

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

PRESIDENT

Charles R. Butler
C.butler@stpetesar.org

SECRETARY

Robert Rogers
Porsche.bob@outlook.com

HISTORIAN/REGISTRAR

William Scott
w.scott@stpetesar.org

WEBMASTER

Robert Butler
webmaster@stpetesar.org



V.P & TREASURER

Alan Craig
arcraig@aol.com

CHAPLAIN

John Stewart
1965uva@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Peter Ford
fordcgi@msn.com

CHAPTER WEBSITES

www.stpetesar.org
www.jmcmullencar.org

May 2016

2016 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

The speakers / themes for our upcoming meetings are:

September 17 – Constitution Week meeting with DAR guests, officer inductions

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1774 – British pass Intolerable Acts

1775 – Fort Ticonderoga captured by Ethan Allen & the Green Mountain Boys

1778 – Battle of Barren Hill (PA)

1780 – Siege of Charleston, Battle of Waxhaws (SC)



President's Message



I would like to thank each of you for allowing me the honor to serve as the St. Petersburg Chapter SAR President for the past three years. We have had an extraordinary journey, doubling our membership and hosting extraordinary guests at our chapter meetings, including the President General of the NSSAR, the Incoming State Regent of the DAR, the SAR Regional Vice President, a major local news anchor, a member of the US House of Representatives, the President of Bill Young Medical Center at Bay Pines, as well as many other distinguished guests and speakers.

When I was elected Chapter President, I set out three goals for myself: 1) Double the size of our chapter. 2) Ensure the Chapter is on sound financial footing. 3) Ensure the St. Petersburg Chapter takes its rightful place in the community by focusing on serving the community through Patriotic initiatives. I am pleased to report that through the resounding support of our members, our chapter has accomplished these goals, and is well positioned to achieve even greater success in the future. Our efforts have not gone unnoticed at the Florida State Society level. Last year, we were awarded a third place banner in the Americanism competition, and this year we advanced to second place in the state in our peer group. This is a tribute to all of us and clear recognition that our chapter is not only successful, but excelling.

In the final analysis, our SAR chapter is what we as members choose to make of it. From my perspective, our future success will depend on several things: 1) Commitment of member support beyond the minimum. 2) Organizational loyalty and meeting attendance. 3) Identifying new candidates for chapter membership. Each of us can contribute these simple, but vital elements to our chapter.

We are all connected by the special bond of proven patriotic ancestry. As SAR Compatriots, and descendants of Revolutionary War patriots, we have a special responsibility to safeguard the founding principles of our Republic, and we take an oath to do so. While others are loyal to a political party, or a particular candidate, or a political philosophy, we are loyal to the founding principles of our nation. We are Americans, and we believe in the core values and principles of our nation as created by our Founding Fathers and codified in the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. In my view, there can no higher calling for an American.

In closing, please accept my most sincere appreciation for your confidence and support during the past three years. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served this outstanding organization. As our new President Alan Craig takes office, I pledge my support to his administration and initiatives, and look forward to a very bright and exciting future for our chapter.

In Patriotic Service,
Charles



Chaplain's Message



I want to share this Memorial Day message from Pastor Tom of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Palatine, IL.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, the day was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I. After World War I, the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

For we are called to remember! Remember all those who suffered and died. Remember all those who sweated and sacrificed so much. And most of all remember the reason for which all honorable men and women have fought through the centuries. They have fought not only for their nation, but also for the whole world. We remember the things in this world that divide families, groups, peoples, and nations, one from one another. We remember the need not only for peace, but also for justice upon which true peace is built. The justice I speak of shows mercy to those who seek it, and even to those who do not.

It is important that you who were there, those of you who fought, and those of you who served here while friends died across the seas, feel that all that happened was worthwhile, that it made a difference, and that those who sacrificed so much are honored and rewarded.

As you remember this Memorial Day, consider that the scriptures tell us that the good will be rewarded and that those who have made the ultimate sacrifice will be repaid.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Blessings to all,
Assistant Chaplain David Chestnut

Registrar's Report



At this time we have three applications that are in process. If you know of anyone who is a potential member but needs assistance with their application, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott



Vice President & Treasurer's Report



First of all, I would like to thank everyone for electing me as President of our Chapter for next year. Be assured that I will do everything in my power to continue the momentum that has been building in the last couple of years to increase our membership and expand our footprint in the community.

This month I attended the Youth Awards Luncheon at the Spring Board of Management in Orlando. The purpose of the lunch was to recognize young people across the state for their achievements this past year in several SAR state contests:

- Americanism Elementary Poster and Brochure Contests
- Eagle Scout Contest
- George S. and Stella Knight Essay Contest
- Outstanding JROTC Cadet Contest

Our own John Stewart was part of the proceedings and participated in the recognition of the honorees in both the Knight Essay and the Outstanding JROTC Cadet Contests. The National President General, Thomas Lawrence, was also in attendance. He gave some remarks regarding SAR youth-related activities at the national level and recognized each of our young honorees (refer to the picture of John and myself with the President General below). The newly installed President of the Florida Society Children of the American Revolution, Adrian Schell, attended the event to introduce their new state project, "Remember the Arsenal." The following is an excerpt from the CAR State Newsletter, The Orange Blossom, that describes the new state theme and project:

