

TEXAS SOCIETY

Military Order of the Stars and Bars



SOCIETY AWARDS MANUAL

As Amended 08 November 2024
Previous editions are obsolete

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this *Texas Society Awards Manual* is:

- a. to augment the current *National MOS&B Awards and Insignia Guide*,
- b. to inaugurate new Society awards,
- c. to define the applicable details for each award, including eligibility and nomination deadlines,
- d. to institute the guidelines for the Society Awards Committee,
- e. to provide standardized Society Award forms,
- f. to record annual individual and Chapter winners of major Society awards, and
- g. to provide protocol guidelines for wearing various levels of medals, badges, etc.

General Guidelines

Both Society and National award nominations are to be sent to the Society Awards Committee Chairman for further processing. It is the responsibility of the nominator to read the applicable portions of the on-line Society and National Awards Manuals and to provide all required information, on the correct form (Society or National), including name of recipient (as listed on the official MOS&B roster; not his common nickname), his chapter name and number, and sufficient justification for the level of award proposed. MOS&B membership number is desirable, especially in the case of common names or when a “Senior” and “Junior” are in the same chapter. Pay particular attention to any minimum membership time required for award eligibility, which is measured as of the date of the Society Reunion at which the award is to be presented. The Awards Committee will research previous awards for the years 2022 and on, where we have records. Otherwise, the Committee has neither time nor responsibility to research incomplete information, nor to transcribe provided information to the proper form. If a deserving compatriot spends a full year supporting the Society and the MOS&B, it is a reasonable expectation for the nominator to spend a few minutes properly preparing the award nomination form.

The completed nomination form should be submitted (scanned attachment to e-mail or USPS mail) to the Awards Committee Chairman, for processing and distribution to the rest of the Committee, in accordance with the Awards Calendar. The chairman’s contact information is listed in this manual and on the Society website. **Telephone or other verbal requests, or a simple list of names and proposed awards cannot be accepted.**

Society-level Star awards are for exceptional and consistent performance, above and beyond what is expected of every member, and nominations should be limited to maintain the prestige of these awards. Society-level awards should reflect consistent contributions at a higher level, not just “time in service” and contributions solely at the Chapter level. They are NOT “Good Conduct” medals for regularly attending meetings or participating in an occasional local event. Even those who are deserving of higher awards are expected to work their way up the levels, Bronze > Silver > Gold. Nominations that “skip” one level will be considered on a case by case basis if there is sufficient justification, but a Gold Star will very rarely be awarded to someone who has never received even a Bronze Star.

Chapters are expected to maintain the prestige of the Society-level Star awards by keeping the annual number down to a reasonable level. As a general guideline, limit the total Society Stares to no more than 20% of a chapter's membership or 10 Stares, whichever is lower. The Awards Committee will not unilaterally "cull" excess nominations but reserves the right to return all nominations back to the originator and request that he resubmit only those that will fit under a reasonable "cap".

There is no rule that an officer cannot nominate himself if an award is otherwise authorized and deserved, but since they are often reluctant to do so, Society officers are expected to assure that Chapter officers in their jurisdiction receive any warranted recognition, while Society officers are expected to do the same for Society officers.

Chapter Awards Committee

Each Chapter is encouraged to establish a Chapter Awards Committee to review the awards listed herein, and make recommendations for those which their Chapter, individual members, or applicable non-members are eligible. A committee resolves the issue of a deserving chapter officer in charge of recommending awards not wanting to nominate himself. The committee recommendations, along with all relevant background information, should then be forwarded to the applicable Chapter or Society Executive Council (SEC) officer who is authorized to make the actual nominations.

Chapters are encouraged to initially recognize all members deserving of an award because of their participation in previous years, then consider members with more recent service.

Society Awards Calendar

By 15 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Awards Committee Chairman will request the Awards Calendar be sent by e-mail to all SEC members, as well as Chapter Commanders and Adjutants
By 1 April:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards Committee notifies Society Executive Council to submit nominations for the <i>Lone Star</i> awards.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications for <i>Distinguished Chapter</i> are due to Awards Committee
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomination for the <i>Best Newsletter</i> due to Awards Committee
By 15 April:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEC nominations for <i>Lone Star</i> awards are due to Awards Committee.
By 19 April:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballot for <i>Lone Star</i> awards sent to Society Executive Council by Awards Committee Chairman.
By 26 April:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEC votes for <i>Lone Star</i> awards are due to Society Awards Committee Chairman.
By 1 May:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations from Chapter Commanders for <i>Gold-Star Chapter</i> award due to Society Adjutant and Awards Committee.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web masters must notify Awards Committee that they wish to enter their websites in competition for the <i>Best Website</i> award.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations for Texas Society Meritorious Crosses, Letters of Recognition and Letters of Appreciation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations for <i>MOS&B National Awards</i>, are due to Awards Committee.
By 4 May:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Society Adjutant confirms to Awards Committee Chairman that <i>Distinguished Chapter</i> and <i>Gold-Star Chapter</i> nominees have paid their dues on time (31 December).
By 7 May:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards Committee forwards its recommendations for <i>Distinguished Chapter Award and Lone Star Award</i> to the Society Commander for final selection.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards Committee forwards nominations for <i>MOS&B National Awards</i> to the Society Commander for approval and forwarding to GHQ.
One Week before Convention:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for Awards Committee to procure all awards.

SECTION I: TEXAS SOCIETY INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Any member of the Texas Society, MOS&B at any level may be recommended for an Award by a colleague, his Chapter Commander or Society Commander or his Army Commander or even a member of the National Command Staff or General Executive Council. Recommendations shall be made on the applicable form and submitted to the Texas Society Awards Chairman via at least one level of the Command structure for concurrence and information. Guidelines for writing effective nominations are outlined in the MOS&B Manual for Award Originators (Feb 2023).

Lone Star Award

Purpose: The Lone Star Award is the highest award that is bestowed by the Texas Society Executive Council (SEC) to an individual member of the Society. It is presented annually to individuals in good standing who have demonstrated extraordinary service and support to the mission of the Texas Society MOS&B. The recipients should exemplify the leadership, daring and courage of the Confederate Officer Corps from the Great State of Texas.

Number of Awards: Three individuals may be awarded annually; however, there is no requirement that this award be presented each year. The Lone Star Award may be received only once by an individual. The names of the awardees will be retained in the Society's records for posterity.

Eligibility: The nominee must be a member in good standing of the Texas Society as well as his local Chapter at the time of the nomination and award presentation. An individual cannot nominate himself for this award.

Selection Process: Nominations for the Lone Star Award are solicited from voting members and official representatives of the Society Executive Council. Other members of the Society may suggest nominations to any SEC member/representative for consideration. No member may nominate themselves, regardless of status/office. Nominations must be received by the Award Chairman no later than 2359 hours on April 15th of each year. Narratives should be at least fifty (50) words but not more than one hundred fifty (150) words. The Award Chairman will compile the information into a ballot for consideration by the SEC Members.

