



The Whig



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

January 2017

President's Salvo



Gentlemen,

I wish to extend sincere thanks to all Compatriots, friends, and prospective members for attending meetings and participating in Chapter events. We are fortunate to be a growing Chapter, increasing not only our number, but gaining members eager to participate and help with Chapter activities. I hope this trend will continue and that we will be the best Chapter in the entire State of Florida. Hopefully we will soon need a larger room for our monthly meetings. Remember that guests, spouses, friends, and prospective members are always welcome to attend. We are looking at possible changes to have some activities or programs during our meals to shorten our meetings, or to provide more time for members to meet and socialize with other members or guests. If you have thoughts or ideas about this, let your voice be heard!

Our outstanding chapter newsletter, *The Whig*, prepared by Compatriot Bill Hammond is filled each month with interesting articles, Chapter activities from the previous month, and
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Purple Heart Cane Project



The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR was proud to attend the 2017 Purple Heart Cane Project ceremony for the presentation of hand-carved walking canes to United States Veterans who were injured and received the Purple Heart Medal. The event was held on January 21 at the National Navy U.D.T. Seal Museum in Fort Pierce. Recipients represented conflicts dating back to World War II.

The Purple Heart Canes are carved by the Indian River Woodcarvers Club. Each is hand crafted and personalized with the recipient's injury and service information. Both men and women work as cane carvers, taking up to six months to craft one personalized cane.



This was a special year as the second person with a connection to our chapter was honored. Receiving a Purple Heart Cane for combat injuries in the Philippines was Floyd F. Laster, father of Compatriot Steve Laster. Steve's daughter Marjorie Laster accepted the cane.

The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR provided a
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President's Salvo

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information on upcoming events and activities. You should write an article on your Patriot, a Revolutionary War event, or anything that you have found to be interesting pertaining to the Revolutionary War era and send it Bill to be included in our newsletter.

We strive to provide interesting and educational programs for our meetings. If you have an idea or suggestion for a program, please talk to Vice President Chuck Berger about it or bring it up at a meeting.

I hope to see you with a spouse or friend at our next monthly meeting in Okeechobee. We have a number of Compatriots who live there and look forward to having one meeting a year, held jointly with the great ladies of the Okeechobee DAR Chapter.

Sincerely,

Chuck McKinley
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January Meeting Highlights



The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR was honored to have at its January meeting guest speaker Janet Hoose, the vice-chairperson for "Southeast Florida Honor Flight". Honor Flight is a 100% volunteer, non-profit organization created solely to honor America's military veterans for the sacrifices they've made to protect our country, our freedom, and our very way of life. Janet's discussion took us from the very beginning of the Honor Flight of about 15 two passenger airplanes up to chartered commercial airliners carrying veterans from WWII to Vietnam. Each veteran receives free meals, airfare, and a trained guardian to escort them safely through a day in Washington, D.C., visiting the war memorials and other important places. Each veteran has medical help available if needed. Everything is furnished FREE to each veteran and the plan is to get all remaining veterans to Washington, D.C. in the future.



First Vice President Chuck Berger with Honor Flight Vice Chairperson Janet Hoose

Chapter compatriots showed how much they cared for the project as a hat was placed on the display for the purpose of a cash collection. Proudly, Honor Flight collected \$193 dollars in cash in addition to a \$100 check from our treasury as a result.

The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR had the pleasure to welcome to its ranks new members Phil Avant, Steve Laster, and Bill Sandler.

Phil Avant, a new member from Okeechobee, descends from Ezekiel Gaskin of South Carolina, who furnished supplies as patriotic service.

Steve Laster descends from Daniel Shelor of Maryland, who served as a Captain and Lieutenant.

Bill Sander, as well as his two sons and a grandson, descends from Private Christian Thomas of Maryland.



