



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

website: www.fortlauderdale.sar.org

FaceBook page: Fort Lauderdale Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

FEB 2026

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 57 Number 02

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Friends,

WOW! We did good in our 2026 kick-off of America 250.

On January 10, 2026 the Chapter hosted the annual FLSSAR S.E. Regional Meeting. Florida Society President, Chris Washler along with nearly 30 representatives and friends from the Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Palm Beach Chapters attended. A summary and photos start on page 3 of this Newsletter.

Then, on January 31, 2026 we conducted a fabulous America 250 Liberty Tree Dedication at the Tamarac Veteran's Park with approximately 100 participants and attendees at this gathering. A summary with photos starts on page 6 of this Newsletter.

In between these events, on January 16, 2026, SAR approved two more of our applicants: Jason Ramsey and Kevin Terry. So, we started the year with 91 active members and are now at 93.

As we continue over the next few months, Youth Education Contests and Awards will dominate our efforts through the end of May 2026. Member volunteers are needed on the JROTC / Sea Cadet Committee. To join, you must commit to attending 1-3 of the 31 Broward Schools ceremonies to present our award to each school's selected winner.

SAVE THE DATE: We need all available members to support the Chapter at the First Amphibious Assault Memorial Ribbon Cutting, to be held at 10:00 a.m., on March 14, 2026. This replaces our customary March 2026 General Membership Lunch Meeting.

For links to archival information on previously published newsletters, meeting minutes and other Chapter documents, visit us at www.fortlauderdale.sar.org.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Chuck Adams
President, Treasurer and Registrar/Genealogist
Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

- Mar 4-8, 2026 FSSDAR State Conference
Mar 7 - FLSSAR Color Guard
Omni Hotel, Orlando, FL
- Mar 19, 2026 FAU 250 Anniversary – 5:30 p.m.
Fort Lauderdale Color Guard
Closing Ceremonies
FAU Library, Boca Raton, FL
- Mar 21, 2026 Last Naval Battle Memorial
Veterans Memorial Center
Merritt Island, FL
- Mar 28, 2026 42nd Annual Scottish Festival
Bergeron Rodeo Grounds
Davie, FL
- Mar 28, 2026 Battle of Thomas Creek
Commemoration Ceremony
Jacksonville, FL
- Apr 11, 2026 Honor Flight South Florida #38
Terminal 4, 2nd Floor
FLL International Airport
- Apr 24-26, 2026 Moving Vietnam Wall
Bergeron Rodeo Grounds
Davie, FL
- May 15-16, 2026 FLSSAR Spring BOM
Embassy Suites, Kissimmee, FL

NEXT MEETING – Mar 14, 2026
FAAM Monument Ribbon Cutting
Fisher Family Pier, 222 N. Pompano Beach Blvd, Pompano Beach, FL

FUTURE MEETING DATES:
Saturday, 4/18/2026
Saturday, 5/23/2026
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-801-6596
or e-mail Chuck Adams at:
chuckadams1808@gmail.com

AMERICA 250
The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge
February 27, 1776



Richard Caswell – Leader of NC Patriot Militia

In October 1774, the First Continental Congress established the Continental Association to enforce the boycott of British goods under the Articles of Association. This boycott included all imports from the highly profitable British West Indies. To counter this damaging economic policy, King George III approved the “Southern Expedition” in the fall of 1775 – a full-scale military invasion of the southern colonies.

The plan called for Loyalist provincials to raise 10,000 men and rendezvous at Cape Fear, North Carolina, with a British force commanded by Generals Cornwallis and Clinton. Cornwallis would then arm the provincial troops, and the combined force would sail south to Savannah.

In January 1776, Josiah Martin, the exiled British Royal Governor of North Carolina, called for the mobilization of Loyalist troops. Brigadier General Donald MacDonald mustered a force of 1,600 Scottish Tories near present day Fayetteville and, on February 18, began a march to the coast to join forces with Clinton. Aware of these movements, Continental Colonel James Moore dispatched militia commander Colonel Richard Caswell and 1,500 Patriot militiamen to intercept the Loyalist advance.