On March 6, 2016 the F.S.C.A.R. Senior Board enthusiastically approved "Remember the Arsenal" as the theme for 2016-2017, along with the state project to raise \$14,000 for one of the planned interactive exhibits at the Apalachicola Arsenal Museum in Chattahoochee, Florida. The museum is located in a restored gunpowder magazine of the U.S. arsenal that was built on the east bank of the Apalachicola River, soon after Florida became a U.S. territory in 1821. The arsenal complex, begun in 1834 and finished in 1839, was used as an armory, supply depot, and refuge for settlers during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). During the 1850's the U.S. Army carried out important gunpowder experiments at this supply depot. The arsenal was the scene of the first military encounter of the Civil War in Florida. It was the only arsenal in the state when it was seized on January 6, 1861, by the Quincy Young Guards on the orders of Governor Madison S. Perry, four days before Florida seceded from the Union. During the Civil War the arsenal was used as a training facility and encampment. The Sixth Florida Infantry was organized there. After the Civil War, the arsenal complex was returned to the State of Florida by the Federal government. It served as the first prison for Florida before being converted for use as the state's first mental health facility (Refer to the picture of Adrian with the SAR President General as well as the graphic for the new CAR state pin below).

In closing, I wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable summer. I look forward to our first meeting in September and kicking off another exciting year in the SAR.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Craig



MONTHLY LUNCHEON – MAY 21, 2016

Guests at this month's meeting included Vanesa Talbott – Clearwater DAR Regent; Veva Scott; David West and Mike Black – prospective new members; Knight Essay Contest winner Henry Walsh, his mother, and his teacher; and Police Officer Mark Marland.

There being no nominations from the floor, the slate of officers for the next Chapter year, as presented by the Nominating Committee, was unanimously elected by the members at the May meeting:

President: Alan Craig
Vice President & Sergeant at Arms: Robert Rogers
Treasurer: Patrick Craig
Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Peter Ford
Registrar: Will Scott
Chaplain: David Chestnut
Historian: John Stewart

The Chapter's updated and amended Bylaws were unanimously approved by the members.

John Stewart, chairman of the Knight Essay Contest, introduced this year's chapter winner, Henry Walsh. Henry's essay, "The Continental Soldier," was also awarded second place in Florida out of over 100 entries. Henry received several awards from the chapter and from FSSAR. *A scanned copy of Henry's essay was included with the March newsletter.*

Steve Aspinall introduced St. Petersburg Police Officer Mark Marland, who received this year's Law Enforcement Recognition award. Officer Marland is a 26-year veteran of the force, currently working on fraud investigations. The efforts of the team he led resulted in 36 arrests in an EBT card fraud ring. Some of the funds illegally obtained were used in support of terrorism.

Service awards were presented to Steve Aspinall (15 years) and John Stewart (25 years) for their membership in our Chapter. John Stewart and his wife were recognized for their display of the U.S. flag.

Special Announcements

Flag Retirement Ceremony Compatriot David Soderlund researched the proper etiquette for the retirement of a United States flag, and has provided the following link for reference:
<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/more/flagretirement.htm>

Chapter Color Guard Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to be given the challenge from President Charles R Butler to lead the St Petersburg Chapter into its first Color Guard. This is not a simple task as we will need volunteers who not only will want to participate in this activity but also want to purchase a uniform. I have done research as to companies which provide the uniform and in my view, one company stands out as giving good service and provides a very authentic reproduction Continental uniform. Many of you have commented on my uniform from this company at some of the functions attended during the year. As a color guard, we should have opportunities to join other chapters such as Clearwater and Tampa, and at the state level as well.



Have a look at the website for Jas. Townsend & Son, Inc. <http://jas-townsend.com/index.php>

Below are the basics of a Continental uniform which is based on the Army of the 1st Virginia.

Revolutionary War Coat RC-152
Men's Silk Cravat Black SC-369
Fly Front Knee Breeches - off white Cotton Canvas CP-129
1770's Waistcoat in Cotton SW-130 off white
Standard Wool Felt Tricorn Black TH-905 white trim

For the knee high socks I use plain baseball uniform socks which can be found locally in white or blue. Please feel free to give me a call for questions if you are interested in more information. David Munson Chestnut, Color Guard Capt. [\(941\) 981-9932](tel:9419819932)

Photo from Tampa, St Petersburg Color Guard supporting the CAR.



Battle Site Preservation Compatriot Jerry Halstead is hoping we can rally our SAR compatriots to have our voices heard about a matter of great importance and urgency. An undeveloped portion of the Princeton battlefield - the site of George Washington's first victory over British regulars in the Revolutionary War - is on the verge of being developed and that sacred ground will be lost forever.

If we can unite nationally and send the message out to all of our compatriots asking them to sign the online petition to save the battlefield, we might be able to succeed. But to fail to try is to let down the very forefathers from whom we descend and who gave us the reason to have the Sons of the American Revolution organization.



I am enclosing a link to the website sponsoring the petition and hope that you can forward it to all of our compatriots, as well as our national organization. Collectively, our voices will have a much greater chance of being heard and that hallowed ground being preserved.

<http://www.campaign1776.org/take-action/speak-out/princeton/>

It is the least we can do to honor the memory of the great Patriots who gave us the precious gift of freedom.



President Butler awards certificate to Compatriot Stewart for display of the U.S. flag





Compatriot Stewart and President Butler with Knight Essay winner Henry Walsh



President Butler and Compatriot Aspinall with Officer Mark Marland (center)





2016-17 officers: Compatriots Stewart, Ford, Chestnut, Patrick Craig, Alan Craig with outgoing President Butler



Compatriots Stewart and Craig with NSSAR President General Thomas Lawrence





NSSAR President General Lawrence with President of the Florida Society Children of the American Revolution, Adrian Schell





Incoming Chapter President Craig presents statuette to outgoing President Butler