The list of nominees, with accompanying narratives, are then distributed to the voting members/official representatives of the Society Executive Council. The SEC may have a directed discussion regarding individual nominees; however, the selection will be by written ballot. The current and immediate Past Society Commanders, along with the Awards Chairman, shall tally/verify the votes. The three individuals receiving the largest number of votes will be declared the year's recipients. In case of tie(s), the SEC will perform a subsequent written vote for final selection(s). Awardees' names shall not be revealed until the Annual Society Convention in May.

Form of Award: Each recipient receives a certificate suitable for framing along with both a large and a miniature medal. The awards are presented by the Society Commander in open forum at the next Society Convention. The medal shall consist of an antique gold five-pointed star entwined by a wreath with a

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disc superimposed upon it containing a large star representing the Great State of Texas surrounded by small stars representing the other states of the Confederacy. The medal is suspended on a drape of the Lone Star Flag of Texas.



Texas Society Stars for Meritorious Service

The ***Texas Society Stars for Meritorious Service*** are awarded to Texas Society MOS&B members for OUTSTANDING AND EXEMPLARY patriotic achievement and community service of statewide or local importance to the community and/or to his MOS&B Chapter or Society.

THE MEDAL SHOULD BE AWARDED FOR SERVICE ABOVE AND BEYOND THAT WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED OF MOS&B MEMBERS. For example, regular attendance of Chapter meetings is expected, so a **Star** should be reserved to recognize those who make significant contributions beyond consistent meeting attendance and occasional event participation. As a minimum, they should regularly participate with their Chapter in area parades, cemetery ceremonies, etc. **Those considered for higher levels of the Star should regularly participate in events beyond their immediate Chapter area, i.e., support MOS&B activities in their Society, and Nationally. COMPATRIOTS SHOULD NOT BE NOMINATED FOR A HIGHER AWARD SIMPLY FOR "TIME IN SERVICE", BUT RATHER HIGHER AWARDS SHOULD REFLECT CORRESPONDING HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT.** Even for those who are deserving of higher awards are expected to work their way up the levels, Bronze > Silver > Gold.

1. Activities which may be considered as patriotic achievement and community service are as follows:
Active participation in the local Chapter, Society and/or National Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, for at least the minimum time applicable to the award; including, but not limited to working on MOS&B Chapter, Society or National projects; serving on a Chapter, Society or National committee; serving as an Officer at the Chapter, Society or National level; regular attendance at Society or National events; and/or providing significant financial support to these activities or other heritage defense issues.
2. The Society Awards Committee may also consider:
 - a. The member's participation as a leader in non-MOS&B organizations at the local, state, or national level (such as patriotic, military, veterans, religious, business, civic, professional, genealogical, hereditary, historical, school, Scouting, or youth sports organizations), if that outside participation portrays the MOS&B in a favorable light. To ensure the non-political nature of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, political involvement or activity may not be considered toward qualification of the award.
 - b. Authorship of genealogical, patriotic, military, historical or hereditary books, magazines, historical or genealogical society journals, internet forums, newsletter articles, letters to the editor; and/or presentation of speeches which are designed in part to:
 - 1) Correct distorted historical facts about the Confederacy; the War for Southern Independence; causes for the war; or Reconstruction;
 - 2) Portray a favorable impression about the South, the Confederacy, the Confederate soldier or statesman, Confederate or Southern icons (such as the Confederate Battle Flag), or the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

- 3) Educate the public (including MOS&B members) about the true history of the South, the Confederacy, the Confederate soldier or statesmen, the War for Southern Independence and/or Reconstruction.
- 4) Assist members or the public in genealogical research to locate and identify Confederate ancestors or their graves.
- 5) Convey information about the individual war efforts of Confederate Veterans or the status of Southern civilians during the conflict and/or during Reconstruction.

- c. Actively participate in the management of a Confederate Veterans Cemetery or care for Confederate veteran graves in public or private cemeteries; **-or-**
- d. Actively participate in a Civil War Reenactment Group or in the establishment, restoration or defense of Civil War Monuments, flags, plaques, markers, etc.

It shall be the duty of the MOS&B Texas Society Awards Committee to ensure that the **Texas Society Stars for Meritorious Service** medals are awarded not only to Society, and Chapter officers, but also to deserving individual members at the Chapter levels.

Number of Awards: There is no limit to the number of Stars awarded by the Society annually, but each Chapter is expected to stay within the annual limits described in the General Guidelines.

Selection Process: Nominations for the Texas Society Stars for Meritorious Service may be made by any member of the Society Executive Committee or any Chapter Commander. Each nomination must be made on the “Society MOS&B Member Award Nomination Form”. All Society-level nominations must be submitted no later than 1 May. The Awards Committee shall submit its award recommendations to the Society Commander, no later than 7 May. Society-level awards are presented only at the annual Society Reunion.

Form of Award: The applicable level of Texas Society Star for Meritorious Service medal and a Certificate. If a Compatriot receives the same award again, he shall receive an Oak Leaf Cluster for his ribbon, in lieu of another medal.

Cost of Award:

- The cost of the Society level award will be borne by the Texas Society.

Presentation:

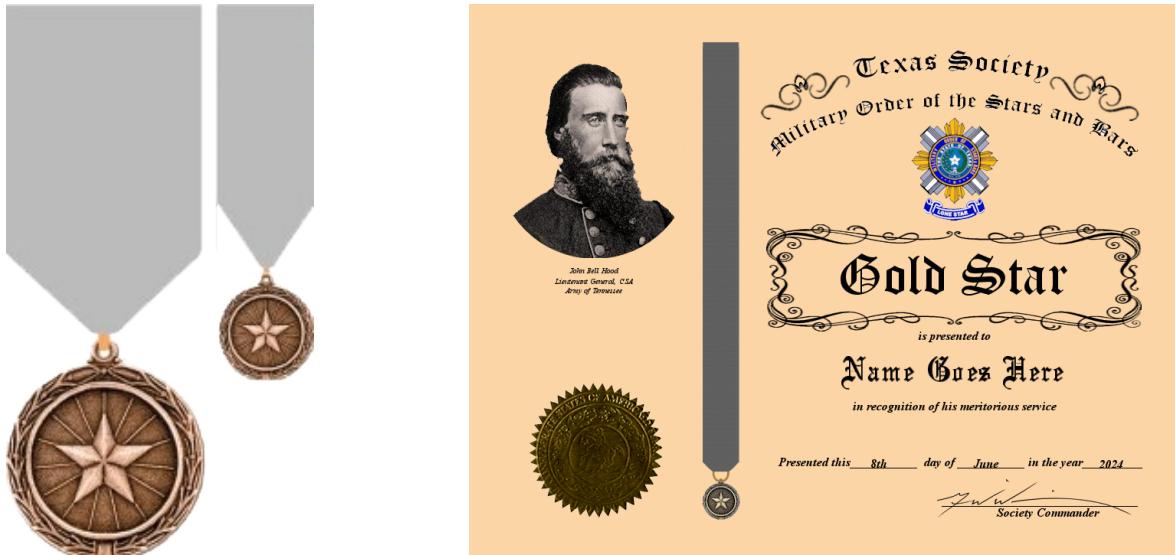
- The award is to be presented by the Society Commander or Society Awards Committee Chairman at the Society Reunion.

