

Arkansas SAR State Society
Board of Governors
Mid-Year Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2025 @ 11:30 am
Conway, AR

Board of Governors Roll-Call

(BOG Quorum = 40% of elected & constitutionally defined BOG positions → 8 positions)

(P) = Present, (A) = Absent

BOG Elected & Constitutionally Defined Positions

1. State President – Dr. Darrell Over MD (P)
2. State Vice President – Darrell Whitledge (P)
3. State Secretary – James Morrison (P)
4. State Treasurer – James Morrison (P)
5. State Registrar – James Morrison (P)
6. National Society Trustee – Greg Hogue (A)
7. Alternate National Society Trustee – Dr. Darrell Over MD (P)
8. Abraham Van Buren Chapter, President EuGene Smith (A)
9. Bayou Bartholomew Chapter, President Dr. Darrell Over MD (P)
10. Casimir Pulaski Chapter, President Darrell Whitledge (P)
11. Chickasawba Chapter, President Allen Bush (A)
12. Crowley Ridge Chapter, President Greg Hogue (A)
13. Desoto Trace Chapter, President Charles McLemore (P)
14. Ecore Fabre Chapter, President John Dawson (A)
15. Gen Lafayette Chapter, President Roger Rickard (P)
16. Jordan Milam Chapter, President Patrick Flenniken (A)
17. Southwest Trail Chapter, President Matthew Burks (A)
18. Immediate Past State President – Greg Hogue (A)

Appointed positions by the State President & approved by BOG:

1. State Chaplain – Open
2. State Chancellor – Tim Snively (A)
3. State Historian - Open
4. State Genealogist – Open
5. State USS Stark Committee & the Americanism Chairman - Stephen Sexton – (P)
6. Patriot Fund Chairman - Bob Shewmake (A)
7. Public Safety Committee Chairman – Compatriot Wayne Shewmake (P)
8. Eagles Scout Committee Chairman – Charles Wright (A)

Guests

1. Gen Lafayette Chapter Vice President – Jim Partin (P)
2. Compatriot Mark Baldwin, Desoto Trace Chapter – (P)
3. SAR/DAR Liaison Susan Over – (P)
4. Past SAR/DAR Liaison Patricia McLemore – (P)
5. DAR member Sally Baldwin

Meeting started at 11:38 am

Meeting Called to Order – State President Dr. Darrell Over, MD

Pledge of Allegiance – State Secretary James Morrison

SAR Pledge – Chapter President Roger Rickard

SAR Mission Statement - State President Dr. Darrell Over MD

Roll Call - State Secretary James Morrison (not called due to the small number of members in attendance. Roll call was taken visually.)

Quorum present

Opening Remarks by State President Dr. Darrell Over MD

Topics of Discussion

Approval of 6/17/25 BOG Meeting Minutes – Meeting minutes were distributed to the Chapter Presidents on 6/28/25.

- Proposed changes received
 - **Compatriot Wayne Shewmake is appointed as ARSSAR Public Safety Chairman** (change NOT made as he was appointed on 6/27/25 by State President Darrell Over MD via email on 6/30/25)
 - **Compatriot Shewmake has 100 trees set a side** (change made)
- Motion made to approve the 6/28/25 meeting minutes by Chapter President Charles McLemore, seconded by Chapter President Roger Rickard.
- **Motion passed**

Past and Upcoming Events: State President Darrell Over MD spoke about the following events:

- NSSAR Congress, Uncasville, CT, Jul 12-18, 2025
- SCD Meeting, Owassa OK, Aug 22-23, 2025
 - VP General Phil Hunt would like to come and visit our Annual BOG meeting in March 2026

- Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY, Oct 2-3, 2025

Chapter President Reports

- **Bayou Bartholomew** – Chapter President Darrell Over MD spoke about the following:
 - The Bayou Bartholomew Chapter is in Pine Bluff, AR
 - There are 11 active members of the chapter. The chapter meets quarterly at the Fellowship Hall of Lakeside United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff
 - Chapter President Over has performed formal presentations of the SAR Jr ROTC medal to cadets at three area high schools in White Hall and in Pine Bluff at their military banquets in April.
 - One of his chapter members, Compatriot Charles Wright, is an Eagle Scout and serves the chair of the Eagle Scout Committee
 - Continued cultivating their chapter's relationship with the John McAlmont DAR chapter in Pine Bluff and in discussions with them about collaborating with us for the Liberty Tree Project
 - Represented the ARSSAR to extend greetings at the opening of the 117th ASDAR State Conference April 18-20, 2025 in Little Rock.
 - In the process of arranging ceremonies for awarding Flag certificates to two Pine Bluff area businesses. We see this as a way to help raise our community profile.
 - In the process to participate in the Veteran's Day parade in Pine Bluff. This will be a vehicle parade and we plan a vehicle with a SAR banner and perhaps a SAR flag, driving a route from the courthouse to the Pine Bluff Convention center
- **Casimir Pulaski** – Chapter President Darrell Whitledge mentioned the chapter does not meet in the summer. Meeting date is the 3rd Saturday of each meeting month. There has been a lot of interest from prospective members.
- **Desoto Trace** – Chapter President Charles McLemore stated the following about his chapter's activity:
 - Discussed the grave markings in Northwest Arkansas as planned.
 - Invited DAR to visit his chapter meeting and four DAR chapters did (Akansa, Provincia De La Sal, John Perciful & Saline Crossing) attended. Forty-two in attendance and his guest speaker, Carl Flowers, spoke about "The Original Rifleman" Daniel Morgan, the "Secret Weapon" of the Continental Army. The two highlights of that meeting, a DAR member from Benton said that she had referred a couple men to the DeSoto Trace Chapter. DAR also benefited because they received three prospective members: Sarah Short, Rhonda Young and DeLana Barby. Chapter President McLemore stressed the importance of DAR joint meetings and good relations as they have provided many members to his Chapter.

- Installed eight new members at the September meeting.
- **Gen Lafayette** – Chapter President Roger Rickard spoke about:
 - Executive meetings that are held every other month as his chapter meetings are now every other month vs. monthly under Past Chapter President Jim Partin.
 - He and Chapter Registrar James Morrison met with the Marion DAR Chapter and State Regent CAR on 9/13/25 to engage with our sister organization on how we can mutually benefit each other.
 - Planning a March 2026 Bella Vista DAR meeting
 - Swore in the youngest member of his chapter, Mason Mena (2 yrs old), in August 2025
 - Created SAR flyers for members to place in the general public

State Grave Marker Events in November: Per Chapter President Charles McLemore, the five (5) grave markings proposed by the Arkansas Society scheduled for November 2025 in Northwest Arkansas have been cancelled. SAR National, Grave Marking Chairman, Steve Hinson has informed me that some of the graves we marked in 1933 and the rest in 1992. However, SAR bronze markers were not placed, grave detail report, picture of the tombstone and marker nor biography were submitted to them. National said we could go ahead and plan the event & purchase the markers and send pictures but the participants would not receive credit for any of the events.

State USS Stark Committee & the Americanism Chairman Report – Chairman Stephen Sexton discussed:

- Awarded 13 flag certificates to various businesses in the Northwest Arkansas area
- Discussed the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal which is a multi-purpose award designed to recognize individuals whose community (i.e., school, locality, or state) achievements are noteworthy. It can be presented to both adults and minors and to Compatriots and non-Compatriots alike.
 - Cole Prater is a 6th grader who has volunteered his time during the summer as part of the Rogers American Legion Honor Guard for Veterans who have died. He also volunteers his time at the Post to help raise money for various non-profit organizations supported by the American Legion. Chairman Sexton has worked with him and found him to be very conscientious in helping others. The award will be presented at the chapter's October meeting in Fayetteville.

State Education Chairman (Open Position) – State President Darrell Over mentioned he wants to discuss this role with Compatriot Stephen Sexton to see if he would be interested in taking on this role.

