



The Whig



The monthly newsletter and source of information for the
St. Lucie River Chapter,
Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution

December 2016

President's Salvo



Gentlemen,

As we approach the end of Chapter Activities, We wish to thank all Compatriots for their support this year by attending meetings and participating in Public Activities, and with their guests as well. We have lost two of our Compatriots along the way this year, Jay Wise and Bud Rockhill. They were Veterans of WWII and were real Patriots in caring for our SAR ideals and ardent support of our American Flag and Ways. We have grown in size again and thanks to our Membership Chair John Sheppard and his genealogy helpers, we will grow more, especially since we recently forwarded 8 applications this week and currently have a family cluster of 5 plus more in the review cycle. Our society is family oriented as well, as you can see several family members on the roster now, and with another few in the information gathering cycle, we will have more in the future. My belief is that when the public see us in our colonial attire and/or Blazers, they see a sense of pride in our great Country. We try to do this at all public events, like parades, veteran's activities,

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Fort Pierce Christmas Parade



The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR was honored to participate in the Fort Pierce Christmas Parade December 4th. Compatriot Hall Riediger, parade committee chairman, arranged for a duty driver and a trailer, which was provided by his son-in-law Steve Sanders. Several compatriots and friends spent the prior day painting the flatbed trailer with a white floor and a green frame. The theme chosen for this year was a display of all chapter flags and chapter banners as well copies of most Revolutionary flags. The lead flag was the George Washington Commander in Chief/Headquarters Flag, which has a blue background with white stars, which compatriots can always find draped over our lectern at chapter meetings. Our standard American Colors and our SAR Flag were followed by a Liberty Tree/Naval Flag Tree, Gadsden Flag, Bennington Flag, and the Betsy Ross Flag.

Participants in Colonial attire included Hall Riediger, John Auld, Charles Berger, John Sheppard, Jack Irvin, Carl Wade, Jim Alderman, Chuck McKinley, and Steve Laster. Hall is looking into building a small Valley Forge cabin for next year's event.

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President's Salvo

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JROTC involvement, History Fairs, and other school activities as well. Participation in these type activities fosters interest in our organization. Recruiting and pamphlet distribution at our local Libraries helps as well.

Next year we hope to improve on our programs and are trying to assemble some data on our culture as to the colonial attire, food stuffs, and various types of armaments. We are anticipating what we are calling Our Spring Fling, which will be held in a local park, which means one can bring their spouse and children or grandchildren for a modest price of course with some help from the chapter. We hope to have various compatriots in different attire, types of weapons, and hope to be able to cook a couple of colonial foods. Next month's meeting will have a briefing on the Honor Flight.

We wish to give our Seasons Greetings

Sincerely,

Chuck McKinley
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Sons of the American Revolution



Pearl Harbor Day Activity

The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR participated in the Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony held at Veterans Memorial Park in Port St. Lucie on December 7th at 7:55 am. This year was extra special as it was the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The lone local survivor was not in attendance as he was at a doctor's appointment, his son said.



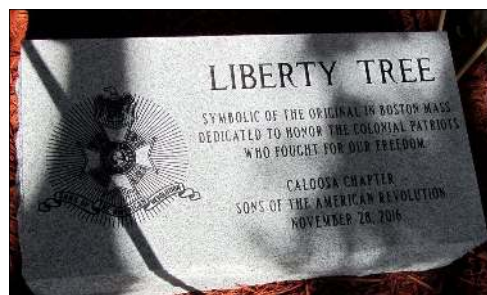
Compatriots in attendance included Jack Irvin, who provided the sound system, Jim Alderman (in Colonial attire), Carl Wade (in Navy uniform), John Auld, Chuck McKinley and wife, and soon to be compatriot Steve Laster.

During comments from the audience, Carl Wade asked all to share the significance of Pearl Harbor with others. Steve Laster recounted for the crowd his fathers injuries suffered in the Philippines. It is not common knowledge that an attack on the Philippines occurred some ten hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

As a note, Steve Laster's father is going to receive a cane for his loss of limb and capture in combat at the Purple Heart Cane Ceremony at the Seal Museum in Fort Pierce on January 21. The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR will provide a color guard.

Liberty Tree Dedication

Compatriots Jim Alderman and Chuck McKinley were invited to participate in the dedication of the 37th Liberty Tree in the State of Florida. The Liberty Tree was officially dedicated on November 28, 2016 by the Caloosa Chapter, SAR with participation by the Sons of Liberty Brigade, the Lawrence Kearney Chapter, DAR, and Coral Ridge Funeral Home and Cemetery.



