



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

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December 2019

CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.stpetesar.org

2020 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

January 18 – St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11am
February 15 – President's Month Meeting

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1773 – Boston Tea Party

1776 – Battle of Trenton

1777 – Continental Army winters at Valley Forge



Board Chairman's Message



Dear Compatriots:

This has been an extraordinary year of progress for the St. Petersburg Chapter, far beyond expectations. Special gratitude is due to our officers, President Bob Rogers, Vice President Mark Foster, Treasurer Peter Ford, Registrar Will Scott, and Chaplain John Stewart.

Our membership continues to grow, our financial position is strong, and the St. Petersburg Chapter is emerging as not only a leader in the Florida Society, but nationally as well due to the remarkable success of the *Tampa Bay SAR Education Initiative*.

The Education Initiative has successfully established a cordial and collaborative relationship with the Florida Department of Education at its most senior levels. Our input is not only welcome, it is invited and appreciated. Kevin Hoeft, the *Director of Education Policy for the Florida Department of Education* attended our September Constitution Week commemoration, which was the largest, most well attended event in the 91-year history of our chapter. He experienced firsthand the sophistication of our chapter and our commitment to support civics proficiency and early American history education in Florida.

As you are no doubt aware, on December 10 Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran is developing a civics proficiency examination for Florida's high school seniors. The Tampa Bay SAR Education Initiative was asked to submit a formal Input Document to Commissioner Corcoran by the 31st of December. Due to intensive work by the Initiative's Board, the document was completed and submitted on Friday December 20, eleven days before the deadline.

The Department of Education's immediate response was one of sincere gratitude and appreciation, and following a review by Director Kevin Hoeft, the Input



Document was presented to Florida Education Commissioner Corcoran. It is my belief that we were the first organization to complete and submit a formal Input Document on this subject to the Commissioner for his review, just ten days after the Governor announced the program.

Another major affirmation of our success is the fact that the Initiative's Board has been invited by the Department of Education to make presentations to appropriate legislative committees after the Florida Legislature convenes in mid-January. This is an unprecedented achievement, and it enables us to help shape the future of Florida's civics and early American history curricula, impacting millions of public school students for generations to come.

I am also pleased to report Compatriot John Stewart now serves not only as the Chancellor of the Tampa Bay SAR Initiative, but he is the first chairman of the newly constituted FLSSAR Education Outreach Committee. This is a point of special pride for our chapter, and one that is well deserved by John.

Instead of forwarding emails to each other about society's problems, we are actively engaged in implementing solutions. Your support, encouragement and participation are welcome and greatly appreciated. Your active membership in the SAR and our chapter is important and whether you contribute talent, moral support, or restricted funds to the Education Initiative, you are part of making Florida a better place for our posterity.

In closing, please remember that our meeting calendar is published a year in advance on our website: stpetesar.org. I encourage you to arrange your time commitments so that you can attend our chapter meetings as often as possible.

Your right to participate in the SAR is the legacy of your Revolutionary War ancestors. Please allocate a little time in your busy schedule to honor them and support our chapter's successes. On behalf of the Board of Governors, I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Charles Butler



Meeting Minutes



Sons of the American Revolution St Petersburg Chapter December 21, 2019

Call to Order: The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 9:35 AM by President Bob Rogers, and John Stewart gave the invocation.

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

Treasurer's Report: Peter Ford reported that the chapter has approximately \$8.5 thousand in the bank, after annual chapter dues were paid to NSSAR and FLSSAR. Of the total, approximately \$2 thousand are earmarked for the Tampa Bay Education Initiative.

Chapter Chairman's Report: Charles Butler updated the members on the Tampa Bay Education Initiative, where the next step is a January trip to Tallahassee at the invitation of the Florida Department of Education. He also addressed Gov. DeSantis' recent call for civics education in Florida schools, with the requirement for all high school seniors to take a civics exam.

Guest Comments: Agnia McGinn, wife of compatriot Mike McGinn, spoke about her experience studying and passing our citizenship test. Their daughter Daniella spoke of her experiences as a first-year cadet at the Coast Guard Academy, which included sailing on the *Eagle* to New York City. Mike is working to resurrect the McMullen C.A.R. chapter.

Guest Speaker: Johnnie Clark addressed the chapter on his research for his latest book, "Walk A Little Farther With Me," in which he recounts his efforts to overcome the postwar impact of battle on a frontline soldier. His interviewees for the book included a Marine who served on Guadalcanal.



Benediction & Recessional

John Stewart gave the benediction, and President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.

Submitted by Peter Ford, Secretary



Daniella McGinn speaks to the members about her experiences as a first-year Cadet at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy





Guest speaker Johnnie Clark addresses the members on his Vietnam experiences and the research involved in his latest book.

