



MAY 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

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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



What a month, it's almost impossible to begin.

Let's start with the Youth Awards. We had our first Youth Brochure Entry. The State SAR contest will be held at the State Board of Managers Meeting in mid-May. Starting 16 April with the Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate at Palm Harbor University High School, we will award 8 Good Citizenship, 9 JROTC Outstanding Cadet Awards and 1 Sea

Cadet Award with certificates, In addition, we will award 28 Girl Scout Certificates and Good Citizenship Pins. We also dedicated a Liberty Tree at Crest Lake Park Veterans Memorial Plaza. The dedication plaque reads:

“In Colonial Times Patriots often Gathered by Designated Trees to Sow the Seeds of Revolution and Freedom. Such Trees came to symbolize American Liberty. In April 2026, This Tree was Dedicated as a Living Tribute to our Founding Fathers and all Veterans as an Inspiration for future Generations.”

By Sons of the American Revolution
Clearwater Chapter

What a privilege to do that. Our Bagpiper who played for the Color Guard as they marched in was a 15-year-old Dunedin HS Student. Many thanks to our Color Guard and Participants from the Tampa Color Guard. My thanks also go to all who attended. Some in Colonial Attire. Our key note speaker was Clearwater City Manager Jennifer Poirrier and Council member Mike Mannino.

I don't know how they snuck it by me but thanks to Tim Shaner, Art Hays and Warren Wilson they arranged to present me with the Chapter Bronze Meritorious Service Medal. I'm honored.

Robbie Robinson and I were also awarded the Hannah White Arnett Bronze Medal of Distinction for

extraordinary Cooperation and Outstanding Service to NSDAR at the Clearwater Daughters of the American Revolution Clearwater Chapter Meeting on April 17.



Our Chapter continues to grow. We will be inducting three new members in May.

As this is my last message before our summer break, have a great summer as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing the Declaration of Independence. But continue to seek out those who would appreciate a Flag Certificate and especially those who might be interested in joining the SAR

SAFE TRAVELS

Dwight McEntire

Date and Time:	4/15/2026 at 11:30 AM
Location:	Regency Oaks Conference Center
Facilitator:	Dwight McEntire
Minutes Prepared By:	Warren Wilson
Attendees:	27
Absent:	

Points Discussed		
Number	Topic	Highlights
1	Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by President McEntire followed by the invocation given by Dr. Robert Cundiff. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited along with the SAR pledge and singing of God Bless America. President McEntire announced the April birthdays and recessed for lunch at 12:05 PM.
2	Reconvened	The meeting was reconvened at 12:25. President McEntire noted the distinguished members and guests. Announcements were made to remind the members of our participation in the Liberty Tree dedication on Friday, April 17 th 2026 and the annual picnic on April 25 th , 2026.
3	Program	A presentation on the "Lesser-Known Signees of the Declaration" was

		given by Mr. McEntire.
4	Awards	1 st Vice President, Art Hays and Past President Tim Shaner awarded current President, Dwight McEntire the Bronze Meritorious Service medal for his contribution to the leadership of the Clearwater chapter of SAR over the past two years.
5	Drawings	The 50/50 and basket drawings were held followed by the closing benediction given by Dr. Cundiff. The SAR recessional was recited by members.
6	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 PM
7		
8		
9		
10		

Warren Wilson Secretary



Photographs from April's Meeting



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

Next Meeting			
Date	Location	Time	Objectives
5/20/2026	Regency Oaks Conference Center	11:30 AM	



President McEntire presenting signers of the Declaration of Independence

Attendees



Randy and Katy Reeves



Donna and Jim Gibson



Bob Yarnell



Robbie Robinson



Art Hays



Warren Wilson



Chip Chatlain



Alan Cheever



Russell Pebworth



Marcy and Rob Moore



Tim Shaner



Dwight McEntire



Sharla and Terry Taylor



Jim Grayshaw



Eugene Girardi and Connie Rogers



Becky and Dave Sousa



Bob Cundiff



Mark Santoro



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>

Schedule of SAR Meetings 2026

May 20

September 16

October 21

November 18

December 16



Walter Arnold

Art Hays 1st Vice President



Speakers for coming months are:

