

The Tampa Chapter  
 Florida Society  
 Sons Of The American Revolution

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Patriotic Educational Historic



1995

**DECEMBER MEETING**



**O**ur December meeting will be December 16th at the Best Western Resort Center, 820 Busch Blvd., Tampa, Florida at 12:00 Noon. Each person will be responsible for their own meal. Your check will include the gratuity.

**PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER**

**T**uck Libershal, a retired army officer, will give us a talk about the Colonial Army during the winter months. This is a most timely talk in that it depicts the conditions during the winter and around the Christmas season. Lets have a good turn out for this meeting.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

The Board of Governors Meeting will meet at 11:00 AM December 16 just before the regular meeting.

**1996 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

It is that time of the year again that you must pay your 1996 membership dues. The State Society is asking that we assess each member with \$1.00 to defray the cost of holding the National Society annual meeting in Florida. They asked that we do that last year but your Board of Governors decided that the Chapter would defray the assessment from your regular dues. Therefore your dues for 1996 will be as follows and must be paid no later than December 31st 1995:

\$ 17.00	National Dues
9.00	State Society SAR
10.00	Chapter dues
<u>\$ 36.00</u>	Total

Please mail your check to:  
 Treasurer, Tampa Chapter SAR  
 5211 Neptune Way  
 Tampa, Florida 33609-3638

Of course the better way would be to attend our December meeting and give your check in person.



**TAMPA CHAPTER SAR**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 18, 1995 AT THE BEST WESTERN HOTEL EAST BUSCH BOULEVARD, TAMPA, FLORIDA**

Following the Chapter's Board of Governor's meeting, President George Brooks was obligated to return to his place of employment, accordingly Vice President Keven Yarnell called the regularly meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

In the absence of Chaplain Larry Huntley, Secretary Jim Washburn gave the invocation.

Vice President Yarnell led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag and in the SAR pledge. He also introduced guests Fimi Richie and, temporarily, Sara Mehlretter, who later was introduced as program speaker for the Chapter. Her son Neil later joined the meeting.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed in the November newsletter.

Secretary Washburn reported that at the Board of Governors meeting which just preceded this meeting a motion was passed that the Chapter would reinstate an ROTC program if a Chapter member would accept, or would volunteer Chairmanship of the Program by the time of the December Chapter meeting otherwise the ROTC program would not be reinstated. In the discussion of the motion, it was stressed that the Chairman of a reinstated program would have the discretion of selecting which ROTC units the Chapter would present the ROTC award to as has been past practice.

Jim also mentioned some of the matters President Brooks Brought up at the BOG meeting: the building on the Hillsborough River off of Nebraska Avenue which might become available to the Chapter as a meeting place. This building is used primarily by people interested in collecting "collectable" rocks. George still has contact with them but that's about all; continuance of the Revolutionary War video presentation at the NW Regional library in view of the minimal attendance of the program as presented on November 13th; the Eagle Scout program under Barry Rich is still in progress (Barry has mentioned to your secretary that response to this program so far has been minimal). There was no mention of any substantial development in other "in the mill" programs.

Treasurer Washburn mentioned that he had received 1996 dues from 5 Chapter members (one paid at the meeting) but that he had received a letter from Charter Member Robert Sumner saying that he was not going to renew his membership.

At the BOG meeting the fact that the Chapter's Constitution and By-Laws are in need of review and probably updating was brought to the attention of the Board. The members of the Board are to review the above and bring changes they feel should be made to the December BOG meeting for consideration. (Article VII of the Constitution defines how the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws may presently be Changed).

