson

The Arlington Chapter of TXSSAR in conjunction with the Arlington Landmark Preservation Commission dedicated markers to two early TXSSAR Presidents. After the chapter meeting the chapter hosted a wonderful lunch before the ceremony. Thanks for Meg Anderson and the ladies of the chapter who provided a fine spread! The two men were Dr. Valin Woodward, Sr. and the Honorable Benton C. Collins. Dr Woodward was president in 1935. He and his brother Cicero were the founders of the Texas Compatriot newsletter. They published the magazine for 12 years. Dr. Benton Collins was president in 1942. Both were instrumental in leading our organization. We were honored to have Past TXSSAR presidents Jim Heath and George West (with wife Judy) attend the ceremony.



Larry Stevens



Ellen Woodward, Sarah W. Shea, Valin W. Miller, Bill Woodward, Brianna Woodward, Banks Woodward and TXSSAR President Larry Stevens



Larry Stevens, Jerry D. Collins, John Anderson

Texas DAR 116th Annual Conference—Houston, TX



TXSSAR was well represented at the TXDAR Conference. Both SAR and the SAR-DAR Liaison Committee chaired by Jane Cohen had tables on Thursday. What a wonderful meeting.



NSDAR President General Lynn Young with TXSSAR President Larry Stevens



Past TXSSAR and First Lady Bob and Jane Cohen

TXSSAR President Larry Stevens brings greetings from SAR



Marvin Morgan (Patrick Henry Chapter, Austin), TXSSAR President Larry Stevens, and Past TXSSAR President Tom Green



TXSSAR President Larry Stevens with TXDAR President Judy Ostler



TXSSAR Color Guard—Tom Green, Marvin Morgan, Allen Greene, Bob Cohen and Carl Hill