





The Bell Ringer

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Service to our Vets

If you have done something in the service of a veteran or veterans, no matter how small you believe your contribution may have been, please let us know. Small contributions add up to big points by the end of the year. We were the second-ranked chapter in the state in total points. Please email Phil Markoe or Robin Preston and inform them of your actions.

2025 Points over **43,271**

2026 Points over **5,147**

If you are a veteran and have not received a Service Medal, please notify Robin Preston so that we can obtain the medal you have earned through your service to America.

Americanism Report

Every year, we, as a chapter, are required to submit a report to the State and National Societies detailing our activities.

2025 Points over **10,535**

2026 Points over **8,675**



The Sons of the American Revolution promotes patriotism, serves the community, and inspires and educates the public about the American Revolution



America 250

Compatriots
(16.3% of Chapter Membership have medaled)

- Bronze – 9
- Silver – 8
- Gold – 7

Non-Compatriots

- Bronze – 2
- Silver – 4
- Gold – 3



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September 9 Chapter Meeting

Where: Winter Park Elks Club
4755 Howell Branch Road
Winter Park

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Meal Cost: \$25 per person (payable at the door)

If you plan to attend, RSVP to Phil Markoe – by voice or text **407.350.8143** or by email at markoevikingsfan@aol.com. It is important for Phil to get an accurate head count to the caterer, otherwise we can be charged more than we should be.

Chapter Website

www.cflsar.org

Social Media

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/cflsar

The CFLSAR Facebook page has something new every day. Take a look at our page for yourself and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

Date of Inception – **15 NOV 2023**

Numbers of followers – **145**

Consecutive days with a post since inception - **955**

Total Posts since inception - **1412**

Views since inception – **70,942**

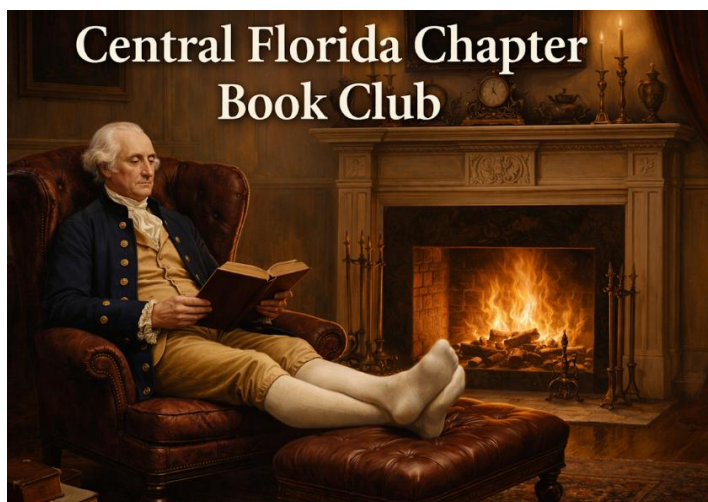
Views in 2026 – **31,672** (as of July 24)

Average views per day – **74**

Average views per post – **50.2**

Most views in one day – **2025** (5 JUL 2026)

Book Club Books for 2026



Central Florida Chapter Book Club

The Central Florida Chapter Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

You can earn 3 America 250 points by attending.

You don't have to have read the book to attend.

Join via ZOOM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83529410287?pwd=fo4TRwmBBoE3mxZWmMvnWi8IGH6YpM.1>

AUGUST BOOK

The Maryland 400 in the Battle of Long Island, 1776 - Reno



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Randal Allen joined others in a color guard in Wauchula, FL, on June 26 for *America 250 in the Heartland*.



At the same event, there was a live musket firing. If you are interested in becoming black powder certified so that you too can participate in live firings, the next training session will be on October 15. Contact Robin Preston for more details.



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Liberty Tree and Marker Dedication

Saturday, June 27, 2026



The Mary Virginia Cabell DAR Chapter, the City of Longwood, and the Central Florida Chapter partnered to plant and dedicate a Liberty Tree at Reiter Park in Longwood as part of the annual Longwood 4th of July celebration.





