

Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



March 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,

At our February meeting, I discussed the goals and objectives for 2023 that are summarized in the February Meeting Summary area of this newsletter. I am happy to report that we are already making progress in some of these areas, and I will be providing information on these items at our monthly meetings. I look forward to working with you as we achieve these goals in the coming months.

As you read through this newsletter, you will see many opportunities to support the chapter as well as our state level organization at upcoming events. Your participation in these events is greatly appreciated.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is interested in having all chapters focus on our 250th celebration. Note that this is not just to celebrate one year, 2026, but rather, to recognize the War for Independence took several several years. Therefore, we will be continuing this theme for some time to come.

Very Respectfully,
Robbie Robinson

February Meeting Summary:

President Robbie Robinson called the meeting to order at 11:30am. Chaplain Balencie gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance and the SAR pledge.

Members introduced themselves and President Robinson gave a quick summary of his priorities for the year which he had detailed in January. Among them are: Preparing an intro packet to give new members; joint meetings/special events with other SAR chapters, DAR chapters and the CAR, increasing our presence on social media, continuing to get good speakers and emphasizing getting speaker on topics from the period 1607-1789.

In the absence of the treasurer, the VP Roger Roscoe presented the treasurer's report. The balance on hand was \$8,785.45.



Bob Yarnell discussing 50/50 program.

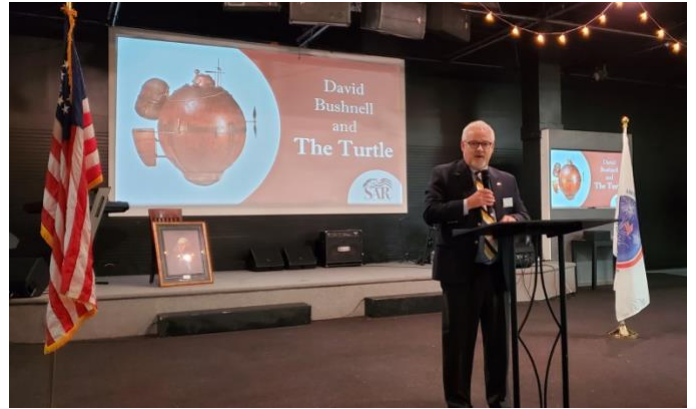
The secretary explained that, now with covid receding into the background, part of getting back to pre-covid “normal” would include re-starting the 50/50 drawing. As you enter, on a table near the door, will be a green container with the raffle tickets beside it. Tickets are \$1—you are not limited to 1 ticket. Put your money in the green container along with ½ of your ticket. The net proceeds (1/2 of the pot) will be used by the chapter to pay for a variety of “little but necessary things”—rosettes and name tags for new members, for example. Participation is appreciated.

New members Paul Whitscell and Kimball Reyher were presented with their certificates and rosettes.



New Member Paul Whitscell

introduction of technology/ideas that are still used in submarines today.



Bill Adkins giving his presentation, above, and receiving Certificate of Appreciation, below.



New Member Kim Reyher

The meeting adjourned for lunch at noon.

After lunch, President Robinson introduced the speaker, Bill Atkins from the South Shore Chapter. Compatriot Atkins gave a presentation on the submarine Turtle. After going through the who, what and when, he wrapped up his presentation with an observation that while the mission of the Turtle is usually viewed as having failed, it actually succeeded in several ways, not the least of which was the



Following the presentation President Robinson reminded the membership about helping out with the JROTC presentations and volunteering to help at the National Congress this summer.

The Chapter coffers were enriched by \$13 from the 50/50 drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45.

March Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will be held on Saturday March 18th at the Innovation Partnership space at University Mall, located on the Second Floor of University Mall. Drive to the backside of the mall, go up the ramp to the parking garage on the 2nd floor and park. Enter through the glass doors, walk straight until you reach a big hallway and turn right. Walk 30 or so feet and the room will be on your left.

From 11:30-12:00, we will have our business meeting. This will include reports from the chapter officers and any committees needing to make a report, followed by any old business

new business to discuss. We will then proceed with our recognition program for the EMT/Fire Fighters.

We will then adjourn to the food court for lunch and will reconvene at 12:30. The program will be presented by Jerry Hurwitz speaking about the British attack on Ft. Griswold in Groton, CT, led by traitor Benedict Arnold, called "The Alamo of the Revolution."

Upcoming Schedule for 2023:

April 15: JROTC recognition and "Washington's Spies; the Story of America's First Spy Ring" by Alexander Rose (via Zoom)

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

Other Important Dates

-Apr 13: Birth date of Thomas Jefferson

-May 19-20: Florida SAR Spring BOM & Annual Meeting, Kissimmee

-May 29: Memorial Day

-July 13-20: 133rd National Congress, Orlando

American Revolution

Notes:

In the spring of 2019, I wrote two columns detailing what happened to several prominent British generals after the war and what happened to the “firebrands” of the revolution after the war. For some unbeknownst reason, I neglected to write a column about prominent Spanish and French leaders after the war.