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

Sept. 16 – Col. Rob Moore- Update on the SAR Museum

Oct. 21 – Public Service Award Recognition

Nov. 18 – Veterans Appreciation

Dec. 16 – Officer Installation

At the April meeting it was my honor to present our Chapter President, Dwight McEntire with the Bronze Meritorious Service

Medal. Following are my exact words:

“It is my honor to present the SAR Bronze Medal for Meritorious Service to Dwight McEntire, President of the Clearwater Chapter. In his second year of leadership Dwight has strengthened our chapter through tireless dedication and thoughtful action. He located three excellent luncheon venues, fostered a productive relationship with the Clearwater Historical Society, and organized a Liberty Tree dedication at Crest Lake Park that visibly advanced our mission in the community. Dwight is active with the color guard, has overseen the presentation of numerous medals and certificates, and consistently supports our monthly Chapter 250 Moments. His attention to detail, quiet insistence on excellence, and encouragement of fellow board members to contribute have measurably improved our chapter's programs. For these accomplishments and for service performed with distinction, please join me in recognizing Dwight McEntire with the SAR Bronze Medal for Meritorious Service”

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.

S.A.R. BROCHURE CONTEST WINNER FOR THE CLEARWATER CHAPTER

For the academic year 2025 to 2026, the Clearwater Chapter has selected the brochure submitted by Assanali Ashimov as the winner. Assanali is a 14-year-old attending the 8th grade at a local middle school. His brochure will be forwarded to the Florida Society for the state competition.

ABOUT THE S.A.R. BROCHURE CONTEST

The SAR Brochure Contest is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade Middle School students in public, private and home schools. The contest is to create a tri-fold brochure out of a typical 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper. The student may only enter one brochure per year. All brochures will be created by the individual student; no group entries are allowed. The brochure must conform to the contest theme which is one the nine foundational documents of the United States which the student selects. The brochure will be judged on: Content, Creativity and Correctness. The judging criteria rates highest personally drawn art work and text authored by the student as opposed to cut and paste from books, magazines and the Internet. The contest is designed to help support the educational efforts in public, private and home school curriculums when the Revolutionary period is taught. The brochure will be judged on how well the student understands, develops and presents the specific foundational document selected to be their brochure's theme.

Kurt Spehr 2nd Vice President



Dean Chatlain Treasurer



Walter Arnold Registrar/Genealogist



I want to send you something I came across in the SAR files that relate to how the Color Guard should act during ceremonies. This should help you understand what to do when we encounter situations such as National Anthems, Pledge of Allegiances, prayers, etc. Essentially, nobody in the Color Guard will sing or state the Pledge of Allegiance, or bow their heads during prayers. Only the CG Commander will render a hand salute if applicable. Please see the attached screenshot file. Please let me know if you have any questions on anything.

Finally, thanks to everyone who supported the Clearwater Liberty Tree event. It was great to see such a great turnout of our CG members for this.

Regards,
Robbie

COLOR GUARD BEHAVIOR AT EVENTS

Hand Salutes.

As with current military custom, only the Commander of the Color Guard and those members carrying muskets will Present Arms when called to salute. No Color Bearer ever renders a hand salute, unless specifically ordered immediately after the posting of colors, since the Commander is understood to present the salute for the entire unit. The policy of the National Society Color Guard is that if a Guardsman is to render a hand salute, such as when presenting a wreath at an event or grave marking, the Guardsman shall only lift and dip their hat slightly. This more closely conforms with salutes during the Revolutionary Era when there was no accepted form of hand salute used by the Continental Army.

Prayers.

During prayers, Color Guard members only close their eyes. At no time does the Guardsman bow his head or remove his hat.



Our Color Guard at the Liberty Tree Dedication in Crest Lake Park on April 17, 2026

Robbie Robinson Color Guard Commander



Fellow Color Guard Compatriots,

Activities with our DAR partners

Pictures from our Annual Picnic April 25th



Tim Shaner and Dwight McEntire





Heidi



Summer Travels



Bob Anderson in New Jersey- Monmouth Beach 4/24/26 at a Liberty Tree Dedication

Books about the American Revolution

George Washington's One-Man Army: The Life, Legend and Battles of Peter Francisco by Rear Admiral John Palmer

- **Publisher** : Stackpole
- **Publication date** : April 7, 2026
- **Print length** : 230 pages

From Valley Forge to Yorktown, follow the astonishing real-life journey of the Revolutionary War's most mythic warrior.

