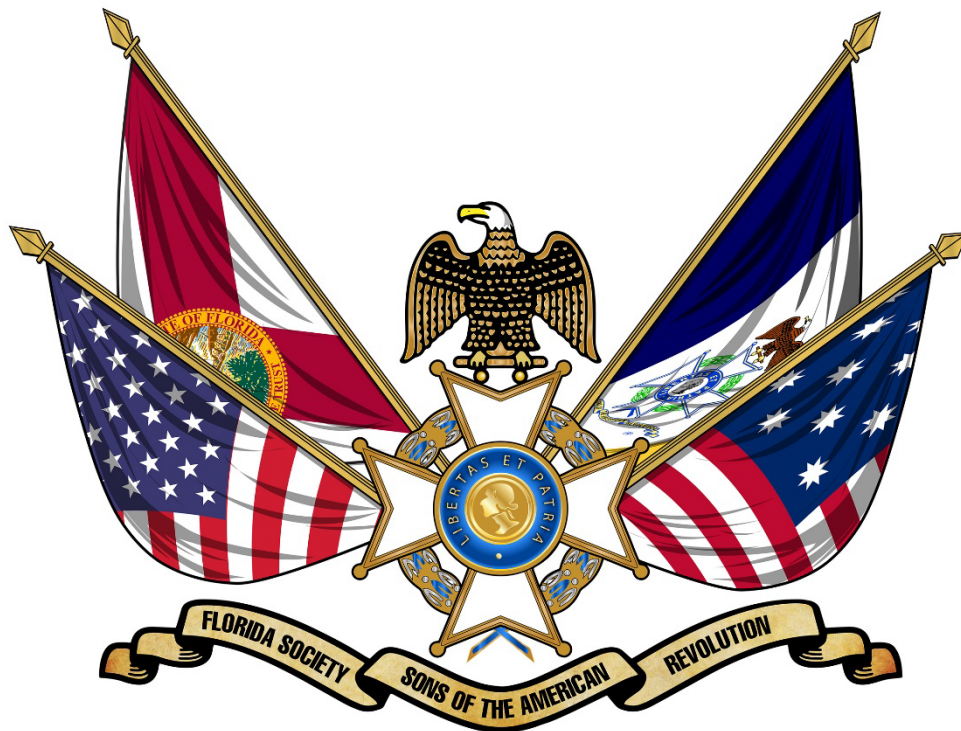


Spring Board of Management & Annual  
Meeting

# Proceedings

Kissimmee, Florida

May 17 to 18, 2024



### **The Pledge of Allegiance**

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

### **The SAR Pledge**

We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifices established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

### **Recessional**

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a nation of free men.

### **Constitutional Republic**

A Constitutional Republic is a state where the officials are elected as representatives of the people, and must govern according to an existing constitutional law that limits the government's power over its citizens. In the case of the United States Constitution, the body of the Document defines the three separate and distinct parts of government; executive, legislative and judicial, in addition it defines the duties and the obligations each branch must perform. The Bill of Rights and the Amendments define the rights of the individual and are there to prevent tyranny by both the government and the majority.

### **Sons of the American Revolution Mission Statement**

The objects of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical and educational; to unite and promote fellowship among the descendants of those, who sacrificed to achieve the independence of the American people, to inspire them and the community-at-large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom.

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## Meeting Agenda

Call to order  
Invocation  
Pledge of allegiance  
SAR Pledge  
Introduction of National Officers  
Introduction of first time attendees  
Certification of a quorum  
Approval of the agenda  
Approval of the minutes  
Endorsements of National Candidates (**Fall BOM**)  
Nomination of SAD VPG (**Fall 2025 BOM**)

### Reports of National and State Officers

National Trustee  
President  
Senior Vice President  
ExComm Member-at-Large  
Northwestern Regional Vice President  
North Central Regional Vice President  
Northeastern Regional Vice President  
East Central Regional Vice President  
West Central Regional Vice President  
Southeast Regional Vice President  
Southwest Regional Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Registrar  
Chaplain  
Recording Secretary  
Chancellor  
Genealogist  
Sergeant at Arms  
Historian  
Editor, *The Florida Patriot*  
Webmaster

### Statutory Committee Reports

Executive  
    Appoint ExAdmin (**Spring BOM**)  
Finance  
    (Budget Approval (**Fall BOM**))  
Financial Review  
Medals and Awards  
Nominating  
Patriot Medal

### NSSAR Affairs

SAR Education Center & Museum  
National Society Library

### FLSSAR Affairs

Archives  
By-Laws  
Education Outreach  
Ethics  
Genealogy

### Meeting Arrangements - BOM

Approval of BOM contracts (**Fall BOM**)  
Membership Promotion and Retention  
New Chapter Development  
Newsletters and Periodicals  
Strategic Planning  
Technology Advisory  
Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade

### Liaisons

CAR and SAR Junior Members Aide Liaison  
DAR Liaison  
FLSSAR Ladies Auxiliary Liaison

### Historic Sites

Historic Sites & Celebrations  
Battle of Pensacola  
Battle of Thomas Creek  
Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution

### Youth Programs

Americanism Youth Contests  
Eagle Scout Scholarship  
History Fairs  
George S. & Stella Knight Essay Contest  
Joseph P. Rumbaugh Orations Contest  
JROTC/ROTC

### Community Outreach

Habitat for Humanity  
Patriotic Activities  
Public Service and Heroism  
Publicity  
American History Teacher Award  
Veterans Affairs

### Trust Funds

Endowment Trust Fund Disbursements  
Endowment & Operating Budget Trust Funds  
Election of Trustee (**Fall BOM**)

### UNFINISHED Business

#### NEW Business

- Steve Hohman

#### Recess BOM Meeting (**Spring**)

#### Adjourn BOM Meeting (**Fall**)

#### Convene Annual Meeting (**Spring**)

#### Proposed By-Laws amendments (**Annual Meeting**)

#### Election of officers (**Annual Meeting**)

#### Nomination of National Trustee & Alt (**Annual Mtg**)

#### Adjourn Annual Meeting

#### President-Elect reconvenes BOM Mtg (**Spring**)

#### Election of Nominating Committee (**Spring BOM**)

#### Recessional / Adjournment

# Minutes of the Last Meeting

Scott Breckenridge, Secretary FLSSAR  
W. Douglas Gibbens, Recording Secretary FLSSAR

## **Board of Management Meeting**

Date: Saturday October 21, 2023

Location: Embassy Suites, Kissimmee, FL

Meeting Called to Order by **President Steven Fields** at 1304.

Invocation by Chaplain Dwight Elam.

Opening ritual completed.

President Steven Fields called attention to the new SAR mission statement as noted on the National Website. He urged all chapters to recite this new mission statement as a part of our chapter opening ceremonies.

Introduction of National Officers

President Fields then asked all chapter presidents to stand.

Recognition of first-time attendees.

Secretary Scott Breckenridge confirmed a quorum.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

## **Endorsement of National Candidates**

### Treasurer General

Wm. Lee Popham – present and spoke

Allen Greenly – not present

### President General

Dr. Darryl Addison– not present, Ray Wess spoke as surrogate for Dr. Addison

### Registrar General

Brook Lyles – not present, Dwight Elam spoke as surrogate for Mr. Lyles

Derrick Brown – not present

John Berg – not present

### Genealogist General

Gary Greene - Harry Rinker spoke as surrogate for Mr. Greene

President Fields called for a vote to support all unopposed candidates. Motion carried unanimously.

President Fields called for a vote for the two candidates for Treasurer General. Wm. Lee Popham won unanimously.

President Fields called for a vote for the three candidates for Registrar General. Brook Lyles was the majority recipient.

## **Reports of National and State Officers**

All reports that are in the book are accepted as written except as noted below.

Chaplain – no report

Chancellor – no report

Sergeant at Arms – no report

Historian – no report

Editor – report in the book, but stressed that we need articles

Webmaster – no report

## Committee Reports

All reports that are in the book are accepted as written except as noted below.

Finance Committee – **Motion** - Treasurer Richard Young moved to pass a resolution to direct Walter Richard Young, the FLSSAR Treasurer to open two accounts for two (2) Certificates of Deposit (CDs) at Wells Fargo Bank, as follows; One (1) certificate of \$50,000 in the Wells Fargo special 11-month CD and \$25,000 in the Wells Fargo special 3-month CD. Motion **passed**.

**Motion** – The finance committee moved to revert to the pre-congress practice of putting \$2,000 each year into the “Meeks” fund and the Endowment Trust Fund (ETF). Since the motion came from the finance committee, it required no 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ray Wess moved to amend the motion by stating that the entire \$4,000 should go into the “Meeks” fund with nothing to the ETF. Dick Young 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to amend. The motion to amend was **passed**. Then the vote on the original motion as amended was **passed**.

**Motion** – The Finance Committee moved to approve the budget as presented. Since the motion came from a committee, no 2<sup>nd</sup> was necessary. The motion **passed** and the budget was **adopted**.

**Motion** – Scott Breckinridge moved that the excess money collected from the sale of congress bags be put into a new Color Guard fund. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harry Rinker. Motion **carried**.

Medals and Awards – Hamp Allen reminded everyone of the new Henry Knox medal and told us of its several possible uses.

Nominating Committee – The committee reported that there was a proper form to use for nominating or renominating someone for office and that this form must be used. The committee also announced that the cutoff date for submission of nominations and renominations was 1 February 2024.

Patriot Medal Committee – The committee announced that nominations for the Patriot Medal must be received by January 31, 2024. They also said that based upon our membership, we can do as many as four (4) awards.

Congress Planning Committee – Matt Matthews reported that the National Congress was highly successful and that the politeness and courtesy of all volunteers and members was the most important reason for our success.

Meeting Arrangements – BOM – **Motion** - Scott Breckinridge moved that the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 BOM meetings be held at the current location, which is the Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista on October 11-13, 2024 and May 16-18, 2025. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Homan. Motion **passed**.

Strategic Planning – Wm. Lee Popham announced that the Strategic Planning Committee was moving forward with Club Express as our vendor for dues billing.

Endowment Trust Fund – The ETF reported that they had a balance of \$576,000. They can distribute \$27,000 after October 31<sup>st</sup>. The deadline to submit is NLT November 15<sup>th</sup>.

An election was held for an open trustee seat on the Endowment Trust Fund. James D. Stone was **elected unanimously** for the 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2026 term.

President’s Report – President Fields reminded us of the November 10<sup>th</sup> funeral for a Second Lieutenant who was shot down in Italy in 1945. His remains have been recovered and identified and the funeral will be held in Florida. The uniform for those attending the funeral is blue blazer and khaki pants.

Also, President Fields reminded us again of the new mission statement for SAR. He urged all chapters to put this in their program and to recite this mission statement as a part of our program opening.

## Unfinished Business

None

## New Business

None

**President Fields** adjourned the meeting at 1453 hours.

The Recessional was recited

Chaplain Dwight Elam gave the benediction.

# National and State Officer Reports

## National Trustee

Earl F. Mathews, Trustee

Steven R. Fields, Alternate Trustee

### As Florida National Trustee, one of the duties is to collect a copy of each chapters Constitution and Bylaws.

- Status on collecting from all 32, 26 have responded after 3 attempts.

### Sep 23, 2024 Trustee report at National Leadership meeting, Louisville, KY

- At the 20 July meeting ExCom approved changes to the Americanism Award and Minuteman Award guidelines and form.
- At the 23 August meeting ExCom (1) authorized the expenditure of up to \$20,000 for fees and cost associated with the National Dues Billing beta test software, (2) approved the replacement of 2 failed air conditioning units at headquarters not to exceed \$80,000, (3) approved the purchase of security system upgrade not to exceed \$5,000, (4) directed the Executive Director to suspend the sale of record copies of living members with an address in the European Union to third parties, (5) authorized the Executive Director to execute broker of record letters notifying of the change to the SAR insurance broker, (6) approved the presentation of the Distinguished Patriotic Service Award to the United States Postal Service, and (7) approved appointments to the Genealogy Committee and appointment of vice chairman to the Budget Committee.
- At the 21 September meeting, ExCom (1) authorized the Chancellor General to pursue a trademark for the phrase “Sons of the American Revolution,” (2) endorsed the Audit Committee recommendation to the Trustees to approve Dean Dorton as the firm to perform the annual audit, (3) authorized the Executive Director to contract with PLC Management as the Owner’s Representative and authorized payment of \$19,000 per month for four months, (4) authorized reimbursement costs for plan check and permit fees not to exceed \$8,000, (5) approved an amendment to the SAR Branding and Engagement Guide, (6) recommended the 2023 budget be approved by the Trustees as presented by the Budget Committee, (7) approved the recommendation to the Trustees to approve the termination of GWEF distribution of funds, and (8) approved the recommendation to the Trustees that the SAR support, in principle, along with other historical organizations, the creation, and installation of a plaque in Philadelphia, commemorating Miss Dally’s Boarding House. This support of the Boarding House proposal is not financial.
- At the 23 September meeting, ExCom approved the five Medals and Awards Committee recommendations. A motion to make the Washington Society Declaration of Independence Program a National Program was referred to the Library Committee. It referred a motion of the Communications Committee to read the Mission Statement at the beginning of business sessions of the National Congress and, Spring and Fall Leadership Meetings to the Handbook and Protocol Committees.
- TG Michael Elston (VA) reported a shortfall in forecasted revenue is expected for the year, resulting in a substantial deficit. Initially, the forecasted deficit was ~\$300,000. TG Elston described the remedial actions taken to reduce the forecasted shortfall to \$205,000. A large contribution to the deficit is a shortfall in expected membership and new and supplemental applications. The approved 2023 budget assumed the total membership to be 41,500. The current forecast is 38,000. Prior to the pandemic, the Society was growing at 3% per year. We are now in the third year of flat growth. In order to cover operating expenses, the SAR will use the line of credit, which will necessarily be paid back over the next three years, which will impact the ability to achieve the goals of the society. Ultimately, we all need to focus on recruitment and retention.
- SAR Foundation Board President Lee Popham (FL) asked all to donate \$50 per month for five years toward the Education Center and Museum. Doing so will increase the number of pledges on the books that can be used as collateral for construction financing.
- **Motion 1. I move to grant speaking privileges to SAR members in good standing who lack a vote during the Trustee session.** Made by PG Joseph Dooley (VA) and seconded by Fred Underdown (TN). No discussion. Motion approved.
- **Motion 2. Bylaw 19, Section 1, (a), (5) requires the Audit Committee to recommend, subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees at its Fall Meeting, an outside independent auditing firm composed of Certified Public Accountants to conduct the annual audit of the National Society. The Audit Committee moves the Trustees approve that the current independent certified public accounting firm, Dean Dorton, be retained to perform the upcoming 2023 audit and prepare the 990 reports for the NSSAR and SAR Foundation.** Made by Warren C. Fristensky (NJ). No discussion. Motion approved.
- **Motion 3. I move the Trustees to approve Ohio for the 2028 Congress.** Made by Congress Planning Chairman Paul Callanan (MI). No discussion. Motion approved.
- **Motion 4. I move the Trustees to approve the 2024 budget as proposed by the Budget Committee and endorsed by the Executive Committee.** Made by TG Michael Elston (VA). No discussion. Motion approved.
- The Executive Committee was briefed on the 5-Year Operational Plan’s first status report. The report evaluates progress being made to the 5-year goals and objectives and builds a culture of ownership and accountability. The next status report will be submitted in November. Yesterday the Committee kicked off the 10-Year Strategic Plan for 2035. A monthly drumbeat meeting will be held to produce the plan for review by the Spring Leadership Meeting. A draft vision statement was developed which states: “We will be a growing, robust organization that is a major voice of the American Revolution and our timeless founding principles.”
- **Motion 5. The Executive Committee recommends to the Trustees that the equal distribution of all donations and pledges to the George Washington Endowment Fund (GWEF) between the GWEF, the Howard Horne Endowment Fund, and the Buck Meek Endowment Fund authorized by the Trustees in 2019 be terminated effective September 23, 2023, and that all donations and pledge payments received after that date be allocated entirely to the GWEF.** Made by SG Darryl Addington (NC). No discussion. Motion approved.



**Jan 13, 2024 Zoom meeting, Approval of Funds to start construction/modification on next phase of Education Center:**

- **Motion 1 (main motion).** The Executive Committee recommends that the Trustees approve up to \$3,600,000 for the construction of the building and building systems modifications to accommodate the addition of the Education Center and Museum exhibits, funded by the SAR Foundation. The Executive Director is authorized to execute the contract with A.L. Post once the funding source is confirmed by the Executive Committee. This to include:
  1. **Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract for construction with A. L. Post, in the amount of \$3,244,929 and estimated Allowances for:**
    - a. **Commissioning, communications distribution cabling for exhibits and CCTV additions - \$85,000**
    - b. **Door Etching, window film treatment and Theater Floor emblem - \$15,000**
    - c. **Owners Contingency - \$59,455**
  2. **Construction Management (PLC) - \$195,616**
- **Motion 2. I move to limit debate on the motion to five minutes per person and one time per person.** Made by TG Michael Elston (VA) and seconded by VPG Rob Moore (HI). Motion approved.
- **Committee Presentation.** Daniel McKelvie (CA) and W. Lee Popham (FL) presented a briefing of the proposed Education Center and Museum construction project and funding (refer to Education Center and Museum Scope of work briefing for Trustees (final).pdf (Share File)). Construction consists of architectural, structural, electrical, fire protection, mechanical and plumbing elements to the headquarters building and excludes the exhibits. The proposed project is expected to be of 10-month duration. A cost breakdown was provided and current financial condition to fund the proposed project. Between investments, cash on hand and pledge balances the Foundation has \$3,280,866 falling short ~\$300,000 to fully fund the project. In accordance with the main motion, the Foundation believes it will be able to report the remaining required resources are available and inform the Executive Committee. Popham stressed the Executive Director is authorized to execute the contract with A.L. Post only when the funding source is confirmed by the Executive Committee.
  - Trustees were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Questions with responses in parenthesis included:
  - What would be the remaining balance in the Foundation at the conclusion of the project (minimal, and it was noted the money in the Foundation was designated specifically for the Education Center and Museum only);
  - Asking clarification of anticipated annual donations collection (we have collected over \$600,000 in 2023);
  - Are we relying on pledges from people who have not been paying down their pledges? (there are people who are paying on their pledges and have a track record of paying on their pledges, and we anticipate people making new pledges);
  - Are pledges guaranteed – can people back out of them (pledges are irrevocable)?
  - What are the contract payment terms (it is a standard phased construction contract with payments due upon completion of milestones)?:
  - Impact of adding the steel beam on the existing second floor (don't expect any impact): and
  - Given we just learned that we need to go to a dry fire suppression system and replace all the piping is it priced (it is included in the construction quote).

## **President**

Steven R. Fields

Compatriots,

It's amazing how much can be accomplished between meetings of the Board of Management. The real accomplishments of our society are accomplished at ground level – the chapter level. In my travels around Florida this year, it has been my pleasure to meet with hundreds of FLSSAR members and hear about what excites them about our society. There are myriad ways that we can engage with the public and impact our communities. These all help advance our overall goals of education, patriotic service, and historic preservation. I hope that this year has been one where you have been able to find an activity that engages and energizes you to help the organization grow and become more influential in our communities.

Since the last Board of Management meeting this past October, the Florida Society has engaged in all kinds of activities. We have had members represent the Society at interment ceremonies for newly identified WWII casualties. Burials for many of our members, veteran and civilian, have been well attended by chapter and state color guards and members. Veteran's Day, Wreaths Across America, Patriots Day, and the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party were celebrated across the state and often in partnership with the DAR, CAR, VFW, American Legion, and many other community organizations. The commemorations of the Last Naval Battle and Thomas Creek have been observed, the DAR and CAR state conferences have been exciting and successful, and planning goes on as numerous chapters around Florida look to host America 250 events and Liberty Tree dedications. These upcoming local events provide SAR chapters the perfect opportunity to invest their time, talent and treasure in ways that they can be proud of while making inroads with their communities and schools. Be sure that your chapter DAR and CAR liaisons have the resources that they need to coordinate your efforts for your greatest success. Also, ensure that each of your chapters have a few members current on their SAR Youth Protection Training.

Looking ahead we have celebrations for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and much more. The Annual Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is in Lancaster, PA this July and those wishing to be delegates need to have their chapter presidents submit their names to Secretary Scott Breckenridge as soon as possible. All are encouraged to attend.

Florida's highly successful hosting of Congress last year has raised the bar and the Pennsylvania Society has great plans for their event. All SAR members are invited to attend the annual Congress and its associated events.

My term as president ends with the installation of the 2024-2025 officers at the Annual Banquet. This is held at the end of the Board of Management and Annual Meetings of the Florida Society and are May 17 and 18 this year. Training, meetings, presentation of state youth and public safety awards, and the annual memorial service along with presentations of the Patriot Medal are some of the highlights. Of great importance are the Board of Management Meeting and the election of officers. Chapter Presidents should ensure that their chapter delegates are registered to attend and that their names have been forwarded to State Secretary Scott Breckenridge. Requests must come from chapter presidents to be considered.

The Ladies Auxiliary has great plans for the upcoming BoM weekend. They have a great program planned for the Youth Awards Luncheon and they will be holding the annual basket raffle. All chapters should have their baskets (apt \$100 value) dropped off near the registration area by lunchtime Saturday May 18th or through other means coordinated ahead of time with the Ladies Auxiliary. These baskets raise money that bolsters the prize awards for the SAR Youth Contest winners. Please support the Ladies Auxiliary and our youth by donating a basket. Also, having had a dozen new members join the state Ladies Auxiliary so far this year, please let all the ladies of your chapters know that they are welcome to join. They can email Ladies Auxiliary President Jill Fields at [jillybeans68@hotmail.com](mailto:jillybeans68@hotmail.com) for information and an application.

On a personal note, I want to thank every member and supporter of the Florida Society for their efforts this past year. Being elected president of the best state in the SAR has been my honor and privilege. First Lady Jill and I have driven thousands of miles to visit many of your chapters - not as many as we would have liked to though. We have always been welcomed and we greatly appreciate the hospitality as well as the enthusiasm. The chapters are where the goals of the SAR are met. Your members and supporters bring our love of history and our promotion of patriotism to life. Thank you for all that you have done and all that you will accomplish. Best wishes and prayers from both of us. God bless you all.

Steven R. Fields  
President, Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution 2023-2024

Activities Addendum:

**September**

Internment for WWII US Army Pvt. Roy J. Searle; Lake Worth, FL

**October**

South Atlantic District Meeting and NSSAR Candidate Forum; Gaffney, SC (250 event, colors, colonial attire)

Commemoration of the Battle of Kings Mountain (250 event, colors, colonial attire)

2023 FLSSAR Fall Board of Management Meeting; Kissimmee, FL (250 event)

SAR luncheons and Officer Installments

**November**

Internment for WWII Pilot Lt Gilbert Myers; St. Petersburg, FL (250 event, colors, colonial attire)

Guest speaker for Daughters of Union Veterans on First Shots of Ft Sumter (colonial attire)

Guest Speaker for Saramana Chapter on Patriot Samuel Whittemore

Veterans Day Parade; Sarasota, FL (250 event, colors, colonial attire)

SAR luncheons and Officer Installments

**December**

Wreaths Across America (colonial attire)

SAR luncheons and Officer Installments

Guest Speaker for DAR on Patriot Samuel Whittemore (250 event, colonial attire)

**January**

Alafia Rendezvous Living History Encampment; Alafia, FL

**February**

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Caloosa Chapter Banquet (250 event)

George Washington's Birthday Gala hosted by Tampa Chapter (250 event)

Florida Society of the Children of the American Revolution Spring Conference and Installation of Officers; Daytona, FL (250 event)

SAR luncheons and Officer Installments

**March**

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Naples Chapter Banquet; Naples, FL (250 event)

Florida Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Spring Conference; Orlando, FL (250 event) presented FLSDAR Regent

Coney Adison with Silver 250 Medal

Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution; Merritt Island, FL (250 event)

Commemoration of the Battle of Thomas Creek; Jacksonville, FL (250 event)

SAR luncheons and Officer Installments

**April**

Commercial for local Historical Society; Sarasota, FL (250 event, colonial attire)

Spring Meeting of the South Atlantic District of the NSSAR; Camden, SC (Zoom)  
SAR luncheons and Officer Installments

## **Senior Vice President**

James Y. Gaskins

The Florida Society continues to flourish and support the tenets of our Mission Statement in 2024. Chief among the indicators are the participation in our National events (Battle of Pensacola, Last Naval Battle and Battle of Thomas Creek) and the support and success of our nominees to the History Teacher competition at National and on-going support for our DAR and C.A.R. Chapters.

The 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States will be the capstone of the NSSAR efforts of the next two years. PG Dodd said, "On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States..." Please, go to the America 250 link (<HTTPS://america250sar.org>) and see where we are, where we're going and how we're going to get there."

NSSAR 134th Congress will be held in Lancaster, PA July 10-16, 2024.

On a personal note and on the subject of "uncharted waters" I'm pleased to report my open-heart surgery in January was successful and that I should have completed cardiac rehabilitation. Follow on issues are being dealt with. Most significant to me is the value of your friendship and prayers for a speedy and complete recovery.

A selection of activities participated in this year:

Battle of Kings Mountain  
South Atlantic District Meeting  
Battle of Thomas Creek  
Jacksonville Chapter ExCom and Chapter meetings  
Jacksonville Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony  
FLSSAR Fall BOM  
NE Regional RVP Meeting via ZOOM  
Presented the SAR ROTC Medal at Jacksonville University

MISSION STATEMENT: The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

## **Member-at-Large ExCom**

Robert W. McGuire

Nothing to report.

## **NW Regional Vice President**

Christopher E. Washler

NW Region VP Activities:

- January 11, 2024 – Chapter visit to Tallahassee
- February 17 – NW Region BOM in Bonifay. 10 members from around the region attended.
- February 29-March 1 – NSSAR Spring Leadership meetings in Louisville

## **Emerald Coast Chapter**

Graham W. Fountain

The Emerald Coast Chapter held meetings on:

October 14, 2023

No meeting in November

December 9, 2023

January 13, 2024

February 10, 2024 – Elections held – new officers elected

March 9, 2024 – 11 members in attendance

April 13, 2024 – 13 members in attendance {1 new} ) - 4 guests in attendance (17 total)

So far this year, the chapter has presented the following JROTC Medals:  
Fort Walton Beach High School (April 11, 2024)  
Baker High School (April 29, 2024)  
The Chapter expects to present more JROTC medals before the end of the year.

