

# Andrew Jackson Chapter

## Tennessee Society, Sons of the American Revolution



established in 1923

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

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
in celebration of Veterans' Day

12 Nov 2015

The dinner meeting was held at The Woman's Club of Nashville and 25 people attended. The following members and guests were there:

William Burns	John Hatcher	Bob & Frances Nash
Coplin & Sandra Curtis	Frank & Audrey Jones	Sanford & Beverly Payton
Ralph & Virginia DeMarco	Roy Miles	Dorothy Shumate
Louise & Audrez Higuera	Scott McAnally	Terry Sawyer
Fred Weyler	Elizabeth Brewer	Dan Eskew
Ginny Newell	Lewis & Carole Moorner	

President Sanford Payton called the meeting to order at 6:00, and Chaplain Coplin Curtis gave the invocation. Roy Miles led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and William Burns led the Pledge to the SAR. Treasurer Ralph DeMarco welcomed our guest; Louise & Audrez Higuera, and Ginny Newell. Welcome all!

President Sanford Payton's announcements included informing those present that Webmaster Fred Weyler posted 2016 chapter and Executive Committee meeting dates on our website, AJSAR.ORG. Also, to officially honor our chapter meeting speakers, we will begin presenting a certificate of appreciation and coffee cup at the conclusion of their presentations. The coffee cups will have chapter and SAR logo and information and will be available for purchase. 2016 calendars have been ordered which will serve to promote the SAR, will highlight this chapter, and will cost \$1.20 apiece.

As discussed in earlier meetings, many Revolutionary War Veterans migrated to Middle Tennessee and are buried in local cemeteries. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the chapter will participate in Wreaths Across America event in which wreaths are placed at the graves of veterans, generally at national cemeteries. Our chapter will place wreaths at the Nashville City Cemetery and Old DeMoss Cemetery. Wreaths will cost \$15 and 12 have been ordered. We would like to have chapter members volunteer to participate in the wreath laying ceremony. Specific ceremony details have not been determined.

Next, Payton recognized Webmaster Fred Weyler's efforts in arranging a FREE presentation in The Hermitage theatre on January 14, 2016. The event will start at 7 p.m. and will feature award winning author and storyteller Randell Jones. Dr. Jones will present the story of the campaign of the Overmountain Men in pursuit of the threatening Major Patrick Ferguson and his army of Americans who fought for England. Randell is the author of *Before They Were Heroes at King's Mountain* and also *A Guide to the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail*.

Payton also mentioned Fred Weyler's project to correct many errors in historical monuments marking the Battle of Kings Mountain continues and is an enormous undertaking. Fred is looking for volunteers to proofread research and to conduct preliminary or in-depth research.

Our next meeting will be the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Founder's Day Celebration. Compatriot Maurice Kellogg

is coordinating a ceremony to officially transfer chapter chaplain duties from Rev. Dr. John Steen to Coplin Curtis. In addition, we will honor Dr. Steen with a national award. Also at our next meeting, we will present the Law & Order Certificate & Medal to Andre Sanders. Finally, Sanford informed those present that only 52% of chapter members have submitted 2016 membership dues. Please submit dues when able to help state officials.

Following the announcements, dinner was served. After dinner, President Payton introduced our speaker, John G. Krenson, Executive Director Executive Director of Operation Stand Down Tennessee and a Colonel in the Tennessee Army National Guard. Colonel Krenson is a graduate of the US Army War College and currently commands the 30th Troop Command Tennessee Army National Guard. He has commanded forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in support of hurricane response operations in Louisiana and Mississippi. He was Ordained a Permanent Deacon in Catholic Church in 1999 and has served the Cathedral of the Incarnation and Christ the King parishes.

Mr. Krenson begin his presentation by showing a video narrated by participants in Operation Stand Down (OSD) Tennessee detailing the special place this organization plays in helping our nation's veterans. The Veteran Service Center is located at 1125 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. South, with a mission to "assist veterans and their families so they can be self-sustaining and better connected to the community." The Veteran Service Center has an Employment Department to help veterans with job search, a Transitional Housing Program, outreach services such as medical and dental screenings, and a thrift store providing on the job training and a clothing source.

Since 1993, OSD has been empowering veterans. 2014 OSD Tennessee accomplishments include assisting over 1,700 men and women veterans, 449 veterans received free clothing, and 87 men and women participated in the Transitional Housing Program. The Nashville Veteran Service Center (VSC) is the only one in Tennessee recognized by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and 87 cents of every \$1 donated serves our veterans.

Mr. Krenson ended by putting forth some sobering thoughts and questions. Veterans make up approximately 8% of the population but 17% of our nation's homeless population and if we don't help them, who will. There are a number of ways to assist OSD Tennessee including monetary donations, thrift store donations, and volunteering at the center on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. South. Of note, the veterans OSD assists are honorably discharged service members.

We are very grateful for Colonel Krenson's service to our country and impactful leadership at Operation Stand Down.

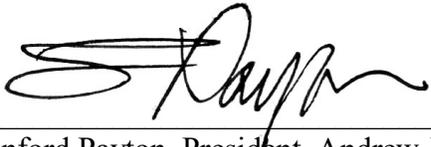
Afterwards, President Payton asked if Terry Sawyer would lead us in the Recessional. Next, Chaplin Copland Curtis gave the benediction. President Payton then asked for a motion and second for adjournment. Receiving both, he declared the meeting adjourned.

These Minutes have been approved by the Executive Committee.



(Signed)

Dan Eskew, Secretary, Andrew Jackson Chapter SAR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sanford Payton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping tail.

*(Signed)*

Sanford Payton, President, Andrew Jackson Chapter SAR