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4th of July Celebrations



US District Courthouse 250 Celebration

From L – R Mike Buff, FSSDAR Madam Regent Kim Zeman, Lee Popham, Robin Preston (with musket in Federal Courthouse), US District Judge Sheri Polster Chappell, FLSSAR President Jonathan Hunt, SrVP Doug Gibbens, FLSSAR Color Guard Commander Jeff Brunelle, Drummer Randal Allen



Randal Allen at the Braves – Mets game in Atlanta



Scott Cook, Andy Showen, Eliza Sechler (Anthem singer), Robin Preston, and Andrew Sechler at the Belle Isle 4th of July Celebration.



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4th of July Celebrations



Andy Showen (holding the SAR flag) at the Merritt Island 4th of July celebration.



Phil Markoe spent the holiday in the City of Brotherly Love. Manning a booth on the 4th.



On July 2, Phil Markoe marched to Independence Hall with the Philadelphia Light Horse Troop Flag (designed by his Patriot)



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4th of July Celebrations



SAR and DAR members participating in activities in Philadelphia supporting the 250th. See if can spot Phil.



Left-to-Right

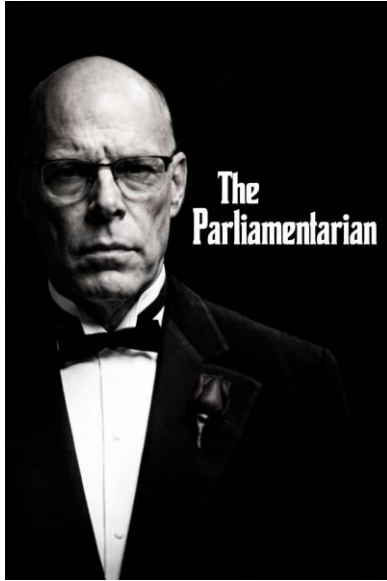
Phil posing with the Color Guard.

The Philadelphia Light Horse Troop standing guard at the Liberty Bell.

Phil posing at the grave of his relative, Benjamin Franklin



136th Annual Congress



Congratulations to Randal Allen for being appointed SAR Parliamentarian.

Now Randal is the Parliamentarian for our chapter, our state society, and our National Society. This is just a little bit of what he does for the SAR.

In his spare time, he still works a full-time job.

Randal Allen and Michael Meyer were recognized by the SAR Congress for their financial support to national initiatives.

Randal Allen - Spring Library Donors – Robert Morris Benefactor

Michael Meyer -

- Silver Quill Level
- Liberty Tree Campaign Donor Awards
- Youth Video Contest Town Crier Medal
- SAR High School Essay Contest – Thomas Jefferson Medal
- SAR History Teacher Award – Nathan Hale Medal
- SAR High School Orations Contest – Joseph Warren Medal



