



Sons of the American Revolution Fort Lauderdale Chapter

Organized December 8, 1966



General Membership Meeting Minutes 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. Saturday, February 21, 2026 Outback Steakhouse 2725 S. University Drive, Davie, FL 33328

Attendance:

Members (17): Chuck Adams ^{ca}, President, Treasurer, Registrar & Genealogist; Steve DePaul, Vice President; Kevin Shurte ^{ca}, Historian; Thomas Carpenter Jr ^{ca}, Chaplain; Jim Clark ^{ca}; Al Evans; Samuel Frankel Jr ^{ca}; Herb Gardner ^{ca}; Greg Elder; Dan McMurtrie; Jason Milgram; Scott Moore; Brad Mueller; Dr. Robert Reeder; Gerry Reeder; Patrick Reeder; and John Sauerwald. **Prospective Members / Guests (8):** Bradford Downey; James Robertson II; Thomas Shaffer; Ronna Adams; Shelley Gardner; Natalia Frankel; Linda McMurtrie; and Lynn Moore. **Special Guests (11):** Phil Balem; Rocco Marese; Don Marese; Andrea Marese; Leah Foreman; John Tepedino; Madeline Maragh; Dennis Maragh; Monica Maragh; Monica Bove; and Maya Maragh. The superscript ^{ca} records compatriots and guests attending in colonial attire.

Call to Order and Introductions: Chuck Adams called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Color Guard Presentation of Colors, and Opening Ceremonies: The Color Guard performed the **Posting of Colors**. The **Invocation** was given by Thomas Carpenter Jr. Chuck Adams led the participants in reciting the **Pledge of Allegiance**. Steve DePaul led the participants in reciting the **SAR Mission Statement** and Chuck Adams led with the **SAR Pledge**. Chuck Adams gave this month's **250 Minute** on *Presidents Day*.

Approval of Minutes: A **Motion** was made by Steve DePaul to approve the meeting minutes of December 6, 2025, and was seconded by Dan McMurtrie. Unanimously approved.

Officer's, Committee's Reports, Election of 2026 Officer, and America 250 Presentation:

President & Registrar/Genealogist - Chuck Adams:

Genealogy & Membership: Chuck Adams acknowledged the presence of our newest member, Patrick Reeder who will be inducted later today. He then acknowledged the presence of one of our newest applicants, Bradford Downey, and prospective applicants Thomas Shaffer and James Robertson II. He said that their applications will be finalized over the next few weeks for submission to NSSAR. Additional applicants in the NSSAR pipeline are Jesse Herbert Keith Puls, David and his son, Ari, Drescher. Chuck stated that we started this year with 91, including our two dual members. On January 16th NSSAR approved Jason Ramsey and Kevin Terry so we are now at 93 members.

2026 Chapter Appointments: Chuck Adams reported that 2026 Elected Officers were inducted at the S.E. Regional Meeting on January 10, 2026. As provided under our by-laws, he was making the following appointments:

- Herb Gardner to continue as the appointed Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.
- Herb Gardner will be the Chairman of the newly formed Patriotic Activities Committee.

- Steve DePaul will continue as Seargeant-at-Arms.
- Steve DePaul will continue as Chairman or Co-Chairman of the Liberty Tree Dedication Program.
- Mark Snider will continue as Veterans Support Committee Chairman.
- Kevin Shurte will continue as Color Guard Commander.
- Kevin Shurte will continue as Education Committee Chairman.
- Chuck Adams & Kevin Shurte will continue as Co-Chairman of the 250 Anniversary Recognition Program.
- Chuck Adams & Kevin Shurte will continue as Co-Chairman of the C.A.R / DAR Relations Committee.
- Chuck Adams will continue as Chairman of the Eagle Scout Recognition Committee.
- Chuck Adams will complete his third year as Chairman of JROTC / Sea Cadet Medal Awards Program, and asked Mark Snider to become Co-Chairman. He said that this is a committee operates with nine or more members and that he will be reaching out to those that have or are expected to volunteer to represent the Chapter at this year's upcoming awards ceremonies.

Treasurer & Editor – Chuck Adams:

Chuck Adams stated that the Executive Committee met via Zoom on February 12, 2026 and approved the 2026 Operating Budget. It is published on pages 13 & 14 of the February 2026 Newsletter. Page 13 gives a brief summation on the key aspects of our funded programs. Particularly new is that we will now contribute \$1,600 to Honor Flight South Florida allowing us to fully fund one veteran on each of the four flights. Due to the success of the January 2026 Liberty Tree Dedication in Tamarac and a \$1,000 donation from Jason Milgram, we have decided to budget \$1,700 to help fund a dedication in Dania Beach and a rededication in Plantation.

