

The Pensacola Patriot

Pensacola Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution
Chartered March 14, 1896

May 2022

Chapter Officers

2020-2022

President	Chris Washler
1st VP	Vacant
2nd VP	Bill Nobles
Secretary	Bob Canavello
Treasurer	Bill Lies
Registrar	Ray Judd
Genealogist	Gunter Judson
Chaplain	Vacant
Sergeant-at-Arms	Vacant
Historian	Vacant
Member-at-large	Vacant



President's Message

Welcome back to the Pensacola Patriot—the newsletter for the Pensacola Chapter! Unfortunately, the newsletter was put on hiatus quite a while back for a variety of reasons, but as the chapter and community come out of the COVID-19 isolation of the past 2 years, it seems like a great time to pull the newsletter out of mothballs! We will be trying to put out a newsletter every month starting with this one for May.

As you all know, back in February 2020, the chapter went into a dormant stage due to the pandemic that disrupted everything for more than a year. Back in April of 2021, we held our first ever virtual Zoom meeting with eight members in attendance. While it definitely wasn't a huge turnout, it did get the ball rolling on the chapter getting back to normal.

On May 8th last year, the chapter officially revived the Battle of Pensacola Commemoration after eleven years. Again, this was a virtual event held via Zoom, but we had compatriots from all over the country attend the commemoration. We continued the Battle of Pensacola Commemoration this year by participating in the Pensacola Heritage Foundation's Galvez Day celebration on May 6th. We had a multi-state color guard contingent march down Palafox to represent the SAR! You can read more about the events elsewhere in the newsletter.

In November of last year, the chapter finally returned to full in-person meetings! As many of you know, our long-time meeting place at Franco's closed, so the chapter meetings moved to a new location and a new day of the month. We have been meeting at Calvert's in the Heights on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. However, as of June, we will be shifting to meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month to better accommodate our compatriot's schedules.

(continued on page 2)

President's Message (continued from p. 1)

The reaction to our new location has been very positive, and it has the advantage that it is owned by the son of Bill Calvert who was a long-time member prior to his passing. (I'm working on the application for Scott to join!) There have been some significant challenges with parking which are sadly forcing us to change locations yet again. I want our meeting location to be as conducive to our members as possible.

At our April meeting, we introduced a new program for the chapter—250 by the 250th! This is a special twist on the SAR Flag Recognition program in that we are setting a goal of presenting 250 flag certificates to individuals, businesses, and organizations between now and the 250th anniversary of the United States on July 4, 2026. Check out the article about the program later in the newsletter!

Also in this issue is a recap of this year's Florida Society Annual meeting that was held in Orlando on May 13 and 14. I attended in person for the first time due to all of the issues that had been happening at the state level over the past few months. My recap skips a lot of the drama, but definitely gets you up to speed on where we are as a society and what the future looks like!

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to email me at cwashler@cox.net or to call me at 380-1329.

Yours in Patriotism,

Chris

Calling all Color Guardsmen!

We are working toward re-activating the chapter color guard (the Nathan Hale Camp), and we need YOU! If you have a uniform or militia outfit, or are interested in getting one, and would like to participate in local events representing the SAR, reach out to Chris at cwashler@cox.net and he will provide you with more information!

Pensacola SAR on the Internet

Chapter Website: www.pensacolasar.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/PensacolaSAR

Instagram: [sarpensacola](https://www.instagram.com/sarpensacola)

Pensacola Chapter 2022 Meeting Dates and Programs

Meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month starting with the June meeting

- June 20: 125 Years of Pensacola Chapter History
Note: We will also vote on proposed Bylaws changes at this meeting.
- July 18: To Be Announced
- August 15: To Be Announced
- September 19: First Responders' Awards Dinner
- October 17: To Be Announced
- November 21: To Be Announced
- December 19: To Be Announced

Note: If the proposed bylaws changes pass in June, the December meeting will feature election of the 2023 chapter officers.

