Tampa Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

October 2023 Newsletter

In this issue:

◊ President's Message
◊ September Meeting Summary
◊ October Meeting Information
◊ Upcoming Schedule for 2023
◊ Revolutionary War History note
◊ Color Guard Events & Opportunities
◊ Other Reminders and Information

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,

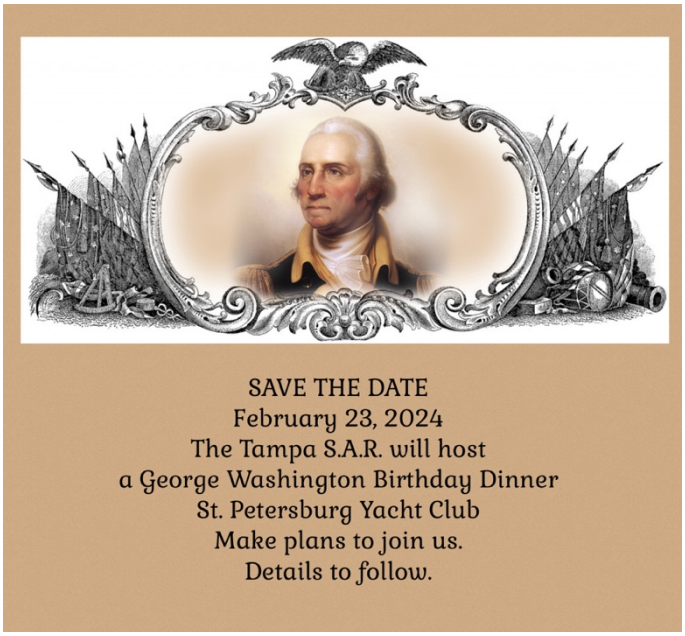
I enjoyed being able to see everyone again at our September meeting; it was a great start to the line-up of meetings we have planned for this fall and winter.

In particular, I appreciated all the support from our fellow SAR compatriots who helped to pull the meeting together. We are now holding our meetings without the support of the parent organization which has so graciously allowed us to use their facility. Vice President Roger Roscoe and our Chaplain, Matt Balencie, volunteered to learn how to operate the audio-visual equipment, and they did a fantastic job. Well Done! By doing so, they help to keep the costs of holding our meetings to the absolute minimum.

There are a few items I would like to highlight for you. First of all, I want to remind everyone that we have moved up our October meeting by one week, to Saturday, 14 October, to accommodate the FLSSAR Board of Management meeting at Kissimmee, the following week, 20-21 October, which conflicts with the date we would normally hold our meeting.

The second item I want to highlight is that we are planning to hold a joint event on Friday, 23 February 2024, along with other local SAR and DAR chapters to celebrate Washington's Birthday. The event will be held at the St Petersburg Yacht Club, and you will be seeing more information on this in the coming months. But it is not too early to start thinking about attending, since this will be different than our normal time and location, and it will be a dinner event. Attire will be either colonial period uniforms or coat and tie.

Best Wishes to All,
Robbie



September 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 and guests then introduced themselves.

After everyone had a chance to introduce themselves, Robbie gave a summary of activities Tampa SAR compatriots were involved with since our last meeting in May. These activities included the following: supporting several Color Guard events including a parade on July 4th and a Tampa Rays baseball game, having four volunteers who supported the 133rd NSSAR Congress in July, and presenting the colors for two Honor Flight events at the St Petersburg Airport.

New Tampa SAR compatriot John Black and Chapter President Robbie Robinson

President Robinson then inducted John Black as a new member to our chapter.

Robbie also mentioned that our Tampa SAR coins had arrived, and that they were now on sale. For those interested, they should see our Chapter Treasurer, Will Wagner-Hart.

Before the lunch break, we received a presentation by Lisette Young, Senior Society President of the Fort Brooke Society of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) and her granddaughter Ms Lulu Nicholson, President of the Fort Brooke Society. The CAR is an organization of young people from birth to age 21 who can prove blood lineage to an individual who supported the cause of independence during the Revolutionary War Era. Their Mission is:

Training tomorrow's leaders to serve our country and preserve our nation's history. We honor those who came before us and paved the way for what we have today.

Fort Brooke Society CAR President Lulu Nicholson and her mother Katie Nicholson

Ms Lulu Nicholson, President of the Fort Brooke Society, and her mother Katie during presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to the Tampa SAR Chapter

Much like the SAR, the CAR has a National Society, state societies, including the Florida Society and local societies including the Fort Brooke Society which represents the Tampa area.

After the CAR presentation, Ms Lulu Nicholson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Tampa Chapter for their support to the Brooke Society.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at noon.

After we returned from lunch, Robbie gave a presentation on Revolutionary War uniforms, discussing why they were not consistent across the various colonies, and then described the uniforms that the militia and Continental Army, Navy, and Marines wore during this time period. Compatriot Matt Balencie wore his Revolutionary War uniform to help provide examples of various uniform components. Robbie concluded the presentation with a brief discussion of the recent Color Guard events the Tampa Chapter has supported over the past few years and gave a brief preview of upcoming opportunities to support our Color Guard unit.