Vice President Yarnell then reviewed for any member present might not be knowledgeable of the circumstances regarding the Chapter's ROTC program over the last several months briefly as follows: President Brooks, in an attempt to develop more interesting more reliable programs for the Chapter, proposed a "tit for tat" arrangement with the JRROTC units to which the Chapter had been presenting ROTC medal and certificates, that those JRROTC units, when suitable arrangements could be made in terms of scheduling and the like, would present a program to the Chapter. The ROTC unit would be responsible for the program and who would be presenting with the Chapter perhaps only suggesting a topic. If the Commander of an ROTC unit did not wish to participate in the arrangement, the Tampa Chapter would no longer be responsible for presenting and ROTC award to it. Nine of the ten ROTC units involved agreed with the arrangement and another one later backed out of it. The consensus of the Chapter's BOG approved the plan as developed by President Brooks. Two aspects of the arrangement, in particular, became bones of contention when the arrangement came to the attention of President Ralph Cramer and other FLSSAR officials dealing with the presentation of awards and the ROTC award in particular, even though no one has produced any FLSSAR by-law or other writing that any aspect of the arrangement was against FLSSAR policy (or NASSAR policy for that matter). One agreement was to be signed by the ROTC unit commanders to indicate mutual understanding of the arrangement. The other was that the Chapter would no longer be responsible for making an Award to ROTC unit not agreeing to the arrangement. Even though the requirement commanders to sign the agreement was dropped early on, the position of the FLSSAR is that the award is strictly gratuitous on its (and its Chapters?) Part. President Brooks made a presentation of the Chapter's position with regard to the arrangement at the FLSSAR Board of Management Meeting in October. The BOM, however, passed a resolution which, in effect, nullified the Tampa Chapter's arrangement.

There was considerable conversation about the program and particularly to the point that probably most of the recipients of the ROTC award have little or no concept who are what the SAR is. It was noted that the Chapter is reimbursed by the Florida Endowment Trust Fund for the cost of the medals. Compatriot Jim Chamber expressed some interest in the ROTC program particularly as it applied to the Units at USF and said he would "take a look at the program" after reviewing available literature on it. Others wanted to make sure that the presentations more significantly identify the identity of the SAR. One suggestion was to make the award at a Chapter meeting even though the medal might be re-awarded at a school graduating function or the like.

The Treasurer, Jim Washburn, recapped the financial report as provided to the BOG as:

Income	\$ 365.51
Expense	444.51
Net expense	<u>79.00</u>
Balance 1/1	1307.83
Balance 11/18	<u>\$ 1228.83</u>

The election of officers:	President	Kevin Yarnell
	Vice President	Robert Yarnell
	Registrar/Genealogist	Open
	Secretary	James Washburn
	Treasurer	Larry Huntley
	Chaplain	Elwin Thrasher
	Editor	

Vice President Yarnell introduced Sarah Mehlretter who he has known at Catholic High for some six years. She started to have to teach history and computer classes. She is Chair of the Social Studies Department at the School. She spoke to manner by which she taught history in her classroom. Right at the start she mentioned that she received a DAR scholarship at her high school and thought of interest that some years later her she was giving the first of the type of talk that she was about to give to a SAR Chapter. She spoke of her education and early work experiences as an introduction to her present philosophy in teaching what has evolved into "Global Studies". She spoke of the courses taught over the four years in high school and concluding with the concept of Global Studies on which the students can build their understanding of Global events as they occur later in life. But fundamental to the teaching is the point to which the teachers personality and perspective has matured to at this point in her/his life. Then comes the emphasis of not teaching dates and facts but of teaching concepts. One concept is that education is not for preparation for life but that education is life itself. Another concept is that the teacher develop critical thinking skills on the part of the students. This skill is not only important in the field of history but in all other fields also. The student should develop the skill of requiring proof of what he is told or reads. The truth is the "bottom line".

The above is only a kernel of the thinking of this obviously very accomplished teacher.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Bob Yarnell. The Chapter and he Are \$4 richer.

The benediction was said by Secretary Washburn.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

The meeting was attended by 7 Compatriots, our speaker, her son, Neil and Mrs. Richie for a total of 10.

Respectfully submitted,

*James E. Washburn*  
James E. Washburn  
Secretary.

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**A**t our January meeting we will install our officers for the Year 1996. I urge all of our members to attend this meeting to be held January 20th. Mark your calanders now. We need to give our new officers all the support we can in order for them to carry on the programs that are essential to the well being of the Chapter.

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