Public Service & Heroism Award - Public Safety Committee Chairman Wayne Shewmake spoke about this award and asked if the State could help fund the award. A motion was made by State Treasurer James Morrison for the State to pay for the medals and certificates only

Chapters would be responsible for any monetary awards for the recipient(s). It was so moved by Chapter President Roger Rickard, 2nd by Chapter President Charles McLemore. **Motion passed.**

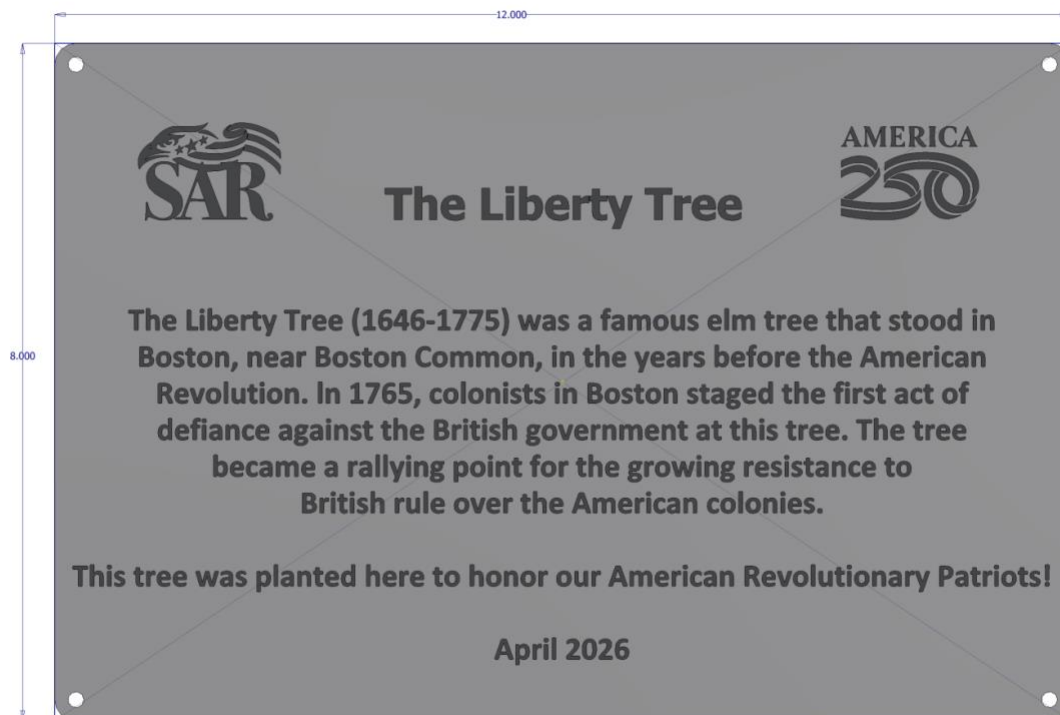
Liberty Tree Program – In support of the country's 250th anniversary celebration, Compatriot Wayne Shewmake spoke about the Society's involvement.

A motion was made where the State would pay for up to two (2) Liberty Tree signs at a cost of \$50/sign. However, in order for the State to pay for this, each chapter will be required to submit, **by October 20th, 2025**, the following information to State President Darrell Over and Compatriot Wayne Shewmake:

1. Compatriot's Name and contact information of who will oversee the planting of the tree and signage.
2. The approved location of where the tree and sign will be.
3. Date of event so that others can attend. Event needs to take place in 2026!

Any additional sign above the two (2) covered by the State will need to be absorbed by the chapter. Checks for signs should be sent the State Treasurer James Morrison.

The motion was so moved by Chapter President Charles McLemore, seconded by Chapter President Roger Rickard. **Motion passed.**



Additional information about acquiring and planting of the “Liberty Tree” from Compatriot Wayne Shewmake

Acquiring and planting of the “Liberty Tree”

Arkansas Forestry Division (AFD is a State Agency) will supply up to 50 young American Elm trees for ARSSAR to use for planting. Each Chapter is responsible for contacting the Arkansas Forestry Division, County Ranger and let them know what your plans are for planting the “Liberty Tree” in your area. The County Ranger may pick up your tree from the AFD in Greenbrier AR and bring it to you when you are ready to plant, and they may also help you plant the tree, but you will need to work it out with your County Ranger, (plan it ahead of time please). Click on the link below and then click on your county and that will give you your contact person.

