



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 2025

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Chartered December 8, 1966

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Friends,

We kicked off 2025 with the S.E. Regional Meeting held on January 11, 2025. My full report follows starting on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Your Executive Committee has been busy planning out this year's schedule. The annual calendar has been distributed scheduling monthly meeting dates not found to be in conflict with most other SAR events. It is hoped that this will encourage more members to participate in these other meetings such as statewide Color Guard events and semi-annual FLSSAR Board of Management (BOM) Meetings.

Our notable and measurable accomplishments as a Chapter are driven by the financial resources that we can dedicate to key SAR focus areas such as the youth education and the support of veterans and veteran organizations. The Chapter's commitment is reflected in its annual budget which the Executive Committee recently adopted. The adopted budget is summarized on pages 7 and 8 of this Newsletter. Putting the numbers aside, our annual success is dependent on the volunteerism of our members.

An example: we currently need our most active members or applicants to assist in the presentation of JROTC and Sea Cadet medals at the up to 39 award ceremonies that will occur between April and June this year. Please let us know if you will help us out by covering one to three schools near you.

Our 2024 U.S. Stark Memorial Award Activity Report was submitted in January 2025. Through the various efforts of both the Chapter and its individual members, we reported a record breaking 16,605 points. I urge all members to look through the recently distributed final report. Looking at the multiple categories counted towards veteran

support, you will find things that you can easily do (and may already be doing) to get involved and participate with us in 2025.

Perhaps the strongest indicator of our success as a Chapter is maintaining a positive growth rate. We started 2025 with 80 members compared to the 75 that we started with in 2024. We also have three applications in NSSAR all of which should be approved within the next three months. I am also working on three more applications that will be submitted over the next two months. Finally, there are also a couple of prospects that I have made contact with and am awaiting further confirmation on their interest to submit an application. Over the last 2 ½ months our new applicant workload equals the entire 2024 workload. This is a strong indication that we will realize positive growth by the 2025 year-end so long as our existing membership base does not significantly change.

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

NEXT MEETING – February 8, 2025
Davie Outback Steak House
2725 South University Dr. Davie, Florida 33328
Time: 11:30 AM social gathering; Lunch at noon.

FUTURE DATES:
Saturday, 03/22/2025
Saturday, 04/19/2025
Saturday, 05/24/2025

FLSSAR S.E. REGIONAL MEETING SUMMARY – JANUARY 11, 2025

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Florida Southeast Region was held on Saturday, January 11, 2025 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 38: Palm Beach - 5; Fort Lauderdale – 26; Miami 5; Florida Society – 1; and Guest Speaker - 1.

Among the participants: Jim Gaskins, 2024-2025 Florida Society President; Chuck Adams, S.E. Regional Vice President and Fort Lauderdale Chapter President; Ted Duay, Fort Lauderdale Chapter Past President and Florida Society Past President; Peter Johnston, Palm Beach Chapter President; Don Lanman, Palm Beach Chapter Past President; George Wysong, Miami Chapter President; Wm Lee Popham, Miami Chapter Past President and Florida Society Past President; William Wicks, Miami Chapter Past President and Past S.E. Regional Vice President; Steve DePaul, Fort Lauderdale Chapter Vice President and FLSSAR Florida First Amphibious Assault Memorial Chairman; Kevin Shurte, Fort Lauderdale Color Guard Commander, FLSSAR Color Guard Adjutant, and FLSSAR Education Outreach Chairman. The Fort Lauderdale Color Guard led by Kevin Shurte^{ca} included: Braeden Shurte^{ca}; Mark Snider^{ca}; Paul Moore^{ca}; and Jim Clark^{ca}. Also attending was guest speaker Alan Levinson. The superscript ^{ca} records compatriots and guests attending in colonial attire.