## **Panama City Chapter**

DeCody Brad Marble

### Chapter Profile:

Membership: Total = 28: {5 Life, 1 Dual (AL), 2 Emeritus 2, & 20 Regular}  
Ladies Auxiliary: President Jonita Haynes (St. Andrews Bay NSDAR Member)  
Associates: Total = 2, Prospective Members: 14, Projected Future Membership Total: 32

### Registrar/Genealogist/ First Sponsor Report:

By Harry Rinker

As of 11 April 2024, Application Status Report;

Eight at National Society SAR

Awaiting Review by FLSSAR Registrar: 1

Out for Applicant Signing: 0

Under Review by Panama City Chapter Registrar: 5

March 18, 2024; "In Recognition of Outstanding Personal Contribution in support of the growth of membership to the FLSSAR Panama City Chapter in the year of 2023 and 2024, Harry L. Rinker is hereby awarded the Bronze Henry Knox Achievement Medal.

### Chapter Activities:

By Secretary, James "Jim" Haynes

November 10, 2023: Three officers, (Marble, Raffield & Haynes), in CG Uniform participated in the Callaway 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran's Celebration at the Callaway Recreational Complex.

November 11, 2023; Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home, which houses over 80 Vietnam Veterans

December 11, 2023, Retention and Awards Ceremony; Five Year Membership Certificate and Pin awarded to William James "Bill" Zehner Jr., son of past chapter President Bill Zehner Sr. deceased in Dec. 2022. In addition a walnut 7.5 X 10 inches plaque with engraving, "Panama City Chapter, FL in Recognition James P. Pretlow +40 Years Loyal Membership Sons of the American Revolution".

In addition, Marble had Pretlow signed the NSSAR Life Membership Plan Form and the chapter funds were utilized to pay for it. Pretlow is now a Life Member of the NSSAR.

The Panama City Chapter Officers and Membership unanimously voted to submit a Patriot Nomination Form for DeCody Brad Marble. His ten years of hard-dedicated work towards the existence and growth of the chapter, while sharing his knowledge, compassion and experience with the membership. Marble has been Chapter President for five years of his ten-year membership in the Sons of the American Revolution.

December 23, 2023, Saturday; a belated "Wreaths across America Bay County" (WAABC) because of storms of previous Saturday.

January 03, 2024, Retention; Marble presents SAR 5 Yr. membership certificate and pin David Pete Windham and his son, William Travis.

January 10, 2024, Induction of SAR Transfers; Marble & Raffield presented SAR Badges and certificates to transfer compatriots from Tennessee to Panama City Chapter, FL Society, Walter L Woodrick and his son, Mason.

January 22, 2024, Awards Ceremony; "Benny" Raffield was sworn in as Chapter Vice President. In addition, "Benny" received the SAR Bronze Henry Knox Achievement Medal simultaneously with the Bronze 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution Medal. Secretary Jim Haynes received the same two medals. President of the Chapter's Lady Auxiliary and DAR member, Jonita "Jo" Hayes received the Bronze Martha Washington Medal.

February 17, 2024: Marble, Raffield and Haynes attended the 2024 FLSSAR Northwest Regional Meeting held in Bonifay, Florida.

February 19, 2024, Panama City Monthly Meeting; Speaker Marble talks of his Marble heritage.

March 09, 2024, SAR Bronze NJROTC Award Presentation

March 17, 2024; Vice President & Facebook Webmaster, Benny Raffield established the "Panama City-SAR" Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/sarpcf1>

March 18, 2024, Monthly meeting: Recognizing two SAR Chapter Associates with an Associate Certificate, Gary Allison Wilbanks and Stanley Thomas Parker. Secretary Jim F. Haynes spearheaded, wrote, and presented the Replaced and Updated FLSSAR Panama City Chapter Constitution and By-Laws, The By-Laws unanimously accepted by the attending membership. The FLSSAR Chapter Constitution and By-Laws handed over to Matt Mathews.

March 19, 2024: Retention; Marble presented Compatriot Don Ketrill Ellis with the 30 Year Membership Certificate and Pin. Marble has Ellis sign the NSSAR Life Membership Form and utilizes some of the chapter funds to pay for the membership. In April, Ellis received his NSSAR Life Membership Plan, now a NSSAR Life Member!

March 23, 2024: "Battle of Thomas Creek", Marble and Raffield participated with the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade and presented a wreath.

March 25, 2024: Award and Respect for Past Compatriot's Widow, Carol Richard Glayre, widow of Compatriot Louise Glayre. Marble present a Henry Knox Achievement Award to Carol for her past position as SAR Chapter Lady's Auxiliary President.

April 15, 2024. New SAR PC Chapter Meeting Place and Time; FLSSAR Panama City Chapter, Meets Monthly on the Third Monday, at 10:00 AM at the Bay County Public Library

Award Ceremony: James Paddison Pretlow received the Henry Knox Achievement Award. Only six members attended the meeting.

April 26 – May 03, 2024, Bay County Five High School JROTC Award Ceremonies Blitz in One Week by Marble. Marines – A. Crawford Mosley HS in Lynn Haven; Navy - Arnold HS in PCB; Air Force - Bay HS in downtown PC; Army – Bozeman HS in Southport; and Air Force – Rutherford HS in Springfield.

May 10, 2024, Friday; "Battle of Pensacola", Marble and Raffield will muster with the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade.

#### **Announcements:**

"The Wall that Heals"; AKA, the Travelling Vietnam Memorial Wall is coming to Panama City on November 13, 2024, and the chapter will participate in several of the events to be held at the Callaway Recreation Complex.

America 250th Project; The Panama City Chapter will collaborate and participate with the St. Andrew Bay Chapter, NSDAR in a joint memorial establishment with ceremony. The event will honor "Bay County Florida's Forgotten American Revolutionary War Patriot", Major General John Clark, and twice Georgia Governor, who lived, died and buried in Saint Andrews Bay, (suburb of Panama City), Florida. More information will be available after approval by NSDAR.

## **Pensacola Chapter**

Christopher E. Washler

The Pensacola Chapter has had an eventful several months since the fall BOM. The chapter has grown to 59 members, which is the largest that we have been since 2015. In December, the chapter finished out the year strong by sponsoring 116 wreaths for the Wreaths Across America event at Barrancas National Cemetery. This is the most wreaths the chapter has sponsored since we started participating in WAA. For the first time in many years, we had an entrant for the Arthur M and Berdena King Eagle Scout competition, as well as multiple entries for the Elementary Poster contest and the Middle School Brochure Contests. Winners for both were selected and sent on to the state competition. This spring, we have given out nearly 500 Good Citizenship certificates to students in Escambia and Santa Rosa County Schools as well as JROTC medals to cadets at all participating high schools in both counties.

Our "250 by the 250<sup>th</sup>" Flag Recognition program is going strong. We are up to 83 businesses and individuals that have been nominated and presented with certificates. Only 170 more to go in the next two years!

On May 10, the Pensacola Chapter will once again host the Battle of Pensacola Commemoration. This year's events are the keystone events for the City of Pensacola's Galvez Days that will actually begin on Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the SAR Color Guard, accompanied by ladies from the DAR, will open the Friday events with a color guard procession down Palafox Street to the Galvez Monument and then on to the Basilica of St. Michael for the Galvez Commemoration including Mayor Campos from Macharaviaya, Spain, the hometown of General de Galvez. After the morning's ceremonies, there will be a lunch at the Pensacola Yacht Club featuring Compatriot Wesley Odom as the guest speaker. Finally, the SAR and DAR will sponsor a wreath laying at the Minuteman Monument in Veterans Memorial Park at 3 pm.

## **Tallahassee Chapter**

"Bill" J. Gladwin Jr

1. George Washington Birthday Celebration was held on February 25, 2024 at the Wakulla Springs Lodge with 30 attending. Chris Kimball was our speaker. He spoke about the book he wrote - Alachua Ambush - Bloody Battles Of The 2nd Seminole War.
2. We awarded the Sea Cadets Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate on February 17, 2024 to Chief Petty Officer Kaylee Sandell of the John Paul Jones Chapter based in Tallahassee.
3. We submitted an entry into the Knight Essay Contest from Steven McNally, a junior at Lawton Chiles High School, part of the Leon County School System. Although he did not place at the state level, we plan to recognize him and his parents hopefully at our April meeting.
4. We plan to issue four ROTC Sliver Medals (one each) to Florida A&M Army and Navy plus Florida State Air Force and Army ROTC units. We also plan to issue 6 JROTC Medals (one each) to Wakulla Navy JROTC, Liberty County Army JROTC, Leon Marine JROTC, Rickards Army JROTC, Godby Air Force JROTC, and Lincoln Navy JROTC. As of now, we have issued medals to FSU Air Force, FSU Army, FAMU Navy, and Wakulla Navy. Ceremonies will be held through May.
5. Alden Graves, grandson of President Bill Gladwin is our newest member and junior member. We expect to submit four applications from the same family very shortly.
6. Craig Fitzgerald has taken over as the chapter registrar due to my expected appointment as NW Regional VP.

7. We met every month from October through April with the exception of November and March. Our April meeting has not yet been scheduled.

## **William Dunaway Chapter**

no President

(submitted by Treasurer/Genealogist/Registrar Matt Mathews)

- Oct 2023 President Tom Rankin conducted a Memorial Service for Compatriot Lionel Young, 2 Flag certificates, Heroism Medal presented to Deputy Colt Howell, Law Enforcement Medal presented to Sheriff Donnie Edenfield
- Nov 2023 President Tom Rankin Presented program on History of Veterans Day, presented Distinguished Service Medal to Dale Macumber
- Dec 2023 Compatriot Dale Macumber presented the SAR Wounded Warrior Coin to US Army Veteran, Past President presented the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal to President Tom Rankin. Secretary Dale Macumber presented the Bronze Roger Sherman to President Tom Rankin and Ladies of Liberty Medal to Margaret Rankin. Annual Reconciliation reported zero drops/resignations.
- Jan 2024 President Rankin submitted the USS Stark Memorial Award. Conducted 'swearing in ceremony' for newly elected officers of vice president, treasurer, registrar, genealogist, chaplain and sgt-at-rms. No president or secretary was nominated or selected.
- Feb 2024 Compatriot Mathews presented the NSSAR series of African Americans in the Revolutionary War. A consolidated meeting with the DAR Chipola Chapter.
- Mar 2024 VP Micheal Mathews did a presentation on Patriot Samuel Whitmore.
- Apr 2024 Rev. Robert Ott did a presentation on Spanish History on "The Path".

## **NC Regional Vice President**

David C. Thomas

I attended the Wreaths Across America event at On Dec. 16th.

Swore in new Officers in Lake City on Feb. 12th.

Swore in new officers in Gainesville Febuary 20th.

Swore in new officers in Lake-Sumter May 4<sup>th</sup>

Due to other obligations, I was unable to fulfill my duties as a Vice President

For this I apologize to the North Central Region.

## **Gainesville Chapter**

Randal L. Highsmith

The Chapter Donated 85.00 to the Jacob Roberts Brown Chapter CAR

The Wreaths Across America event was attended by David Thomas

The Chapter elected new officers in Feb, which are.

Randy Highsmith President

Mike O'Loughlin 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Lester Burch 2<sup>ad</sup> Vice President

Jonathan Jensen Secretary

David Thomas Treasure

Tim Hoskinson Registrar

New location for Gainesville SAR is at

Mi Apa 14209 W Newberry Rd. Suite 8 Newberry Fl.

Mike O'Loughlin and Dave Thomas attended Gainesville H.S. and presented the Sar JRROTC Award and 50.00 to Ivan Rivera on April 26th

Mike O'Loughlin and Dave Thomas attended Buholtz High School and presented The SAR JRROTC award and 50.00 to Kenneth Patino on April 30th

## **Lake City Chapter**

David W. Chandler

The Lake City Chapter supported SB1317 that was signed into law by Governor Desantis which allows for Patriotic Groups such as SAR and Faith-Based groups to have access to the public school population in Florida. Certain conditions apply but can easily be

met. This is so very important to SAR in that Civics can be emphasized along with American Revolutionary and Colonial History by speaking and planning events within the schools of the state.

Lake City Chapter was represented at the DAR Spring Conference in Orlando by accompanying the Edward Rutledge Chapter DAR representatives to appropriate conference events. Those DAR ladies really have a great organization! The DAR usually has at least one representative member at our meetings.

Lake City Chapter is also using this signage for all our events to relay community awareness including our monthly meetings which are now being held at Beef O'Brady's in Lake City on South Main Blvd. Same time of 6pm on the second Monday of the month except for June, July and August.

The Lake City Chapter supported the Columbia High School JROTC observance of 911 with their "Silent March". JROTC cadets lined the silent corridors of CHS along with a thousand silent students, teachers and administrators as the CHS JROTC contingent and a lone drummer bore the colors through the packed and silent hallways to the CHS flagpole. A very effective memorial which we hope will be repeated every 911 Observance. We responded with a letter to the editor to the Lake City Reporter praising the cadets, sponsors and CHS for their effective observance of 911.

Lake City Chapter is establishing a conversation with the VA Hospital in Lake City for support and communication as well as re-establishing our Color Guard.

Lake City has participated in several events this past year. To which, the chapter participated in the Veterans Day Parade and several other veterans' events in the local area. The chapter remains active in support of the regions high school JROTC programs, awarding four "Bronze JROTC" awards and recognizing commanding officers for their hard work in building outstanding programs and leaders.

The Lake City Chapter is proud to recognize our Chaplin and disabled Korean War Veteran, Conny Bossard for his thousands of hours of volunteer work at the Lake City VA Hospital. Compatriot Bassard has represented the SAR and veterans alike in his years of work with the Veterans Administration, volunteering his time and effort without ever asking for anything in return.

The chapter continues its work towards getting the Price Creek Cemetery, located in Columbia County, recognized and listed on the National Registry as the cemetery is the final resting place for dozens of war veterans from several of America's conflicts, including Revolutionary War veteran, PVT Theophilus Weeks. Price Creek has been managed by a single, local family over the past generations out of their good grace and dedication to service.

## **Lake-Sumter Chapter**

Tim Donihi

-During December 2023 we had 3 members assist with "Wreaths across America"

Our speaker for the meeting was Melanie Lemmer, with Habitat for Humanity. This is a program we have been active with by presenting an American flag to the new home owners. We presented Melanie with a certificate and a check for one hundred dollars. Maxwell Deutsch, Middle School Teacher from Wildwood Middle High School was awarded as our Teacher of the Year, His impressive resume included a Three Branches of Government Simulation. This simulation helped the students understand the difficulty of managing our country.

Additional awards were given to;

-Alexa Foxx, Knight Essay winner. Alexa's Essay is being forwarded to the state level competition.

-Nashaly Soto, was our eighth-grade winner

The meeting started with the induction of our newest member, Carey Baker. Carey spoke about his Patriot ancestor, Samuel Baker, who assisted with the American Revolution while acting in the capacity of Judge of the Court of common pleas in 1775. Carey also mentioned that while serving in his role on committees for Lake County, he will also be acting as a Member of the Lake Sumter SAR. Welcome Carey.

Our speaker for the meeting was Dr. David Head who spoke on "A Republic of Scoundrels". Dr Head gave special attention to the role and downfall of Benedict Arnold.

Additional awards were given to;

-Nashaly Soto, Nashaly was our eighth-grade winner in the Knight Essay contest. Nashaly received a Good Citizenship Medal and a check for \$100. Nashaly was accompanied by her mother, sister and teacher-MS Miranda.

-During January the Lake-Sumter Chapter participated in a burial event for Sgt Hall who was killed during a WW II, Army Air Forces attack on A V-1 factory in France. On January 21<sup>st</sup> He was interred at Lone Oak Cemetery.

The meeting started with the induction of our two new members, Larry Brooks and Hunter Maples. Hunter spoke about his Patriot ancestor, Josiah Maples, who signed his oath of allegiance in 1777. Larry told us about his ancestor Alden Williamson who served under Capt. William Campbell.

Our speaker for the meeting was Mark Barie, Mark spoke on African Americans in the Revolutionary War and their service thru WWII.

-During February the Lake-Sumter Chapter participated in a Memorial Service for Ken Mosher, a longtime member of our Chapter. In addition, the Chapter had 7 participants in the GeorgeFest Parade in Eustis.

Our speaker for April will be Tim Donihi who will tell about the attempted assassination of George Washington.

## **Ocala Chapter**

Claude Grubbs

No report submitted.

## **The Villages Chapter**

Jerry P. Byers

DECEMBER 9, 2023 – Bill Lau spoke on the subject of “James Madison and the Bumpy Road to the US Constitution”. Two new members were inducted, and flag certificates were presented to two area couples for consistently and properly flying the US flag. On Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> our Chapter members placed wreaths (donated by our members and the Chapter) on Veteran gravesites at Lone Oak Cemetery in Leesburg. The chapter donated a total of \$2220 to Wreaths Across America. Sixty-two people were in attendance.

JANUARY 13, 2024 – New officers were installed by immediate Past President Jim Simpson. These officers for 2024 are: Jerry Byers – President, Patrick Taylor – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Don Hanson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Richard Smith – Secretary, Lee Duff – Treasurer, Karl Kittinger – Sergeant at Arms, and John Moore – Registrar. Our speaker for the morning was author Stewart Dunaway who spoke about General Nathanael Green. We had 58 people in attendance.

FEBRUARY 10 – Our guest speaker, Allan Lane, told us about the Battle of the Waxhaws, which took place May 29, 1780 in Lancaster County, South Carolina. It was a terrible defeat for the Patriot troops, but may have changed the direction of the war in the South because many who might have stayed neutral now flocked to the Patriots' side. One new member was inducted, and we had 61 people in attendance.

MARCH 9 – Our speaker was Ena Dupree, a Proposal Management Consultant working with government clients. Ena was born in Lebanon and spent much of her youth in Canada. Now living in Florida, she became a US Citizen last November. She spoke about the process of becoming a citizen and her reflections on life in the US versus how she was raised in other countries. We inducted four new members. Our former Vice President Chris Hermann is moving out of state, and we presented him with the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal for his many years of service to our chapter. Our attendance was 68 people.

APRIL 13 – President Bill Elder from the Daytona-Ormond chapter SAR attended our meeting to present Registrar John Moore with the Henry Knox Appreciation Medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution in registering new members for the chapter. We also inducted one new member. Past Vice President Chris Hermann was presented with five membership certificates for his grandchildren. He told our group he plans to put a package of family information together with each certificate and give them to his grandchildren as Christmas presents. Nice idea! Our program was presented by physician and author Dr. Glenn Haas about the impact of British occupation of Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War. Vice President Don Hansen recruited volunteers to help place US flags at the markers for our fallen veterans at Bushnell Cemetery on Sunday, May 26. Our attendance was 55 people.

MAY 11 – Our program will be presented by award-winning history teacher Robert Burke who will speak about “Mothers of Independence: How the American Woman Shaped the Revolutionary Mind.”

## **Withlacoochee Chapter**

Stephen G. Hohman

The transition from 2023 to 2024 has been busy for the Withlacoochee Chapter. At the January meeting, after serving over four years as Chapter president, Dave Hitchcock passed the gavel to Stephen Hohman. Dave was presented with his past president's pin and a neck ribbon, which were due for his dedication but were never presented during his time. During the second half of his 2023 term, Dave moved the chapter meetings to one of the first settlements in Brooksville, Chinsegut Hill. This property is the 1851 ancestral home of two of our Compatriots and is in a beautiful location on the top of a high hill. Meals were also transitioned to being prepared in-house or catered out, which has been a financial benefit to the chapter compared to previous programs.

Steve started his year by continuing Dave's strong drive for new George Washington Endowment Fellows. Between the chapter, Dave's and Steve's efforts, and talking about it on a regular basis, the Withlacoochee Chapter brought 26 new GWEF Fellows to the endowment. Prior to this year, no state had ever added more than 15 new Fellows, so 26 in a single chapter is a massive accomplishment. Included in our pinning ceremonies were two two-generation Fellows (Dave Hitchcock, Blake Lamothe, Stephen Hitchcock, and Stephen Hohman, Riley Hohman) and three-generation Fellows (Gene Bell, Blake Bell, Dawson Mazourek).

Steve also reorganized the committees to better utilize the volunteers we have participated in, and it is already showing strong results. In April, the Withlacoochee Chapter was invited to the Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home as a guest in gratitude for the chapter's work with the facility. The chapter has donated numerous new televisions, supported Veterans without families at Christmas, and even donated over 60 pumpkins last fall. In continued support of our Veterans, the chapter also participated in Wreaths Across America at the Bushnell National Cemetery and has already purchased over 30 wreaths for the 2024 event.



The Withlacoochee chapter is running strong with over 50% attendance at meetings, representation from several members at the state and national level, and many new members in the application process. 2024 should show the chapter grow to over 100 members.

## **NE Regional Vice President**

Charles R. Hayes

Nov 4. During the FLSSAR BOM attended Veteran Committee and FLSSAR Finance Committee meetings.

Nov 9. Attended installation of new Compatriot Jack Petre Jr at Palm Coast Hero's Park (with Liberty Tree) assisting Flagler Chapter President R. Conway.

Nov 11. Attended Bunnell City Flagler County Veterans 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Parade and Veterans Day Ceremony at Flagler County Government Center.

Nov 18. Attended Flagler Chapter monthly meeting

Dec 2. Participated in Palm Coast City Founders Day. Wore Revolutionary War Military Attire. Gave out literature and answered questions to interested individuals. With Flagler Chapter President Randall Conway who also was in Continental Uniform. Received 5 interested individuals, Two of which are currently working on their family history.

Dec 7. Attended Flagler Chapter Meeting

Dec 9. Representing FLSSAR attended St. Augustine Chapter meeting and swore in New elected Officers. Nice turn out 16 members plus family members. Passed the gavel to new president.

Dec 16 Wreaths Across America at Espanola Cemetery Flagler County. Total of 225 Veterans were honored with a wreath. Ceremony had club/boy scouts, JROTC, American Legion Post, Civic Leaders. I donated two Wreaths from SAR.

Jan 17. Attended Flagler Chapter Meeting.

Feb 3. Participated in American Legion Post 4 Chaplains Memorial Service. Presented SAR Flag in procession of Flags.

Feb 5. Attended Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting.

Feb 20. Attended Flagler Chapter Meeting. Gave out SAR New Member Manuals to those who desired such.

Mar 4. Attended Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council to discuss upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. to hear planning so SAR can contribute and participate

Feb 28. Conducted NE Region Meeting. Zoom with all Chapters present (Presidents) exchanged ideas and Chapter reports. FLSSAR Pres, Senior VP and Secretary attended.

April 1 Presented two Bronze Good Citizenship Medals to county employees with Flagler Chapter at Flagler County Commissioners meeting, represented FLSSAR.

April 2. Started in assisting St. Augustine Chapter on Liberty Tree Project for Feb 2025. Supplied Liberty Tree program info as available to the Chapter.

April 11<sup>th</sup> Represented FLSSAR in Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Medal Presentation at Flagler Beach City Commission Meeting.

## **Jacksonville Chapter**

Paul M. Tucker

Scheduled meetings for the SAR Jacksonville Chapter for the 2023/2024 season are monthly on the third Thursday of each month. In case of serious conflict, the Executive Committee may choose to alter the normal schedule. The primary variance to meetings is in February on the first Sunday after the Super Bowl, an annual Flag Retirement is held at the Mandarin, Florida Community Club. This February event serves as a Combination Flag Retirement and the Chapter February meeting. The Chapter usually holds the event outside in Brillion Park with access to the inside in case of severe weather. This past February 2024 we were not able to have inside access due to a reserved inside event on the same date as the Flag Retirement. The area experienced severe rains and wind and the event had to be postponed and rescheduled for March 17, 2024, and was consummated on that date. Chapter Meetings are a combination of Lunch and Dinner Meetings. All Monthly meetings have been held to this date April 9, 2024, with April and May planned and projected to be completed as scheduled. April is our election of Officers and May is our Officer Installation event.

### **November Public Service Award Meeting:**

The Jacksonville Chapter November Meeting is dedicated to our Nassau, Duval, and Clay County Public Service Awards and recognition. Every year we have 20 plus submitted PSA recommendations with the awardee's attendance at our November Luncheon with spouses and or supervisors. November 2023, we had Nassau County Scheriff Bill Leeper with us to receive a Lifetime Law Enforcement achievement Award. Scheriff Leeper is a North Florida living legend having spent many years as part of the Florida Highway Patrol and Nassau County Scheriff. At the time of the award Scheriff Leeper was the President of the Florida State Scheriff's Association.

### **Color Guard:**

The Jacksonville Chapter George Washington Camp 1 has been very active for the 2023/2024 season. Interested readers can refer to the BOM reports for a detailed Color Guard Report activity document. Participation in 24 notable events have transpired to date with at least four more presently scheduled in April and May 2024. These events cover various categories to include Federal Court Naturalization ceremonies, Color Presentations for SAR, DAR, CAR events and meetings, Educational Presentations, ROTC Award

Events, BSA Award Events, Veteran’s Honor Flights, Parades, Flag retirements, Funeral events with Family request, Cub Scout Events, etc.

**Membership:**

The Jacksonville Chapter lost approximately 40 members via deaths and nonpayment of dues in 2023. Due to dedicated efforts by our Registrar and other members, we have now very nearly made up for the losses. Prior to September 2024 we anticipate that we likely will exceed the 2023 membership prior to the losses.

**Membership Volunteers for execution of SA\R programs:**

The Jacksonville Chapter enjoys a large membership, but we have a limited number of members willing to volunteer their time and effort to administer the various worthy SAR Programs. We continue at every opportunity to encourage and solicit increased participation by all members to contribute to consummation of the SAR Mission in any way that their abilities will allow.

**Educational Outreach:**

The Jacksonville Chapter is engaged in expansion of our educational outreach activities. We presently have been invited and consummated programs with the following local schools. St. Michael’s Academy Fernandina Beach, Florida, Lindisfarne Hall Fernandina Beach, Florida, St. John’s Academy Fleeming Island, Florida and St. John’s Academy Orange park, Florida. Both St. John’s schools are Hillsdale College Member Schools. We at the Jacksonville Chapter feel that the young students are the future of America, and this is one of our most important activities that will allow our members to work toward our SAR Mission Goals achievement. The members presently administering the programs are Color Guard Members and a detailed accounting is in our Color Guard Report.

**ROTC Award Program:**

The Jacksonville Chapter area consists of a tri county area of Nassau, Clay, and Duval Counties. We work with 28 ROTC High School Units and receive annual recommendations for Bronze Medal and Certificates Awards from most of the units every year. The Award Ceremonies are between January and June of each year and a uniformed member, (usually a color guard member), attends the Ceremony and physically makes the award presentation to the recommended and approved Cadet. Our Second Vice President has worked to solicit submitted Cadets for the ROTC Enhanced Award Program but to date has not received recommendations from the assigned area ROTC Units.

**Veterans’ Programs:**

The Jacksonville Chapter EXCOM and other members engage in Veterans’ events and activities on an as needed basis. Presently we do not have a dedicated Veterans’ Committee and Chairman. We have and continue to encourage members to step up and volunteer for the important administration of the available SAR Veterans Programs. If we are successful and recruit a Chairman, then we foresee expanded future Veterans’ Programs and activity.

