The Pensacola Patriot

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

March 2024

Chapter Officers

2023-2024

President	Chris Washler
Vice Pres.	Bill Nobles
Secretary	Bob Canavello
Treasurer	Bill Lies
Registrar	Vacant
Genealogist	Carl Judson
Chaplain	John Matthews
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jeremy Findley
Historian	Chris Washler
Member-at-large	John Matthews

President's Message

Here we are already at the middle of March! Spring has finally sprung and the SAR program year is in full swing! I have to tell you, I am genuinely impressed with where our chapter is this year. For those that have been around for a while, you will remember that we had a few years where, if I am totally honest, things were kind of iffy for our chapter. Attendance was down, we weren't doing many programs, and honestly we were struggling as a chapter. That is absolutely ***not*** the case now!! I was telling two of the other board members that I really feel like our chapter is at a tipping point this year, and we are headed for some of our best years yet!

I will admit that part of my enthusiasm is probably coming from the fact that I just attended the NSSAR Spring Leadership meetings up in Louisville at the end of February. (You really can't come away from a National Society gathering without being excited about the future of our organization.) But, I truly do believe that the Pensacola Chapter is probably in the best condition we have been in for quite a while. We are growing in size (*hint—we have three new compatriots getting inducted this month, and at least one more next month)*, we are running successful programs that put us out in front of the community living out our Mission Statement, and the word is getting out in our community about the Sons of the American Revolution!

Let's talk programs for a minute. So far this year, we have run five successful programs out in the community, and we are only into our third month of the year. So far this year, in addition to what I mentioned in last month's newsletter about our Eagle Scout activities, we have entries for our Middle School Brochure contest ***(continued on page 2)***

President's Message (continued from p. 1)

from two different schools, we have three entries into the Elementary Poster Contest, and we presented awards at the Escambia County History Fair awards night. That is JUST in January and February! And what we are doing in the community is being noticed—at the History Fair Awards, I had a teacher come up to me and tell me how excited they were to see the SAR back involved with the History Fair because what we represent is so important!

I have heard several people in different forums say recently that recruiting for the SAR is challenging because not everyone has a passion for history or genealogy. I'll be completely honest here… yes, I definitely have a passion for both, but what has me TRULY passionate about the SAR lately is our Mission—honor our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.

If we live out our Mission Statement, not only will we make a huge impact in our community, but we will have people banging down our doors to find out how *they* can be a part of such a vibrant and impactful organization. I encourage everyone to step up and find a place where you can get involved in our chapter activities. In the next column over are just a few of the opportunities!

This leads me to a special request. Later in the newsletter, you'll see a photo of the new tent and table cover that the chapter purchased. We NEED to find events out in the community where we can utilize these new branding/publicity tools! Help us find those events, please!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting, and as always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (850) 380-1329

Yours in Patriotism,

Chris

Did You Know?

"Revolutionary War Rarities" is a production of the NSSAR and they are short 10 to 20 minute podcasts. Check it out on Facebook and wherever you listen to podcasts! You can also check them out at fastfunhistory.com or on YouTube!

Chapter Meetings

Meeting Date: The chapter meeting is on the **Third Monday of the Month.**

Meeting Location: We are meeting at Calvert's in the Heights (670 Scenic Highway)

Involvement Opportunities

Below are just a few of the opportunities for you to get involved with the Chapter and help us live out our Mission!

- Youth Programs
  - Knight Essay Contest
  - Poster Contest
  - History Fair
  - Brochure Contest
- 250 by the 250th—Flag Recognition
- Eagle Scout Program
- America 250 Activities
- Color Guard
- Battle of Pensacola Commemoration
- Newsletter
- Website/Social Media

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

250 by the 250th

The 250 by the 250th program is going strong! As of this writing, we are at 72 nominations and we definitely need more!

Just a few examples of some of our nominations are Olive Baptist Church (pictured below), Pensacola Yacht Club, multiple homes out at Perdido Bay Country Club, Pensacola Police Department, the City of Pensacola (City Hall specifically), and Navy Federal Credit Union. And these are just a few!

We will be taking nominations from now until July 1, 2026, and anyone (even non-compatriots) can nominate and individual, business, or organization. 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!

Nominations can be emailed to flags@pensacolasar.org or through the form on the chapter website at https://pensacolasar.org/250-by-the-250th/.

