

The St. Petersburg Chapter
Florida Society
Sons of the American Revolution
CHARTERED 1928

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November 2015

2015-16 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

The speakers / themes for our upcoming meetings are:

December 19 – Annual USO donation & report, SAR Medal of Honor presentation

January 16 – Rand Scholet will present Part II of his “Alexander Hamilton, Washington’s Indispensable Partner” series

February 20 – Character interpretation of Abraham Lincoln, by Kerry Brown

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1776 – Battles of Fort Washington (NY) and Fort Lee (NJ)

1777 – Articles of Confederation adopted by the Second Continental Congress

1783 – British evacuate New York, marking the end of British rule



President's Message



November is a month we should all observe as one of thanksgiving and reflection for the blessings we all enjoy, including family and loved ones, comfortable homes in a great community, and of course, our American citizenship.

Although the SAR is a large and complex organization, our chapter's objectives are really quite simple; we focus on two things: American Patriotism and Compatriot fellowship.

Our chapter's meetings are designed to facilitate friendship among Compatriots, and a sense of camaraderie based on our unique, proven lineage.

Our chapter's activities and initiatives are focused on promoting American patriotism.

As descendants of proven Revolutionary War Patriots, we have a special responsibility to advance the principles for which our Founding Fathers and our direct ancestors sacrificed.

Over the past two and half years, our chapter has grown significantly and we have achieved noteworthy recognition from the State Society for our numerous accomplishments. This is due to the individual contributions of each chapter member, and our outstanding chapter officers and committee chairmen.

As President, I strive to make certain you as a chapter member are proud to be in the SAR and to be a member of our chapter. Your attendance at our monthly meetings enables our chapter to attract outstanding speakers, and helps expand our membership. The St. Petersburg Chapter SAR has a long and proud history, and it belongs to all of us. I wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Thank you for your membership in and support of the St. Petersburg Chapter SAR.

In Patriotic Service,
Charles Butler



VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVANCES

The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System held its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, and St. Petersburg Chapter Compatriot Evan Soileau was the guest speaker at the Memorial Park Cemetery Veterans' Day Commemoration Service. Compatriot Soileau is one of our chapter's most recent inductees, and is descended from the family of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln.

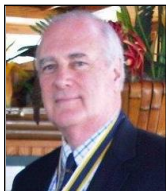
The commemoration was attended by active duty and retired veterans, their loved ones, and members of the community. SAR Chapter President Charles Butler attended as did Caravel Chapter DAR daughter Linda Soileau, and her father Frank, Evan's grandfather.

Following the solemn chapel commemoration ceremony, the attendees accompanied a traditional horse drawn caisson and bagpiper as they proceeded through the cemetery to the veteran's flag memorial. The flag-draped, empty coffin on the caisson symbolized the sacrifices made by all of America's veterans.

Memorial Park Cemetery also hosts a large and well attended Memorial Day commemoration every year, and has recently added a Veterans Day Service to its community outreach program. Following the Veterans Day commemoration, attendees were treated to an All American cookout lunch.

Community Service Director Dr. Tom Tufts officiated at the event. Dr. Tufts was the guest speaker at the St. Petersburg Chapter's October meeting on the topic of veteran's benefits and the honors accorded to deceased veterans.

Chaplain's Message



Now that the holiday season has officially begun, it is a good time for us to take a few moments to reflect on the things that are most important to us, our loved ones, our country, and as Compatriots, the foundations of our free society: the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution.

As members of the St. Petersburg Chapter SAR, we have a special responsibility to promote the cause of patriotism in our community. It is our civic duty, our moral responsibility and it is the special gift of heritage we inherited from our ancestors. During troubled times such as these, our role becomes even more important since we are responsible for what we leave future generations, and we are the community's role model for patriotism. Let us support and cherish our patriotic heritage and our Chapter, and remember our ancestors and our Founding Fathers in our prayers.

Blessings to all.

Chaplain John Stewart



Thanksgiving Proclamation

President George Washington

Whereas, It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor;

Whereas, Both the Houses of Congress have by their joint committee, requested me to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now, therefore, I do recommend . . . next, to be devoted by the people of these states to the great Being who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks—for His kind care and protection of the people of this country....

And also that we may unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions—to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually—to render our national government a blessing to all people by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed...To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue and the increase of science among other nations and us—and generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

Registrar's Report



This month I forwarded two new applications to the state registrar, and we have several more applications in the process of being prepared. So far in 2015 we have had eight new members approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott



Vice President & Treasurer's Report



As of November 22, 2015, approximately 85% of the Chapter members have remitted their annual dues for 2016. I would like to remind everyone to send their payment in by December 15th, at the very latest, so you're sure to be included in the 2016 Annual Report. While the Chapter donations are tracking lower than they were at this point last year, a big thanks to everyone who has contributed above the normal dues amount. Please remember that not only are these donations tax deductible, they are also what allow us to achieve the many objectives we set for our Chapter at the start of the fiscal year.

We currently have \$5,128.60 in our checking account and \$2,070.00 in liabilities to the N.S.S.A.R. and F.L.S.S.A.R. for 2016 dues payments.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Craig

MONTHLY LUNCHEON – NOVEMBER 21, 2005

We had a special meeting this month, as it was a shared event with the Daughters of the Caravel Chapter DAR. Our agenda was limited so that we could enjoy two guest speakers. Nathan Witt is the Chief of Volunteer Services at Bay Pines VA Healthcare. He gave an informative presentation, including brochures, regarding Bay Pines and the 1,800 volunteers who provide assistance to the professional staff.

Our second presentation was by Miss Jenna DeMott, President of the Clear Water Harbor C.A.R. Ms. DeMott gave an excellent visual presentation that covered the activities of her chapter and the 28 C.A.R. societies throughout Florida, as well as the interesting history of Sybil Ludington, “the female Paul Revere,” who at age 16 rode to warn the colonials of the approaching British troops.

David Soderlund was formally inducted as a new member of our chapter.

Chapter President Charles Butler and Vice President Alan Craig were guests at the Clearwater Chapter DAR November 20th luncheon meeting. President Butler presented a short overview of the St. Petersburg Chapter SAR, and outlined its major initiatives to the very well attended audience.





Compatriot Evan Soileau spoke at the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Memorial Park Cemetery.





Veteran's Day Ceremony at Bay Pines.



Compatriot Butler (L) at Clearwater DAR Meeting





Nathan Witt and Jenna DeMott were guest speakers at our chapter's Nov. 21st meeting.