Just after midnight on February 27, Caswell's troops took up defensive positions at Moore's Creek Bridge roughly 18 miles northwest of Wilmington. Caswell ordered the construction of earthworks along the eastern bank and directed his men to remove the bridge's stringers, weakening the structure and hindering a Loyalist assault.

In the predawn hours, Loyalist Scots encountered Caswell's pickets, and fighting quickly escalated. Colonel MacDonald ordered his men – many armed only with Highland Broadwords – to charge the Patriot line. Leading the assault across Moore's Creek, Loyalist

Captain John Campbell rallied his men with the cry, “King George and Broadwords.” Wielding claymores and dirks like their forebearers at Culloden, the Scots valiantly surged toward the Patriot fortifications nestled firmly on the far bank, only to be mowed down by a fusillade of musket and artillery fire.

Patriot forces suffered only two casualties in the engagement, while the Loyalists lost nearly their entire assault force, with 30 killed and 20 wounded. The rout forced an immediate Loyalist withdrawal and ultimately led to the capture of General MacDonald and some 850 British Loyalists.

Often referred to as North Carolina's “Lexington and Concord,” the Battle of Moore's Creek marked the colony's first major engagement of the Revolutionary War. The decisive Patriot victory shattered Governor Martin's hopes of reclaiming North Carolina, secured the colony firmly in Patriot hands throughout the remainder of the conflict, and encouraged North Carolina's delegates to the Second Continental Congress to advocate openly for American independence.

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**FLSSAR S.E. REGIONAL MEETING SUMMARY
- JANUARY 10, 2026**

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Florida Southeast Region was held on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at the Outback Steakhouse in Davie, Florida. The region is comprised of the Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Miami chapters. Compatriots and friends from all chapters numbered 29.



Our 2025-26 Florida Society President Chris Washler was in attendance.

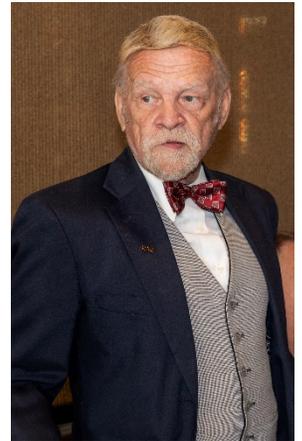
He was in good company with past Florida Society Presidents Ted Duay (Fort Lauderdale) and Wm Lee Popham (Miami) also in attendance.

The Fort Lauderdale Color Guard led by its Commander and Florida Society Vice Commander, Kevin Shurte, posted colors during the opening ceremonies.



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Dual Member, Bob Walsh, gave the 250 Minute on the publication of *Common Sense*.

Bob is a past New Hampshire Society State President and a past NSSAR VP General for New England



Each chapter president gave brief reports on its activities. For membership: Palm Beach Chapter President Peter Johnston stated that they opened the year with 165 and closed with 175 with another 5-10 anticipated to be reinstated.

Miami Chapter President Ben Groff reported opening with 82 and closing with 108 members.

Ben also gave the invocation and benediction at the meeting.



Fort Lauderdale Chapter President Chuck Adams reported that they opened with 78 and closed with 89 members plus two non-primary dual members.



Florida Society Education Outreach Chairman, Kevin Shurte, gave updates on State and chapter youth education contests and upcoming submission deadlines.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (cont'd)



Florida Society First Amphibius Assault Memorial (FAAM) Committee Chairman, Steven DePaul gave an update on fundraising for the project. He stated that permits have been received and that groundbreaking and construction would commence in the next two weeks. Chuck Adams presented the facsimile of his check for \$1,500 as his additional contribution toward the

funding of the project.



Left: Steve DePaul; Al Evans; Jim Blakeslee; & Chuck Adams

FLSSAR President Chris Washler inducted Compatriots Bradley Mueller and David Pinney.