Texas Society Gold Star for Meritorious Service

Purpose: The Texas Society Gold Star for Meritorious Service is awarded to Texas Society MOS&B members for HIGHEST LEVEL of OUTSTANDING AND EXEMPLARY patriotic achievement and community service of statewide or local importance to the community and/or to his MOS&B Chapter or Society.

Eligibility: Active participation in the local Chapter, Society and/or National Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars for at least three (3) years. It is not mandatory that a recipient of the **Texas Society Gold Star for Meritorious Service** must first be awarded the **Texas Society Silver or Bronze Star**, although it is expected that an individual would normally progress up the ladder of medals in the order of importance. Nominations that “skip” one level will be considered on a case by case basis if there is sufficient justification, but a Gold Star will very rarely be awarded to someone who has never received even a Bronze Star. A member may receive the award more than once.

Certificate & Medal



Texas Society Silver Star for Meritorious Service

Purpose: The Texas Society Silver Star for Meritorious Service is awarded to Texas Society MOS&B members for OUTSTANDING AND EXEMPLARY patriotic achievement and community service of statewide or local importance to the community and/or to his MOS&B Chapter or Society, but which is less than that required for award of the **Texas Society Gold Star for Meritorious Service**.

The Texas Society Silver Star for Meritorious Service may be awarded at either the Chapter or Society level and these are considered separate awards. The level of the award should reflect the scope of the nominee's contributions and service.

The Texas Society Silver Star for Meritorious Service is the second highest award that may be presented by the local MOS&B Chapter Commander.

Eligibility: Active participation in the local Chapter, Society and/or National Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars for at least two (2) years. It is not mandatory that a recipient of the **Texas Society Silver Star for Meritorious Service** must first be awarded the **Texas Society Bronze Star**, although it is expected that an individual would normally progress up the ladder of medals in the order of importance. Exceptions will be determined on an individual basis. A member may receive the award more than once.

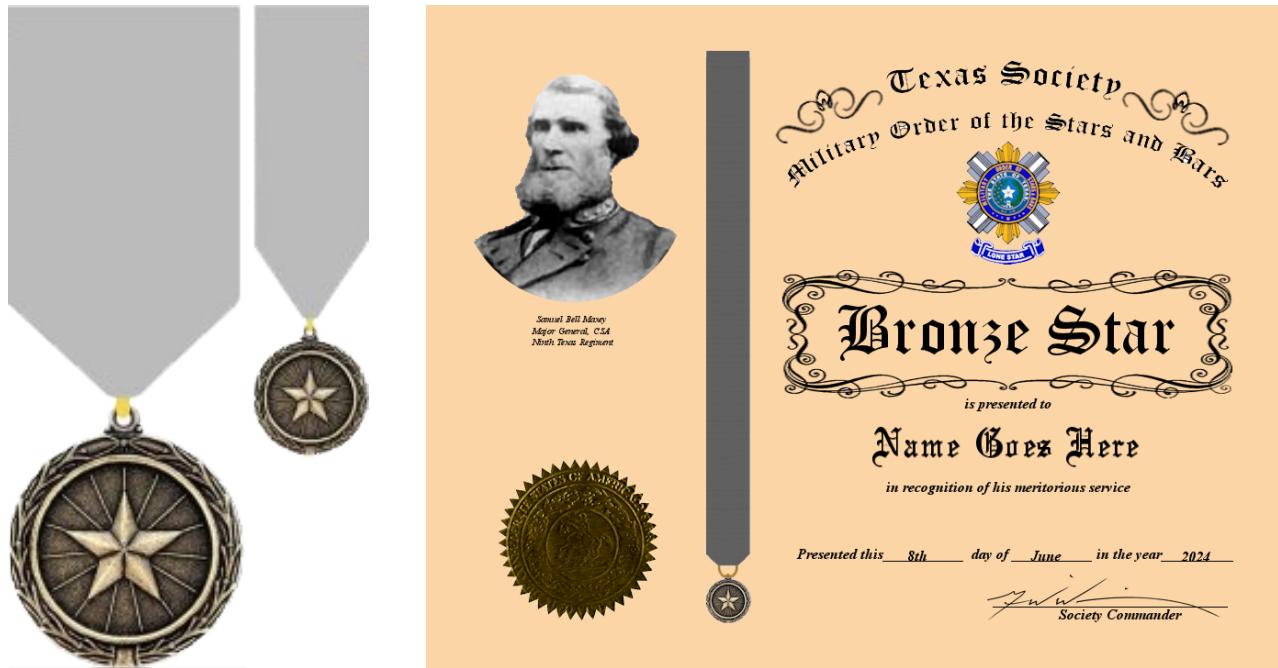


Texas Society Bronze Star for Meritorious Service

Purpose: The Texas Society Bronze Star for Meritorious Service is awarded to Texas Society MOS&B members for OUTSTANDING AND EXEMPLARY patriotic achievement and community service of statewide or local importance to the community and/or the MOS&B Chapter or Society, but which is less than that required for award of the Texas Society Silver Star for Meritorious Service.

The Texas Society Bronze Star for Meritorious Service is the third highest award that may be presented by the local MOS&B Chapter Commander or the Brigade Commander.

Eligibility: Active participation in the local Chapter, Society and/or National Society of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars for at least one (1) year. A member may receive the award more than once.



Certificate of Appreciation

Purpose: The Certificate of Appreciation is presented to members, or non-members, individuals or organizations, in appreciation for services rendered to the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Typically, it is awarded to speakers at Chapter or Society meetings, who may or may not be MOS&B members. It may be presented to a committee chairman or member; an officer; convention delegate, or member for a job well done; to a restaurant where the chapter meetings are conducted; to a business (or individual) which promotes the cause of the Confederacy, etc.

Number of Awards: There is no limit to the number of annual awards.

Eligibility: Any MOS&B member, non-member, or organization, upon the recommendation of an MOS&B Chapter Commander.

Selection Process: A printed certificate may be purchased from the Texas Society Awards Chairman. Contact him with the "Texas Society and Chapter Medals Order form along with name of the recipient, the awarding Chapter's name and number, and other applicable details.

Form of Award: Certificate

Cost of Award: The cost of the certificate will be borne by the nominating Chapter.

Presentation: The certificate will be presented by a Chapter officer, either at a Chapter meeting or at the recipient's place of business.