As stated, our 2024-25 Florida Society President Jim Gaskins was in attendance. He was in good company with Florida Society Past Presidents Ted Duay (Fort Lauderdale) and Wm Lee Popham (Miami) also in attendance. The Fort Lauderdale Color Guard led by its Commander and Florida State Adjutant, Kevin Shurte, posted colors during the opening ceremonies. The invocation and benediction were given by Fort Lauderdale Chaplin, Tom Carpenter Jr.

Each chapter gave brief reports on its activities. For membership: Palm Beach Chapter President Peter Johnson stated that they opened the year with 153 and another 15-20 probable reinstatements; Miami Chapter President George Wysong reported 96 members with 14 new applications pending

approval; and Fort Lauderdale Chapter President Chuck Adams reported 80 members, including two non-primary dual members, and a net gain of five. Florida Education Outreach Chairman, Kevin Shurte, gave updates on State and chapter youth education contests and upcoming submission deadlines. Florida First Amphibious Assault Memorial Chairman, Steve DePaul explained the funding needs for the proposed obelisk to be constructed at Pompano Beach. Chuck Adams announced that the Fort Lauderdale Chapter has committed \$3,000 and will reach out to membership to raise an additional \$2,000. Pete Johnson and Don Lanman pledged \$1,050 and invited Steve to come to its upcoming meetings to make a presentation. George Wysong and Wm Lee Popham pledged \$2,500 from the Miami Chapter and also invited Steve to attend an upcoming meeting to request additional donations from Miami membership.

President Gaskins officiated in the installation of 2025 Officers for the Fort Lauderdale Chapter. He also participated with S.E. Regional VP and Fort Lauderdale Chapter President, Chuck Adams, in the presentation of 250 Silver Medal Award Certificates to Jim Clark, Paul Moore, Barry Moss, and Braeden Shurte; and 250 Gold Medal Award Certificates and Medals to Steve DePaul and Mark Snider. Fort Lauderdale Chapter President, Chuck Adams officiated in the induction ceremony of Compatriot Christopher W.T. Wadsworth.

The meeting concluded with a presentation from Alan Levinson, Esq on the George Washington's cover letter to the 1787 newly adopted U.S. Constitution. The cover letter was published in local newspapers across the new nation. It explained in lay terms the essence and importance of the document as it was being submitted to each state for ratification, and it included George Washington's acceptance of serving as the first President of the new nation if approved. 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. At the meeting, Chuck Adams presented him with the SAR Bonze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate.

FLSSAR S.E. REGIONAL MEETING (cont'd)



January 11, 2025, S.E. Region SAR Lunch Group



Left: Florida Society President, Jim Gaskins, and S.E. Regional VP & Fort Lauderdale Chapter President, Chuck Adams.



Palm Beach Chapter SAR Don Lanman and wife, Karen Christie, with Jim Gaskins (right).



Fort Lauderdale SAR Color Guard, Left: Braeden Shurte, Mark Snider, Paul Moore, Jim Clark, and Commander & Florida Society Adjutant, Kevin Shurte.



Miami Chater SAR left: Wm Lee Popham, Ben Groff, and Bill Wicks.



Paul Moore Giving the 250 Minute Report.

FLSSAR S.E. REGIONAL MEETING (cont'd)



Center: Peter Johnston Presenting Palm Beach Chapter Report



250 Sliver Medal Certificate recipients, left: Barry Moss, Braeden Shurte, Paul Moore & Jim Clark with Chuck Adams (back left) and Jim Gaskins (right forward).



Center: George Wysong Presenting Miami Chapter Report



250 Sliver Medal recipient Braeden Shurte with Jim Gaskins (right), and Kevin & Kathy Shurte (left).



Steve DePaul Presenting FLSSAR Committee Report on First Amphibious Landing Memorial Project.