Chuck McKinley is the State Chair and Jim Alderman is one of the cochairmen for the State Liberty Tree Committee. This is the first dedication of a Liberty Tree since the St. Lucie River Chapter Liberty Tree at the Women's Club in Fort Pierce on March 28 in 2015. This Liberty Tree is a mature tree in the Four Freedoms Park located in Cape Coral, Florida. The ceremony was chaired by Compatriot Bob McGuire and was a National Event as SAR President General J. Michael Tomme was in attendance, as well as SAR South Atlantic Director Larry Fehrenbaker, past FLSSAR President. The ceremony was attended by the Cape Coral Mayor and the Lee County Commission, local DAR chapters, and the Caloosa Chapter Color Guard with live firing muskets. Many were in Colonial attire including our St. Lucie River Chapter attendees. Our chapter Liberty Tree Committee members will attempt to attend future Liberty Tree dedications whenever possible.

Wreaths Across America



St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR members Chuck Berger, Robert Vandevender, Chuck McKinley, Jim Alderman, and John Auld participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremonies on the 17th of December at the Forest Hills Memorial Park in Palm City and Compatriots Jack Irvin and Carl Wade participated in ceremonies at the Rolling Oaks Cemetery in Port St. Lucie.

Later that day we also held a ceremony White City Cemetery at Compatriot Jay Wise's gravesite. In attendance was wife Lindy, daughter Susan and her husband Stu, and Peggy Siletto and her husband Jim. Compatriots in attendance were Jack Irvin and wife Sandy, Jim Alderman, Chris Wade, Chuck Berger, Joe Regan, and Chuck McKinley. A wreath from the Martin County Wreaths Across America, an American Flag, and an SAR flag were provided. Chris Wade and Jack Irving started the ceremony with their own words and a Salute. They were the last two on the site for Jay's burial in accordance with military protocol. We will continue this every year as Jay was a beloved compatriot and was instrumental in getting our Chapter involved in Wreaths Across America.



From left to right: Chris Wade, Jim Alderman, Chuck McKinley, Lindy Wise, Jack Irvin, Chuck Berger, and Joe Regan

DAR Christmas Party

Chapter members Chuck McKinley and his wife Betty, Chuck Berger, and Jack Irvin attended the Saint Lucie River Chapter, DAR Christmas party at the Savannah Club on the December 17. We attended at the invitation of Chapter Regent Valerie Ehret. We met her a few months ago at the United Veterans of Port St Lucie at a meeting and asked her about joining the United Veterans of Saint Lucie County. As a result of this, she did join and also participated in the Veterans Day ceremony in Port Saint Lucie and at Jetsons, and asked us to provide her with information on other veterans' activities that may be of interest to them. We met all of their officers and Chuck Berger started working on scheduling of their participation in joint activities in the future.

Chuck McKinley

2016 Food Drive



Thanks to all Compatriots who participated in our 2016 annual Food Drive. Once again, we beat the previous year for the weight of food contributed. This year we had 163 pounds of food to take to the Treasure Coast Food Bank. Compatriot Charles Berger and Chuck McKinley delivered the food. The Food Drive seems to be growing each year and I am sure that people are happy to have these donations during this time of year.

Chuck McKinley

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December Meeting Highlights



The final Chapter meeting of 2016 was held December 10th with the largest number of attendees (41) in several years. We awarded Law Enforcement Commendation Medals to Detective Richard Serra of the City of Stuart and to Compatriot Officer Christopher Ross Wade of Sewall's Point.

With City of Stuart Police Chief David Dyess present, Detective Richard Serra was presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate and a department citation which read: "Stuart Police Department honoree Detective Richard Serra was placed in charge of an armed robbery investigation. His diligence and detective work lead to the identification and conviction of Adam Wiggins, who had prior convictions for 2nd degree murder and robbery. Detective Serra testified and Adams was convicted and was sentenced to LIFE."

With Sewall's Point Police Chief Tina Ciechanowski present, Officer Christopher R. Wade was presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate and a department citation which read: "Ross Wade Received his award for leading the Sewall's Point Police Department as Field Training Officer. Officer Wade shows superior integrity, excellent policing skills, and the ability to motivate and lead others." At the conclusion of the ceremony, Chief Ciechanowski announced that Officer Wade was promoted to Sergeant that day, which was very rewarding to him and his family.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Steve Sanders for his help driving and providing the truck and trailer for the Fort Pierce Christmas Parade. Our President's wife Betty McKinley brought Poinsettias and we awarded one to each of our Manero's servers, and we did a drawing with Junior Compatriot Connor Bonner as the person who gave them out. The recipients were John Sheppard, Jack Irvin and Steve Laster.