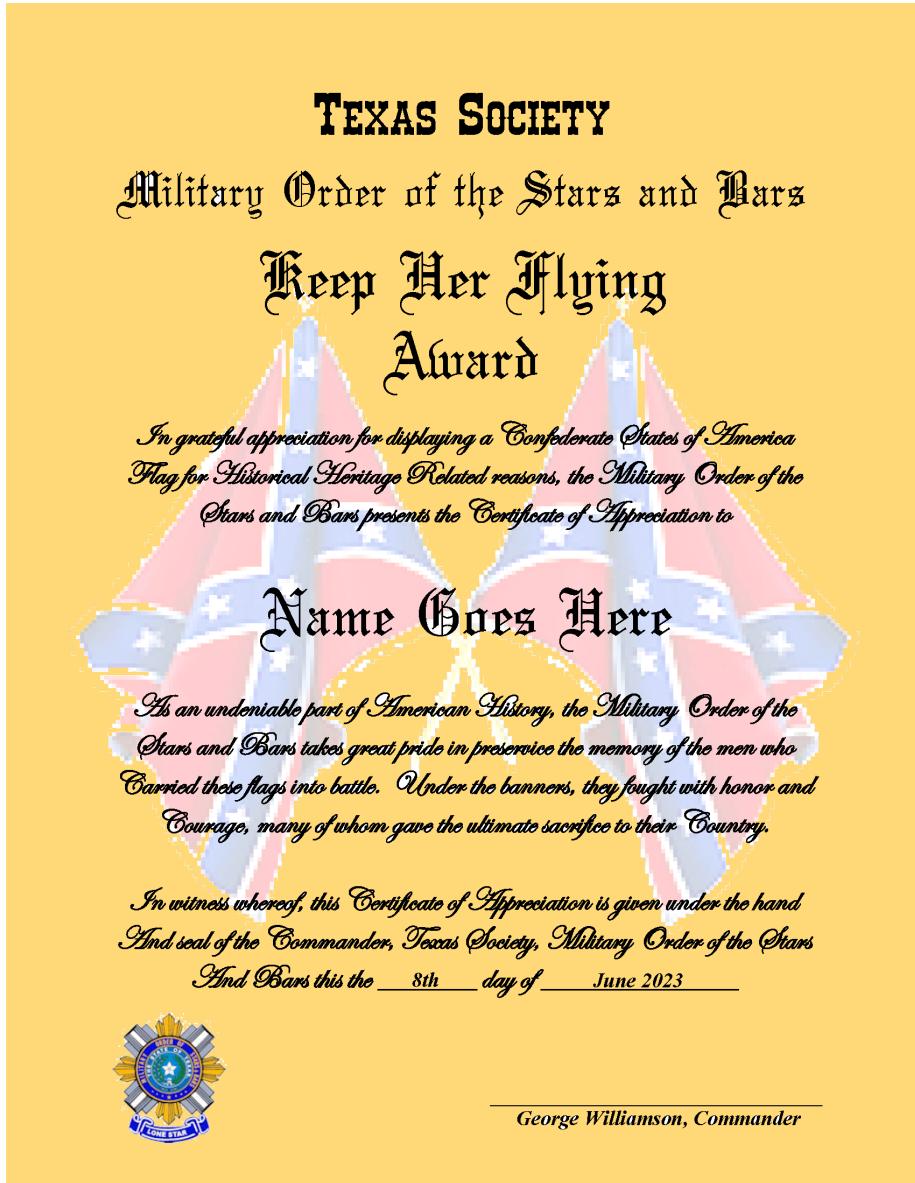
Certificate of Appreciation

Keep Her Flying Certificate

Purpose: Keep Her Flying Certificate is presented to a business (or individual) which regularly flies one of the flags of the Confederacy in a respectful manner.

Number of Awards: There is no limit to the number of annual awards.

Eligibility: Any MOS&B member, non-member, or organization, upon the recommendation of a MOS&B Chapter Commander.



Keep Her Flying
Certificate of Appreciation

SECTION II: TEXAS SOCIETY CHAPTER AWARDS

Distinguished Chapter Award

Purpose: This award is presented by the Society Commander to the Chapter that best exemplifies the purposes and principles of the Military Order of Stars and Bars as exhibited by its activities, services, membership and leadership.

Number of Awards: One (1) Chapter per year may be awarded this prestigious award. There is no requirement that the award be made each year.

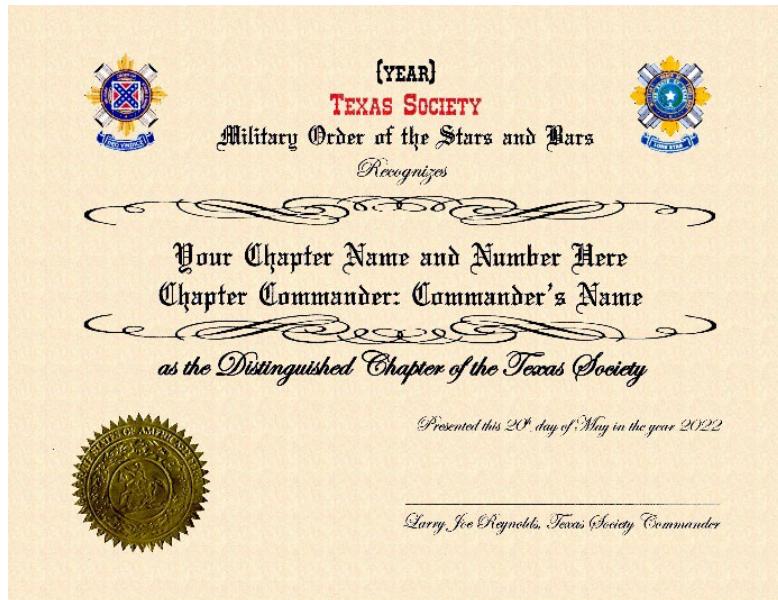
Eligibility: Any Chapter may be nominated in consideration for this award.

Selection Process: The two-page Distinguished Chapter nomination form as well as the completed Chapter Annual Report must be submitted along with any other documentation to support consideration for this award. The criteria page is presented in Appendix 3 – Grading Criteria.

Form of Award: A Yellow Streamer to be placed on the staff of the Chapter flag, and a Certificate.

Cost of Award: The cost of the award will be borne by the Texas Society MOS&B.

Presentation: The Distinguished Chapter Award will be presented at the annual Texas Society Convention, by either the Society Commander or the Society Awards Committee Chairman.



○ (YEAR)TX MOS&B DISTINGUISHED CHAPTER

Best Chapter Newsletter Award

Purpose: The Best Chapter Newsletter Award is presented to the editor of the Texas Society Chapter publishing the best newsletter. Entries for this award shall be judged on format (including color, photos and graphics), news content (including current Chapter, Society and National news), historical content (including history of War for Southern Independence events, biographies of Confederate Officers, and review of applicable books), editorials and general interest.

Number of Awards: Only one award will be presented per year.

