



## Texas Sons of the American Revolution

### Cradle of Texas Crier

Cradle of Texas Chapter # 33

[www.cradletxsar.org](http://www.cradletxsar.org)



Volume 24 Number 9

December 2023

Michael J. Bailey, Editor

December

**Next Meeting**  
**9 December , 2023**  
**Fat Grass**  
**1717 7th Street**  
**Bay City, TX 77414**

**Program**  
**Cynthia Armstong**  
**Director**  
**Matagorda County Museum**  
**Bay City, Texas**



Ms. Cynthia was born in White Settlement, Texas and has lived in Texas and Louisiana. She has been in Bay City for five years and became director of Matagorda County Museum in June 2022.

Her background is in education and history. she worked with children for approximately 30 years. Ms. Cynthia received my associate degree from Victoria College and took further courses at the University of Houston-Victoria. All of courses geared towards history both world and Texas history.

She has been married to Gary for forty-three years and is the mother of two children,

Jennifer and Kristopher, and a grandmother to Brooks, Bankston, and Banner. Also, two grand-pups.

Her passion is to engage and enlighten children to get them interested in the past. She is currently updating many of the exhibits in the museum and in the process of opening the top floor to become a gallery for rotating exhibits.

Ms. Cynthia can trace my paternal lineage back to a Samuel Pruitt who served in the American Revolution who received a land grant in Abbeville, South Carolina for his service.

Ms. Cynthia's topic will be the Matagorda County Museum.

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Sons of the American Revolution**  
**Cradle of Texas Chapter 33**  
**November 18, 2023**

**Date:** Saturday, November 18, 2023

**Location:** Mikeska's BBQ Restaurant - El Campo, Texas

**Call to Order:** President Bill Griffiths called the meeting to order at 11:40am.

**Invocation:** Prayer by Chaplain Jim Leach.

**Pledges:** Secretary J.D. Humber, II led the chapter in the pledges to the US flag, Texas flag, and Sons of the American Revolution.

**Introduction of Guests**

**Minutes:** October 2023 meeting minutes were read and approved by motion from Treasurer Chris Windell and second by Vice President Carl Wiggins.

**Treasurer's Report:** Given by Treasurer Chris Wendel

General Fund (Classic checking)

Beginning Statement Balance

10/01/2023 \$4523.50

Income: Deposits:

Interest

10/31/2023

\$0.08

Total Income:

\$0.08

Expense:

Ck.#1061

Fat Grass (March meeting) 100.00

Ck.#1070 WAA - Matagorda WAA  
\$51.00Ck.#1071 Angleton Cem. Assoc. WAA  
\$51.00

Total Expenses: \$202.00

Ending Account Statement Balance:

10/31/2023 \$4321.58

Outstanding

Ck.#1072 WAA - Wharton County \$51.00

Mc Alexander Fund (Main Share) <sup>(1)</sup>

Beginning Balance

10/01/2023 \$904.23

Income: Deposits:

Interest 10/31/2023 \$0.08

Total Income: \$0.08

Expense: None.

Ending Account Statement Balance:

10/31/2023 \$904.31<sup>1</sup> Available for purchase of uniforms for SAR Color Guard Member

Total Combined Statement Balance -

10/31/2023 \$5225.89Total Combined Bank Balance (register  
balance) \$5125.89

**Program:** Wharton County Sheriff Shannon Srubar spoke about how he came to be sheriff and the battle of the illegal crossings, human trafficking, and drug crossing at the Mexico border.

- Sheriff Srubar informed the Chapter about the 287G Program, which started in 2017.
- In 2020, the county saw an uptick of illegal activity, especially along the HWY 59 corridor.
- Sheriff Srubar spoke about legislation being considered at the Texas Congress.
- During Q & A, many topics were discussed.
  - o Q: Over the next 5 years, what do you see in regard to crime, illegal crossings, etc.?
  - o Q: How much of a risk are police officers in, in regard to liability of getting sued?
  - o Q: How hard is it to capture a suspect if they flee into the woods?
  - o Q: Can you use canine units to apprehend criminals?
  - o Q: How many people are in the sheriff's department?
  - o Q: What is most important to be able to curb FENTYNOL?
  - o Q: What are the steps to stop drug crossing at the border?
  - o Q: How many illegal aliens get deported?

**Awards/Recognitions:**

- Shannon Srubar - Chapter Certificate of Appreciation
- Lt Ben Guanajuato, Wharton PD - Law Enforcement Commendation Medal
- Presentation of National SAR Americanism Contest winner certificates and checks to Abigail and Everett Humber - Dist. 7 VP Richard Zdunkewicz

**Officer & Committee Reports:**

Registrar - David Garza

- Applications Appr #2; Awaiting Appr #1 ; Supplemental #1

Webmaster - Carl Wiggins

- Our website is being linked with State SAR website.

Community Outreach/Education - Rodney Weems

- We need to increase our presence in school districts to increase amount of student participation in SAR Youth contests.