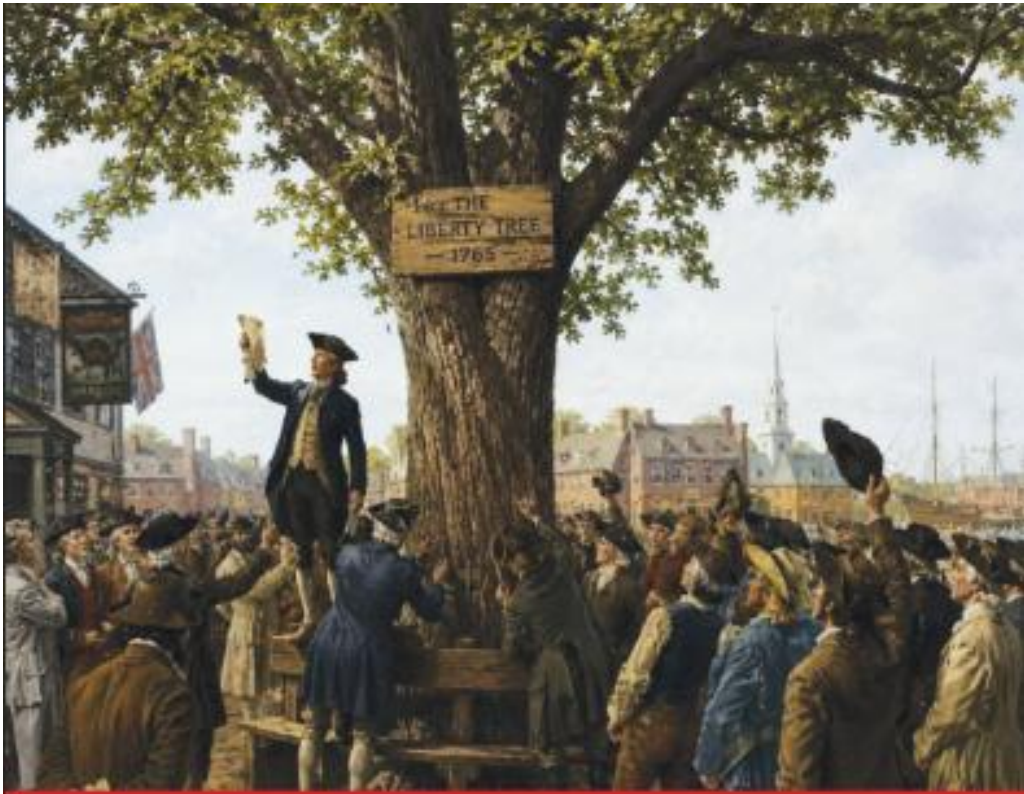
Randal Allen, 2nd from the left, jamming with fellow musician compatriots at the Congress.

Although they play great, they likely won't be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame any time soon.



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Liberty Tree & Marker Dedication

Sponsored by
Orlando Chapter,
Mary Virginia Cabell Chapter,
William P. Duval Chapter,
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, &
Central Florida Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

August 6, 2026
10:00 a.m.

13800 Veterans Way
Orlando, Florida 32827



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National Events are in
White letters, on a Blue
field

Date	What	Where	Chapter	NOTES
6-Aug-2026	Liberty Tree Dedication	Lake Nona VA Hospital - Orlando	Central - 3 DAR chapters	10:00 a.m.
13-Aug-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
9-Sep-2026	CFLSAR Chapter Meeting 4755 Howell Branch Rd.	Winter Park, FL	Central	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
10 - 13 Sep 2026	FSSDAR Fall Forum	OMNI Hotel Championsgate, FL		
17-Sep-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
30-Sep-2026	The Villages Honor Flight	Sanford Airport, Sanford, FL	Central, Daytona-Ormond	9:00 p.m.
10-Oct-2026	CFLSAR Chapter Meeting 4755 Howell Branch Rd.	Winter Park, FL	Central	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
15-Oct-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
15-Oct-2026	Black Powder Training	Chuluota Gun Club, Chuluota, FL		
16, 17 Oct 2026	FLSSAR Fall Board of Management Meeting	Embassy Suites Kissimmee, FL		
17-Oct-2026	Orlando Honor Flight	Orlando Airport		9:30 p.m.
28-Oct-2026	The Villages Honor Flight	Sanford Airport Sanford, FL		9:00 p.m.



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Date	What	Where	Chapter	NOTES
5-Nov-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
11-Nov-2026	CFLSAR Chapter Meeting 4755 Howell Branch Rd.	Winter Park, FL	Central	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
10-Dec-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
19-Dec-2026	Wreaths Across America	Multiple Locations		
6-Mar-2027	Battle of Nassau Commemoration	Pompano Beach, FL	Ft Lauderdale	
3 - 7 Mar 2027	FSSDAR Spring Conference	OMNI Hotel Championsgate, FL		
14-Mar-2027	244th Anniversary Last Naval Battle	Merritt Island, FL	Brevard	10:00 a.m.
27-Mar-2027	250th Anniversary Battle of Thomas Creek	Jacksonville, FL	Jacksonville	10:00 a.m.
9 - 12 Sep 2027	FSSDAR Fall Forum	OMNI Hotel Championsgate, FL		