The two-part series about Bernardo Galvez rectified the Spanish half of the omission. Over the next two months I’ll fill-in what happened to French military leaders who helped the Americans during the war.

I’ll put a discussion of Lafayette aside for now since the story of Lafayette after the war is relatively well known. This month we’ll focus on Gen. Rochambeau and next month we’ll look at Admiral de Grasse.

Born in 1725, Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, entered French Cavalry service in 1740. He served as an aide-de-camp to several generals during the war of the Austrian Succession. By 1747 he had been promoted to colonel of a regiment of infantry. During the Seven Years

War (1756-1763) he alternated between line service with his regiment and serving on the staffs of several generals. While serving with his infantry regiment he participated in battles against the Prussians, who were allied with England, in central Europe, being wounded several times. His efforts during the French capture of Minorca from the British resulted in his being promoted to Brig. Gen. Following the war, Louis XVI appointed him to the position of Inspector of Infantry with the specific job of updating French infantry tactics and reforming that branch of the armed services.

Among the things he learned along the way, especially during his time as a staff officer during the Seven Years War, was the negative effects of infighting and bickering among the officer corps on efficiency and moral. He brought those lessons with him to America.

In 1780 he took command of the French Expeditionary Force that sailed to America to assist Washington’s army. His army spent the winter of 1780-1781 in and around Newport, Rhode Island. He spent most of his time at Washington’s HQ complex and in meetings with Washington and the

Continental Army high command. The lessons he learned about minimizing friction between officers stood him in good stead as he and Washington debated strategy for the 1781 campaign seasonⁱ. In the end, Rochambeau, as well as some officers in Washington's inner circle, persuaded Washington to forgo his cherished plan for an attack on New York City in favor of the move to the Chesapeake to trap Cornwallis. During these sometimes heated discussions, Rochambeau, in particular, worked to maintain civility and friendship on all sides.ⁱⁱ

After Yorktown Rochambeau and his French force stayed in Virginia to protect the colony and be available should Nathaniel Greene need assistance with his southern campaign. He returned to France in 1782. He supported the French Revolution in its early stages, 1789-1792, and commanded the northern Army during the first part of the wars associated with the French Revolution. Just prior to being sent to the guillotine in 1793, Louis XVI promoted him to Marshall of France.

In 1793 the French Revolution moved into the stage we now call the reign of terror. The leaders of the terror imprisoned Rochambeau and he only

barely escaped being sent to the guillotine. When released he returned to his home village of Vendome, received a pension from Napoleon and lived the rest of his life in quiet retirement, dying in 1807.

He is memorialized in the United States by a statue in Lafayette Square in Washington, DC and another in Newport, RI, where he and his troops spent the winter of 1780-1781.

ⁱ Many people wonder how the French and Americans were able to communicate with so few French officers knowing English and so few American officers knowing French. Solution—speak to each other in Latin. Most of the highest-ranking officers on both sides had a strong basic education in Latin. It would have been interesting to sit around a dinner table in the spring of 1781 hearing those men converse as if they were at a dinner party in a villa outside of Rome in the first century AD, or to hear them discuss military strategy and tactics with the same vocabulary and the same language that would have been used by Caesar when discussing strategy with Marc Antony.

ⁱⁱ I've always thought that this tactful, diplomatic side of Rochambeau has been overlooked or discounted by many Americans.

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)

2023 Congress Volunteers:

The National SAR Congress is scheduled for 13-20 July in Orlando, and there are still many opportunities to provide your support as a volunteer. To access the website, go to the FLSSAR.ORG website, and then click on the words "133rd SAR National Congress 2023." On the next tab, you will see "Volunteer" at the top right of the page. Click on that part of the screen and it will take you to the list of volunteer positions needed, and which ones are already filled. After you volunteer for a position, you will then be taken to a new page where you should designate the shirt size you will be provided by FLSSAR.

Color Guard Events & Opportunities:

- Mar 25 - Battle of Thomas Creek - Commemoration – Jacksonville
 - Apr 15-16 - Patriots Day Celebration – Pearce Homestead, Highlands County
 - Apr 25 - Honor Flight Welcome Home – St. Pete/Clearwater Airport
 - May 7-8 - Galvez Day and Battle of Pensacola Commemoration – Pensacola
 - May 19-20 - Florida SAR BOM & Annual Meeting – Kissimmee
 - May 29 - Memorial Day (we will try to find something)
 - Jun 9 - Tampa Chapter DAR Flag Day Luncheon
 - Jul 4 - Independence Day (we will try to find something)
 - Jun 13 - Honor Flight Welcome Home – St. Pete/Clearwater Airport
 - Jul 16-19 - National SAR Congress Events – Orlando
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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.

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