The Tampa Patriot

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

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PRESIDENT
Jack C. Bolen
2217 Boxwood Way
Brandon, Florida 33511
(813) 685-4026
jbolen@mindspring.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
Edward J. Neugaard
11629 Carrollwood Drive
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 932-3556
neugaardn@yahoo.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Kevin A. Yarnell
7507 Summerbridge Drive
Tampa, Florida 33634
(813) 767-0270
kayarnell@hotmail.com

SURGEON
Walter W. Lane, Jr., MD
14033 Shady Shores
Carrollwood, Florida 33613
(813) 968-6700
waltlane@msn.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Robert Alan Bell
2603 Heatherwood Drive
Tampa, Florida 33618
(813) 968-9014
brimeremama@netzero.com

CHAPLAIN
Richard Hardesty
3106 Indigo Place
Seffner, Florida 33584
(813) 654-7032
rhardest@tampabay.rr.com

HISTORIAN
Robert Yarnell
7401 Cypress Drive
New Port Richey, Florida 34653
(727) 849-4452
rsyarn@aol.com

REGISTRAR
Luther Lloyd
819 Freedom Plaza Circle #207
Sun City Center, Florida 33573
(813) 642-9450
lloydlr6@quixnet.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Kenneth R. Skillman
619 Commiston Lane
Lutz, Florida 33549
(813) 545-2446
k.skillman@lexiconmedia.com

Taking the Battle to the Enemy

On November 2, 1777, the *USS Ranger*, with a crew of 140 men under the command of John Paul Jones, leaves Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for the naval port at Brest, France, where it will stop before heading toward the Irish Sea to begin raids on British warships. This was the first mission of its kind during the Revolutionary War.

Commander Jones, remembered as one of the most daring and successful naval commanders of the American Revolution, was born in Scotland, on July 6, 1747. He became an apprentice to a merchant at 13 and soon went to sea, traveling first to the West Indies and then to North America as a young man. In Virginia at the onset of the American Revolution, Jones sided with the Patriots and received a commission as a first lieutenant in the Continental Navy on December 7, 1775.

After departing Brest, Jones successfully executed raids on two forts in England's Whitehaven Harbor, despite a disgruntled crew more interested in "gain than honor." Jones then continued to his home territory of Kirkcudbright Bay, Scotland, where he intended to abduct the earl of Selkirk and then exchange him for American sailors held captive by Britain. Although he did not find the earl at home, Jones' crew was able to steal all his silver, including his wife's teapot, still containing her breakfast tea. From Scotland, Jones sailed across the Irish Sea to Carrickfergus, where the *Ranger* captured the *HMS Drake* after delivering fatal wounds to the British ship's captain and lieutenant.

In September 1779, Jones fought one of the fiercest battles in naval history when he led the *USS Bonhomme Richard* frigate, named for Benjamin Franklin, in an engagement with the 50-gun British warship *HMS Serapis*. After the *Bonhomme Richard* was struck, it began taking on water and caught fire. When the British captain of the *Serapis* ordered Jones

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OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006

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 October 21, 2006 Meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:06. Luke Lloyd offered the invocation. Robert Yarnell led the pledge to the flag and the president led the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Jack Bolen, Luke Lloyd, John Skillman, Marty Miller, Ed Neugaard, Alan Bell, Robert Yarnell, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Jeanne Lloyd, Ellie Skillman, Dick Hurley a prospective member, Chief Tony Velong of the Temple Terrace police department his daughter Elizabeth, and Sgt. Robert Boss our honored guest

The president introduced the guests.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

The secretary presented a number of items to the members:

A newsletter of the Florida Society Ladies Auxiliary had been sent to the secretary. He ran off copies and passed them out to the ladies in attendance.

An explanation of the FLSSAR survey that appeared in a previous edition of the Florida Patriot had been sent to the secretary by the former FLSSAR president. Copies were given to the membership and they were asked to mail in the survey.

As requested by the chapter at the last meeting SAR lapel pins were purchased to be presented to new members. The secretary ordered additional pins and is making them available to the existing members. The cost is $4.00.

The National Society, in their efforts to raise funds from corporate sponsors, needs to demonstrate membership support for the Center for Advancing American Heritage. To this end National sent postcards which allow a member to sign a statement of support. The secretary passed these out and offered to mail them to National if they were returned to him at the end of the meeting.

The Treasurer reported a balance of $2,110.08.

The registrar, Luke Lloyd, gave an update on the status of those applying for membership. He has 17 working applications. Luke recently sent letters to many of the others reminding them of our group and encouraging them to continue their efforts to join.

In the interest of our guest, the remainder of the business meeting was postponed and the meeting recessed for lunch.

President Bolen reconvened the meeting and introduced Ed Neugaard who, in turn, introduced Chief Velong. The commander told the membership of the work of Sgt. Robert Boss an 18 year veteran of the Temple Terrace Police Department. The sergeant earned the officer of the year award this past year an honor given based on the votes of fellow officers.

What follows is the citation provided by Chief Velong:

> Sgt Boss transferred to CID in February of 2005. Since that time, he has supervised the unit during one of the most challenging times in the history of the Department. Only two weeks into his run as CID Sergeant, he had to supervise the police shooting investigation of William Basham. This investigation employed both the CID and SEU officers for approximately a week. In July of 2005, Sgt Boss was again tested when one of our detectives was investigated by another agency which resulted in his resignation. In October of 2005, Cpl Collins was promoted to Sergeant and transferred back to the Patrol Division. Sgt Boss had to expand his responsibilities to include the SEU officers. Also in October, Sgt Boss and CID had to investigate the attempted murder of two of our police officers. Once again, CID and SEU were employed together for two weeks until the suspect was arrested. In December 2005, Sgt Boss exercised excellent interpersonal communication skills when he was notified that one of his detectives was suffering from a life-threatening illness. Throughout the year, Sgt Boss has assigned himself cases on numerous occasions to assist other detectives during peak workload periods.