FLSSAR President Chris Washler reported that:

1. NSSAR has obtained liability insurance that now will allow State societies and chapters black powder firing. It does not cover canon fire.
2. Content writing for the new Florida Society website is almost complete. The launch of the new site is scheduled for mid-March 2026.
3. He has tried to improve communications with Chapters by holding monthly Zoom meetings with Chapter Presidents.
4. He outlined the various training videos available to members at the SAR University. New Member training is one for all to look at. Youth Protection Training must be taken by anyone involved in SAR activities involving children such as members of the color guard.
5. Based on the close of the 2025 membership reconciliation, Florida is #1 for new member approvals at 410. The net annual retention rate remains at about 85%.
6. Because in 2025 our State membership has exceeded 2500, the Florida Society will now be able to make 5 Patriot Medal Awards in 2026.



Fort Lauderdale Chapter President, Chuck Adams explained the SAR member lapel recognition pin and assisted Jennifer Mueller and Pam Pinney in pinning it on their husbands.



Left: Chuck Adams; Jennifer Mueller; Brad Mueller; David Pinney; Pam Pinney; & Chris Washler.

FAAM Fellow Certificates were presented to Al Evans and Jim Blakeslee for their \$250 contribution to the project made in 2025.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (cont'd)

FLSSAR President Chris Washler officiated the installation of 2026 Officers for the Fort Lauderdale Chapter.



Left: Kevin Shurte, Historian; Mark Snider, Secretary; Steve DePaul, Vice President; Chuck Adams, President, Treasurer, & Registrar/Genealogist with Chris Washler, FLSSAR President. Not present: Thomas Carpenter Jr, Chaplain; & Paul Moore, Chancellor.

FLSSAR President Chris Washler participated with FLSSAR S.E. RVP and Fort Lauderdale Chapter President, Chuck Adams, in the presentation of 250 Gold Medal Awards to Compatriots Jim Clark and Jason Milgram.



They then presented Veterans Service Recognition Medals to Robert Calamia, Samuel Frankel Jr, and David Pinney. New member Chapter Veterans recognized for their service either at the Chapter level and/ or at the FLSSAR level included: Robert Calamia, Samuel Frankel Jr, and David Pinney.

Jim Clark was recognized for his approval into the NSSAR Veterans Corp. Additionally, Mark Snider accepted NSSAR Certificates awarded to his son, Zackery Snider and late father, Robert Snider.

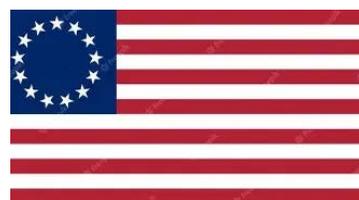


The meeting concluded with a presentation from Alan Levinson, Esq on *Miss Mary Dally's Boarding House*. Located in Philadelphia, the Boarding house included many of the founding fathers among its occupants.

Mr. Levinson is a distinguished scholar on early American history and law. His website houses many interesting articles and topics found at www.statutesandstories.com. He is well known for his promotion of events celebrating the 250th Anniversary.



Chuck Adams presented Adam Levinson with the SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award and Pin.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (cont'd)

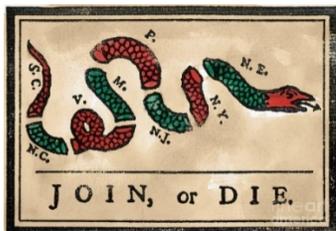
A Certificate of Appreciation and Color Guard Coin was presented to FLSSAR President Chris Washler.



As the meeting concluded, the most senior past and present officers gathered for a photo op.



Left back: George Wysong, Past Pres, Miami; Bob Walsh, Past NH Society Pres & Past NSSAR VP General for New England; Wm Lee Popham, Past FLSSAR Pres; Ted Duay III, Past FLSSAR Pres; Left front: Peter Johnston, Palm Beach Pres; Chris Washler, FLSSAR Pres; Chuck Adams, FLSSAR SE RVP & Fort Lauderdale Pres; and Ben Groff, Miami Pres.



**AMERICA 250
LIBERTY TREE DEDICATION
TAMARAC VETERAN'S PARK**



The Fort Lauderdale Chapter in partnership with the City of Tamarac dedicated a magnificently mature Live Oak as an America 250 Liberty Tree. The event was held on January 31, 2026 at the Tamarac Veteran's Park. Over 100 were in attendance representing SAR and DAR members and friends, veterans, and residents of Tamarac and Broward County.



