

Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



April 2024 Newsletter

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Tampa SAR Officers 2024

President: Robbie Robinson
1st Vice President: Roger Roscoe
Secretary: Bob Yarnell
Treasurer: Will Wagner-Hart
Registrar: Dick Young
Chaplain: Matt Balencie
Sergeant-at Arms: Darren Acosta
Historian: Bob Yarnell
Past President: Charles Klug
Color Guard Commander: Dick Young
Members-at-Large: Terry Doan,
Thomas Spangler
Newsletter: Bob Yarnell, Dick Young,
Robbie Robinson

Presidents Message:

Compatriots,

April is a hectic month for all of us, but I want to highlight a few items just for your situational awareness.

During our upcoming April meeting, we will be voting on moving our normal meeting date to the second Saturday of each applicable month, so I would like to have as many people at the meeting as possible so that we ensure we have a good representation of the chapter's membership.

I also want to highlight that the Color Guard will be supporting the Honor Flight at St Petersburg Airport on 16 April. You do not need to be in the Color Guard to attend this "welcome home" to our nation's veterans who have spent the day touring the war memorials in Washington DC. If you have not attended one of these events, I encourage you to do so. It is a very heart-warming experience.

The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR) will be holding its semi-annual Board of Management (BOM) meeting on Friday and Saturday, 17-18 May 2024, and the Annual Membership meeting will be held on that Saturday afternoon. If you are interested in attending, please see the FLSSAR.org website for more details.

The chapter's officers are doing a great job working to find interesting agenda items for our monthly meetings, and if you have any suggestions, please contact me or any of the other elected officers so that we can look towards finding a way to incorporate your suggestions into reality.

For those who have been attending some of our recent monthly meetings will know that we have increased our "ops tempo" for the SAR 250 Anniversary Program, and anyone in the chapter can participate. So, if you would like to do so, please let me know. It does not require a lot of time or effort, and you will earn points toward one the 250 Anniversary medals. And of course, we all learn a little more about our American Revolution in the process!

Best Wishes to All,
Robbie



March Meeting Summary:

Our March 17, 2024, meeting was held at our normal meeting location at the University Mall. President Robbie Robinson called the meeting to order at 11:35.

After the Invocation by Chaplain Matt Balencie, Vice President Roger Roscoe led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the SAR pledge. President Robinson then asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Robbie then asked the officers to provide their applicable reports.

Roger Roscoe gave us a briefing on a trip to Boston, MA he is trying to set for 21-25 April 2025. This trip will include visits to Lexington and Concord, the monument at Bunker Hill, and various other historic locations in Boston. We will need to have at least 20 people sign up for this trip, which will be open to anyone interested in attending.

Treasurer: Balance \$8,492.85.
- Net from the Washington Birthday Gala—1980.00, with \$1000.00 being presented to the VA Fisher House and the Chapter's fund-raising proceeds amounted to \$980.

Will also gave us an update on the SAR banner we are trying to establish that will let people know where we are meeting.

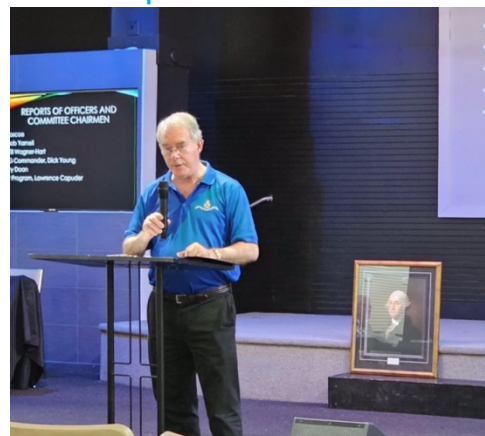
The members present approved the artwork and design as presented to them. The banner will include the Tampa Chapter's website and Facebook information.



Will Wagner-Hart and Robbie Robinson with Tampa Chapter preliminary banner design

Registrar—Dick Young gave an update on applications at National awaiting action as well as a color guard report.

Terry Doan gave an update on the JROTC program recognition schedule and asked for volunteers to make presentations at various high schools in the Tampa area.



Terry Doan discussing J/ROTC events

Lawrence Capuder gave us a rundown of upcoming SAR Eagle Scout programs over the next couple months, and was requesting volunteers to help him with a Boy Scout genealogy event on May 4th.



FLSSAR Eagle Scout Chairman Lawrence Capuder discussing Eagle Scout programs

President Robinson and Compatriot Dick Young then presented Chief Jim Chastain (ret) the SAR Fire Safety Commendation Award, and announced that Lt. Levic Allen, who was unable to attend, had received the SAR Paramedic of the Year Award.



Fire Chief, Robbie Robinson, Chief Chastain and Dick Young during award presentation.

President Robinson then presented medals and certificates to several members. Will Wagner-Hart, Matt Balencie, Dave Bryant, Bill Swain, and Robbie Robinson all received the 250 Anniversary Silver Medal.



Will Wagner-Hart, Matt Balencie, Bill Swain, Robbie Robinson, Dick Young, and Dave Bryant receiving the SAR 250 Anniversary Silver medal certificates from the FLSSAR.

Lisette Young and Paula Perry from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) then came forward and gave DAR 250 Anniversary medals to Roger Roscoe, Will Wagner-Hart, and Bob Yarnell for their support of the 250th Anniversary program. These medals are similar to the SAR medals in recognizing members who have made contributions to the 250th Anniversary Program.



