



## March 2026

### Officers

President: Dwight McEntire  
1st Vice President: Art Hays  
2nd Vice President: Kurt Spehr  
Treasurer: Dean "Chip" Chatlain  
Secretary: Warren Wilson  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Russell  
Pebworth  
Genealogist: Walter Arnold  
Registrar: Walter Arnold  
Chaplain: Dr. Bob Cundiff  
Governors-at-Large: Bob Yarnell  
and James Grayshaw  
Color Guard Commander: Robbie  
Robinson  
Newsletter Editor: James  
Grayshaw  
contact at [Grayshawsr@aol.com](mailto:Grayshawsr@aol.com)

## In this issue

- ◇ President's Message
- ◇ February's Meeting/ Photos  
/Announcements/ links/
- ◇ From our VPs/Historian/Publicist/  
Announcements
- ◇ New Books about the Revolution
- ◇ Birthdays
- ◇ Our Next Meeting
- ◇ Recessional/About the Sons of the  
American Revolution

Our Inspiration is from the Past,  
Our Duty is in the Present,  
Our Hope is in the Future.



## **SAR Mission Statement**

*The Sons of the American Revolution 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.*

## **From the President**



### **Compatriots,**

I was looking at some Clearwater Chapter founding documents, I have been remiss to not have noticed the Chapter was approved by National in late 1951 and was approved by the Florida Society on January 12, 1952. Seventy-five years ago!!

Through the years our Chapter has had many accomplishments. Just scroll through the

online roster. Seven Clearwater Compatriots have served as Florida Society Presidents, twenty-two are authorized to wear the National Military Service Medal, Fifteen Patriot Medals, Eight Silver Roger Sherman Medals, Four Liberty Medals and four Gold 250 Medals.

In addition, the Clearwater Chapter has achieved the Silver level of \$5,000 in support of the First Amphibius Assault Landing Memorial. Way to go Compatriots!! That Memorial will be dedicated on March 14, 2026 at the Pompano Beach Pier. Why Pompano Beach? That is the nearest point in the US to where the assault took place.

Our Chapter has continued to induct new members. Nick Conrad in February and in March we will be inducting Jarry Duncan and we have four applications pending at National. Good job. We need to continue to grow the Chapter. This 250<sup>th</sup> year celebration means people are thinking about our Country's history, how we attained our freedom and their ancestor's part. Let's take advantage. I've found more and more people are wondering about their history. All we have to do is ask and give them one of our chapter brochures. We will do the rest and develop their family history. Our February speaker, David Bramly, has his family history detailed in his book "Washington's Guns." I asked him if he was a member of the SAR and found out he wasn't. So, we are making sure he gets an application. We will follow up.

Two upcoming events where we need your support. Please plan to attend our Liberty Tree dedication April 17, 2026 at the

Veterans Memorial Plaza at Crest Lake Park.  
Our Chapter Picnic April 25, 2026 at John  
Chestnut Park Pavillion 10.

**Yours in Patriotism**

**Dwight**



On February 9, 2026, President Dwight McEntire presented Allison Dolan of the Clearwater Historical Society Museum with a Certificate of Appreciation for hosting the American Battlefield Trust Travelling Exhibit on the American Revolution. The certificate was presented at the Board of Directors meeting for the Historical Society.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Our 4th Annual Clearwater SAR Chapter Picnic**

**Saturday April 25th @  
John Chesnut County  
Park**

**2200 East Lake Rd.  
South**

**Palm Harbor, FL  
11am-3pm**

**More details in the  
next newsletter**

# Minutes of the February Meeting

<b>Date and Time:</b>	2/18/2026
<b>Location:</b>	Regency Oaks Conference Center
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Dwight McEntire
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Warren Wilson
<b>Attendees:</b>	34
<b>Absent:</b>	

Points Discussed		
Number	Topic	Highlights
1	Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by President McEntire. The invocation was given by Dr. Robert Cundiff, chapter Chaplain followed by the Pledge of Allegiance; the SAR pledge and singing of God Bless America. President McEntire announced the February birthdays the awarded Compatriot Art Hays with the Bronze Henry Knox medal and certificate with an oak leaf cluster for his dedication to the chapter and work as both Second and First Vice President.

