

Saint Lucie River Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Members Handbook

Revised May 2019

(REB)

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This handbook is intended for use by Chapter Members to provide a copy of the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws, list of Officers, Committee Chairs and other information. The information will be updated for each calendar year for the duration of the Chapter's existence.

Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings are held monthly September through May on the first Saturday, currently at Pig and Cattle Company Restaurant in Stuart, Florida, Meeting starts at 11:00 A.M. The luncheon begins at 12:00 noon. The cost of the meal is \$20.00 and includes an entrée, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic drink and gratuity. Optional 50/50 drawing, tickets cost is five for \$10.00. The Chapter provides meals for presenters and invited dignitaries. At induction meetings, meals are provided for the new member and his guest. The preferred dress code for members is blue blazers and gray or tan trousers. Colonial or casual attire is acceptable.

Ordinarily the meeting agenda is:

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

SAR Pledge

Invocation

Program

Luncheon

Reconvene

Chapter Business

Committee reports

Upcoming events

Items of interest

50/50 drawing

Guys' Duck

Benediction and Recessional Pledge

* Guy's Duck collection was initiated by Charter President Guy Athearn. Funds collected, usually \$1.00 per member, are earmarked for community educational purposes. The Pledge and Recessional are on the last page of this document, some members may wish to memorize it.

External Meetings

External Meetings- are held throughout the year at several locations and may include the following; Christmas Parade in Fort Pierce, Veterans day parades in various locations, Memorial day Veterans activities in all of the counties served by our chapter, Independence Day ball game at the METS stadium, Pearl Harbor Day, Joint SAR/DAR activities, Flag Day Ceremony, Habitat for Humanity new home dedications, JROTC awards at all of the county high schools in Martin and St. Lucie County, Liberty Tree, and invitations for chapter presentations at locations as requested. Members will be notified of such events through publication in the WHIG, email or through our web site and/or Facebook page.

State Board of Management Meeting (BOM)

The State BOM is held in Kissimmee on a quarterly basis. Information about each event can be as found on the state web page. All members may attend, and spouses are welcome.

Chapter Newsletter, The WHIG

The Whig publishes reports of Chapter activities. It is distributed to members and prospective members by email or USPS. A copy may also be found on our web page. Minutes and program activities are included. Any member may write articles for publication about their activities or the history of their patriot and may include photos. Photos published in the WHIG may usually be made available to members upon request.

Chapter officers

Chapter Officers and their contact information are listed on page 15. Committees and their members are listed on page 16.

Membership and Dues

Annual membership dues are to be paid between the October 1 and January 1. If dues are not paid by January 1, membership will be dropped and will require a reinstatement form to be signed by the member and submitted to State and National. Dues are as follows: \$70 for Regular, \$5 for a Junior, and \$35 for life membership.

Regular Membership: A member age 18 or older who pays annual dues. Only regular members may vote and hold office in the SAR and receive The SAR Magazine at no additional cost.

Junior Membership: A member under age 18 who pays annual dues at a reduced rate. He is not eligible to vote or hold office and does not receive The SAR Magazine

Life Membership: Members may purchase a life membership in the National Life Membership Plan rather than pay annual dues to the National Society. A member must pay a fee based on his age to participate in the National Life Membership Plan. A check for the required fee, payable to the order of the Treasurer General, NSSAR, should be sent to the Executive Director, NSSAR together with a completed National Life Membership application form. The Executive Director will notify the applicant that he has been enrolled in the National Life Membership Plan after receiving his application and check in the proper amount and will send a copy of such notification to the treasurer of the state society to which the member belongs. The Fund will pay a member's national dues after enrollment, if he remains in good standing as a member of his state society. The Plan will pay NSSAR dues in the year following the year of acceptance of the member in The National Life Membership Plan.

Medals

The placement order of medals on the Blue Blazer order is as follows; SAR Badge, Military Service, State Awards. Chapter awards, various activities such as the Canaveral Naval Battle, Large Medal will be on the Blazer, small ones on colonial attire except none will be worn at a national event. They are worn on a Tuxedo at National events. The National Rosette and/or SAR pin are to be placed on the left lapel. The circular Blazer emblem is below the left pocket, Medals are placed about 4 inches down from the top inseam and are in rows of four medals each.