In addition to nominations, the committee needs assistance in presenting certificates to businesses. Currently, we are mailing all of the residential certificates directly to the recipients, but we are trying to do presentations to businesses in person. If you are interested in helping out with this project, please reach out to either John Matthews (johnmatthews@cox.net) or Chris Washler (cwashler@outlook.com) and we will tell you what all is involved!

America 250—This month in the American Revolution

There are numerous March events that happened during the American Revolution or in the years leading up to the Revolution, but one event in particular stands out and is significant to Pensacola.

On March 9, 1781, the Spanish fleet, under the command of General Bernardo de Galvez, arrived in Pensacola Bay from Havana. The British had fortified Pensacola so well, that General Galvez was unable to immediately take the city, and instead engaged in a 2 month long siege that ended in what we now commemorate as the "Battle of Pensacola" and the eventual surrender of the British on May 10th.

Other significant events in the American Revolution that took place in March:

- The last naval battle of the Revolution took place off of Cape Canaveral, Florida on March 10, 1783
- The Battle of Fort Charlotte in Mobile, Alabama ended on March 13, 1780
- Battle of Guilford Courthouse—March 15, 1781

Color Guard - Nathan Hale Camp

The Pensacola Chapter's Color Guard unit, the Nathan Hale Camp (this is the name that our unit is known by as part of the Florida Society's Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade) is being reactivated!

The Color Guard is one of the most visible and effective public relations tools available to the SAR. Every time an SAR Color Guard makes a public appearance, the members are fulfilling all three objectives of the SAR - Historical, Patriotic, and Educational. Just a few examples of where our Color Guard can make public appearances include sporting events (maybe even a Blue Wahoos game?), new citizen swearing in ceremonies, City or County Government meetings, historical events such as the Galvez Day event, and even ceremonies for the re-internment of POW/MIAs who have been identified by the Army Casualty Office.

If you are interested in being part of this fantastic part of the SAR, all that is required is that you have a uniform and be willing to volunteer when called upon! (Oh, and be willing to have LOTS of kids and adults want their picture taken with you!)

Individual compatriots are responsible for obtaining their uniform. There are typically two types of uniforms - Continental or Militia. The Continental uniform is the most recognizable as it is the uniform identified with the soldiers of the regular army during the Revolution. The militia uniform has no specific set requirements because this is what would have been worn by the average citizen when he was called to militia duty. Each Color Guardsman can choose which type of uniform they would like to wear, and the Nathan Hale Camp will consist of both types of uniforms.

Member Anniversaries

These are the Pensacola Compatriots who have SAR anniversaries in February.

Jeremy Findley—2 years

Grant Landry—6 years

Martin Griswold—7 years

David Hillsman—24 years

FLSSAR Spring BOM/Annual Meeting Details

Date:	May 17-18, 2024
Location:	Embassy Suites Orlando—Lake Buena Vista South 4955 Kyngs Heath Road Kissimmee, Florida
Registration Link:	https://www.flssar.org/Docs/BOM/BOMRegForm.pdf
Hotel Reservations:	https://book.passkey.com/e/50616727

The NW Region is the host region for this meeting!!

New Compatriots

Please welcome these new Compatriots who joined the Pensacola Chapter in 2024!

Compatriot	***Month Approved:***	***Patriot:***
Christopher Matrone	January	William Kimbrough (Georgia)
David Mitchell	January	Michael Simon (Pennsylvania)
Geoffrey (Geo) Pittman	March	Samuel McGehee (Virginia)

Branding the Sons of the American Revolution

Mission Statement:

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

"Elevator Pitch":

The Sons of the American Revolution promotes patriotism, serves the community, and inspires and educates the public about the history of the American Revolution.

I encourage each of you to become familiar with our Mission and the Elevator pitch! Use these to talk to others about the SAR and what we do in the community. Just by talking about who we are and what we do, we *will* grow in number as we head toward the 250th!

Pensacola SAR on the Internet

Chapter Website: www.pensacolasar.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/PensacolaSAR

Instagram: sarpensacola

Upcoming Events

March 18	Chapter Meeting Tyler McKee—Historical Archaeology
April 15	Chapter Meeting Program TBD
May 10	Battle of Pensacola/Galvez Day Downtown Pensacola and Veterans Memorial Park (10:00—3:00pm)
May 17-18	FLSSAR Annual Meeting Orlando, FL
May 20	Chapter Meeting Program TBD

Sons of the American Revolution

Florida SAR

Pensacola Chapter

"Florida's First"

Est. 1896