



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

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October 2019

CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.stpetesar.org

2019 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

November 23 – St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11am

NOTE CHANGE IN DATE FROM REGULAR SCHEDULE !

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1774 – Petition of Grievances sent to King George III

1776 – Battles of Valcour Island (Lake Champlain, NY) and White Plains (NY)

1777 – Battles of Germantown (PA), Saratoga (NY) and Red Bank (NJ)

1780 – Battle of Kings Mountain (SC)

1781 – British surrender at Yorktown (VA)



President's Message



Dear Compatriots:

Constitution Week commemorates the formation and signing of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787. It was officially enacted on August 2, 1956 by President Eisenhower from a congressional resolution petitioned by the Daughters of the American Revolution. For this and many other activities, the nation and the SAR reveres and offers gratitude to the DAR for the research and preservation of the history of the United States, which they have consistently undertaken.

On September 14th we held our Constitution Celebration at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. The Sons of the American Revolution is a lineal heritage Patriotic Society which was federally chartered by the US Congress in 1889. In personal terms, my 4th great-grandfather served under the command of General George Washington as a corporal in the Connecticut militia. He died in service to our country.

In the history of mankind, there is no political document like the United States Constitution. By nature, Americans are achievers; this is because we were created as a meritocracy. The freedom for individual achievement is in our Constitutional DNA. Our Constitution not only frees us to speak, think, worship, and vote, it gives us the liberty to think, imagine, dream and achieve.

In the 232 years since our Constitution was signed, we have endured good times and bad. But all the while, our Constitution has served as a shining beacon of liberty and self-governance inspiring us to achieve what is rightfully called **The American Dream**. While nothing is perfect, no one can say that Americans are not trying, relentlessly, ceaselessly pushing upstream, making mistakes, and achieving glorious successes, enduring failures and learning from them.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Rogers



Board Chairman's Message



Dear Compatriots:

Our chapter is enjoying the greatest period of success in its history. At 56 Compatriots, we have more members than at any time since our chartering in 1928. Thanks to the generosity and dedication of our membership and through skillful financial management, our chapter's economic resources enable us to undertake initiatives that are much more than giving out awards and certificates- *we are fundamentally enhancing the quality of education in our state. This impacts millions of youngsters from Pensacola to Key West.* Most importantly, because the Initiative is a permanent program it will endure as an essential component of our mission far into the future.

Most excitingly, the role and scope of our chapter is taking on a national dimension through the dramatic success of our Education Outreach Initiative. Board Member Dr. Roger Smith attended the recent National Society leadership meeting in Louisville, and as a member of the National Education Committee he presented a report on our Tampa Bay SAR Education Outreach Initiative achievements. His report was very well received, and The TB Education Initiative is now being referenced as a national model for implementation. I am in the process of writing an Education Program Implementation Manual that can be used by other states to develop and implement Outreach Education Initiatives.

Due to time restrictions, I did not present a PowerPoint report at our October meeting. I have provided it to you in PDF form by email so you can review it at your leisure, so please check your email. The PowerPoint was presented by John Stewart at the BOM earlier this month summarizing what we have accomplished with our partners in the Tampa Chapter SAR. I am especially pleased that this presentation was received with applause, and the following day the FLSSAR Education Committee was chartered on a unanimous vote by the entire BOM.



John Stewart is the Chairman of the FLSSAR Committee, and the strategic work we have done can now be expanded to include collaboration with and support from other SAR chapters around the state. Effectively this expands our Education Initiative to represent the interests of more than 2,200 Compatriots Statewide.

As I said in my comments during the October meeting, instead of lamenting the need for enhanced early American history and Civics knowledge and comprehension by our youth, we are proactively addressing it with carefully structured plans and programs.

For the record, the TB Education Initiative began in 2017 with a meeting arranged by President Rogers and following a call to action by then President General Michael Tomme. Attending the initial meeting were Joanne Lentino, Pinellas County School Board, John Stewart, and Charles Butler. Shortly thereafter, we began collaborating with our Compatriots in the Tampa Chapter who provided significant support and assistance, and the Tampa Bay SAR Education Outreach Initiative became a well-organized, functioning reality which soon attracted the attention and cooperation of the Florida Department of Education.

The Initiative has received several assignments from the DOE, which we have either completed or are in the process of completing, including the review of Florida's textbooks and input into education standards and policy.

As a Compatriot of the St. Petersburg Chapter, you are a part of its success and can take pride in your membership. Your meeting attendance, and financial contributions are vital to the continued success of our chapter, and its agenda of state and national leadership. We welcome any expertise or support you may wish to provide, so please contact John Stewart at 1965uva@gmail.com. To make a restricted contribution to the Education Initiative, please contact Treasurer Peter Ford at fordcgi@msn.com.

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 only \$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 the 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



Meeting Minutes



Sons of the American Revolution St Petersburg Chapter October 19, 2019

Call to Order: The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 11:30 AM by President Bob Rogers and the invocation was given by Charles Butler.

Guests: Former St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

Guest Speaker: Bill Foster spoke at length about his term as mayor after his election in 2009. He touched on topics such as dealing with the Rays stadium issue, crime, the growth of downtown housing and retail space, and rebuilding the pier. The “Pyramid” was built in the 1970’s, but the underlying pier supports are 100 years old and are badly in need of renovation.

Induction of Officers: Charles Butler and Bob Rogers swore in the new officers for the 2019-2020 term:

Robert Rogers – President

Mark Foster – Vice President

Peter Ford – Secretary & Treasurer

Will Scott – Registrar

Induction of New Members: Bob Rogers inducted George Ludwig, Jordan Isringhaus, and Dee Martin into our chapter.

Benediction & Recessional

Charles Butler gave the benediction, and President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary





Vanessa Talbott, John Stewart, Caloosa SAR members and Marcea Oetting of the Orlando DAR at the DAR Fall Forum





Chapter Officers Scott, Ford, Foster & Rogers were sworn in by Chairman Butler





New members Jordan Isringhaus, Dee Martin, & George Ludwig are inducted into the Chapter by President Rogers





Former St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster addresses the chapter members