From left to right: Compatriots Phil Avant, Bill Sander, Steve Laster, and Second Vice President/ Genealogist John Sheppard

To Visit the Chapter Website, go to:

<http://www.stlucieriverflssarc.org/index.html>

Saint Lucie County History Fair



Once again, the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR was invited to participate in the 26th Annual St. Lucie County Board of Education History Fair held on January 12. As usual, Chapter compatriots participate in the judging of free standing presentation displays, computer/web site research, and video Documentary presentations of a varied group of topics related to history, and select the best from each group that we are given to evaluate. Some of these students may go on to the State level contest later. Our main goal is to help in the evaluation process to determine the best of each category.

Compatriots Jim Alderman, John Auld, Chuck Berger, Robert Bonvie, Jack Irvin, and Chuck McKinley participated as judges this year.

As a side benefit to the students, as a chapter project, we also look for presentations that relate to Revolutionary War period themes and recognize those with awards. As a result of our review of many topics of History, we found five different presentations on historical topics related to our Chapter theme. Each of these students will be awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and a \$25.00 check at the School Ceremony next month. They are as follows:

<i>Taking a Stand against the Tea Act</i>	<i>Sybil Ludington: A Ride to History</i>	<i>Sons of Liberty</i>
Martine Petrone & Neriah Nicholas	Christine DeMeo	Tristan Robinson
Forest Grove Middle School	St. Lucie West K-8	Lincoln Park Academy
<i>John Hancock-A Revolutionary Hero</i>	<i>Valley Forge</i>	
Robert Sansone	Gavin Bagnall & Jason Read	
Westgate K-8	Southport Middle School	

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Color Guard in Revolutionary dress to accompany the Vietnam Veterans of America Color Guard unit. Compatriots in the Color Guard were Chuck Berger, John Sheppard, Jack Irvin, and Chuck McKinley. The Chaplain for the ceremony was Compatriot Steve Trinkle. Other attending compatriots were Steve Laster, Chris Wade, Richard Gillespie, Joe Regan, and Jim Alderman. Spouses in attendance included Sandy Irvin, Diane Laster, and Marjorie Gillespie.



Chapter Reports: January 2017



Treasurer’s Report—

Current Checking Account: \$5372.01
 Current Money Market Account: \$6771.00

Membership Committee Report—Our

Chapter has the following number of members for a total of 81 current members:

- 67 regular members
- 3 life members
- 11 junior members

Ten prospective member’s applications are pending approval at NSSAR with four in preparation.

Program Committee Report—No activity to report.

Eagle Scout Committee Report—No activity to report.

Habitat for Humanity Committee Report—No

activity to report.

History Fair Committee Report—See article ‘Saint Lucie County History Fair’.

JROTC Committee Report—No activity to report.

Liberty Tree Committee Report—No activity to report.

Veteran’s Affairs Committee Report—See article ‘Purple Heart Cane Project’.

Genealogy Committee—No activity to report.

Color Guard Committee—See article ‘Purple Heart Cane Project’.

Americanism Committee—No activity to report.

Events Calendar

February 11, 10 am: Regular Meeting, First Baptist Church, 401 SW 4th Street, Okeechobee. After meeting buffet at Golden Corral, Okeechobee.

February 22: George Washington’s Birthday

February 25, 11:30 am: Halpatokee Chapter, DAR Fundraiser Luncheon and "Letters From Home: The Patriot Show" starring Erinn Diaz, Stuart Yacht & Country Club, 3883 SE Fairway E, Stuart. Reservations required.

March 11: Last Naval Battle, Merritt Island

March 18: Regular Meeting, Manero’s, Palm City*

April 8: 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.

May 27, Veterans Appreciation Ball Game, Mets Stadium, Port St. Lucie

May 30: Memorial Day, Parade/Ceremony in Stuart and Ceremony in Port St. Lucie.

June 14: Flag Day, Ceremony, Elks Club, Ft. Pierce

July 4: Independence Day

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

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

Editor’s Note

A sincere welcome to all of our new members. We hope you will be with us for many years to come. Seek to participate in ways that bring you the most satisfaction while helping the community. There is much work to do.