Among the crowd, there were 31 Fort Lauderdale Chapter members, spouses, applicants and friends.

LIBERTY TREE DEDICATION (cont'd)



Fort Lauderdale Chapter President and FLSSAR SE RVP, Chuck Adams, presided over the event. He immediately thanked the City of Tamarac and recognized Mayor Michelle J. Gomez. He then recognized the other elected officials present as well as attendees by their organizational affiliation.



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Chaplain, Thomas Carpenter Jr, gave the invocation. He later closed the ceremonies with a benediction.

The Florida Sons of Liberty Color Guard Brigade was assembled to present and then post the colors.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by C.A.R. Senior President, Amanda Barnes, and her daughter, Sarah.



The National Anthem followed and was sung by the Miamians.



Mayor Michelle J. Gomez gave welcoming remarks. She presented a Liberty Tree Dedication Proclamation to the Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR which was received by Chapter Liberty Tree Co-Chairman, Jim Clark.



LIBERTY TREE DEDICATION (cont'd)

Jonathan Hunt, Senior Vice-President, Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution presented greetings. His remarks included both history and the current status of SAR's Liberty Tree Dedication Program with Florida second nationwide at 32 trailing only Georgia having 65 dedications to date. Kim Zeman, Florida State Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution followed with her greetings from the Florida Society DAR.



After songs from the Miamians and their finale with "Proud to be an American," closing ceremonies were performed leading to adjournment. This, however, did not stop the many groups present from registering their attendance in front of the tree.



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Historian and Color Guard Commander, Kevin Shurte, provided a concise history of Liberty Trees and their place in every revolutionary war town loyal to the cause and as an enduring symbol of

freedom. Also see his article published in the Jan 2026 Chapter Newsletter.



The Miamians



Compatriot Jim Clark.

The time then came for the unveiling of the plaque and official dedication of the tree overseen by Mayor Michelle J. Gomez and



Lighthouse Point Chapter DAR

LIBERTY TREE DEDICATION (cont'd)



Plantation's Major William Lauderdale Chapter DAR with Florida Society DAR Regent, Kim Zeeman



Thank-you FLSSAR Senior VP, Jonathan Hunt, and FSDAR Regent, Kim Zeeman for conveying "greetings" form the Florida Societies SAR & DAR. Thank-you City of Tamarac and Mayor Michelle J. Gomez



Pompano Beach's Fontenada Chapter DAR with Florida Society Sons of Liberty Brigade



Florida Society Sons of Liberty Brigade with Compatriot Jonathan Hunt, Kim Zeeman & Mayor Michelle J. Gomez

2026 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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954-345-6276

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CHANCELLOR / PARLIAMENTARIAN - PAUL MOORE

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IN THE NEWS

**JANUARY 11, 2026 – U.S. COAST GUARD
AUXILLIARY S.E DISTRICT
CHANGE OF WATCH**

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, the Fort Lauderdale Color Guard joined the Miami Color Guard at the annual Change of Watch Ceremony and Awards Brunch held at the Miami Shores Country Club. Led by Kevin Shurte, the Color Guard both posted and retired colors as part of the ceremony. Representing the Chapter: Chuck (Ronna) Adams, Steven DePaul, Kevin (Kathy) Shurte & Mark (Carmen) Snider.



Left: Will Replogle; Wm Lee Popham; Steven DePaul; Kevin Shurte; Mark Snider, Ben Groff & Chuck Adams.

JANUARY 26, 2026 – FAAM FULLY FUNDED

On January 26, 2026, Florida Society President, Chris Washler announced that the First Amphibious Assault Memorial (FAAM) Project was fully funded and that no additional contributions would be accepted. A total of \$196,259 in cash was collected and, with in-kind donations, total sources amounted to \$291,060.



Individual and organizational contributions continued to pour in during the closing month. At the January 10, 2026 FLSSAR S.E. Regional Meeting, Ronna Adams was recognized for her \$250 donation. Chuck Adams, who had donated \$1,000 used part of his tax deductible RMD to contribute an additional \$1,500 for a total of \$2,500. Among the last of donors, from the Chapter, Dr. Robert M. Easton made his \$250 contribution.



