

The St. Petersburg Chapter

Florida Society

Sons of the American Revolution

CHARTERED 1928

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March 2018

CHAPTER WEBSITES

www.stpetesar.org
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2018 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

April 14 – “American Spirit Luncheon” – Clearwater DAR (**details enclosed**)

April 21 - Law Enforcement Appreciation - St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11am

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1774 – British pass Intolerable Acts, including Boston Port Act

1776 – Battle of Nassau, Bahamas

1781 – Articles of Confederation ratified





President's Message

Dear Compatriots:

I recently met with Joanne Lentino, a member of the Pinellas County School Board, and St. Pete Beach Mayor Alan Johnson. The Pinellas School System has 107,253 PreK-12 students and 18,441 adult general education students. The operating budget is just under \$1,000,000,000 (one BILLION!). That works out to about \$8,000 per student. The school system has a fleet of 470 buses with 500 drivers. Each student riding a bus costs an additional \$1,020 per student or \$33 million for the system. The capital budget is almost \$500,000,000 for school renovations, new construction, etc. School funding comes from: the county (53%), the state (46%), and the federal government (1%). A significant amount of public money is being spent to educate a significant number of our citizens.

The school schedule is of interest because the federal holiday that was previously named Washington and Lincoln Birthday and later Presidents Day is now on the school calendar as "No school for students". Christmas holiday is now named "Winter holiday" and Easter break is now named "Spring holiday". The only named holiday is Martin Luther King Day on January 21. These developments result from a concerted effort to reduce the teaching of our country's founding principles.

It is significant that early American history is now only taught in middle school, not in high school. John Stewart, Charles Butler and I are attempting to persuade those in power to change this to have an emphasis on our country's founding principles. Our goal is to include in high school, as it used to be, an emphasis on the founding principles of our democratic republic, especially the development of our Constitution and Bill of Rights. These young adults will begin voting at age 18. It seems obvious that an educated voter must be taught in high school the three branches of government and that the Constitution guards their freedom. This initiative with the school system will take some time because of entrenched bureaucracy and the rigid manner curriculum is set according to local, state and federal requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Rogers



VP / Chaplain's Message



The St Petersburg Chapter has wanted an official Color Guard that it could call its own. After some letter writing to the Commander and Vice Commander of the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade, I have received a welcome from these Commanders.

On Saturday March 17, 2018, Vice Commander Dick Young of the Sons of Liberty Brigade of the Florida Society, SAR, presented the St Petersburg Chapter SAR with our proclamation. The new Colonel Gabriel Long Camp #16 is welcomed into the Brigade. Color Guard Captain David Munson Chestnut and President Bob Rogers accepted this proclamation on behalf of the new camp and the St Petersburg Chapter. In our next issue of this newsletter we will include the story of Col. Gabriel Long and why our name sake is a great choice for our chapter.

Respectfully submitted,

,
David Munson Chestnut
Color Guard Captain

Registrar's Report



We have one application currently being reviewed at the state level, and several more almost ready to go. If you know of anyone who has an interest in becoming a member, please let them know that we are always willing to assist them with the application process.

If you are preparing a supplemental application, or working with a relative or friend on their application, please be sure to use the most current version of the form, or the interactive online application.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott





Sons of the American Revolution

St Petersburg Chapter

March 17, 2018

Call to Order: The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 11:40 AM by President Robert Rogers, and the invocation was given by Chaplain David Chestnut.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the January and February meetings were approved.

Guests: Guest speaker Robert Biggs, who works with veterans transitioning to civilian life at the St. Petersburg and Clearwater Vet Centers.

Officer Reports & News Items

President Rogers reported on his meeting with a member of the Pinellas County school board. He and other chapter members are attempting to raise awareness of the Revolutionary War and our founding fathers among students, who no longer are taught American history in high school. Additional details on his meeting will be included in the chapter newsletter.

David Chestnut announced that our chapter has been approved by FLSSAR to establish our own color guard unit, Colonel Gabriel Long Camp #16. Vice Commander of the Sons of Liberty Brigade Dick Young presided at the ceremony. Gabriel Long began his military service as a color guardsman, and eventually rose to the rank of colonel. He served at Valley Forge under General George Washington.

Presentations

Robert Biggs holds a master's degree in social work. His military service and work with veterans span over 25 years. He assists veterans, many with PTSD, and their families to transition to civilian life after combat service. The 300 Vet Centers around the country are organized under the Veterans Health Administration, but they are not hospitals. Each center is staffed by five to seven employees, the majority of whom are veterans themselves. The centers provide a welcoming environment, family and marriage counseling, assistance with employment, and are completely confidential – even from the VA. The centers also assist veterans with referrals and benefits questions, and are free of charge.

Benediction & Recessional

David Chestnut gave the benediction, and President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM.

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary





President Rogers, Vice Commander Dick Young of the Sons of Liberty Brigade of the Florida Society, SAR, and VP/Color Guard Captain David Chestnut with our Chapter's Color Guard Proclamation



ST. PETERSBURG CHAPTER SAR - COLOR GUARD PROCLAMATION



Let it be known to all those present that the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was founded in 1889 by gentlemen lineal descendants of those men and women who supported the cause of American Independence. The Society's mission is to promote its stated objectives of Historical, Patriotic and Educational activities.

Whereas every time an SAR Color Guard makes a public appearance, its members are fulfilling all three stated objectives of the SAR, and

Whereas the SAR Color Guard, whether at the Chapter, State Society or National Society level, is one of the most visible and effective public relations tools available to the Society, and

Whereas the St. Petersburg Chapter of the Florida Society has complied with all of the requirements for forming a Color Guard unit, in accordance with the National Color Guard Handbook, as approved by the Florida Society Color Guard Commander, effective March 4, 2018

Therefore it is the great honor and privilege for the Florida Society Sons of Liberty Brigade to recognize and welcome the Colonel Gabriel Long Camp.

Presented by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Richard Young", is written over a horizontal line.

W. Richard Young
Vice Commander, Color Guard
Florida Society. Sons of the American Revolution





Guest speaker Robert Biggs and President Rogers



Compatriot Stewart (right) and Don Lanman (Palm Beach SAR, center) at state DAR conference



DAR Clearwater invites you to...
The American Spirit Luncheon

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: John Stewart

LIVE MUSICIANS: Dale Williams, Victoria Garcia, and Nolan Marshall

LOCATION: Belleair County Club

ADDRESS: One Country Club Lane Belleair, FL 33756

DATE: Saturday, April 14, 2018

TIME: Social Hour @ 10:30 AM; Luncheon @ 11:30AM

COST: \$45 (IN ADVANCE)

Dear SAR St. Petersburg Compatriots,

I would like to extend an invitation to you and your fellow compatriots to attend our *American Spirit Fundraising Luncheon* on April 14th at the Belleair County Club. We have a great lineup of entertainment and one of the highlights will be our keynote speaker, John Stewart. This will be a fun event with the proceeds from our silent auction benefiting veterans and college scholarships.

Please reach out to Diane Richardson (bradskate@aol.com) to RSVP, as soon as possible, because you must pay in advance to attend.

Thank you and hope to see you next month.

Vanessa Talbott

President, Upper Pinellas & Pasco Counties Regents Council

Regent, Clearwater Chapter, NSDAR

DAR Service for Veterans, State Vice Chairman, Honor Flight

Hostess Committee Chairman, Fall Forum 2018

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