From left to right: Stuart Detective Richard Serra, Sewall's Point Police Chief Tina Ciechanowski, and Sergeant Christopher Ross Wade.

Habitat of Humanity



On December 16, the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR had the pleasure to participate in the dedication ceremony for a new Habitat for Humanity home on Ellendale Street in Stuart, Florida. Compatriots Jim Alderman, Chuck Berger, Joe Regan, and Chuck McKinley attended the ceremony and presented the Islam/Begum family with a new United States Flag, a booklet on displaying the flag properly, and a copy of the United States Constitution. The family members were Tandra Islam, son Safqaat, daughter Tanjila, and Tandra's mother Mahmuda Begum. Compatriot Jim Alderman led off the ceremony by giving some patriot history, presented the flag pamphlet and Constitution, and then asked the young Tanjila to put up the flag. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Coordinating the event was Tina Baldwin, event coordinator for the Habitat for Humanity for Martin County. She said they always enjoyed having the children participate, and both Compatriots Jay Wise and Joe Leinbach always did this in the past and it was appreciated.



Compatriot Jim Alderman with the Islam/Begum family

This was Compatriot Jim Alderman's first event in his new chapter assignment with Habitat for Humanity, and we are proud that he conducted it according to the manner that our two past Habitat for Humanity chapter compatriots did for many years. As a note, Compatriot Jay Wise has passed away and Compatriot Joe Leinbach has moved away and changed Chapters, so we hope to see Jim handling many more Habitat for Humanity dedications in the future.

Next Month's Meeting

The next Chapter meeting will be held at Manero's on the January 14th. Our Program will be about the Honor Flight Program for our Veterans from WWII and Korea. Compatriot Tom Gilmore has participated in Honor Flights in the past by being a companion to veterans on the trip. All of our veterans are true Patriots.

Membership Cards

There will be some delay in our new membership cards for 2017 as we had the interesting dilemma of running out of them. A new batch has arrived and are now in the possession of Chapter Secretary John Auld, who will be mailing them out shortly.

Season's Greetings

Your chapter officers wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their participation in Chapter activities this past year. We extend Season's Greetings to all and hope you will enjoy the Holidays with your families and friends as we do.

Chapter Reports: December 2016



Treasurer's Report—

Current Checking Account: 2869.88

Current Money Market Account: \$6695.95

Membership Committee Report—Our Chapter has the following number of members for a total of 78 current members:

66 regular members

3 life members

9 junior members

Fifteen prospective member's applications are pending approval at NSSAR or are in preparation for submission.

Program Committee Report—See article "Next Month's Meeting".

Eagle Scout Committee Report—No activity to report.

Habitat for Humanity Committee Report—See the article "Habitat for Humanity".

History Fair Committee Report—The St. Lucie County History Fair will be at Indian River State College on January 12th.

JROTC Committee Report—No activity to report.

Liberty Tree Committee Report—See the article "Liberty Tree Dedication".

Veteran's Affairs Committee Report—See various articles in The Whig.

Genealogy Committee—No activity to report.

Color Guard Committee—See article "Fort Pierce Christmas Parade".

Americanism Committee—No activity to report.

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SAR News and Notes

-On Tuesday, 24 January 2017, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) will open a new exhibition, Chartering Freedom. The documents reproduced in this exhibition chronicle the creation of the Charters of Freedom: the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, and their impact on events in this country and around the world. They reveal the story of earlier generations of Americans who had both the vision to see a better world and the audacity to build it. The exhibit runs through Friday, 17 March 2017. Find out more by visiting the NSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

-Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,100 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and

abroad. President General J. Michael Tomme, Sr. has issued a proclamation for the occasion. Read it at www.sar.org or by clicking [here](#).

-Six months into President General Michael J. Tomme's Youth Awards Initiative seven State Societies have met or exceeded a \$1,000 donation to the Council of Youth Awards. At the July SAR Congress PG Tomme challenged each State Society to donate between July 2016 and 1 June 2017 to the Council of Youth Awards. These funds will serve to increase the monetary level of SAR youth awards administered by SAR youth contest committees. Find out more by visiting the NSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

-The current edition of The Florida Patriot, Winter 2017, is available to view or download from the FLSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

Events Calendar

January 14: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City*

January 21: Canes for Purple Heart, Ft. Pierce Seal Museum, Color Guard

February 3-4: Winter 2017 BOM Meeting, Kissimmee. Host region is the NE.