The Miami Chapter had donated \$2,500 in 2025, and on January 11, 2026, made an additional contribution of \$1,000 bringing their total to \$3,500.



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)



The Fort Lauderdale Chapter ExCom Committee had also authorized an additional 2026 donation of \$576. This brought our total Chapter donation to \$3,576, and it secured our place as the highest contributing SAR Chapter to be recognized on one of the dedication plaques as “Gold” star donor.

Thanks to Fort Lauderdale Chapter Members for the highest number of individual member contributions from a Chapter totaling \$10,992.76.

\$2,500 - \$1,000

Chuck Adams
Steve DePaul
Pete Stevenson

\$500 - \$350

Herb Gardner
David Nash &
South Shore Plumbing
Paul Moore
Mark Snider

\$250

Ronna Adams (WOSAR)
Bruce Angier
Robert Bowling

Jim Blakeslee
Thomas Carpenter Jr

Jim Clark
Samuel Frankel Jr.

Dr. Robert Easton
Greg Elder

Al Evans
Jim Lohmeyer

Jim McHugh
Jason Milgram

Scott Moore
Barry Moss

Mark Parker
Kevin Shurte

Tod Roemer

\$100 or less

Blair Collins
Ritz DePaul (WOSAR)

John Sauerwald
Braeden Shurte

Bill Zimmer
Michael Ingrams

In addition to the above contributors, our Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. contributed \$250.

Groundbreaking began on January 19, 2026 and construction is on schedule for the March 14th ribbon cutting.

SAR CHAPTER & ORGANIZATION DONORS	
AMERICA250	PLATINUM
GEORGE WASHINGTON TRUST FUND	GOLD
FLORIDA SOCIETY SAR	GOLD
FORT LAUDERDALE SAR	GOLD
FLSSAR LADIES AUXILIARY	SILVER
MIAMI SAR	SILVER
CLEARWATER SAR	SILVER
NAPLES SAR	SILVER
TAMPA SAR	SILVER
FLORIDA SOCIETY SONS OF THE REV.	BRONZE
PENSACOLA SAR	BRONZE
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY SAR	BRONZE
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE	BRONZE
LADIES OF THE DAR	BRONZE
LAKELAND SAR	BRONZE



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

**2026 FSCAR STATE CONFERENCE-
February 13-15, 2026**

The Florida Society Children of the American Revolution (FSCAR) State Conference was held February 13–15, 2026, at the Hilton University Hotel in Gainesville, FL. The Swamp Fox Society was represented by Mason Primiano, President; Braeden Shurte, Vice-President; Kyle Peterson, Past President; & Sarah Barnes; and Senior Advisors: Amanda Barnes, Angela Primiano, Katy Peterson, Betty Schultz and Kevin & Kathy Shurte.

Mason Primiano proudly presented the Swamp Fox Society President’s Report, highlighting the society’s many accomplishments over the past year. Members of the Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. had an outstanding weekend, earning numerous contest awards and recognitions. Braeden Shurte received the CAR/SAR Individual Relations Award and was elected as 2nd Vice President of FSCAR.

Special greetings were brought by Kim Zeman, Florida State DAR Regent, and Chris Washler, Florida Society SAR President, both of whom presented dual CAR/DAR and CAR/SAR members with dual membership pins. The conference was a memorable and inspiring event celebrating leadership, service, and patriotism among Florida’s C.A.R. members.



**FEBRUARY 17, 2026 – PALM BEACH
CHAPTER MEETING**

The Palm Beach Chapter SAR held its annual President’s Day Meeting on February 17, 2026 in West Palm Beach. In his capacity as S.E. Regional Vice President, Chuck Adams attended to convey greetings from the Florida Society, and to encourage Palm Beach Compatriots to attend the FAAM ribbon cutting on March 14th. Guest speakers at this meeting were Compatriot Bill Elder (Daytona Chapter SAR) and his wife Cara (Colonel Arthur Erwin Chapter DAR). The Elders are nationally recognized reenactors and first person interpreters of George and Martha Washington.



Swamp Fox Society Attendees. Not shown: Kathy Shurte.

At the February 14th Presidential Banquet, Braeden Shurte and Kevin Shurte participated in the Color Guard for the posting of the colors.