**Jacksonville Chapter Hosted Events:**

The Jacksonville Chapter presently is the host for two major Florida Commemoration Events. The Battle of Thomas Creek held in March is a National Event and on March 23, 2024, enjoyed attendance by 109 Compatriots from multiple states, DAR Regents and Members, CAR Officers and Members, Local Historic Society Members, BSA Members, Colonial Dame Members, etc. We look forward to the continued growth of the Thomas Creek Event and praise the efforts of the Committee Chairman Compatriot David Ramseur who has worked for years to make this a memorable Event for all.

The Battle of Alligator Bridge Nassau County Callahan, Florida is the location of this State Event. This event is scheduled in June near the actual historical date of occurrence. June 17, 2023 was the last performed event. The event had 70 plus attendees of similar local and state from many patriotic organizations complete with color presentations, wreath presentations, historic presentations, black powder firing salute, taps presentation by Color Guard Member Fred Emery and ended with a Barbeque Lunch. We hope to continue to expand and enhance future attendance for this event. The 2024 Alligator Bridge Event is scheduled for June 29, 2024.

**Financial Condition:**

The Jacksonville Chapter Financial Status is stable under the administration of our Treasurer and expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.

The SAR Jacksonville Chapter remains dedicated to implementation of the SAR Mission in service to our assigned territories and engage in the pursuit of improvement of all SAR Programs to the best of our ability.

## St Augustine Chapter

Robert F. Amason

Summary Fall 2023 to Spring 2024	The Chapter has been busy since the Fall BOM executing the mission and goals of the SAR and supporting community patriotic events. In addition to the below, the chapter has initiated a project to dedicate a Liberty Tree and initiated an America250 Committee to coordinate with DAR and other patriotic organizations to facilitate America250 Celebrations.	
Chapter Annual Meeting	December Meeting – Officers inducted:	
	<b>President:</b> Dr. Bob Amason	<b>Chaplain:</b> Charles Nuckolls
	<b>Vice President:</b> Jeremiah Blocker, Esq.	<b>Historian:</b> John Robinson
	<b>Secretary:</b> Larry Kaiser <b>Second Secretary:</b> Philip Perry	<b>Registrar/ Genealogist:</b> John Robinson

	<p><b>Treasurer:</b> Bob Gearing</p> <p><b>Sergeant at Arms:</b> Harry Manford</p> <p><b>Past President:</b> Jerry Hanchett</p>	<p><b>Member at Large:</b> Mark Heinze</p> <p><b>Parliamentarian:</b> Jeremiah Blocker, Esq.</p>
Ceremonies and Events	<p>Joined with the DAR to hold the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bells Across America on Constitution Day</li> <li>• Patriot Remembrance Ceremony at Tolomato Cemetery</li> <li>• Annual George Washington Birthday Ceremony &amp; Luncheon</li> </ul> <p>The Chapter supported the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at the St. Augustine Fire Department</li> <li>• Participated in the annual St. Augustine Colonial Night Watch</li> <li>• Participated in the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the St. Augustine National Cemetery</li> <li>• Compatriots participated in 2023 Annual Seminole War Commemoration at St Augustine National Cemetery. Compatriots are part of planning committee for 2024 Commemoration.</li> <li>• The chapter supports the Flagler College Presidential Series events</li> </ul>	
Battle Commemorations	<p>Chapter compatriots participated in several Revolutionary War battle commemorations, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Last Naval Battle Ceremony at Merritt Island, FL</li> <li>• The Battle of Thomas Creek Ceremony in Jacksonville, FL. Compatriot Dr. Roger Smith, St Augustine Chapter, was guest speaker.</li> <li>• Chapter will support Alligator Creek Battle Ceremony, June 2024</li> </ul>	
Youth Programs	<p>Our commitment to youth programs follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported several MOAA sponsored HS JROTC Cadet Legacy Teaching visits to Fort Mose' and the Florida National Guard Headquarters</li> <li>• Presented the NSSAR JROTC Bronze Medal to an outstanding cadet</li> <li>• Participated in a Court of Honor where five scouts were advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout.</li> <li>• Initiated a George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest committee to work with St Johns and Putnam County School Systems for 2024-2025 school year.</li> </ul>	
Awards Presented	<p>A total of 15 awards were presented to recognize significant achievement as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Distinguished Service Medal</li> <li>• 2 Meritorious Service Medals</li> <li>• 1 Good Citizenship Medal</li> <li>• 1 Past President's Medal</li> <li>• 1 Certificate of Achievement</li> <li>• 2 Certificates of Appreciation.</li> </ul> <p>Awards given for Public Service &amp; Heroism since fall 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putnam County Sheriff's Office - 1 Life Saving Medal - 11-15-2023</li> <li>• Palatka Police Dept - 2 Law Enforcement Commendations - 12-15-2023</li> <li>• St Johns County Sheriff's Office - 3 Law Enforcement Commendations -3-26-2024</li> <li>• St Johns County Sheriff's Office PAL - 3 Bronze Good Citizenship Medals - 3-26-2024</li> <li>• Putnam County Sheriff's Office - 1 Law Enforcement Commendation -4-17-2024</li> <li>• Office of State Attorney 7th Circuit - 1 Law Enforcement Commendation -4-17-2024</li> </ul>	
Support to Veterans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Military Muster Ceremony at FI National Guard Headquarters, 15 Sep 2023</li> <li>• Veterans Day Ceremony at Anastasia Baptist Church, 11 Nov 2023</li> <li>• POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony at POW/MIA National Memorial, Jacksonville FI 15/16 Sep 2023</li> <li>• Chapter participated in Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony in St Augustine</li> <li>• Awarded Military Medals to 10 compatriots with one pending.</li> </ul>	
Chapter Growth	<p>Over 60% growth this year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Jan 2023 chapter membership was 39.</li> <li>• Membership as of 4/1/24 was 63 with several pending</li> <li>• Chapter genealogist/registrar awarded Meritorious Service Medal</li> </ul>	
Veterans Affairs	<p>Compatriots worked with St Augustine/St Johns County Veterans Council to secure veterans' temporary housing. Working on revitalizing former motel to modern standards.</p>	
NSSAR Congress	<p>Presented Sam Adams Congress Appreciation Award to chapter member for his outstanding support to the 133 SAR Congress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compatriot Dr. Roger Smith was keynote speaker</li> </ul>	

Bronze SAR Headstone Emblem	Chapter member coordinated with U.S. Army Staff to authorize mounting of the SAR Bronze Emblem on headstones at Arlington National Cemetery
Florida SAR History	Support to Daytona/Deland SAR and Daytona Beach DAR Chapter. A brass plaque honoring Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Florida was recently located in storage in Daytona Beach. Plaque originally donated by DAR has been refurbished and will be rededicated in 2024. St Augustine Chapter worked with Daytona SAR and DAR to unearth historical details of the plaque and will support rededication.
Florida Military History	Florida National Guard Historian presented a brief about the history of St Franchise Barracks, which is now the Florida National Guard Headquarters. Chapter presented a certificate of appreciation to the Florida National Guard Historian.

## Flagler Chapter

Randall G. Conway

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023.** Flagler Chapter SAR Regular Meeting, 1 pm Flagler County Public Library, Palm Coast, FL. President Randall Conway review the FLSSAR BOM.

**Saturday, November 11, 2023.** Flagler County Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Flagler County Government Services Building, Bunnell, FL. Compatriot Charlie Hayes presented the Flagler Chapter SAR Wreath to honor all United States Military Veterans.

**Wednesday, December 06, 2023.** Flagler Chapter SAR Special Meeting, 1 pm Flagler County Public Library, Palm Coast, FL. President Randall Conway served as the moderator for a discussion of Flagler Chapter events for the coming year.

**Wednesday, December 16, 2023.** The Flagler Chapter participated in two Wreaths Across America Ceremonies. First, Compatriot Charlie Hayes assisted at Historic Espanola Cemetery, Flagler County, FL. And second, Compatriot Randall Morris was a featured speaker at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony sponsored by the Sugar Mill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at Spruce Creek Cemetery, Port Orange, FL.

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024.** Flagler Chapter SAR Annual Meeting, 1 pm Flagler County Public Library, Palm Coast, FL. New Member Compatriot Todd Deehl was inducted by President Randall Conway who was assisted by sponsor Compatriot Dave Bull. Compatriot Tom Howard was presented with the Chapter Roger Sherman Commendation Medal for his volunteer service to the Chapter. Compatriot Jay Mills was presented his FLSSAR Veterans Battalion Certificate by President Conway.

**Saturday, February 3, 2024.** The Flagler Chapter SAR presented the SAR Colors as part of the Four Chaplain's Day Ceremony, sponsored by the Flagler American Legion Post #115, at the VFW Post #8696, in Palm Coast, FL.

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024.** Flagler Chapter SAR Regular Meeting, 1 pm Flagler County Public Library, Palm Coast, FL. Compatriots Charlie Hayes and Randall Morris wore their replica Revolutionary War uniforms while conducting a general review of period attire.

**Saturday, March 16, 2024.** The Flagler Chapter SAR Wreath was presented by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President John Feind at the Last Naval Battle Ceremony, Merritt Island, FL.

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024.** Flagler Chapter SAR Regular Meeting, 1 pm Flagler County Public Library, Palm Coast, FL. President Randall Conway conducted an Induction Ceremony for the Bladel Family Group of nine (9) new members. Representing the Bladel Family Group was Compatriot John T. Bladel. He was assisted by his wife Rita. Welcomed as NSSAR Compatriots were: John T. Bladel, John F. Bladel, Conner Abrams, James B. Bladel, Ryan J. Bladel, Richard J. Garon, Timothy M. Garon, Otto G. Williams and Connor G. Williams.

**Monday, April 1, 2024.** At the Flagler County Board of Commissioners Meeting, for their devoted efforts to assist United States Military Veterans with their needs, Flagler County's Veterans Service Officers David Lydon and Eric Flores Feebles were presented the SAR Good Citizenship Medal Set by President Randall Conway. Assisting President Conway were Compatriots Charlie Hayes and Randall Morris.

**Monday, April 15, 2024.** At the City of Flagler Beach Board of Commissioners Meeting, for his exceptional performance, FBPD Officer Evan Scheer was presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal Set by President Randall Conway. President Conway was accompanied by Compatriots John Feind, Charlie Hayes and Randall Morris.

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024.** Flagler Chapter SAR Regular Meeting, 1 pm Flagler County Public Library, Palm Coast, FL. Compatriot Todd Deehl was presented his FLSSAR Veterans Battalion Certificate by President Conway. Compatriot and FLSSAR NE Regional VP Charlie Hayes was presented the Chapter Meritorious Service Medal. Past-President Charlie Hayes presented the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal to President Randall Conway.

## Daytona-Ormond Chapter

H. William Elder

**Membership:** Chapter membership is currently at 48. Dues for 2024 have been delivered and collected. We are growing and have several volunteers to head up committees.

**Meetings:** Monthly chapter meetings began in September of 2023. Every month the officers meet for a ZOOM meeting to finalize the events for the next Chapter meeting and discuss other upcoming events. We designated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month for our

general Chapter meetings. Because of conflicts we had to reschedule to a different Saturday in that same month 4 times. We met at Louie's Pizza House on Beville Road in South Daytona. Have a ZOOM meeting with the Board monthly-June, July, and August.

#### **Meeting Programs:**

Every month we had different presenters for the program. The programs were Patriotic, historic, and Educational. We had a Judge, Veteran Service Dog Trainers, Author from the MOAS museum, Valley Forge and The Boston Tea Party was presented by Compatriots, CAR, and others made presentations. NE Regional VP meeting.

**Color Guard:** Participated with the Color Guard at the 233<sup>rd</sup> Congress at 4 sites. At the DAR Fall Forum we participated in the Color Guard as well as the SAR recruiting table with several other SAR Chapters.

**Events:** Distributed paper Purple Hearts and the history of its beginning on Purple Hearts Day. Volunteered daily at different locations during the 233<sup>rd</sup> Congress. Shared the 250<sup>th</sup> with groups at different venues: Maitland Library, Orangetown Christian 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, Attended the Christmas Party for Old Glory Dogs 4 Vets and Gala with their members concerning what they do and what we, as the SAR does. Spoke at the Caloosa SAR 50<sup>th</sup> Gala, Jane Brunelle DAR, NE Women of Daytona, Palm Beach SAR, St. Pete SAR, James Ormond DAR, Debary Hall concerning the 250<sup>th</sup> and Valley Forge. Blue Palm Senior Center in Deland had 18 of their guests hear about and question events during the 250<sup>th</sup>. Shared with blinded Vets at the VFW in Port Orange. The program was organized by the VFW.

The Last Naval Battle, and the Battle of Thomas Creek were attended with wreaths.

**Wreaths Across America:** Participated in the ceremony and wreath laying at the Spruce Creek Fly-In cemetery with members of the Sugar Mill DAR, CAR, and Flager SAR.

**ROTC/JROTC medals and certificates:** Deltona and Pine Ridge high schools cadets received the JROTC Certificate and Medal. DeLand, Spruce Creek, and Mainland high schools programs have responded and will be attended. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Army and Air Force is coming up in May. ERAU AF had a December awards ceremony. Their Cadet received the Silver certificate and medal.

**Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Florida Plaque:** Held a meeting in Port Orange at a restaurant. There were 2 Volusia County DARs and the St. Augustine SAR. Our Chapter has possession of the plaque. It was removed from a park in Daytona. The Abigail Bartholomew DAR Chapter had it placed in that park during the bicentennial. The plaque has been returned to the Riverfront Esplanade and will be cleaned and put in an appropriate location in the "new" park.

**History Con at the Museum of Arts and Sciences was attended:** We helped to man the Sugar Mill Chapter DAR table. We talked with potential members and gave them info about the SAR and the Daytona-Ormond Chapter.

**Facebook and Website:** These 2 resources have been viewed and commented on by many.

## **EC Regional Vice President**

Jeff L. Sizemore

Chapter reports submitted.

## **Brevard Chapter**

Joel A. Etherton

The Brevard SAR Chapter meets at 11:00 AM on the third Saturday from Oct through May at the Tides Club at 1001 North Highway A1A South Atlantic Avenue in Satellite Beach, FL.

At the February meeting, the chapter celebrated George Washington's birthday. The speaker for this month was LTC (Ret) Tim Thomas who is the Senior Army instructor at the Viera High School and is also the District 1 Brevard County Commissioner. Efforts were on-going for the upcoming yearly Last Naval Battle Ceremony that took place in March.

During the month of March, the chapter hosted the Last Naval Battle Ceremony at the Veterans Center in Merritt Island, Florida. Pictures of this event can be seen in the latest *Florida Patriot*; as well as, the Brevard Chapter website. The various DAR chapters in Brevard County were present and participated in this yearly event. The chapter thanks all the members of SAR that participated in the Color Guard formation and were present at this year's event.

At the April meeting, Tom Fitzgerald was our speaker. He and his wife dress in period uniforms and drive a mule driven caisson used regularly at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

## **Central Florida Chapter**

Scott A. Cook

The Central Florida Chapter SAR meets on the second Wednesday of October thru May at the Winter Park Elks Lodge, 4755 Howell Branch Road, Winter Park. The meeting begins at 6:30, but there is a social period before.

The Sons of Liberty Brigade color guard marched in the City of Orlando's 2023 Veterans Day Parade on November 11. We were accompanied by local DAR chapters and the Fort Gatlin Society of the Children of the American Revolution. Our speaker was Captain Richard Sloan. We also presented a certificate to 101-year-old Veteran Ms. Pat Rudd. Nine pounds of tea were collected and sent to the reenactment of the Boston Tea Party for their 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

December brought the return of Colonial Nights in St. Augustine. Mustering with other Patriotic groups in the Castillo de San Marco and parading by torchlight down St. George Street to the Governor's Manor is always an honor and incredible event. December also saw the Chapter turn out for Wreaths Across America. This year we moved to the Greenwood Cemetery where 3,000 veterans are interred. Thomas Jefferson's grandson is also interred in the Eppes-Shine family plot at Greenwood as well as nine of the original charter members of the Orlando Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution.

January saw us at the Central Florida Highland Games. Again, a very productive venue for educating and recruiting others who are already strong in their Family's lineage. Our speaker was Compatriot James Sagan, who gave a riveting account of his Patriot's life and times.

Our February meeting was held on Valentine's Day and was a celebration of our wives. The Sons of Liberty Brigade assisted the Color Guard at the CAR State Conference in Melbourne, Fl. At this State Conference, Compatriot Scott Cook was awarded the Hannah White Arnette Medal by DAR State Regent, Cindy Addison.

March was active for the Sons of Liberty Brigade with the Last Naval Battle in Merritt Island, Fl, the Battle of Thomas Creek in Jacksonville and assisting in the Color Guard presentation at the DAR State Conference in Champions Gate, Fl. The March speaker was Harry Rinker discussing the politics and alliances of the Tribes of the Northern Nations. In March, we also celebrated Miss Ada Rae Douglas. She is the Florida State Knights Essay Contest winner and from the Fort Gatlin Society CAR. Presentations were made to Debbie Cook, Senior President, and delivered to the brochure winners who were unable to attend.

With the end of the school year, medals and certificates will be presented to the most deserving cadets in the two University of Central Florida ROTC, the almost three dozen high school JROTC and the four Sea Cadets programs in the Central Florida area. Our Eagle Scout program is growing exponentially.

This "summer" will bring a concentrated effort to update our Chapter Bylaws and Constitution.

We are looking forward to seeing all at the National Convention in Pennsylvania!

## **Okeechobee Chapter**

Donald P. Hanna

The Okeechobee SAR Chapter meets at 10am on the 2nd Saturday Oct through May at the Brown Cow Sweetery in Okeechobee.

The Okeechobee Chapter participated in the Okeechobee Speckled Perch Festival by entering a float in the Speckled Perch parade. Several members dressed in uniform and the float was very well received by the crowd.

The Okeechobee Chapter presented the SAR JROTC Award to Cadet Brandon Pace of the Okeechobee High School Brahman Battalion. Don Hanna, Chapter President, presented the award to Cadet Pace.

## **St Lucie River Chapter**

H. Hall Riediger

No report submitted.

## **WC Regional Vice President**

A. Parks Honeywell

On Friday April 26 the West Central Region sponsored a zoom meeting on the recommended best practices for finding and handling new member contacts. Suggestions were made which we have found lead to higher rates of member retention. The organizer and moderator was Walter Arnold, immediate past president of the Clearwater Chapter. If anyone would be interested in receiving Walter's visual aids he would be willing to share.

## Clearwater Chapter

Timothy R. Shaner

The Clearwater SAR Chapter presented or participated in the following activities since the Fall BOM meeting 10/21/2023:  
10/24/2023, Color Guard Honor Flight at St. Petersburg Airport.

11/11/2023, Color Guard at Veterans Day Parade Tampa, Florida

1/15/2024, Chapter members were guests of annual Caladesi DAR Salad Luncheon.

1/20/2024, Chapter members were guests at Tampa Chapter SAR induction of Officers meeting.

2/14/2024, Chapter Color Guard presented the Colors at Caladesi DAR Genealogy Seminar Dunedin, Florida.

2/23/2024, Color Guard attended and presented the Colors at Genesis Prep School Washington's Day play New Port Richey, Florida

2/23/2024, Attended in Colonial attire Washington's Birthday Bash Dinner Sponsored by Tampa SAR Chapter at St. Petersburg Yacht Club St. Petersburg, Florida

3/17/2024, Attended and Color Guard presented the Colors at Phillies Spring training baseball game Clearwater, Florida.

## Lakeland Chapter

Michael A. Girard

No report submitted.

## South Shore Chapter

Ronzell I. Windsor, II

The South Shore Chapter located in Sun City Center, Florida, meets during the 2024 fall/winter (September through May) on the second Saturday of each month at the Plaza Club at Freedom Fairways Golf Club. Board of Governor meetings are held the preceding Tuesday.

. Membership

Current chapter membership as of 4/1/24 totals 61 Compatriots. There is one application in process and 11 prospects have been identified.

. Programs

We continue to support Eagle Scout and local High School JROTC programs with presentations of medals and cash awards. We actively participate with the George Mercer Brooke Chapter DAR organization in American Flag display during our town's Patriotic Celebrations. We also join them in the monthly cleaning of Veteran's Gravesites at the Ruskin Florida Municipal Cemetery. This year our chapter sponsored an entrant in the Knight Essay Contest. We are very proud that our entrant, Jaxon Munroe, received a second place award for the State of Florida. He will be honored at our April chapter meeting.

. Meeting Activities

September – A total of 29 members/guests in attendance. A nominating committee for 2024 chapter officers was appointed.

Compatriot and U.S. Army Veteran Dick Hillyer was presented the SAR Military Service Medal. Registrar Bill Barron provided a well researched and documented program about his Patriot Ancestors, the Litz family, and their participation in the 1777 defense of Kingston, NY.

October – A total of 22 members/guests in attendance, In celebration of the chapter's tenth anniversary (10/5/24) the original membership roster was read and refreshments were provided. The nominating committee presented the proposed 2024 officer slate to be voted on in November. Kay Adkins, local DAR Chapter Regent, presented a program titled "Spilling the Tea since 1773". Many interesting and little known details about the Boston Tea Party participants were provided.

November – A total of 35 members/guests in attendance. The slate of 2024 chapter officer candidates was presented. There were no further nominations and the slate was approved by unanimous voice vote. Dan Madden, local author and Revolutionary Era Historian presented a program based upon his book "Bobsled Ride To Revolution".

December – A total of 16 members/guests in attendance. Regional Vice President Parks Honeywell installed the 2024 chapter officers class. Compatriot Honeywell outlined the challenges currently faced by our Society at National, State and local levels. He emphasized the critical role played by chapter Registrars in submitting accurate applications.

January – A total of 26 members/guests in attendance. Chapter Past President Don Gunn, Jr. swore in his father, Don Gunn, Sr., and his son, Alexander Gunn as new members – three generation Compatriots. Our chapter has sponsored Jaxon Munroe in the Knight Essay Contest. Chapter member Don Gunn, Jr. U.S.Army retired, presented a program about West Point, its history and current cadet experience.

February – A total of 23 members/guests in attendance. A chapter awards committee has been established to review and recognize outstanding contributions to our chapter. Knight Essay contestant, Jaxon Munroe has been recognized as 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher for the State of Florida. He will be recognized for his achievement and will read his essay at our April meeting. Janice Bassett, historian, local DAR member and wife of South Shore Past President Gordon Bassett, presented a program on her recently published book, "Love, Dave". Through letters exchanged by Jan's uncle, David Strasser, and his family, she conveyed a moving story of a soldier and his loved ones during World War II.

March – A total of 21 members/guests in attendance. A Meals On Wheels collaboration with the George Mercer Brooke Chapter of DAR was conducted in February. DAR member MaryAnn Rowe presented a program on “Elizabeth Zane, Revolutionary War Hero and the Siege of Fort Henry”. Volunteers to represent our chapter were requested to participate in the Sun City Center Veteran’s Day Memorial Program.

April – Meeting scheduled for 4/13/24. Jaxon Munroe will be guest speaker

May – Meeting scheduled for 5/11/24. Gordon Bassett will be guest speaker.

June, July & August – Summer recess

## **St Petersburg Chapter**

Douglas R. Maddox, Jr

No report submitted.

## **Tampa Chapter**

Garald K. Robinson

### 2024 Officers:

President: Garald K. (Robbie) Robinson

Vice President: Roger Roscoe

Recording Secretary: Robert Yarnell

Treasurer: Will Wagner-Hart

Registrar: Richard W Young

Chaplain: Matthew Balencie

Sgt At Arms: Darren Acosta

Immediate Past President: Charles Klug, Jr

### Membership:

Regular: 92

Dual: 6

Junior: 6

Life: 1

Total: 93

### Monthly Summaries of events/mtgs/speakers:

Meetings were held on the third Saturday on the second floor of the University Mall at 2201 Fowler Ave in Tampa, starting at 11:30am. However, at the April 2024 meeting, we decided to move our normal meeting date to the second Saturday of the month, and will leave the start time the same--11:30am. After admin time, we break about noon for lunch, and continue our meetings at 12:30pm for our speakers' presentations.

18 Nov 2023 meeting: Law Enforcement awards given to Special Agent Cyril Gamber, FBI. Chapter immediate Past President Charles Klub gave a presentation on George Washington's Rules of Civility.

2 December 2023: Our Color Guard supported the Safety Harbor Christmas Parade.

15 December 2023: Our Color Guard supported the DeSoto DAR Christmas luncheon with our Color Guard.

16 December 2023: Supported the Wreaths Across America at the Tampa Post 5 American Legion on 16 December; no chapter meeting this month.

20 January 2024: Meeting was held at the Bahama Breeze restaurant, and included induction ceremony to install officers by RVP Parks Honeywell, award medals and certificates to various chapter members (see medals section below).

23 February 2024: Meeting was held at the St Petersburg Yacht Club as a dinner gala to celebrate George Washington's birthday. This was a joint event with the St Petersburg and Clearwater SAR Chapters and the DAR chapters in the Tampa Bay area.

16 March 2024: Meeting was held at normal location at the University Mall. We presented EMT and Firefighter Awards to Lt Levic Allen and Chief Jim Chastain. Bob Yarnell and Diandra Varbaro, who was the Chapters Knight Essay winner, had an open discussion about the subject of her essay--Daniel Morgan.

16 Apr 2024: Color Guard escorted veterans during their return from an Honor Flight to Wash DC

20 April 2024: Speaker was Tampa Chapter President Robbie Robinson who gave a presentation on major events in George Washington's life.

11 May 2024: Scheduled speaker will discuss the Tampa Baseball Museum.

### List of any chapter medal / certificate recipients:

- Distinguished Service Medal - David Bryant

- Meritorious Service Medal - Paul Ergler

- Life Saving Medal - Will Wagner-Hart



- Color Guard Bronze Medal - Robbie Robinson, William Swain
- Achievement Medal - Roger Roscoe, Will Wagner-Hart, Robert Yarnell, Dick Young, Terry Doan, Robbie Robinson, Matthew Balencie
- 250 Anniversary Bronze Medal - Roger Roscoe, Will Wagner-Hart, David Bryant, William Swain, Matthew Balencie, Dick Young, Robert Yarnell, Robbie Robinson, Dwight Hamborsky

List of new members over the past year:

William Maass, Jonathan Maass, Andrew Maass, Matthew Mass, Michael Willis, Winston Boswell, James White

## **SE Regional Vice President**

William R Wicks III

During the period October 2023 to April 2024 SE Regional VP attended:

Color Guard Events: Miami Chapter Annual President's Luncheon and Installation of Officers.

Chapter Meetings and SE Regional Meeting: Miami Chapter attendance (Six); Miami Chapter Meetings Monthly Luncheons (Five) and Monthly Board of Directors Meetings (Six). West Palm Beach Chapter Monthly Luncheon meeting in February 2024 and Ft. Lauderdale Chapter and combined with the SE Regional Winter Meeting in January 2024 at which 34 compatriots attended representing the Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and Palm Beach Chapters held at the Outback Steakhouse in Davie, Florida.