Eligibility: Any Chapter within the Texas Society publishing a newsletter at least quarterly in the year prior to cutoff for submittal. Chapters are encouraged to post electronic versions of their newsletters on some form of “password protected” website or social media page.

Selection Process: Points are awarded based on:

Format	15
Society and National News	30
Historical Content	20
Regular Publication Schedule	15
<u>Overall Interest and Appeal</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	100

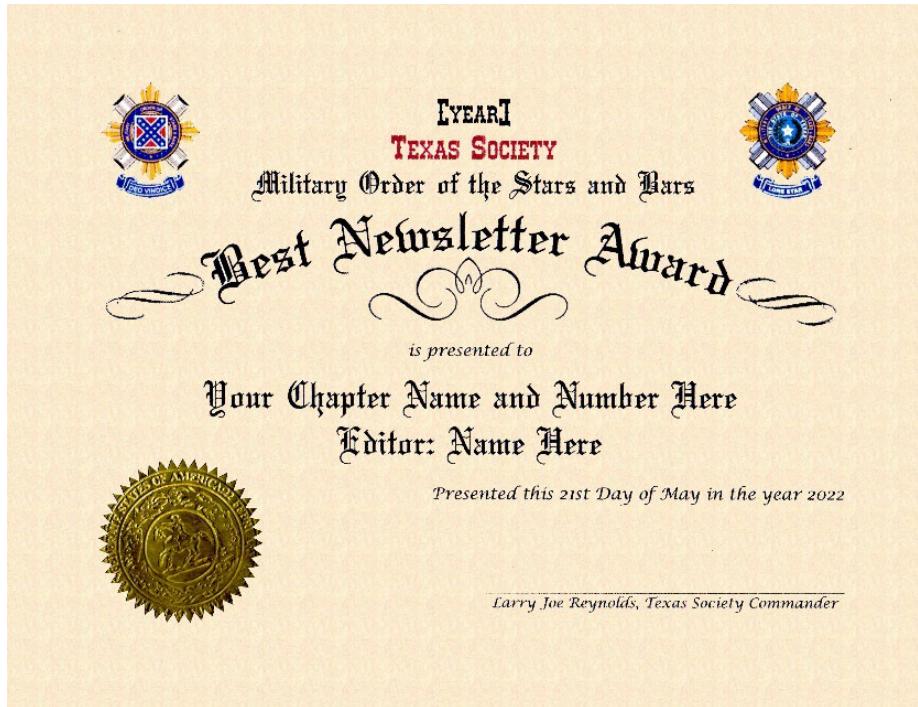
To be considered for competition, electronic copies (preferably in PDF format) of each newsletter published must be submitted along with the completed nomination form to the Awards Chairman by March 15th of each year. Three non-partisan professionals will review the newsletters and winners will be chosen based on a set of evaluation criteria as shown in Appendix C. Decisions of the judging are final. The publication schedule for competition purposes is from end of previous year’s Society Convention to March 1 of the following year.

NOTE: In lieu of electronic copies, a Chapter may provide a direct link to their member’s only web page; however, the Awards Chairman must be provided with USER ID and PW for access.

Form of Award: Winner will receive a certificate and streamer (purple with white lettering) noting their achievement.

Cost of Award: The cost of the award will be borne by the Texas Society MOS&B.

Presentation: The Best Newsletter Award will be presented at the annual Texas Society Convention, by either the Society Commander or the Society Awards Committee Chairman.



◀ (YEAR)TX MOS&B BEST NEWSLETTER ▶

Best Chapter Website / Social Media Award

Social Media Purpose: This Annual Society award is presented to the Chapter whose website and/or social media site has been judged best in the Texas Society. It should document the activities of the Chapter in the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the Order. Sites will be judged on attractiveness, ease of use and uniqueness of appearance, documentation of current activities and meetings of the past year, theme, and overall interest.

Number of Awards: Only one award shall be given annually, providing sufficient award-quality nominations are submitted.

Eligibility: Any Chapter within the Texas Society maintaining a high-quality website or social media page from the month following the previous year's Society Convention to March 1 of the following year.

Selection Process: Chapters who wish to enter this competition must submit a nomination form to the Awards Chairman no later than March 15th of each year. Scoring will be based on generally recognized criteria for website/social media excellence. Sites should be up-to-date, attractive looking, relatively fast loading, with easy navigation, and with the purpose of the site clearly understandable to a visitor. All pages should have title tags and navigation. Of course, valuable content is always a positive: information about the MOS&B for visitors, links to other useful sites, or features useful to members (upcoming events, ways to stay in touch, etc.).

While website/social media designs are a very subjective issue, perhaps more guidance can be gained from looking at some negative impressions from past evaluations, looking at a variety of sites:

- Color combinations too splashy or gaudy (black, red, yellow, green)
- Text too hard to read (e.g., red text on black background)
- Font sizes too large or too bold
- Font faces not consistent between pages
- Color scheme not consistent between pages
- Pages with no navigation, or way to get back to previous pages
- Pages that are very slow to load
- Bad grammar or spelling, or lack of paragraph breaks
- Popup ads (while not specifically forbidden, they do not give a good impression)
- Sites that work in Internet Explorer, but not in other browsers (Firefox, iOS, Safari, etc.)
- Sites that obviously were created years ago and have had little or no updates since

All sites should have a “Members Only” section which requires user ID and password access. PII must be protected on these sites; National Awards Chairman must be given access to this area for judging purposes. Three non-partisan professionals will review the newsletters and winners will be chosen based on a set of evaluation criteria as shown in Appendix C. Decisions of the judging are final.

Form of Award: This award will consist of a certificate and streamer (black with white lettering) noting the Chapter's achievement.

Cost of Award: The cost of the award will be borne by the Texas Society MOS&B

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Presentation: The ***Best Website/Social Media Chapter Award*** will be presented at the annual Texas Society Convention, by either the Society Commander or the Society Awards Committee Chairman.



Gold-Star Chapter Award

Purpose: The Gold-Star Chapter Award is given to recognize active Chapters that meet regularly and participate in a wide range of MOS&B-related activities.

Number of Awards: No annual limit.

Eligibility: This award is available to any Chapter meeting the following criteria:

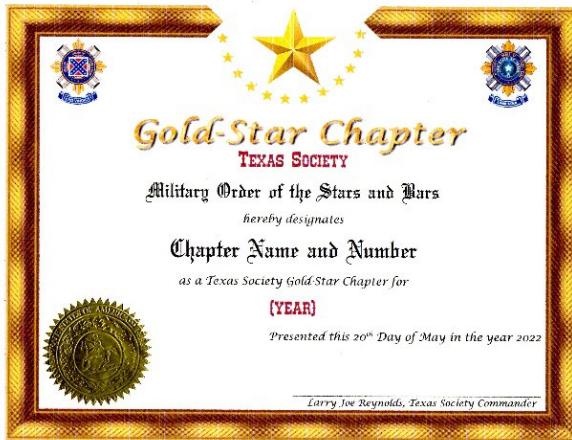
1. Conducted at least 4 meetings or alternative major events during the year.
2. In the opinion of its Society Commander, has made above average contributions to furthering the ideals of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. This includes consistently good Chapter participation in outside activities such as area parades, cemetery ceremonies honoring Confederate veterans, Memorial and Veteran's Day ceremonies, Confederate History Month events, annual banquets honoring Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, or the Chapter namesake, etc.
3. Attendance at both Society and National MOS&B Conventions by at least one member.
4. Dues substantially paid (a minimum of 90%) to both Society and GHQ by 31 July.
5. Publishes a Chapter newsletter at least quarterly (newsletters in combination with other Chapters are acceptable).
6. Has a Chapter Website. (A Facebook page, if kept current counts as a website).