February 11: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Okeechobee, place TBD.

February 22: George Washington's Birthday

March 4: Last Naval Battle

March 11: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City*

April 8: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City*

March 11: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City*

May 13: Spring Fling, park TBD.

May 19-21: Spring 2017 BOM Meeting, Kissimmee. Host region is the SE.

June 14: Flag Day

July 7-13: 127th Annual SAR Congress, Knoxville, Tennessee

July 4: Independence Day

* Regular meetings start at 11:30 am unless noted.

Editor's Note

Our Chapter is very active this time of year. Take the opportunity to get involved any way you can. Anyone attending Chapter activities who has the opportunity to document the event with photographs or a brief write-up is encouraged to forward such to the Editor. WKH

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Minutes**December 10th, 2016**

Call to order: 12:00 PM

Invocation (Audience stands) by: Phil Carr and Steve Trinkle

Pledge of Allegiance (Audience stands): Jack Irvin, Carl Wade, Matt Saxton

SAR Pledge: We, descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of Liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

Guests Present: Jackie Gillespie, Jan Barnhart, Marie Wade, Steve and Michelle Sanders, Betty McKinley, Sewall's Point Mayor James Campo, Steve Laster, Bill Roberts, Sewall's Point Police Chief Tina Ciechanowski, Stuart Police Chief David Dyess, Stuart Detective Richard Serra

Members present: Gary Miles, Rick Jordan, Chris Wade, Richard Gillespie, Chuck McKinley, Joe Regan, Chuck Berger, Larry Hughes, Jim Pippin, Jim Alderman, Tom Barnhart, Robert Vandevender, Carl Wade, John Sheppard, John Auld, Hall Riediger, George Bartley, Jack Irvin, Phil Carr, Matt Saxton, Ross Wade, Steve Trinkle, Robert and Connor Bonvie.

Introductions: Compatriots Introduced their Guests

Newly Transferred Members: Larry Hughes, Richard Gillespie

There was no Correspondence or Unfinished Business.

Minutes of Previous as for Acceptance

Motion Phil Carr. 2nd Jack Irvin

Introductions-- Chuck Berger and Chris Wade of Law Enforcement Members, John Auld for the Sewell's Point Mayor.

Committee Reports: 2nd Vice President John Shepard reports:

78 current chapter members; 7 new applicants at National plus Supplementals, 3 others in queue. 11 of which 6 are awaiting Family Signature out of town

Meeting recessed for lunch. As we had a full house over 40 people, and in order to have the meals served about the same time we did normal meeting business before the meal started.

Meeting reopened by calling everyone back to order.

Presentation: Certificate of Appreciation to Steve Sanders for driving and providing truck and trailer for Ft. Pierce Christmas Parade.

Chapter Program: Stuart and Sewell's Point Law Enforcement Commendation Awards

Introductions: Chuck Berger and Chris Wade

Sewell's Point Chief Tina Ciechanowski to Ross Wade; Stuart Chief David Dyess to Officer Richard Serra

Treasurer Chris Wade reports: Checking acct: \$2869.88 Money Mkt. Acct: \$6695.95

Halls Short Talk: Our IRSC Scholarship Program and returned Thank You note

SAR Recessional (audience stands): all present

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights and independent Supreme Court and Nation of Free men.

CALENDAR REMINDERS & NOTICES:

DECEMBER 17: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, FOREST HILL CEMETERY, PALM CITY, and Rolling Oaks, Port St Lucie, 12 NOON.

Jay Wise Grave Site at White City Cemetery Fort Pierce 4PM.

Thanks for the Food Drive Participation:

Thanks for the Parade:

50/50 drawing winner: George Bartley \$30.00

Guy's Duck amount: \$50.00 Proudly Carried by Tom Barnhart

Potted Plants were drawn for and distributed by Connor Bonvie, winners were John Sheppard, Connor Bonvie, Jack Irvin, and two for the waitress

SAR Recessional (audience stands): all present

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights and independent Supreme Court and Nation of Free men.

Season's Greetings to All!

SAR dues for 2017 Reminder

Adjournment 1:30 PM



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President's Brigade

Those Compatriots whose extra financial support allows the Chapter to go the extra mile in it's efforts throughout the year. Please, if at all possible, help us out with a little extra.

Gold Medal

Support of \$50 and above

Silver Medal

Support of \$25 and above

Bronze Medal

Support up to \$24