

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

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CHAPTER WEBSITES
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February 2016

2016 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

The speakers / themes for our upcoming meetings are:

March 19 – Education History Fair & Scholarship Award

April 16 – Support for Armed Services & ROTC Awards

May 21 - Chapter Officer Election, Law Enforcement Award, Knight Essay Awards

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1778 – Treaty of Alliance with France

1780 – British forces deployed from New York to Charleston, SC

1782 – British House of Commons votes against further war, recognizing American independence



President's Message



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who attended our February Presidents' Day commemoration meeting at the Country Club. With more than 80 SAR, DAR and C.A.R. participants, this was the second largest meeting, and the largest midday luncheon in the recorded history of our chapter. Only last year's dinner honoring the NSSAR President General had more total attendees, and that was an evening event.

It is important to recognize that our meetings and special events serve several worthy purposes. First, they enable us as Compatriots to gather in fellowship with DAR chapters and Compatriots from other chapters. Second, we are actualizing our SAR mission, which is to strengthen American Patriotism through community outreach. Third, we are making our nation a better place by serving as examples and role models to our youth who are in the Children of the American Revolution Societies we support. Fourth, we are learning things and having an enjoyable experience in a pleasant venue.

As I mentioned in my remarks, we as proven descendants of documented Revolutionary War Patriots share a special bond unlike that of any other organization. Every time I look around the audience at one of our meetings, I think about their ancestors, who they were and how much they sacrificed for us to have such a wonderful country, and for us to be gathered in such a lovely place in fellowship honoring them.

Our Chapter is strong, and growing. This is because we are fulfilling our purpose, and demonstrating to our members that their investment of time, dues and donations are producing tangible results by improving America at a grassroots level. As my time as Chapter President draws toward a close, there are three things I would like to ask St. Petersburg chapter Compatriots to do:

- 1) Be as active in the chapter as you can be, even if time only permits you to attend meetings and events. We have a fascinating group of Compatriots, and the programs are always interesting.
- 2) Identify new SAR candidates, and bring them to meetings.
- 3) Please consider making an additional contribution to our Chapter above your dues amount. This enables us to continue quality programs and strengthens our Chapter's leadership role.

I look forward to seeing you in March.

In Patriotic Service,

Charles



Chaplain's Message



I have been asked a number of times if I could step in to assist Chaplain John Stewart and I have been delighted for the opportunity. I feel it to be such an honor to be given this challenge. It is not easy to stand at a podium and speak to people, and some may be overcome with stage fright. I tend not to be afraid of public speaking, as the main thing that may concern me is the message.

Fortunately the SAR does produce a fine book of prayers for any occasion. In most instances this book works very well. Because I do have some background from a theological college I do, if I have the time, write my own prayers. Because our prayers should be essentially non-denominational in nature, I may do some research. I have read prayers from multiple denominations and even other religions seeking the right message that I want to convey. Whether it is a prayer from the SAR book or one that I may write, I hope that you will realize it is a prayer from my heart to yours. I pray that we all find joy when we come together, have safety on our travels, and peace in our homes. My God Bless us, protect us and Bless our fine country and the SAR.

Blessings to all,

Assistant Chaplain David Chestnut

Registrar's Report



In February we had two applications approved by NSSAR. Please join me in welcoming Frank Peterman and Jack Georgiades to our fellowship.

We have several other applications "in the pipeline" but are always interested in new members. 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



Compatriot membership awards were presented at the January meeting to those that were in attendance. Congratulations to everyone on achieving this significant milestone with the SAR. Several additional compatriots will reach membership milestones in 2016, so I would encourage you to attend an upcoming meeting to be recognized and to receive your certificate:

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Craig



Calling All SAR Veterans !

The Certificate of Patriotism is awarded by the NSSAR to recognize Military Service. There are two types of recognition for veterans, the NSSAR Veterans Corps, and the FLSSAR Veterans Battalion. Each program has different requirements as described on the individual survey forms.

The NSSAR Corps has more limited requirements to be honored in any of the Corps (WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Persian Gulf War, Special Ops, etc.). President Generals continue to add additional Corps as Military actions continue and are kept up to date. Some Veterans are eligible for more than one Corps.

Veterans eligible for the War Service Medal (“WSM”) and the Military Service Medal (“MSM”) are eligible for membership in the NSSAR Veterans Corp. Eligibility for each Medal is determined by the DD 214 form and evaluation of the Survey Form.

The Florida Veterans Battalion requirements are for veterans who served in the Armed Forces on Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard, Cadet or Midshipman at one of the Service Academies and who were Honorably Discharged. This Award is designed to Honor all Florida SAR Veterans for their Military Service.

Please go to this site and read about the Veterans Corps:

http://www.vetcorps.info/assets/11Nov15_Bugle55218.pdf

Then go here for more information: <http://www.vetcorps.info/>

Corps Survey Forms (Applications) need to be processed through the St Petersburg Chapter Vet Recognition Committee. Contact David Soderlund.

Certificates are issued for each program.

There are two certificates awarded:

NSSAR awards a Certificate of Patriotism, signed by the President General.

FLSSAR awards a Veteran's Battalion Certificate signed by the FLSSAR President and the Florida Veterans Recognition Committee Chairman.

Award Certificates permit the wearing of appropriate WSM or MSM medals. The medals may be purchased by the applicant and can be presented along with certificates at some future date. If you are or you know of a Chapter Compatriot who is a Veteran please contact me.

David Soderlund, Chairman
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MONTHLY LUNCHEON – FEBRUARY 20, 2016

Our guest speaker was Kerry Brown, who gave his presentation on Abraham Lincoln, complete with beard, stovepipe hat and 1860's attire. His remarks included excerpts from several of Lincoln's speeches. He was introduced by compatriot Evan Soileau, a descendant of our 16th president.

Vanessa Talbot, Senior Society President of Clear Water Harbor C.A.R. announced they had earned a Gold Merit Award at both the State and National level, and Colleen Pauley Perry, Senior Society Vice President announced that the James McMullen Society received a Blue Merit Award at the National level last year. They also shared activity reports and plans for the two Societies with the attendees.



Compatriot Evan Soileau, a descendant of Abraham Lincoln, introduces guest speaker Kerry Brown



SAR hosts and DAR guests at Presidents Day Luncheon





Guest speaker Kerry Brown portrays President Lincoln



Compatriots Soileau, Chesnut, FLSSAR Regional VP Pat Niemann