Selection Process: Chapter Commanders will submit the proper application form for Chapters deserving the Gold-Star Chapter Award to the Society Adjutant and the Society Awards Committee Chairman by 1 March. The Society Adjutant shall verify to the Society Awards Committee Chairman by 4 March that the nominated Chapters have submitted their dues in compliance with the criteria.

Form of Award: A Blue Streamer to be placed on the staff of the Chapter flag, and a Certificate.

Cost of Award: The cost of the award will be borne by the Texas Society MOS&B.

Presentation: The Gold-Star Chapter Award will be presented at the annual Texas Society Convention, by either the Society Commander or the Society Awards Committee Chairman.



(YEAR)TX MOS&B GOLD-STAR CHAPTER

100% Chapter Retention Award

Purpose: Recruiting and retention are the paramount objective required to ensure the continued existence of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. This Annual Award recognizes those Chapters who have diligently maintained their members and/or recruited additional members.

Number of Awards: Indefinite; the number of recipients is determined via official information regarding Chapter membership held at IHQ as of 01 April.

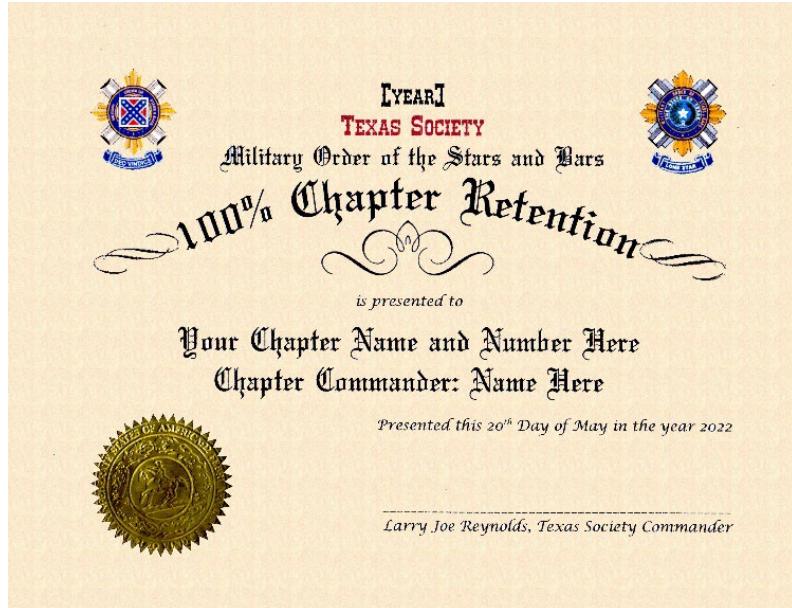
Eligibility: Any Texas Society Chapter in existence for more than one year. New Chapters, less than one year old, are not eligible.

Selection Process: The Society Adjutant determines the winners of this award and will notify the Society Awards Committee Chairman of the winning Chapters by 1 Nov of the previous year. Chapters will not be penalized for the loss of members due to death.

Form of Award: A Burgundy Streamer to be placed on the staff of the Chapter flag and a Certificate.

Cost of Award: The cost of the award will be borne by the Texas Society MOS&B.

Presentation: The 100% Chapter Retention Award will be presented at the annual Texas Society Convention, by either the Society Commander or the Society Awards Committee Chairman.



◀ (YEAR)TX MOS&B 100% CHAPTER RETENTION ▶

Texas Society Convention Attendance Streamer

Any Chapter with at least one member in paid attendance at the Texas Society Convention shall be eligible to purchase an attendance streamer for the sum of \$20 + \$5 shipping.



NOTE:

- 1. All streamers depicted in this manual are authorized for display on Chapter and Society flagstaffs.***

APPENDIX I

PREVIOUS SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS****Lone Star Award**

An individual may receive the ***Lone Star Award*** only once. Recipients listed in alphabetical order in cases of multiple awards in a given year.

Year	Winner	Winner	Winner
2022	Johnnie Lee Holley, Jr.	Sanford Christian Reed	Larry Joe Reynolds
2023	Dennis David Brand	David Paul McMahon	George Ward Williamson
2024	Frank Louis Kebelman III	Lee Roy Lance, Jr.	Yancey Gordon Swearingen

CHAPTER AWARDS**Distinguished Chapter**

Year	Winner
2022	Col. Briscoe Gerard Baldwin, Jr. Chapter 312, Bryan, Texas – Lee Roy Lance, Jr.
2023	Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310, San Angelo, Texas – David P. McMahon
2024	Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter 184, San Antonio, Texas – Raymond Reeves

Best Chapter Newsletter Award

Year	Winner
2022	Lone Star Chapter 5, Houston, Texas – Shelia Williamson
2023	Lone Star Chapter 5, Houston, Texas – Shelia Williamson
2024	Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 – Robert Stevens Melton

Best Chapter Website/Social Media Awards

Year	Winner
2002	Col. Richard Bennett Hubbard Chapter 261, Tyler, Texas – Larry Joe Reynolds
2023	Col. Richard Bennett Hubbard Chapter 261, Tyler, Texas – Larry Joe Reynolds
2024	Col. Richard Bennett Hubbard Chapter 261, Tyler, Texas – Larry Joe Reynolds

APPENDIX II

PROTOCOL FOR WEARING MEDALS, DECORATIONS, BADGES AND INSIGNIA

Introduction

The prestige and influence of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOS&B) depend largely upon the loyalty of its members. It is therefore deemed especially important that every member should display the official insignia of the MOS&B on all suitable occasions. Beyond that, wearing one's MOS&B insignia of office and individual awards is an individual decision. MOS&B members may also wear medals of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) in conjunction with their MOS&B medals.

This protocol has been prepared in order that members of the MOS&B may bring credit to the organization by the proper display of their MOS&B/SCV medals and insignia. National MOS&B rules, as given on page 22 of the MOS&B Chapter Handbook as well as this publication should be adhered to carefully when at a significant formal MOS&B function. For less formal occasions, including routine wear at Society and National Reunions, they can be considered "guidelines" rather than "hard-and-fast rules", but of course Compatriots are expected to always display medals in a respectful and professional looking manner. While every member is responsible for wearing his medals and insignia correctly, it is also the responsibility of MOS&B officers to encourage their members to wear medals and insignia in an appropriate manner. Compatriots may wear all medals to which they are entitled but should consider it in poor taste to "look like a 3rd world general" with a chest full of medals. However, each member is encouraged to limit himself to a reasonable selection of his highest awards and those of which he is most proud.