[County Contacts Results - Arkansas Department of Agriculture](#)

Each Chapter will need to contact your local public officials to ask them if they are interested in planting a “Liberty Tree” on public grounds in their area and allow the public and ARSSAR members to come and celebrate the planting of the “Liberty Tree”, time, date and location is up to each Chapter and Public Official for planting of the “Liberty Tree”. Link for information:

america250sar.org/libertytree/

Suggestions as to where you might want to plant a “Liberty Tree”: County Court Yard, around a city office, City parks, public parks, ball fields areas, school grounds, and/or Federal property within the city, all must be approved by public officials before planting. Suggest that you plant your “Liberty Tree” in February or March 2026. You can plant the tree and set up your dedication for a later date. Get the public out there to see what SAR is about and let other Chapters know.

These are very small elm trees in a 2 gallon pot, suggestions is to dig your hole to plant the tree twice as big as the pot it comes in and fill the hole with water and let it soak in then take the tree out of the pot and plant it in the hole provided, be sure not to plant it too deep, it should be planted where the tree is at the same depth as it was in the pot. Fertilizers is not required but can be used. I suggest that you put a mulch around the base of the tree. You can also add more water after planting.

The sign is 8 inches X 12 inches and is very good Stainless Steel with holes predrilled. I suggest you can use a 2 X 10 inch X 2 foot long treated lumber board to mount the sign on to. I cut the board at 13 inches and then cut 2 pieces at about 4 ½ inches to attach to the back, leaving a 4 inch gap to mount the 4 X 4 inch post to the sign holder, be sure to use

long heavy screws to mount the post and sign. Suggest the post be at least 4 ft long so you can concrete one foot in the ground and 3 ft above ground, if you want it taller you can do so, remember 1 ft in ground for every 3 ft out of ground.

Be sure to use some heavy bolts/screws to mount the sign onto your board, so it cannot be easily removed or stolen. I also suggest that you mount the sign about 3 ft in front of your tree so it doesn't grow into the tree later.

Remember you must let Dr. Over know how many trees and how many signs you need by Oct. 20, 2025 so we can get them ordered in time, the signs will be delivered January 2026, trees will also be ready.

Any questions or help, please contact Wayne Shewmake anytime. 479-477-0061 email: wshewmake@gmail.com

Liberty Tree orders due date to State President Darrell Over MD and Compatriot Wayne Shewmake no later than October 20, 2025.

2026 State Annual Conference Meeting Date - BOG meeting members aligned to a tentative date of Saturday, March 21, 2026, 11:30 am – 3 pm, at the Whole Hog Cafe in Fayetteville, AR. State Secretary James Morrison will contact the establishment to reserve the backroom for this date.

2026 State Mid-Year Conference Meeting Date – The Mid-Year meeting would be held in Hot Springs, AR. Location and date in September TBD as the Marketplace Grille in Conway has become too expensive to rent out a room.

State Registrar/Treasurer/Secretary Reports. State Officer James Morrison presented his Registrar, Treasurer, and Secretary Reports as outlined below:

State Registrar Report



Arkansas SAR State Registrar's Report Membership



Chapter	6/15/25	9/15/25	Change	
Gen Lafayette	64	64	-	
Desoto Trace	32	39	7	
Jordan Milam	27	27	-	• +2% growth over last three months
Abraham Van Buren	20	20	-	
Crowley Ridge	18	18	-	
Southwest Trail	15	15	-	
Casimir Pulaski	13	12	(1)	• +5% over last six months
Bayou Bartholomew	11	10	(1)	
Chickasawba	8	8	-	
Ecore Fabre	5	5	-	
TOTAL	213	218	5	

Source: SAR.org AR Society Roster Report as of 9/15/25



ARSSAR State Registrar's Report - Apps

6/15/25

Date of oldest New Application awaiting approval: **24-Mar-2025** (11 weeks)

Date of oldest Supplemental awaiting approval: **28-Mar-2024** (63 weeks)

9/15/25

Date of oldest New Application awaiting approval: **30-Apr-2025** (19 weeks)