**Old Business:**

- Motion was made and passed that funds collected for Veterans memorial plaque be returned to those individuals who gave the donations. (Motioned by Compatriot Sandy Weems and seconded by Compatriot Winston Avila.)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Motion was made and passed that the Treasurer's report needs to have a separate line item for JROTC monies. (Motioned by Treasurer Chris Wendel and seconded by President Bill Griffith.)
- **Formation of the nominating committee to present volunteer chapter officers in Dec. for 2024 was approved. The committee members will be Bill Griffiths, Carl Wiggins, David Garza, Rodney Weems, and J.D. Humber, II.**
- District 7 has received \$5000 donation for JROTC awards. This money will be divided up between the 4 chapters.

**Next Meeting:** December 9, 2023, at Fat Grass Restaurant, in Bay City, TX. Speaker is TBD. Topic is TBD.

**SAR Recessional:** Led by President Bill Griffiths.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm by motion from Secretary J.D.

Humber, II and second by Compatriot Rodney Weems.

**Benediction:** Prayer by Chaplain Jim Leach.

**Members Present:**

Carl Wiggins / Bill Griffiths / J.D. Humber, II / Rodney Weems / Sandy Weems / Jim Leach / Bill Sanders / Chris Wendel / David Garza / Winston Avera / Dist. 7 VP Richard Zdunkewicz / Mark Hansen / John Griffiths.

**Guests Present:**

Caroline Wiggins / Carroll Griffiths / Patsy Sanders / Connie Avera / Allison Humber / Abigail Humber / Everett Humber / Betsy Parsons / Sherriff Shannon Srubar / Lt Ben Guanajuato

**The Cradle of Texas Chapter #33  
Celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

Our chapter was instituted on December 3, 1983 in a ceremony at Columbia Lakes Country Club in Brazoria County. The Call to Order, Welcome, Introduction of Guests and Program about the SAR were given by Clovis H. Brakebill, NSSAR Treasurer General. DAR Fort Velasco Chapter Regent, Kathleen Sechrest, presented the flags. Thirty-seven Charter Members were presented their SAR Certificates of Membership as new Compatriots by R. Carl Tumey, President, SAR Texas Society.

Dr. Wellington Grier McAlexander was installed as our first Chapter President. He was born in Cooper, TX, in 1918, served in WWII in the U.S. Army Air Corps in engineering as a Captain, and earned his



Doctorate from North Texas State University. He first taught at Wharton Junior College in Wharton, TX, and later at Brazosport College, in Clute, TX, where he retired as Dean of Students. Dr. McAlexander loved history, authored many articles, contributed to several books, and spoke to anyone or group who gave him the opportunity. He was instrumental in creating the Brazoria Militia and the Brazoria County Historical Museum. Active chapter member, Michael J. Bailey, currently serves in both of these organizations.

Dr. McAlexander initiated efforts to establish the Cradle of Texas Chapter earlier in 1983 using his knowledge of several SAR Compatriots in Brazoria, Matagorda and Wharton counties and contacts with history buffs and genealogists.

Three Charter Members, Albert Elton Herreth, Martin Lee Schwebel and Thomas O Slonek are still active members of the chapter and will receive their 40<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Certificates in Dec 2023 - Feb 2024.

For full details of the institution ceremony and list of charter members, visit the **Our Chapter History** page on our website at [www.cradletxsar.org](http://www.cradletxsar.org).

Submitted by Carl Wiggins, VP, SAR Cradle of Texas Chapter #33, Nov 29, 2023

## *MERRY CHRISTMAS*



### 2023 Officers of the Cradle of Texas Chapter #33

**President:**

William J. (Griff) Griffiths, MD  
979-578-0180  
[wgriff5322@aol.com](mailto:wgriff5322@aol.com)

**Vice President:**

Carl M. Wiggins  
281-996-7976  
[cmwiggins1@comcast.net](mailto:cmwiggins1@comcast.net)

**Secretary:**

J. D. Humber II  
936-433-9233  
[mablebob@yahoo.com](mailto:mablebob@yahoo.com)

**Registrar:**

David E. Garza  
832-221-0423  
[azrag45@msn.com](mailto:azrag45@msn.com)

**Treasurer:**

Christopher F. Wendel  
979-541-9443  
[cfw3662@live.com](mailto:cfw3662@live.com)

**Chaplain:**

James H. Leach  
[leachinsurance@att.net](mailto:leachinsurance@att.net)

**Historian:**

Michael J. Bailey  
979-848-3705  
[michjbailey@gmail.com](mailto:michjbailey@gmail.com)

**Educational Programs and Community Outreach Committee Chairperson:**

Rodney Weems  
281-507-3849  
[rodneyweems@yahoo.com](mailto:rodneyweems@yahoo.com)

## Remember Valley Forge



Next Meeting  
9 December, 2023

Fat Grass  
1717 7th Street  
Bay City, TX 77414  
Phone: (979) 244-7277

<https://www.thefatgrass.com>



December 16, 2023  
Check for Local Events

Veterans Day Parade 2023  
Angleton, Texas



**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

23 November 2023	Thanksgiving Day	Family
16 December 2023	Wreathes Across America	Chapter sponsors wreaths
25 December 2023	Christmas Day	Family

**November 18 2023**  
**SAR Cradle of Texas Meeting**  
**Mikeska's BBQ, El Campo, Texas**  
*...and a good time was had by all...*



Certificate from Griffiths to Srubar



Humber Family with Dist. 7 VP Zdunkewicz

