

Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



April 2023 Newsletter

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Tampa SAR Officers 2023

President: Robbie Robinson
1st Vice President: Roger Roscoe
Treasurer: Will Wagner-hart
Secretary: Bob Yarnell
Sergeant-at Arms: Darren Acosta
Registrar: Dick Young
Chaplain: Matt Balencie
Historian: Bob Yarnell
Past President: Charles Klug
Color Guard Commander: Dick Young
ROTC/JROTC: Terry Doan

President's Message:

Compatriots,
As we head into the Spring months, it is time to start looking at the upcoming events over the next couple months. So, please take a look at the "Color Guard Events and Opportunities" section listed below in the newsletter. Even if you do not want to be in the color guard itself, I am sure you will find it fun to attend some of these events, such as the "Honor Flight Welcome Home" at the St Peterburg Airport. It is always an honor to give recognition to the veterans who participate in these Honor Flights, which include men and women from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. And I can assure you that they are very grateful to those of us who turn out to greet them when they come through the terminal.

The FLSSAR BOM and Annual Meeting in May and Memorial Day are important events to consider as well. More information about the FLSSAR BOM is available on the FLSSAR website. Please check it out.

The very big event for the FLSSAR is going to be the National SAR Convention in Orlando from 13-20 July. We still need some volunteers to support various activities, so if you are interested, please go to the FLSSAR website and sign up.

Your participation in any or all of these events is greatly appreciated.

Best Wishes,
Robbie

March Meeting Summary:

President Robbie Robinson called the meeting to order at 11:30am. Chaplain Balencie gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR pledge. Members then introduced themselves. Our Treasurer, Will Wagner-Hart, reported a balance of \$8632.45 in our account. Dick Young gave an update on the National Congress and color guard activities.

Terry Doan reported on the JROTC recognition event in April. A motion was made and approved for the chapter to pay for the lunch of each cadet present at the next meeting as well as one parent and their unit commander if present.

Terry Doan Giving JROTC Update



Dick Young Reading Citations



As Dick Young read the citations, President Robinson presented SAR EMT Medals to Chief Gilbert Reyes and Capt. Peter Dzuiblinski.

Award for Capt Dzuiblinski



Robbie Robinson and Chief Reyes



Capt Dzuiblinski could not attend the meeting and was represented by Captain Kevin Kahmeyer from the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Department, shown in the photo above.

President Robinson then inducted Joseph Lubinski as a new member into the chapter. The meeting was then adjourned at noon.

New Member Joseph Lubinski



replaced. The British saw those actions as a deception since the lowering of a flag normally meant the fort was giving itself up. As a result, the British showed no mercy for the defenders when they overtook the fort. This battle occurred shortly before the Battle of Yorktown, and as a result, turned out to be an inconsequential victory for the British in the Revolutionary War.

Robbie Robinson and Jerald Hurwitz



After lunch, President Robinson introduced the speaker, Jerald Hurwitz, who talked about the Battle of Ft Griswold near Groton, New London, Connecticut. This battle was led by Benedict Arnold on 6 September 1781, after he switched sides and joined the British Army as a Brigadier General. This was a very tragic battle for the American patriots and led to the deaths of several men due to a grave misunderstanding after the American flag was shot down and then

Following the presentation President Robinson reminded the membership about helping out with the JROTC presentations, volunteering to help at the National Congress this summer, and mentioned that the April meeting will be held at our normal location on the 15th, with Alexander Rose, author of " Washington's Spies" as our guest speaker.

The Chapter coffers were enriched by \$18 from the 50/50 drawing.

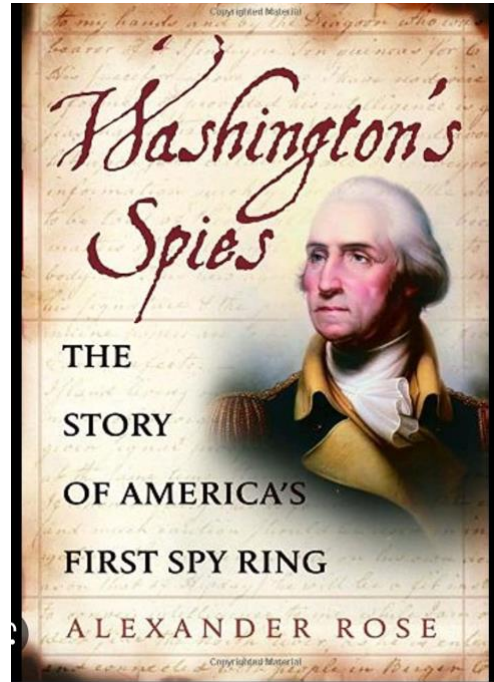
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45pm.

April Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will be held on Saturday April 15th at the Innovation Partnership space at University Mall, located on the Second Floor. Drive to the backside of the mall; you will see a parking garage. Go up the ramp to the 2nd floor and park. Enter through the glass doors, walk straight until you reach a big hallway, turn right. Walk 30 feet or so and the room will be on your left.

From 11:30-12:00 we will have an abbreviated business meeting followed by the recognition of JROTC cadets present. We will then adjourn to the food court for lunch. Lunch may take a bit longer with all of the cadets and their parents. As close to 12:30 as possible we will reconvene for the program "Washington's Spies; the Story of

America's First Spy Ring" by Alexander Rose (via Zoom)



The book was turned into a very popular TV Series called Turn.



