

*The Tampa Chapter
Florida Society
Sons of the American Revolution*

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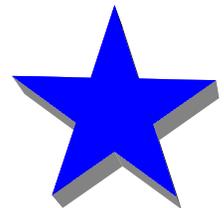
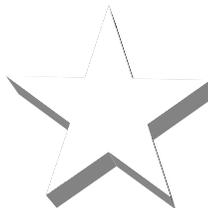
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**OUR MARCH LUNCHEON MEETING
WILL BE SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2004**

The location is the **PICCADILLY CAFETERIA**, 11810 Dale Mabry Highway North, Tampa, Florida (telephone #963-1660) in their private room at 11:30 AM. This gives us time for camaraderie. Wives and guests are always welcome at our meetings. Members and guests will be responsible for their own meal and gratuity.

MARCH PROGRAM

Secretary Treasurer Kevin Yarnell will present the winner of the essay contest. The essay is on the Battle of Saratoga.

Minutes of the February 21, 2004 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Tetrick called the meeting to order at 12:02. Chaplain Washburn offered the invocation. Chuck Grant led the pledge to the flag and the President led the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Dwight Tetrick, Jack Bolen, Luther Lloyd, Rodney Stebbins, Marty Miller, Jim Washburn, Walter Lane, Don Milleton, Dan Stutzman, Bob Yarnell, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Billie Washburn, Chuck Grant (potential member), and John Skillman (potential member)

The SAR membership approved the minutes of the January meeting as published in the newsletter.

The secretary reported receiving confirmation of 5 new members from National. The certificates have not yet been signed by the State President and will be presented at a future meeting. He also thanked Rod Stebbins for his work on the Chapter yearbook but pointed out that the information on the 2003-2004 State Officers printed in the booklet are incorrect. He referred the membership to the state website (www.flssar.org) for the correct list.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$2,105.51. He asked Marty Miller to report on the audit conducted on the 2003 books. Marty reported that the books balanced and that he found no errors in the data.

The president reported on the status of various people in the process of applying for membership.

The ROTC medals were discussed briefly. The secretary reported that he'd have a listing of the units and dates of their award ceremonies so that members might volunteer to present the award on behalf of the chapter.

Rod Stebbins discussed a society based on having an ancestor that was an officer for the Union in the Civil War. He was able to recently join this group. A discussion of other ancestral societies ensued.

There being no other business the meeting recessed for lunch.

President Tetrick introduced the Vice President Jack Bolen who, in turn, introduced Don Middleton, an 11th grade US History teacher at Hillsborough High School, who provided the program.

Don's presented a fine program on George Washington. He began by asking the membership to complete a short quiz and discussed the answers along with other myths about George. Next Don gave a chronological presentation of Washington's life.

Don concluded by telling the membership about a group of students at Hillsborough High who are completing in a contest sponsored by the History Channel. The History Channel is looking to motivate students in the area of preservation. Don's group has set forth four major projects that they will complete. Each deals with preserving the building and history of the High School. The membership was encouraged by this news and wished Don the best in this effort.

A brief question and comment session followed.

John Skillman won the 50/50 drawing. The chapter treasury was enriched by \$10.00.

President Tetrick led the recessional and Jim Washburn gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

MARCH IN THE REVOLUTION

<u>March 26, 1776</u>	British evacuate Boston.
<u>March 12, 1777</u>	The Continental Congress returns to Philadelphia from Baltimore.
<u>March 16, 1778</u>	The British Parliament creates a commission to negotiate peace with the colonies. The commission sails to Philadelphia and offers to meet all the demands of the colonies except independence. The Continental Congress declines.
<u>March 15, 1781</u>	General Cornwallis suffers heavy losses and stops his plans to conquer the Carolinas. Instead, he retreats to Maryland and then begins his campaign into Virginia.
<u>March 5, 1782</u>	Parliament gives the king power to negotiate peace with the United States.
<u>March 7, 1782</u>	American militia massacres 96 Delaware Indians in Ohio. This was in retaliation for Indian raids conducted by other tribes.
<u>March 20, 1782</u>	Lord North resigns as Prime Minister. Lord Rockingham succeeds him two days later and seeks immediate negotiations with the American peace commission.
<u>March 10, 1783</u>	An anonymous letter is circulated among the senior officers under Washington. It calls for a meeting to urge the officers to defy the new government (Congress) for its failure to honor past promises to the Army.
<u>March 11, 1783</u>	Washington forbids the meeting and instead wants to hold a meeting on March 15. Another letter is circulated which claims that His Excellency sides with the rebellious officers.
<u>March 15, 1783</u>	Washington talks the officers from rebelling and thus preserves the American democracy.

A Request from the FLSSAR Education Committee

The Education Committee of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is spearheading a campaign to restore the teaching of American History, American Government and Economics in the high schools of the state of Florida. We are requesting that you and the members of your distinguished and patriotic organization participate in this endeavor.

