

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

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**December 2015**

**2016 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR**

Please mark your calendars

**The speakers / themes for our upcoming meetings are:**

**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

**March 19** – Education History Fair and Scholarship Award

**THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY**

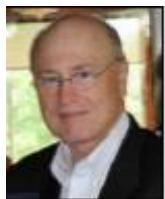
**1773** – Boston Tea Party

**1776** – Battle of Trenton (NJ)

**1777** – Continental Army winters at Valley Forge



## **President's Message**



Long time Compatriot Bob Birkenstock has achieved the St. Petersburg Chapter SAR honor of being the Star Compatriot for contributing the largest voluntary donation to our Chapter over the past two years.

In order for the St. Petersburg Chapter to continue enhancing its role as a leading advocate for Patriotism and Patriotic initiatives in our community, we depend on additional contributions above the annual dues.

For the second year, St. Petersburg Chapter Compatriots have voluntarily donated significantly more than the basic dues amount, enabling our Chapter to broaden its public awareness, better fulfill its mission, attract new members, and to provide an enjoyable SAR fellowship experience. The State Society has acknowledged our success and achievements, presenting us with awards for chapter achievement.

The foundation of our growing success is the support of our membership. There are three things you as a Compatriot can do to help our chapter: 1) attend meetings regularly 2) adopt a patriotic project 3) make a voluntary, tax deductible contribution to our chapter. We are an IRS approved, non-for-profit charitable organization.

Please join the officers of the St. Petersburg chapter in expressing our sincere appreciation to Compatriot Bob Birkenstock for his long-standing devotion and loyalty to our chapter.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in January!

In Patriotic Service,  
Charles

## **Chaplain's Message**



In early December 1776, the Continental Congress abandoned Philadelphia for Baltimore ahead of advancing British troops. Among Washington's troops was Thomas Paine, who wrote of that event, "These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country: but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." Then, on December 25, 1776 General George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River and defeated the British and their Hessian troops at Trenton.

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 then and now, 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, especially during this holiday season.

Christmas Blessings to all.

Chaplain John Stewart



## **Our Chapter's Heritage**

The St. Petersburg chapter SAR enjoys a long and proud tradition of patriotic service to our community. Our chapter received its Charter on April 16, 1928, making it the 5th chapter in the Florida Society, and at 85 years of age, one of the oldest in the State of Florida. Over the decades, many St. Petersburg chapter compatriots have advanced to higher office:

- Col. Daniel H. Britain was FLSSAR President 1958-59
- Marshall E. Barton was FLSSAR President 1969-70, and later as district vice president/general 1972 -1973.
- Richard H. Thompson served as FLSSAR president 1974-75.
- Commander Robert E Morris, Jr was FLSSAR president 1976-77 and then President General.
- Samuel S. Gilbert, Jr. served as West Central Regional Vice President 1982 - 83,
- Glenn Arter was recording secretary and West Central Regional Vice President 1987- 89

### **Registrar's Report**



We currently have two applications under review by National and several others in the pipeline. So far in 2015 our chapter has had eight applications approved, plus one memorial membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott

### **Vice President & Treasurer's Report**



As of December 21, 2015, the annual report has been filed with the State and I am proud to report that we have broken the 50 member threshold for the first time in many years. We have also achieved 100% dues collections from our members this year. A big thanks to everyone for getting this done on time. Everyone should have received their 2016 membership cards by now so please let me know if that is not the case.

After remitting the National and State dues payments, we have \$3,031.20 in our checking account. This is very close to where we were this time last year and right in line with our annual budget.

I had the pleasure of attending the Wreaths Across America wreath-laying ceremony at Bay Pines National Cemetery on December 12<sup>th</sup>. It was the perfect day to honor our veterans that have been laid to rest there. Former veterans, including a retired Green Beret, gave a moving tribute to the folks that attended the event. I would strongly recommend that you try to attend this ceremony next year if at all possible, you will be glad you did.

Happy holidays to you and your families!

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Craig



## MONTHLY LUNCHEON – DECEMBER 19, 2005

Our guests this month included prospective member Steven Clark and Colleen Pauley Perry of the Orlando DAR, who accepted a Medal for Heroism from the NSSAR on behalf of her son, Scott Perry.

Our guest speaker was Marjorie Lucas, who volunteers extensively at the Tampa airport USO facility. She and her husband, Colonel Joe Lucas (Ret.), received a donation to the USO from our chapter. The facility is entirely run by volunteers, and receives no financial support from the USO's national office. Since the facility opened in September 2012, over 50,000 troops and their families have been assisted. The volunteer staff has worked over 53,000 hours, a remarkable achievement. They also received a certificate from our chapter recognizing their display of the American flag at their home.



NSSAR Medal for Heroism presented to Robert Scott Perry





2015 Star Compatriot Bob Birkenstock & President Charles Butler



Compatriot David Chestnut





President Charles Butler, Col. Joe Lucas (Ret.), Marjorie Lucas, & Hardy Bryan