Upcoming Schedule for 2023:

May 20: tentative--program/speaker from a local history museum.

Color Guard Events and Other Important Dates

- Apr 15-16: Patriots Day Celebration at Pearce Homestead, Highlands County
- Apr 25: Honor Flight Welcome Home, St Pete/Clearwater Airport
- May 19-20: Florida SAR Spring BOM & Annual Meeting, Kissimmee
- May 29: Memorial Day
- June 9: DeSoto Chapter DAR Flag
- June 13: Honor Flight Welcome Home, St Pete/Clearwater Airport
- June 9: DeSoto Chapter DAR Flag Day Luncheon
- July 4th: Independence Day
- July 13-20: 133rd National Congress, Orlando

We can never have enough Color Guardsmen. If you have any interest in joining the Color Guard, please contact Dick Young, Chapter Commander, or any of the members of the Tampa Chapter Color Guard. If you do not want to start with the full Continental Line uniform, we can show you how to get started with a militia uniform for much less cost.

2023 Congress Volunteers

Some of you have volunteered to work at Congress and have asked what is expected. There will be a myriad of possibilities each day ranging from a few hours to all day, with some days going 10-12 hours. The Congress Planning Committee has uploaded a list of volunteer activities, by day on the FLSSAR website, which will give you an opportunity to select your preferences. Also, please understand this is a **volunteer** activity; you will not be reimbursed for any travel, meal or lodging expenses.

Revolutionary History Notes (by Bob Yarnell):

Last month I discussed Rochambeau. This month we'll finish up the French with a discussion of de Grasse and leave the topic of Lafayette's activities after the war for next year.

Francois Joseph Paul de Grasse is remembered by Americans for commanding the French fleet that defeated the British fleet at the Battle of the Capes in Sept 1781, thus sealing the fate of Gen. Cornwallis and his army.

Born in 1722, he joined the French Navy in 1739 at the age of seventeen. He served in

India during the Seven Years War, being stationed mostly in Calcutta.

Returning to France with the outbreak of the American War for Independence, he commanded a ship in an indecisive battle off the coast of Brittany in 1778. The French government then ordered him to the Caribbean where he joined the French Fleet commanded by Comte d'Estaing.

When planning the campaign for 1781, Washington and Rochambeau asked de Grasse which he preferred, to sail north to New York and assist in a battle there or go to the Chesapeake. De Grasse insisted on the Chesapeake. He told them sailing in and around New York harbor was too treacherous, and that it would take him too far from his supply base.

De Grasse arrived in the Chesapeake at the beginning of September and was unloading supplies and men. He was not aware that a British fleet under command of Adm. Graves had arrived off the Chesapeake. Likewise, Graves did not know the French had arrived. They both, almost simultaneously, learned of the presence of the other. Several historians have noted that this element of surprise seemed to have confused both admirals.

As I detailed in the October 2020 column, the outcome of the battle was more the British losing it due to poor decision making on Graves part, than the French winning. De Grasse commanded the winning fleet, but did little to influence the battle, and in fact, made several decisions that could have lost it.

Following the surrender of Cornwallis, de Grasse headed back to his base in the Caribbean. The following spring, in April 1782, deGrasse's squadron fought a battle with a British squadron between the islands of Guadeloupe and Dominica. The British won a resounding victory. While some French ships escaped, the British forced several, including de Grasse's flagship, to surrender. As with the battle at the Chesapeake, de Grasse's decision making and handling of his ships came into question as did his courage. After he struck his colors, the British boarded his ship to accept his surrender. Every officer on board had been either killed or wounded in the battle, except deGrasse.

Recriminations flew in the aftermath of the battle as the French government tried to assess what went wrong and who was at fault: de Grasse, individual ship captains or both. A court of inquiry met in 1783 and issued its verdict in 1784. The court acquitted most of the officers, including de Grasse. De Grasse died just four years later.

JROTC Medal Presentations:

Each of you has the opportunity to make presentations of the SAR JROTC Award to the recipients at the various High School JROTC programs which the Tampa Chapter supports. This is a very rewarding experience; it will help renew your faith in the youth of our nation. There is very little

you would have to do other than attend the program. Terry Doan will mail the awards to the school and they will prepare them; you would just sit in the designated area with the other presenters and, when they announce the award, you would move up and hand the award to the cadet. (You will need to pause to allow family members to take pictures.) You would then return to your seat and depart at the end of the ceremony; these generally last around an hour. We usually wear a navy blazer and khaki pants. Some wear their tri-corn hat but that is not required; some other presenters wear organization polo shirts.

Attached to the email that sent this Newsletter you will find a spreadsheet with the information from the schools which have already provided names and/or dates. Terry will update this as he hears from the schools. Please let him know if you are interested in participating and which event you would like to support. Please also let us know if we can provide any additional information or clarification. (terrydoan127@gmail.com)

Miscellaneous Reminders

The face book page for the Tampa Sons of the American Revolution is Tampa Sar. The password to add anything is American1776. Please feel free to upload pictures or comments. Invite all your friends to look.

Chapter Website—remember you can find information about the chapter and programs on the chapter website. <http://www.tampasar.org/>

One of the duties of the Chapter Chaplain is to send cards to our members that are sick. Another is to send a sympathy card to the family of a member who has passed away. If you know of anyone that should be the recipient of these cards, please mention it to Chaplain Balencie or one of the other officers at our next meeting.

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