Would you please provide the enclosed information to your associates for their perusal.

Thank you for your participation in the process of extending the heritage of our great country to the students of Florida.

Sincerely,

Harry Hollien, Ph.D.
Chair, FLSSAR Education Committee
North Central Vice President, FLSSAR
Member, American Legion, Marine Corps
League and MOAA
Professor Emeritus, University of Florida

The Florida State Legislature and the Education Department of the State of Florida has allowed the traditional civic core of courses to become almost non existent in the Florida high schools. On behalf of all citizens of Florida I urge you to become a partner in the restoration of American History, Economics and Government to its rightful place in the curriculum of every high school graduate.

Please write a letter to the legislative members listed on a page to follow. You may use one of the following sample letters — rephrase or restructure as you desire — and in the process give importance to the passage of Senate Bill 0426, Senate Bill 0364 and House Bill 0081.

Letter A

Dear Senator _____ or
Dear Representative _____

RE: Senate Bill 0426
Senate Bill 0364
House Bill 0081

My colleagues and I urge you to take two actions; ones that we believe will help restore civic education to its rightful place here in Florida's schools. First, we ask that when you are deliberating any bill which would amend the **accelerated** high school graduation (18 credit) option, that you vote to repeal such measures, or at the very least, **restore** the traditional civic core program that once existed as a minimum for all Florida's graduates (i.e., one credit in American History, one credit in World History and one-half credit each in American Government and Economics.) Second, that you actively support SB0426 (plus Senator Cowin's amendment SB0364) and HB0081. These bills would add social studies to the state's Student Progression Plan.

There are a large number of reasons for doing so; please note at least the following. First, it is abundantly apparent from state and national surveys that today's students are woefully prepared in the knowledge and dispositions that will enable them to be productive citizens. Due to the lack of emphasis on social studies — by law they need not even be taken into consideration when a student is being promoted from one grade to the next — students no longer have an appropriate exposure to civic education in the elementary and middle grades. Second, reducing the civic core curriculum by one-third at the high school level — by allowing them to take **any** two "electives" — is a mistake that compounds the problem of a weakened exposure in grades K-8. Please note also that the fact districts may choose to increase graduation requirements and specify the return to a civic core on their own, **does not lessen the responsibility of the state** to provide **all** students with the opportunity to acquire such knowledge . Finally, where as the nation and other states seem to be enhancing their civic education programs and requiring more from students in this area, Florida appears to be retreating from its statewide civic responsibilities. In any event, let us not forget: "When a nation fails to know why it exists and what it stands for, it cannot be expected to long endure" (B. Cole, NEH).

Thank you for your firm commitment to civic education.

Sincerely,

Letter B

Dear Senator _____

This letter is being sent to inform you that my colleagues and I support Senate Bills: SB0426 and SB0364. Especially important is Senator Cowin's amendment which states: "Three credits in social sciences, including one credit in American History, one credit in World History, one-half credit in American Government and one-half credit in Economics."

We believe it is essential that Florida students know about the history of our country and the nature of its government.

Thank you for your concern about, and support of, civic education in Florida.

Respectfully,

Letter C

Dear Representative _____

This letter is being sent to inform you that my colleagues and I support HB0081. We are also requesting that you support, in any way possible, Senator Cowin's amendment which states: "Three credits in social sciences, including one credit in American History, one credit in World History, and one-half credit in American Government and one-half credit in Economics."

We believe it is essential that Florida students know about the history of our country and the nature of its government.

Thank you for your concern about, and support of, civic education in Florida.

Respectfully,

A. The following legislators represent us in Tallahassee.

1. Senator Rod Smith
Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
smith.rod.web@flsenate.gov

2. Representative Ed Jennings
House Office Building
402 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
jennings.ed@myfloridahouse.com

B. The following are the chairs of the Senate and House Education Committee, the Education Subcommittee on Appropriations and the House K-12 Subcommittee. Please write them also.

Senator Lee Constantine
Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
constantine.lee.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Lisa Carlton
Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
carlton.lisa.web@flsenate.gov

Representative Bev Kilmer
House Office Building
402 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
kilmer.bev@myfloridahouse.com

Representative Ralph Arza
House Office Building
402 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
arza.ralph@myfloridahouse.com

Representative David Simmons

House Office Building
402 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
simmons.david@myfloridahouse.com

Chapter Notes

The Chapter Website is www.patriot-web.com

The Chapter would also like to support the “Pennies for Patriots” Fund. Each member is asked to contribute a penny a day or \$3.65 for the year to this fund.

The money goes to the Florida State Society Trust Fund. In the past, the Tampa Chapter was very supportive.

The April meeting will be held on the 17th.



Daniel Stutzman
Newsletter Editor
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED