The Tampa Patriot

Newsletter of The Tampa Chapter, Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution

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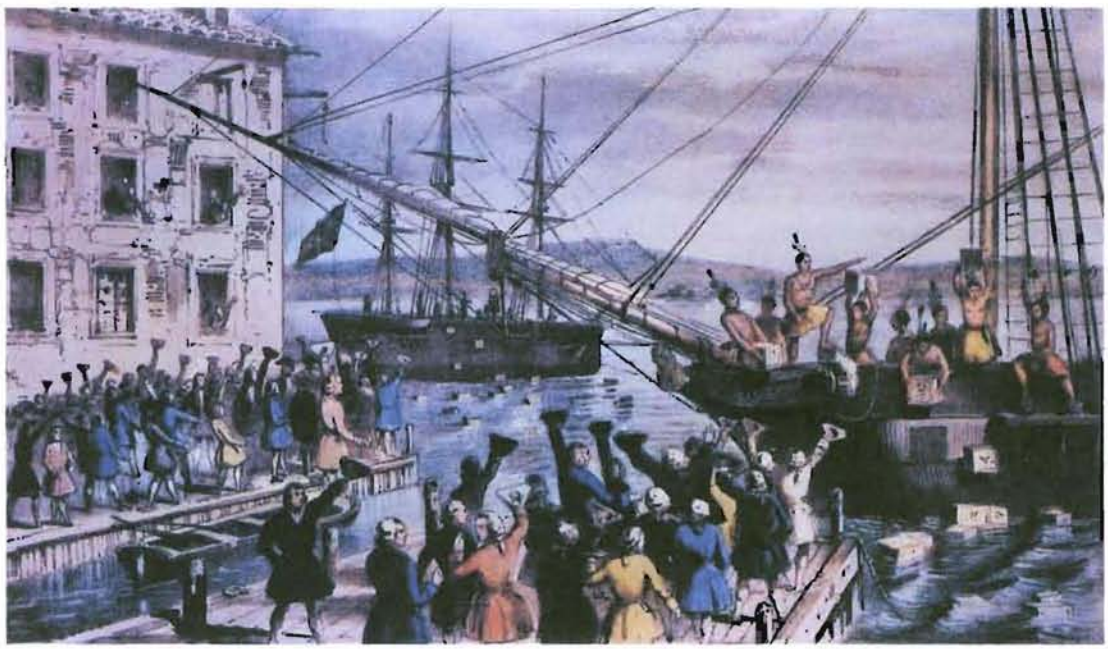
The Boston Tea Party

On a bright cold moonlit evening on December 16, 1773 a group of sixty colonists boarded three British ships in Boston Harbor. The ships contained a cargo of tea from The East India Company. Although the tea carried a tax that the colonists refused to pay, the Royal Governor of Massachusetts Thomas Hutchinson ordered that the ships should not return to England with their cargo but that the tea be unloaded.

Patriot Sam Adams immediately devised a plan whereby colonists, thinly disguised as Mohawk Indians, boarded the three ships. They broke open all 342 chests of tea and threw them overboard. This episode became a precursor on the road to independence, elevating as it did the most radical patriots in command throughout America.

George Hewes was among those who boarded the ships, and his interesting eyewitness account can be read at http://earlyamerica.com/review/2005_winter_spring/boston_tea_party.htm



OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2005

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.

Minutes of the November 18, 2005 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:10. In the absence of the chaplain Walter Lane offered the invocation. President Bolen led the pledge to the flag and the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Jack Bolen, Ed Neugaard, Alan Bell, Walter Lane, Marty Miller, Kenneth Skillman, and Kevin Yarnell,

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Pete & Rose Soden, and Chief Ernie Hiers.

The President introduced the guests then, for the benefit of our guests, recessed the meeting for lunch.