		President McEntire then called forth chapter secretary, Warren Wilson and presented him with supplemental certificate showing a second patriot ancestor. Compatriot Nicholas Conrad was inducted as a new member to the chapter and the meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:15
2	Youth Video	The winner of the chapter's Youth Video contest was played during lunch.
3	Introductions and speaker	The meeting was reconvened at 1:05. President McEntire made introductions of honored guests including Dick Young, the West Central District of FLSSAR who was present at our lunch. Members of the Clearwater and Dunedin DAR chapters attending were recognized. Compatriot Terry Delano gave the 250 Minute on the Battle of Valcour Island on Lake Champlain and David Bramley, our invited speaker for the afternoon gave

		his presentations of “Washington’s Guns” and his patriot ancestors involvement with the effort to transfer cannon from Fort Ticonderoga to where General Washington needed them most.
4	Announcements	<p>President McEntire reminded the members that our chapter will be participating in a Liberty Tree Dedication at Crest Lake Park in Clearwater on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Expected participants in the ceremony will be the chapter Color Guard, the Mayor of Clearwater, Florida and any interested Florida State Society representative interested in joining the ceremony. Compatriot Tim Shaner reminded the assembly that the annual chapter picnic in conjunction with the Caladesi chapter of DAR would be at John Chestnut Park off East Lake Road on April 25<sup>th</sup>. President McEntire discussed our</p>

		website and the availability of our meetings available to view through a you tube link.
5	50/50 and basket	Drawings were held for the 50/50 split and gift basket
6	Closing	The closing benediction was given by Dr. Cundiff, the SAR recessional was recited.
7	Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM
8		
9		
10		

## Warren Wilson Secretary



# Photographs from February's Meeting



President McEntire inducts new member Nick Conrad



West Central Vice President Dick Young places the society's rosette on new member Nick Conrad



West Coast Vice President Dick Young, Nick Conrad, and President Dwight McEntire



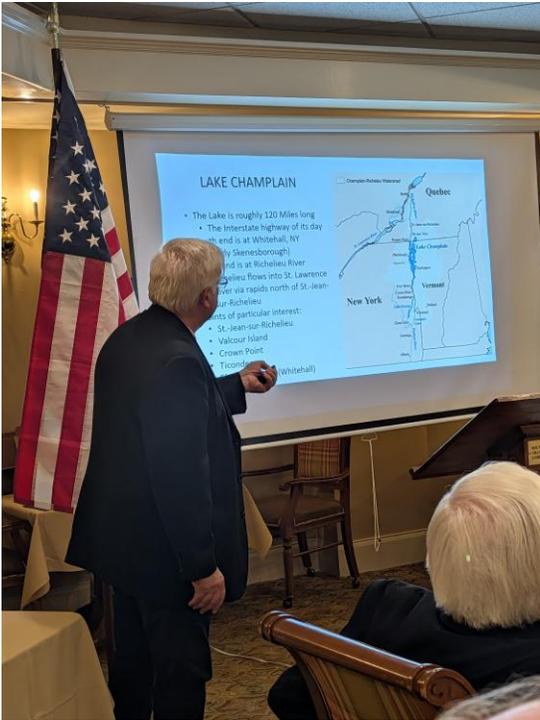
President Dwight McEntire presented the Knox Award (Oak Leaf Cluster) to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Art Hays with assistance from WC VP Dick Young



Warren Wilson was presented by President McEntire with a Supplemental Ancestor Certificate.



David Bramley gave a presentation on "Washington's Guns"



Compatriot Terry Delano presented a 250 Minute on the Battle of Valcour Island.



David Bramley was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation.

# Attendees



**David Bramley**



**Dick Young**



**James and Sara Stribling**



**Katy and Randy Reeves**



**Robbie Robinson**



**Bob Anderson and Connie Rogers**



**Kurt Klotz**



**Warren Wilson**



**Art Hays**



**Eugene Girardi**



**Nick Conrad**



**Terry Delano**



**Russell Pebworth**



**Marilyn (Micky) Halstead and Parks Honeywell**



**Dwight McEntire and Tim Shaner**



**Marcy and Rob Moore**



**Jim Grayshaw**



**Pat Golding**



**Tom Hancher**



**Bob Cundiff**



Kurt Spehr



Russell Ames

## Links & Resources:

Our Chapter website:

<http://clearwatersar.com/>

Our Chapter Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/SARClearwater/>

SAR National website :

<https://www.sar.org/>

SAR Florida website:

<http://www.flssar.org/FLSSAR/Tab.asp>

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## *Schedule of SAR Meetings 2026*

*March 18*

*April 15*

*May 20*

*September 16*

*October 21*

*November 18*

*December 16*

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# Art Hays 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



Speakers for coming months are:

