

Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter
Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution
Fredericksburg Country Club
11103 Tidewater Trail, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Regular Meeting, January 21, 2017

12:01 a.m. – President John Hamilton called the meeting to order.

Invocation – Bob Bailey

Posting of Colors – In place

Pledge of Allegiance – William Cather

SAR Pledge – John Hamilton

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - President John Hamilton welcomed everyone and introduced today's speaker, Mike Elston, Society International District Vice President and Virginia Society 1st Vice President. He then introduced William Cather of the Eagle Scouts, and his parents. President Hamilton then asked the compatriots to introduce themselves and any guests they brought to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Treasurer Wayne Rouse announced that he had "SAR" lapel pins for sale for \$10 each. The "SAR" lapel pin may be more recognizable to non-SAR members than the rosettes and could possibly bring more interest to the SAR. The SAR Foundation is now showcasing pins of appreciation to all donors giving at the \$10 pledge level or above and will help point out the donor's ongoing commitment to the SAR's mission through his or her charitable giving. So that members who purchase the SAR lapel pin may receive credit for their \$10 pledge, Treasurer Rouse will also provide the form needed for submission to the SAR Foundation.

12:07 pm – Break for luncheon

12:52 pm – President Hamilton called the meeting back to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Secretary Conway Richardson was absent so incoming Secretary Richard Bradner reported that the minutes of the November 12, 2016 meeting had been distributed to the membership. He moved and it was seconded that the luncheon meeting minutes for November 12, 2016 be approved. A voice vote approved the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Wayne Rouse reviewed the Treasurer's Report of January 10, 2017.

Balance as of December 6, 2016	\$6,602.75
Income	573.00

Disbursements	1,022.33
Balance as of January 10, 2017	\$6,153.42

Treasurer Rouse moved and it was seconded that the report be approved. A voice vote approved the motion.

Treasurer Rouse presented and briefly discussed the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, Virginia Society – SAR 2017 Proposed Budget. Treasurer Rouse explained that the expenditures for Medals and Awards had been increased for 2017 with a proposed total income and total expenditures of \$7,300.00. Treasurer Rouse moved and it was seconded that the 2017 Proposed Budget be approved. A voice vote approved the motion.

GUEST SPEAKER – President John Hamilton introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Mike Elston, Society International District Vice President and Virginia Society 1st Vice President.

Mr. Elston informed attendees that there is still important work to do for our country as members of the SAR. On January 20th, the peaceful transfer of power was observed with the inauguration of our 45th President, Donald J. Trump, in accordance with the Constitution. Yet, democracy cannot be taken for granted as witnessed recently in Gambia. There, the newly elected Gambian President had to be sworn into office in Senegal when the incumbent refused to relinquish power. Although our politics may be polarized, we must acknowledge our debt to our Patriot ancestors “who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a nation of free men” and women.

Mr. Elston informed attendees that it had been a great year for the Virginia SAR under Ed Truslow’s leadership. Examples include the increased content of its blog, Virginia Dispatches, to keep members informed; the publishing of its new book, Genealogical, Burial, and Service Data for Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in Virginia, which is now available for purchase; and the availability of Virginia’s Revolutionary War Tax Lists on the VASSAR website under the DocView tab.

Mr. Elston presented the initiatives he hopes to put into place once he is sworn into office next month as the President of the VASSAR. There will be a “Call to Arms” by the VA Society. The country needs the SAR due to the apparent widespread ignorance of the principles on which our nation was founded. Our ancestors knew that legislatures and the laws they make have a tendency to restrict freedom rather than enhance freedom. They had seen the British Parliament enact new laws each year, and each new law curtailed their rights and made them less free. They feared a strong central government, so they created a government of checks and balances. This system is designed to ensure that new policies, new restrictions on individual freedoms, would not become laws enforceable by the power of the state without broad national consensus. The SAR provides a living connection to the founders of our country and has a role to play in educating our fellow citizens and helping the next generation of Americans understand these important principles through robust youth programs.

This Call to Arms will involve several different initiatives and fall into three basic groups: 1) establishing partnerships and building relationships with a renewed emphasis on youth programs to pass on the values and ideals of our Patriot ancestors; 2) honoring our patriot

ancestors by telling their stories with an emphasis on public events, public relations and community engagement; and 3) recruiting new members and retaining existing members. This last initiative continues to be a work in progress but is something every chapter in Virginia must focus on in the years ahead.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION – Leonhardt W. Anderson IV was inducted into the Chapter and presented with his membership certificate by VASSAR 1st Vice President Elston. Incoming Registrar Bob Salmon pinned the rosette on his coat lapel. Afterward, Mr. Anderson was welcomed into the Chapter by the Compatriots.

AWARDS

Eagle Scout Award - Eagle Scout Committee Chairman Dan Alsup introduced William Cather, an Eagle Scout and member of Boy Scout Troop 77 of Fredericksburg, Virginia. Chairman Alsup presented Mr. Cather's many accomplishments both within and outside the Scouts. Mr. Cather was presented the Eagle Court of Honor Recognition Award with medal and the Col. Fielding Lewis Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate with pin.

President Hamilton presented VASSAR 1st Vice President Elston with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The following awards were presented by President Hamilton and Treasurer Rouse:

Craig Raines – Promoted to Sergeant in the 1st Virginia Regiment.

Billy Kirkland – War Service Medal with Vietnam bar.

Bob Thomas – War Service Medal with Vietnam bar.

Dan Alsup – Certificate of Appreciation for service as the Eagle Scout Chair and the Knight Essay Co-Chair of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, VASSAR.

Bob Bailey - Certificate of Appreciation for service as Chaplain of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, VASSAR for 2016.

Billy Kirkland – Certificate of Appreciation for service as the Knight Essay Co-Chair of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, VASSAR for 2016.

Skip Nolan - Certificate of Appreciation for service as Vice President of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, VASSAR, for 2016.

Wayne Rouse - Certificate of Appreciation for service as Treasurer of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, VASSAR for 2016.

Walt Sheffield - Certificate of Appreciation for service to the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, VASSAR, Board of Managers.

Bob Swartwood - Certificate of Appreciation for service to the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, VASSAR, for his work with the Flag Committee and the JROTC Chair.

Bertie Hamilton – The Lydia Darragh Medal for her support of outgoing Chapter President John Hamilton.

John Hamilton – Presented with a Past President Pin and Certificate and a Meritorious Service Medal and Certificate for his outstanding support of the chapter while serving as an officer over the past four years.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS - The following 2017 officers of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, VASSAR, were installed by VASSAR 1st Vice President Mike Elston:

President – Skip Nolan
Vice President – Conway Richardson
Secretary – Richard Bradner
Treasurer – Wayne Rouse
Registrar – John Salmon
Historian – Jim Wachter
Chaplain – Bob Bailey

Raffle drawing – Rick Bradner won \$47.00 and donated it back to the chapter.

President Nolan remarked that he was proud to have been selected as President for 2017 and will perform those responsibilities to the best of his ability.

SAR Recessional – Leonhardt Anderson

Benediction – Bob Bailey

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 pm.

Total Attendance - 35

SAR members - 24
DAR members – 5
CAR members - 0
Guests - 6