Colonial Attire

Colonial Attire is not required but is recommended for all state and National events and perhaps for Parades as it often draws attention and the solicitation of information. Basically, there are two types of Colonial Attire, Military which usually has the state color for the unit and militia attire, which varies and could be everyday attire. Here is a good web page about descriptions of Military attire during the Revolutionary War:

<http://www.history-of-american-wars.com/Revolutionary-War-Uniforms.html>

Flag Certificates

Flag Certificates may be awarded by any Chapter Member when he sees a flag displayed at a residence. They would walk up to the residence and ask the owner if they are receptive of receiving a Certificate of Patriotism for flying the American Flag. The member should ask the individual to provide the name for the Flag Chairman and who will prepare the certificate for the members' presentation.

We do not provide certificates for business locations, but members may can obtain one for the communities in which they live.

Veterans Medals and Activities

Chapter medals are awarded to members who have served on active duty in the military, whether during conflicts or peace time. Members must present a copy of their DD-214 certificate to enroll a veteran in the State Battalion and the Applicable National period conflict upon approval. The medals consist of a Military Service Medal (MSM) for peacetime service, and War Service Medal (WSM) to defined conflicts. The WSM will have an applicable drape on it for the conflict or several as applicable. The chapter participates in all Veterans Day activities in Martin, St Lucie and Okeechobee Counties. This may include Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Ceremony for Missing Men, Pearl Harbor Day in Port Saint Lucie, Wreath Laying ceremonies for Wreaths Across America in all 3 Counties and Parades.

SAR Related Web pages

Access to all SAR related information for State, National and Chapter web pages may be found in this document on page 19. These pages will require a member to go to the 3 pages, Chapter, State, and National. You will have to create a user ID and password For State and National web page use only as described in this document. Documents, BOM Announcements and data, and personal information can be found there. The State and National have a lot of information that may be useful as well as complete and application, other data bases, documents for use and the gateway to the store for items of interest.

St Lucie River Chapter Web Page

<http://www.slrc-sar.org/>

St Lucie River Chapter Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/StLucieRiverSAR>

Florida Sons of the American Revolution Web Page

<http://www.flssar.org/FLSSAR/Tabs.asp>

National Society – Sons of the American Revolution Web Page

<https://www.sar.org/>

If you don't remember your Username try your First & Middle initials and Last name (example: FMLastname) Your Password will be your State SAR Number#

You will have to create your user id and password, once this is done, then you will have access to quite a bit of information and use the SAR Store as well.

2018/2019 Officers

President

Charles Berger

Registrar/Genealogist

Bill Sander

First Vice President

Robert E Beasley, SR

Sergeant at Arms /Photographer

Joe Regan

Second Vice President

Bill Sander

Color Guard Commander

H. Hall Riediger

Secretary

John H. Auld

Chaplain

Steve Trinkle

Treasurer

James Linn

Co-Chaplain

James Currie

Director at Large

John Auld

Webmaster

Robert E Beasley, Jr.

H. Hall Riediger

Editor

Committee Chairs/Assistants

Americanism Committee

Robert Bonvie

Public Safety and Heroism

Robert Bonvie

Habitat for Humanity

Chuck Berger

Medals and Awards

Jim Cassada

Eagle Scout

Bill Sander

Liberty Tree

Joe Regan

Veterans/JROTC

Jack Irvin

Carl Wade

Publicity

John Auld

Chuck Berger

Membership

Bill Sander

DAR Liaison

H. Hall Reidiger

Chuck Berger

Flag

Jim Alderman

Genealogy

Bill Sander

Rumbaugh Oration

Knight Essay

Newsletter

Bill Hammond

Public Safety/Heroism

Robert Bonvie

St. Lucie River Chapter Committees

Program Committee – Chairman Chapter 1st Vice President

Responsible to find a speaker or program for every meeting

Notify the secretary so the speaker/ program can be included in the meeting notice

Although almost any interesting speaker or program might be appreciated, those pertaining to the common interests of the members should be considered.

