



**The St. Petersburg Chapter**  
**Florida Society**  
**Sons of the American Revolution**  
CHARTERED 1928

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September 2019

CHAPTER WEBSITE  
[www.stpetesar.org](http://www.stpetesar.org)

**2019 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR**

Please mark your calendars

October 19 – Recognition of Veterans - St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11am

**THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY**

1776 – Battle of Harlem Heights; Nathan Hale captured and executed for treason by the British.

1777 – Battles of Brandywine and Paoli; British occupy Philadelphia.

1780 – Battle of Charlotte; treason of Benedict Arnold exposed.

1783 – Treaty of Paris ends the American Revolutionary War.



## Board Chairman's Message



Dear Compatriots:

September was a month of major accomplishment for our chapter, the culmination of nearly two years of careful planning and focused efforts by our chapter leadership. In response to President General Michael Tomme's 2017 directive for each State Society to create outreach education programs, The St. Petersburg and Tampa Chapters, and Dr. Roger Smith of St. Augustine developed an education program focusing specifically on the needs of Florida's students, particularly as they relate to our state's uncelebrated and vital role in the American Revolution.

The Tampa Bay SAR Initiative's first effort was to prepare a formal Recommendations Document for the Florida Department of Education as it revises our state's secondary school history curriculum. This document was hand delivered in Tallahassee during a meeting in April and was graciously welcomed and accepted by the Department.

I am pleased to report that our Initiative has now established an ongoing, credible relationship with the senior leadership of the Florida Department of Education. This was especially evident by the attendance of Mr. Kevin Hoeft, Director of Education Policy for the State of Florida Department of Education at this month's Constitution Week commemoration event. It is important to note that the Tampa Bay SAR Education Initiative's achievement *is not only unique in Florida, it is also unique nationwide*. The potential impact of our Initiative's contributions on future generations here in Florida is incalculable.

I pleased to report that our Tampa Bay SAR Education Initiative has gained the support of the **National Society** and is now being referenced as a national model for other SAR societies. The Tampa Bay SAR Education Initiative was represented at the NSSAR's Fall Leadership Forum by Dr. Roger Smith, Board Member and member of the St. Augustine Chapter. A brief summary of his report follows below:

*The [NSSAR] presentation went well and the reception from the committee was overwhelmingly positive. NSSAR Education Committee Chairman Brooks committed the support of his committee to backing our Initiative, giving us a national audience that is now looking to Florida for the leadership to make this happen*



*I believe that we now have the opportunity to emphasize our 2023 theme/message (when Florida hosts the NSSAR National Congress) as one of education and solidify Florida as the state society that is the national leader in education.*

The Tampa Bay Education Initiative is focused on achieving demonstrable, quantifiable results. Your chapter membership and supplementary donations enable us to accomplish goals considered unachievable just a few years ago. The Board of Governors is grateful for the support of our fellow Compatriots, and we welcome your continued contributions to our efforts. Our mission statement is simple, "Patriotism through Education."

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Butler

### **ANNUAL DUES REMINDER**

Annual dues are now due, covering the National Society, the Florida Society, and our chapter. The total amount is unchanged at \$65, of which our chapter receives \$10. *Donations above that amount are tax deductible and will enable our chapter to continue our education outreach efforts.* If you are unable to attend either the October or November meeting, please send a check made out to **NSSAR – St. Petersburg Chapter** and mail to:

Peter Ford, Treasurer  
5926 Canton Street S.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

### **Registrar's Report**



Our chapter has added nine new members this past year, plus one transfer and one dual member, with more applications in process. 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



## Meeting Minutes



### Sons of the American Revolution St Petersburg Chapter September 14, 2019

**Call to Order:** The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 11:00 AM by President Bob Rogers and the invocation was given by William Bolin of the South Shore chapter.

**Guests:** Kevin Hoeft, Education Policy Director of the Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee; Joanne Lentino, Member at Large Pinellas County School Board; Virginia Poffenberger, Vice President General National Society Daughters of the American Revolution; Dave Bryant, VP of the Tampa SAR chapter; Joseph Hardesty, guest speaker and NSSAR Library Director; Roger Smith Ph.D. Board Member, the Tampa Bay Education Initiative; Danny McLaughlin, Vice President of Seacoast Bank, Advisory Board Member of the Tampa Bay Education Initiative; Vanessa Talbott, DAR Florida liaison to SAR; and guests from fifteen DAR chapters, including five Regents. Also in attendance was Marcia Oetting, Florida State Society President of the National Daughters of Colonial Wars. The attendance count of over 110 made this the largest event in the history of the St. Petersburg Chapter.

The entire event was professionally recorded and will be available for viewing on the Chapter's website: [www.stpetesar.org](http://www.stpetesar.org)

#### **Presentations**

After introductory Constitution Week remarks by President Rogers, Chairman Butler, and Roger Smith, Joe Hardesty gave the first of three presentations on the National SAR library, the US Census, and family research. The SAR library is an exceptional research tool that is available online to everyone, not just SAR members. The tools include the SAR magazine, videos, and historical books in e-book format.

#### **Benediction & Recessional**

William Bolin gave the benediction, and President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM. The educational workshops concluded at 3:30 PM.

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary





Presentation of Colors at Constitution Week Celebration.





Partial View of Constitution Week Attendees





Dr. Roger Smith addresses the Constitution Week audience





Dr. Roger Smith addresses DAR & SAR members







Guest Speaker Joe Hardesty, NSSAR Library Director, with Chapter President Bob Rogers