Chuck Adams reported that as of January 31, 2026 the rounded balance in the checking account was \$4,468, and the balance was \$3,885 in the savings account. U.S. T-bill investments of \$3,500 from savings and \$6,100 in the Trust Estate are shown on the report with expected earnings. The \$10,000 of Trust Estate investments of U.S. I-bonds is recorded at \$10,292 which includes \$292 of accrued interest.

Newsletter, Member Profile & Upcoming Events: Chuck Adams stated that the February 2026 Newsletter has been circulated and posted. In lieu of a Member Profile, the 2026 Operating Budget is published. The February 2026 Newsletter also lists all currently known events of Chapter interest until the May 14-15 Board of Management (BOM) Meeting in Kissimmee, FL.. In lieu of a March lunch meeting, Chapter membership is urged to attend the FAAM ribbon cutting on March 14, 2026 at 10 a.m., Fisher Family Pier, Pompano Beach, FL. Chuck then reviewed all of the local events between February and April that Chapter membership may wish to attend.

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| Feb – Mar 2026 | FAU's Festival for America 250 th 1776-2026 |
| Mar 19, 2026 | FAU 250 Anniversary – 5:30 p.m. Fort Lauderdale Color Guard Closing Ceremonies
FAU Library, 5 th Fl, Boca Raton, FL |
| Mar 28, 2026 | 42 nd Annual Scottish Festival, Bergeron Rodeo Grounds, Davie, FL
The Chapter will have a booth and those that wish to help can let us know. |
| Apr 11, 2026 | Honor Flight South Florida #38, Terminal 4, 2 nd Floor, FLL International Airport. |
| Apr 24-26, 2026 | Moving Vietnam Wall, Bergeron Rodeo Grounds, Davie, FL
Phil Balem from the Veterans Coalition spoke about the event. He discussed the need for volunteers and welcomed any donations that member care to give. Chuck Adams said that an e-mail has been sent out on how to volunteer and donate and that it will be sent out again. |

Vice President – Steve DePaul:

Steve DePaul provided an update on the FLSSAR First Amphibious Assault Memorial (FAAM) Project. He said that construction is nearing completion and the twenty foot obelisk was installed yesterday, February 20, 2026. Everything is on schedule for the dedication on Saturday, March 14 2026 at Fisher

Family Pier in Pompano Beach, and all members are encouraged to attend. Chuck Adams said that a total of \$196,259 in cash was collected and, with in-kind donations, total sources amounted to \$291,060.

Secretary:

In the absence of Mark Snider, Chuck Adams said that Mark had given him an extensive report on various activities and events going on over February and March in support of veteran organizations. Chuck said that he will e-mail that report out to membership. Chuck provided the update topics typically reported.

Veterans Support and US Stark Memorial Award Committee: The Annual Stark Report was submitted in early January and for 2025 we reported activities in support of veteran and veteran organizations totaling 18,083 points -- an increase from the 16,605 points in 2024. The Florida Society had 26 of 32 chapters reporting, which is up from the 21 chapters reporting in 2024. Chuck Adams explained that the points from the Stark Report then roll into the Americanism Report which reports on all other activities that the Chapter does consistent with SAR programs. He said that he and Kevin Shurte completed that report in early February. Chuck said that reviewing these two reports can be extremely beneficial as it will help in obtaining a more complete understanding of all the things we do in the community and for the benefit of members and non-members. As he typically does, he will e-mail both reports out to membership.

Chuck reported that the Florida Society has submitted a letter of endorsement to Florida congressional representatives supporting the designation of the POW/MIA Memorial at Cecil Field in Jacksonville as a National Memorial. This is in follow-up to prior year reporting on this subject.

CDCE / VAVS: Chuck stated that the Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS) Committee held a Zoom meeting on February 6, 2026 which Mark Snider attended. The Chapter's 2025 nominee for the U.S. Veterans Administrations Centenarian Award was approved for Frank Orilio, and options for presentation are currently being explored.

Historian – Kevin Shurte

250 Anniversary Recognition Report: Kevin Shurte gave the 250 Anniversary Report entitled, *The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge - February 27, 1776*, which is also published in the February 2026 Newsletter.