**March 18** - Debbie Smyth, DAR Caladesi Chapter Registrar, Women in the Revolution

**April 15** - Dwight McEntire, “Forgotten Signers of the Revolution.”

**May 20** – Prof. Robert Yarnell, “Whatever Happened to the Firebrands of the Revolution?”

**Sept. 16** – TBA

**Oct. 21** – Public Service Award Recognition

**Nov. 18** – Veterans Appreciation

**Dec. 16** – Officer Installation

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**SUPPORT OUR FOOD PANTRY PROJECT:** Please support our food pantry project by bringing cans or boxes of non-perishable food items to the next meeting. We provide these food items to a local food pantry and all donations are greatly appreciated. The items can be placed in a green bag located near the registration table.

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On Saturday, February 14, 2026, Compatriot Tim Shaner presented the SAR Eagle Scout recognition award to Scouts Brady Kennedy (left) and John Breckinridge (right) of Troop 407 at their Court of Honor ceremony in Palm Harbor.

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## SAR YOUTH VIDEO CONTEST A SUCCESS

By Arthur Hays

Our SAR Youth Video Contest was a tremendous success thanks to Jill Heinze, an eighth-grade teacher at St. Cecelia Parochial School in Clearwater. Mrs. Heinze learned about the contest by happenstance when her oldest son, a student at Calvary Christian High School, brought her a newsletter that mentioned the contest. Mrs. Heinze thought it would be perfect for her eighth-grade

students as they were in the middle of their American Revolution unit at the time. She engaged her eighth-grade class with the Youth Video Contest and the students were off and running!

During the process of preparing a video for the contest, the students gathered in groups of three or four, selected topics pertaining to a person or event of the American Revolution, and researched many sources as they prepared their video. As Mrs. Heinze suspected, the Youth Video Contest offered a wonderful educational opportunity for her students to learn more about the American Revolution subject matter they were studying.

We received seven videos for consideration from Mrs. Heinze's class. There were a variety of topics, to include the following which won cash awards from the Chapter totaling \$1,000:

Deborah Sampson, The Woman Soldier – First Place Winner

Culper Spy Ring – Second Place Winner

The Exposure of Robert Shurtliff – Third Place Winner

Abigail Adams – Fourth Place Winner

Additionally, while the remaining three videos were not selected for cash awards, they were, nevertheless, winners for accepting the challenge and learning more about the American Revolution. The remaining three videos included the following:

Paul Revere's Real Story vs. Myth

Sara Bradlee Fulton and Her Heroic Acts,  
and

The Battle of Paoli.

On Tuesday, February 10, 2026, Compatriots Bob Anderson, Art Hays and Tim Shaner, in Colonial uniforms, and Dwight McEntire, in his militia outfit, appeared before Mrs. Heinze's class and presented the winners with their well-deserved awards. A certificate was also presented to each winning group of students.

As to Mrs. Heinze, she has a Master's Degree in History from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She is in her second-year teaching at St. Cecilia School, where she serves as an IB Individuals and Societies teacher for grades 6, 7, and 8. The IB program emphasizes inquiry, research and real-world connections, which made the SAR Youth Video Contest an excellent fit for her classroom. In eighth grade, the curriculum focuses on American History, covering the period from early exploration through the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Mrs. Heinze said she appreciates the support the SAR has shown her students and herself. She remarked that she was delighted to hear that the Youth Video Contest will be held again beginning in September 2026, and that she will participate again.

We were pleased to present Mrs. Heinze with a Certificate of Appreciation for engaging her eighth-grade class in the SAR Youth Video Contest.



This is a photo of the certificate presented to teacher Jill Heinze.

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The following photos are of the Youth Video Contest Winners - 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Place.



