Tampa Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

May 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

Presidents Message

Compatriots,

Just a heads up that we moved our May meeting forward one week, to 13 May 2023, to avoid a scheduling conflict with the FLSSAR's annual Board of Managers meeting in Kissimmee. The location for our meeting will be the same as usual, at the University Mall. This meeting will be our last until September, but we will still have activities scheduled for the next several months, so please take a look at the Upcoming Schedule of Events to see when and where you may want to participate.

In particular, please take a look at the next Honor Flight Welcome Home event at the St Pete Airport, which will be on 13 June. Our Tampa SAR Chapter had the honor of leading some of the returning veterans down the causeway at the airport last week. The turn-out from the local community was tremendous, and we had six of our members participate in the Color Guard, as shown in the photo below. Mike Foley showed up also, to offer his support to this event. To say the least, our veterans could clearly tell that the Tampa Bay area residents sincerely appreciated their service to our great country. It is always an honor to give recognition to the veterans who participate in these Honor Flights, which include men and women from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. And I can assure you that they are very grateful for everything the Tampa Community does for them.

Tampa SAR Color Guard at the St Pete Airport: Dave Bryant, Walter Arnold, Robbie Robinson, Matt Balancie, Dick Young, and Bill Swain.

As I mentioned before, the FLSSAR BOM and Annual Meeting is scheduled for 19-20 May, and I hope some of you are able to attend.

A second reminder that the very big event for the FLSSAR is going to be the National SAR Convention in Orlando from 13-20 July. We still need volunteers to support various activities, so if you are interested, please go to the FLSSAR website and sign up.

Hope you all enjoy the upcoming summer months.

Best Wishes,
Robbie

April Meeting Summary:

President Robbie Robinson called the meeting to order at 11:30am. Chaplain Balencie gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR pledge. Members then introduced themselves.

President Robinson opened up the session by discussing three different design options for a possible Tampa SAR Chapter coin, and was asking for feedback from the members with regard to which design their preferred, and how many such coins we should initially purchase. The majority of members preferred a coin with a blue background that had a Minuteman on one side along with an outline of the state of Florida, and having the NSSAR insignia on the other side.

Our Treasurer Will Wagner-Hart reported a balance of $8,399.25 in our account.

Joe Lubinski, who was inducted last month, was given his rosette by President Robinson.

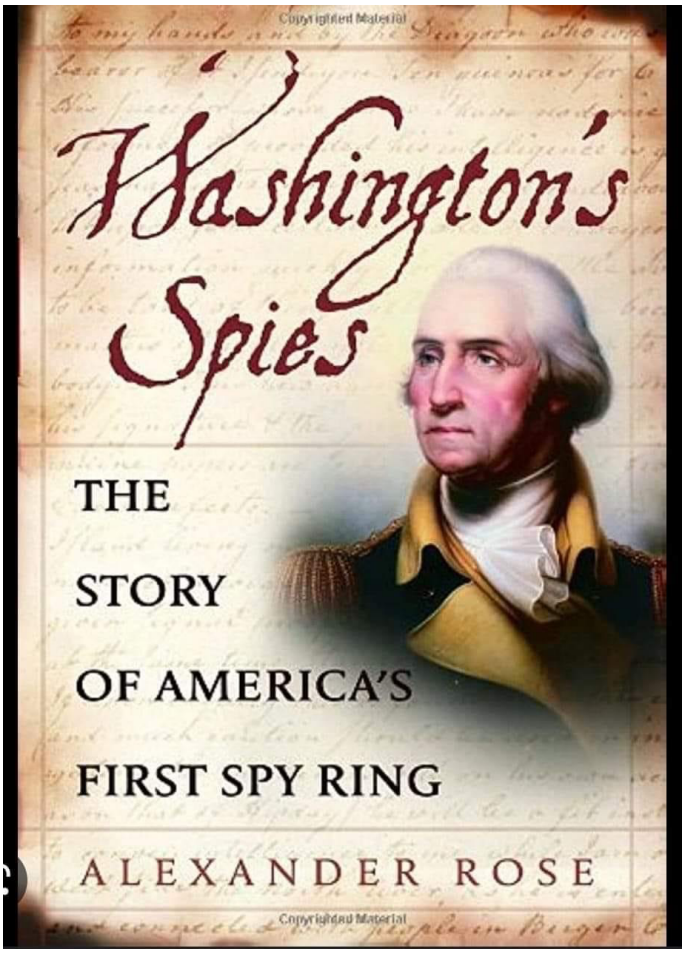
Compatriot Terry Doan gave a report on the JROTC program and we awarded certificates and IROTC medals to two outstanding cadets, Trisha Sakmuri and Gabriela Sanchez Vergara. Cadet Sakamuri was chosen as our Outstanding Cadet and her package was sent to the FLSSAR for the state competition. As a news update, Cadet Sakmuri has been selected as the State winner, also.