Youth Education Programs: Kevin Shurte displayed a slide of the eight youth education contests promoted by SAR showing the current status of four programs completed and the four that are still underway.

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| 1. American History Teacher Contest: | Completed |
| 2. Elementary School Poster Contest: | Sagemont Lower Preparatory School |
| 3. Middle School Brochure Contest: | Ramblewood & Sawgrass Middle Schools |
| 4. Middle & High School Video Contest: | Completed |
| 5. High School Essay Contest: | Completed |
| 6. High School Oration Contest: | Pending |
| 7. Eagle Scout Essay Contest: | Completed |
| 8. JROTC Outstanding Cadet Contest: | TBD – All Broward High Schools Invited |

Kevin Shurte summarized the criteria of the SAR George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. He then introduced Madeline Maragh from Pompano Beach High School as the Chapter's 2025-2026 winner.

Madeline Maragh read her essay entitled "The Battle of Lexington and Concord." Chuck Adams presented Madeline with a check for \$250 and a SAR Certificate of Recognition recognizing her as the Broward County, FL first-place winner of the 2025-2026 SAR contest. Kevin Shurte then presented her with the SAR Outstanding Citizens Pin and a SAR Education Committee Coin.

Chuck Adams summarized the criteria of the Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest. He then introduced Rocco Marese who attends the FAU High School in Boca Raton as the Chapter's 2025-2026 winner.

Rocco Marese read his essay entitled "Franklin: The True Backbone of the Revolution." Chuck Adams presented Rocco with a check for \$250 and a SAR Certificate of Recognition recognizing him as the Broward County, FL first-place winner of the 2025-2026 SAR contest. Kevin Shurte then presented him with the SAR Outstanding Citizens Pin and a SAR Eagle Scout Contest Coin. Chuck Adams presented him with the Eagle Scout Essay Contest Patch.

New Member Induction: Chuck Adams inducted new member Compatriot Patrick Reeder, and he then presented him with his membership certificate. Steve DePaul presented him with his SAR Rosette recognition lapel pin. Compatriots, father, Dr. Robert L. Reeder and brother, Gerry Reeder also participated.

Medals, Certificates & Awards:

2025 FLSSAR Youth Education Medal Award

Chuck Adams asked Kevin Shurte to explain and present the FLSSAR Youth Education Medal. Kevin Shurte said that the award is made to a Compatriot after making at least fifteen presentations on a subject related to the American Revolution to school age children at a public or private classroom. Kevin Shurte presented the FLSSAR Youth Education Medal to Thomas Carpenter Jr.

Samuel Nicolas Camp # 23 New Member Certificates & Coin. Chuck Adams stated that the Chapter Color Guard was formed over two and one-half years ago. We started out with 6 members, grew it to 10 but last year lost two of our members and another is not active. We are always looking for new members to join especially where we need more participants at the many outside events and functions we are appearing at. Chuck Adams presented Samuel Nicolas Camp # 23 New Member Certificates & NSSAR Color Guard Coins to: Herbert B. Gardner, member since December 4, 2025, and Samuel S. Frankel Jr., member as of today, February 21, 2026.

First Amphibious Assault Memorial (FAAM) Certificate. Chuck Adams presented the 250 FAAM Fellow Certificate of Appreciation to Gregory R. Elder for his donation made in 2025.

America 250 Silver Medal Certificate Awards. Chuck Adams explained the 250 Medal Awards Program and the points needed for Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Chuck Adams presented the 250 Silver Medal Awards to: Herbert B. Gardner, Shelley R. Gardner, and John Paul Sauerwald.

NSSAR Veterans Service Corp Membership. Chuck Adams presented NSSAR Veterans Service Corp Membership Certificates to Thomas R. Carpenter Jr and John Paul Sauerwald.

Henry Knox Medal Awards. Chuck Adams summarized the criteria for receipt of the Bronze Henry Knox Medal. It is awarded to recognize a specific outstanding contribution, achievement, or effort that advances the Chapter's mission and programs. In recognition of the contributions made by the two recipients in making the Tamarac Liberty Tree Dedication possible on January 31, 2026, he presented the Henry Knox Medal to: James H. Clark and Jason S. Milgram.

Unfinished Business/ New Business/ Announcements (Next Meeting 03/14/2026): None.

Closing Ceremonies: Chuck Adams led the participants in reciting the **SAR Recessional**. The **Benediction** was given by Thomas Carpenter Jr.

Adjournment: Chuck Adams adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.