After the presentation, President Robinson reminded everyone about the change in schedule for October. Chaplain Matt Balencie gave a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned after the SAR Recessional.

Robbie Robinson and Matt Balencie: Presentation on Revolutionary War Uniforms

October Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will be held on October 14th at the Innovation Partnership space at University Mall. It is located on the Second Floor of the University Mall. Drive to the backside of the mall. You will see a parking garage. Go to the 2nd floor and park. Enter through the glass doors, walk straight until you reach a big hallway, turn right. Walk 30 or so feet and the room will be on your left.

At the October meeting, we will recognize some of our local law enforcement officers and provide them with SAR medals. After we return from the break, President Robbie Robinson and Vice President Roger Roscoe will be giving a presentation to help our members have a better understanding on several aspects of the SAR organization, including how to access NSSAR and FLSSAR websites, how to order SAR items such as shirts, hats, ties, etc., and will field questions from our compatriots to help them understand more about the organization in general, and the chapter specifically. During the meeting, they will use the three large screens to show how to use the internet and the various NSSAR and FLSSAR tabs, and how to access and update your own personal information to ensure it is accurate.

Upcoming Schedule for 2023-24:

October 14th - Law Enforcement recognition and discussion on SAR organization topics of interest
October 20-21st - FLSSAR BOM, Kissimmee
November 18th - Wounded Warrior recognition
December 16th - Wreaths Across America
January 20th - Officer Installation
February 23rd - Washington's Birthday Dinner
March 16th - EMT/Fire Fighter recognition
April 20th - ROTC recognition
May 18th - Speaker from Florida museum

Color Guard Events and Other Important Dates:

Upcoming Color Guard Events:

-Oct 21: Florida SAR Fall Board of Management Meeting, Kissimmee
- Oct 24: Honor Flight Welcome Home, St Pete/Clearwater Airport
-Nov 11: Veteran's Day - Two events; VA parade; Grand Hampton color guard
-Dec 16: Wreaths Across America, American Legion Post #5, USS Tampa, Tampa

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.

Our Color Guard at Honor Flight 12 Sep 23

Revolutionary History Notes (by Bob Yarnell)

Battle of Kettle Creek

For the next two months we're going to focus on the Revolutionary War fighting on the Georgia frontier.

After the defeat at Saratoga in October 1777, the British realized that their attempts to conquer and reestablish Crown control over New England and the middle colonies would be more difficult than they originally thought. Therefore, they switched their focus to the south. The south, they believed, had many more loyalists who would rally to the King's colors. Success in the south, they reasoned, would eventually lead to success in Virginia and points north. The British captured Savannah in December 1778. They quickly moved inland and captured Augusta, Georgia. By late January, Gen. Archibald Campbell had established a military post at Augusta and sent recruiting parties further inland. One of these units took possession of and fortified a location known as Carr's Fort.

The Patriots in South Carolina, under the overall command of Col. Andrew Pickens, responded by moving into Georgia to attack the posts being set up by the British on the frontier. On Feb. 10, 1779, a group of approximately 200 Patriot militia attacked Ft. Carr. When their first attempt to the take the fort

failed, Pickens decided to put it under siege.

Col. John Boyd led one of the recruiting parties sent from Augusta to recruit loyalists in South Carolina. By early February he headed back to Georgia having recruited a regiment of 800 loyalists.

When Pickens learned of Boyd's approach, he broke off the siege of Ft. Carr and moved to intercept Boyd before he could unite with Campbell at Augusta. Pickens began trailing Boyd, who did not know that a Patriot force was following him.
Boyd camped the night of Feb. 13 on the northern bank of Kettle Creek. Pickens decided to attack on the 14th, dividing his force into three columns, with himself leading the center column. The hardest fighting was in the middle, where Boyd commanded the best of the loyalist militia. Slowly the Patriots gained the advantage, pushing the Loyalists back. After four hours of fighting, the loyalist force broke and ran.

When Campbell heard of the defeat of Boyd's force, he decided to abandon Augusta. A Patriot force, now commanded by Gen. Ashe, pushed south to overtake Campbell. They met in battle at Brier Creek, in eastern Georgia. The combined British/Loyalist force surprised the Patriots and in short order the Patriot force was defeated and routed.

While the victory by the Patriots at Kettle Creek assured that the northern frontier of Georgia would remain in Patriot hands, the British victory at Brier Creek guaranteed that southern Georgia would remain under British control until July 1782.

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.

Websites—remember you can find information about the chapter and programs on the chapter website: http://www.tampasar.org, and that you can find information related to Florida SAR at FLSSAR.org.

Secretary Request:

Any officer or committee chairman giving a report that includes numbers or names, I would appreciate it if you could give me that information either via email prior to or after the meeting or hard copy at the meeting. During the meeting I may easily miss those details and that information will enable us to have more accurate and complete minutes.

Chaplain Comments:

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 the Chaplain or one of the other officers at our next meeting.