Some suggested topics might be:

- The Constitution
- The Bill of Rights
- The Continental Congress

- Revolutionary War History
- Revolutionary War Patriots
- Colonial attire, food and weapons
- Applications and Supplementals
- Genealogy

Membership Committee – Chairman Chapter 2nd Vice President

- Responsible for recruiting new members
- Assist prospective members with genealogical research and documentation.
- Prepare and submit applications and Supplementals
- Maintain a list of prospective members
- Provide the president with information needed for new member swearing in ceremonies
- Public Safety and Heroism Committee – Chairman appointed by Chapter President
- Responsible for recognizing individuals in Law Enforcement, Fire, Safety and Emergency Medical Services who have performed an heroic act in the course or their duty with medal and award certificates

Medals and Awards Committee – Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Responsible for maintaining Chapter medals and award certificates
- Responsible for maintaining a record of the inventory
- Responsible for ordering medals and award certificates
- Responsible for determining recipients of medals and awards that are not the responsibility of other committees

Americanism Committee – Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Responsible for promoting the principles of Freedom and Liberty for all Americans

- Elementary School Poster Contest for 4th or 5th graders depending on the year in which their school system teaches the American Revolution
- Tom and Betty Lawrence American Teacher Award presented to the middle or high school teacher who distinguishes themselves in teaching about the American Revolution
- Local History Fairs and Award Chapter Monetary Awards and Certificates

Color Guard Committee – Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Responsible to visibly promote the stated objectives of the SAR which are historical, patriotic and educational by wearing uniforms of Continental Soldiers, Militiamen or attired as Revolutionary-era Clergymen.
- Provide Color Guard at parades, funeral and other activities as requested.

Eagle Scout Committee – Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Responsible to act as liaison with the Boy Scouts of America to develop activities and recognitions that enhance a Partnership for Good Citizenship
- Promote the Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Award Program

Veterans/ROTC/ JROTC/ Service Academies – Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Responsible for attending and reporting local
- Veteran activities/ meetings
- Preparation of State and National Battalion forms
- Determine what medals to awarded new members for their military service
- Attend and present the applicable Medals for these activities
- Support local Veterans' hospitals

Patriotic Activities Committee – Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Responsible for recognition of community businesses and individuals who publicly exhibit an act of Patriotism, such as displaying American Flags
- Committee is responsible for Awarding Certificates

Publicity Committee – Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Responsible for promoting the Chapter, Chapter events and activities through media sources such as newspapers, flyers, radio, etc.

Habitat for Humanity Committee – Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Responsible for procuring an American Flag and a copy of the Constitution to present at new home ceremonies
- Coordinate with the local Habitat for Humanity Office and attend the ceremony
- Try to involve the youngest resident in the Flag Ceremony

Liberty Tree Committee - Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Determine and request funds for the installation of any new Liberty Tree and provide the information to the State Committee for inclusion in the data base

Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest Committee – Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Responsible to find and assist high school students to promote oratorical presentations related to the Revolutionary War Period 1750 – 1800

Knight Essay Contest Committee – Chairman appointed by Chapter President

- Responsible to find and assist high school students to write essays that deal with events, persons, philosophies or ideals associated with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution of the United States

Nominating Committee – Chairman is the most immediate Past President

- Responsible for selecting and presenting a slate of nominations for officers to the membership

DAR Liaison - Individual appointed by Chapter President

- Coordinate SLR Chapter activities with the applicable County DAR Organizations

Other positions which can be appointed by the Chapter President:

- Parliamentarian – Responsible for interpretation of rules of order and proper procedure for conducting meetings
- Historian – Responsible for collecting and maintaining material about Chapter history, members and activities
- Chaplain – Prayers and benedictions at Chapter activities
- Flag Award Committee

Color Guard

The Color Guard often participates in ceremonies in our area. Generally, they require colonial attire or Blazers. We carry an American Flag and Chapter Colors and sometimes Muskets. All normally wear White Gloves. A Ceremony for departed members also uses a color Guard, and the Ceremony for that is attached as well.

Suggested Funeral Ritual for a Departed Compatriot

Chaplain: Our heavenly Father, we thank you for our Country, for its glorious past and its promising future, and for the lives of those who have loved this land and have served it. We commend to you the soul of our departed Compatriot, who in his lifetime gave to his native land the testimony of his sincere patriotism. Amen.

President: It is our will that our deceased Compatriot may continue to wear the insignia of our order. (The *Secretary* places the SAR Badge on the deceased's coat, subject to the wishes of the family. If the SAR Badge is to remain with the family, the SAR Rosette should be pinned to the lapel. (If the top is closed the Funeral Director will remove the pin and Presidents Drape, ETC when the top is closed for the service they will be given to the Family If the Family desires to retain them.)

Secretary: We leave with you the symbol of our Order.

President: It is our will that our departed Compatriot carry with him a symbol of our mourning.

Secretary: This is a tribute from those who mourn you. (The *Secretary* places a flower in the casket of the deceased.) (Lie on Top if closed and give to the Family)

President: It is finally our will that the Flag our Compatriot loved be placed in his casket. (The *Vice President* places a small U. S. Flag on the casket.) (Lie on Top if closed and give to the Family)

Vice President: Here we place a Flag of our beloved country.