During the 2005 year, seven positions under his command have changed. Despite the turnover, he was able to maintain and foster a high state of morale in the unit. The case clearance rate remained virtually identical to past years. Sgt Boss is responsible for handling forfeitures and there has been no decline over the past year.

"I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it."

– Thomas Jefferson

Sgt Boss is actively involved in the community. He attends the Domestic Violence Task Force meetings, is active with Paint with Pride, sells T-shirts for the Special Olympics Committee, serves as the President of the Fraternal Order of Police, serves as a union representative for supervisors, and is very active with the planning of the Top Cop Triathlon.

Following a brief question period President Bolen presented Sgt. Boss with the SAR Law Enforcement Medal.

President Bolen then continued with the business portion of the meeting.

Alan asked if a new membership directory could be compiled. The newsletter editor had been trying to get this done. The secretary offered to put together a directory with the understanding that it would likely not look as nice as that which the editor could produce.

The President asked that those members interested in the color guard stay after the meeting for a short additional meeting to make arrangements for starting the group.

Our speaker for next month is unable to make the regular meeting date. After discussing several options, including moving the date, the group opted to keep the save date and work out a different program.

The president reported that Ken Skillman, by virtue of this work, will be unable to continue to produce the newsletter. Some options were discussed. The secretary admitted he had some expertise in this area and agreed to take on the work until another qualified member can be found. Luke suggested the chapter recognize Ken's work with some award. The president agreed to find something appropriate.

The president gave some background on the supplies needed by the color guard that would be provided by the chapter. No action was requested of the chapter. The issue was raised only so the membership might give the matter some thought.

Tom Campbell Lloyd's application was approved and the certificate presented to Luke on his behalf.

Election of officers will be held next month. A slate of officers will be presented at that time and nominations will be taken from the floor as well.

The Skillmans won the 50/50 drawing and donated their share to the chapter. The treasury was thus enriched by $13.00.

President Bolen led the recessional. Chaplain Hardesty gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

Taking the Battle *(continued from page 1)*

to surrender, he famously replied, "I have not yet begun to fight!" A few hours later, the captain and crew of the *Serapis* admitted defeat and Jones took command of the British ship.

One of the greatest naval commanders in history, Jones is remembered as a "Father of the American Navy," along with fellow Revolutionary War hero Commodore John Barry.

John Paul Jones is buried in a crypt at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis, Maryland, where a Marine honor guard stands at attention whenever the crypt is open to the public.

John Paul Jones sets sail. (2006). The History Channel website. Retrieved from http://www.history.com/tdih.do?action=tdihArticleCategory&id=52036.

A Message from Our President

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006

I apologize for the confusion regarding the meeting date for November. We wanted to move it away from the Thanksgiving weekend, and the alternate date also accommodated a speaker we wanted. Unfortunately, our meeting room was not available so we went back to the regular, third Saturday date.

2007 OFFICER NOMINATIONS

In this Newsletter you will find the recommended slate of officers for 2007. As always, we welcome and encourage nominations from the floor. YES, if you are interested in being an officer, it is perfectly within order to make your desires known. You will notice that we have two openings that have not been filled, Sergeant-at-Arms and Newsletter Editor. Please speak up if you are interested in either of these jobs.

COLOR GUARD

Finally, the Color Guard is not quite ready to march but we did come up with a name for our Sons of Liberty Camp. We will be the Hillsborough River Camp under the command of Colonel Alan Bell. We decided to go with "militia style" clothing, which is less expensive and more comfortable than military uniforms. If anyone wants to go with the regular uniform, we can work that in too. Come on and join the fun! You can be anything from an Army Major General to a Militia Private. We plan to wear our clothing to the December meeting when the CAR will be there. And we hope to be able to officially present the colors when we install new officers next January.

Jack C. Bolen
President

Kenneth R. Skillman
Newsletter Editor
619 Commiston Lane
Lutz, Florida 33549-3867

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

*Due to increased demands on my time at work and home I will no longer be able to continue producing the newsletter. Please contact any officer if you wish to become Newsletter Editor.

2007 Officer Nominations

President ..... Ed Neugaard

Vice President ..... Alan Bell

Secretary/Treasurer ..... Kevin yarnell

Surgeon .....Walter Lane, Jr. M.D.

Sergeant-at-Arms ..... open

Chaplain ..... Richard Hardesty

Historian ..... Robert Yarnell

Registrar ..... Luther Lloyd

Newsletter Editor..... open

Commander, Sons of Liberty Camp ..... Alan Bell

Note: Nominations will be accepted from the floor of the meeting (See President's Message on page 3).

NOVEMBER SAR NEWS INSIDE!

November Program

Was the first thanksgiving in Massachusetts...or was it really in Virginia...or maybe someplace else in the new world? At the November meeting Compatriot Bob Yarnell will share with us some history of colonial thanksgiving as well as some of the controversy surrounding the various claimants for the title of "First" Thanksgiving.

Chapter Notes

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

Our next two meetings will be held on November 18, 2006 and December 16, 2006 – please mark your calendars.