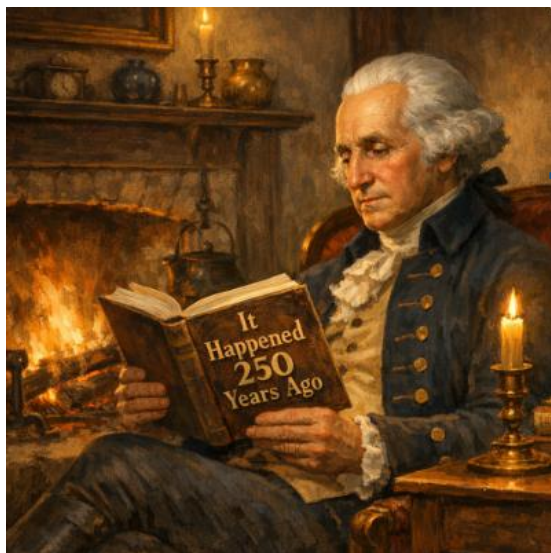




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It Happened 250 Years Ago



JUL 1, 1725 - Sunday – *Comte de Rochambeau*, a French military leader and commander of the French Expeditionary Force that assisted the Thirteen Colonies in winning their independence, was born in Vendôme, France.

JUL 2, 1776 - Tuesday – The Lee Resolution advocating independence from Great Britain was unanimously passed by the Second Continental Congress. It took a lot of finagling, but 12 of the 13 colonies voted in favor of the resolution. A Delaware tie was broken when a sick Caesar Rodney rode all night to get to Philadelphia in time to vote. Two delegates from Pennsylvania, who opposed independence, agreed to abstain so Pennsylvania would be in the “yes” column. South Carolina, which also opposed independence, agreed to go along with the others. For the sake of unanimity, New York abstained because the delegation had not yet received instructions on how to vote.

JUL 2, 1776 - Tuesday – New Jersey gave all adults who could show a net worth of 50 pounds (\$12.6 thousand today) the right to vote.

JUL 3, 1776 - Wednesday – Capture of New York

The British began to land on Staten Island. The regulars took a couple of shots at the British and then took off in the opposite direction. Many of the militia quickly switched sides over to the British.

This was the largest expeditionary force the British had ever assembled, and would assemble, until World War I. Ultimately, General William Howe expected to have five times more troops in New York than he had in Boston, about 32,000 men. This included 44 British battalions and thirty battalions of foreign auxiliaries.

Howe initially set up residence at the Rose and Crown, a tavern built by Staten Island Huguenots more than a century earlier. The headquarters now overlooked a meadow filled with rows of white tents.

More than a thousand tons of food would be needed per month to feed Howe’s troops.

JUL 4, 1776 - Thursday – The Second Continental Congress voted to approve the Declaration of Independence, which was written to explain the reasons for separation from England.

JUL 5, 1776 - Friday – In an era before hotels existed, City Tavern on Second Street in Philadelphia was where many delegates stayed while serving in Congress. Three stories tall, with spacious meeting and drinking areas where the members could debate politics, it was described by John Adams as “the most genteel tavern in America.” The Second Continental Congress had a standing reservation for a dinner for all delegates every Saturday night. City Tavern was leveled in 1854, then meticulously rebuilt by the National Park Service in 1975, in time for America’s bicentennial. It is still a thriving business.

JUL 6, 1776 - Saturday – General Washington received word of the Declaration of Independence while in New York City.

JUL 7, 1776 – Sunday, For the British, the required items needed to keep the army in the field included 48,000 blankets, 3,400 watch coats, almost 1,500 scythes with whetstones, and scores of carpenters, bricklayers, and wagon masters. Winter requirements included 64,000 cords of firewood and 70 tons of candles. Sixty-four thousand cords of firewood is a stack of wood measuring four feet wide, four feet high, and ninety-seven miles long.