As you can see, we have a number of months that still have programs to be determined. We are actively looking for speakers for the chapter meetings. Ideally, programs would be historic, patriotic, or educational for our members. Here are just a few ideas that we are working on:

Forensic Document Examination

NAS Pensacola Flight Academy

American Magic Sailing Team

If you have ideas, or know of speakers that you would like to see come to the chapter, please reach out to Chris at cwashler@cox.net! We very much want to have more speakers on the Colonial period and the American Revolution!

2021 and 2022 Commemoration of the Battle of Pensacola



On May 8, 2021 the Chapter hosted the commemoration of the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Pensacola. While the pandemic caused us to hold this year's event virtually via Zoom, it was an outstanding success with nearly 80 compatriots in attendance from around the country. The event had attendance from 14 different states stretching coast to coast (California to Virginia) and border to border (Wisconsin to Texas). We also had several National Society Officers in attendance as well as DAR and CAR members.

While a traditional event would have had in-person wreath presentations, we worked with chapters from across the country to do virtual presentations via a video. In addition to the virtual wreath presentations, the event featured a drone video tour of Fort George and greetings from Pensacola Mayor Grover Robinson. The presentation of colors and the retrieval of colors were pre-recorded at Fort George before the event. Local Compatriots Randy Turner and Ronny Miller were joined by Earl Matthews (William Dunaway Chapter) and Brad Marble (Panama City Chapter) to form the Northwest Region Combined Color Guard. Finally, local chapter Compatriot and author, Wesley Odom, presented a fascinating and informative lecture on the Battle of Pensacola.

The video recording of last year's event can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/BJ6e6cin4ZI>



After the success of the virtual event in 2021, the chapter began conversations with the Pensacola Heritage Foundation about how we could participate in their Galvez Day celebration and combine the Battle of Pensacola Commemoration with Galvez Day. Plans began to take shape in September of 2021.

Unfortunately, the initial plans ran into a snag and appeared to be derailed when our chapter president was out of commission for a few months early this year due to health issues, but thankfully, Matt Mathews from the William Dunaway chapter stepped in and kept the train on the tracks.

On May 6, a multi-state SAR Color Guard Unit mustered at Fort George and marched down Palafox street to join the Galvez Day celebration at the corner of Wright and Palafox. The Color Guard consisted of compatriots from Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. The sixteen member color guard included the First Adjutant for the National Society Color Guard, the Alabama State President, the Commander of the Alabama Society Color Guard, and Pensacola's own compatriots, Randy Turner and Ronny Miller.

When the color guard reached the Galvez Monument, they stood at attention flanking the monument for the duration of the Galvez Day celebration. This year's celebration included a visit from a Spanish delegation from the Málaga Province and Macharaviaya (the hometown of General Galvez). Additionally, there was a musical presentation from the children at Episcopal Day School, and a few words from Mayor Grover Robinson and Bob Rasmussen, the creator of the Galvez Monument. Afterward, we were able to treat our color guardsmen to a lunch at McGuire's.



The chapter has already heard from the Pensacola Heritage Foundation that they would like the SAR Color Guard to participate again next year, so mark your calendars for May 8, 2023 and get those color guard uniforms ready!

Chapter Meeting Changes

Based on feedback from members, we are making some changes to our meetings!

New Meeting Date: Starting in June, we will be meeting on the **Third Monday of the Month**. So our next meeting will be June 20th.

New Meeting Location: Due to parking problems at Calvert's, starting in June, we will be meeting at Sonny's on 9th Avenue (6702 N. 9th Avenue).

Florida Society Board of Managers and Annual Meeting Wrap Up

May 13-14, the Embassy Suites in Lake Buena Vista hosted compatriots from around the state for the Florida Society Spring Board of Managers and Annual meetings. As everyone likely knows from the emails in recent months, there was a fair amount of controversy around this year's annual meeting.