**FORT LAUDERDALE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING –
FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

The Fort Lauderdale Executive Committee meet on February 12, 2026, and unanimously approved the 2026 Operating Budget with six of the seven members present.

Sources: The budget records the prior year carryforward balance from checking of \$2,165 and the transfer in from savings of prior year collections of 2026 membership dues (\$1,860) and donations for 2026 programs (\$5,233). The transfer-ins totaling \$7,093, the carryforward of \$2,165, and the programmed \$3,750 from the FLSSAR Endowment Trust Fund Grant yield a combined total of \$13,008 which funds all current year programs and administrative activity. All collections for 2027 dues and donations are held in reserve until the next year and make up most of the transfer out to savings total of \$9,575 shown under Use of Funds.

Uses: The budget allocates \$16,378 made up of the following activities:

- \$4,610 to Youth Support & Education which includes \$750 in support of the C.A.R.
- \$2,384 to Veterans & Veteran Organization Support which includes \$1,600 to Honor Flights South Florida and \$510 to Wreaths Across America
- \$2,502 for donations to the SAR Museum of \$176 and the FAAM Monument of \$576. This allocation also includes \$1,700 to fund plaques for two liberty trees planned for the cities of Davie and Plantation.
- \$967 is allocated for organizational and administrative costs of which \$600 is programed for costs associated with SAR medals and supplies.
- \$5,915 is shown both as coming in on the revenue side and going out on the expenditure side for 2027 annual dues payable to FLSSAR and NSSAR which will be disbursed at current year-end.

After the transfer-out of \$9,575 of mostly year end collections of Chapter dues and donation for 2027, a carryforward balance in checking of \$1,980 is projected.

**FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BUDGET COMPARISON
January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026**

	<u>As of January 1, 2026</u>	
	2025	2026 BUDGET
	ACTUAL	ORIGINAL
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
Year Beginning Checking Balance (Adjusted for Uncleared Transactions)	5557	2,165
REVENUE		
New Applicant Dues, Fees & Reinstatements	685	350
Chapter Member Dues & Fees	1,580	1,860
FLSSAR & NSSAR Dues & Fees	4,935	5,915
Chapter Member Donations	13,172	4,000
Corporate & Other Donations	1,500	1,000
FLSSAR Grant Reimbursements	3,465	3,750
Subtotal - Revenue	25,337	16,875
Transfers-In from Savings	3,293	8,893
Total Sources	34,186	27,933

**FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BUDGET COMPARISON
January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026**

	<u>As of January 1, 2026</u>	
	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET ORIGINAL
USES OF FUNDS		
EXPENSE		
Organizational Expense		
State & National Dues & Fees	4,935	5,915
Florida Annual Report	61	61
Bank Fees & Charges	-	73
Non-Member Programs & Contributions		
Swamp Fox & Florida Society C.A.R.	750	750
Boy Scout Council & Eagle Scout Certificates	116	125
Eagle Scouts Essay Contest	281	325
Middle School Brochure Contest	457	425
Oration Contest	252	265
Essay Contest	-	265
Middle School Video Contest	296	315
American History Teachers Award	132	345
JROTC Outstanding Cadet Essay Contest	655	620
JROTC Unit Support & SAR Medal Awards	717	965
FLSSAR Lady Auxiliary	176	210
Nininger Nursing Home & Other Veteran Support	-	274
Honor Flights of South Florida	1,000	1,600
Wreaths Across America	510	510
Liberty Tree Dedication Program	835	1,700
Public Service Awards & Compensated Meals	143	50
SAR Foundation - Education Center & Museum	1,776	176
First Amphibious Landing Monument	10,825	576
Operating Expense & Supplies		
SAR Medals, Certificates & Supplies, excludes non-member	507	600
SAR Magazine Meeting Notice Ad	42	36
Postage and Other Operating Supplies	138	125
Compensated Meals, General	-	52
Website Hosting, Licensing & Apps	325	20
Subtotal Expense	24,928	16,378
Transfers-Out to Savings	7,093	9,575
Total Uses	32,021	25,953
Year Ending Checking Balance	2,165	1,980