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It Happened 250 Years Ago

JUL 8, 1776 - Monday – The Declaration of Independence was read publicly for the first time in Philadelphia by Colonel John Nixon. It isn't known for certain, but it is likely that a bronze bell, installed in the tower of the building where Congress met, was rung to proclaim the good news on this date. The bell had been installed 24 years earlier and was inscribed with a verse from the Old Testament – “Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof.” Contrary to popular belief, the Liberty Bell didn't crack when it was being rung that day. It had originally cracked in 1752 when it was installed and again before 1776. Both times it was repaired. The current crack didn't occur until 1835, when it was being rung, following the death of Chief Justice John Marshall.

JUL 8, 1776 - Monday – The first copy of the Declaration of Independence arrived in New York City.

JUL 9, 1776 - Tuesday - General Washington had the Declaration of Independence read to his men. Now the Patriots were really fired up. Following the reading, some of the guys pulled down a statue of King George III, who was mounted on a horse. They cut off the head of the statue and mounted it on a spike outside a tavern. The rest of the statue was taken to Litchfield, Connecticut, melted down, and turned into 42,088 musket balls.

JUL 10, 1776 - Wednesday, People don't often think about what is required to keep an army in the field. Horses were in big demand. A brass 12-pounder and carriage weighing a ton and a half required six horses to pull it down a country lane. Howe calculated that his army needed 4,000 horses and 277 wagons.

During the summer of 1776, 950 horses were shipped to Howe. Of the horses shipped, 412 died at sea. They had to be hoisted up from the hold and thrown into the sea. Scores more were so enfeebled by the crossing that they died too soon.

JUL 11, 1776 - Thursday, Slavery was legal and condoned in all thirteen colonies, but by 1776, only Georgia and South Carolina still allowed the importation of slaves. Many members of Congress, including Thomas Jefferson, not only owned slaves but also sold them as a form of commerce. However, the issue of slavery was making many Americans uncomfortable. One of them was Jefferson. He blamed King George for bringing slavery to America. His original language in the Declaration concerning freedom caused considerable debate in Congress, particularly from Georgia and South Carolina. It was later modified to avoid the issue of slavery.

JUL 12, 1776 - Friday – The first draft of the Articles of Confederation was presented to the Second Continental Congress.

JUL 12, 1776 - Friday - A couple of British ships, the *Phoenix* and *Rose*, sailed from New York Bay and headed toward the mouth of the Hudson River. They sailed past Fort George, Fort Defiance, and Governors Island. The ships also sailed past Fort Washington before arriving at Tarrytown, the widest point of the Hudson. Besides sailing past the various forts, the two ships sailed past obstacles that had been placed in the river to prevent such a thing from happening.

The British plan was to cut off the Americans' access to supplies from the north and New England. During the confrontations of the day, only six Americans were killed when the cannon they were firing exploded.

JUL 13, 1776 - Saturday - On July 13, Major General William Howe sent a letter to General Washington to begin negotiations. Washington's representative, Colonel Joseph Reed, rejected the letter. The letter was addressed to “George Washington, Esq.” Reed informed the British messenger that there was no “George Washington, Esq.” in the American camp. The problem was that Howe failed to address the letter to George's position as General.

Another letter was sent to Washington, and again it wasn't addressed correctly. Instead of a letter, British Colonel James Patterson eventually met with Washington. Washington was told that Howe had the power to grant pardons. Washington informed Patterson that there was no need for pardons, since nothing had been done to warrant pardons.

JUL 15, 1776 - Monday – The New York delegation informed Congress that they had finally approved independence.



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It Happened 250 Years Ago

JUL 16, 1776 - Tuesday, Thomas Jefferson did not publicly take credit for writing the Declaration of Independence for more than twenty years.

JUL 18, 1776 - Thursday – The Lee Resolution called for a plan for formulating alliances with other countries. A draft plan pertaining to treaties with other countries was delivered to the Second Continental Congress.

JUL 21, 1776 - Sunday – The British fleet left Charleston, South Carolina, headed for New York City. On board were the troops used in the unsuccessful Battle of Sullivan's Island. They didn't return to Charleston until 1780, when they successfully besieged the city.