State Meetings: The 2023 FLSSAR Fall Meeting, at the Embassy Suites South Lake Buena Vista, in Orlando.

## **Ft Lauderdale Chapter**

Charles A. Adams, II

The Fort Lauderdale Chapter typically meets the third Saturday of every month, except August and December, starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Outback Steakhouse, 2725 South University Drive, Davie, FL. The meetings for May and July 2024 have been rescheduled for the fourth Saturday.

The Chapter's media relations are carried out through the maintenance and updating of the Chapter website which can be found at [www.fortlauderdale.org](http://www.fortlauderdale.org). The Chapter's meeting schedule and contact information is published quarterly in the SAR magazine. Here are some other 2024 highlights that have occurred since October 2023:

- Throughout 2023, the Fort Lauderdale Chapter supported veterans and veteran programs accumulating by December 31, 2023, points totaling 6,109 for the 2023 U.S. Stark Awards Program. In 2023, the following Compatriots were awarded Military or War Time Service Bronze Medals: John Sauerwald; Paul DeBold; James Lohmeyer, Earl Higginbotham; Thomas Carpenter Jr; Jim Clark; Michael Spear; Richard Kidder Jr; and Tim McLane. In 2024 to date, the Chapter continues its efforts to support veterans and veteran programs. We have recently become active in the welcome home ceremony for veterans returning from honor flights sponsored by South Florida Honor Flights. Our first event was held on April 13, 2024 where six members of the Chapter Color Guard along with other Chapter members, spouses and friends were present.
- During 2023, Bronze Meritorious Service Medals were awarded to Compatriots Joseph Motes and James Lohmeyer. On November 11, 2023, Henry Knox Medals for special contributions made to the Chapter were awarded to Steve DePaul, Thomas Shepherd, Kevin Shurte, and Mark Snider.
- On December 16, 2023, the Chapter's Samuel Nicholas Camp #23 Color Guard presented the colors at the Pompano Beach Wreaths Across America Ceremony. The Chapter contributed \$938 for the purchase of wreaths and members made personal donations totaling over \$500 to support the program.
- Throughout 2024 to May 2024, the Chapter's Color Guard has been represented by either one or multiple members at various State or National events – see our separate report in the May 2024 BOM Proceedings Book.
- On January 20, 2024, at the annual SE Regional Meeting, the Fort Lauderdale Chapter continued its support of the SAR Education Center and Museum by contributing \$1,776 in funds collected from its membership. The check was presented to William Lee Popham, President, SAR Foundation.
- On March 18, 2024, the Chapter's Judging Committee selected the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners of the Sgt Moses Adams Memorial Brochure Contest with entries submitted by 359 students mostly from the Ramblewood Middle School in Coral Springs, FL. The winners received their cash awards at a presentation conducted at the school on April 9, 2024. The brochure submitted by the 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner will be entered in the State contest being judged at the May 2024 BOM.
- Throughout 2024, the Chapter continues its senior advisory support to the Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. As the Society begins its 2024-25 new year, the Chapter is budgeted to contribute significant financial support to help fund the Society's annual giving to numerous charities and other organizations qualifying under their Kids Helping Kids Program. On May 25, 2024, the Chapter will make its first contribution with an additional contribution to be made in October 2024.
- The Fort Lauderdale Chapter actively supports the 250 Anniversary Recognition Program. In each monthly Chapter Newsletter, an originally composed article on a revolutionary event occurring that month between the years 1764 and 1783 is published, and the author summarizes the article at that month's chapter meeting. Since October 2023, two Compatriots – Kevin Shurte and Chuck Adams – have qualified for Gold Medals, and several others have been awarded Bronze and Silver Medals.

- For 2024, as of May 31, 2024, the Chapter has or will award 37 medals and certificates to JROTC Cadets or Sea Cadets attending programs in Broward County. The breakdown: twenty-eight (28) JROTC Cadets were or will be awarded the Bronze ROTC Medal; six (6) JROTC Cadets were or will be awarded the Bronze Good Citizens Medal; one (1) Civil Air Patrol Cadet will be awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal; and two (2) Sea Cadets will be awarded the Bronze Good Citizens Medal.

The Fort Lauderdale Chapter membership continues to grow. We began 2024 with 75 members. We are, as of April 30, 2024, now at 80 having added three new members, one reinstatement, and one dual member transfer.

## Miami Chapter

George K. Wysong

The Miami Chapter meets at the Coral Gables American Legion Post 98 building located at 303 Alhambra Circle, in Coral Gables Florida 33143, on the third Saturday of each month. The cost of the Miami Chapter monthly luncheon is \$20, and we use a third-party vendor to deliver the catered hot meals for the luncheon at the Post, which includes complimentary parking in the rear of the building. All members, guests, and interested prospects are welcome to attend.

In addition, our Board meets using Go-To-Meetings, virtual video meetings, on the Monday evening preceding each monthly Chapter luncheon.

### Membership:

As of January 1, 2024, the Miami Chapter had 96 Compatriots, up from 92 at 01 January 2023. We currently have 70+ persons comprising our "1776 Corps.," whose membership applications are in process of documentation and completion.

#### **92 Members at 01 January 2023**

(1) Member Deceased

(6) Non-renewals at December 31, 2023

3 New Members since 01 January 2023

#### **88 Members at 15 April 2024**

We hope to be able to reinstate several of our non-renewals and inactive Compatriots from prior years. We have recently purchased and installed the Club Express membership database software, and we are testing it on behalf of the Florida Society Chapters. We believe it will have a significant impact on our future Reinstatements, and also help to reduce the number of Non-Renewals.

We mourn the recent death of **55-year Compatriot** and Past President **COL John "Jack" Thomson**.

At the 6-8 October **FLSSAR 2023 Fall BOM**, the SAR Miami Chapter was represented by Miami Chapter President George and Brenda Wysong, SE Region VP Bill and Kerry Wicks, and by Secretary-Treasurer and Past President Wm Lee Popham and Laura Zavalia. Compatriot Popham was recognized as a Class of 2023 Minuteman.

The **2024 SAR Spring Leadership Conference** was held at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, during the period 29 February - 2 March 2024. The Miami Chapter was represented by Secretary-Treasurer and FLSSAR National Trustee Wm. Lee Popham Sr.

### President's Annual Luncheon and George Washington's Birthday Celebration:

SE Region VP William R Wicks was our featured installing officer and keynote speaker for our Annual Luncheon and Washington's Birthday Celebration, which was held at the Miami Shores Country Club on Saturday, 17 February 2024. The luncheon was attended by Thirty-eight Compatriots and their family members.

### **Installation of 2024 Miami Chapter SAR Officers:**

Immediately following the presentation, the following officers were installed for the 2023 year:

President: George K Wysong, III  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Rene Jewett  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Benjamin Groff, Jr.  
 Secretary-Treasurer: Wm. Lee Popham, Sr.  
 Recording Secretary: William R. Wicks, III.  
 Registrar: Wm. Lee Popham, Sr.  
 Chaplain: Benjamin Groff, Jr.  
 Historian: William S. Replogle  
 Genealogist: Robert A. Sileo  
 Immediate Past President: William R. Wicks, III  
 Commander, Thomas Payne Co. David B. Mitchell, Esq.

The following Medals and Recognitions were awarded at the Annual Presidents' Luncheon:

<b>Medal / Certificate</b>	<b>Name of Recipient</b>
Bronze Good Citizenship Medal	Donald D. Slesnick
Chapter President Ribbon and Badge	George K. Wysong III
Past Chapter President Pin and Certificate	William R. Wicks III

25-Year Membership Pin	Saul Montes-Bradley
Eagle Scout Medal and Outstanding Citizenship Cert.	James E. Popham
Daughters of Liberty Medal	Pam Cadman
Martha Washington Medal – 2nd <sup>t</sup> Oak Leaf	Liga Replogle
Martha Washington Medal – 2nd <sup>t</sup> Oak Leaf	Kerry Wicks
Lydia Darragh Medal	Brenda Wysong
C.A.R. Medal of Appreciation – 1 <sup>st</sup> Oak Leaf	George E. Cadman V
Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service	Benjamin E Groff, Jr.
Chapter Meritorious Service Medal	Rene Jewett
Service to Veterans Medal + Silver Oak Leaf + Bronze	William S Replogle
Bronze Roger Sherman Medal	Matthew S Bunch
Bronze Roger Sherman Medal –Bronze Oak Leaf	Robert A Sileo
Bronze Roger Sherman Medal –Bronze Oak Leaf	William R. Wicks III
Bronze Roger Sherman Medal –Bronze Oak Leaf	William S Replogle
Bronze Roger Sherman Medal –Bronze Oak Leaf	David B Mitchell
Bronze Good Citizenship–History Teacher of the Year	Matthew Scott Bunch

Compatriot Wicks was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his participation in our ceremonies and fellowship, and for serving as Installing Officer from the Florida Society SAR.

**Distinguished Service Award Certificates** were issued to all 2023 elected officers, and to Youth Awards Chairman Rene Jewett: 2023 Officers receiving Certificates were:

William R. Wicks III, Robert Anthony Sileo, Benjamin E. Groff, Jr., William S. Replogle, Wm Lee Popham, Sr, George K. Wysong, III, David B. Mitchell, Esq., Rene Jewett.

**Certificates of Appreciation** were issued to all Presenters at monthly Chapter Meetings, as follows:

Matthew Scott Bunch, George K Wysong III, William S Replogle, Benjamin E Groff, Jr., J. Edward Beals, Rene Jewett, Wm. Lee Popham, Sr.

**Flag Certificate:**

George E Cadman III

**Flag Retirement Certificate:**

Donna Jimenez, Cub Scout Pack 280

**Law Enforcement Medal:**

Chief Rene Landa – South Miami Police Department

**Americanism Report for 2023:**

5,977 Americanism Points Reported

7,555 President General’s Streamer Points Reported

**Thomas Payne Company Color Guard:**

Color Guard Commander Compatriot David B. Mitchell, Esq. led our Thomas Payne Company in the opening flag ceremony at our Annual Meeting. Our Color Guard also participated in Independence Day, Veterans Day, and Constitution Week ceremonies; as well as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Change of Command ceremony – where Compatriot Mitchell was installed as Flotilla Commander for Flotilla 6-5 (Miami-South), U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**C.A.R. Activities and Support:**

Compatriots George E. Cadman IV and Wm. Lee Popham, Sr. are serving as a Senior Officers of the Tequesta Society C.A.R. for 2024. In addition, Compatriot James E. Popham serves as Tequesta Society Registrar. SAR Miami Chapter Compatriots currently have a total of 12 children and grandchildren who are members of the Tequesta Society C.A.R.

The Chapter has presented the Tequesta Society C.A.R. with a donation check for \$500.00.

**DAR Activities and Support:**

Several officers and members of the SAR Miami Chapter have been supporting the local DAR Societies. Compatriot Wicks brought Greetings at the Constitution Day Bell-Ringing Ceremony of the Coral Gables DAR in October, while Compatriots Wicks, Jewett, Replogle, and Popham participated in our Thomas Payne Company flag ceremony at the DAR annual Constitution Day luncheon. Compatriot Cadman IV was also a featured Speaker at that luncheon on behalf of the Tequesta Society C.A.R.

**Miami Chapter Ladies Auxiliary:**

The Miami Chapter Ladies’ Auxiliary is alive and well, thanks to the efforts of Kerry Wicks, Liga Replogle, and new member Margie Thompson. Volunteer work is being performed at both the 2024 Florida Congress Committee, and at the Veterans’ Rest Facility at the Miami International Airport. Our Chapter continues to support the Auxiliary with both volunteer time and donations.

**Veterans Support:**

The Miami Chapter SAR donates time and money for the services to veterans provided by the Veterans’ Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS), and also donates to the Military Hospitality Lounge at the Miami International Airport.

**2,370 USS Stark Memorial Award points** were reported on our 2023 Americanism Report.

**Veterans Battalion Certificates** were issued to the following Compatriots:  
Bryson Thompson, Claude Nolan, Donald D Slesnick,

### **Youth Activities Reports:**

This was an exceptional year for the Miami Chapter Youth Awards programs:

**KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST:** A total of five essays were submitted for this year's Miami Chapter competition, all of whom attend Mast Academy in Key Biscayne, Fla. **Chapter Winner Anthonie Page** received a **Chapter-level Bronze Medal** and neck ribbon, together with a Certificate and \$500. **Ethan Lopez** won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Certificate plus \$250; and **Franklin Zhuang** won the 3rd Place Certificate plus \$150.

**Compatriot Matthew S Bunch** also received a **Certificate of Recognition** for his Support of the Knight Essay Contest program – Six 2023 entries were received as a result of his participation in the program.

**JROTC/ROTC RECOGNITIONS:** A total of 38 Medals have been purchased and are being distributed by the SAR Miami Chapter, for recognitions throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties during the months of April and May. JROTC units in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are also being serviced by the Miami Chapter, as well as the Sea Cadets..

**Cadet Genevieve Schimkat** of Mast Academy Sr High School won the **1<sup>st</sup> Place JROTC Chapter-Level Bronze Enhanced Award**, and delivered her essay during our April 2024 monthly meeting. As the winner at the Chapter-Level, Cadet Schimkat received the following from the Miami Chapter: \$500, plus the medal on a neck ribbon, a uniform Ribbon, and a Certificate.

**EAGLE SCOUT CONTEST:** Compatriot **George E. "Mac" Cadman V** of South Florida Council BSA Troop 711 is the **Miami Chapter Winner**. He received an Outstanding Citizenship Award Certificate, an SAR Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate, a special SAR Eagle Contest Patch, and \$500. We were recently notified that he is the Florida Society SAR **State-level 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner** as well.

**AMERICAN HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD:** Compatriot **Matthew Scott Bunch** was selected as our **Chapter-level Winner** of this award at the High School level. Compatriot Bunch teaches American History at Mast Academy, a High School in Key Biscayne Fla. At our Annual Presidents Day Luncheon, Compatriot Bunch was awarded the **Bronze Good Citizenship Medal** and Certificate in recognition of his selection for this award, together with a check in the amount of \$500.

We have also recently learned that **Compatriot Matthew S. Bunch** has been selected as the Florida SAR **State-level Winner** of the American History Teacher of the Year Award in the Senior High School division as well. Compatriot Bunch will be attending the FLSSAR Spring BOM and Annual Meeting Youth Awards Luncheon on Saturday, 18 May, where he will be recognized with the appropriate State-level awards.

## **Palm Beach Chapter**

Peter D. Johnston

### **Palm Beach SAR Chapter 2024 Vision:**

The Chapter continues its focus on *Membership Development/Mentoring/Retention, Youth/Scholarship/JROTC programs, Veterans' services, Police/First Responder recognition and the NSSAR Project 250 Anniversary programs.*

The Chapter has a proactive membership recruiting and retention effort; retaining **88%** of its members at renewal and inducting **5** new Compatriots bringing its total membership to **178** with an additional **10** prospects in the application process. Membership projected to grow to 185+ in 2024.

Chapters 2024 officers include; *President, Peter Johnston, Vice President, TK Krumenacker, Secretary, Bob Boggs, Treasurer, Peter Johnston, Registrar, Bob Boggs, Chaplain Ben Tidwell, Historian Donald Lanman, Sgt. @ Arms, Greg Parkinson, Officers @ Large.* The Chapter completed its annual financial audit and started the process of updating of its By-Laws.

### **Chapter Activities & Events:**

Chapter continues its 2024 meetings with a focus on Veterans Services, Youth Programs, Law Enforcement/First Responder recognition awarding **6** medals to Police and First Responders.

The Chapter presented **8 JROTC** medals, **1 Knight Essay Contest** medal and **2 Eagle Scout** medals. The Chapter expanded its commitment to youth higher education with its annual **Compatriot Alex Dreyfoos History Scholarship** donating \$2,000 to the *Palm Beach Atlantic University "History Major"* program. The 2023/24 scholarship represents over 20 years and \$20,000 in scholarships from the Palm Beach Chapter.

*Chapter Compatriots* with local *DAR Daughters* expanded its dedication to patriotic and civic service by attending **7** Patriotic events including the *Missing in America Project* where we inurned, with full military honors, the unclaimed remains of 36 Veterans of WW 2, Korea and Vietnam.

As Florida Veterans Foundation Ambassadors, the Chapter delivered a \$1,900 Grant to the Faith, Hope, Love Charity "Stand Down" program to feed homeless female Veterans and children.

FLSSAR Veterans Battalion Committee Director Lanman inducted Chapter *Vietnam Veteran David Harden* and active service member Army LTC *Christopher Allen* into the Veterans Battalion raising the total number of chapter VB members to 24%.

Chapter Compatriots were represented at Patriotic events including *Flags 4 Fallen Vets* placing American Flags at Veteran Tombstones, *Forgotten Soldiers Outreach Memorial Day Wreath Laying* and *DAR Regents American Flag Retirement Ceremony.*

### **Chapter Fundraising:**

Chapter continues to raise chapter funds from Compatriots generous donations to the Chapter's Presidents Brigade, Patriotic item auctions, 50/50 Raffles and Chapter Challenge Coin sales.

## **SW Regional Vice President**

Hampton E. Allen, Jr.

The Southwest Region consists of five Chapters, Caloosa, Charlotte, Highlands, Naples, and Saramana. All five of the chapters within the Southwest Region continue to be active and heavily involved with their local communities and with their local DAR Chapters and Car Societies.

During the past 6 months my travel plan have been severely limited due to various ongoing medical issues so I was unable to visit all of the five chapters within the region so my travel has been mostly just within the local area.

4 Nov 2023, I attended the Caloosa Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration.

9 Nov 2023, I attended Berlin Wall Memorial Dedication at the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda, FL. This was Compatriot/Eagle Scout Nathaniel Othon's Eagle Scout Project.

11 Nov 2023. I attended the Veterans Memorial Celebration hosted by the Punta Gorda Masonic Lodge No 115.

12 Nov 2023. I attended the Veterans Memorial Service which was conducted at the First Christian Church in Punta Gorda.

I have attended all of the monthly meetings of both the Caloosa and Chapter Chapters

The Caloosa Chapter continues to be a strong and vibrant chapter. The Caloosa Chapter meets at The Helm Club at The Landings Yacht, Golf and Tennis Club, 4425 S. Landings Dr, Unit 100 in Fort Myers, Florida at 11:30. Their meeting rotate from Wednesday to Saturday Oct through May.

The Charlotte Chapter continues to grow and become more active within the community. The Charlotte Chapter meets at The Grill at 1951, 1951 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, Florida at 11:45.

The Highlands Chapter has continued to be an active chapter and meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at Dee's Place, 138 N. Ridgewood Drive, in Sebring, Florida.

The Naples Chapter having one of the nicest meeting venues in the area continues to attract new members to it's meeting at the Tiburon Golf Club, 2620 Tiburon Drive, in Naples, Florida on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month Oct through May.

The Saramana Chapter meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month at 11:30 at the Der Dutchman Restaurant at 3713 Bahia Vista Street in Sarasota, Florida.

## **Caloosa Chapter**

E. Michael Buff

The Caloosa Chapter continues to show its resilience in this reporting period even after a significant drop in its membership. The Caloosa Chapter meets at The Helm Club located at The Landings Yacht, Gold and Tennis Club in Ft. Myers, FL.

October meeting – 14 Oct 2023. We inducted 2 new members: Hugh Myers and Steve Smith. Compatriot Rev Randy Moody presented a program on "Proper Insignia, Medal Wear and Practical Protocols". Compatriot Lee Matson was awarded the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal OLC for his SAR service to the chapter.

November meeting – 4 Nov 2023. The Caloosa Chapter celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at an evening gala. President George and Martha Washington (Bill & Cara Elder) were the guest speakers. FLSSAR President Steve Fields and First Lady Ji;; Fields attended. The Greater Southwest DAR Regents Council presented the Bronze Hanna White Arnett Medal to 11 SAR compatriots: Hamp Allen, Jeff Brunelle, Mike Buff, Randy Moody, Don Cohill, Leanord Crane, John McCullough, Dwight Elam, Jim Stone, Bob McGuire and Bill Elder.

December meeting – 5 Dec 2023. New chapter officers were elected for the 2024 term. President – Mike Buff; Vice President & Treasurer – Jeff Brunelle; Secretary – Rick Parfitt; Registrar – Chris Jenner; Genealogist – Dr Ron Peck; Chaplain – Dwight Elam; and Historian – John Maier. Medals awarded: Liberty Medal – Chris Jenner, Chapter Distinguished Service Medal – Chris Jenner; Bronze Roger Sherman – Jeff Brunelle; Hamp Allen - OLC; Bronze Henry Knox Achievement Medal – Lee Matson, Bill Osborn, John Maier, Randy Moody, Bob McGuire, Ron Peck, and Dwight Elam. DAR/SAR Medal of Appreciation – Anne McGuire. Chaplain Elam Presented a program on "The Boston Tea Party".

January meeting – 13 Jn 2024. FLSSAR Southwest Region Vice President Hamp Allen installed our newly elected officers for 2024. Bronze Henry Knox Achievement Medals were presented to Rick Parfitt, Bob Weisensee, Larry Hughes, and Wesley Higgins. War Service Medal with Vietnam bar to Jim Cameron. The Caloosa Chapter presented a check to "Hearts and Homes for Veterans in Lee County" proceeds for the Anniversary Gala. Meritorious Service Medal presented to immediate Past President Tom Thompson and the Lydia Darragh Medal was presented to Dr Kathy Thomas.

Our February meeting was our annual George Washington Birthday Celebration that was held on February 22. Michael C. Maibach was the guest speaker and presented a program "The Defender of the Electoral College". FLSSAR President Steve Fields attended and participated with the Caloosa Color Guard in posting the Colors for the meeting.

March meeting – 12 March. Guest speakers were Jaelyn Tillman (Billy Bowlegs Society CAR President) and Terri Peterson (Senior Advisor) presented an updates on the CAR and the Billy Bowlegs Society. Becky Elam attended and accepted the SAR Dr Joseph Warren Medal and Patron Bar Award for Chaplain Dwight Elam, who had recently passed away.

April meeting – 13 Apr 2024. Donna Shands, Honorary Regent, Big Cypress Chapter NSDAR, was the guest speaker and presented her program “9/11 – Never Forget” My Experience at the Pentagon.

On May 15<sup>th</sup> the Chapter will hold its final meeting prior to our summer break. We will be presenting 16 JROTC Medals to the Lee County School District for distribution and presentation to the 16 outstanding JROTC form each of the 16 area programs.

## Charlotte Chapter

Noel R. Reese

The Charlotte Chapter meets the second Friday of the month starting at 11:30 AM at The Grill at 1951 in Port Charlotte.

- Membership currently at 27
  - 11 are dual members
- Richard Skinner resigned due to health issues
- Two longtime members passed, and their presence is sorely missed
  - Dwight Elam
  - Renfield Cushing
- 4 new applications in process
- 2 applications at state
- 1 application at national

The top three 2024 officer positions (President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer) are being filled by new members of which each have less than one year in the SAR. Luckily, we have the old guard of LTC Bob McGuire, Ron Peck PhD, Hamp Allen, and Jonathan Hunt providing their sage advice. The Secretary and Treasurer positions were merged due to lack of candidates.

The following medals were awarded at the installation of new officers for 2024:

- Bronze Roger Sherman; Jonathan Hunt
- Bronze Henry Knox; Ken Eitenmiller, Marty Calkins, Noel Reese, Bernie Schiefer, Bob McGuire, Ron Peck, and Hamp Allen

Vice President Marty Calkins PhD attended the Spring Leadership meeting in Louisville.

## Highlands Chapter

James T. Dean

The Highlands Chapter continues to be very active within the community of Sebring and Highlands County. Chapter members are actively involved with the St Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Lake Placid, with their annual flag disposal and dedication ceremony, which is an annual patriotic event at the Church. The chapter continues to work with the Highlands Historical Society, the Heritage Association of Highlands County, the Pearce-Lockett Estate to host the Annual Patriots Days Celebration at the Pearce Homestead in Fort Basinger, Florida every April. This year’s event was held on 13-14 April. Compatriots from both the Highlands and Okeechobee Chapters, and various other SAR Chapters participated as well as the DAR and other Historical Societies from the area.

The Highlands County Chapter of the SAR will continue to work with the DAR in the year ahead. Other Chapters and Color Guard Units have been invited to participate in the Patriots Day events on annually at the Pearce Homestead.

## Naples Chapter

W. Douglas Gibbens

The Naples Chapter meets at noon at Tiburon Golf Club on the second Thursday of each month October – May, except for December which is a joint meeting with the Big Cypress Chapter NSDAR. The Board of Directors meets each month 2 weeks prior to the luncheon meeting.

