



**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

Dec. 15 – regular meeting, St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11:00 am

**THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY**

**1776** – Battles of Fort Washington (NY) and Fort Lee (NJ)

**1777** – Articles of Confederation adopted by the Second Continental Congress

**1783** – British evacuate New York, marking the end of British rule



## President's Message



Dear Compatriots:

I would like to take a few moments to talk about the Mission of the St. Petersburg Chapter. Recently, there has been considerable discussion at the State Society level about the importance of Strategic Planning and its role in establishing a clear and modern blueprint for our Society's future.

As you know, a comprehensive strategic plan was developed by a special Planning committee. This unique initiative was led by John Stewart, and Charles Butler, both past presidents of our chapter who worked intensively for more than a year on this project to help and support all the SAR chapters in our state.

One of the items identified by the Planning Committee was a need for Compatriots to have a clear, focused understanding of who we are and what we do. Our original charter and founding documents are lofty in their fundamental objectives, and somewhat general in defining specific activities, leaving future generations to interpret them in the context of their own times. The State Society is in the process of incorporating Plan recommendations into its future structure and operations.

Here in our chapter, with the support of our Board of Governors, we are also in the process of improving our planning and operating focus, so we can do more of what we do best, and in that way, promote Americanism and patriotism in our community - which is our purpose.

As most of us have noticed recently, it appears the general population, particularly the youth, are sadly lacking in knowledge of American history and civics. I can give numerous disturbing examples, but you have probably already seen them yourselves.

Our Founding Fathers considered a knowledge of history and an understanding of civics to be essential in the proper functioning of- if not the preservation of- our Constitutional Republic.

The future of America is in the hands, hearts and minds of its youth, apparently many of whom are ignorant of our nation's founding principles and its unique role in history as the last great defender of freedom for mankind. Educating students about the essential elements of American history, Americanism as an economic force, and American Patriotism, are critical in these days and times.

I am pleased to report that our chapter is moving forward successfully in two main initiatives:

- 1) Commemoration of and honoring our veterans
- 2) Community Outreach and Education – history and civics

Since 1928, our chapter has had a long and proud record of *actively supporting veterans* and recognizing their contributions to our nation, from donating television sets in the 1950s to Bay Pines VA, to honoring our special guests here today. This initiative is well developed and will continue to grow even stronger in the future.

Today, I am happy to report that our new **Community Outreach Education** initiative is also coming together very well. As you know, education begins in the public schools. Over the past year, I have worked closely with John Stewart and Charles Butler to develop a strong relationship with the Pinellas County School System. You will recall that Mr. Hendrick,



Assistant Superintendent was a speaker at our September meeting. Joanne Lentino, a member of the Pinellas County School Board, attended our November chapter meeting. In February, we will welcome Dr. Grego, the Pinellas County Superintendent.

This is a major milestone for our chapter, and for the students of Pinellas County because for the first time we will have the opportunity to convey to these School System leaders our support, expertise, enthusiasm, and participation as needed in enhancing the history and civics curriculum of Pinellas County Schools. We will also be able to hear about what Pinellas County is already doing, and what they may want from us.

Within our own membership, we have a wide array of civic and historical knowledge, and we have access to major resources around the state, such as Dr. Roger Smith, of the St. Augustine Chapter, as well as many others.

We have already begun the process of cultivating relationships within the Pinellas system by providing copies of Dr. Smith's book, "**Florida, the 14<sup>th</sup> Colony**" to Pinellas civics teachers during a System workshop in August. In my view, our education outreach initiative is exactly what the Sons of the American Revolution should be doing.

It is clear, well defined, with reasonable expectations, patriotic, and strengthens our Republic, and we are already seeing positive indications from the school system as a result of our initial efforts. Thanks to the extraordinary education efforts of John Stewart for many years, our Chapter is gaining a reputation as "the education chapter" among other chapters around the state, and with the DAR.

I am pleased to be providing you with this very encouraging information today, and please know that the Board of Governors and I am grateful to all of you in our chapter for your generous support through your active membership and donations.

I also invite you to give some thought to some area of expertise in the areas of history and civics that could be developed into an educational initiative. If you have any ideas or thoughts, please discuss them with John Stewart when you have a few minutes.

In closing, I would like to say that we have a special responsibility to preserve, protect and defend our nation, and its founding principles. We are the lineal descendants of General Washington's Continental Army, and all the men under his direct command. All Americans have a responsibility to be patriotic, but WE have a SPECIAL responsibility. I am especially proud that we of the St. Petersburg Chapter are taking this responsibility seriously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Rogers



## VP / Chaplain's Message



George Washington, the father of our nation, was quiet about his Christian faith. But there can be no doubt his faith in our Lord Jesus Christ was deep and heartfelt. In his first general order to his troops, General George Washington called on ... “Every officer and man...to live, and act, as becomes a Christian Soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.”

President Washington, on October 3, 1789, from the City of New York, proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving:

“Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor...