President Bolen had to leave early so Vice President Ed Neugaard assumed the chair and reconvened the meeting. Ed introduced Chief Hiers of the Temple Terrace Fire Department. After some introductory remarks he introduced Pete Soden. Officer Soden has worked for the department for over 20 years. He spoke of his work and emphasized the educational work of the department. Vice President Neugaard then presented the SAR Fire Safety Award to Office Soden.

The Vice President continued with the business portion of the meeting.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved with one correction- the secretary's name was omitted from the list of members present.

The secretary read a thank you letter from the Military Officers Association in regard to our recent $100 donation to Operation Helping Hand. He also reminded the membership that 2006 dues should be paid next month. The treasurer reported a current balance of $2,397.46.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Kenneth Skillman and, as he drew his own winning number, donated the proceeds of $8.00 to the treasury.

Vice President Neugaard led the recessional and Compatriot Lane offered the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

How Communication Should Work in Our Society

One of the problems we have, as individual Compatriots, is having our questions about SAR answered and receiving "the word" as to what is going on and what we need to do. Of course, answers to issues in which you are interested often can be found at the Chapter level. That is, sometimes your Officers can answer the question you are asking or see that you receive the information you need. Other times — perhaps too often — the problem cannot be solved at that level. However, for me to try to answer all the possible questions you might have or provide you with all the information you might need in your daily SAR activities, is functionally out of the question — at least in a short essay such as this one. What I can do is give you some idea as to the functional communication links that exist and how you might be able to exploit them to solve your problems.

Let me provide you with a couple of flow charts that may help to explain the responsibilities others have to you and/or how you can utilize the available communication links to get things done. Specifically, these figures will show the primary links that exist and, better yet, the ones we all need to employ. Of course, not all of the pathways that we could use will be shown — rather only the ones where functional relationships should be in place.

The first figure starts with you, the individual Compatriot. As mentioned above, you will see that your initial source of information (and requests for aid) resides within your very own Chapter. In turn, the Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs have direct access to the State Officers through the appropriate Regional Vice President. But, they also are free to directly contact the FLSSAR Registrar, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior Vice President, President as well as other FLSSAR Officers — especially when their Regional Vice President cannot help them. Perhaps more important, you as an individual Compatriot, can reach these men also. That is, you can initiate inquiries and requests directed not just to your Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs, but also to the FLSSAR Officers (and "offices") in roughly the same order as that listed above (and on the chart) for the Chapters. Moreover, since much of the information which you will find desirable and/or necessary is provided on the FLSSAR website, you can use that facility too. It also is to the advantage of every Compatriot to sign up for FLATALK. The addresses for these two functions will be found at end of this article.

Perhaps just as important as understanding your access to FLSSAR is for you to grasp the responsibilities of its

Officers and how they interface with you and the rest of us. If you look at the second figure, you will see that your particular Regional Vice President has the primary responsibility of ensuring that your Chapter is fully informed about the FLSSAR programs, events, deadlines, and their (i.e., the Chapter's) responsibilities. Also, information should be, and is, funneled through the various links from other key Officers (especially the President and the Senior Vice President) — plus you are sent a steady flow of news of a different type by The Florida Patriot. You should read that journal.

Thus, and as you can see, there are a number of state-level individuals whose job it is to see that you are informed and that the intelligence you receive is accurate. For example, some of the things that should be available at your Chapter are 1) the forthcoming Procedures Manual (later, of course), 2) the names and full addresses of all FLSSAR Officers and Committee Chairs, 3) the names/addresses of the Presidents and Secretaries of all other Florida Chapters. There also should be a comprehensive listing of all the deadlines you face for each coming year — i.e., deadlines that include those for Chapter Challenge, for the various youth programs, for submitting State and National dues, for the place and time of the state meetings and/or special events, and so on. And … please don't forget our website; it is a source of much of what I have outlined above.

The communication links I have described are there for your benefit, if you need 'em, use 'em.

FLSSAR — http://www.flssar.org
FLATALK — http://www.flssar.org/flatalk.htm

Harry Hollien
FLSSAR President

SAR Fire Safety Award

Officer Pete Soden receives his certificate and medal from Vice President Ed Neugaard while accompanied by his wife Rose and Chief Ernie Hiers.