### 12 October 2023 -Luncheon Meeting

- 31 Members and Guests present
- Program: Battle of Kings Mountain, COL, USA (Ret) Philip Thieler

### 9 November 2023 – Luncheon Meeting

- 43 Members and Guests present
- Presented Meda for Distinguished Service & Bronze America 250 Medal to COL, USA (Ret) Philip Thieler
- Roll call of Veterans present & branch of service – presented memento of service

- Program: Pentagon on 9-11-2001 (her experiences) Honorary Regent Donna Shands
- Revolutionary War vignette of Ben Franklin – COL, USA (Ret) Philip Thieler

#### **8 December 2023 – Joint Dinner Meeting with Big Cypress Chapter, DAR**

- 91 Members and Guests present
- Chapter presented America 250 Streamer to Big Cypress Chapter Regent
- Presented 4 Bronze America 250 Medals to Big Cypress Daughters
- 25 minute play/skit on the Boston Tea Party utilizing 10 members of each chapter presented by J. Lenora Bresler, DAR

#### **12 December 2023 – Marco Island DAR Chapter**

- Bernado de Galvez Color Guard presented the colors
- Boston Tea Party Community presentation

#### **16 December 2023 – Marco Island DAR**

- Bernado de Galvez Color Guard presented the colors
- Wreaths Across America ceremony and wreath laying

#### **16 December 2023 – Memorial Gardens Cemetery – Fort Myers**

- COL, USA (Ret) Philip Thieler supervised Wreaths Across America wreath laying
- Over 400 graves marked by Thieler’s team – 1900 total in the cemetery

#### **11 January 2024 – Luncheon Meeting**

- 64 Members and Guests present
- Presented 16 Public Service Awards
- Inducted new member Stephen Gerth
- Collier County Sherrif Kevin Rambosk was guest speaker
- Revolutionary War vignette of BG Daniel Morgan by COL, USA (Ret) Philip Thieler

#### **8 February 2024 – Luncheon Meeting**

- 50 Members and Guests present
- Inducted new members Michael Williams and Sean Landis
- Honored 6 JROTC Cadets and their Senior Army Instructors
- Enjoyed 3 Enhanced Award presentations
- Program was Honor Flight presentation highlighting JROTC participation
- Revolutionary War vignette on Redoubt #10 by COL, USA (Ret) Philip Thieler

#### **14 March 2024 – Luncheon Meeting, Election & Installation of Officers**

- 37 Members and Guests present
- Inducted Richard Davis Lee as new member
- Special guests FLSSAR President Steven Fields & 1<sup>st</sup> Lady/President FLSSAR Auxiliary Jill
- Fields presented program on Samuel Whitmore, Common Soldier
- Fields installed new officers
- Presented 20 Bronze and 10 Silver America 250 Awards
- Revolutionary War vignette on Events of 1774 Leading to 1<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress presented by CSM, USA (Ret) Douglas Gibbens

#### **22 March 2024 – Big Cypress DAR Luncheon**

- Honorary President General Denise Dooring Van Buren spoke on Bernado de Galvez
- Naples Chapter Color Guard presented the colors
- President and 6 chapter members present

#### **11 April 2024 Luncheon Meeting**

- 39 Members and Guests present
- Eagle Scout recipient honored with Good Citizenship Medal & check for \$300 – he read his winning essay on BG Daniel Morgan
- Presented an SAR Flag Award and a Henry Knox Medal (to compatriot Larry Swift)
- Presented a 20-year service pin and 3 Bronze3 America 250 Awards
- Program was “Building the Flag” by the National Sojourners

#### **Month of April 2024 – JROTC Support**

- 5 JROTC presentations at the High School Awards day

## **Saramana Chapter**

S. Preston Adams, III

**October 28th meeting:** Our Saramana Chapter has made a remarkable turnabout in our membership this year, due to the fabulous work of our Asst. Registrar Harry Rinker, who generated twenty new approved membership applications, bringing us over 100 active members. At our meeting we inducted Robert Kent Boxley, Bennett Harrigan Evanson, Bradley Ross Piver and

Bradley Trey Piver into the Saramana Chapter. Our guest speaker, Colleen Paige, a WOSAR/Registrar of the FLSSAR Ladies Auxiliary and State College of Florida provide a colorful presentation on the search for final resting places of compatriot Craig Austin Paige's Patriot ancestors, located throughout the New England area. Spanning three years, Colleen and Craig worked together with caretakers of colonial cemeteries and historical societies to locate and clean colonial headstones, recognizing each Patriot's grave-site with a SAR Patriot Marker.

**November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:** We were forced to cancel our November meeting due to too many attendance conflicts over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

**December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting:** Saramana inducted three new members at the luncheon, Kevin Lee Kalmbach, Benjamin Jack Moore and Matthew William Moore. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for 2025 for induction, who were approved by the Board of Governors during a Zoom Call meeting on November 22nd. FLSSAR President Steven Fields inducted the new officers as follows: President, Samuel Preston Adams III; Vice President & Secretary, Timothy Charles DeForest Secretary; Treasurer, John Harrigan Boll; Genealogist, Steven Ray Fields; Registrar, Harry L. Rinker; Historian, Richard K. "Dick" MaHaffey; Chaplain, Open; Sergeant-At-Arms, Jeffrey Allen Robbins; Board of Governors (term ending December 2025) Bradley Ross Piver, Kevin L. Kalmbach, and Fred J. Line III. Non-voting Officers Appointed: Editor: Kevin L. Kalmbach; Color Guard Commander, Steven Ray Fields, and Webmaster, Craig Wallace. The newly formed Ladies Auxiliary consisted of Sherry Erb, Sharon Milligan, and Jill Fields. Our guest speaker for meeting was Angela DeForest, the Vice President of the Sara De Sota Chapter of the DAR, who presented "Songs of Christmas Past," explores how Christmas traditions in colonial and early America changed over time, from the late 18th century through the early 20th century. The presentation shows the evolution of Christmas traditions and the creation of popular holiday tunes: based on the DAR Museum exhibit Songs of Christmas Past.

**January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting:** Two new members were inducted, Daniel Dewherst Hargreaves and Patrick James Clark, were formally inducted into the chapter. Our Luncheon Speaker was Compatriot John Preston, who recently transferred to Saramana from the West Virginia Society. As the past president of his chapter, John is a highly accomplished orator whose topic as "George Washington and Capt. Asgill", who was involved in a diplomatic incident during the American Revolution. The NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting was announced for February 29 – March 3, which is to be held at The Brown Hotel in Louisville, KY, with business meetings on March 1st and 2nd. The Sara De Soto DAR "Boston Tea Party" was announced to be held at their Chapter House for May 11<sup>th</sup>.

**February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting:** At our February Washington's Birthday celebration, President Adams shared the Blue Ribbon and Certificate our Saramana Chapter won for our participation in the FLSSAR Chapter Challenge, and discussed the history of "Georgefest", which ran from February 17 through the 24<sup>th</sup>, and is the longest running celebration of George Washington's Birthday in the State of Florida, and now the longest continuously running celebration in the entire United States. President Adams introduced Steve Fields, who explains the significance of the uniform he was wearing—a Southern planters suit. Our guest speaker for the February 10th Luncheon was Chapter Vice President and Secretary, Tim DeForest, who discussed four of the "We Were There" books. These novels written for children deal with events of the American Revolution, including the Boston Tea Party, the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga, and the Siege at Yorktown.

**March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting:** Our Law Enforcement awards were presented to eight officers from the local Police Departments, Sheriff's offices, and the State Highway Patrol along with brief statements by the agency heads about the award recipients. Our Law Enforcement awards went to: Detective Michael Smith of the Manatee County Sheriff's Dept; Officer Andrew Adkins of the Homes Beach Police Dept.; Corporal Benjamin Schlabach of the Palmetto Police Dept.; Trooper Daniel Nersten of the Florida Highway Patrol, Detective Eric St. Jean of the North Port Police Dept'; Officer Victor Montanez of the Venice Police Dept.; and Detective Michael Carpenter of the Bradenton Police Dept.; and Officer Rashad Jones of the Sarasota Police Dept. Officer Jones is distinguished as 22 of his relatives and family friends attended our luncheon to see Officer Jones accept his recognition award. Our guest speaker was Rick Cronin who authored the book, "To Sarasota, with Love, Orlando". While residing on Longboat Key after retiring from the Orlando area. while researching Orlando, he found familiar names attached to the early development of Sarasota, which led Rick to write his book.

**April 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** President Adams gave a short presentation on the history of fire fighting in early America and in Sarasota. Fire Safety and Emergency Medical Services awards were given to: Firefighter Ryan Harris (City of Bradenton); Fire Paramedic Thomas Young (North Port Fire Rescue). FF/PM David Olinger (Longboat Key Fire Rescue) was not present to receive his award. The guest speaker, Angela DeForest, was introduced, who gave a presentation on "The Seven Deadly Sins," a light-hearted look at early American culture and the temptations of envy, gluttony, greed, lust, pride, sloth, and wrath.

**Additional Awards:** 8 JROTC Awards are being presented later this month.

**New and Prospective Members:** New members inducted this year 20, Prospective Members 8, Applications awaiting approval.



## Secretary

M. Scott Breckenridge

- **FLSSAR membership** total (as of 5/3/2024) is 2,347, including Youth, Memorial, and Dual members. The Annual Report and Reconciliation was completed on time with NSSAR. The results for 2023 are:  
Beginning of 2023 Total = 2,126  
New Members = 347  
Adds from reinstatements or transfer = 96  
Deceased = 48  
Losses from transfer = 19  
Resignations = 2  
End of 2023 Total = 2,500  
Drops due to non-payment = 376  
Beginning of 2024 Total = 2,124  
(as of 5/1/2024, 42 reinstatements have been processed, with an additional 16 in progress)
- **Chapter Challenge Contest:**  
The Florida Society Chapter Challenge Contest is designed to recognize chapters for various activities that meet the goals of the SAR. Chapters are judged against each other based on size (small-red, medium-white, large-blue). The top three winners in each category are recognized at the FLSSAR Annual Meeting. The contest period is the calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. The winning chapters for 2023 are:  

Red 1st Place – William Dunaway	White 1st Place – Ft Lauderdale	Blue 1st Place - Miami
Red 2nd Place – Daytona-Ormond	White 2nd Place – Saramana	Blue 2nd Place - Naples
Red 3rd Place – Panama City	White 3rd Place – Pensacola	Blue 3rd Place - Clearwater
	White Hon Mention – Lake-Sumter	
- A word about **BOM members:**  
Not everyone that attends a Board of Management Meeting is entitled to vote. I've reprinted the relevant section from the FLSSAR ByLaws here.  
(Note: All active members of the Florida Society may vote at the Annual Meeting)

### Section 1 Membership

The membership of the BOM shall include only persons who are members in good standing of the FLSSAR, and who are listed in at least one of the following categories:

- persons who are lifetime members of the BOM by virtue of being a past President of the FLSSAR, a recipient of the Patriot Medal, or an incumbent or past elected officer of the NSSAR;
- persons who are members of the BOM by virtue of being, and while being, an elected officer of the FLSSAR; appointed incumbent FLSSAR Committee Chairman; an incumbent National Trustee from Florida; an incumbent Chapter President; and the most recent Past President of a chapter, i.e., the person who preceded an incumbent Chapter President in office; if a chapter has no most recent Past President it shall name another of its members to serve on the BOM;
- persons who have been appointed by chapters having more than forty members on the basis of one additional member of the BOM for each forty chapter members or fraction thereof more than the first forty, the term of office of such additional members of the BOM to be coterminous with that of the Chapter President incumbent at the time of their appointment to the BOM.

A member of the BOM who is unable to attend a meeting may name, in writing, another member of the FLSSAR to attend and act in his stead; provided, however, that no person may have more than one vote. Members of the FLSSAR who are not members of the BOM may attend and participate in debate but may not vote.

## Treasurer

W. Richard "Dick" Young

On December 31, 2023 and April 30, 2024, the Florida Society had \$289,750 and \$211,561, respectively, in Wells Fargo Bank, as follows:

	<u>December 31, 2023</u>	<u>April 30, 2024</u>
Operating Checking Account	\$202,750	\$ 99,558
Certificates of Deposit	75,000	100,000
Club Express Account	10,000	10,000
Savings Account	2,002	2,002

The Fund Balances are as follows:

Operations Fund	\$217,252	\$137,020
Meeks Fund F4F	41,844	43,894
Congress Fund	30,656	30,646

The biggest difference is the payment of annual dues to National SAR, as explained more fully in the Finance Committee Report. As reported to the October BOM, last spring I purchased a \$50,000 CD matured in November. The \$50,000 CD was renewed and another \$25,000 CD was purchased. The \$25,000 CD matured in March and was renewed adding another \$25,000. At present we have two \$50,000 CDs earning something in excess of 4.0%.

As noted, we have \$30,000 left over in the Congress Fund. Rather than simply transfer this cash to the Operations Fund, I suggest the BOM form an Ad Hoc Committee to recommend how best to use it in the best short-term and long-term interest of the Florida Society.

See the Finance Committee Report for more details on the cash receipts and disbursements for the first four months of 2024.

The State of Florida Annual Report has been filed. The Florida Society IRS Form 990EZ is due by May 15 and will be filed prior to the due date.

**MOTION** – Dick Young moved that the Florida Society will shall establish an ad-hoc committee to evaluate proposals for the allocation of the remaining Congress funds and make recommendations to the next Board of Management meeting for disbursement. Charter:

The committee shall be established to receive and evaluate proposals for the use of the surplus funds from the 133rd Congress. The committee may meet by email, Zoom, or in person. For a proposal to be evaluated, it must be submitted in writing or email to the chairman. Proposals shall include at least information on recipient, purpose, and explanation of how a distribution will benefit the Society, and who will be responsible for the application of any allocated funds. The committee will remain in service until all Congress funds are allocated. The committee shall report their activities at each Board of Management meeting until its dissolution. The committee will consist of Dick Young (Chairman), Lee Popham, Kevin Shurte, Decody Marble, and Chris Washler.

**SECOND** Steve Hohman. **PASSED**

## Registrar

Ray C. Lantz

### FLSSAR Application Stats 24 Sep 2023 – 18 Apr 2024

	Application Type				Totals
	Regular	Supplemental	CAR Transfer	Junior	
<b>Submitted To NSSAR</b>	137	37	6	25	205
<b>Approved* By NSSAR</b>	131	5	4	26	166
<b>Pended* By NSSAR</b>	5	0	0	0	5
<b>Pended By FSSAR</b>	8	2	0	1	11
<b>DAR Finder Approved Total Year to date</b>			<b>2023 = 62 and 2024 = 15</b>		

\* Approved and Pended by NSSAR stats are generally not related to the Submitted to NSSAR stats, as the majority of the stats apply to applications reported as submitted on the previous report period.

#### NSSAR & FLSSAR Pended Reasons:

- Unofficial transcript(s) of will(s) submitted instead of required legible copies of court recorded or original will.
- Proof documents are too poor quality to be fully legible.
- Proof documents are not a copy of the entire page. Page snippets cannot be used alone, there must also be a legible full-page copy of the page the snippet was taken from.
- Proof document title page and copyright page not submitted for one or more documents.
- No proof submitted for one or more generations to connect lineage from one generation to the next.

- Incorrect check amount required for NSSAR and or FLSSAR fees and dues.
- Unproven/unaccepted information used on application from a previous SAR, DAR and/or CAR application record copy.

**Recommended Application Submission Improvement Areas:**

- Ensure all required signatures and dates are present as required for type of applications being submitted.
- Do not submit NSDAR web site printouts from the “Descendants Database Search” or NSDAR “Patriot Index” information. This information is not acceptable for either lineage or service and NSSAR does not want this unacceptable information included with any application.
- **Ensure ALL applicable information contained on all submitted proof documents is recorded in the applicable sections of the application. Do not list references that are not being submitted and list all documents that have been submitted.**
- **Ensure all known spouse information is included when known for each generation even when the spouse is not in direct lineal descent. This will prevent applications from being pended when two people of the same name are living in a given area and this information would assist in identification of the correct person used on the application.**
- Only one set of proof documents are required to be submitted with each application. This also applies when submitting more than one application under the family plan criteria. One set of proofs only for the common documents used by all the applications in the group. This does not apply to multiple supplemental applications submitted at the same time. Supplemental applications are always considered separately and require complete sets of documentation.
- **Use a red pencil to underline applicable data on all proof documents and DO NOT USE any type of highlighter.**
- Copy of entire legible original census page must be submitted when using a census as a proof document. Ancestry.com census transcription pages cannot be used in lieu of the original census page but, it may be used in addition to the original page.

**Notes of Interest:**

- NSSAR acceptance policies very recently significantly changed DNA Evidence please be certain you have fully read the new guidelines and have complied with the same to the fullest extent prior to submitting DNA proof evidence!
- **New NSSAR Application/Genealogy Policy and Prep Manuals**  
New versions of these manuals are available for download from the NSSAR website. There have been many changes to policies and procedures and it strongly recommended that all chapter registrars review these document changes.

**Chaplain**

W. Maynard Pittendreigh (appointed on 3/14/2024 to fill remainder of Dwight Elam's term)

No report submitted.

**Recording Secretary**

W. Douglas Gibbens

Minutes of the previous BOM meeting are found beginning on page 6.

**Chancellor**

(open)

No report submitted.

**Genealogist**

J Gray Chandler

See Genealogy Committee report.

**Sergeant at Arms**

Jeff F. Brunnelle

No report submitted.

## **Historian**

Joel A. Etherton

Nothing to report.

## **Editor, The Florida Patriot**

Jeff L. Sizemore

As a reminder, please remind your chapter members that a subscription to the FLSSAR printed issue is \$12.00 per year. For anyone that is interested, please make out your check to the "FLSSAR Treasurer" and send it to Scott Breckinridge (Florida Society Secretary). Note that subscription submittals are typically done at the time that annual dues are collected.

The deadline for submitting articles, reports, and announcements for consideration into the upcoming issues of the magazine are as follows:

Summer 2024 Magazine Submittal Cutoff	= 6/15/2024
Fall 2024 Magazine Submittal Cutoff	= 9/15/2024
Winter 2025 Magazine Submittal Cutoff	= 12/15/2024
Spring 2025 Magazine Submittal Cutoff	= 3/15/2025

The article themes for the upcoming magazines are as follows:

Summer 2024 = Battle of Pensacola, Battle of Thomas Creek, & the Battle of Alligator Bridge

Fall 2024 = Veterans Articles – Historical type articles & services offered to Veterans

Winter 2025 = American Revolution Adventures in the Frontier and Native Americans in the American Revolution

Remember that when submittals are sent in late, it delays the publication of this magazine and makes it hard to deliver a good issue to our membership. If you want to submit your chapter newsletter as a submittal, please submit it in either MS Word or MS Publisher format.

General and historical articles also are appreciated so that our members get a variety of materials in each issue. All articles need to also be sent in MS Word format. The email addresses that can be used to submit your material for the magazine are as follows: [swampfoxsar@gmail.com](mailto:swampfoxsar@gmail.com).

## **Webmaster**

E. Scott Bushnell

No report submitted.

## **Statutory Committee Reports**

### **Executive Committee**

Steven R. Fields, Chairman

The Executive Committee has met the following times since the last BOM.

- 10/26/2023
  - Approved depository account for ClubExpress.
- 11/2/2023
  - Approved a resolution, as requested by Wells Fargo Bank, to complete the opening of new Certificate of Deposit accounts, as approved at the Oct 2023 BOM.
- 12/15/2023
  - Reviewed and approved Emeritus-3 requests from the chapters.
- 1/20-22/2024
  - Reviewed and approved meal prices for the May 2024 BOM.
- 3/14/2024

- Confirmed appoint of Rev. Dr. W. Maynard Pittendreigh of the Central Florida Chapter to fill the remaining vacant 2023-2024 term of FLSSAR Chaplain.

## **Finance Committee**

W. Richard “Dick” Young, Chairman

Included at the end of the BOM Proceedings Book are the schedules of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements for the Year Ended December 31, 2023 and for the Four Months ended April 30, 2024. (See Appendix E)

### Calendar Year 2023

The October BOM Report included a summary of activity through September, Not much happens in the Florida Society during the latter part of the year.

- received the 2023 contribution from the Operating Budget Trust Fund of \$5,709
- collected over \$100,000 in 2024 dues
- renewed the \$50,000 CD purchased in spring & purchased another \$25,000 CD
- opened the Club Express account with \$10,000

### January – April 2024

- collected the remaining 2024 dues
- renewed the \$25,000 CD and added another \$25,000
- paid \$89,000 to National for 2024 dues
- paid the annual contributions to
  - Florida Society C.A.R. \$1,000
  - FLSSAR Endowment Trust Fund \$2,125
- transferred the annual contribution to the Meeks Fund \$2,000
- paid the usual bills and some of the Youth Contest winners as requested
- paid Scott Breckenridge only half the quarterly stipend for the second quarter for Executive Administrator in anticipation of another compatriot being appointed to the position at the BOM

## **Financial Review Committee**

David Bussone, Chairman

The Financial Review Committee is responsible for conducting an annual internal review of the books and financial records of our Society. We are not responsible for conducting, or causing to be conducted, an audit.

The Treasurer provided the committee with sufficient and appropriate materials for us to review the activities, transactions, and financial assets of the FLSSAR. After reviewing the data, materials and records provided, the Committee is satisfied that these records accurately reflect the financial position of the FLSSAR.

The Committee thanks our Treasurer for his assistance during this review and would like to recognize him for his long and dedicated service as Treasurer.

### Recommendations:

- 1) As a new Treasurer transitions into the position in May, we encourage him to use an appropriate accounting package (Quickbooks, et al) to automate our financial records and create additional reports that could be useful to the Board of Managers and the FLSSAR membership.
- 2) As a new accounting package is being implemented, the Treasurer should also assist in the implementation of Club Express.
- 3) Approximately \$30,000 accrued to the benefit of the FLSSAR at the end of the 2023 Congress in Orlando. We recommend:
  - a. that the BOM donate one-half of these funds to the SAR Foundation Liberty Tree Campaign for the construction of the SAR Education Center & Museum; and,
  - b. That the BOM donate the remainder of these funds to the Florida SAR Operating Budget Trust (OBT), so that the future income from these proceeds can be used to supplement the FLSSAR operating budget for all future years.

(a proposed updated committee charter can be seen in Appendix A.)

**MOTION** – The committee moved that the updated charter, as published in Appendix A, be adopted as printed. **NO SECOND NEEDED.**

James Ward moved to add a note to the bottom stating that "The word "audit" is a reserved term and does not pertain to this charter."

**SECOND** Harry Rinker. **PASSED.**

The original motion, as amended, **PASSED.**

## Medals and Awards Committee

Hamp Allen, Chairman

The NSSAR Official Handbook Vol 5: Individual Medals, Awards and Certificates was revised and updated effective 1 Jan 2024. The Medals Order of Precedence for wearing of the medals was completely revised. The Medals and Awards Committee would like to remind our compatriots to review the handbook to ensure that they are in compliance with the new guidelines. Serious consideration should be given to ensure a proposed recipient is fully qualified and deserving of the award for which they are being nominated to maintain the integrity of the NSSAR medals and awards.

Recommendations for all State level medals and awards should be sent to the Chairman, Medals and Awards Committee as early as possible. This will allow the committee to evaluate the request, obtain approval and secure the certificate and /or medal from National if not already in the FLSSAR inventory. Most medal and award certificates required the signature of both the President and Secretary prior to presentation at the Awards Banquet during the annual Spring BOM/Annual meeting.

As a reminder to all Chapter Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers, all medals and awards presented to non-SAR members are eligible for reimbursement from the Florida Endowment Trust Fund (ETF) within the limits established by the ETF committee. The medals are reimbursed at 100% while the other awards are reimbursed at 75% within the authorized limits. Many chapters miss out on this reimbursement policy because they fail to file for the reimbursement. The ETF Grand Application Form is located on the FLSSAR website and contains information about what reimbursements are available to the chapters.

## Nominating Committee

Brian L. Jensen, Chairman

List of FLSSAR Compatriots who have agreed to serve as State Officers for 2024-2025 term.

The nominating committee believes this list of candidates will faithfully promote and lead the FLSSAR Society for the upcoming year.

President:	James Yost Gaskins
-Senior Vice President:	Christopher Edwin Washler
-Treasurer:	Walter Boyer Arnold
-Secretary:	M. Scott Breckenridge
-Recording Secretary:	Willard Douglas Gibbens
-Registrar:	Raymond Clyde Lantz
Sergeant at Arms:	Phil Markoe
-Chaplain:	Dr. W. Maynard Pittendreigh
-Chancellor:	Charles Klug
-Genealogist:	Harry Rinker
-Historian:	Joel Etherton
-Web Master:	Robbie Robinson
-Member at Large:	Hamp Allen
-Editor FL Patriot:	Jeff Sizemore

FLSSAR Regional Officer Nominees:

-NE RVP:	Charles Robert Hayes
-NW RVP:	Don Wilham
-NC RVP:	Stephen Hohman
-EC RVP:	Harry Rinker
-WC RVP:	Alfred Parks Honeywell
-SW RVP:	Jonathan Hunt
-SE RVP:	Charles Austin Adams, II

## 2023-2024 Nominating Committee

Brian L Jensen Chairman  
Hampton "Hamp" E Allen  
Dale C Bottom  
Earl Frederick Mathews  
Thomas J Thompson

## **Patriot Medal Committee**

Pat Niemann, Chairman

Awardees have been selected and will be announced at the Saturday night banquet.

## NSSAR Affairs

## **Education Center & Museum**

(SAR Education Center and Museum Committee)  
Chairman - none

## **National Society Library Committee**

Dick Young, Chairman

The mission of the SAR genealogical Research Library is to maintain and enlarge the collection of genealogical and historical materials available for research by SAR members and the public. Additionally, it is to acquire and preserve records of the American Revolution and foster and encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution era.

In October 2010, the Library began operations in its new facility on West Main Street in Louisville's historic Museum District. The Library's growth depends upon cash gifts as well as donations of family genealogies, American Revolutionary War histories, county and state histories, and other books and items of genealogical content. Members are also encouraged to join or donate to the Friends of the SAR Library (FOL), the monies of which are deposited in the Library Endowment Fund and Library Special Operating Fund and used to purchase non-budgeted items.

The primary focal point of the collections is the Revolutionary War era but the collection includes other materials of a genealogical nature. To date the library collection has grown to over 55,000 items and includes family histories, local, county and state records and genealogy materials, and access to the online databases of Ancestry, FamilySearch (Affiliate Library), Heritage Quest, Fold3, and American Ancestors, among others. The FREE Library Catalog allows you to see what is available on our shelves as well as research your ancestors through links to several digital editions of the titles in our collection.

The Florida Society makes an annual contribution to the SAR Genealogical Research Library. You are encouraged to support the Library by becoming a Friend of the Library (FOL). A copy of the related brochure and application form is included as an appendix to the BOM Proceedings Book.

## FLSSAR Affairs

## **Archives Committee**

Matt Mathews, Chairman

Nothing to report.

## **By-Laws Committee**

Robbie Robinson, Chairman

Proposed by-laws changes were published in the April 2024 edition of the Patriot magazine, and are reprinted here in Appendix C.

## Education Outreach Committee

Kevin Shurte, Chairman

At the Fall 2023 BOM, three FLSSAR compatriots volunteered to serve with me on the EOC. After reviewing the committee charter and speaking with NSSAR Education Committee members, the Florida EOC convened its first meeting on January 2, 2024. Since that time, the committee has met via Zoom on the first Tuesday evening of each month, developing strategies and action plans to identify and expand upon state participation in the various NSSAR Education Outreach Programs.

In the ensuing months, committee members contacted the corresponding FLSSAR committee chairs to determine chapter participation in the following youth programs:

- Elementary School Poster Contest
- Sergeant Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest
- George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest
- Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest

After determining current participation levels, EOC members reached out to individual chapter leaders to evaluate the sources of their entries, to solicit successful strategies, and to identify challenges chapters face in the implementation of these programs.

In addition to gauging and assessing statewide participation in education outreach contests, the EOC also discussed, drafted, and developed Education Outreach print resources. The team developed colorful and inviting fliers to encourage and promote participation in the poster, brochure, essay, oration, JROTC, and American History Teacher Award programs. The EOC also created an informational rack card designed to grow chapter participation in these contests. The rack card identifies a variety of strategies Florida chapters have adopted to successfully launch education outreach programs in their areas. Limited quantities of these print documents will be available for distribution at the Spring BOM. The committee also plans to make these documents available for download on the FLSSAR website.

Not only has the EOC canvassed committee chairs and chapter leaders and designed motivational handouts, but it has also developed an Education Outreach Survey via SurveyMonkey. This survey has been distributed to chapter presidents throughout the state to document chapter involvement in education outreach. The simple five-question survey asks recipients the following information:

1. Does your chapter have an Education Outreach Committee?
2. Does your SAR chapter conduct educational outreach programs?
3. Which educational programs does your chapter conduct?
4. What is the source of your chapter's contest entries?
5. Please provide a point of contact for your chapter for education programs.

