



February 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
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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 want to thank those of you who represented the Clearwater Chapter at the ABT/DAR Traveling Revolutionary War Exhibit. What a success. I count at least 2 new member applications with a possibility of 4. We are well on our way to my goal of 10 new

members this year. But, I need your help. Please take a few of our new brochures and pass them out. Put them in businesses you support.

The Chapter really needs your help in the school poster contest as well as other youth programs. Please see Art Hays or me.

We are getting our name out in the community. Bay News 9 interviewed Walter Arnold, Tim Shaner and myself. My daughter and son-in-law were watching Bay News 9 when my son in law said to my daughter, "I think I heard your dad's voice". Sure enough they did, and we were able to talk about the SAR and what we do. Again, make use of the 250th Anniversary and get our names out in the community. Take brochures and hand them out.

Another big thanks to Kurt Klotz and Tim Shaner. They are working hard to get the Chapter meetings online. If you would like to view the last meeting go to clearwatersar.com>meetings and drop down to the meeting you would like to view.

Please mark your calendar for April 17 and 18. On the 17th we will be dedicating a Liberty Tree at the Veterans Memorial Plaza at Crest Lake Park. The Clearwater Mayor, Bruce Rector, and some members of the City Council have said they will attend along with other city officials. The 18th will be our Chapter picnic at John Chestnut Sr. Park.

Finally, a special thanks to Nick Conrad for filling in and leading God Bless America with about two minutes warning. Nick you

did such a great job, please be prepared for the February meeting!

In patriotic spirit,

Dwight McEntire

Minutes of the January Meeting

Date and Time:	1/21/2026
Location:	Regency Oaks Conference Center
Facilitator:	Dwight McEntire
Minutes Prepared By:	Warren Wilson
Attendees:	Chapter members
Absent:	

Points Discussed		
Number	Topic	Highlights
1	Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by President McEntire. Followed by the invocation given By Tim Shaner and the SAR pledge and singing of God Bless America. January birthdays were announced and the meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:05 pm.
2	Reconvened	The meeting was reconvened at 1:03 with President McEntire announcing the Honored guests and Officers. Visiting DAR members and Ladies Auxilary were announced.
3	Presentati	The 250 moment was included

	on	in the afternoon presentation given by Compatriot James Grayshaw who spoke on Washington's Generals and their responsibilities during the campaign.
4	Announcements	President McEntire talked about the DAR sponsored Traveling Exhibit on American Revolution currently being displayed through Jan. 26 th at the Clearwater Historical Museum. He encouraged everyone to attend if possible. He also reminded everyone that they had the ability to award a Flag Certificate to any individual they were aware of who flew the American flag on a consistent basis.
5	Chapter meetings	Our chapter meetings are now being recorded for viewing with links to the video provided on the chapter website.
6	Awards	Compatriot Kurt Klotz was awarded the Bronze Henry Knox medal for his work on making the meeting videos available on the website.
7	50/50 and basket	50/50 and basket drawings were held.
8	Benediction	Closing Benediction was given by Tim Shaner.
9	Pledge and adjournment	SAR recessional pledge was recited and meeting was adjourned at 1:52 PM.
10		

Next Meeting			
Date	Location	Time	Objectives
2/18/2026	Regency Oaks Conference Center	11:30 Am	

Warren Wilson Secretary



Compatriot Jim Grayshaw spoke on the second part of his presentation about Military Leaders in the American Revolutionary War.