250 Gold Medal Certificate & Medal recipient Steve DePaul (center) with Chuck Adams (left) and Jim Gaskins (right).

FLSSAR S.E. REGIONAL MEETING (cont'd)



250 Gold Medal Certificate & Medal recipient Mark Snider (center) with Chuck Adams (left) and Jim Gaskins (right).



Fort Lauderdale New Member Induction: Inductee Chris Wadsworth and sister, Shelby Wadsworth, with Chuck Adams (left) and Jim Gaskins (right).



250 Gold Medal Certificate & Medal recipients Mark Snider & Steve DePaul (center) with Chuck Adams (left), and Jim Gaskins (right).



Installation of 2025 Fort Lauderdale Officers by Jim Gaskins (right) followed by Steve DePaul, Tom Carpenter, Chuck Adams, Paul Moore, Kevin Shurte, & Mark Snider.



Presentation: George Washington's 1787 Cover Letter to the Proposed U.S. Constitution. Guest speaker (center) Adam Levinson. For more on Early American History, visit his work at www.statutesandstories.com.

FLSSAR S.E. REGIONAL MEETING (cont'd)

IN THE NEWS

BROWARD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Debbie Duay was the guest speaker at the January 12, 2025 meeting of The Genealogical Society of Broward County. Her presentation on "Kings, Queens, Pilgrims & Tavern Keepers," outlined the purpose and application requirements of numerous lineage societies for both male and female applicants. In attendance were Compatriots Ted Duay, Chuck (and Ronna) Adams and Steve DePaul. Chuck and Ronna have been members of this organization for over seven years.



Guest Speaker Adam Levinson (right) recipient of SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal presented by Chuck Adams (left).



Thank-you 2024-2025 Florida Society President Jim Gaskins for coming from Jacksonville, Florida to attend and help officiate the 2025 Florida S.E. Regional Annual Meeting.

HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTH FLORIDA

On Saturday, February 1, 2025, Honor Flight South Florida held its annual volunteer picnic. Volunteers and veterans gathered at Duck Pond Park in Plantation to celebrate another year of service to local veterans. Present at the event were Ellen Higgenbotham, Kathy Shurte, and Kevin Shurte.



2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 14-15, 2025	FSC.A.R. Annual Conferences, Melbourne, FL
Feb 27 to Mar 01, 2025	SAR Spring Leadership, Louisville, KY
Mar 01, 2025	Scottish Festival & SAR-DAR Genealogy Booth, Plantation, FL
Mar 15, 2025	Last Naval Battle Ceremony, Merrit Island, FL
Mar 08, 2025	FSDAR Annual Conference Banquet, Orlando, FL
Mar 29, 2025	Battle of Thomas Creek Ceremony, Jacksonville, FL
Mar 29, 2005	Fontenada DAR 250 Plaque Dedication, Pompano Beach, FL
Apr 05, 2025	Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL International Airport
May 09, 2025	Battle of Pensacola / Galvez Day, Pensacola, FL
May 16-17, 2025	Spring BOM, Kissimmee, FL
May 17, 2025	Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL International Airport
Jul 12-18, 2025	135 th National Congress, Uncasville, CT
Sep 06, 2025	Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL International Airport
Oct 17-18, 2025	Fall BOM, Kissimmee, FL
Oct 25, 2025	Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL International Airport
Dec 13, 2025	Wreaths Across America, Pompano Beach, FL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

At the Executive Committee meeting held on January 9, 2025:

- The 2025 Annual Membership Meeting Calendar was amended and approved. The Chapter continues to have a monthly lunch meeting except for August and December. However, the day of each month's meeting no longer corresponds to our historical 3rd Saturday in the month. Instead each monthly meeting varies to avoid conflict with other SAR and Color Guard Events. Be sure and look at the published calendar that was recently distributed. The upcoming and next three meetings are always published on the first page of each monthly Newsletter. Remaining 2025 dates after this month are:

22 Mar 2025	19 Jul 2025
19 Apr 2025	13 Sep 2025
24 May 2025	11 Oct 2025
21 Jun 2025	08 Nov 2025
13 Dec 2025*	

*Note, in lieu of a December lunch meeting, the Chapter urges members to attend the Wreaths Across America ceremony held at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Pompano Beach.