President Robinson presenting a certificate and JROTC medal to Cadet Gabriela Vergara

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at noon.

Following lunch, Roger Roscoe introduced Alexander Rose, who talked with us via Zoom about his book called "Washington's Spies." In addition to a few stories about the spies, he identified what information Washington needed, how that information was sent to him and the importance of the spies to the colonial success. Among other thing Mr. Rose found interesting during his research was the amount of spying done during the War for Independence and how good Washington was as a spy master.

The author Alexander Rose talking to the Tampa SAR chapter via Zoom



The April meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45pm.

May Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will be held on Saturday May 13th at the Innovation Partnership space at University Mall, located on the Second Floor. Drive to the backside of the mall; you will see a parking garage. Go up the ramp to the 2nd floor and park. Enter through the glass doors, walk straight until you reach a big hallway, turn right. Walk 30 feet or so and the room will be on your left.

From 11:30-12:00 we will have a business meeting. We will then adjourn to the food court for lunch. At 12:30 we will reconvene for the program, which will be our own Bob Yarnell giving a presentation on "A Revolution Not Made but Prevented."

Upcoming Schedule for 2023:

May 19-20 - FLSSAR BOM/Annual meeting
May 29 - Memorial Day
July 4 - Independence Day
September 16 - TBD
October 21 - Law Enforcement Recognition
November 18 - TBD
December 16 - Wreaths Across America

Color Guard Events and Other Important Dates

-May 19-20: Florida SAR Spring BOM & Annual Meeting, Kissimmee
-May 29: Memorial Day
-June 9: DeSoto Chapter DAR Flag
- June 13: Honor Flight Welcome Home, St Pete/Clearwater Airport
-July 4th: Independence Day
-July 13-20: 133rd National Congress, Orlando

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.

2023 Congress Volunteers

Some of you have volunteered to work at Congress and have asked what is expected. There will be a myriad of possibilities each day ranging from a few hours to all day, with some days going 10-12 hours. The Congress Planning Committee has uploaded a list of volunteer activities, by day on the FLSSAR website, which will give you an opportunity to select your preferences. Also, please understand this is a **volunteer** activity; you will not be reimbursed for any travel, meal or lodging expenses.

Revolutionary History Notes (by Bob Yarnell):

The Forage War: January - March 1777

When most people think about the period between December 1776 and August 1777 during the American War for Independence, they usually come up with something like this: Dec. 1776, American's successful surprise attack on Trenton; Jan 1777, another American victory at Princeton; Washington moves his army into winter quarters at Morristown, NJ; some other stuff happened; in mid-summer, Howe starts his campaign against Philadelphia and Burgoyne heads south from Canada.

That's all accurate, but what "other stuff" happened that winter and spring?

The late winter and early spring of 1777 is now known as the Forage War. As Washington moved his army into winter quarters, he ordered his men to remove as much food and forage as possible from the surrounding areas to feed and supply his own men. Just as importantly, he hoped to deprive the British of those supplies. In particular, he wanted to deprive them of forage for their horses. Washington hoped this would force Howe to abandon some of

his outposts in New Jersey and put pressure on the British supply system.

To achieve this, the American army sent out scouting and foraging parties to harass the British and prevent them from acquiring those supplies. Through the spring the Americans engaged in skirmishes and small-scale battles with the British Forces. Some of these engagements involved less than 100 men. Most involved 200-500 men on each side, with a few involving up to 2000 British troops versus around 500 Americans.

Due to surprise and good intelligence, the Americans won most of these engagements. One notable exception was the Battle of Bound Brook during which the British came close to capturing American General Benjamin Lincoln. Other than that occasion, the Americans more than held their own against the British.

This foraging and harassing campaign achieved several notable things for Washington's army. First and foremost, the Americans kept the British deprived of food and fodder that spring as well as inflicting more casualties on the British forces than they suffered. Second, it gave both the Continental regulars and the colonial militia experience fighting the British regulars. Third, and most often overlooked, it gave them confidence that they could fight successfully against the British - confidence that would show itself at Brandywine, Germantown, and Saratoga.

Miscellaneous Reminders

The face book page for the Tampa Sons of the American Revolution is Tampa Sar. The password to add anything is American1776. Please feel free to upload pictures or comments. Invite all your friends to look.

Chapter Website—remember you can find information about the chapter and programs on the chapter website. http://www.tampasar.org/

One of the duties of the Chapter Chaplain is to send cards to our members that are sick. Another is to send a sympathy card to the family of a member who has passed away. If you know of anyone that should be the recipient of these cards, please mention it to Chaplain Balencie or one of the other officers at our next meeting.