To date, approximately one-third of all chapters have completed the survey. The EOC's goal of a 100% return rate can begin to open the lines of communication between our chapters and our committee. In doing so, we can establish a working relationship with individual chapters to encourage, promote, and support their efforts in growing their education outreach programs.

Finally, the EOC welcomes all SAR members to attend our open meeting scheduled for 9 A.M. on Friday, May 17, 2024, at our upcoming Spring BOM. The committee will share chapter best practices for promoting youth programs, distribute fliers and rack cards, and share our vision for Florida's Education Outreach Programs for the coming year.

The committee proposed changing from an ad-hoc to a Standing committee.  
(a proposed updated committee charter can be seen in Appendix B.)

**MOTION** – The committee moved that the committee status be changed from ad-hoc to standing, and that the updated charter, as published in Appendix B, be adopted as printed. **NO SECOND NEEDED. PASSED.**

**MOTION** – The committee moved to increase the 2024 budget for the Education Outreach Committee from \$500 to \$1,500. **NO SECOND NEEDED. PASSED.**

## Ethics Committee

Jonathan D. Hunt, Chairman

Nothing to report.

## Genealogy Committee

Gray Chandler, Chairman

The FLSSAR Genealogy Committee consists of Gray Chandler (FLSSAR Registrar, Jacksonville), Walter Arnold (Clearwater and St. Petersburg), Brian Jenson (Brevard), Harry L. Rinker (Central Florida, and Phil Thieler (Naples)



## **FLSSAR Registrars and Genealogists Zoom Meetings**

Continuing a practice first begun in February 2023, the Genealogy Committee continued its practice of holding bimonthly Registrars and Genealogist Zooms on the second Monday of September, November, January, March, and May. Since the fall 2023 BOM, Zooms took place on November 13, 2023, January 8, 2024, and March 11, 2024. A final seasonal Zoom is scheduled for May 12, 2024.

The Zoom sessions cover a wide range of topics – announcement on matters of interest, the latest news from NSSAR National, requests from FLSSAR Registrar Ray Lantz, multiple skill tips, discussions of topics of concern, and a 20-minute master class.

Gary O Green, NSSAR Genealogist General, has attended the last three Zoom sessions.

## **BOM Presentations**

The Genealogy Committee conducted a training session focused on completing an online application at the Fall 2023 BOM. The program was continued in the January Zoom. Session.

The Genealogy Committee has requested two time slots in the Friday morning block for the Spring 2024 BOM – the first a trainings session and the second for a workshop. The training session will focus on understanding military, civic, and patriotic service. A “new” workshop session will allow registrars and genealogists to consult with members of the Genealogy Committee in terms of solving issues such as “brick walls,” determining the using of a document for proof, or evaluating a proof argument.

## **Training New Chapter Registrars and Genealogists**

Harry L. Rinker is currently training and working with new registrar/genealogists at the Daytona-Ormond, Lakeland, and Pensacola chapters. Other Committee members are also working in this area.

The 2024 edition of the *MISSAR Genealogist and Registrar Manual*, authored by Harry L. Rinker, was distributed to all FLSSAR registrars and genealogists. It is a beginner’s guide and focuses on the use of the online application.

## **Assisting Chapter Registrars**

Genealogy Committee members often are consulted by chapter registrars/genealogists to help solve issues preventing a membership application from moving forward. All requests are answered.

Realizing the need for a group of skilled SAR registrars/genealogists, the FLSSAR Genealogy Committee is in the process of creating a Legacy Research subcommittee like those found in the DAR and Daughters of 1812. The goal is to have the committee in place by September.

## **In Conclusion**

The FLSSAR Genealogy Committee is increasing its training role for FLSSAR registrars/genealogists and extending its efforts in the field work in terms of assisting local registrars/genealogists find solution to issue holding up the competition of applications.

## **Meeting Arrangements-BOM**

Chairman - none

## **Membership Promotion & Retention**

Matt Mathews, Chairman

- Finally added 2 more members to committee, Walter Arnold and Steve DePaul. The charter recommends a member from each region.
- Walter Arnold and myself also serve on the National Membership Committee, which is a major plus for our state. Will try to get Steve to participate as well.
- Only a few exchanges of emails have occurred due to me being obligated, hopefully we will be approved for the coming year as the committee.
- All agree that the 3 R’s, Recruit, Retain and Recover are guiding areas.
- Planning on a presentation at the BOM

## New Chapter Development

Jeff Sizemore, Chairman

There have been no inquiries recently about setting up a new chapter. Note the by-law changes being proposed at this meeting.

## Newsletters and Periodicals

Jeff Sizemore, Chairman

At the present time, the committee is reviewing this year's submittal for the Newsletter Contest. The winners for this past year will be announced at the Spring BOM/Annual meeting. We had seven chapters submit for the contest in which there will be a first, second, and third prize. These monetary prizes will be announced and presented at this upcoming BOM meeting.

The stated deadline each year for the National Newsletter and FLSSAR State Society Contest is December 15, 2024. To enter, please send a pdf version of year newsletter to the committee.

## Strategic Planning Committee

Lee Popham, Chairman

The FLSSAR Strategic Planning Committee has addressed two important topics for the future of both SAR and the Florida SAR:  
**SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### I. ONLINE DUES BILLING & COLLECTIONS; AUTOMATIC DUES RENEWALS

One of the stated Goals and Objectives of the 5-year Operational Plan is the streamlining of the Dues Billing and Collection process, and the reduction of Membership Non-Renewals that may be caused by a lack of organized follow-up, or the inability to make Online payments for annual Dues, Fees, Events, and Donations.

So far, FLSSAR and several Chapters have elected to serve as Beta Testers for **CLUB EXPRESS**, a potential Statewide canned software system that will allow Online Dues Billing & Collection on a statewide basis. Once fully-implemented on a Voluntary basis, this system already encompasses more than 20% of the SAR membership, and could very well be extended to the entire NSSAR, for a Nationwide Dues Billing & Collection system.

- a. National Dues Billing and Collection from HQ – Online Payment Capability – Automatic annual dues renewals – online payments to Society and Chapter of their portions of dues collected.- elimination of manual reconciliation process.
- b. Other non-profits of similar size and structure have reduced their membership retention “Drops” from 16% per year to 6%-8% by moving to a national billing process.

**If you believe your Chapter can benefit from Online Payments and an automatic Dues Billing & Collection process, please be sure to supply your Chapter Dues for all categories of membership, and also a voided check for your Chapter bank account.**

### II. Support of the SAR Education Center and Museum

Goal #1 of the five-year operational plan through 2026 is to OPEN THE **SAR EDUCATION CENTER AND MUSEUM** during the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution. A video presentation of the SAR Education Center and Museum will be viewed during the meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROPOSAL:

The ETF Disbursement Committee and the ETF Trustees should consider recommending reimbursements to all Florida SAR Chapters that contribute to the Education Center and Museum, on a pro-rata basis, up to the undistributed amount available on November 15 of each year, after taking all prior Chapter reimbursements into account.

For the past several years, the Endowment Trust Fund has provided for distributions to Chapters in the range of \$25,000 to \$31,000, with less than half of that amount actually being disbursed to the Chapters. For 2023, the maximum allowable reimbursements to all Chapters is \$27,327.43; yet only \$3,564.04 has been requested and reimbursed as of 31 August. Total reimbursements in prior years have ranged from \$8,000 to \$13,000.

The income from the Endowment Trust Fund (ETF) is intended to be used to support Chapter philanthropic activities, and the Education Center and Museum will be our gift to America on the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. This action will allow the collective Chapters of the Florida SAR to make a significant Pledge in the \$100,000 range, payable over the next several years.

Several other recommendations have been made to the FLSSAR Executive Committee, which are under consideration.

## Technology Advisory Committee

Lee Popham, Chairman

No report submitted.

## Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade

Scott Breckenridge – Commander

Jeff Brunelle – Vice-Commander

Harry Rinker – Adjutant

Commander's report

I'm so proud of our Florida Guardsmen. You never cease to step up and honor our Patriot Ancestors at events around the state. And every time, you fulfill our Society's goals of History, Education, and Patriotism. Well done!  
A special thanks from me to Vice-Commander Jeff Brunelle and Adjutant Harry Rinker for filling in for me when I am unavailable.

State and National events in which we participated since the last BOM include, but are not limited to:

Veterans Day

Wreaths Across America

Funeral for Compatriot Dwight Elam. (we miss you, Dwight, but I hope you were pleased with our showing)

Honor Flights

C.A.R. State Conference. Saturday, Feb 17, 2024

FSDAR Spring Conference. March 8-9, 2024

Last Naval Battle – Saturday, March 16, 2024

Battle of Thomas Creek – Saturday, March 23, 2024.

I represented the Florida Society at Patriots Day, St Simons GA – Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Battle of Pensacola – Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Keep up the good work. And keep sending me pictures of your events so that I can send them to the National Colorguardsman magazine.

Scott Breckenridge, Commander

1. George Washington Camp #1, Jacksonville Chapter - Paul Tucker, Commander  
No Report Submitted.
2. Francis Marion Camp #2, Ocala Chapter – Inactive
3. Commodore Barry Camp #3, Brevard Chapter – Nicholas Mihora, Commander  
November 12 Veterans Day Ceremony at Merritt Island Veterans Memorial Center with DAR and C.A.R.  
November 15 Brevard No One Veteran Left Behind services for 10 Veterans and 2 spouses at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. Two Veterans served in WWI and their Cremains were sitting on a mortuary shelf for over 47 years.  
December 09 meeting inducted one Compatriot.  
December 16 Wreaths Across America Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.  
January 15 cleanup and restoration of Veteran gravesites at “Saints and Sinners Cemetery” in Oak Hill.  
January 20 meeting  
February 17 SAR-DAR George Washington Luncheon, inducted 3 members.  
February 17 F.S.C.A.R. State Awards Banquet opening ceremony.  
March 08 DAR Spring Conference Jensen  
March 18 Last Naval Battle, Merritt Island VMC  
April 13 meeting inducted 4 members.
4. Samuel Adams Camp #4, Clearwater Chapter – Robbie Robinson, Commander  
The Clearwater Chapter's Color Guard participated in the following events from the time period of 22 Oct 2023 to 11 May 2024.  
- 24 Oct 2023: Honor Flight at St Petersburg Airport, in conjunction with the Tampa Chapter  
- 11 Nov 2023: Veterans Day parade in Tampa, in conjunction with the Tampa Chapter  
- 17 Nov 2023: Color Guard supported the Clearwater DAR Chapter Meeting

- 3 Dec 2023: Color Guard participated in the Belleair Christmas Parade
- 15 Dec 2023: DeSoto DAR Christmas luncheon, in conjunction with the Tampa Chapter
- 30 Dec 2023: Robbie Robinson, Clearwater CG Commander, participated in the FLSSAR funeral service for Chaplain Dwight Elam
- 14 Feb 2024: Color Guard supported the Caladesi DAR Annual Genealogy Seminar held in Dunedin
- 23 Feb 2024: Color Guard supported the Genesis Preparatory School, in conjunction with the Tampa Chapter, for their annual Washington's Birthday celebration
- 17 Mar 2024: Color Guard presented the Colors at the start of the Philadelphia Phillies spring training baseball game in Clearwater
- 16 Apr 2024: Honor Flight at St Petersburg Airport, in conjunction with Tampa Chapter
- 27 Apr 2024: Caladesi DAR 250 Plaque Dedication at the Dunedin Historical Museum

5. Yorktown Camp #5, St. Lucie River Chapter – Inactive  
Yorktown Camp #5 is currently inactive and resumption of activity is not expected anytime soon.

6. Marquis de Lafayette Camp #6, Gainesville Chapter – Inactive

7. Nathan Hale Camp #7, Pensacola Chapter – Chris Washler, Commander  
Camp reactivated on March 25, 2024.  
Current members: Randy Turner, Ronny Miller, David Hillsman, John Matthews, Christopher Washler.  
Pending members (finishing uniforms): Mark Springfield, Christopher Matrone.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Participants</u>
Battle of Pensacola 10 May 2024	TBD (Tentative: Washler, Turner, Matthews, Hillsman)

8. Nathaniel Green Camp #8, Saramana Chapter – Steve Fields, Commander  
No Report Submitted.

9. Thomas Paine Camp #9, Miami Chapter – David Mitchel, Commander  
No Report Submitted.

10. Daniel Morgan Camp #10, Central Florida Chapter – Philip Markoe, Commander  
Members: Philip Markoe (Commander); Scott Cook; Burt Fairchild; Richard Lester; Michael LaLiberte, Mihael Meyer, W. Maynard Pittendreigh; Robin Preston, Harry L. Rinker(Adjutant); Gary Smith, Andy Showen; Harry Wilklow III

<u>Event</u>	<u>Participants</u>
FLSSAR – BOM, 10/22/2023	Cook, Markoe, Preston, Rinker
FLSSAR – Calossaa 50 <sup>th</sup> Aniv. Gala, 11/4/2023	Rinker
Central Florida Chapter Posting, 11/6/2023	Cook, Markoe, Preston, Rinker
Veterans Day Parade, Orlando, 11/11/2023	Cook, Markoe, Preston, Showen, Rinker
Siege of Fort Morris, 11/18/2023	Rinker
St Augustine Colonial Night Watch, 12/2/2023	Markoe, Preston, Rinker
Wreaths Across America, 12/16/2023	Markoe, Preston, Rinker
Dwight Elam Memorial Service, 12/30/2023	Cook, Markoe, Preston, Rinker
Central Florida Chapter Posting, 1/10/2024	Cook, Markoe, Preston, Rinker
Scottish Highland Games Recruiting Booth, 1/13-14/2024	Cook, Markoe, Preston, Rinker
Scottish Highland Games Parade, 1/13/2024	Cook, Markoe, Preston, Rinker
FLSSA, CAR Banquet, 2/17/2024	Cook, Markoe, Rinker
FLSSAR, DAR Forum Banquet(s), 3/8/2024	Cook, Markoe, Preston, Rinker
Central Florida Chapter Posting, 3/13/2024	Cook, Lester, Makoe, Preston, Rinker
NSSAR, Last Naval Battle, 3/16/2024	Markoe, Preston, Rinker
NSSAR, Battle of Thomas Creek, 3/23/2024	Markoe, Preston, Rinker
NSSAR, Fredericka Naval Battle, 4/20/2024	Markoe, Preston, Rinker
Central Florida Chapter Posting, 5/8/2024	TBA

11. Thomas Jefferson Camp #11, Withlacoochee Chapter – Bob Thomas, Commander

October 29, 2023	Massing of Colors Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church Lacanto, Florida
November 11, 2043	Veterans Day Parade Inverness, Florida
December 9, 2023	Brooksville Parade, Brooksville Florida
December 16, 2023	Wreaths Across America , Bushnell National Cemetery Bushnell, Florida

12. General Thomas Sumter Camp #12, Lake Sumter Chapter – Inactive
13. Bernardo de Galvez Camp #13, Naples Chapter – Jim Meerpohl, Commander  
No Report Submitted.
14. Hillsborough River Camp #14, Tampa Chapter – Dick Young, Commander  
Since the Fall BOM, our Camp as participated in the following events:
- Nov 10 – Internment of the recently discovered remains of WWII KIA Pilot Lt Gilbert Meyers who was interred at the St Petersburg Memorial Gardens Cemetery
  - Nov 11 – James A Haley VA Hospital Veterans Day Parade
  - Nov 11 – Grand Hamption Community Clubhouse Veterans Day Celebration
  - Nov 11 – Tampa area Mission BBQ Veterans Day Ceremony and Veterans Recognition
  - Dec 4 - Safety Harbor Christmas Parade
  - Dec 15 – Desoto DAR Chapter Christmas Luncheon (Tampa)
  - Dec 16 – Wreaths Across America at American Legion Post #5 USS Tampa
  - Feb 23 - Genesis School (New Port Richey) George Washington Day
  - Feb 23 - Tampa Chapter George Washington Birthday Banquet (St Petersburg)
- The Camp plans to present the Colors at the Tampa DAR Chapter April 13 Women’s History meeting and to be a part of the Honor Guard at the Welcome Home Ceremony for the Honor Flight at the St Petersburg/Clearwater Airport on April 16.
- The following members participated in some or all of the above listed events: Matt Balencie, Joe Dato, Terry Doan, Dwight Hamborsky, Robbie Robinson, Bill Swain, Will Wagner-Hart and Dick Young (Camp Commander). We are often joined by the following members of the Clearwater Chapter: Walter Arnold, Rob Moore and Tim Shaner.
15. General Lighthorse Harry Lee Camp #15, Caloosa Chapter – Jeff Brunelle, Commander  
**October 2023 – April 2024**  
The Light Horse Harry Lee Color Guard has/will participate in the following events since the Fall BOM. All of these events were also 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.
- 1) **Fall BOM FLSSAR Oct 20, 2023**  
From Light Horse Harry Lee the following member participated.  
Jeffrey Brunelle – State Vice-Commander, Bob McGuire, Tom Thompson, Hamp Allen
  - 2) **Caloosa Chapter 50th Anniversary Gala Nov 4 2025**  
From Light Horse Harry Lee the following member participated.  
Mike Buff - Commander, Bob McGuire, Dwight Elam, Noel Reese, Ron Peck
  - 3) **Memorial of Compatriot Rev. Dwight Elam. Dec 30, 2023**  
The Caloosa Color Guard was joined by nine other Color Guard members from across Florida.  
From Light Horse Harry Lee the following member participated.  
Jeffrey Brunelle – State Vice-Commander, Mike Buff, Tom Thompson, Hamp Allen, Andrew Peterson, Noel Reese – dual with Charlotte
  - 4) **Washington’s Birthday Feb 22, 2024**  
The following members presented the Colors  
Jeffrey Brunelle – Commander, Mike Buff, Tom Thompson  
Jonathan Hunt – dual with Charlotte
  - 5) **Florida DAR Spring Conference. Mar 8, 2024**  
The following member participated.  
Jeffrey Brunelle – State Vice-Commander, Noel Reese – dual with Charlotte
  - 6) **Last Naval Battle – Merritt Island FL. Mar 16, 2024**  
The following member participated.  
Jeffrey Brunelle – State Vice-Commander, Noel Reese – dual with Charlotte
16. Gabriel Long Camp #16, St. Petersburg Chapter – Inactive
17. Lake City Chapter Outpost #17, Lake City Chapter – Charles Millican, Commander  
Charles Millican replaced William Pfeil as commander.  
The Chapter Color Guard has one active member and two other compatriots with period uniforms.  
25 March 2023 – Color Guard participate in grave marker for private Theopolus Weaks.

18. Lakeland Chapter Outpost #18, Lakeland Chapter – Inactive

19. USS Alliance Camp #19, Charlotte Chapter – Jonathan Hunt, Commander  
No Report Submitted.

20. William Dunaway Chapter Outpost #20, William Dunaway Chapter – Matt Mathews, Commander  
We currently have 3 members, Earl Mathews as commander, Dale Macumber, Thomas Rankin

- 16 December 2023, Compatriot Mathews participated in Wreaths Across American, handing each wreath to each branch as service while in colonial uniform.
- 1-2 March 2024 Compatriot Mathews participated in CG at National Leadership Meeting
- 3 March 2024 Compatriot Mathews participated in CG at Patriot Grave Marking of President Andrew Jackson at Andrew Jackson Heritage, Nashville, TN

The chapter is excited to be able to participate and to providing a small detachment to carry the colors at local and national events.

21. Panama City Chapter Outpost #21, Panama City Chapter – Brad Marble, Commander

Period: 21 Oct 2023 – 18 May 2024,

Color Guardsmen, Number and Names: 3 – Brad Marble, James F. Haynes and Benny Raffield.

- November 10, 2023, Friday, All three SAR guardsmen participated in the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Celebration, “Salute to Veterans” held at the Callaway Recreational Complex. The CG staffed a display of scrapbooks, brochures and presented a large wreath. Guardsmen posed with Callaway Mayor Pam Henderson for a photo that appeared in the “Callaway Connection” Monthly Newsletter mailed out with the City Water Bill. Documented: pg. 25, SAR Magazine, Vol. 118, No. 3, Winter 2023 – 2024.
- November 11, 2023, Saturday, Veterans Day, at the Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans’ Nursing Home of 120 beds housing over 80 Vietnam Veterans. A ceremony sponsored by the AmVets Post 2298 in Callaway, of which Marble is a member. A collaboration between two FLSSAR chapters, the three SAR Panama City Chapter Post 21 guardsmen and two William Dunaway Chapter Outpost 20 guardsmen (of Marianna) marched in with and presented the Colors at the ceremony. The participating SAR William Dunaway Officers were Thomas Morgan Rankin and Dale Warren Macumber. Marble and Macumber are veterans.
- December 23, 2023, Saturday, a belated Wreaths Across America Bay County (WAABC) because of storms of previous Saturday. All three guardsmen participated with the “USA 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SAR” flag, a wreath presentation, and decorated SAR Flag truck Documented: pg. 24, “The Florida Patriot” Vol. 52, No. 4, Issue Winter 2024.
- February 19, 2024, Monday, George Washington’s Birthday, No Color Guard Activity, two members, Haynes and Marble had Dermatology Facial Surgery Procedures the week prior.
- March 23, 2024, Saturday, “Battle of Thomas Creek”, Marble and Raffield will participate with Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade and will present a wreath from the FLSSAR Panama City Chapter.
- May 10, 2024, Friday, “Battle of Pensacola”, Marble and Raffield will muster with the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade. The Brigade will march down Palafox Street from Ft. George to the General Bernardo de Galvez and the Siege of Pensacola Monument. The Brigade will present Colors at the Ceremony of Pensacola’s Galvez Day Celebration. In the afternoon, Marble and Raffield will present a wreath from the FLSSAR Panama City Chapter at the Minuteman Monument at the Veterans Memorial Park.

22. Highlands Chapter Outpost #22, Highlands Chapter – James Dean, Commander  
No Report Submitted.

23. Samuel Nicholas Camp #23, Ft Lauderdale Chapter – Chuck Adams, Commander

The Fort Lauderdale Chapter formed its Color Guard on May 19, 2023. The initial subscribers to the Samuel Nicholas Camp #23 Color Guard are Compatriots: Chuck Adams, Thomas Carpenter Jr, Steve DePaul, Tim McLane, Mark Snider, and Kevin Shurte. Subsequently, Compatriot Paul Moore joined the camp.

<u>Events</u>	<u>Participants</u>
Fort Lauderdale Chapter Meeting, 10/14/2023	McLane, Shurte, & Snider
Fort Lauderdale Chapter Meeting, 11/11/2023	Adams, DePaul, McLane, Moore, Shurte, & Snider
Pompano Beach Wreaths Across America, 12/16/2023	Adams, DePaul, McLane, Moore, & Shurte
S.E. Regional Meeting, 1/20/2024	Adams, McLane, Moore, Shurte, & Snider
Fort Lauderdale Chapter Meeting, 2/17/2024	Adams, Carpenter Jr, DePaul, McLane, Moore, Snider
FL C.A.R Annual Conference, Melbourne, 2/18/2024	Shurte

DAR State Forum, Orlando, 3/8/2024	Shurte
Fort Lauderdale Chapter Meeting, 3/16/2024	Adams, Carpenter Jr, DePaul, McLane, Moore, Shurte, Snider
Battle of Thomas Creek, Jacksonville, 3/23/2024	Shurte
Honor Flights South Florida, Ft Lauderdale, 4/13/2024	Adams, DePaul, McLane, Moore, Shurte & Snider
Heritage Festival Patriots Day, Ft Bridgeton, 4/14/2024	Adams, DePaul, McLane & Moore
Fort Lauderdale Chapter Meeting, 4/20/2024	Carpenter Jr, DePaul, McLane, Moore, Shurte & Snider
FLSSAR BOM Spring Forum, Kissimmee, 3/17-18/2024	Planned: Adams, DePaul & Shurte

## Liaisons

### **C.A.R. and Junior Members Liaison**

(C.A.R. and SAR Junior Members Aide Liaison Committee)

Dick Young, Chairman

On February 16-17, the Florida Society Children of the American Revolution held its 2024 Annual Conference at the Hilton Rialto in Melbourne. FLSSAR President Steve Fields brought greetings from the SAR and presented the SAR Silver C.A.R. Medal of Appreciation to out-going State President Sydney Wagnstrom and Senior State President Dr. Holly Hamilton. He also presented the FSCAR with a \$1,000 check from the Florida SAR. Dr. Hamilton and Steve Fields presented eight dual C.A.R./SAR Junior members with the C.A.R. "Next Step" pin in recognition of them taking the "next step" by joining the SAR while still an active member of the C.A.R.

Attending the full meeting both as Senior Members of the FSCAR and representing the SAR were Scott Cook, Kevin Shurte and Dick Young. Joining them for the Color Guard presentation of the Colors at the Annual Banquet were Hans Hunt, Richard Sanders, Brian Jensen, Phil Markoe and State Color Guard Adjutant Harry Rinker, serving as Commander. Also joining the Color Guard and serving as the flag bearers were Junior SAR Members James Hamilton, Landon Alexander and Eli Maddox as well as C.A.R. member and prospective Junior SAR member Braeden Shurte.

Caleb Golden was elected to serve a one year term as State President and JoAnn Welker was elected to serve a two year term as Senior State President. Both of their terms will start after their officer installation at the National C.A.R. Conference in April. Caleb and JoAnn are expected to represent the Florida C.A.R. at our May BOM and Annual Meeting to present their State Project and ask for assistance in reaching their fund raising goal. Whether you buy pins or coins or just give money, please be generous in your support of our C.A.R.

You can also:

- Identify the closest local Society of the Florida C.A.R.
- If close enough, inquire about their meetings and plan to attend.
- Invite them to attend your Chapter meeting and make an C.A.R. presentation.
- Provide financial support to the local C.A.R. Society.
- Encourage the young men in the local society to join your chapter and become active Junior members.

#### Junior Members

Search your Chapter membership roster to identify your Junior members. For those not already members of the C.A.R., encourage them to join a local C.A.R. Society and become active, whether they live in your area or elsewhere. Encourage your local Junior members who are old enough to attend your Chapter meetings and become active, especially in your Color Guard.

### **DAR Liaison**

Dwight Elam, Chairman

No report submitted.

### **FLSSAR Ladies Auxiliary Liaison**

Chairman - none

## Historic Sites

### **Historic Sites & Celebrations**

Chris Washler, Chairman

The Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee responsibilities include not only supporting the several battlefield celebrations already having national recognition, expanding recognition of historic sites in Florida, but also actively engaging in helping chapters and the State Society create and promote activities celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program.

**Dates for the Established Battlefield Celebrations in 2024-2025 are:**

- Battle of Alligator Bridge - June 29, 2024 (Callahan, FL)
- Last Naval Battle – 15 March 2025 (VMC Merritt Island)
- Thomas Creek – 29 March 2025 (Seaton Creek Historic Park Preserve)
- Battle of Pensacola – 9 May 2025 (Pensacola)

If local chapters have other historic celebrations that they are hosting or establishing (including Liberty Tree dedications), they are encouraged to contact the Committee Chair at [cwashler@outlook.com](mailto:cwashler@outlook.com) so that our committee can help promote those events throughout the year.

**America 250 Celebrations**

The Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee is taking an active role in helping the state Society and local Chapters establish and promote programs that celebrate and promote the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our country.

The Florida Society has been extremely busy with America 250 events since the Fall BOM in October! Since the Fall meeting, we have had 22 Silver Medals Awarded, and seven new NSSAR Gold Medals approved. While we’ve made great progress, Florida is way behind states like Texas and California. The committee would like to challenge Florida chapters to find out just how easy it is for members to earn that Gold Medal and let’s be the National Leader by this time next year!

America’s 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is an amazing opportunity for the Sons of the American Revolution to live out our Mission Statement in our communities. Local chapters should take advantage of the opportunity to be front and center in leading the celebrations of our nation’s founding. During the Fall BOM, we had a one-hour session that gave an overview of the America 250 program and the various ways that SAR chapters can engage in this. We will be doing another session on Saturday morning for the Spring BOM/Annual Meeting. Additionally, there will be more discussion and guidance around how to earn the America 250 medals and streamers! If your chapter has any questions about the America 250 program, reach out to Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee Chairman, Chris Washler.

*Compatriots and DAR members earning Silver Medals in the past few months include:*

Tim McLane	Ft. Lauderdale Chapter
Robin Preston	Central Florida Chapter
William B. Swain	Tampa Chapter
Walter R. Young, Sr.	Tampa Chapter
Garald K. Robinson	Tampa Chapter
David Bryant	Tampa Chapter
Matthew G. Balencie	Tampa Chapter
William Wagner-Hart	Tampa Chapter
Anthony Meerpohl	Naples Chapter
John McCullough	Naples Chapter
Leonard Crame	Naples Chapter
Michael Garey	Naples Chapter
Philip Thieler	Naples Chapter
W. Douglas Gibbens	Naples Chapter
Timothy West	Naples Chapter
Robert Stiles	Naples Chapter
Mike Lyster	Naples Chapter
Brian Bennett	Naples Chapter
Audrey Smith	Naples Chapter
Acey Edgemon	Naples Chapter
Audrey Smith	Big Cypress DAR Regent
Cindy Addison	FLSDAR Regent

*Compatriots who earned the Gold America 250 Medal since the Fall BOM:*

Charles Adams	Fort Lauderdale Chapter
Philip Markoe	Central Florida Chapter
Harry Rinker	Central Florida Chapter
Robbie Robinson	Tampa Chapter
Dick Young	Tampa Chapter
Scott Cook	Central Florida Chapter
Chris Washler	Pensacola Chapter



*America 250 - Florida/Legislative Update:* Unfortunately, once again this year, it appears that the Florida Legislature failed to pass legislation authorizing the establishment of a Florida America 250 Commission. At this time, the committee is in contact with numerous individuals trying to determine how the Florida SAR can help to move this forward as soon as possible. All local chapters are encouraged to reach out to your local governments to begin establishing relationships to set up local level committees for your communities.

**MOTION** - The committee moved that the Florida Society create an ad-hoc committee for the purpose of establishing a monument in recognition of the first amphibious landing of the American Revolution.

This committee will be funded with an initial \$5,000 from the general fund. It shall be called the First Amphibious Assault Memorial Committee.

Charter:

The committee will establish an action plan and other recommendations, not limited to, but including, budgets, liaison relationship with partner organizations, design of monument site, promotional items, and advertising. The committee will report to each Board of Management meeting and to Excom on request. This committee will be established with the following members and they shall serve until the BOM after the dedication of the monument or on a 2/3 vote of the BOM. Additional members may be added to the committee by the incumbent President and confirmation of a majority of Excom. Those members shall serve under the same terms as the initial appointees. Steve DePaul, Jon Hunt, Dick Young, Steve Fields, Matt Matthews, Chris Washler.

**PASSED**

## **Battle of Pensacola Committee**

Chris Washler, Chairman

The Battle of Pensacola Commemoration for 2024 will once again be held in conjunction with Pensacola's Galvez Day Celebration on 8 May 2024 in downtown Pensacola. This year's celebration will start with the SAR Color Guard Parade of Colors from Fort George on Palafox Street down to the Galvez Monument to open the Galvez Day ceremonies. Again this year, the SAR will be presenting a musket salute to close out the ceremony. Due to the time constraints with the Galvez Day ceremonies, as well as in an effort to expand the SAR celebration, the Pensacola Chapter will also be conducting a wreath laying ceremony at 2:00 (Central Time) at the Minuteman Monument in Veterans Memorial Park in Pensacola. Chapters across Florida and other states in the region are encouraged to participate in both events. The 2024 registration flyer can be found in the BOM proceedings as well as on the Pensacola Chapter website (<http://pensacolasar.org/chapter-programs/battle-of-pensacola-commemoration/>).

## **Battle of Thomas Creek Committee**

David Ramseur, Chairman

The 247<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Revolutionary War Battle of Thomas Creek (The Southmost Battle of the American Revolutionist War) was held on March 23, 2024. This ceremony is normally held at the battle location of Seaton Creek Historic Park in Jacksonville. However, due to the forecast of heavy rain and wet conditions at the park the location was changed to a large airport hotel meeting room.

Even though we thought the turnout would be low due to bad weather, we again had over 100 in attendance. For this National Color Guard Event, we were honored to have our National Color Guard Commander Scott Collins, who organized a large color guard of SAR compatriots and C.A.R members in presenting the colors. Greetings were given by the City of Jacksonville, NSSAR from VPG James Wyrosdick, Florida State President, Steve Fields and Georgia State President Ed. Rigel, Jr.. Greeting were given by FSSDAR Vice Regent Kim Zeman, N.E. Regents Council, president Betty Reed and by FSSC.A.R. State President Sydney Wagnstrom. Compatriot Dr. Roger Smith gave us again an enthusiastic presentation on why General George Washington wanted to make N.E. Florida our 14<sup>th</sup> Colony.

We are looking forward to next years Thomas Creek Ceremony to be held at Seaton Creek Historic Preservation Park on Saturday 29 March 2025 as we march towards our Nations 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **Last Naval Battle**

(Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution Committee)

Chairman - none

(submitted by Brian Jensen)

Last Naval Battle was held on March 16, 2024. We had about 200 in attendance with about 70 in period attire. Attendees came from as far away as Boston for this year's event. We were able to have the Brevard Youth Chorus, a local Sea Scout unit.

This is a coordinated event with SAR, DAR, C.A.R., Brevard Veterans Center, Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America with the support of 25 Courageous Division Sea Cadets.

2025 Last Naval Battle Commemoration is scheduled for 15 March 2025.

## Youth Programs

### Americanism Youth Contests

David Hitchcock, Chairman

**All the participants have been Vetted and The Judging will be 11 AM Friday**

#### Brochure Contest Chapter winners

Fort Lauderdale, Chapter, Giana Manns.  
 Pensacola Chapter, Elan Alqudah, 8th Grade.  
 Lake Sumter Chapter, 1 winner no information

#### Poster Contest Chapter Winners

Tampa Chapter, Lan Nemeth, 4th Grade.  
 Pensacola Chapter, Caleb Harrison, 5th Grade.  
 Withlacoochee Chapter, Scarlett Taylor  
 Lake Sumter Chapter, 1 winner no information

We have to date April 30, 2024, 3 contestants for the brochure contest.

We have 4 contestants for the Poster contest.

We must make some changes this is just one possible change. We have some younger compatriots on the Educational Outreach. Hopefully we can support their efforts.

We are entering the 2025 school year I would love to see our current Poster and Brochure contest End March 1<sup>st</sup> have the judging done by April meeting and the winner presented their cash award at the BOM

**This information is from the FL Dept of Education**

District #	District	Total Enrollment
00	FLORIDA	2,872,320

In the state of Florida we have almost 900 thousand students grades K-5 and grades 6-9 the numbers very almost daily, my point is we are working hard just to get the 7.

My home chapter is actively contacting and emailing electronic flyers to home schoolers. We are just starting; therefore I cannot share the results.

This website gives this information for each county. The staff may change from year to year, but the position will remain.

[Home Education District Contacts \(fldoe.org\)](http://fldoe.org)

### Eagle Scout Scholarship Committee

Lawrence Capuder, Chairman

#### Arthur and Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest

Current Year

7 chapters with Eagle Scout applicants:

Palm Beach	1 <sup>st</sup>	Silver Eagle Medal + Cash Prize Awarded at Annual Meeting Youth Luncheon Did not place in National Society Contest
Miami	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cash prize
Tampa	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cash prize
St. Lucie	4 <sup>th</sup>	
Pensacola	5 <sup>th</sup>	

Applicants not judged in FLSSAR-Level judging by error made when Eagle Scout

Program Chair was pre-surgery and mistakenly did not turn applications to Judging Committee.	
Central Florida	Silver Good Citizen Award
Naples	Silver Good Citizen Award

**Coming Year**

Where supported by local chapters, increase number of applicants by ensuring that each Eagle Scout receives PDF of invitation to apply and application.

<https://www.sar.org/arthur-m-berdena-king-eagle-scout-contest/>



**Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award**

Current Year

Instructions developed for FLSSAR nominations. Notice recently sent to Chapter Presidents to identify and nominate qualified members. Expect all five awards allotted to FLSSAR will be awarded, compared to none in past five years; nominations to be received by June 15 and will be awarded at 2025 FLSSAR Annual Meeting.

Coming Year

Continue to identify all worthy candidates so that another five awardees can be honored.

<https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Robert-E-Burt-Boy-Scout-Volunteer-Award.pdf>



**SAR Eagle Scout Certificates and Letters of Commendation**

Current Year

Certificates and letters presented to all Eagle Scouts at Eagle Scout Awards Dinners at Central Florida Council BSA's (the week before the annual meeting) and Thunderbird District (West Lakeland). Several Scouts awarded their certificates and letters at individual Eagle Scout Courts of Honor in the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council.

**Coming Year**

Each SAR Chapter will determine their level of involvement:

- Certificates at Council Awards Dinner (if permitted),
- Individual Eagle Courts of Honor
- or
- None

Greater Tampa Bay Area Council program will continue and expand.



**Genealogy Merit Badge**

Current Year

Developed curriculum for workshop presentation at Scouts BSA's Greater Tampa Bay Area Council's Merit Badge Academy; 24 Scouts served and two SAR member merit badge counselors registered.

Coming Year

Present at Fall and Spring Merit Badge Academies in Tampa, and other Scouts BSA Councils, as supported by their local SAR chapters.

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/genealogy/>



## **SAR Foundation King Contest Donation Award**

Current Year

No activity

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Coming Year

Encourage donations.

<https://www.sarfoundation.org/education/council-of-youth-awards/aarthur-m-brenda-king-eagle-scout-award/>

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## **History Fairs**

Chairman - none

## **Knight Essay Contest**

(George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest Committee)

Hampton E. Allen, Jr., Chairman

The 2023-2024 Knight Essay Contest has been completed and we have selected our FLSSAR Entry which has been submitted to the NSSAR Chairman for entry into the National Knight Essay Contest. We had eight essays entered in our State Contest this year which was an improvement from last year where we only received five. Our First Place Essay was submitted through the Central Florida Chapter. The winner and their parents have been invited to attend our Annual Youth Awards Luncheon at the 2024 Spring BOM/Annual meeting in Kissimmee on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> where she will receive the State Knight Essay Winner Medal, certificate and her monetary award. She will also be asked to read their essay during the luncheon.

Knight essays were received from the following Chapters: Caloosa; Central Florida; Lakeland: Miami; South Shore; Tallahassee; Tampa; and Withlacoochee. The final results of the contest were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Ada Douglas, Lake Highland Preparatory School, Central Florida Chapter

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Jaxon Munroe, Home Schooled, South Shore Chapter

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Diandra Varbaro, Burlio Alonso, Tampa Chapter

During our Youth Awards Luncheon during the Spring BOM Ada will receive her medal, certificate and a check for \$1,000. Jaxon will receive a certificate and a check for \$500; and Diandra will receive a certificate and check for \$250.

We greatly appreciate all of the chapters that participated in the 2023-2024 Knight Essay Contest and would encourage your participation again next year with the 2024-2025 Contest. We would also like to encourage all of our Florida Chapters to get involved with our Youth Contest. It is a great way to get information out about our Society.

It is never too early to start soliciting Knight Essay entries for next year's contest. It is also important that you advertise your Chapter's deadline date for submitting essays to the Chapter as well as the FLSSAR deadline of 31 December for all chapter entries to be submitted to State. We had a number of inquiries come in late due to the confusion over the 15 February deadline posted on the National website which is the National deadline for receipt of all the State Essay entries.

For the Chapter's winning essay submission to State must be in five parts in the formats indicated as follows: 1. the Knight Essay Application (PDF) (which now must be signed and dated by the student); 2. the Bibliography (Word); 3. The Biography (Word) (Student's name must be on this document); 4. The Essay (Word); 5. The Title Page (Word). This will allow the judges to finalize their evaluations of the essay; make any minor corrections as necessary; and submit our State winner to the national NSSAR committee by their February 2025 deadline. FLSSAR prizes for the 2024 contest are \$1,000/\$500/\$250. The NSSAR prizes presented at the NSSAR Congress this year were 1<sup>st</sup> - \$6,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$3,000; 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$2,000; 4<sup>th</sup> - \$500; and 5<sup>th</sup> - \$500. See SAR.ORG for complete details.

The new school year for 2024-2025 will be upon us before we realize it. The September timeframe would be a great time to engage with your local school systems to get involved with the many Youth Award Programs that we offer through the SAR. While I understand from our experiences last year some of the local school systems were reluctant to get involved with our different programs. I would suggest that there are a couple of other avenues that we could explore to get the word out about our Youth Awards Programs and give the students an opportunity to participate. If your chapters are involved with your local DAR Chapters, CAR Societies, Scouting and JROTC Programs or other civic organizations, they offer us a great opportunity to introduce our Youth Awards Programs to both parents and students. I would also recommend looking into the local Home School Programs that are being offered within many of our communities.

## Rumbaugh Orations Contest

(Joseph P. Rumbaugh Orations Contest Committee)

Tom Bowen, Chairman

Contestant Jones Hogsed has won the contest. The Caloosa chapter had the only state contestant but our three judges thought he did very well. He is an impressive young man. He received a combined score of 90.666 from our three chapter officers Steve Hohman President, Mark Johnson 1st VP and David Hitchcock Past President.

## ROTC / JROTC Committee

Hans Hunt - Chairman

We had four chapters participate in the JROTC Enhanced Medal Competition. One was disqualified for not meeting all the requirements.

Here are the placement of the JROTC Enhanced Medal Winners for FLSSAR 2024:

1st - Cadet Sergeant Major Jeferson Herrera Capriel, Immokalee High School

Cadet Jeferson Herrera Capriel is from the Naples Chapter (POC CSM Gibbens). Packet has been forwarded to SAR National.

2nd - Ensign Genevieve Schimkat, MAST Academy Coast Guard JROTC

Cadet Genevieve Schimkat is from the Miami Chapter (POC LTC Rene Jewitt)

3rd - Cadet Sergeant Liberty Schlabach, Sarasota Military Academy

Cadet Liberty Schlabach is from the Saramana Chapter (POC John Fitzpatrick)

The following chapters supported the ROTC/JROTC programs with medals. Listed are the chapters that reported.

CHAPTER	JROTC MEDALS	ROTC MEDALS	Bronze Good Citiz.	CHAPTER POC	Enhanced JROTC Participation
Miami	37	6	3-Sea Cadets, 5-CAP, 1-Young Marines	Renee Jewett	Yes
Naples Chapter	8	0	2 - JROTC Instructors, 1 Sea Cadet	Doug Gibbens	Yes
Saramana	6	0	4	John Fitzpatrick	Yes
Brevard	14	1		Jerry Scarpate	No
Palm Beach	26	0		Ben Tidwell	No
Tallahassee	6	4	1	Don Wilham	No
St. Lucie River	8	0	0	Hall Riediger	No
Caloosa	16	0	0	Mike Buff	No
Charlotte	3	0	0		No
Emerald Coast	6	0	0	JD Peacock	No
St. Petersburg	5	0	4	Will Scott	No
Central FL	18	1	2 Sea Cadets	Phil Markoe	No
South Shore	10	0	0	Ron Windsor	No
Fort Lauderdale	27	0	2 Sea Cadets	Chuck Adams	No
Flagler	2	0	0	Randall Morris	No
Lakeland	14	1	0	John Snapp	No
Withlacoochee	6	0	0	Richard Bailey	No
Panama City	6	0	0	DeCody Marble	No
St. Augustine	6	0	Sea Cadets	Jerry Hanchett	No
Pensacola	9	0	0	Robert Canavello	No
Tampa	7	1	1	Terry Doan	No

# Community Outreach

## Habitat for Humanity Committee

Chairman - none

## Patriotic Activities Committee

Chairman – none

## Public Service and Heroism

Tim Milligan, Chairman

No report submitted.

## Publicity Committee

Jeff Sizemore, Chairman

The committee will be reviewing and updating the documents for chapters to submit for the Marlin Publicity Contest. If you would like to participate on this committee, please let me know.

There were four chapters that entered into the Marlin Publicity Contest upon which there will be four monetary prizes given at this upcoming BOM meeting.

The stated deadline each year for the Marlin Publicity Contest is March 1, 2025. Please send in the form digitally and if paper proofs are needed, it will be requested thereafter. The details and updated form of the Marlin Publicity contest can be found on the FLSSAR website.

## American History Teacher Award

(Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award Committee)

Kevin Shurte, Chairman

The committee received award applications from three chapters this year. Participating chapters include Daytona-Ormand, Lake-Sumter, and Miami. Chapters submitted contest entries for both the middle and high school levels. Adopting a 3-point scoring rubric, the committee evaluated individual contest entries based on the quality of their letter(s) of recommendation, curriculum vitae, and original essays. Scores were tabulated for both levels of competition and winners determined.

This year's winner at the middle school level is Mr. Joseph Vetter, sponsored by the Daytona-Ormand Chapter. Mr. Vetter is a 23-year veteran of education and is currently teaching eighth-grade American history in Daytona Beach. He holds a master's degree in American history from Pace University, serves as Washington D.C. Field Study Coordinator (2008-present), and performs Hamilton program reenactments for DAR, historical societies, and libraries. In support of America's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration, Mr. Vetter will be taking his Hamiltonian performance on the road, visiting eighteen east-coast cities in the summer of 2025.

The state award winner at the high school level is Mr. Matthew Bunch. A compatriot of the Miami Chapter, Bunch currently teaches 12<sup>th</sup>-grade government classes for Miami-Dade County Public Schools and has been teaching American history for 11 years. He was recognized as a James Madison Memorial Fellow in 2022, received the Hampton Dunn Digital Media Award for his efforts toward expanding knowledge of Florida history in 2023, and earned his Master of Arts degree in American history from Gettysburg College in 2024. Matthew Bunch was also one of 15 teachers selected to participate in the *Jeopardy! Teachers' Tournament 2019*, is a 2023 recipient of the NSSAR Youth Education Award, and was quoted in a January 2024 edition of *Time Magazine* for his reflections on the events that unfolded in Washington D.C. on January 6, 2021.

The Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award Committee will recognize both 2024 contest winners during the Youth Awards Luncheon at the Spring BOM on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in congratulating our winners for their excellence in education.

Looking toward next year, this committee plans to work closely with the FLSSAR Education Outreach Committee, reaching out to chapters to promote this program. We encourage all chapters to reach out to their local public and private schools, identify and recognize their most-worthy middle and high school social studies teachers, and help the FLSSAR expand participation in this important and meaningful program.

## Veterans Affairs Committee

Doug Gibbens, Chairman

### USS Stark Memorial Award

The USS Stark Memorial Award recognizes outstanding chapters and state societies for their support of veterans. This activity is taken from the proper submission of the USS Stark Scoring Sheet. This is the only form recognized. Submission in any other form is not accepted.

In 2023 only 13 chapters out of 32 chapters reported activity on the USS Stark Scoring Sheet. Despite follow-up telephone calls and emails, 19 chapters did not respond with a submission.

Chapters that submitted a USS Stark Scoring Sheet were as follows:

Brevard, Charlotte, Daytona-Ormond, Flagler, Fort Lauderdale, Lake Sumter, Miami, Naples, Pensacola, Saramana, St. Augustine, Wm Dunaway, Withlacoochee.

A USS Stark Tracking Sheet is available to download from the national website to enable chapters to track throughout the year, their Veterans activities. Chapters are encouraged to use this form to the fullest. It is hope that in the future, the tracking sheet and the scoring sheet will be combined into one form for the ease of submission.

FLSSAR Veterans Battalion Membership has increased by 20 to 722. The breakdown by region is as follows:

Northeast Region – 108  
Northwest Region – 57  
North Central Region – 97  
East Central Region – 82  
West Central Region – 135  
Southeast Region – 77  
Southwest Region – 166  
**Florida Battalion – 722**

## Trust Funds

### ETF Disbursements

(Endowment Trust Fund Disbursements Committee)

Rob Grove, Chairman

We are half way through the ETF disbursement year – Nov. 1 to Oct. 31. And only 2 requests totalling \$862 have been received. We have \$29,328 to distribute to our chapters this year. The youth contests are ending so most of your major expenses will be over. Last year only \$18,902 was disbursed and most of those requests came to us in October. Please don't wait until October to make your requests.

## Endowment Trust Fund

### Operating Budget Trust Fund

(Florida SAR Endowment and Operating Budget Trust Funds)

Lee Popham (185977), 1/1/2022 – 12/31/2024

(open), 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2025

Jim Stone (187805), 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2026

Need a replacement to fill the 2023-2025 term vacated by Tom Thompson.

(Jon Hunt?)

#### AGENDA:

Account Balances,	01 January 2023	31 December 2023	PERFORMANCE
3456 Florida SAR Endowment Trust Fund	\$546,548.55	\$584,761.60	10.86%
3341 Florida SAR Operating Budget Fund	\$102,258.37	\$106,959.53	10.10%

#### Actions for 2024:

- OBT: Transfer 5% = \$5,112.92 Budgeted Distributions from the Florida SAR OBT Fund account to the FLSSAR Operating Account during calendar 2023. \$Zero paid to date.
- OBT: 5% distribution rate for 2024 = \$106,959.53 x 5% = \$5,347.98.
  - Quarterly distributions of \$1,337.00 by 31 March, 30 June, 30 Sept. & 31 Dec.
  - From this amount, OBT will purchase Florida Society Medals upon their approval by NSSAR. Approved by FLSSAR at Spring 2020 BOM.
- ETF: Regions Bank mails all 2023 Disbursements from the Florida SAR ETF Fund account upon approval by Distribution Committee.
  - Disbursements during the 2023 calendar year-to-date total = \$19,080.91.
- ETF: The 2024 Trustee Designations were set at an amount equal to 5% of the 01 January 2024 balance in the Florida SAR Endowment Trust Fund.
  - 5% x \$584,761.60 = \$29,238.08, to be available from the #3456 Florida SAR Endowment Trust Fund for appropriate 2024 reimbursements and distributions.
- ETF & OTB: Portfolio Investment Allocation Guidelines target = 60%-Equity and 40%-Fixed.
  - Investment Policy Statements were updated during 2021.
- Regions to suggest appropriate portfolio Benchmarks for Approval by Trustees.

See Appendix D for Trust Fund summary statements.

**MOTION** - Scott Breckenridge moved to nominate Jon Hunt for the vacant Trust Fund Trustee position for the 1/1/2023-12/31/2025 term. **SECOND** Lee Popham. **PASSED**.



# New Business

Steve Hohman

*Florida has led the nation in new George Washington Endowment Fellows and in turn, will win the Meek Award.*

*A motion is made to redistribute the Meek award payout back to the participating chapters by dividing the number of new Fellows into the total award amount, and then assigning that value to each Fellow, each participating chapter recruited.*

**MOTION** - Steve Hohman moved to redistribute the Meek award payout back to the participating chapters by dividing the number of new Fellows into the total award amount, and then assigning that value to each Fellow, each participating chapter recruited.

**SECOND** David Hitchcock. **PASSED.**

BOM meeting recessed  
Annual Meeting convened.

## Proposed By-Laws Changes

**MOTION** - Harry Rinker moved to forgoe reading of the proposed changes. **SECOND** Steve Hohman. **PASSED.**

The By-Laws Committee presented the following proposed by-laws changes, as published in the Spring 2024 Patriot Magazine and the Proceedings Book (Appendix C).

### 1. Appointment to State Positions of At-Large Members **Article III Officers, Section 3 Additional Offices**

Summary of changes: Correct a typographical error--"of" to "or", and include a statement to clarify that a member who could otherwise be a member of a state chapter but does not elect to do so, shall not be appointed to a state-level office or committee.

**MOTION** – The By-Laws Committee moved that the proposed change be adopted as presented. **FAILED.**

### 2. Annual Elections **Article III Officers, Section 2 Nomination and Election of Officers, C. Election**

Summary of change: Clarify that voting for elected offices shall be allowed only by those members physically in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

**MOTION** – The By-Laws Committee moved that the proposed change be adopted as presented. **PASSED.**

### 3. Qualifications of Nominees **Article III Officers, Section 2 Nomination and Election of Officers, B. Qualifications of Nominees:**

**Summary of changes: Adds numbered paragraphs to the section. Clarifies that nominations for officers in lieu of slated positions shall only be made from the floor, that the nominated person does not have to be present, and that the nominating member has the responsibility to provide a signed document from the nominated person that he agrees to serve if elected. Adds a requirement that the nominating committee shall nominate only a single name for each elected office; no multiple nominations are allowed.**

**MOTION** – The By-Laws Committee moved that the proposed change be adopted as presented. **PASSED.**

Randy Moody moved to remove the words "in person" from the suggested wording, B.2. **SECOND.** Will Wagner-Hart. **PASSED.**

The motion, as amended, **PASSED.**

### 4. Schedule of BOM and Annual Meetings **Article III Officers, Section 6 Holding Multiple Offices**

Summary of change: Clarifies that the newly elected President cannot be part of any FLSSAR committee other than the Executive Committee, as prescribed by the By-Laws.

**MOTION** – The By-Laws Committee moved that the proposed change be adopted as presented. **PASSED.**

### 5. Number of Members Needed for New Chapter **Article VII Chapters, 3. FORMATION**

Summary of change: Increase the minimum number of members for a new chapter to 15.

