



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

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CHAPTER WEBSITES

www.stpetesar.org

2019 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

January 19 – regular meeting, St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11:00 am
February 16 - Special Presidents Month meeting

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1773 – Boston Tea Party

1776 – Battle of Trenton

1777 – Continental Army winters at Valley Forge



Board Chairman's Message



Dear Compatriots:

If there were ever a time when the SAR was needed to advance the cause of civics and history education, it is today. The National Society Sons of the American Revolution's Federal Charter states the Objects of the Society are: *Patriotic, Historical, and Educational*. This eloquent 19th century charter statement was intended to direct the Society's future activities and guide its initiatives so that the founding principles of our government would be clearly understood and revered by future generations who would then actively maintain and extend them.

Few would disagree that today America is in a distressing state of societal turmoil. According to NBC News, two thirds of Americans would fail the standard US Citizenship test. The civic literacy survey was conducted by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, published in October of 2018. This level of profound civic ignorance and illiteracy is a sad and pathetic state of affairs, and one that would confound if not outrage our Founding Fathers who sacrificed so much for the cause of Independence.

Furthermore, vandalism of historical monuments, tirades against our Founding Fathers, and even denigration of our Constitution are commonly reported in the media and are accorded much publicity. The apparent goal of these deplorable activities is to undermine the credibility of our Founders as being corrupt, abusive slave holders, therefore their work products are also flawed, including the Constitution and our form of government, and even capitalism itself. One student said to a Compatriot recently, "Old dead white people from 200 years ago don't get to rule our lives today..."

Even Presidential candidates are not immune from public manifestations of profound ignorance of our Republic's structure. Defeated Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton actively advocates for the elimination of the Electoral College. Astoundingly, President Obama in a 2008 interview disparaged the Constitution as merely "a charter of negative liberties." Perhaps most shocking is an observation by Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg who publicly branded the US Constitution as "flawed." Ginsburg then opined to an Egyptian TV station that she would not recommend the U.S. Constitution as a model..." In another recently published survey, nearly 10 percent of *college graduates* thought that television's Judge Judy sat on the Supreme Court.

Social Media, the mainstream media, misguided academics and politicians, all disseminate vast quantities of inaccurate information if not outright lies about our form of government, our essential documents, and our revered Founders.



To educate children is to define the future. Our imperative is clear: The SAR must use our inherent expertise, knowledge and resources to inform and educate key decision-makers, and persuade them to strengthen civics and history curricula, fund them adequately, and to use accurate, contextually appropriate curricula. Our Federal Charter *requires* it, our oath affirms it, the community expects it, and we owe our heroic ancestors nothing less.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Butler
Chairman, Board of Governors

VP / Chaplain's Message



During the early history of our country particularly in the puritan colonies Christmas had mostly been outlawed. It had become a holiday of overindulgence and gluttony which were sins to be frowned upon at that time. It was not however without some recognition and in the Southern colonies it was celebrated in a fashion of the day with pine boughs and other natural decorations. During the early years of our country the most popular hymn for Christmas was “Joy to the world” which was written by English writer Isaac Watts. It was first published in 1719.

This beautiful hymn has continued to be popular and is reported to be the most published Christmas hymn in North America. Next year in 2019 this beautiful hymn will be three hundred years old but the message of this hymn will always be a welcome one. In the first line “Joy to the World; the Lord is come! I pray we all welcome God in our hearts no matter what we envision him to be. We are welcoming the birth of the Christ child at Christmas. “Let earth receive her King!” Let us always keep our hearts open “Let every heart prepare Him room”.

As we prepare to welcome the New Year of 2019 let us open our hearts and minds to learning new things. We may often hear discussion of what the meaning of life really is. I believe it is learning something new every day and then sharing what we learn with others and most certainly passing on to our children. When we look to God our most important lesson from him is “Love” and our guidance from him is to share love.

Let us give thanks for the courage and fortitude of our nation’s founders and always say a prayer for our current leaders that they lead us with the grace and guidance of God. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

David Munson Chestnut



Registrar's Report



There are currently at least six applications in process. 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

SAR Jackets

Several members purchased SAR jackets last year, and they come in handy as the weather cools! If you're interested, the cost is \$50. Please contact Charles Butler at the next meeting or via email – c.butler@stpetesar.org. The 13 star flag and “Sons of the American Revolution – St. Petersburg Chapter” are on the left side; a monogram can be added to the right side as shown below.