Date of oldest Supplemental awaiting approval: **03-Sep-2024** (54 weeks)



Count of Name	App Type	Current Status	Total
Chapter			
• Bayou Bartholomew	• Supplemental	Approved	4
		Received	2
Bayou Bartholomew Total			6
• Casimir Pulaski	• Supplemental	Received	2
Casimir Pulaski Total			2
• Crowley Ridge	• Supplemental	Approved	2
Crowley Ridge Total			2
• Desoto Trace	• Memorial	Received	1
	• New	Approved	9
		Received	3
	• Supplemental	Pended	1
Desoto Trace Total			14
• Gen Lafayette	• New	Approved	4
	• Supplemental	Approved	4
		Received	6
Gen Lafayette Total			14
• Jordan Milam	• New	Pended	1
Jordan Milam Total			1
Grand Total			39

Source: SAR.org AR Society Application Status Report as of 9/15/25



NSSAR State Registrar's Report Card

Calendar Year 2025 Jan-Aug									
Society	Approved New/Memorial	Approved Supp	Adjust-ments *	Approval Ready**	New Pended Before 2025	Supp Pended before 2025	With-drawn	Total	Productivity Pct
AK	4	2	1	5	0	0		6	83.33%
AL	49	17	1	65	0	0		66	98.48%
AR	14	9	1	22	1	1		25	88.00%
AZ	35	19	19	35	6	3	1	63	55.56%
CA	104	60	9	155	3	2	3	169	91.72%
CAN	4	0	1	3	0	0		4	75.00%
CO	12	3	0	15	1	0		16	93.75%
CT	28	2	1	29	0	0	2	30	96.67%
Total	2213	922	369	2766	83	77	31	3295	83.95%

The report card above is a review of applications' approval readiness when presented to the Genealogy Staff. When a staff member requires clarification or additional supporting documentation, the result is delaying the approval of the application pending the receipt of the additional material. The Productivity percentage also includes approval of applications pended more than one year awaiting receipt of additional material to prove the lineage or service of the patriot. **Societies who are below the national productivity average need to address the preparation and review of applications before they are submitted for review by the genealogy staff.**

Source: NSSAR Genealogist General Report, emailed on 9/4/25



Arkansas SAR State Registrar's Report In Memoriam



Kenneth W. Cook
9/6/53 – 1/13/25
Gen Lafayette Chapter
Compatriot since 2/5/21



William D. "Bill" Turney
5/21/59 – 7/16/25
Bayou Bartholomew Chapter
Chapter President (2020 - 2022)



Charles W. Burton, Jr.
11/26/44 – 7/25/25
Casimir Pulaski Chapter
Chapter President (2019 - 2022)



State Treasurer's Report (including the Patriot Fund from Compatriot Bob Shewmake)



Arkansas SAR State Treasurer's Report

	<u>Account</u>	<u>6/15/25</u>	<u>9/15/25</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	Arvest Checking Acct	\$ 1,783.42	\$ 8,913.04	\$ 7,129.62	+\$7.5K from CD to checking
	CDs	\$ 20,200.22	\$ 12,904.70	\$ (7,295.52)	Converted \$7.5K CD to cash for web site
	TOTAL	\$ 21,983.64	\$ 21,817.74	\$ (165.90)	
State Brokerage Account	Invesco QQQ	\$ 17,916.64	\$ 20,117.12	\$ 2,200.48	
	SPDR S&P500 EFT	\$ 15,522.00	\$ 17,183.66	\$ 1,661.66	
	Cash	\$ 1,030.32	\$ 1,100.20	\$ 69.88	
	TOTAL	\$ 34,468.96	\$ 38,400.98	\$ 3,932.02	
Patriot Fund	Invesco QQQ	\$ 19,521.57	\$ 26,625.60	\$ 7,104.03	
	SPDR S&P500 EFT	\$ 18,515.06	\$ 25,114.58	\$ 6,599.52	
	Money Market - Taxable	\$ 5,271.46	\$ -	\$ (5,271.46)	Funds used to purchase QQQ/SPY shares
	Cash	\$ 9,468.81	\$ 5,807.02	\$ (3,661.79)	
	TOTAL	\$ 52,776.90	\$ 57,547.20	\$ 4,770.30	
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 109,229.50	\$ 117,765.92	\$ 8,536.42	

