

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

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CHAPTER WEBSITES

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April 2016

2016 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

The speakers / themes for our upcoming meetings are:

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

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1775 – Battles of Lexington and Concord

1777 – Battle of Bound Brook (NJ)

1780 – Siege of Charleston



President's Message



As our chapter's meeting year comes to a close, perhaps we can all pause for a few minutes to reflect on the meaning of the word "Patriot." The simplest definition is "a person, who is devoutly loyal to their country, vigorously supports it, and is prepared to defend it against enemies or detractors." As Compatriots, we take special pride in our heritage and the special responsibility it bestows upon us as leaders in the community.

From my perspective,, by belonging to our SAR chapter, we are actively engaging in contemporary American patriotism. Individually, we are making direct contributions to our country by supporting our chapter's initiatives, participating in chapter activities, and making generous contributions in addition to dues.

Everything our Chapter does throughout the year is focused on the key objectives of promoting community patriotism, awareness of our own special civic leadership responsibilities, and patriotic education of our youth.

We have been successful in this regard, and have earned recognition from the State Society for our efforts. Our chapter leadership is working hard to develop an agenda and calendar for next year to build on these achievements, and we encourage all Compatriots to be as involved in our chapter's initiatives as possible.

I would like to thank Alan Craig, Bob Rogers, John Stewart, Will Scott, Peter Ford, Hardy Bryan, David Chestnut, David Soderlund, and Evan Soileau for the very special support they have provided to our chapter over the past three years.

I would also like to acknowledge Compatriot Bob Birkenstock, our Star Compatriot this year, for his outstanding generosity to our chapter.

A special thanks to our Florida Society Regional Vice President Pat Niemann for his enthusiastic support of our chapter and his initiatives to encourage greater collaboration among chapters and the State Society.

The St. Petersburg Chapter SAR is composed of an outstanding group of gentlemen who are true Patriots. You have elected to attend meetings nine times a year to share fellowship with your Compatriots, and to ensure the community service mission of our chapter is fulfilled.

I consider it a special privilege to have served as your chapter President for the past three years. Being an SAR Chapter President is an honor unlike any other, and it is one that brings with it a legacy that dates back to our chartering in 1928, and traces its National Society roots to 1889.

Thanks to your support, we can be very proud of our chapter. It is active, strong and growing. Our future is very bright. We are involved in community education, continuing education of our members through outstanding speakers, collaboration with the DAR, and strong support of two Societies of the Children of the American Revolution.

I am confident our Patriot Ancestors would be pleased with how we in the St. Petersburg Chapter SAR are preserving and enhancing their vision of America.

In Patriotic Service,

Charles



Chaplain's Message



Instead of sharing a prayer this month, I prefer to share a hymn. On April 18th 1775, 241 years ago, Paul Revere and William Dawes went to alert residents that the Redcoat Troops would march in the night to Concord, Massachusetts. At dawn on the 19th, 700 British troops met 77 militiamen in Lexington. The outnumbered militiamen had been ordered by their commander to disperse when a shot rang out! To this day it is not known which side fired the first shot but it is known as the “shot heard round the world”.

Let us always remember in our hearts and prayers the courage of our forefathers and the men who paid the price to give us our freedom and liberty in this country. Bless us all.

Blessings to all,

Assistant Chaplain David Chestnut

Concord Hymn

By Ralph Waldo Emerson

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set today a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.



Registrar's Report



At this time we have one application on its way to the State Registrar and several others that we are working on. 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



This month I was fortunate enough to attend the Private Vaughan Society, C.A.R. Organizing Ceremony in Lakeland, Florida. Thirteen new members were recognized and the Society officers were installed. Also in attendance were Howard Wiggs, the Mayor of Lakeland, as well as Florida State Representative Collen Burton. This was the first C.A.R. Organizing Ceremony I had the pleasure of attending and it was wonderful seeing a new group of young people joining the ranks of the other Florida Societies.

I want to acknowledge my nomination as President of our Chapter next year and thank the nominating committee for putting their trust in me. I know that I have some pretty big shoes to fill, but I will do my utmost to live up to the standards that Charles has exemplified these past three years, assuming I'm elected of course.

The new SAR pins have finally arrived. While many have already been claimed, I still have a few extras in the event you would like to pick one up at the May meeting. They cost \$10 each and the proceeds will help fund the refurbishment of the SAR Headquarters Building.

Also, the May meeting will be our last opportunity to present your Membership Award in person before the summer hiatus so please come and be recognized:

5 Years

Patrick Bryant

10 Years

Jerry Hale

Thomas Hale

Paul Stavros

Richard Townsend

15 Years

Chave Aspinall

William Garvey

20 Years

Thomas Temeyer

25 Years

Bruce Anderson

John Stewart

30 Years

Rolfe Duggar

40 Years

John Thompson

Edward Thomson

Any service certificates that have not been presented at the May meeting will be sent directly to the home address on file.

The chapter checking account balance is \$2,439.90. Please let me know if you would like to review the chapter financials and I will make them available.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Craig



MONTHLY LUNCHEON – APRIL 16, 2016

Guests at this month's meeting included Diana Schwartz, the sister of a prospective member, Veva Scott, Vanessa Talbot, Jenna DeMott, and prospective member Ron Hays.

The slate of officers for the next Chapter year was announced by the Nominating Committee, to be voted on by the attending 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

Service awards were presented to Will Scott (10 years) and Dick Schultz (5 years) for their membership in our Chapter. Peter Ford received a certificate from the Florida Society SAR's Veterans Battalion for his military service. Bronze Roger Sherman Medal certificates were awarded to Charles Butler, Peter Ford, and Bob Rogers in recognition of their service to the Chapter. Charles Butler and Alan Craig received Bronze Certificates of Appreciation for their work on the two C.A.R. Societies supported by our Chapter.

Jenna DeMott, President of the Clear Water Harbor Society, C.A.R., was awarded a bronze Good Citizenship medal by the NSSAR in recognition of her 500+ service hours to the community. She was recently elected as 2nd Vice President of the C.A.R. State Society, which means she is on track to become the State President in two years.





VP Alan Craig presents Chapter service awards to Will Scott and Dick Schultz



Charles Butler and Alan Craig receive Certificates of Appreciation from Bob Rogers for supporting two C.A.R. societies





Jenna DeMott receives NSSAR Good Citizenship Certificate in recognition of her community service