Meeting Minutes



Sons of the American Revolution St Petersburg Chapter December 15, 2018

Call to Order: The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 11:35 AM by Board Chairman Charles Butler and the invocation was given by John Stewart.

Guests: Mary Cunningham from the Tampa USO and visitor Robert Anderson from the Clearwater chapter, SAR.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 17 meeting were approved.

Officer Reports & Presentations

Chairman Butler and John Stewart updated the chapter on the SAR education outreach mission to Pinellas County schools. The mission was approved by SAR in 2015, and is now in place in 15 states. Education in history and civics is now lacking to the point that less than 10% of high school graduates can pass the naturalization test. The test can be found at www.USCIS.gov. John Stewart stated that our chapter currently has 2,390 points in the annual Americanism Award challenge, up significantly from last year. He also stated that the number of Knight essays received from Farragut Academy is up from last year, but that there have been no nominations for Pinellas County American History teacher of the Year.

Peter Ford updated the chapter on our membership and finances. As of today, all annual dues to NSSAR and FLSSAR have been paid, and we have over \$6 thousand in the bank. We reported a total of 47 current members to FLSSAR, which includes 37 regular members, 2 life members, 2 dual members, 2 memorial members, and 4 junior members. Our chapter is also receiving a total of nearly \$800 in reimbursement from the Endowment Trust.

Will Scott reported that there are presently at least six applications in process, and Charles Butler is working on additional ones.

Hardy Bryan introduced Mary Cunningham from the USO, and told an interesting story on his own USO experience while serving in Vietnam. The USO was established during WWII, and was initially funded by private donations. Over \$16 million was raised in the first month. There are currently over 200 USO centers around the world, including four in Florida.

Benediction & Recessional

John Stewart gave the benediction, and Chairman Butler adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Ford, Secretary



Compatriot Hardy Bryan's "Good Morning Vietnam" Breakfast

In the very early and very dark morning of August 9th, 1972, my Vietnamese driver and I headed out of Saigon on a special mission to Tay Ninh. With the task completed, we returned to Saigon about 9:30 AM. The streets were filled with a sea of motorized bikes, pedicabs, cars and pedestrians, filling the air with a steady drone of noise and clouds of dust. Since I left without breakfast, I noted I was a little hungry and wanted to find a quiet place to write my reports and have a late breakfast.

Officers in Saigon were billeted in one of several hotels scattered throughout the area. Most of these bachelor officer quarters also had a mess operation, meaning three meals a day were served. These meals were troop issue; the same food as was served all of the military off a cyclic menu. To accommodate early and late meal needs one of the mess halls opened earlier than others and one remained open later. Thus, when I arrived downtown, I went to the BOQ that served breakfast until 10 AM.

I got there about 9:45. The dining area was full of empty tables, so I selected a seat against the back wall where I could keep an eye on the entrance. In Vietnam, we were taught to do that while eating in Vietnamese restaurants. We would keep our weapon in our lap under the table as about our only defense against an enemy coming in firing an automatic rifle or tossing hand grenades. A least twice, in Vietnamese restaurants, I moved my hands to my weapon and released the safety, but never had to fire; so, it became automatic to seek the back wall and face the door. Even today, some 30 years later, I still try to sit where I can see the door. I actually get nervous when my back is to the door!

I got a copy of the Stars and Stripes; a daily newspaper published for the troops, and put my weapon in a chair and pushed the chair under the table. I carried an M-1 Carbine with two thirty round magazines taped together and had a .45 caliber pistol in a shoulder holster. I preferred the carbine to the M-16 rifle because it was smaller and easier to use from a jeep. I then went through the serving line. Other than two Vietnamese kitchen workers on the line, no one else was there.

So, I settled down to eat breakfast, write the trip report and read the newspaper. I looked up as the door opened and was astounded to see a well-dressed, regular-sized, round-eye woman coming into the room and going through the serving line. Please understand that we saw very few Vietnamese women as tall as we are accustomed to in America, and we referred to American women as "round-eyed" as opposed to the much shorter Vietnamese females with the Asian eyes. As this woman proceeded towards the end of the line, it became more and more obvious she was American and she was, well, beautiful! I could not help but wonder whom she was, where she came from, why she was here, and could I find a way to move to her table and meet her.