Photographs from January's Meeting



Attendees



Nick Conrad



Bob Yarnell



Chet Myles



Bob Anderson



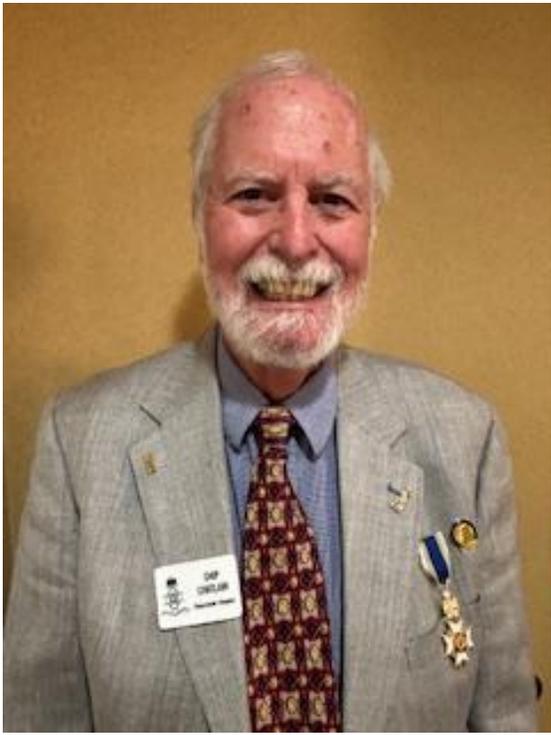
Gary Van Driesen



Arthur Hays



Warren Wilson



Dean "Chip" Chatlain



Mike Jackson



Eugene Girardi



Dan Griffith



Russell Pebworth



Tim Shaner



Marilyn (Micky) Halstead and Parks Honeywell



Dwight McEntire



Marcy and Rob Moore



Lou and Margaret Harris



Tom Hancher



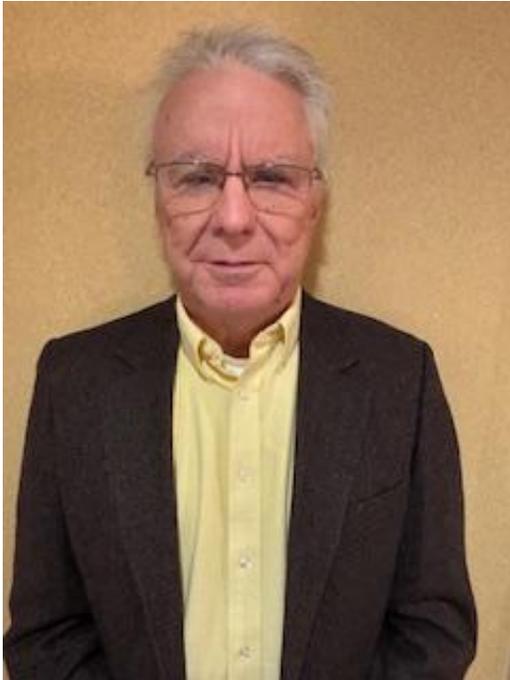
Connie Rogers and Jim Grayshaw



David Wright



Walter Arnold



Kurt Klotz

SAR RECOGNITION:



Kurt Spehr



On January 17, 2026, Compatriot Tim Shaner presented the SAR Eagle Scout recognition award to

Scout Jericho LaGamba of Troop 407 at his Court of Honor ceremony in Palm Harbor.



Stars and Stripes Forever!



Compatriot Kurt Klotz was awarded the Bronze Henry Knox medal for his work on making the meeting videos available on the website.

American Battlefield Trust Travelling Exhibit on the American Revolution

Sponsored by the Clearwater Chapter DAR and hosted by the Clearwater History Museum, with participation by the Clearwater and Withlacoochee SAR Chapters



George and Martha Washington answer many questions from young students.



Students pose with a Betsy Ross Flag.



Martha and Gen. George Washington.



Compatriot Art Hays in the company of Gen. George and Martha Washington.



The Withlacoochee SAR Chapter set up their George Washington War Tent, an exact replica of the original used by Gen. George Washington during the American Revolution.



The George Washington War Tent (replica) that Gen. Washington used when he was in the field.



Compatriot Nathan Taylor with the Withlacoochee SAR Chapter trailer.



Interior showing where Gen. Washington would sleep, take his meals and write correspondence.



Interior showing where Gen. Washington's servant would sleep and the chest where camp essentials were stored.

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>

Schedule of SAR Meetings 2026

February 18

March 18

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April 15

May 20

September 16

October 21

November 18

December 16

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Art Hays
1st Vice President



Speakers for coming months are:

February 18 - David Bramley, Author of "Washington's Guns".

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 – Art Hays, Viewing of Youth Video Contest winner entries.

Oct. 21 – Public Service Award Recognition

Nov. 18 – Veterans Appreciation

Dec. 16 – Officer Installation

WINNERS SELECTED FOR THE YOUTH VIDEO CONTEST

As Chairman of the Youth Video Contest I am pleased to announce that we had seven Youth Video entries from Mrs. Heinze’s eighth grade class at St. Cecelia Parochial School in Clearwater. The video for the first place winner has been submitted to the State competition. The winners will be announced on February 10, 2026, at which time we will present the students with their awards.

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.

Kurt Spehr
2nd Vice President



Walter Arnold
Registrar/Genealogist



Dean "Chip" Chatlain
Treasurer



Robbie Robinson
Color Guard Commander



Activities with our DAR partners

Members of the Clearwater Chapter of the SAR joined the Caladesi Chapter DAR for their annual Salad Luncheon meeting. Every January the Caladesi Chapter invites us to join them in a wonderful luncheon feast.



From left to right- Parks Honeywell, John Schaeffer, Jim Grayshaw, Tom Andrews, Eugene Girardi, Chip Chatlain, and Jim Stribling.

Please add this to your calendar

In February our Color Guard will participate in the Caladesi DAR Genealogical Seminar, which will be held on February 4th at the Dunedin Library.