The MOS&B insignia and decorations worn vary with the type of dress, whether "formal" or "informal". On informal occasions when business suits, blazers or sport coats are worn, MOS&B Society and National Officers may wish to wear neck ribbons to indicate past or present office. On such non-formal occasions, MOS&B custom has been to wear full size medals with business suits, blazers, or sport coats at MOS&B Chapter meetings. Miniature medals are more appropriate at Society and National meetings. We are currently in a transition phase where large medals are being replaced by miniature medals which will soon become the norm for all occasions. Large medals are appropriate for wear on Confederate uniforms on any occasion other than reenactments wherein no medals should be worn.

At MOS&B formal occasions, where a tuxedo or dark suit and tie are indicated, miniature medals should be worn. At no time should full-size medals be worn with a tuxedo, but members may wear full-size medals on a dark suit at formal gatherings.

Terminology

- Formal Dress - includes tuxedo or dark suit with tie.

- Informal Dress - includes the business suit, the blazer jacket, and sport coat. Insignia are not worn on an overcoat.
- Award Medals – those worn by an individual through personal effort. Award Medals should only be worn at formal and semi-formal functions (banquets, reunions, memorial services, or similar occasions where the accepted wear is a suit, sports coat or Confederate uniform).
- Insignia Medal – Name tag and badges of office (Commander, Adjutant, etc.). Chapter officer insignia consists of the MOS&B membership medal, with the applicable office designation on top of the ribbon.
The Society, Army and National Command Staff insignia consists of an MOS&B Eagle attached to a neck ribbon.
- Service Medals – medals available to groups for a particular service or participation, such as Life Membership or Honor Guard, as well as reunion or other special event commemorative medals. (*Note: the War Service Medal and Southern Cross of Military Service are considered “Award”, not “Service” medals.*)
- MOS&B Rosette and Blazer Patch – these are special devices signifying membership in the MOS&B. The rosette is a small, round gathering of specific coloration worn on the left lapel of blazers. The Blazer Patch is a bullion replica of the MOS&B emblem and is worn on left jacket pocket of dress coat.

Mounting of Medals on Clothing

On formal or informal attire which have breast pockets:

- Award Medals should be pinned just above the top edge of the left breast pocket, with no more than four full-size medals or five miniature medals in a single row. If more than one row of medals are needed, the medals should be evenly divided between upper and lower row; for odd numbers of medals, the upper row should have the least number of medals displayed. The upper row should overlap the lower, with the rows staggered slightly to allow a small amount of ribbon of the lower row to show. More than three rows are discouraged.
- Insignia Medals should be centered on the right breast, at approximately the same level.
- Neck ribbons may be worn, but not more than two at a time, one above the other. The neck ribbon with MOS&B drop should be on top with any other appropriate drop (i.e. Confederate Legacy Legion of Merit) below the MOS&B drop.

On Confederate uniforms or formal attire without breast pockets:

- Award Medals should be centered on the left breast, approximately 10" from the top seam.
- Insignia Medals should be centered on the right breast, at approximately the same level.

Service Medals should not be routinely worn on Confederate uniforms or formal attire, with three exceptions:

- The MOS&B Rosette and/or State Society Logos may be worn, centered on the left breast and slightly above the Award Medals.
- An Honor Guard medal (MOS&B or SCV) may be worn on the right breast, at the same level and to the right of any Insignia Medal.
- An individual may choose to wear an event's commemorative medal while at the event or when giving a report on the event back at his Camp, and then remove it thereafter. If worn, such an event

medal should be mounted separately, below any Award Medals. In any case, all rows of medals should be above the top edge of the left breast pocket.

Precedence of Medals

Award Medals should be mounted just above the top edge of the left breast pocket, with the highest-ranking MOS&B medal on the top row, inside, then proceeding to the wearer's left. Next should come MOS&B Society Medals, then SCV medals, and finally other historical/genealogical society medals.

The Order of Precedence for MOS&B Award Medals is as follows:

1. Robert E Lee Chalice
2. Gold Star (ANV, AOT, ATM are all considered equal in precedence)
3. Distinguished Commander
4. Confederate Legacy Citation of Honor
5. War Service Medal
6. Southern Cross of Military Service
7. MG Patrick R Cleburne Meritorious Service
8. COL John Pelham Legion of Merit
9. LT Charles Read Meritorious Service
10. Joseph Evan David
11. Rebel Club – Gold Medal
12. Rebel Club – Silver Medal
13. Rebel Club – Bronze Medal
14. LTG Thomas Jackson Medal
15. Henry Timrod Southern Culture
16. Award Medals of the SCV
17. Award Medals of other Historical/Genealogical Organizations
18. Texas Society Lone Star Award
19. Texas Society Gold Cross for Meritorious Service
20. Texas Society Silver Cross for Meritorious Service
21. Texas Society Bronze Cross for Meritorious Service

Some Basic “Don’ts”:

- Don’t mix miniature and full-size medals in the same grouping if practical. Since the MOS&B is moving toward standardization to all miniature size medals, members who desire to wear all earned medals have two options as follows: (1) once a member receives a miniature-size medal, he is encouraged to purchase and wear miniature versions in lieu of any previously awarded full-size Award Medals, so as to have a consistent set; or (2) to save inordinate personal expense, as of 01JAN2022, members are authorized to group and wear miniature medals above previously earned full-size medals. If a member chooses to mix miniature and full-size medals, they must be grouped according to size and precedence. The miniature medal groupings must also be properly located with and above similar full-size medal types – i.e. Award Medals above left breast pocket; Insignia Medals on right breast and Service Medals on lapels. Don’t mix Award Medals, Insignia Medals, or Service Medals in the same grouping.

- Don't wear Award Medals on informal outerwear. However, members may wear a Confederate-style vest, with office insignia and a few selected medals, to warm-weather MOS&B meetings and events.
- Don't wear medals on a Confederate uniform during reenactments or similar events, where one is portraying a Confederate soldier in "battle dress". Some medals may be worn during parades, cemetery ceremonies or other similar events, but one should use caution to not "over decorate", with an appearance that distracts the audience to that individual, rather than the prime purpose of seeing all the SCV participants as a group, honoring our Confederate ancestors.
- Don't wear medals you didn't personally earn.
- Don't wear non-MOS&B medals (except as noted above) to MOS&B functions. MOS&B members are hereby authorized to wear the Order of Confederate General's Descendants (OCGD) membership insignia pin at all MOS&B functions.

