

# The St. Petersburg Chapter Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

CHARTERED 1928

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**CHAPTER WEBSITES**

[www.stpetesar.org](http://www.stpetesar.org)  
[www.jmcmullencar.org](http://www.jmcmullencar.org)

## **2018 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR**

Please mark your calendars

February 17 – President's Week, with special guest Thomas Jefferson  
St. Petersburg Yacht Club

### **THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY**

**1776** – Thomas Paine publishes *Common Sense*

**1777** – Battle of Princeton (NJ), Second Battle of Trenton (NJ)

**1781** – Battle of Cowpens (SC)



## President's Message



Dear Compatriots:

Our January meeting featured guest speaker Ren Cushing, who spoke about life in pre-Revolutionary America. Ren and his wife Muriel are active in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and both have served the Society at the national and state levels.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Rogers

## VP / Chaplain's Message



In January 1776 the book "Common Sense" was written by Thomas Paine. He signed it "Written by an Englishman". It became an instant success, and it was the most popular book of its time. The book presented the colonists with a powerful argument for independence from the rule of the British. Paine wrote in a style that the common people could understand. Written like a sermon and including biblical references, Paine was able to bring the issue of the revolution into sharp focus and placed the suffering of the colonies directly onto King George III. Benjamin Franklin sponsored Paine's emigration to America in 1774. He became a journalist and essayist contributing to the Pennsylvania Magazine. He continued to inspire and encourage patriots through the Revolutionary War.

During February we celebrate the birthday of George Washington, born on February 22, 1732. There are many great quotes of George Washington. One of my favorites is:

*"Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God." - George Washington*

Let us give thanks for the courage and fortitude of our nation's founders and always say a prayer for our current leaders that they lead us with the grace and guidance of God.

Respectfully submitted,

David Munson Chestnut



## Registrar's Report



We currently have four applications in process, including three from one family. If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a member please have them get in touch with me to assist them with their application.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott

## Items of Interest

Compatriot David Soderlund has found another interesting link to a video about life for Revolutionary War soldiers. The link is: <https://youtu.be/GT0eD92u1Xs>

Your editor, like many of you, is dismayed by the lack of knowledge possessed by today's high school and college students regarding civics and American History. I found a link to the enclosed article at the Wall Street Journal's online edition. The article is 24 pages long, focusing on 4 public universities in Colorado and Wyoming. The first 3 pages provide the gist of the study. In their summary, **"instead of teaching college students the foundations of law, liberty, and self-government, colleges teach students how to organize protests, occupy buildings, and stage demonstrations."**

Regional VP Charles Butler provided a photo (included below) of his son Robert with former Speaker of the Florida House Terrell Sessums, who was in office when Charles was at FSU. Speaker Sessums is a member of the Tampa chapter, SAR. Robert is a member of the St Petersburg Chapter, and provided IT / AV support to Charles as Regional Vice President of the Florida Society during a the Strategic Planning Presentation January 20<sup>th</sup> in Tampa.

Charles reminds us that all chapter members are welcome to attend the BOM meetings in Orlando. The next meeting is February 3.



# MEETING MINUTES



## Sons of the American Revolution St Petersburg Chapter

January 20, 2018

**Call to Order:** The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 11:30 AM by President Robert Rogers, and the invocation was given by Chaplain David Chestnut. The National Anthem was sung by Tara Todorovic.

**Guests:** Jonna Halstead, Irina Todorovic, Ren & Muriel Cushing.

### Officer Reports & News Items

Evan Soileau reported that a few members had not renewed and one was returning, putting our membership at 47 or 48 members. He indicated that contributions by members above the required annual dues were generous and comparable to prior years.

Will Scott reported that Mark Foster's application is in process, and he is working on three applications from one family.

Hardy Bryan thanked David Chestnut for his appearance in Revolutionary uniform at a party celebrating the birthday and the citizenship of his wife, Zeni.

John Stewart reported that the next BOM meeting in Orlando is February 3, and all chapter members are welcome to attend. He is working on education outreach with the board of education, to enrich the classroom experience. He informed us that Charles Butler, Regional VP, is working on implementing the seven Strategic Planning recommendations adopted last year by the state SAR.

Only one application was received statewide for the American History Teacher Award, which is disappointing. All of this year's Knight Essay Contest entrants were from Admiral Farragut Academy. This year's winners are:

First Place: Dylan Miksch (**essay is enclosed**)

Second Place: Alyssa Rano

Third Place: Gianni DeFelice

### Presentations

Guests Ren and Muriel Cushing gave a very informative presentation on life in the colonies before the Revolution, focusing on the period from the 1750's to 1770's. They are both active in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and both have served the Society at the national and state levels.



The population had grown from 250,000 in 1700 to over 2 million in 1770. The colonists were considered “rustic” by the English, and had long felt inferior, often receiving damaged goods in their trading. Most of the colonists by the 1750’s had never been to England, or even knew someone who had, stoking their resentment and creating a desire for independence. The percentage of property ownership was much higher in the colonies than in England, along with the right to vote. This made the colonists more self-assured, and led to thoughts of separation from England. George III’s increased taxation and regulatory burdens ultimately led to the Declaration of Independence.

### **Benediction & Recessional**

David Chestnut gave the benediction, and President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary



Compatriot Bryan with soloist Tara Todorovic and her mother





President Rogers with guest speakers Muriel and Ren Cushing







Compatriot Robert Butler with former Florida House Speaker Terrell Sessums