Friday consisted mostly of working meetings. These included a planning meeting for the 2023 NSSAR Congress to be held in Orlando, a meeting for the Regional Vice President's, and a meeting around chapter involvement with the Children of the American Revolution. Friday concluded with an awards banquet where Chris Washler and Ray Lantz for our chapter were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Certificate of Distinguished Service respectively.

Saturday's meetings started off with the South Atlantic District meeting for the National Society, a luncheon honoring the winners of the state Youth Contests, and then the Spring Board of Managers Meeting followed by the Annual meeting and election of officers.

During the BOM meeting, it was determined that the electronic voting for state officer elections could not take place due to improper procedures being used to establish the voting as well as the electronic voting not being authorized by the state bylaws. Despite the controversy, elections were held, and the new 2022-2023 officers of the state society were elected. Matt Mathews, from the William Dunaway chapter here in the panhandle, was elected as the new State Society President. Pensacola's Chris Washler was elected as the NW Region Vice President for the upcoming year. Additionally, Pensacola's Ray Lantz will continue his outstanding service to the state as State Registrar.

The weekend concluded on Saturday night with a formal banquet for the installation of the new officers.

The next Board of Managers meeting will be held down in Orlando October 7-8, 2023.



The 2022-2023 officers for the Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

Committee Chairman and Members Needed

We are in need of committee Chairmen and members for the following Chapter Committees. The time commitments aren't huge, and you would be helping to put the Pensacola SAR out in front of our community.

- Battle of Pensacola (members needed)
- Youth Programs (Knight Essay Contest, Poster Contest, History Fair, etc) (Chair and members)
- 250 by the 250th—Flag Recognition (Chair needed)
- Standing Awards Committee (members needed)
- Eagle Scout Program (members needed)

Please contact any member of the Executive Board if you are interested in helping with these projects!

250 by the 250th

At our April meeting, the chapter was introduced to a new program that we will be running for the next several years—250 by the 250th. This program is a special twist that our chapter is putting on the Flag Certificate program that the SAR has run for years. The overall purpose of the program is to recognize those individuals, businesses, and organizations that promote and encourage patriotism through the appropriate care and display of the American flag.



Our goal with our “twist” on the standard flag recognition program is to recognize 250 individuals, businesses, or organizations for their exemplary display of the American flag between now and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. This program will help to bring attention to the

upcoming 250th Anniversary as well as getting the public more engaged with the SAR through nominations and publicity when we recognize honorees.

Any residence, business, or organization is eligible to be recognized so long as the flag display is not being used for advertising purposes. All flags must be properly displayed as set forth in Public Law 94 -344, Section 8d of United States Code Title 4, Chapter 1.

Nominations will be taken from April 1, 2022 to July 1, 2026, and anyone (even non-compatriots) can nominate an individual, business, or organization. Once nominations are received, the project committee will verify the information and that the nominee's display meets our criteria prior to making the presentation. Presentations will be done on a rolling basis, and can be scheduled at any time that is convenient for the recipient. If a compatriot wants to be part of the presentation, please just let the committee know!

All we need is the name, address, phone (if known), a point of contact if it is a business, and the name of the nominator! Nominations can be emailed to flags@pensacolasar.org or through the form on the chapter website at <http://pensacolasar.org/index.php/events/250by250th>.

Upcoming Events

June 20	Chapter Meeting 125 Years of Pensacola Chapter History	September 19	Chapter Meeting Annual First Responders Awards
July 18	Chapter Meeting Program TBA	October 7-8	Florida Society Fall Board of Managers Orlando, FL
August 15	Chapter Meeting Program TBA	October 17	Chapter Meeting Program TBA
		November 21	Chapter Meeting Program TBA
		December 19	Chapter Meeting Program TBA (Officer Elections!)



Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

Pensacola Chapter

"Florida's First"

Celebrating 125 years

1896 - 2021