Chaplain: Almighty God, who are the only source of health and healing, the Spirit of calm and the central Peace of the universe, grant to us, your children, such a consciousness of your presence, as may give us utter confidence in you. We entrust all those dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come. May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you, always. Amen.

Notes:

1. "Taps" is played at the conclusion of the Chaplain's remarks if the decedent saw active Military service. The Flag that was on the coffin will then be given to the family. The Compatriots then reverently file past the casket, and follow the President out, the Color Guard remaining until all are gone, and then lowering (retrieving) colors and filing out.
2. For compatriots who do not profess the Christian faith, the foregoing suggested ritual and the following memorial service suggestions may quite properly be altered to conform to the applicable customs of the faith of the deceased.
3. If a Military Service Organization (i.e. American Legion) wishes to partake in the ceremony, Their Service may follow. It is the common practice in some areas. They fold the Flag and the Chapter representative gave the flag to the Family.
4. If the family does not want a Religious service at the Cemetery. The chapter will take Flags to the Cemetery and a family member recited the Pledge of Allegiance with the attendees. Two Compatriots remain at the site until the Casket was in the Ground in accordance with ceremonies at National Cemeteries.
5. Our Chapter will provide Sentries at the Family's Request.



Saint Lucie River Chapter By-Laws Revised May 2019

ST. LUCIE RIVER CHAPTER
FLORIDA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

After approval by the National and Florida State Societies of the Sons of the American Revolution, the applicant shall be sworn in as a member of the St. Lucie River Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE II - FEES AND DUES

Membership fees for new members, transfers from other Societies or Chapters and reinstatement of dropped members shall be the total of fees required by the National Society, the Florida Society and the St. Lucie River Chapter.

Annual dues for the subsequent year shall be due and payable on or before December 31st and shall be the total of dues required by the National Society, the Florida Society and the St. Lucie River Chapter. Members who are in arrears may be reinstated by complying with National Society Sons of the American Revolution bylaws relating thereto. The dues are to be collected by the Treasurer.

ARTICLE III - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall be composed as stated in ARTICLE VI of the CONSTITUTION. They shall have control and management of the affairs, funds and other property of the Chapter. They shall have the power to accept resignations from Officers and members; to fill vacancies, except that of President; direct the President to call a meeting of the Chapter; and to authorize special meetings.

ARTICLE IV - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

The duties of the Officers and Committee Chairmen shall be those that usually pertain to their offices and such other duties as herein stated.

The retiring Officers shall, within one week of retirement, deliver to their successors all papers, funds, records and any other property belonging to the Chapter.

ARTICLE V - PRESIDENT

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter. He shall call special meetings when requested to do so in writing by two or more members in good standing. He shall be responsible to appoint all committees, except the Nominating Committee. Committees so appointed shall elect their own Chairman, unless provided otherwise herein. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall hold only the Office of President. The President shall report to the BOM Regional Vice President the Chapter's activities before each State BOM.

ARTICLE VI - FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, he shall take over the duties of the President and shall continue to do so as long as the President is unavailable. In addition, the 1st Vice-President shall be responsible for the programs of the regular meetings.

ARTICLE VII - SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, he shall assist the First Vice President with the duties of the President and shall continue to do so if the President is unavailable. The 2nd Vice-President shall be Chairman of the Membership Committee and will maintain Member Database lists of current and past members and assist the Registrar in the preparation of new applications. He shall keep a list of current applicants with their names, contact information and status. He shall be responsible for coordinating recruiting activities.

ARTICLE VIII - SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep a record of all members attending meetings and a full record of all proceedings of the meetings.

He shall be responsible that due notice of all meetings is given. He shall attend to all correspondence of the Chapter, except in those cases where it is advisable for the individual Officer to answer, in which case, a copy should be made for the Chapter files.

ARTICLE IX - TREASURER

The Treasurer shall deposit all monies in such bank or banks that are designated depositories for the Chapter. He shall keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements.

The Treasurer shall make a report of the financial status of the Chapter at regular monthly meetings and whenever called upon to do so.

ARTICLE X - REGISTRAR

The Registrar shall ensure complete files and records of all membership application documents are properly stored and maintained.

ARTICLE XI - CUSTODIAN OF THE FLAGS

By direction of the Board of Directors or the President, the custodian of the flags shall always oversee posting and retiring of the Colors and the safe storage of the same.

