

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

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CHAPTER WEBSITES

www.stpetesar.org
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September 2015

2015 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

The speakers / themes for our upcoming meetings are:

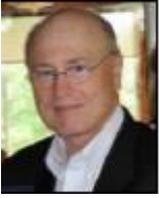
October 17– Mr. Tom Tufts, speaking about Veterans benefits and support programs

November 21 - Miss Jenna DeMott, President Clear Water Harbor C.A.R.
Clear Water Harbor C.A.R. Projects, and Sybil Luddington, the female Paul Revere

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



President's Message



As President, one of my primary responsibilities is chapter development. Although there are numerous other duties, this key element is the foundation of a thriving, successful SAR chapter. As in business, fundamental to everything we do is our Mission Statement; the mission statement for our chapter is simple: *“To serve our community through patriotic service.”*

In practice, this means our SAR chapter is dedicated to improving our community through the advancement of American Patriotism. Specifically, this means we implement a structured outreach plan, communicating who we are, and what we as an SAR chapter are doing to help improve our community.

In fulfillment of our Mission Statement, we have undertaken the following initiatives: Community Flag recognition, R.O.T.C. recognition, Scouting recognition, law enforcement recognition, student academic achievement through the Knight Essay Contest, middle school SAR Citizenship Awards, recognition of outstanding news media broadcasters, recognition of and interaction with elected government officials, USO support, Wreaths Across America, Veteran's Day and Memorial Day participation, Project Ancestor Search, support of two C.A.R. Societies, and collaborating with the DAR whenever appropriate to serve our community. Through these programs (and others) we have achieved community awareness and understanding of our SAR chapter, and earned their willingness to support us. This results in a virtuous circle leading to measurable progress and sustained chapter growth.

At our April meeting last year, we were honored to host Congressman David Jolly (now US Senate candidate), incoming DAR State Regent Virginia Poffenberger, and Bay News 9 Television anchor Al Ruechel, all of whom made presentations to the SAR, DAR and C.A.R. members in attendance. The strength of this recognition and support of our chapter, along with the more than doubling of our membership during the past three years are validation of our strategic plan's effectiveness. By the end of the year, we expect the St. Petersburg chapter to have more than 51 members, the highest membership on record. I am also pleased to note that for the first time in recent history, we earned a Chapter Development Achievement award from the FLSSAR at the spring Board of Management meeting. This is a great honor for us as a small chapter.

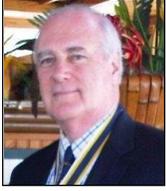
It is a rare privilege to be in the SAR fewer than 2% of the national male population are members. The St. Petersburg Chapter has a long history of graciousness and comradery, and is by nature welcoming and friendly to new members and guests alike. We are proud of our 86 year history (fifth oldest in the state), and share a very bright and exciting future.

It is important to remember that membership in the SAR is a birthright earned for you by the sacrifices of your Patriot ancestor. You can be as active in the chapter as you wish. There are many initiatives you can do at your own pace, so please feel free to talk to any officer or me about an area of interest you may have. To all my fellow Compatriots, please accept my gratitude for your support and loyalty to our chapter. I look forward to another exciting year!

In Patriotic Service,
Charles Butler



Chaplain's Message



Once you are SAR, you are always SAR. Now that autumn is near and school is restarting, we should all pause for a few reflective moments to be thankful for the company of our loved ones, the sacrifices of our forefathers, and privileges we as Americans enjoy.

We care about our Compatriots, so please let me know immediately of any serious illness, hospitalization, or death of any of our members or family members. Please let us know about your joyous occasions as well, such as graduations, anniversaries, weddings, and new babies!

Please advise any Officer of our chapter so we can take appropriate actions commensurate with the situation at hand. Our President Charles Butler, Assistant Chaplain David Chestnut, or I will make every effort to attend services on behalf of the chapter.

In the event of the passing of a Compatriot or DAR member, please let one of us know as soon as possible. We have a brief SAR blessing that can be presented as part of a memorial service if the family so wishes.

Additionally, all Compatriots are entitled to an SAR Patriot Ancestor grave marker medallion. They are beautifully designed, relatively inexpensive and are mounted by the cemetery. Please contact Charles Butler for further information.

Please pray for our service members, police, fire and rescue officers, the ones who put themselves in harm's way to protect and help. They do not ask for recognition, but only a chance to make our lives safer. Blessings to all.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal

Registrar's Report



Thus far this year our chapter has had seven new members approved. Since our last meeting in May the applications of Don Leamy, David Chestnut, Evan Soileau and Mark Allen have been approved, please join me in welcoming them to the SAR and our chapter.

We currently have one application being considered at NSSAR and we are working with several other candidates to complete their application. We should have several more new members by the end of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott



Treasurer's Report



As another fiscal year comes to a close, I'm happy to report that our equity position increased by \$177 over the previous year. We also ended the year with \$2,058 in our checking account which is about \$723 more than we had this time last year. This is good news considering all the endeavors that we undertook this past year. Please let me know if you would like to see the Financial Statements for the year, but I do plan on sharing them in our Chapter meetings.

Also, it is that time of year once again when the annual dues notices will be sent out to all Chapter members (for 2016 membership). Please keep an eye out as they should be put in the mail in the next 3-4 weeks or so. I look forward to serving the Chapter for another year and I hope to see you at an upcoming meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Craig

CONSTITUTION WEEK LUNCHEON – SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

We were pleased and honored to welcome our chapter members and our DAR and C.A.R. friends, our visitors, guests and new and prospective members. Constitution Day is generally observed on September 17, the day in 1787 on which delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia. As SAR Compatriots, we are especially proud of the fact that in 1917, the Sons of the American Revolution formed a committee to promote Constitution Day. The committee included members such as Calvin Coolidge, John D. Rockefeller, and General John Pershing.

Our special guest speaker was Florida Society SAR, West Central Florida Vice President Pat Niemann. The topic of his speech was “Our Fascinating Constitution,” which included many little-known facts and was well received by all. This is the first time in decades that an SAR state officer has participated in our induction ceremonies for officers and new members, and been a guest speaker. It was an honor to have him with us.

The following gentlemen were inducted into our chapter:

- Evan Noel Soileau
- Mark Wayne Allen
- David Munson Chestnut
- Ralph Charles Hughes, Jr.
- Joshua Daniel Roberson
- Donald Barton Leamy

Our officers for the 2015-2016 year are:

- Charles Butler – President
- Alan Craig – Vice President & Treasurer
- Robert Rogers – Secretary
- Will Scott – Registrar



Veronika McGinn of the James McMullen Society and Jenna DeMott of the Clear Water Harbor Society gave updates on their C.A.R. chapter activities. Both are outstanding organizations, providing a wide range of activities, learning opportunities, field trips, and just plain fun to our youth. Lineally qualified young men and ladies through age 22 are eligible, and they can easily transition into the DAR or SAR. For more information, contact Vanessa Talbott, Senior Society President, Clear Water Harbor, Jenna DeMott, Veronika McGinn, Mike McGinn, or Charles Butler.

Hardy Bryan, our outgoing Chapter Vice President, has served the St. Petersburg Chapter SAR in the role of Vice President since 2008. He has been an active, devoted supporter of the Chapter and various initiatives including Chairman of the Flag Award Committee, Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and he has been involved in community outreach through public speaking and representing our chapter to other organizations. His always-reliable presence, support and advice have been invaluable to the Chapter over the years. Hardy was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his support and dedication to the Chapter and to the SAR.

Photos of the meeting are available on [Dropbox.com](https://www.dropbox.com).