Books about the American Revolution –

This Fierce People: The Untold Story of America's Revolutionary War in the South by Alan Pell Crawford

- **Publisher** : Knopf
- **Publication date** : July 2, 2024
- **Print length** : 400 pages

WINNER OF THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST PRIZE FOR HISTORY • A groundbreaking, important recovery of history; the overlooked story—fully explored—of the critical aspect of America's Revolutionary War that was fought in the South, showing that the British surrender at Yorktown was the direct result of the southern campaign, and that the battles that emerged south of the Mason-Dixon line between loyalists to the Crown and patriots who fought for independence were, in fact, America's first civil war.

The famous battles that form the backbone of the story put forth of American independence—at Lexington and Concord, Brandywine, Germantown, Saratoga, and Monmouth—while crucial, did not lead to

the surrender at Yorktown.

It was in the three-plus years between Monmouth and Yorktown that the war was won.

Alan Pell Crawford's riveting new book, *This Fierce People*, tells the story of these missing three years, long ignored by historians, and of the fierce battles fought in the South that made up the central theater of military operations in the latter years of the Revolutionary War, upending the essential American myth that the War of Independence was fought primarily in the North.

Weaving throughout the stories of the heroic men and women, largely unsung patriots—African Americans and whites, militiamen and “irregulars,” patriots and Tories, Americans, Frenchmen, Brits, and Hessians—Crawford reveals the misperceptions and contradictions of our accepted understanding of how our nation came to be, as well as the national narrative that America's victory over the British lay solely with General George Washington and his troops.

Friends Until the End: Edmund Burke and Charles Fox in the Age of Revolution by James Grant

- **Publisher** : W. W. Norton & Company
- **Publication date** : August 12, 2025
- **Print length** : 496 pages

A lively dual biography of the two great English orators of the eighteenth century, who cultivated a friendship across their political differences.

In eighteenth-century Britain, Edmund Burke and Charles Fox made common political cause for twenty-five years. They supported the rebellious American colonies, attacked the British slave trade, defended religious liberty, and attempted to shield Britain's public credit from the crisis-prone East India Company. The two men did not share social position, a way of life, a political legacy, or even a generation—but improbably, they were friends. The hard-drinking, mistress-collecting Fox loved and admired Burke, feelings that the clean-living political philosopher and statesman warmly reciprocated.

Friends Until the End tells the story of two men who hailed from different worlds, yet thrived together in the London intellectual sphere. With wit and panache, James Grant traces their relationship through three great events: the American Revolution; the impeachment of the East India Company's governor-general; and the French Revolution, which ended their political union and shattered their friendship. Fox, the cosseted heir of a rich English political family, sported George Washington's colors in London during the American revolution, while Burke, the son of an Irish lawyer, opened Warren Hastings's 1778 impeachment trial with remarks that lasted four days. Before their rupture, both men enthusiastically shared a love of language and literature, trading Latin tags and

Shakespearean quotations between speeches in Parliament.

Today, Burke's writing forms the intellectual core of modern conservatism, while Fox's ideals and oratory inspired generations of nineteenth-century English Whigs and Liberals. As Grant shows, Fox and Burke were uniquely suited to their long, enduring careers marked by political opposition—they possessed the fluency, self-command, and principle that allowed them to resist, most often, what they regarded as an overreaching British crown. Along with the men's two remarkable lives, *Friends Until the End* illuminates their era's politics, economics, and lessons for our divided times.



250 Years Ago

1776

27 February: Congress resolved to establish separate Middle and Southern Departments of the Continental Army, former including New York through Maryland and latter Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia.

27 February: Loyalists force of 1,400, including 1,000 Scotch Highlanders, advancing toward Wilmington in hope of joining up with British Army force under Clinton was ambushed at Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina, about 15 miles north of Wilmington, and then caught between patriot forces in front and rear. In the fight at the bridge, Loyalists lost 50-70, Patriots 2; but afterward more than 850 Loyalists were taken prisoner.

Birthdays

February

1	Leonard	David	Ralph
3	Helm	Kenneth	Winchell
5	Hancher	Boyd	Thomas
6	Spehr	Kurt	Stephen
7	Garrity	John	McCullough
8	Cundiff	Robert	Stanley
11	Roberson	Joshua	Daniel
6	Santoro	Anthony	J.
16	Conrad	Nick	
18	Santoro	Dominick	Vincent
21	Bernardi	Anthony	Albert
24	Carroll	Stephen	Biesecker
26	Pebworth	Russell	William

OUR NEXT MEETING

When: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Where: at The Regency Oaks, 2nd floor conference room, 2751 Regency Oaks Boulevard, 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: David Bramley,
Author of "Washington's
Guns".**

**For reservations contact 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.