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these Unites States...that we then may all unite unto him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed...

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions...to promote the knowledge and practice of the true religion and virtue...”

It has been 229 years since President George Washington penned this proclamation. I was honored to repeat it after him at our November meeting. I am sure he would be pleased that we are still celebrating this day humbly and respectfully. May we always remember to give thanks to the Lord and also to our forefathers. May we always be thankful for all of the blessings of this life.

Respectfully submitted,

David Munson Chestnut





### **What Is Our Chapter's Mission?**

Every successful organization has a clearly stated purpose supported by specific goals. The NSSAR's statement of purpose is eloquent, and drawn from its Congressional charter and original 1889 Founding documents. Although it is floridly written, to some it appears to lack the clarity we normally see in contemporary Statements of Business Purpose.

For simplicity, the following is my interpretive "executive summary" of our SAR mission statement.

The SAR exists to educate the American public about our Nation's founding events, its Constitution and its essential principles of liberty, meritocracy, and self-reliance.

The SAR also performs three other related functions:

- 1) It honors and memorializes those who founded the United States, Patriots, and those who served in Washington's Continental armed forces, militia and Navy, and those who serve and served in the US Armed Forces.
- 2) It researches and preserves documents and original sources relating to the American Revolution.
- 3) It engages in a broad spectrum of outreach activities and programs advocating love of country and inspiring Patriotism among students and the public.

As a chapter, everything we do qualifies for placement in at least one of these categories.

Our chapter history documents our enthusiastic support of the SAR primary mission, as well as the other three categories quite successfully.

Over the past decade, our chapter has matured, gaining experience and expertise. We have realized significant member growth, and been recognized regularly by the Florida State Society for our outstanding Americanism achievements.

Over the coming years, our chapter will continue its successful portfolio of Americanism initiatives, with special emphasis on community education outreach. This entails working more closely and collaboratively with the Pinellas County School System to support enhanced history and civics emphasis in the local curriculum.

The Board of Governors deems this to be a *Critical Need Initiative*.

The Board requests your support as a member in the following ways:

- 1) Provide comments, feedback and opinions concerning the need for enhanced history and civics education to Board of Governors.
- 2) If you have skills, abilities or expertise in this area, please contact a Board member in order to lend assistance or advice.

Your attendance at monthly meetings is critical, so please make every effort to be present. We also ask that you bring prospective members and family as well.



Chapter President Bob Rogers has worked tirelessly over the past year and a half, and been very successful in establishing our chapter as a credible, knowledgeable community resource with the Pinellas County School Board. This is a major accomplishment for our chapter, and one that can potentially enable our chapter to have a positive impact on hundreds of thousands of Pinellas students over the next decade.

It is clear the St. Petersburg Chapter now possesses the gravitas, talent and expertise to make substantive and meaningful contributions to the education system in Pinellas County.

We are actively moving forward in this initiative, and we welcome your full and enthusiastic support over the coming years.

Charles Butler  
Chairman, Board of Governors

## Registrar's Report



If you know of anyone who has an interest in becoming a member, please let them know that we are always willing to assist them with the application process.

If you are preparing a supplemental application, or working with a relative or friend on their application, please be sure to use the most current version of the form, or the interactive online application.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott





**Sons of the American Revolution  
St Petersburg Chapter  
November 17, 2018**

**Call to Order:** The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 11:40 AM by President Robert Rogers and the invocation was given by Chaplain David Chestnut.

**Guests:** Pinellas County School Board member Joanne Lentino, new dual member Frank Hagen, and many compatriot's family members.

**Approval of Minutes** The minutes of the October 20 meeting were approved.

**Officer Reports & Presentations**

President Rogers discussed the history of the Mayflower Compact, under which the signers agreed on the principles of freedom of religion, private enterprise, property rights, and that they were against slavery. Bob Rogers and Mark Foster are both descendants of Mayflower colonists.

Joanne Lentino spoke on the learning gap in Pinellas County schools between races and economic groups. Her focus is on early learning programs for kindergarten and pre-K, as that is where improvements can and must be made in attitudes towards learning. She and our members agreed that increased parental support and involvement is needed in the families of underperforming students.

Donald Wyman gave a very informative presentation on Ben Franklin, focusing on his many "behind the scenes" actions in support of the American Revolution. Franklin negotiated with the British in London in 1775 on our behalf, and then spent nine years in Paris as our first ambassador. He negotiated embargo relief for Bermuda in exchange for badly needed gunpowder, and achieved the Treaty of Alliance with Louis XVI. Franklin negotiated a loan from Spain, and in 1783 he negotiated the peace treaty with George III.

**Benediction & Recessional**

David Chestnut gave the benediction, and President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM.

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary







Photo of November meeting, which had over 30 attendees







President Rogers with school board member Joanne Lentino





Guest speaker Donald Wyman with president Rogers





Compatriot John Stewart (center) was among the Veterans Day participants at Bay Pines