At the Executive Committee meeting held on February 5, 2025:

- The 2025 Budget was approved. An informational presentation will be given to the general membership at the February 8, 2025 lunch meeting. The Budget to Actual Comparison is updated each month and attached to each monthly agenda which is where you will find the currently adopted budget. The detailed Revenue, Expenditure and Change in Operating Balance Schedule explains how line item disbursements are funded from our three major sources. It is separately shown on the page that follows.



**Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR
2025 Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Change in Operating Account Balance
As of February 5, 2025**

	Member Dues, Donations & Net Earnings	FLSSAR Grant	Private Donations	Total
Revenues				
Beginning Year Balance	4,734		823	5,557
Chapter Dues, Fees & Reinstatements, combined	1,855	-	-	1,855
NSSAR & FLSSAR and Chapter Dues	5,047	-	-	5,047
Chapter Member Donations	2,800	-	-	2,800
First Amphibious Landing Monument Donations	2,000	-	-	2,000
Grants & Corporate Donations	-	2,500	-	2,500
Return on Advance of Funds	599	-	401	1,000
Transfers-in from Savings	2,654	-	-	2,654
Total Revenue & Transfers	19,689	2,500	1,224	23,413
Expenditures				
Youth Pograms				
C.A.R & F.C.A.R. Support	125	375	-	500
Boy Scout Council & Eagle Scout Recognition	33	100	-	133
Eagle Scout Essay Contest	63	213	-	275
Middle School Brochure Contest	81	244	-	325
Middle School Video Contest	81	244	-	325
American History Teachers Award	-	-	-	-
JROTC Outstanding Cadet Essay Contest	140	435	-	575
JROTC & Sea Cadets Medals & Certificates	24	806	-	831
Subtotal - Youth Programs	548	2,416	-	2,964
Veteran Support Programs				
Wreaths Across America	170	-	-	170
Wounded Warrior Certificate & Coin	-	24	-	24
Nininger Home Tangible Property	26	-	224	250
Honor Flights Program Donation	-	-	1,000	1,000
Subtotal - Veterans Support	196	24	1,224	1,444
Public Service Medals, includes meals	109	60	-	169
1776 Education Center & Museum Project	1,776	-	-	1,776
First Amphibious Landing Monument	5,000	-	-	5,000
Color Guard Equipment & Support	-	-	-	-
Liberty Tree Dedication Program	-	-	-	-
FLSSAR Ladies Auxilliary	200	-	-	200
SAR Member Medals, Certificates & Supplies	960	-	-	960
2024 NSSAR & FLSSAR Dues	5,047	-	-	5,047
Other Operating Expense & Adjustments	284	-	-	284
Transfers-out to Savings	-	-	-	-
Subtotal - Other Exense & Transfers	13,376	60	-	13,436
Total Expense & Transfers	14,120	2,500	1,224	17,843
Year End Balance	5,569	0	-	5,570
Change in Operating Account Balance				
Beginning Year	4,734	-	823	5,557
Ending Year	5,569	0	-	5,570
Net Change - Increase / (Decrease)	836	0	(823)	13
Reconciliation				
Next Year's Dues & Donations Carry Forward				4,655
Current Year Ending Balance				5,570
Overage / (Deficiency) in Carry Forward				915

AMERICA 250***Benjamin Franklin, "An Imaginary Speech"******February 7, 1775***

By Kevin R. Shurte



*Benjamin Franklin ca. 1785
by Joseph Duplessis*

Two hundred and fifty years ago this month, Dr. Benjamin Franklin is believed to have sent an anonymous letter to the 18th-century London newspaper, *The Public Advertiser*. Dispatched on February 6, 1775, and published the next day, this 885-word message, titled "An Imaginary Speech," was Franklin's response to a British colonel's argument during a parliamentary

debate. The officer had claimed that colonial rebels posed no real threat to the crown, citing their lack of devotion to women, their cowardice, and their excessive religious fervor.