SECOND PLACE WINNERS



THIRD PLACE WINNERS



FIRST PLACE WINNERS

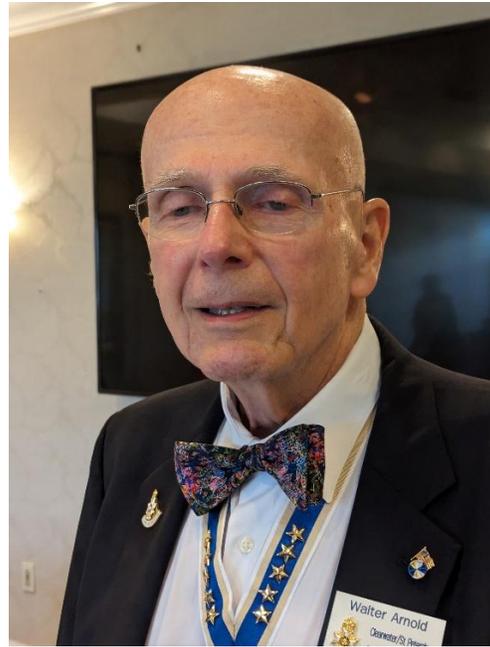


FOURTH PLACE WINNERS

**Kurt Spehr**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**



**Walter Arnold**  
**Registrar/Genealogist**



**Dean "Chip" Chatlain**  
**Treasurer**



**Robbie Robinson**  
**Color Guard Commander**





L to R Art Hays, Tim Shaner, Dwight McEntire, and Bob Anderson

## Books about the American Revolution -

### **The Home Front: Revolutionary Households, Military Occupation, and the Making of American Independence** by Lauren Duval

- **Publisher** : Omohundro Institute and UNC Press
- **Publication date** : December 16, 2025

- **Print length** : 456 pages

Prior to the American Revolution, the urban centers of colonial North America had little direct experience of war. With the outbreak of violence, British forces occupied every major city, invading the most private of spaces: the home. By closely considering the dynamics of the household—how people moved within it, thought about it, and wielded power over it—*The Home Front* reveals the ways in which occupation fundamentally upended the structures of colonial society and created opportunities for unprecedented economic and social mobility. In occupied cities, British officers usurped male authority to quarter themselves with families, patriot wives governed households in their husbands' absence, daughters flirted with officers, domestic servants disappeared with soldiers, and enslaved kin absconded to British lines in pursuit of freedom.

As Lauren Duval shows, the unique conditions of occupation produced an aggrieved American population bound by shared emotional distress and domestic disorder. In the wake of this deeply disorienting

experience, elite Americans deliberately reconsecrated the private home as a national symbol that epitomized masculine authority.

Building on a stunning wealth of primary sources, Duval vividly captures daily life during the Revolution through the eyes and ears of those who intimately experienced it, showing how men and women of all races, statuses, and states of freedom understood its implications for their lives, families, and the nascent American Republic.

## **Undaunted Mind: The Intellectual Life of Benjamin Franklin by Kevin J Hayes**

- **Publisher** : Oxford University Press
- **Publication date** : May 16, 2025
- **Print length** : 488 pages

Arguably the most intellectual, creative, cosmopolitan, and curious of the Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin is the only top-tier Founder not to have served as president. Despite not becoming the Chief Executive, Franklin played an active role in American politics and served the aspiring and young United States in the key European capitals. His prodigious reading and appetite for learning are epic. As he did in works about Thomas Jefferson and

George Washington, Kevin J. Hayes interprets the life and mind of Franklin through what he read.

*Undaunted Mind* tells the story of the development of Franklin's intellect, starting with the earliest books he read as a child before examining his formal schooling and his independent study after his father pulled him from school. As an apprentice in his brother's printing house, Franklin's intellectual life developed through his contact with the Couranteers, the group of his brother's friends who contributed to his newspaper, and through his attention to his brother's excellent office library. After Franklin ran away to Philadelphia, he developed a new group of friends, all of whom loved reading. In many ways, the story of Franklin's intellectual odyssey is the story of the friends he made along the way. His time in London in his late teens introduced him to several important intellectuals who encouraged him to develop his mind. After returning to Philadelphia from London, he and some friends formed the Junto, a club for mutual improvement that made reading and writing important activities. With other members of the Junto, he formed the Library Company of Philadelphia, the first subscription library in colonial America. His role as a printer put him in contact with the best eighteenth-century American writing and kept a steady flow of imported books coming from Britain. He became a scientist, assembling a great scientific library, which helped his electrical

research. An educational reformer, Franklin founded the Philadelphia Academy, which would become the University of Pennsylvania. As agent for the Pennsylvania Assembly, Franklin lived in London for many years, where he befriended some of Britain's greatest minds. Different concentrations of books in his library reveal Franklin's interests in travel and exploration, warfare, and slavery. His time in Paris toward the end of his life gave Franklin another great intellectual experience, but he ultimately returned home to live the last five years of his life in Philadelphia, where he imparted his knowledge and experience to a new generation of Americans.

In this gripping work, Benjamin Franklin is given a biography as rich and complex as his own intellectual life by master literary historian Kevin J. Hayes.

