



## **Withlacoochee Chapter Sons of the American Revolution**

### **Chapter Meeting January 13, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by President David Hitchcock at 10:30 AM.

Invocation given by Chaplain Linthicum

The Pledge of Allegiance, American Creed and SAR Pledge was recited by all.

President Hitchcock asked for a silent prayer from all members and guests for those sick, in distress or soldiers in harm's way.

President Hitchcock thanked everyone for the opportunity to be President and we have all come a long way together and done well.

President Hitchcock then called up the new officers of our chapter which were then sworn in by Bill Stone. He then presented the gavel to President Hohman

President -Stephen Hohman

1<sup>st</sup> VP- Mark Johnson

Treasurer -Richard Bailey

Secretary – Thomas Bowen

President Hohman then presented our Past President Hitchcock a plaque for 4+ years of Outstanding Service and a Meritorious Service Medal. He then presented David's wife Charlotte Hitchcock with a bouquet of flowers. Past President Hitchcock then received his past president pin and a challenge coin. President Hohman recognized his wife Jena Hohman for her hard work and service to the Chapter.



President Hohman gave an inspirational speech regarding how we are being recognized statewide and nationally especially regarding the George Washington Endowment Fund. He discussed our color guard and starting an honor guard. We should be encouraging folks with ancestors in the Revolutionary War to join our chapter. He advised that we should get involved in the public schools, scouting and JROTC. He mentioned nationally SAR known speakers coming up to speak at our meetings. President Hohman would like to see a Children of the SAR chapter started. He talked about the Brooksville Blueberry festival, and we will be selling muffins and receiving 100% of the profit. He reminded everyone of the Congress in Pa. and the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Reenactment events here in Brooksville. He advised “What does the Society mean to you” and thanked the members for the opportunity to serve the chapter.

**Secretary’s report** – Minutes were distributed by Secretary Thomas Bowen prior to the meeting and posted on the website. The president asked for additions or corrections and hearing none asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Motion was made and passed unanimously.

**Treasurers Report** – Richard Bailey reported \$1630.23 in income and total expenses of \$6519.38 due to national dues being paid out for a total of - \$4,889.15. Richard also reported that we had a 98.2 % membership retention rate, our highest rate ever. We have 81 regular members, 1 life, 2 juniors, 2 new and 2 associates. Our lunch profits in the last three months have been \$408 in profit. He reminded the chapter that we have a financial review coming up in the first quarter. Wreaths across America will double the amount of wreaths we buy so if we get 15, they will double that to 30 at their cost. A motion was made to approve the treasurers report and was approved unanimously.



**Education Report & JROTC** by Mark Johnson. He is looking for help on the education committee. We need members in period costumes to talk to school groups.

**Registrar's Report** by Tom Hellem. Tom advised that he needs help as he attends many functions each year and has to man tables. He also needs help with vetting applications. He advised that we have 18-20 apps pending. We have one approved and two at national. Past President Hitchcock and current President Hohman advised that we have a tent during the Blueberry Festival April 27-28 with rarities, as well as the endowment fund being represented. Members in colonial uniform will be needed and apps will be available for membership.

**JROTC Report** – Russ Gibson discussed dispensing with the medals and just making a donation.

**Boy Scout report** by Bill Ferguson. Two Boy Scout troops have been recently disbanded, and he needs help especially those with scouting experience.

**Color Guard Report** by Bob Thomas. Bob turned in a written report with the following compilation of activities for 2023; The Color Guard which now consists of 10 – 6 active members attended 17 events in 2023. They took over the 250<sup>th</sup> program for the chapter and posted the 250<sup>th</sup> flag at every event this year. This resulted in plus 1000 points towards 250<sup>th</sup> awards attending events. Next event scheduled on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> at Melbourne FL.

John Wilder then gave a 5-minute speech on John Hancock.

President and Jena Hohman are sponsoring/donating today's lunch and the President reminded other members that they can do the same. The president also discussed that our licensing for our website **withsar.org** that costs \$220 per month we are now getting for free as we are non-profit.



Happy Dollars was conducted by Richard Bailey.

The SAR recessional was recited by all, and meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Secretary Thomas Bowen.

**Members Attending:** Chapter President Stephen Hohman, Immediate Past President David Hitchcock, First Vice-President Mark Johnson, Secretary Thomas Bowen, Treasurer Richard Bailey, Jimmie Barnes, Thomas Barnette, Gene Bell, Blake Bell, Stephen Burke, Tom Barnum, John Carey, Wayne Carlile, Bill Ferguson, Norm Freyer, Russ Gibson, Bob Hartzell, Tom Hellem, Charlotte Hitchcock, Jena Hohman, Brian Jenkins, Eric Linthicum, John Longacre, Tim Miller, Ronald Powell, William Scheiterle, David Steitz, Bill Stone, Franny Stone, David Stoughton, Robert Thomas, William Vette, John Wilder, Chuck Wilson, Charlie Lukas, Jim Armitage, Jim Echlin, Burt Harres