A Message From Our President

I remember back in elementary school the teacher would say, "O.K. class, now I want you to put on your thinking caps." Well I've been thinking about our chapter and I'm concerned about our slow growth in membership. I've always been taught and I believe that organizations are either growing or they are dying. Our chapter is like some other organizations that I belong to in that it is difficult to find new members, especially among young people. There is no need to go into the reasons that organizations are experiencing these problems. It is enough to recognize that it is a common problem we share with groups like the Masons, Elks, etc. Our problem is somewhat compounded due our genealogical requirements and the research and proofs needed for membership.

Now I'm asking that all of us put on our "thinking caps" and have some thoughtful discussion at the next couple of meetings about growth and what we can do to increase "quality" membership. When I say "quality", I'm not using the word in a snobbish way but I'm thinking about new members who will be regular in attendance, eager to participate and willing to accept responsibilities in the chapter or even higher in the NSSAR. Increased membership will only benefit us if the new members are active.

I feel that one of our biggest challenges is simply letting people know whom we are and what we do. Compatriot John Skillman recently e-mailed me about the SAR chapter meetings he has been visiting in Roanoke, Virginia. Roanoke's population is less than Tampa's yet their chapter's membership and attendance is several times ours. John wondered why and that started me thinking. I tried to remember how I first learned about the SAR and I couldn't do it. I know when I talk to prospective members I find myself saying, "well you have heard of the Daughters of the Revolution, the DAR, haven't you? We are their male counterparts." I then, with some embarrassment, say that we are actually an older organization than the DAR.

I can't remember ever having anyone tell me that they had not heard of the DAR, can you? I know we could joke that the women talk more than we do but the sad truth is they have gotten the word out and we have not.

So, class, our assignment is to think of ways we can get the SAR word out. I think if people know about us and see us doing things that are interesting and/or fun our membership will increase. I hope each of you will take the time to jot down an idea or two that we can begin discussing at the December meeting.

June and I also want to wish each of you and yours a Very Merry Christmas!

Jack Bolen
President

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

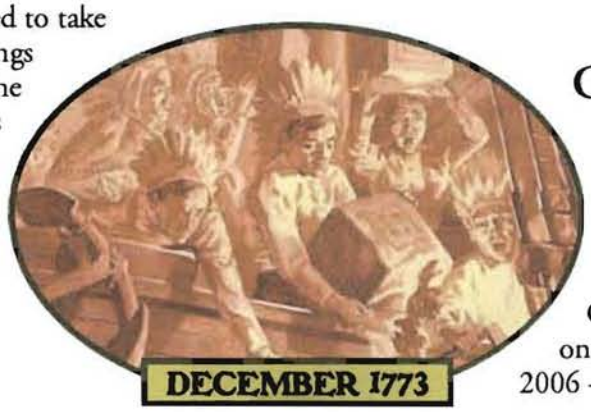
Chaplain's Corner

Known by Him!

This Christmas will be the fifth since 9/11. Our sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters are at war, and it is not destined to end soon. Fear has rippled through our society and seems to hover over our nation in ways I never dreamed possible. Yet it was the angel of the Lord who said, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." It is that joy and knowledge of the person of whom the angel spoke that has been and forever will be critical in this world. That is the message of the Lord, that is the message we must internalize, that is the message that opens an abundant life to us, that is the message we have been asked to take to others, that is the message that brings victory to you and me. That is why the singing of "Joy To The World" at this time of year fills my heart with the Spirit of Christ and rekindles that deep-seated excitement I experience when "I know that I am known by Him." May this Spirit of Christmas be yours every day!

Luke Lloyd, *Chaplain*

DECEMBER SAR NEWS INSIDE!



Chapter Notes

Please visit the Chapter Website at:
www.patriot-web.com
and the National SAR Website at:
www.sar.org

Our next two meetings will be held on December 17, 2005 and January 21, 2006 – please mark your calendars.