WKH

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Minutes

January 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Chuck McKinley at 12:00 PM.

The Invocation was by Chaplin Phil Carr.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Compatriot Gary Miles.

The Pledge to the SAR was recited by all present.

A motion was made by Carl Wade to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as they appeared in the Whig, was seconded by Joe Regan and as there was no discussion, were approved by unanimous vote of the members present.

Guests Sheila Carr, Nancy Sander, Diane Laster, Jackie Gillespie, Bill Roberts and Janet Hoose were introduced.

Janet Hoose, vice-chair of the Southeast Honor Flight, Inc. gave a very interesting video presentation of the Honor Flight Program. She spoke of the many veterans and their families who have benefited from this program and of the many guardians and volunteers who work tirelessly to make it a tremendous success. The Flights are currently primarily for WWII veterans, but as their numbers wane, veterans from the Korean and Vietnam eras will receive Honor Flights. Southeast Honor Flight, Inc., serving Southeast Florida, is part of a nationwide organization that provides Honor Flights for Veterans to the war memorials and other points of interest in Washington, DC.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chuck Berger made a motion which was seconded and approved by the members present, to donate \$100 to Southeast Honor Flight, Inc. Hall asked that Chuck Berger also place his hat on the projector for cash donations by members, which totaled \$191.

There was no correspondence, old business or new business.

2nd VP John Sheppard reported the membership committee was currently working on 4 new applications and that there were 10 applications and 3 supplementals at National.

Treasurer Chris Wade reported there was currently \$5,372.01 in the checking account and \$6,771.00 in the money market account.

New members Steve Laster, Bill Sander and Phil Avant were recognized as compatriots in their swearing in ceremony. They were presented their membership certificates, membership cards and rosettes. Steve's rosette was pinned by his wife Diane and Bill's rosette was pinned by his wife Nancy.

Compatriots John Auld, Chuck Berger, Chuck McKinley, Jim Alderman and Rob Bonvie participated in the St. Lucie County History Fair held on the 12th of February at the Indian River College in Fort Pierce. Our compatriots reviewed displays, videos, and computer presentations and upon completion, our group selected 6 young student groups for their presentations on such topics as the Tea Act, John Hancock, and the ride of Sybil Ludington, a teen Patriot who rode a different route than Paul Revere to warn of the invasion of British soldiers.

John Sheppard reported that on this day in history, 14 January 1784, the Continental Congress ratified the Second Treaty of Paris with England, ending the Colonies' war for independence.

Upcoming Events:

-On January 21st Steve Laster's father, Floyd Franklin Laster, will receive a Purple Heart Cane at a 1:00 pm ceremony at the Seal Museum in Fort Pierce.

-On February 5th, there will be a Four Chaplains Ceremony; an email will be sent confirming time and location.

-Our next meeting will be in Okeechobee on February 11th, with the Okeechobee DAR Chapter. An email will be sent confirming time and location. Colonial attire should be worn if possible.

The 50/50 drawing winner was George Bartley, who donated his \$20 winnings to the Southeastern Honor Flight.

Guy's Duck was passed by new member Bill Sander, who collected \$35.

The Benediction was conducted by Steve Trinkle.

The SAR Recessional was recited by all present, after which the meeting was adjourned.

Members present: Chuck Berger, Chuck McKinley, John Sheppard, Chris Wade, Joe Regan, Hal Riediger, Phil Carr, Jim Pippin, Gary Miles, Chris Wade, Steve Trinkle, George Bartley, George Wintering, Richard Gillespie, Jim Alderman, Carl Wade, Larry Hughes and Robert Beasley Sr.

Respectfully Submitted by Chuck McKinley

To Visit the Chapter Website, go to:

<http://www.stlucieriverflssarc.org/index.html>



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President's Brigade

Gold Medal

Carl Wade

Silver Medal

Oscar Kraehenbuehl

Matt Saxton

Bronze Medal