In his usual witty style, Franklin began by pointing out that while Britain's population in recent years had been steadily declining, America's population was rapidly growing, demonstrating precisely "which of the two People are most effectually devoted to the Fair Sex" (National Archives).

Franklin then addressed the colonel's skeptical appraisal of American courage. In his letter, Franklin referenced the victories at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, and Crown Point, where American provincials fought to defeat the French. He also noted the bravery of Virginian's who covered General Braddock's retreat following the Battle of Monongahela in 1755. In fact, it was Braddock's aide-de-camp, George Washington, whose quick thinking had saved the British 44th and 48th Regiments of Foot from total annihilation.

Franklin closed his letter by briefly countering the colonel's disdain for America's religious faith, which he believed the officer held in the lowest esteem. Although Franklin was a self-proclaimed deist, believing that God created the universe then stepped aside, he refuted the "Honourable Gentleman's Charge," accusing him of being a Stuart sympathizer. Franklin reminded the colonel that it

was "Religionists that vindicated this Country [Britain] from the Tyranny of the Stuarts" and that these Americans whom he disparages inherited their love of religion and their "spirit to defend it" from the same ancestors who preserved the throne of King George II (National Archives).

One month later, Franklin would leave London, departing his home at 36 Craven Street after 16 years to return to Philadelphia and take his seat at the Second Continental Congress.

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**SAR MEMBER PROFILE –
ALFRED C. EVANS**

Interviewed by Chuck Adams



Q. Ok Al, tell us a little bit about yourself.

A. I am a native Floridian, born in Fort Lauderdale, FL in 1979. I graduated from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland FL. I then attended Palm Beach State

College where I graduated with a degree in Forensic & Crime Scene Technology. I have traveled to 51 countries throughout the world and have lived in Holland and Mexico.

Q. What is your occupation?

A. I am the owner and operator of Downtown Photo, currently located in Fort Lauderdale, FL. We were the first 1 hour photo film processing facility in South Florida founded in 1986. I purchased the company in 2011, and I have grown the business to performing over 1200 events per year focused mainly on large corporate venues and numerous charity organizations. We primarily operate in the Tri-County area of South Florida but travel worldwide for some of our clientele.

Q. Tell us about some of your recreational interests

A. I am a competitive shooter in the, USPSA, (United States Practical Shooting Association), competing in Pistol, Rifle, Pistol Caliber Carbine and Long Range rifle shooting known as PRS in another organization. I am also a Sig Sauer Academy certified Pistol and Pistol Mounted Optics Instructor as well as an NRA instructor in Pistol, Rifle and Refuse to Be a Victim Training (Female Focused Situational Awareness). I also enjoy traveling whenever I can find free time. I am the current 2024 U.S. Steel National Champion in Carry Optics Class B Division. I also enjoy hunting, mostly deer, elk & hog, in Florida and Colorado.

Q. How about your family?

A. In November 2024, I married Adrienne Gang who is a professional yacht chef. She also is starting the

process of joining the DAR. I have one brother in Houston, Texas who is married with three children.

Q. Who is your Patriot ancestor?

A. My Patriot ancestor is Phillips Tooker (ca 1749-1799). He is recognized for his patriotic service as a Signer of the Associations Test given in 1775 at Brookhaven, Long Island, New York.

Q. Tell us about why you want to join SAR and whether you have plans on how you may want to get more involved with carrying out the mission and programs of the SAR.

A. I believe that remembering our history as Americans is one of the most important things we can do, and I will assist as I can with the Chapter's efforts to promote youth awareness and understanding of our history.

Thanks, Al, for sharing.

Editor's Note: The membership application for Al Evans is anticipated to be approved by NSSAR in late February 2025.

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