Contemporaries called him the Virginia Giant, the One-Man Army, the American Hercules. He fought in an honor roll of Revolutionary War battles: Brandywine, Germantown, Camden, and Guilford Courthouse. He wintered at Valley Forge and witnessed the surrender at Yorktown. He was reputed to wield a massive broadsword. Four states honored him with special days; the nation celebrated him with a postage stamp. Cloaked in myth and legend, the true story of Peter Francisco has never been told – until now.

Pedro Francisco was born to a noble family in the Portuguese Azores in 1760. Five years later, he appeared on a Virginia dock, the victim of kidnapping. Adopted by a relative of Patrick Henry, Pedro became Peter, grew to a massive six-and-a-half feet, and took up blacksmithing. When the Revolution erupted, Francisco joined the Continental Army's Virginia Line and fought near Philadelphia at Brandywine and Germantown before spending the bleak winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge. Severely wounded at Monmouth the following spring, Francisco nevertheless participated in "Mad Anthony" Wayne's bold attack on Stony Point along the Hudson River a year later. Here he was part of the assault's spearhead, was the second American to enter the British fort, may have captured the enemy's flag, and received a gash across his stomach.

From there Francisco continued his exploits in the southern theater. At Camden, South Carolina, in 1780, legend has him carrying a half-ton cannon on his shoulder (a moment depicted on a 1975 U.S. postage stamp). At Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina, in 1781, he killed eleven enemies, helping turn the tide; a battlefield monument honors him as "perhaps the most famous Private soldier of the Revolutionary War." He may have fought at Cowpens before going home to Virginia to recover from his wounds. There, on a night in July 1781, in what has become known as "Francisco's Fight," the young soldier claimed that he singlehandedly took on a patrol of Banastre Tarleton's feared British Legion. Months later, he would arrive at Yorktown too late to fight but in

time to witness the British surrender.

In a riveting narrative that separates fact and fiction, John T. Palmer tells the true story of the adventures of this larger-than-life soldier, a giant of the Revolution.

About the Author

John T. Palmer retired from the U.S. Navy as a rear admiral, having served in various logistics and supply posts across thirty-two years, including nine at sea. Since leaving the Navy, he has worked as an independent consultant, advisory board member, college guest lecturer, public speaker, and writer. A native of Kentucky and a graduate of The Citadel and Columbia University, Palmer lives near Spartanburg, South Carolina.



250 Years Ago

1776

2 May: France secretly allotted munitions from royal arsenals valued at one million livres (\$200,000) to American patriots, and Spain followed suit.

4 May: Act known as "Rhode Island Declaration of Independence" passed by its *General Assembly*. While not mentioning independence specifically it denied the King's authority and authorized Rhode Island delegates to accept any Congressional measures they deemed prudent and effectual.

6 May: With large reinforcements under General John Burgoyne about to reach Quebec, Canada, General Carleton led sally from city that ended American siege begun preceding December and started patriot troops under General John Thomas on precipitous retreat.

8-9 May: Thirteen Pennsylvania galleys attacked two British warships in Delaware River off mouth of Christiana Creek (near Wilmington), Delaware, and drove them down the

river. Patriots lost one killed and two wounded in actions on successive days.

15 May: Virginia Convention instructed Richard Henry Lee and its other delegates to propose independence.

16 May: At The Cedars, Canada, on St. Lawrence River about 30 miles below Montreal, patriot force of 400 surrendered almost without fighting and a smaller relieving force was also overwhelmed.

19 May: Near Nantasket, Massachusetts, long boats from British men-of-war attempted to board patriot ships *Franklin* and *Lady Washington*, but were driven off after hard hand-to-hand fighting in which the captain of the *Franklin* and one other were killed, and British may have lost as many as 70 killed including those drowned.

Birthdays

May

2	Robinson	Robbie	K.
8	Hostetler	Damon	Smith
13	Balmer	Barry	Paul
17	Centorino	Michael	Benton
22	Sagert	John	Robert
30	Partridge	Robert	Louis

OUR NEXT MEETING

When: Wednesday May 20, 2026

Where: at The Regency Oaks, 2nd 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: Prof. Robert Yarnell,
"Whatever Happened to the
Firebrands of the Revolution?"**

**For reservations contact Dean
(Chip) Chatlain at 727-777-
3860 or chatlain@verizon.net**

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.