**MOTION** – The By-Laws Committee moved that the proposed change be adopted as presented. **PASSED.**

### 6. Correct a Typographical Error

#### **Articles VIII Miscellaneous**

Current wording: ARTICLES VIII

Recommended change: Delete "s" from Articles, to ARTICLE VIII.

**MOTION** – The By-Laws Committee moved that the proposed change be adopted as presented. **PASSED.**

7. Notification to BOM for Amendments

**ARTICLE VIII Miscellaneous, Section 3 Amendments, (2)**

**WITHDRAWN**

**Election of Officers**

The Nominating Committee presented its slate of officers for 2024-2025, as published in the Proceedings Book. There were no other nominations from the floor.

The following list of unopposed candidates were elected by acclamation:

President:	James Yost Gaskins
-Senior Vice President:	Christopher Edwin Washler
-Treasurer:	Walter Boyer Arnold
-Secretary:	M. Scott Breckenridge
-Recording Secretary:	Willard Douglas Gibbens
-Registrar:	Raymond Clyde Lantz
Sergeant at Arms:	Phil Markoe
-Chaplain:	Dr. W. Maynard Pittendreigh
-Chancellor:	Charles Klug
-Genealogist:	Harry Rinker
-Historian:	Joel Etherton
-Web Master:	Robbie Robinson
-Member at Large:	Hamp Allen
-Editor FL Patriot:	Jeff Sizemore
-NE RVP:	Charles Robert Hayes
-NW RVP:	Don Wilham
-NC RVP:	Stephen Hohman
-EC RVP:	Harry Rinker
-WC RVP:	Alfred Parks Honeywell
-SW RVP:	Jonathan Hunt
-SE RVP:	Charles Austin Adams, II

Brian Jensen, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented its nominees for National Trustee and Alternate Trustee for 2024-2025. There were no other nominations from the floor.

The following candidates were approved as our nominees to the 2024 Congress:

National Trustee – Steven R. Fields

Alternate Trustee – James Y. Gaskins

The Secretary was directed to report the results to National.

**Annual meeting adjourned.**

**BOM Meeting reconvened.**

President-Elect James Gaskins presented his nominees for the Nominating Committee for 2024-2025.

The following candidates were elected as the Nominating Committee for 2024-2025:

David Bussone  
Phil Markoe  
Jerry Hanchett  
Robbie Robinson  
Graham Fountain

## Appendix A – Financial Review Committee Proposed Updated Charter

<b>Name:</b>	Financial Review
Status	Statutory
Purpose:	To conduct, or cause to be conducted, an annual internal peer review of the financial books and records of the FLSSAR for the preceding fiscal year.
Authority:	Florida Society By-Laws, Article V, Section 2
Members:	The President shall appoint a Financial Review Committee of not less than three nor more than five Members of the FLSSAR.
Functions:	<p>The Financial Review Committee is responsible for conducting an annual internal review of the books and financial records of our Society. The Treasurer provides the committee with sufficient and appropriate materials to review the activities, transactions, and financial assets of the FLSSAR. After reviewing the data, materials and records provided, the Committee determines if those records and processes accurately reflect the financial position of the FLSSAR</p> <p>The report of such review shall be presented to the Board of Management for approval prior to the Annual Meeting of the FLSSAR.</p>

## Appendix B – Education Outreach Committee Proposed Updated Charter

<b>Name:</b>	Educational Education Outreach
Status	Ad-Hoc Standing
Purpose:	To administer the Florida Society portion of NSSAR Educational Education Outreach program Program of the Education Committee.
Authority:	Florida Society By-Laws, Article V, Section 6. c
Members:	A Chairman and additional Members, normally four, as the President, Florida Society may appoint and whose terms shall be concurrent with that of the appointing officer.
Functions:	Co-ordinate with the Educational Education Outreach Committee of NSSAR [EOC] and others as directed to function as the "state-level society Education Outreach Coordinator" requested by the EOC National Education Committee.  Work to establish an Education Outreach team leader at each chapter whose duties include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementing Youth Protection training, currently offered by the Boy Scouts of America on the NSSAR website, for compatriots involved in Educational Education Outreach programs.</li><li>• Preparing Presenter Data Sheets for each presentation as proscribed by national and sending a copy to this Committee.</li><li>• Reporting quarterly to this Committee the name and number of presentations done made by team members and the status of YPT program compliance.</li></ul> <del>Report as directed to EOC of the state activity of presentations.</del>  Report state participation in Education Outreach Programs to the National Education Committee.  Advocate for SAR educational, patriotic, and historical goals.  Promote and support chapter participation in NSSAR Education Outreach programs.  Monitor and advise any chapter level imitative initiative regarding advocating for educational outreach. Review and approve lesson plans and applications for the Youth Education Award Medal. Forward approved applications for the Youth Education Award Medal to the state Medals and Awards Committee. Take other action as authorized by the Board of Management

# Appendix C – Proposed By-Laws Changes

The following proposed by-laws changes are currently under consideration. Recommended changes are underlined.

## 1. Appointment to State Positions of At-Large Members **Article III Officers, Section 3 Additional Offices**

Current Wording: "The FLSSAR at any Annual Meeting, or at the BOM at any regular of (sic) special meeting, may create additional offices as in their judgment may be required, and may designate the person or persons to occupy the same until the next Annual Meeting of the FLSSAR."

Recommended Wording: " The FLSSAR at any Annual Meeting, or at the BOM at any regular or special meeting, may create additional offices as in their judgment may be required, and may designate the person or persons to occupy the same until the next Annual Meeting of the FLSSAR. No person who is a member-at-large only (i.e. not a member of a FLSSAR chapter) shall be appointed to any FLSSAR office or committee."

Summary of changes: Correct a typographical error--"of" to "or", and include a statement to clarify that a member who could otherwise be a member of a state chapter but does not elect to do so, shall not be appointed to a state-level office or committee.

## 2. Annual Elections **Article III Officers, Section 2 Nomination and Election of Officers, C. Election**

Current Wording: "Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting. Election for an office for which only one person has been nominated shall be by voice vote upon a motion to elect by acclamation.

**Recommended Wording:** "Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting by those physically in attendance. Election for an office for which only one person has been nominated shall be by voice vote upon a motion to elect by acclamation."

Summary of change: Clarify that voting for elected offices shall be allowed only by those members physically in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

## 3. Qualifications of Nominees **Article III Officers, Section 2 Nomination and Election of Officers, B. Qualifications of Nominees:**

**Current Wording, Article III, Section 2, paragraph B:** "The Nominating Committee, or FLSSAR member who makes a nomination for an elective office of the FLSSAR, shall have ascertained before making a nomination that the person to be nominated is a member in god standing and has stated in writing that he is willing to serve in that office. Furthermore, each nominee, for the office of President and Senior Vice President, shall indicate their willingness and advise the Nominating Committee of any hindrance that might prevent them from attending all BOM meetings during the term of their elected office and to physically reside in the State of Florida for no less than six months during each year the office is held. In order to be eligible for the office of President or Senior Vice President, the compatriot must have completed at least one term or year in an elective office of the FLSSAR or as Florida's National Trustee prior to assuming the office of President or Senior Vice President."

### **Suggested Wording:**

"B. Qualifications of Nominees

(1) The Nominating Committee, or FLSSAR member who makes a nomination for an elective office of the FLSSAR, shall have ascertained before making a nomination that the person to be nominated is a member in good standing and has stated in writing that he is willing to serve in that office. Furthermore, each nominee, for the office of President and Senior Vice President, shall indicate their willingness and advise the Nominating Committee of any hindrance that might prevent them from attending all BOM meetings during the term of their elected office and to physically reside in the State of Florida for no less than six months during each year the office is held. In order to be eligible for the office of President or Senior Vice President, the compatriot must have completed at least one term or year in an elective office of the FLSSAR or as Florida's Na-tional Trustee prior to assuming the office of President or Senior Vice President.

(2) Nominations not part of the committee slate must be made in person from the floor at the appropriate point in the meeting. The proposed candidate need not be present. If a proposed candidate is not in attendance, the nominator must present a signed statement from the nominee acknowledging that he agrees to serve if elected.

(3) The nominating committee shall put forward no more than one name per elected office.

Summary of changes: Adds numbered paragraphs to the section. Clarifies that nominations for officers in lieu of slated positions shall only be made from the floor, that the nominated person does not have to be present, and that the nominating member has the responsibility to provide a signed document from the nominated person that he agrees to serve if elected. Adds a requirement that the nominating committee shall nominate only a single name for each elected office; no multiple nominations are allowed.

4. Schedule of BOM and Annual Meetings **Article III Officers, Section 6 Holding Multiple Offices**

Current Wording: "Any member except the President may be elected to, and concurrently hold, more than one, but not more than two, of the offices listed in Section 1 of this ARTICLE."

Suggested Wording: " Any member except the President may be elected to, and concurrently hold, more than one, but not more than two, of the offices listed in Section 1 of this ARTICLE. The currently elected President will not hold or chair any FLSSAR committee other than the Executive Committee."

Summary of change: Clarifies that the newly elected President cannot be part of any FLSSAR committee other than the Executive Committee, as prescribed by the By-Laws.

5. Number of Members Needed for New Chapter **Article VII Chapters, 3. FORMATION**

Current Wording to Article VII, paragraph 3. FORMATION: A minimum of ten members resident in the territory encompassed thereby shall be necessary for the formation and issuance of a charter to a local Chapter. An application for the formation of a new Chapter shall be submitted to the BOM; if the application is approved the BOM shall direct the preparation of a charter and shall arrange for it to be presented with a proper ceremony.

Recommended Wording: "A minimum of 15 members resident in the territory encompassed thereby shall be necessary for the formation and issuance of a charter to a local Chapter, with at least 10 being primary members of the new chapter and located in the area where the new chapter intends to hold meetings. An application for the formation of a new Chapter shall be submitted to the New Chapter Development Committee for additional coordination before being forwarded to the BOM; if the application is approved the BOM shall direct the preparation of a charter and shall arrange for it to be presented with a proper ceremony.

Discussion: At May 2022 BOM, the topic of number of members required for a new chapter was raised. A vote was taken to change the By-Laws to state that the number of members must be a minimum of 15.

This change was worked in cooperation with New Chapter Development Committee. The members of this committee proposed additional criteria before a new chapter can be included into the FLSSAR. Recommend these additional criteria be added to their New Chapter Development Committee Charter.

6. Correct a Typographical Error

**Articles VIII Miscellaneous**

Current wording: ARTICLES VIII

Recommended change: Delete "s" from Articles, to ARTICLE VIII.

7. Notification to BOM for Amendments

**ARTICLE VIII Miscellaneous, Section 3 Amendments, (2)**

Current Wording: "(2) The text of any proposed amendment(s) must be provided to the members of the Board of Management (BOM) at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual or Special Meeting. The proposed amendment(s) will then be voted on by ballot at the Annual Meeting."

Recommended Change: (2) The text of any proposed amendment(s) must be provided to the members of the Board of Management (BOM) at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual or Special Meeting. This notification may be accomplished by direct mail, email, publication in the FLSSAR Newsletter, or any combination of these methods of communication to meet the thirty day requirement to ensure all members are notified in ample time. The proposed amendment(s) will then be voted on by ballot at the Annual Meeting."

# Appendix D – OBT & ETF Trust Fund Summary Statements

## FLORIDA SAR ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND Summary Statement of Results and Net Assets

2023

Income:	Beginning Balance	Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative	October	November	December	Cumulative 2023	%
		March	June	September					
Net Asset Balance, Beginning of Period	\$ 546,548.55	\$ 546,548.55	\$ 546,548.55	\$ 546,548.55	\$ 558,965.05	\$ 546,381.69	\$ 564,248.93	\$ 546,548.55	
Income Receipts		\$ 2,635.95	\$ 5,625.46	\$ 8,599.18	\$ 904.89	\$ 762.42	\$ 8,815.02	\$ 19,081.51	3.62%
Capital Gains Distributions		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Realized Gains (Losses)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Donations		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Transfers - Savings and Investments; Comptrolot Loans		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Income:		\$ 2,685.95	\$ 5,625.46	\$ 8,599.18	\$ 904.89	\$ 762.42	\$ 8,815.02	\$ 19,081.51	3.62%
Disbursements:									
Asset Management Fees		\$ 1,882.88	\$ 3,769.88	\$ 5,756.13	\$ 628.84	\$ 614.68	\$ 634.78	\$ 7,834.43	-1.45%
Distributions		\$ -	\$ 1,241.77	\$ 3,564.04	\$ -	\$ 14,343.37	\$ 1,173.50	\$ 19,080.91	
Total Disbursements		\$ 1,882.88	\$ 5,031.65	\$ 9,320.17	\$ 628.84	\$ 14,958.05	\$ 1,808.28	\$ 26,715.34	
Transactions Balance, End of Month	\$ 546,548.55	\$ 547,351.62	\$ 547,142.36	\$ 545,827.56	\$ 559,241.10	\$ 532,186.06	\$ 571,255.67	\$ 538,914.72	
Unrealized Gains (Losses)		\$ 17,835.97	\$ 33,272.85	\$ 13,137.49	\$ (12,859.41)	\$ 32,062.87	\$ 13,505.93	\$ 45,846.88	8.69%
Net Assets, End of Period	\$ 546,548.55	\$ 565,187.59	\$ 580,415.21	\$ 558,965.05	\$ 546,381.69	\$ 564,248.93	\$ 584,761.60	\$ 584,761.60	10.86%

## FLORIDA SAR OPERATING BUDGET TRUST FUND - OBT Summary Statement of Results and Net Assets

2023

Income:	Beginning Balance	Cumulative	Cumulative	Cumulative	October	November	December	Cumulative 2023	%
		March	June	September					
Net Asset Balance, Beginning of Period	\$ 102,258.37	\$ 102,258.37	\$ 102,258.37	\$ 102,258.37	\$ 104,163.94	\$ 96,870.72	\$ 102,511.10	\$ 102,258.37	
Income Receipts		\$ 527.91	\$ 1,279.53	\$ 1,829.98	\$ 280.08	\$ 110.20	\$ 1,355.88	\$ 3,576.14	3.68%
Capital Gains Distributions		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Realized Gains (Losses)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Donations		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Transfers - Savings and Investments; Comptrolot Loans		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Income:		\$ 527.91	\$ 1,279.53	\$ 1,829.98	\$ 280.08	\$ 110.20	\$ 1,355.88	\$ 3,576.14	3.68%
Disbursements:									
Asset Management Fees		\$ 352.38	\$ 706.94	\$ 1,072.20	\$ 117.18	\$ 108.98	\$ 115.33	\$ 1,413.69	-1.46%
Distributions		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,112.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,112.92	
Total Disbursements		\$ 352.38	\$ 706.94	\$ 1,072.20	\$ 5,230.10	\$ 108.98	\$ 115.33	\$ 6,526.61	
Transactions Balance, End of Month	\$ 102,258.37	\$ 102,433.90	\$ 102,830.98	\$ 103,016.15	\$ 99,213.92	\$ 96,871.94	\$ 103,751.65	\$ 99,307.90	
Unrealized Gains (Losses)		\$ 2,765.83	\$ 4,602.15	\$ 1,147.79	\$ (2,343.20)	\$ 5,639.16	\$ 3,207.88	\$ 7,651.63	7.88%
Net Assets, End of Period	\$ 102,258.37	\$ 105,199.73	\$ 107,433.13	\$ 104,163.94	\$ 96,870.72	\$ 102,511.10	\$ 106,959.53	\$ 106,959.53	10.10%

## Appendix E – Cash Receipts & Disbursements

**Florida Society Budget Comparison**  
 For the Year Ending December 31, 2023  
 Through December 31, 2023  
 With Proposed Budget for 2024

	2023			Operating Budget
	Actual		Operating	
	Meeks	Congress		
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Annual Dues				100,000
Prepaid Dues from December			63,569	
2024 Dues Collections			103,952	
2023 Dues Collections			37,160	
Patriot Magazine Subscription				
Prepaid in December			1,524	
2023 Collections			24	
OBTF distribution			5,113	5,000
Registrar Receipts			14,403	12,000
Reinstatements			1,340	1,500
Other Income			-	
BOM Receipts				
Registration			18,218	15,000
Room			580	
Hospitality Room			-	
Donations				
ETF			20	
Meeks Fund	-		-	
Other	25		-	
National Awards			-	
LNB Medal Sales			-	
Patriot Mag Ad Income			-	
Discontinued Chapter Cash			56	
2023 Congress Income		-	-	
Medal Sales		2,488	-	
Musket Raffle		1,680	-	
Sculpture Raffle		3,775	-	
250th Pins Sales		-	-	
LNB Medal Sales		845	-	
Cash Donations		3,820	-	
PayPal Fees		(32)	-	
Volunteer Shirts		620	-	
Bags		350	-	
National SAR Reimbursement		4,809	-	
Reallocate ETF Donation		2,000	-	
Reallocate Meeks Fund Donation		2,000	-	
Reverse EFT & Meeks Allocations	4,000	(4,000)		
Reallocate Secretary 2022 budget		1,000		
Reallocate Presidents Exp 2022		564		
Reallocate FY 2022 Budget Excess		3,500		
Cash Transfer into Checking			62,463	
CD Interest Income	746		133	
Carry Over From Prior Year			2,667	2,667
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,771</b>	<b>23,419</b>	<b>311,223</b>	<b>136,167</b>



**Florida Society Budget Comparison**  
**For the Year Ending December 31, 2023**  
 Through December 31, 2023  
 With Proposed Budget for 2024

	2023			Operating Budget
	Actual		Operating	
	Meeks	Congress		
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
NSSAR Dues			63,510	62,000
Dues Refunds			-	-
Reinstatement Dues			385	1,200
Registrar Stipend			4,800	4,800
Secretary Stipend			4,800	4,800
Exec Admin Stipend			4,800	4,800
Presidents Expenses			4,142	5,000
Sr VP Expenses - 2022			1,667	1,667
Sr VP Expenses - 2023			2,500	2,500
Secretary Expenses			995	1,000
Treasurer Expenses			283	100
Registrar Expenses			1,039	600
BOM Expenses			-	-
Hotel (Meals)			14,301	13,700
Rooms			6,176	-
BOM Refunds			-	-
Hospitality Room			221	500
Printing, A/V & Other			1,091	500
PG Room			-	300
Hotel Deposits			500	-
Americanism/Chapter Challenge			-	100
C.A.R. Committee			-	100
Educational Outreach Committee			-	500
Florida Veterans Foundation			1,000	1,000
Good Citizenship Comm			-	-
Historical Sites Committee			-	200
History Fair Comm			-	500
Internet/Computer Expense			470	500
Medals & Awards Comm			2,678	1,500
New Chapter Dev Comm			-	600
Newsletters & Period Comm			500	500
Other Committee Cost			225	200
Patriot Medal Comm			230	500
Patriotic Education			-	-
Publicity Comm			500	500
Technology Comm			-	-
Veterans Battalion			60	100
Website Taskforce			-	-
American His Teacher Comm			1,200	1,200
Americanism Brochure Contest			417	350
Americanism Poster Contest			515	350
Eagle Scout Contest			1,750	2,000
JROTC Contest			2,310	2,000
Knight Essay Contest			1,750	2,000
Rumbaugh Oration Contest			1,500	3,000
FSCAR Donation			1,000	1,000
Highland Games Donation (DAI)			-	-
NSSAR Library			300	300
SAR Museum & Learning Center			1,000	1,000
Battle of Pensacola			-	500
Battle of Thomas Creek			500	500
Last Naval Battle			500	500
Bank Charges/Fees			27	100
D&O/Liability Insurance			-	2,500
Miscellaneous Costs			275	300
Bank Error			0	-
Other Postage/Delivery			29	-
Patriot Mag Cost			4,905	4,500
Storage Fees			3,196	3,000
2023 Congress Expenses			-	-
Musket Raffle			-	-
Medals			-	-
Other		53,945	-	-
250th Bench		2,319	-	-
2023 Congress Fund Transfers			-	-
Reallocate from ETF Donation			-	2,000
Reallocate from Meeks Fund			-	2,000
Reallocate from Sec 2022 Budget			1,000	1,000
Allocate to Meeks Fund			-	-
2024 ETF Donation			20	-
Open New Checking Account			10,000	-
Purchase new CDs			-	75,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>228,065</b>	<b>140,367</b>
<b>Net Cash Surplus</b>	<b>4,771</b>	<b>(32,845)</b>	<b>83,158</b>	<b>(4,200)</b>

**Florida Society Budget Comparison**  
 For the Year Ending December 31, 2024  
 Through April 30

	2024		
	Actual		Operating Budget
	Meeks	Operating	
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Annual Dues			130,000
Prepaid Dues from December		102,096	
2024 Dues Collections		24,287	
2025 Dues Collections		-	
Patriot Magazine Subscription		-	
Prepaid in December		1,296	1,500
2024 Collection		12	
OBTF distribution		-	5,000
Registrar Receipts		4,030	12,500
Reinstatements		1,250	1,500
Other Income		-	
BOM Receipts		-	
Registration		-	16,000
Room		-	
Hospitality Room		-	
Donations		-	
ETF		-	
Meeks Fund	2,050	-	
Other		-	
National Awards		-	
LNB Medal Sales		-	
Patriot Mag Ad Income		-	
Discontinued Chapter Cash		-	
Cash Transfer into Checking		-	
CD Interest Income		-	
Carry Over From Prior Year		-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>132,971</b>	<b>166,500</b>

**Florida Society Budget Comparison**  
For the Year Ending December 31, 2024  
Through April 30

	2024		Operating Budget
	Actual		
	Weeks	Operating	
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
NSSAR Dues		88,605	92,500
Dues Refunds		110	
Reinstatement Dues		900	1,000
Registrar Stipend		2,400	4,800
Secretary Stipend		2,400	4,800
Exec Admin Stipend		1,800	4,800
Presidents Expenses		-	5,000
Sr VP Expenses		-	2,500
Secretary Expenses		-	1,000
Treasurer Expenses		44	100
Registrar Expenses		291	1,000
BOM Expenses		-	
Hotel (Meals)		-	15,000
Rooms		-	
BOM Refunds		-	
Hospitality Room		-	500
Printing, AV & Other		-	750
PG Room		-	300
Hotel Deposits		-	
Americanism/Chapter Challenge		-	100
C.A.R. Committee		64	100
Educational Outreach Committee		-	500
Florida Veterans Foundation		1,000	1,000
Good Citizenship Comm		-	
Historical Sites Committee		-	200
History Fair Comm		-	500
Internet/Computer Expense		-	500
Medals & Awards Comm		670	1,500
New Chapter Dev Comm		-	750
Newsletters & Period Comm		-	500
Other Committee Cost		-	250
Patriot Medal Comm		301	300
Patriotic Education		-	
Publicity Comm		-	500
Technology Comm		-	
Veterans Battalion		-	100
Website Taskforce		-	
American His Teacher Comm		-	1,200
Americanism Brochure Contest		-	350
Americanism Poster Contest		-	350
Eagle Scout Contest		750	2,000
JROTC Contest		250	2,000
Knight Essay Contest		750	2,000
Rumbaugh Oration Contest		-	4,000
FSCAR Donation		1,000	1,000
Highland Games Donation (DAR)		-	
NSSAR Library		-	300
SAR Museum & Learning Center		-	1,000
Battle of Pensacola		-	500
Battle of Thomas Creek		554	600
Last Naval Battle		-	600
Bank Charges/Fees		-	100
D&O/Liability Insurance		-	2,500
Miscellaneous Costs		-	250
Bank Error		-	
Other Postage/Delivery		-	100
Patriot Mag Cost		2,619	5,000
Storage Fees		1,188	3,500
2024 ETF Donation		2,125	2,000
2024 Weeks Fund Donation		2,000	2,000
Open New Checking Account		-	-
Purchase new CDs		25,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>- 134,821</b>	<b>172,200</b>
<b>Net Cash Surplus</b>		<b>2,050 (1,850)</b>	<b>(5,700)</b>

## Schedule

Friday, 5/17/2024	Saturday, 5/18/2024
<p><b>9:00-9:30 - Education Outreach Committee</b> (Kevin Shurte)</p> <p><b>10:00-11:00 - Registrar/Genealogist Training Session</b> (Rinker) Understanding/Using the NSSAR Genealogy Committee Policies</p> <p><b>11:00-12:00 - Genealogy Workshop</b> (Harry Rinker) Help in Documenting New &amp; Pended Applications</p> <p><b>12:00-2:00 - Ladies Auxiliary Lunch &amp; Meeting</b> (The Cove)</p> <p><b>1:00-2:00 - Membership Promotion Retention</b> (Mathews)</p> <p><b>2:00-2:30 - Microsoft Office 365</b> (Steve Hohman) Available for use by non-profit organizations</p> <p><b>2:30-3:30 - Eagle Scout Program</b> (Lawrence Capuder) Overview of SAR Eagle Program + Set FLSSAR and Chapters Programs strategy for 2024 – 2025</p> <p><b>3:30-4:30 - Color Guard</b> (Scott Breckenridge) Medal applications / open forum</p> <p><b>5:00-6:00 - Reception</b> <b>6:00-8:00 - Awards Banquet</b> (Cypress 1,2,3)</p>	<p><b>9:00-10:00 - Veterans Committee</b> (Doug Gibbens)</p> <p><b>10:00-11:00 - America 250</b> (Chris Washler)</p> <p><b>1:00-4:30 - BOM/Annual Meetings</b> (Steve Fields)</p> <p><b>5:00-6:00 - Reception</b> <b>6:00-8:00 - Installation Banquet</b> (Cypress 1,2,3)</p>
All meetings are in Cypress 1	
Registration - Friday, 9:00-4:00 - Saturday, 9:00-1:00	
Hospitality Room - 9:30am-11:00am and after Banquet	

May 17-18, 2024						
	FRIDAY			SATURDAY		
	Mtg Room	Banquet Room	Center Hallway	Mtg Room	Banquet Room	
8:00-8:30			CONFERENCE REGISTRATION			
8:30-9:00						
9:00-9:30	Education Outreach			Veterans Committee		
9:30-10:00				250th Anniversary		
10:00-10:30	Registrar /					
10:30-11:00	Genealogist Trng					
11:00-11:30	Genealogy Workshop					
11:30-Noon						
Noon-1:00	Lunch on your own	Ladies Auxiliary Lunch and Meeting			Lunch on your own	Youth Luncheon
1:00-1:30	Membership Promotion Retention					
1:30-2:00	MS Office 365					
2:00-2:30	Eagles Scout Program			BOM Annual Meeting		
2:30-3:00	Color Guard Meeting					
3:00-3:30						
3:30-4:00						
4:00-4:30						
4:30-5:00						
5:00-5:30		Reception			Reception	
5:30-6:00						
6:00-6:30		Awards Banquet			Installation Banquet	
6:30-7:00						
7:00-7:30						
7:30-8:00						
Hospitality Room 107 9:30am - 11:00am and after Banquet						