## **Daylight Savings Time starts March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

We will set our clocks ahead by one hour at 2 AM on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The idea of daylight savings time is often attributed to Dr. Benjamin Franklin. However, this is not true, although Franklin did comment on the subject.

He did write a satirical piece, published (in French) in the April 26, 1784 edition of the *Journal de Paris*, in which he claims credit for discovering the fact that the sun begins shining from the moment

it rises, something that the locals, who sleep till noon, would never have means of knowing. To save on wasteful candles, Franklin recommends taxing people who use shutters, and ringing bells every morning at sunup to force people to adjust their days according to the availability of sunlight.

Franklin's satirical letter does not propose moving clocks forward in the spring and back in the fall, and that practice was not implemented until well over a century later. Franklin's tongue-in-cheek suggestions on various means to motivate late-sleepers to rise earlier may have influenced later policy makers. Daylight Savings Time is observed throughout most of the United States, Canada, and Europe, but as far as we know, the French government never initiated a policy of ringing bells and firing cannons at sunrise to wake sleeping Parisians.



## 250 Years Ago

1776

2-5 March: Heavy patriot bombardment of Boston began on 2 March, and on the night of 4-5 March darkness concealed Washington's occupation of Dorchester Heights and emplacement there of cannon from Ticonderoga.

3 March: Secret Committee of Correspondence decided to send a "commercial" agent to France to purchase military supplies, and Congress selected Silas Deane of Connecticut for this mission.

3-4 March: Patriot sailors and Marines attacked New Providence (now Nassau) in Bahamas, capturing 100 cannon and mortars and a large quantity of other useful military stores. This action was first in which

American Marines participate as an organized unit.

7 March: Royal Governor Sir James Wright, who fled Savannah, Georgia, on 11 February to take refuge on a British warship, returned with naval reinforcements on 6 March, captured 11 rice laden merchant ships, and threatened to attack Savannah from Hutchinson's Island opposite. Counterattack drove off British and left patriots in control of Savannah for next three years.

9-13 March: British sloop *Otter* sailing up Chesapeake Bay was attacked and driven away by Maryland ship *Defense* and two Maryland militia companies stationed at Chariton Creek, Northampton County, Virginia.

17 March: General Howe having abandoned initial plan to attack new patriot fortifications on Dorchester Heights and realizing they made British position in Boston untenable, had decided on 7 March to evacuate Boston and on this date did so, taking with him 1,000 loyalists, and sailing to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

23 March: Congress authorized privateering, resolving "that the inhabitants of these colonies be permitted to fit out armed vessels, to cruise on the enemies of the United Colonies"

25 March: Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Charles Carrol of Carrolton, and Samuel Chase left Philadelphia as envoys of Congress to Canada, to negotiate with Canadians toward union with the 13 colonies in rebellion

# Birthdays

## March

<b>2</b>	Kuch	John	Eugene
<b>2</b>	Roney	Robert	Hill
<b>3</b>	LaPlante	Philip	Lawrence
<b>6</b>	Dauphinais	Harry	Lauren
<b>9</b>	Martin	Cary	Lane
<b>12</b>	Greene	Jason	Paul
<b>14</b>	Dietrich	Peter	Kohler
<b>25</b>	Stribling	James	Walter

# **OUR NEXT MEETING**

**When: Wednesday March 18, 2026**

**Where: at The Regency Oaks, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, 2751 Regency Oaks Blvd., Clearwater, Florida 33759.**

**Time: 11:30 A.M. for in person dining only.**

**Menu: TBA; Accompaniments: Rolls/ Iced Tea/coffee- Regular and Decaf**

**Note: If you have any dietary restrictions (such as gluten free, vegan, vegetarian, etc.), or questions, be sure to mention them when you make your reservation**

**Cost: \$25**

**Program: Debbie Smyth,  
DAR Caladesi Chapter  
Registrar,  
Women in the Revolution**

**For reservations contact Chip  
Chatlain at [chatlain@verizon.net](mailto:chatlain@verizon.net)  
or Dwight McEntire at 727-  
460-5308**

**Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.**

**The Sons of the American Revolution is a historical, educational and patriotic non-profit, United States 501 (c) 3 corporation that seeks to maintain and extend (1) the institution of American freedom, (2) an appreciation for true patriotism, (3) a respect for our national symbols, (4) the value of American citizenship, and (5) the unifying force of e pluribus unum that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation, and one people. We do this by perpetuating the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men who achieved the independence of the American people in the belief that these stories are universal ones of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedom on the battlefield and in our public institutions.**