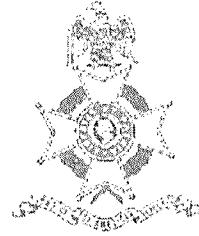




Clearwater Chapter

Est. 1951



Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE CLEARWATER CHAPTER FLORIDA SOCIETY NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

PREFACE

This first Edition of the Clearwater Chapter handbook was published at the time the Chapter was established in 1951, this Amendment is made as of December 2024. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Clearwater Chapter Florida Society of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution has been revised and amended and approved by the Members at the December 2024 meeting

This edition could not have been realized without the assistance of the Bylaws Committee constituting President Timothy Shaner, Second Vice President, Dwight McEntire and Governor at Large, Jim Grayshaw. The amended documents contained herein were approved by the BOG and the changes and updates to the Constitution and Bylaws contained herein were processed in accordance with the amendment process outline in those documents.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE CLEARWATER

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME AND STATUS

The name of this chapter shall be the "the Clearwater Chapter" (hereinafter "the Chapter"). Florida Society of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. The Chapter is a non- profit organization and derives its status from Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code granting such status to the National Society Sons of the American Revolution and its subordinate elements. The National Society is a corporation created by special act of the Congress of the United States in 1906, and amended in 1925, 1961 and in 1998.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the Chapter are patriotic, historical, and educational as set forth in the respective Constitutions of **THE FLORIDA SOCIETY, INC. (hereinafter "FLSSAR")** and the **NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (hereinafter "NSSAR.")**

SAR is a non-political organization. Chapters and state societies must never endorse or recommend any candidate for public office, nor may meetings include the discussion or merits or demerits of such candidates. The merit of any public question involving the social, economic, moral, or physical welfare of the people may be fairly and intelligently studied and discussed at a meeting for the enlightenment of those attending. SAR may take opposition on any bill or measure which may be submitted to a vote of the elected representatives of the people or to the vote of the people.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS

The officers of this Chapter shall be a president, a 1st vice-president, a 2nd vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, a chaplain, a registrar, a genealogist, a Recording Secretary (as needed), and a sergeant-at-arms. These officers, together with the immediate past president and two (2) governors at large, shall constitute the BOG ("BOG") of this Chapter. The (2) Governors at large shall be appointed by the president at the start of each year with the approval of the newly elected officers.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Any man (as defined by NSSAR) eighteen (18) years or older, whose application for membership in the National Society Sons of the American Revolution has been approved by NSSAR and is a member in good standing of the FLSSAR, shall be eligible for membership in this Chapter.

ARTICLE V

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of the Governors (hereinafter "BOG") shall formulate and carry out plans for promoting the purposes and growth of the Chapter and will generally superintend its interests. They shall execute such other duties as may have assigned them at any meeting of this Chapter. The BOG may appoint an assistant to any officer, except the President, at a BOG meeting as set forth in Bylaw Section II.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

The Chapter shall hold its Annual Membership Meeting in November of each year after the FLSSAR Annual Meeting, the Officers elected at the annual meeting shall be installed at the December meeting. The annual meeting may be in person or be an electronic meeting or telephone conference provided, if an electronic meeting or telephone conference, it complies with FLSSAR, NSSAR and Chapter Bylaws, and with the requirements of Florida Corporation Law.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of three fourths (3 /4) of the Chapter members present at any regular meeting or electronic meeting of the Chapter provided a minimum of fifteen (15) members are present when the vote is taken, and further provided that the proposed amendment has been presented to three members either at a regular Chapter meeting, or in writing, at least one month prior to voting. If it is an electronic meeting or telephone conference, it must comply with FLSSAR, NSSAR and Chapter Bylaws, and with the requirements of Florida Corporation Law. Amendments shall become effective upon adoption.

ARTICLE VIII

NON-PROFIT PURPOSES AND DISSOLUTION

1. Tax Exemption. This Chapter is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (hereinafter the "Code") pursuant to the provisions of NSSAR, FLSSAR the State Of Florida Nonprofit Corporations Act, laws and regulations and amendments thereto, as enacted or hereinafter amended, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. This Chapter is not organized for profit, nor shall any person or member derive any benefit whatsoever, nor shall any pecuniary profit or benefit inure to the members of this Association except that the Chapter shall be authorized and empowered to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes as described in these Articles. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this Association shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this Association, or is not permitted to be carried on by an Association exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

2. "Dissolution" means the complete disbanding of the Chapter so that it no longer functions as a corporate entity. Upon the dissolution of the Chapter, its property shall be applied and distributed as follows: (1) all liabilities and obligations of the Association shall be paid and discharged or adequate provision shall be made therefore; (2) pursuant to a plan adopted by the board of directors, assets shall be transferred or conveyed to one or more domestic Association, society, or organization that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Code and are engaged in activities substantially similar to those of the Association

BYLAWS

SECTION I

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

1. Application for membership must be made in writing to the Registrar on the form authorized by NSSAR, and submitted in the form required by NSSAR with all needed documentation and three checks in the proper amount for the Application and Membership fees for FLSSAR, NSSAR and the Chapter. An applicant may be invited to participate as a guest pending final approval of his application by the FLSSAR and NSSAR authorities. The applicant shall become a member of the Chapter after favorable report by the registrar of the approval of the application by the FLSSAR and NSSAR.