ARTICLE XII - COMMITTEES

1. The Program Committee, of which the 1st Vice-President is Chairman, shall have charge of all programs and entertainment, seeing to it that proper arrangements are made for all meetings.
2. The Membership Committee, of which the 2nd Vice-President is Chairman, shall be charged with the duty of acquiring new members.
3. The Americanism Committee shall assist, where feasible, at at Nationalization Ceremonies and otherwise help to promote Americanism.
4. Special Committees shall have duties as are assigned to them.

ARTICLE XIII - REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

For sufficient cause, the Chapter may remove any Officer from office by a two thirds majority vote of members present and voting, provided that at least fifteen days' notice of such action is mailed to such person at his last known address.

ARTICLE XIV - NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee shall be composed as follows: The most immediate Past President, who shall act as Chairman, and two other members who shall be elected every odd numbered year after nominations from the floor, provided that no one shall be elected to succeed himself. They shall be elected at the April meeting in the year following the installation of officers. This Committee shall serve for one year and present a suggested slate of officers at the next March meeting.

ARTICLE XV – ELECTIONS

Election of officers shall take place every two years at the April meeting. When the presiding officer proceeds with the election, it shall be his duty to ask if there are any nominations from the floor before declaring the nominations closed. All Officers are to be elected for a term of two years. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of members present.

ARTICLE XVI - AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended, altered and/or repealed, provided written resolutions are presented in writing to each member either by email or U.S. Mail sent to the last known address of the member no less than seven (7) days before the first meeting at which the Bylaw amendment, alteration, or repeal is to be considered. Said resolutions shall be read to the membership at two consecutive meetings prior to being voted on for approval. Such approval shall be by a simple majority of members present and voting.



Revised 2019

St. Lucie River Chapter

The Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be St. Lucie River Chapter of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE II – JURISDICTION

The St. Lucie River Chapter of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution has jurisdiction in St. Lucie and Martin Counties, Florida.

ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES

The purposes of the St. Lucie River Chapter are:

1. To perpetuate the memory of those who strove for American Independence and whose military or civil acts and sacrifices during the American Revolution contributed to the achievement of that independence.
2. To unite and promote good fellowship among those whose ancestors participated in the American Revolution.
3. To promote the general dissemination of knowledge concerning our nation and its government in every way possible; to develop and enlighten public opinion on all such matters and thus help old and young alike to acquire a larger capacity for performing the duties of American citizens.
4. To foster Patriotism and to maintain and expand the institution of American Freedom.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Any male person of good character who has attained the age of 18 years, whose forefathers aided in the establishment of American Independence shall be eligible for full membership. An application for membership in the St. Lucie River Chapter shall be endorsed by the Registrar and one additional member of the Chapter and then forwarded to the State Registrar for processing together with the required fees. The State Secretary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution shall notify the Chapter of the acceptance of the applicant.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

The officers of this Chapter shall be president, first and second vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer and two members at large, who usually are past presidents. All the above shall be elected at the bi-annual election of officers for a term of two years. The chaplain, registrar, flag custodian and such other officers as deemed advisable shall be appointed by the president.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the elected officers, the immediate past-president, and one member elected from the membership at large. The elected member shall serve a term of

two years and may succeed himself, and if absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board, without acceptable excuse from the Board, may be automatically dropped from the Board and the Board shall replace him.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Chapter shall be held monthly, except for the summer months, at a time and place selected by the membership on recommendation of the Board of Directors.

Nomination of officers shall be made at the March meeting. Officers shall be elected at the April meeting and installed at the May meeting in even numbered years.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors and Chapter may be at least three of which shall be Chapter officers, shall constitute a quorum. A decision may be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting. A member in arrears for dues will have no vote.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended, altered and/or repealed, provided written resolutions are presented in writing to each member either by email or U.S. Mail sent to the last known address of the member, no less than seven (7) days before the first meeting at which the Constitution amendment, alteration, or repeal is to be considered. Said resolution shall be read to the membership at two consecutive meetings prior to being voted on for approval. Such approval shall be by a simple majority of members present and voting.

ARTICLE IX - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Chapter or those of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

SAR PLEDGE AND RECESSIONAL

Members should make a copy of the Pledge and Recessional and use to repeat as requested by the Meeting Leader.

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.”

SAR RECESSIONAL

“Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our Forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an Independent Supreme Court and a nation of free men.”