Source: Arvest Checking/Wealth Management Accounts, Compatriot Bob Shewmake 9/15/25 email on Patriot Fund



Arkansas SAR State Treasurer's Report 2025 YTD Checkbook Activity

<u>Item</u>	<u>2025 YTD</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>2025 YTD</u>
CD	\$ 7,500.00	6-month CD	\$ (20,000.00)
Apps to National	\$ 3,470.00	Chapter Dues	\$ (8,560.00)
Chapter Dues	\$ 518.00	Apps to National	\$ (3,305.00)
Refund	\$ 10.00	Awards	\$ (1,816.31)
Total Credits	\$ 11,498.00	CPA	\$ (1,750.00)
		Grave Marker	\$ (829.00)
		Insurance	\$ (394.00)
		Pins	\$ (350.00)
		Refund	\$ (246.00)
		Postage	\$ (148.15)
		Reinstatement	\$ (100.00)
		Office Supplies	\$ (9.08)
		Total Debits	\$ (37,507.54)

Source: Arvest ARSSAR Checking Acct, as of 9/15/25

Arkansas SAR State Treasurer's Report

Reminder to file your Federal and State taxes!!

Chapter Name	State Filing #	Federal EIN #	State Due Date	Federal Due Date	State Filed?	State Comments	Federal Filed?	Federal Comments
Chickasawba	811526065	31-1456540	By Aug 1st	By Aug 15th	YES	Filing date was 12/12/24	YES	Verified on IRS website
Crowley Ridge	811526103	71-0694369			YES	Filing date was 12/12/24, received confirm on 5/5/25	YES	Verified on IRS website
Southwest Trail	811526156	31-1456545			YES	Filing date was 12/12/24, received confirm on 3/27/25	NO	Need to file
Abraham Van Buren	811526062	61-1471569		By May 15th	YES	Filing date was 12/12/24, mailed on or about 5/6/25	YES	Verified on IRS website
Bayou Bartholomew	811516608	33-1487976			YES	Filing date was 10/3/24	YES	Verified on IRS website
Casimir Pulaski	811516621	99-4920424			YES	Filing date was 10/3/24	NO	Need to file
Desoto Trace	811526139	46-2785494			YES	Filing date was 12/12/24	YES	Verified on IRS website
Ecore Fabre	811526146	71-0592337			YES	Filing date was 12/12/24	NO	Need to file
General Lafayette	811515705	99-4816293			YES	Filing date was 9/27/24, received confirm on 8/2/25	YES	Verified on IRS website
Jordan Milam	811526150	71-0614440			YES	Filing date was 12/12/24	NO	Need to file, missing 2023 & 2024
State Society	100003745	33-1540369			NO	Mailed by DRO to State on or about 8/13/25	YES	Verified on IRS website

Source: Update as of 9/1/25

State Secretary's Report –



Arkansas SAR State Secretary's Report

- 6/17/25 BOG Minutes were sent out to the State Officers and Chapter Presidents on 6/28/25
 - Proposed changes received
 - **Compatriot Wayne Shewmake is appointed as ARSSAR Public Safety Chairman** (change NOT made as he was appointed on 6/27/25 by State President Darrell Over MD via email on 6/30/25)
 - **Compatriot Shewmake has 100 trees set a side** (change made)
- Request approval of 6/17/25 minutes

Other Business

State and Chapter SAR Web Site Presence



Arkansas SAR Web Site - UPDATE

- Important that we gather all inputs from the chapters in order to have a professional and easy-to-use web site
- **Need assistance from the chapters to make this a reality!**
 1. Recent head and shoulder photographs
 2. Counties/towns your chapter covers
 3. Help craft sections below ↓