Lisette Young, Roger Roscoe, Will Wagner-Hart, Bob Yarnell, Robbie Robinson and Paul Perry at DAR 250 Anniversary medal awards

Vice President Roger Roscoe then awarded President Robinson the SAR Henry Knox Achievement Medal for his leadership efforts in setting up the

George Washington Gala dinner in February, which raised \$1000 for the VA Fisher Houses in Tampa, and over \$980 for the chapter.



Robbie Robinson receiving Henry Knox Medal from Tampa Chapter VP Roger Roscoe

After lunch, Bob Yarnell introduced Ms Diandra Varbaro, the chapter's Knight Essay contest winner and the FLSSAR state third place winner. Bob and Ms Diandra proceeded to have a conversation about the subject of her essay, Daniel Morgan. Following the conversation, President Robinson presented Ms Varbaro with a \$100 check from the Tampa Chapter and a \$250 check from the FLSSAR.



Bob Yarnell, Diandra Varbaro, and Robbie Robinson during SAR Medal presentation

Following the benediction and SAR Recessional, President Robinson adjourned the meeting at 1:15 PM.

April Meeting:

Our April meeting will be held at the University Mall--our normal meeting location. We will start at 11:30am, as usual. Our schedule of events will include presentation of J/ROTC awards by Terry Doan, and Robbie Robinson will be giving a presentation about our first US President, George Washington.

Tampa Chapter Schedule for 2024:

-April 20th - ROTC recognition at our normal meeting location

-May 17th - Speaker from Pioneer Museum in Dade City

Color Guard Events

Upcoming Dates:

16 Apr: Honor Flight at St Pete Airport

10 May: Galvez Day Celebration, in Pensacola

27 May: Memorial Day Ceremony at the American Legion Post #5 in Tampa

Revolutionary History Notes (by Bob Yarnell)

The Boston Tea Party occurred in mid-December 1773. The skirmishes at Lexington and Concord happened in mid-April 1775, 16 months later. While there is a line of causation that connects the two, the Boston Tea Party did not make skirmishes at Lexington and Concord inevitable. Let's examine that line of causation.

Throughout the 1760's, the American colonists' reaction to changes in British colonial policy resulted in relatively mild, although increasing restrictive British responses. The Boston Tea Party, however, pushed the British ministry to request from Parliament a series of much more drastic measures. In the spring of 1774, Parliament passed five acts, collectively entitled the Coercive Acts, to punish the Colony of Massachusetts, and particularly the City of Boston*.

- Boston Port Bill, passed March 31, 1774

This Act closed the Port of Boston and placed restrictions on trade until the colonists reimbursed the East India Company for their loss and the colonists paid the tariff due on the tea.

- Administration of Justice Act, passed May 20, 1774.

This Act allowed any British government official in Massachusetts charged with a crime while in performance of his duties, to be tried in England, not Massachusetts.

- Massachusetts Government Act, passed May 20, 1774

This Act abolished Boston's elected city government and gave the Royal Governor of Massachusetts increased power.

- Quartering Act, passed June 2, 1774

Like the previous Quartering Act, this new law required the colonists to provide housing for British soldiers in houses and barns that were unoccupied.

Great Britain hoped that the Coercive Acts would isolate radicals in Massachusetts and cause American colonists to concede the authority of Parliament over their elected assemblies. However, the harshness of the British response had the opposite effect.

As the various Acts began to be implemented, political leaders throughout the colonies began to be increasingly concerned about the volatility of the situation. To figure out how to keep things under control and to come up with a response to the British government, they called the First Continental Congress which met between the first week of September, 1774, and mid-October. After much arguing and debating, they agreed on three things.

- First, if Britain did not repeal the Coercive Acts, (called the Intolerable Acts by the colonists), by December 1, 1774, all colonies would join in a boycott of British goods.

- Second, the Congress wrote and sent a petition to the King citing their grievances and requesting the King give them relief from an overreaching Parliament.

- Third, they agreed to meet again in the summer of 1775 to reassess the situation. By then the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord had taken place and Congress began a yearlong debate to determine if reconciliation with Britain was possible, or, if independence should be declared. (This fall at our September and October meetings we will have 250 moments about the First Continental Congress.)

Even as the Congress met, events began spiraling out of control in and around Boston. The colonists reacted to the tougher laws by organizing themselves better and militia training took on a new importance. Due to the increase in local militia training, the British decided to take away the colonists' gun powder. And, of course, as we all know, a British raid to obtain gunpowder stored in Concord is what brought about the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord.

* When I taught this to my students, especially at middle school, I would use the analogy of a bully (the British) at the beach. The bully draws a line and dares you (the colonists) to cross it. This happens several times before the bully, to save face, has to do something. In our case, The Boston Tea Party is analogous to the colonists crossing the third line. Britain thought they had to do something, thus the Coercive Acts.

Miscellaneous Reminders:

JROTC Awards Schedule:

Please see the list of schools where the Tampa Chapter will be providing awards to deserving JROTC cadets in the next few months. Please let Terry Doan which of these schools you can support. There is very little you have to do other than attend the program and make the presentation when your turn comes up. More information will be provided at the March meeting to provide the times for each school.

<u>School:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Hillsborough	Tampa
Blake	Tampa
Jefferson	Tampa
King	Temple Terrace
Middleton	Tampa
Tampa Bay Tech	Tampa
Chamberlain	Tampa
Leto	Tampa
Robinson	Tampa
Gaither	Tampa
Sickles	Tampa
HB Plant	Tampa
Alonso	Tampa
Wharton	New Tampa
Zephyrhills	Zephyrhills
Steinbrenner	Lutz
USF (AF)	Tampa
USP (AR)	Tampa
USF (Navy)	Tampa
Sea Cadets	Tampa

Member News:

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.

