



**Dr. Enemund Meullion Chapter
Louisiana Society
Sons of the American Revolution**



18 May 2024

Meeting Minutes

<https://www.emclassar.org>

The regular bimonthly meeting of the Enemund Meullion Chapter of the Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution was held at Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site in Pineville, LA.

President Gervais Compton called the meeting to order with fourteen members and eleven guests in attendance. Compton welcomed everyone and asked for an introduction of guests.

Chaplain Clyde Neck opened the meeting with the Invocation and then Mike Sawrie led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compton led the Pledge to the SAR.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the previous meeting's minutes.

Attendees wished Secretary Brent Morock a Happy Birthday.

President Compton introduced Michael Wynne, our guest speaker. Compton presented Wynne with a Certificate of Appreciation and a LASSAR mug for his presentation on General George Armstrong Custer's time in Alexandria. Custer was present at the surrender of General Robert E. Lee to Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, VA, on 9 April 1865. Custer arrived in Alexandria in June 1865 to restore order and to take command of the U.S. Cavalry before leaving for Texas. Previously, the area had been filled with roving parties professing to be searching for blackberries, but some had been entering private residences to demand milk and meats or "to steal hogs, fruit, and whatever they set their eyes upon" from citizens, who already did not have enough for themselves after the burning of the Town of Alexandria on 13 May 1864 by retreating Union forces. A Q&A followed.

Aubrey Birinyi was awarded a certificate and a \$100 check for winning LASSAR's Americanism Poster Contest on 13 April 2024. Her poster was sent to NSSAR to be judged at the Annual Congress.

Mike Lee introduced Diane Lawton, widow of Michael J. Lawton. Michael was a founding member of the Holiday Village Fire Department, serving as president for 18 years, and remained an active member of the department throughout his life. One of nine men that lived outside the city limits of Pineville that formed a non-profit volunteer fire association in 1970. Lawton was "the legs" that went to the Rapides Parish Police Jury and that contacted people in the area for funding. He was a lifetime member of the LA State Firemen's Association (LSFA). Lawton received the SAR Fire Safety Award.

James Morock, Sr., M.D. “Dr. Morock” read the description of the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. Eric Irby introduced APD Chief Chad Gremillion. Gremillion began his law enforcement career at Alexandria Police Department in 1995. From 1999-2023, he served as Louisiana State Trooper in Troop E. During his time as a trooper, Chief Gremillion was awarded the Louisiana State Police “Trooper of the Year” and was the recipient of a lifesaving award among other commendations. On 5 April 2023, Alexandria Mayor Jacques Roy appointed Gremillion as Interim Chief. Gremillion received the SAR Law Enforcement Award.

President Compton acknowledged that his report was in the Rapides Post Dispatch, the chapter newsletter. Vice President Darrell Poole did not have a report.

Secretary Brent Morock reported that the current chapter account balance is \$2,601.50. He stated that the chapter has 72 members, including 55 Regular, 2 Dual, 6 Life, and 9 Junior Members. 4 Supplemental applications are at National.

Mike Sawrie and the membership acknowledged the contributions of Joe Reynolds on the newsletter and the website.

In Committee Reports, Dr. Morock stated that two deceased members’ graves need to be marked. He is trying to get nominations from various chiefs and directors for public service and heroism awards. When the Awards Committee meets again is up to President Compton and does not need to be set today.

Dr. Morock once again talked about America’s First Medals Set (1973) – a donation for the Enemund Meullion Chapter to raise funds for LASSAR’s contribution toward the 2027 NSSAR Congress in New Orleans, LA. \$20 per ticket grants you a chance to win the item at a drawing later this year.

In new business, the Dr. Enemund Meullion Chapter will host the LASSAR Annual Meeting on 12 April 2025. An option to host for the next 5 years has not yet been voted on by the LASSAR Board of Directors. The cost to rent the trio of meeting rooms is \$800. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay the \$400 deposit to initiate the contract. The cost will be recouped when reservations are made.

Vice President Cheryl Morock of the LASSAR Ladies Auxiliary thanked the membership for raising money for the chapter’s contributions to the Annual Auction and stated that the Auxiliary donated \$3,000 towards to the LASSAR Youth Awards program.

The next meeting will be at 11:30 AM on July 20th at Broken Wheel Brewery in Marksville, LA. A Bronze Good Citizenship may be presented to State Representative Mike Johnson at the next meeting.

Charles Neal asked Michael Wynne to talk about Cenla Authors Club. It meets every fourth Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Westside Regional Library.

Mike Lee stated that today is Armed Forces Day. Remember all those who are serving. President Compton mentioned that a week from Monday is Memorial Day.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Neck offered a closing prayer and President Compton led the SAR Recessional.

Brent Morock

Secretary