

THE GALVESTON GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ CHAPTER #1,
TEXAS SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Bill Whatley, Bernardo de Gálvez
Chapter #1 2014 President

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 17
Monthly Meeting – 11am; Nick's
(formerly Casey's) at 38th & Seawall

MAY 26
Memorial Day; event at Bay Area
Veterans' Memorial, Seabrook, 2 pm

JUNE 14
Flag Day

JUNE 21
Monthly Meeting – 11am; Nick's
(formerly Casey's) at 38th & Seawall

JULY 4
Independence Day; Galveston Parade

JULY 19
Monthly Meeting – 11am; Nick's
(formerly Casey's) at 38th & Seawall

AUGUST 16
Monthly Meeting – 11am; Nick's
(formerly Casey's) at 38th & Seawall

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WOW! It's hard to believe that one-third of 2014 is behind us. The Chapter is well on the way to meeting the yearly goals that were established in January. We have added several new members and looks like we will meet our new member goal of seven in 2014. We have presented 34 flag certificates, well on our way to our goal of 100.

TXSSAR President Bob Cohen provided some disturbing statistics on SAR membership. He reported that we are losing as many members as new members that are joining. We need to embark on recruiting new members by helping with their genealogy search.

Hurrah! Our Chapter now has a Grave Search Committee. So far, new compatriot Gene Shaner, Jim Mitchell and Doug McBee are on this committee. We know there are Sons of American Revolution Patriots buried in Texas and many in the Galveston area. We need to honor these Patriots with grave markings.

- Bill Whatley



For more information about the Bernardo de Gálvez Chapter #1, TXSSAR, including information on becoming a member, please visit our website at: <http://bdgsar.org>.

TEXAS SOCIETY SAR 119TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

*By Larry Tidwell
Vice-President, Bernardo de Gálvez Chapter #1*

A good time was had by all who attended the 119th TXSSAR Annual Convention at the Omni Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, Friday, March 28 to Sunday, March 30, 2014. San Antonio Chapter #4 was the host chapter for the event. National SAR President Joseph W. Dooley and other National Officers were in attendance. Our Chapter was represented by President Bill Whatley, Vice President Larry D. Tidwell, Past President Pete Lenes and fellow chapter compatriot Jim Mitchell. Carole Whatley and Sue Lenes also attended with their husbands.

Much was accomplished during this year's convention. New TXSSAR President, Robert S. Cohen, was presented with his own gavel by outgoing President Stephen W. Rohrbough, who stepped down and our new president officially took over. President Cohen gave each attendee a Texas SAR lapel pin to wear to start-up what he referred to as "elevator speeches." His theme for the 2014-2015 year is "Celebrate the Past, Strengthen the Present, Shape the future."

President Cohen's agenda for his April 1, 2014-February 28, 2015 one-year term includes the following:

1. Emphasize the Brand-Texas SAR
2. Recruit Members
 - a. Increase new membership by 10% or 25% to reach 5,000 by 2018 NSSAR Convention

- b. Elevator Speech contest – 20 second talk about SAR; April 1, 2014-February 28, 2015
 - c. Membership Brochure contest, tri- or bi-fold; April 28, 2014-February 28, 2015
3. Retain-learn interests, involve new members, expect participation, perpetual membership
 4. Reinstate/follow-up with dropped members
 5. Sharpen the Saw-critical mass numbers

A full report of the TXSSAR Convention is available on the Chapter website in the Meeting Minutes archive. In the August newsletter, I will report on the 124th National Annual Congress to be held July 18-23 in Greenville, SC.



NSSAR President General Joseph W. Dooley speaks at the 119th Annual TXSSAR Convention in San Antonio, TX.

Did you know? Major Ira H. Evans, founder of the TXSSAR, is the only founder of an SAR state society to have received the Medal of Honor.

CERTIFICATES/AWARDS

- 34 FLAG CERTIFICATES PRESENTED TO DATE; GOAL OF 100 FOR 2014
- TWO TEXAS A&M CADETS AWARDED ROTC MEDALS AND CERTIFICATES IN APRIL
- DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL JROTC AWARDED MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE IN APRIL



Joshua Stenzel, grandson of compatriot Ralph Stenzel, receives the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal at the March 2014 meeting.



New compatriot Gene Shaner (middle) is presented with his rosette pin at the April 2014 meeting.

OUR PATRIOT ANCESTORS: JOSEPH LANDRY

Brief Bio:

- Born: Abt. 1750; Pisiquit, Acadia, Nova Scotia, Canada
- Service: 1st Corporal, 1st Company, Attakapas Militia, Louisiana
- Died: 03 JUN 1797; St. Martinville, St. Martin Parish, LA
- Ancestor of compatriot Robert Elwood "Bobby" O'Bryan



Spanish forces led by Bernardo de Gálvez attack the British at Baton Rouge on September 21, 1779. (Artwork copyright of David I. Norwood.)

Joseph Landry was born about 1750 in Pisiquit, Acadia (Nova Scotia), Canada to Firmin Landry and Elizabeth-Francoise Thibodeaux. As a result of the Great Expulsion of the Acadians (1755 – 1764) by the British, the family left Canada and settled in Louisiana.

SAR Spanish Records available through the LSSAR website show that Joseph served as a First Corporal in the First Company of the Attakapas Militia under the command of General Bernardo de Gálvez. Joseph participated in the first Spanish campaign against Great Britain following the Spanish crown's declaration of war against Britain in North America. Gálvez led his army out of New Orleans and successfully marched to, and captured, Manchac, Louisiana, following their victory at the Battle of Fort Bute on September 7, 1779. Gálvez then marched his army toward Baton Rouge, Louisiana, reaching the city on September 12th. The Battle of Baton Rouge took place nine days later on September 21st. The battle lasted only three hours, resulting in the British surrendering the city to Spain.

Joseph died June 3, 1797 in St. Martinville, Louisiana and is buried at the St. Martin De Tours Catholic Church cemetery located in St. Martinville, Louisiana.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION HISTORY

May 10, 1775 – American forces led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold capture Ft. Ticonderoga in New York, with its military supplies.

BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ STATUE PROJECT

The Bernardo de Gálvez Chapter #1 of the Sons of the American Revolution is raising money to sculpt a statue of Bernardo de Gálvez to be displayed in Galveston's Mernard Park at the corner of 27th Street and Seawall Boulevard.

The chapter is asking for help to fund the construction of this statue and its pedestal. All donors will be recognized in perpetuity on the statue and bricks at the site. Through these donations, the city's namesake, Bernardo de Gálvez, will be memorialized for helping to save the American Revolution by supplying Washington's army and defeating the British in battles along the Mississippi River and in the Gulf of Mexico.

Donations can be made through the project's website at <http://galvezstatue.org> or by mail to P.O. Box 1, Galveston, TX 77553, or call 409-939-0205 for pick up.

For more information, please visit <http://galvezstatue.org>.



Miniature of the Gálvez statue.

2014 BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

February 17
Presidents' Day

May 26
Memorial Day

September 17
Constitution Day

March 27 – March 30
TXSSAR Spring Convention

June 14
Flag Day

November 11
Veterans' Day

April 15
Patriots' Day

July 4
4th of July Parade, Galveston

December 5
Dickens on the Strand

"Patriotism is as much a virtue as justice, and is as necessary for the support of societies as natural affection is for the support of families." - Benjamin Rush