Examples of Proper Locations of Medals on Clothing



Figure 1 – Placement of Awards on Uniform Coats



Figure 2 – Placement of Awards on Suit Coats

NOTES:

1. These depictions are for illustration purposes showing where medals are located; however, the number of medals on the coat in Figure 1 is atypical due to the sheer number present (consisting of MOS&B, SCV, and other medals available through individual vendors). Figure 2 depicts placement of medals on suit coats.
2. The National Convention Medal is worn ONLY during the event or when giving a presentation about the event; otherwise, it is not worn.
3. As mentioned previously, until such time as all MOS&B award medals have transitioned entirely to miniature medals, mixing of miniature and large medals is at the wearer's discretion; however, they should be worn grouped by size, then precedence as shown in Figure 1.

APPENDIX III

Society Distinguished Chapter Award

(Uses the same form as the Colonel Walter Hopkins Distinguished Chapter Award)

Military Order of the Stars and Bars Colonel Walter Hopkins Distinguished Chapter Award		
Army of:	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Virginia <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee <input type="checkbox"/> Trans-Mississippi	<i>Do not write in this area</i>
Chapter & No.		
City		
State		
1. Membership Growth: What was total membership as of January 1st of this year? _____ What was total membership as of January 1st of last year? _____		
2. Membership Retention: How many mbrs were dropped as of January 1st this yr? _____		
3. Meetings are scheduled: <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Bimonthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annually <input type="checkbox"/> Annually		
Meetings were held this year? _____ Special meetings were held? _____		
4. Memorials: Did your Chapter conduct a memorial service? _____		
Location:	Date:	
5. Newsletter: Did your Chapter publish a newsletter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, how often? _____. (Include a copy of front page of each issue)		
6. Local Participation: Did your Chapter participate in fund raising extending Confederate Influence in a <input type="checkbox"/> Library <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Date _____ Beneficiary _____		
7. Speakers/Programs: Did your Chapter provide programs to another chapter, camp or organization? (Points given for no more than 10 events) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
8. Visitation: Did 3 or more of your chapter members visit another Chapter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Number of visits: _____		
9. Special Events: Did your Chapter sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Diner <input type="checkbox"/> Ball <input type="checkbox"/> Other Date: _____ Location: _____		
10. Organization: Does your Chapter: <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain accurate minutes of meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Have By-Laws		
Submitted this _____ day of _____, 20_____		
By _____ Title: _____		
Total Points: 0		

Best Chapter Website / Social Media Award

WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA GRADING CRITERIA

ANY PAGE HAS INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE OR CONTENT RESULTS IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION

Color Combinations

Pleasant to the Eye (Background and Objects don't clash or blend together)	[5pts] _____
Some Colors May Clash or Blend Together (e.g. Red/Blue, Green/Yellow, Blue/Purple)	[4pts] _____
Color Selection is Too Splashy or Gaudy (black, red, yellow, green)	[3pts] _____
Colors Scheme Not Consistent from Page to Page	[2pts] _____
Monochrome or No Color Scheme	[1pt] _____

Textual Matter

Good Choice of Text Combinations, Font Sizes and Color Scheme; Consistent Titling	[5pts] _____
Good Choice of Text Font; Inconsistent Font Sizes/Colors or Titling Page to Page	[4pts] _____
Good Choice of Text Font; Hard to Read due to Text Size or Color Scheme; Poor Titles	[3pts] _____
Poor Choice of Text Font; inconsistent Front Sizes/Colors & Titles from Page to Page	[2pts] _____
Poor Choice of Text Font, Size and Color and Titling; Difficult to Read	[1pt] _____

Pictures

Good Use of Pictures; Interesting, Pertinent to Content and Captioned	[5pts] _____
Good Use of Pictures but Sometimes not Pertinent to Content or not Captioned	[4pts] _____
Pictures sometime overlaps text, may be blurry or partially off screen	[3pts] _____
Poor Quality Pictures Used; may/may not be Pertinent to Content and not Captioned	[2pts] _____
Pictures Seldom Used; Blurry and Hard to Discern and/or never Captioned when used	[1pt] _____

Overall Appearance

Main Page Draws Attention to MOS&B & Unit; Links to other pages, etc; Easy to Read	[5pts] _____
Main Page Has Good Info but may be too "flashy" or hard to navigate or read	[4pts] _____
Secondary Pages' Scheme not consistent with Main Page	[3pts] _____
Secondary Pages' Scheme inconsistent; hard to read; navigation to Main Pg difficult	[2pts] _____
Any/All Pages have no way to navigate back to Main Page; Pop Up Ads; Poor Grammar	[1pt] _____

Content

Interesting, Easy to Read & Navigate; Up-to-Date; Links to other MOS&B-related sites	[5pts] _____
General Info; Few Photos or Some Poor Grammar or Navigation Problem	[4pts] _____
Fair General Info but Doesn't Hold Reader's Interest; Few Links; Difficult Navigation	[3pts] _____
Fair General Info; Doesn't Hold Reader's Interest; Very Poor Grammar or Support Info	[2pts] _____
Main Page does not catch reader's eye; poor grammar; no photos or interesting stories	[1pt] _____

Members Only Access

PII Protected via Individual USERID/Passwords [10pts] _____
This Area Maintains Similar Page Layouts and is Easy to Navigate Within [5 pts] _____
(90 Maximum) TOTAL POINTS _____

EXTRA POINTS [2 Pts each] [Only to be considered for breaking ties]

Relatively Fast Loading [2pts] _____
Cumulative Visit Counter with Reset Capability [2pts] _____
Upcoming Events Readily Available for Visitors [2pts] _____
Embedded Music [must have mute option] [2pts] _____
Videos [but not automatic launching] [2pts] _____
(100 Maximum) TOTAL POINTS [IF TIED] [2pts] _____

Best Chapter Newsletter Awards

Points are awarded based on:	Format.....	15
Society and National News.....	30	
Historical Content.....	20	
Regular Publication Schedule.....	15	
Overall Interest and Appeal.....	20	
Total Possible Points	100	

To be considered for the competition, one copy of the front page of each newsletter published must be submitted (as a PDF file) to the Awards Chairman by April 1st. Also, submit a complete PDF copy of the one issue that you want to be judged. A group of at least three non-partisan professionals with extensive writing experience will judge the newsletter competition. Winners will be ranked according to composite scores of the three judges. The decision of the judges is final.

The publication schedule for competition purposes is from the month of the last Society Convention to April 1st of the following year.

A good newsletter should be suitable for either current or prospective MOS&B members. Minimally, it should include a list of primary Chapter officer contact information, the date/time/frequency and place of meetings, details of upcoming events, and summary of recent past events. Photos should be of good quality, reasonable size, and captioned to identify the event and (for small groups) the people shown. Chapter officer editorials, significant Chapter, Society & National news events, CSA- related history, book reviews, etc. are encouraged. However, it should be kept short enough to maintain reader interest and not a large “monthly magazine” [12-page maximum is suggested].

APPENDIX IV – PERTINENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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