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	ARSSAR Website Sitemap					
2						
3	Home Page	About Us	Membership	Calendar & News	Contact Us	Chapters & Resources
4	ARSSAR Overview	Mission/Vision	Who can join?	Calendar listing w/meetings, events, etc.	Contact form	Abraham Van Buren Chapter-Clinton
5	President's Welcome	History	How to join (Link to NSSAR application)	News blog	Contact information	Bayou Bartholomew Chapter-Pine Bluff, Stuttgart
6	Find Your Chapter	Programs	Genealogy (Instructions and links)		Social media link(s)	Cassimir Pulaski-Little Rock
7	CTA-Become a part of history!	> ROTC/ROTC Scholarship	Benefits			Chickasawba Chapter-Blytheville
8		> Eagle Scout Award	Dues structure			Crowley's Ridge Chapter-Jonesboro
9		> Patriot Research System Volunteer	ARSSAR Lifetime application (link to PDF)			DeSoto Trace Chapter-Hot Springs
10		Leadership	Bylaws (links to PDFs)			Ecore Fabre Chapter-Camden
11						Gen. Lafayette Chapter-NWA
12						Southwest Trail Chapter-Texarkana
13						Jordan Miam-Harrison
14						
15						Resources links (Graves, Affiliate chapters, etc.)

State and Chapter Officers will need to provide head and shoulder pictures for the site. Web site development would be done by Ransom Marketing based in Fort Smith, AR.

General Lafayette T-Shirts & Polo Shirts – State Secretary James Morrison discussed how the General Lafayette Chapter pulled together t-shirts and Polo shirts for his chapter in anticipation of the country's 250th birthday in 2026. There were 26 shirts made with the following designs below.

The local business who made the shirts was

Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More of NWA

2501 SE 14th Street

Bentonville, AR 72712

Phone: 479.464.0160

Email: bigfrognwa@gmail.com

Website: www.bigfrog.com/nwa/

Hours: M-F: 9 to 6 | Sat: 9 to 1

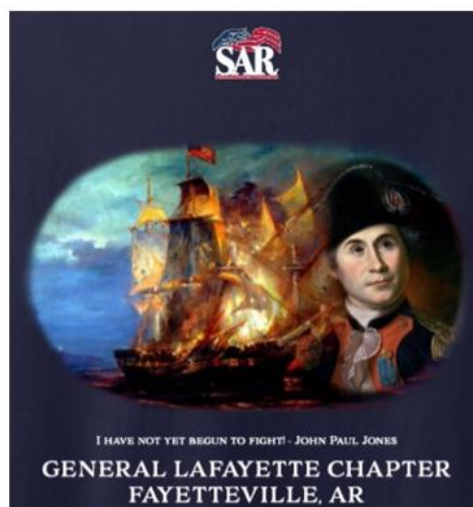


Arkansas SAR State Secretary's Report T-Shirts / Polo Shirts

- Gen Lafayette Chapter created t-shirts & Polo shirts to celebrate the upcoming 250th anniversary.
- **Do we want to create one for the ARSSAR?**

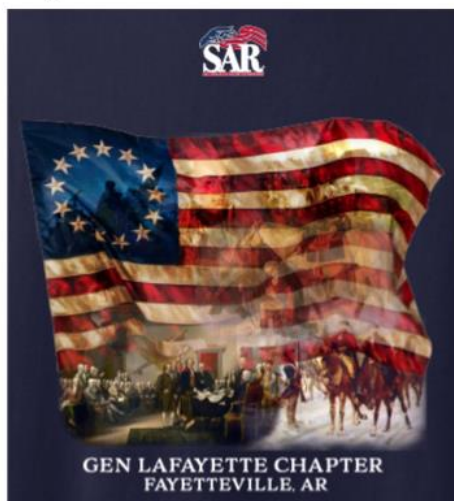


Arkansas SAR State Secretary's Report T-Shirt Design – John Paul Jones





Arkansas SAR State Secretary's Report T-Shirt Design – Betsy Ross



Awards – State President Darrell Over MD gave out the following awards:

- Liberty Medal – Chapter President Charles McLemore, his first.
- State Distinguished Service Medal – State Treasurer James Morrison, his first.

Benediction
SAR Recessional
Adjournment

BOG meeting ended at 3:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

James R. Morrison
Arkansas SAR State Secretary