

2022 Chapter President

Ron Schoolcraft

First Vice President

Gene Wueste

Second Vice President

Robert Gindratt

Chapter Secretary

Clark Wright

**Chapter Treasurer**

Bill Mayo

Quartermaster

Larry Armstrong

Chaplain

Yancey Arrington

Hugh Ferguson

Historian

Steve Nicol

Sidney Sherman Chapter #2

Minutes

September 20, 2022

The members of the Sidney Sherman Chapter #2, Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) gathered at Kelley's Family Restaurant in Texas City before 6 PM on September 20 in the banquet room behind the cashier. At 6:10 PM President Ron Schoolcraft called the meeting to order. Ron called for a minute of silence instead of a prayer and followed it with pledges to the United States and Texas Flags.

Chapter Members attending: George and Larry Armstrong, Gordon Blocker, Robert Gindratt (Second Vice-President), Albert Seguin Gonzales, Carl Hill, J.B. Kline, Michael Loomis, Steve Manis (Treasurer General and Knight of San Jacinto), Billy Mayo (Treasurer), Mike Mitchell, Mike Mize, Jim Nonus, Ron Schoolcraft (President), Clark Wright (Secretary). 15 Chapter members attended this meeting with a total of 24 in attendance.

Honorary Member: Christy Erickson

Guests: Edwin Cannon, Matthew Cerda, Amy Maxwell Chase, Patty Gothia, Lynne Mize, Cody and Robert Schmuriger and Erin Tyne

Introductions: President Schoolcraft then acknowledged: Steve Manis, Admiral, Knight of San Jacinto, and Treasurer General of the SRT; and Christy Erickson, honorary member. President Schoolcraft proceeded to install two (2) new members.

Reports: President Schoolcraft had a correction to the minutes of the August meeting. Clark Wright reported that those minutes will be corrected online. Billy Mayo gave his reported that the chapter has \$3,795.94 in the chapter checking account.

Business: Steve announced that the chapter has two (2) tickets to the "Wings Over Texas" event at the end of October. They will be auctioned for a fundraising activity. Jeff Corbin donated the tickets. The discussion proceeded with a review of the pledge to be given to "The Battleship Texas Foundation". Many of our members met on the Texas City Dike to view the Battleship as it passed August 31 on it's way from the Battleground to the dry dock in Galveston. Members from a number of other chapters also attended. Refreshments were also provided by the Manis Family. The only downside was that it took an hour and half to make it off the dike. We also had a number of members attend the annual Texian Navy Day held on September 19 at the San Jacinto Monument. A presentation was provided about the 1908 packet which delivered munitions. After the Navy Meeting, most of the party had lunch at the Monument Inn.

Upcoming: We plan to meet next on October 18 at 6pm at Kelley's. This is also the date which at 10 am we will meet near the Burnet/Sherman Monument in Lakeview Cemetery on Galveston Island off 61st Street. Ron has coordinated with the Burnet School to have school children to attend and entertain. Ron also has attempted to get tent(s) set up, but most of the tents were destroyed by Hurricane Ike. If it can be arranged Judge Ken Wise has indicated that he will attend, if his schedule allows.

Speaker: Next, President Schoolcraft introduced Amy Maxwell Chase who is President of the "Boliver Lighthouse Foundation". In 2015 Mark Boyt and Michael Maxwell (both desendants of the first private owners) established the Foundation to work toward the restoration and preservation of the lighthouse. The next year Amy left her job with Pfizer to contribute as President of the Foundation. She led us through the life of the Light from 1852. A number of residents survived the 1900 storm within the Lighthouse. Another storm in 1915 was devastating to the support structures. The Light was active from 1917 through 1933 when it was decommissioned. During World War II, it was damaged by artillery in mistake. In 1947 it was purchased by Amy's family at auction for \$5500. She shared several stories, one about a movie shot on the site. No improvements were made. The Lighthouse is also the subject of a poem by Justin Philips Brooks: "Candle on the Shore". Amy also recommended the photography of Russell Autry. The Foundation is holding a dinner on November 19 to raise money and provide a tour.

President Schoolcraft presented Amy with a gift certificate and then handed the podium over to Gordon Blocker. Gordon presented a letter addressed to the Battleship Texas Foundation in support of their registration. He called for all members to sign the letter. Gordon indicated that many of the contractors who served the voyage to the dry dock donated their services for the restoration.

Prepared by Clark P. Wright, Secretary, **VERY Preliminary**