



Withlacoochee Chapter of the SAR

September 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President David Hitchcock at 10:34 AM.

The Invocation was given by Chaplain Eric Linthicum

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

The SAR Pledge and American Creed was said by all.

Guests Edward Elden Lee and wife Judy, Karen Palmer, Susan Vicario and Jackie Robbins were introduced by the President.

The President announced that Compatriot Richard Hugh Trout passed away at home. The President showed a video of the final meeting that Compatriot Richard gave the invocation. Church services will be at the Masonic Lodge at 1342 Montour St. Brooksville, at 10:00 AM on September 16, 2023.

Birthday for September was announced for John Seddon.

Edward Lee was inducted into the Chapter by President Hitchcock in the presence of his wife Judy. He was pinned by his wife with the SAR rosette, and he gave a short speech.

The President gave a prayer and then asked for a silent prayer for our brave soldiers that are in harm's way.

The President introduced Bill Stone who gave a short presentation of the George Washington Fund and how we are about to induct 10 Fellows into the GWF. Bill complemented our chapter for being an outstanding chapter. He then called up President Hitchcock and had 1st Vice President Steve Hohman pin him with the George Washington Fund Pin.

Bill Stone then called up the 8 members present, and they were awarded their certificate and Pin. The following 8 Chapter members were pinned and presented with their certificate: David Hitchcock, Stephen Hohman, John Carey, Mark Johnson, John "Tom" Hellem, Thomas Bowen, Chauncey Reich, and Richard Bailey. These certificates were signed by the President General and the Chancellor General. Two other members who could not be present also became George Washington Fellows: Nelson Peters and Charles Wilson.



Steve Hohman 1st Vice President gave a short speech on attending the Congress in Orlando. He emphasized the importance of bringing in the younger generation. He credited his wife Jenna for her work in volunteering for the convention and she was awarded the Bronze Samuel Adams Medal for her work. Steve has been selected to be on five national committees and is leaving shortly for a national leadership conference in Louisville, Ky.

He mentioned the color guard experiences with 100 color guardsmen participating. Steve spoke of the President General induction experience. He mentioned that Jenna will be heading up the Ladies' Auxiliary. He advised the members of the Beefeaters Fund Raising Dinner on the 5th Friday of September as well as other 5th Fridays in the year.

He discussed the fact that 8 members were pinned for the GW Fund and the monies that will be coming back to our chapter from this fund. He encouraged other members to join and asked for other members to join today.

President Hitchcock introduced Dr. Fred Olive on the video screen from the National Headquarters who is the National SAR librarian who announced the donations of Chauncey Reich. Chauncey, a longtime member of our chapter donated 20+ documents from the revolutionary war era to the national archives of the SAR. Dr. Olive complimented the chapter and called us the leading chapter in Florida. President Hitchcock asked Chauncey to step forward and presented to him a letter of gratitude from the President General.

President Hitchcock then introduced Jim Griffith and Jim Maples on a video presentation. Both speakers have a long history as members of the SAR and held various offices including President of the Alabama SAR and many other SAR offices. They are both working on Podcasts about little known events of the Revolutionary war titled Revolutionary War Rarities. They gave a short history of podcasts.

Permission was received from the National SAR to proceed with a program of podcasts about little know facts of the American Revolution. The first episode was released in July of 2022, and they currently have 29 episodes on Season 1. They want to reach the younger generation and make history fun. This is an approved education program for the SAR, and they are hoping to spread the name of the SAR around to the general public.

All their material is vetted by a committee of 6 with two of these committeemen with PHD degrees in history. There are an average of 675 views per episode and they have a private Facebook on their podcasts. Members are encouraged to join the private Facebook. Jim and Jim played one of their podcasts including some very entertaining trivia questions. Jim and Jim



gave a shoutout to our chapter for signing up an extensive amount of GW Fellows. President Hitchcock thanked Jim and Jim for their very good presentation.

Prior to the lunch break Bill Teater became a George Washington Fellow and was pinned.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM for lunch.

The meeting was called back to order at 12:57 PM.

Treasurer's report by Richard Bailey: Total income from 5-11-23 to 0-8-23 was \$1420.65. Expenses were \$1497.86 for a minus of \$77.21. Richard reminded everyone that the dues are now a total of \$95 as the national dues were increased but no increase on the local side. Richard reminded everyone there are 13 openings for the Fund-Raising Beefeaters event. Checks and credit cards are accepted, and you can call your credit card into Richard. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. Passed unanimously.

Secretary's report by Thomas Bowen: The secretary reported that there were two copies of the May 13, 2023, meeting on each table as well as posted on the website. The Secretary asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes three times and hearing none a motion was made to accept the Minutes. Passed unanimously.

Color Guard Report by Bob Thomas: Bob reported that he now has 8 active members of the Color Guard. The Color Guard participated in the following event since our May 2023 meeting: DAR presentation of a Historic Building, Memorial Day Flag posting at Bushnell National Cemetery, Floral City Memorial Day Event, a Church School program at Citrus Hills, Opening Ceremonies at the 2023 Congress and a National Program at Merritt Island. Events scheduled for this month is the Presentation of the DAR 250th program at Inverness City Hall.

Registrar's report by Tom Hellem: Tom reported that he has 26 total names under investigation, 2 at National, 2 State, several supplemental with 17 active apps.

Veteran's Report by Bill Teater: Bill went through a thorough explanation of our Xmas visit on December 14 at 2 PM to the Veteran's Home in Land O' Lakes. He has made contact on September 7 and has a Xmas list of presents for the residents of the home. They only receive \$40 per month as a stipend. Bill announced that this Chapter has over the years donated a total of \$44,000 to these veterans. Bill presented a typewritten master list of the veteran's requests. Electric razors are always in demand. They are also in need of a new TV. Bill reminded everyone of the Veteran's Day parade in Inverness and help will be needed to hand out items. He also reminded members of the Massing of the Colors.



New Business: President Hitchcock showed extensive video and photos including a flyover of Chinsegut which will be our new meeting place. We are also planning on a reenactment on April 11, 2025, as there are extensive grounds available and cabins available for rent as reenactors will be coming from other states. The plan is to also have a Ball with the DAR the night before.

President Hitchcock laid out the plans to change from Citrus Hills to Chinsegut. The rent will possibly be \$125, which is less than the normal rent of \$250. The meals will be significantly cheaper and those that don't want to have lunch can simply attend the meeting. Dave Hitchcock and Steve Hohman thoroughly explained the new venue. The first meeting food will be from Luigi's restaurant and significantly cheaper than in our current situation. The plan is also to use part of the charge for the food cost is to advance our charitable work. Richard Bailey will have the address on the website and will arrange to have plates, utensils etc. picked up.

Richard Bailey conducted Happy Dollars, the recessionary was recited by all, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 P.M.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Tom Bowen – Secretary.

Meeting Attendees: Richard Bailey, Jimmie Barnes, Thomas Barnette, Paul Belter, Thomas Bowen, Stephen Burke, Debbie Burke, Tom Barnum, John Carey, John Elley, Russ Gibson, Burt Harres, Tom Hellem, David Hitchcock, Stephen Hohman, Jena Hohman, Mark Johnson, Ed Lee, Judy Lee, Eric Linthicum, John Longacre, Charlie Lukas, Joann Lukas, Chauncey Reich, Susan Vicario, David Reich, Karen Palmer, Bill Scheiterle, John Seddon, Bill Stone, Franny Stone, David Stoughton, Bill Teater, Robert Thomas, Jack Townsend