At the end of the line, she picked up her tray and walked straight towards me. She stopped at my table, said, "Hi, I am Michele Cornau. I am from New Mexico." And she asked if she could join



me! I had spread my papers over the table but quickly gathered them together and welcomed her to sit down. She was a thing of beauty and very friendly, asking all sorts of questions, like where I am from, what do I do here, is it dangerous, when will I be going home, etc.

While answering Michele's questions, I noted another tall, round-eye taking a tray and starting down the breakfast line. I was beginning to wonder if this was real. Am I dreaming? This doesn't happen to me anywhere, much less in a combat zone.

The second woman, just as wholesome and beautiful as Michele, picked up her tray and came to my table, saying, "Hello, I am Janis Gentry from the University of Utah. May I join you?" Now here I am, sitting with two of the most gorgeous women I've had the pleasure of seeing in the middle of Saigon. No way can this be real. I will soon wake up and "poof" they will be gone and reality will return.

Janis asked me much the same questions as did Michele and I answered them as I continued to pinch myself to see if I was awake. Then what to my wondering eyes should appear but two more radiant knockouts were coming down the serving line and they too came to my table. Seeing we will need another chair, in addition to the one with my weapon, I picked up my carbine, which had not been seen by Michele or Janis. When I did, they both went "Oooh," and seemed to be shocked at the sight of my rifle. One of the two new arrivals said, "Greetings! I am Laurie Schaefer and this is Allyn Warner. I am from Ohio and Allyn is from Maine." I thought it odd that each girl said which state they were from, but that was just a passing thought.

Seems they all wanted to know all about me and what was going on in Vietnam. I still could not believe this scene. Me with four of the most beautiful women I ever saw, all together at the same place, and I was the center of their attention. No, this can't be real.

I hardly noticed another young pretty woman as she entered the mess hall, went through the line and came to my table. She said, "Hi, You all," and then looked at me and said "I'm Avis Ann Cochran and I am from Louisiana." I knew she was southern from hearing her wonderful southern drawl.

I finally located the courage to ask them what this is all about. Laurie said that she was Miss America and Janis, Avis, Allyn and Michele were representing their states in the Miss America Pageant. They were in Vietnam with the Miss America USO show, which was on its sixth annual overseas tour. "Hot damn!" I thought! Wait until everybody hears about this, but I was going to enjoy this while it lasted. When Avis finished her breakfast, and they were preparing to leave, I asked if I could have a picture to remember this occasion and they said, "Sure, come on up to our rooms."

Still thinking that this cannot be real, I walked with them down the hallway back to their rooms with my carbine slung over my shoulder. Two of them took me by each arm and escorted me. "Nope, this isn't happening to me." But it was.

As we approached their wing of the BOQ, there were two huge Military Policemen who were not about to let me get past them. They had their orders and no pleas from the girls or me was about to change their orders. Even pulling rank had no effect. Laurie said for me to wait and she'd



bring me a picture. While waiting, two more girls, both southerners, came to meet the “nice Major.” They were Linda Jean Moyer, Miss Virginia and Pam Inabinet, Miss South Carolina. They were all elegant, graceful, friendly and, as previously stressed, gorgeous.

The Military Police decided it was time for me to remove myself, so I thanked the troupe for an experience I’d never forget and thanked them for coming and giving themselves for the benefit of the troops. I left still in somewhat of a stupor not believing I really had a meal with Miss America, and four of her court, all by myself!

I left there and returned to my headquarters, where I told others my experience. They did not believe me until I showed the poster picture, autographed by five of them, including Miss America. I made it a point to eat breakfast there every morning for a week, but never saw nor heard about them again.

Thank you, Miss Virginia, Miss Utah, Miss Maine, Miss South Carolina, Miss New Mexico, Miss Louisiana, and Miss America, for giving me a breakfast in Vietnam memory I shall never forget.



Compatriot Bryan with Mary Cunningham of the USO



USO SHOWS

presents

"THE MISS AMERICA-USO SHOW"



Miss Virginia
LINDA JEAN MOYER



Miss Utah
JANIS GENTRY



Miss Maine
AILYN WARNER

Laurie Lea Schaefer --
Miss 1972
Miss America
Miss America



LAURIE LEA SCHAEFER

COMING SOON!
VIETNAM
THAILAND

FOR DETAILS CONTACT
SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICER

MRS. IRENE BRYANT
Traveling Companion



Miss South Carolina
PAM INABINET



Miss New Mexico
MICHELE CORNALI



Miss Louisiana
MISS ANN COCHRAN

Compatriot Bryan's signed USO poster