See you later, British Fleet



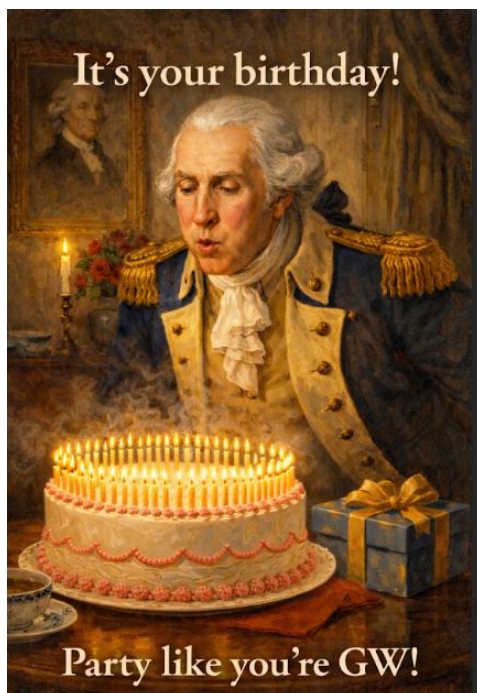


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It Happened 250 Years Ago

MAY 31, 1776 — Lt General Henry Clinton and his army set sail for Charleston, South Carolina. His armada consisted of fifty ships.



It's time to party. These Compatriots are celebrating a birthday during the next month.

July 29 – Gary Smith

July 29 – James Cardinal

July 31 – Gilmore Daniel

Aug 1 – Steven Spry

Aug 2 – Michael Laliberte

Aug 4 – Matthew Velie

Aug 4 – Michael Neal

Aug 7 – Larry Walker

Aug 8 – Paul Adams

Aug 9 – Norman Hughes

Aug 19 – David Esler

Aug 19 – Alec Worden

Aug 24 – Bill Thompson

Aug 25 – John Thompson

Aug 27 – Robert Smither

Aug 28 – Arthur Bullock



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Here is an organization for the Ladies of our Chapter



Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (LAFSSAR) is a nonprofit association of women organized to assist, support and further the objectives of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR) - promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations. At the state level, we proudly support our FLSSAR Compatriots by encouraging SAR membership and by raising funds to further the Society's objectives.

The Auxiliary consists of members from all over the state. We host a luncheon meeting twice yearly (Spring and Fall) during the Florida SAR Board of Managers (BOM) meetings, and usually have speakers and other small service projects of interest. Fundraising activities during BOM weekends usually include drawings for baskets and silent auction items donated by SAR chapters or members. Some members wear Revolutionary era clothing to SAR events and in support of SAR color guard activities.

Members are invited to attend the National SAR Spring and Fall Leadership meetings in Louisville, KY and the annual National Congress held each summer in various locations. Special events are also planned at each Congress for the Auxiliary members. We encourage our members to do whatever they can to help with their local SAR Chapter activities. The auxiliary members can help with the youth programs, service projects, grave markings, chapter banquets, fund-raisers, school programs, etc.

Membership Highlights:

- ☛ \$10 annual dues
- ☛ Automatic membership in the National Ladies Auxiliary SAR without additional dues
- ☛ Membership and fundraising efforts support important Florida and National SAR projects
- ☛ Dual and out-of-state members are welcome
- ☛ No meeting attendance requirements
- ☛ No Revolutionary Period lineage requirements
- ☛ No age limit
- ☛ Entitled to wear the official Florida and National Ladies Auxiliary SAR pins
- ☛ Opportunities to earn certain SAR medals and awards for service to the Society
- ☛ Fun and friendships!

Scan for Membership
Application



SAR Ladies Auxiliary History:

1984: The first Ladies Auxiliary of the Sons of the American Revolution was founded in California

1998: The Ladies Auxiliary of Florida was organized

2003: The National Ladies Auxiliary of the Sons of the American Revolution was formed

Today the Florida Ladies Auxiliary is among 24 state organizations in Alabama, California, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and a group of members at large who live in States without a Ladies Auxiliary.

If you are interest contact Kathy Markoe at daydreamr613@aol.com