Applicants receiving approval prior to September 1 shall be required to pay the next years dues. Approval between September 1 and December 31 will not be required to pay dues until the following December dues period.

2. The annual dues shall consist of dues to the NSSAR, dues to the FLSSAR and dues to the Clearwater Chapter. The annual dues shall be payable directly to the Chapter Treasurer on or before the 30th day of November of each year, as provided in the Bylaws of the FLSSAR. The Treasurer shall remit the total dues for the NSSAR and FLSSAR to the FLSSAR Secretary along with the corrected roster for the Chapter and Annual Report as prepared by the Secretary. All other conditions and terms related to said dues as set down in the State Society Bylaws shall apply. The annual dues shall be determined by the BOG on an annual basis at the May meeting.

3. The Chapter will waive the dues for all members on Active Duty Military for the period they are on Active Duty for more than one year.

4). Types of Membership:

A. Regular: A member aged 18 or older who pays annual dues (excepting those members described in Subsections (2) through (5) below) and who meets all the requirements for membership as defined in the Constitution and in the Bylaws and Membership Policies of the National Society.

B. Junior: A member under age 18 who has met the membership requirements of the National Society but pays annual dues at a reduced rate. He is not eligible to vote or hold office in the Chapter.

C. Dual Membership:

(1) A compatriot may establish membership in more than one state society by applying to the additional state society for dual membership. He must be a full, dues-paying active member in his home state in order to hold a dual membership in other state societies, but will continue to pay his national, state and chapter dues in his home state. He will pay the state and chapter dues only as a dual member in other states and will not be reported to the National Society as a member on their rosters. He is eligible to be a delegate from his dual state or home state, but not in both societies.

(2) A compatriot member of a FLSSAR Chapter may establish membership in more than one FLSSAR Chapter by applying to the additional state society for dual membership. He will continue to pay his national and state dues in his home Chapter, but will only pay the chapter dues of the chapter he is becoming a dual member of.

(3) Any dual member of the Clearwater Chapter may vote and hold office in the Clearwater Chapter.

D. Emeritus I: Any Compatriot who has paid a total of fifty (50) cumulative years of annual dues as a Regular Member. Dues paid as a Junior Member do not count. An Emeritus I Member shall be exempt from all annual dues payable to the National Society.

E. Emeritus II: All FLSSAR Members who have paid dues to the NSSAR for forty continuous years shall be Emeritus II members of the FLSSAR and their respective FLSSAR Chapters. All Emeritus II Members of the FLSSAR may request to become exempt from FLSSAR dues. The member, or his Chapter, shall request exemption from dues based on his Emeritus Status.

F. Emeritus III: At times, a member of the FLSSAR may become in need or economically distressed and request Emeritus III status. The Chapter may forgive the dues of compatriot and request the FLSSAR to forgive FLSSAR dues. This is a temporary measure, and such relief is for one year only. Emeritus III status must be requested on a yearly basis. If the Executive Committee of the FLSSAR approves the relief from dues the member shall be designated an Emeritus III member. The name of the Emeritus III member shall remain confidential.

5). A member may resign, if his dues are paid, by notifying the Chapter Secretary, in writing of his resignation, which may be by e-mail.

6) Arrears and Reinstatements.

(a) A member who is in arrears for dues on January 1 shall be dropped automatically from the rolls and is not thereafter eligible to participate in any activity of the Society.

(b) A Member who has been dropped from the rolls for nonpayment of dues may be reinstated at any time upon payment of current annual dues and any reinstatement fee imposed by the National, State Societies or the Chapter.

SECTION II

MEETINGS

1. The Chapter membership shall meet at least of four (4) times per year and a maximum of nine (9) times.

2. Normally, the Chapter will meet the months of January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November, and December.

3. The November meeting will be considered the Annual Membership Meeting.

4. With advanced notice as determined by the BOG special meetings of the Chapter may be called by a majority vote of the BOG.

5. At all meetings of the BOG the majority vote can be in the form of telephone contact, e-mail or zoom or similar electronic meeting.

6. The BOG shall meet regularly as deemed necessary.

7. Electronic Meetings. Electronic meetings are authorized provided they follow any specific requirements of FLSSAR, NSSAR and Florida Law, and the BOG has set up guidelines and procedures, as they may adopt, to allow members who are not physically present at a meeting, by means of remote communication: (a) participate in the meeting, (b) be deemed to be present in person and vote at the meeting If;

(a) The BOG or Chapter has implemented reasonable means to verify that each person deemed present and authorized to vote by means of remote communication is a member; and

(b) The BOG or Chapter implements reasonable measures to provide such members with a reasonable opportunity to participate in the meeting and to vote on matters submitted to the members, including an opportunity to communicate and to read or hear the proceedings of the meeting substantially concurrent with the proceedings of the meeting.

Meetings may be held electronically through the use of internet meeting services that support anonymous voting and support visible displays identifying those participating, seeking recognition to speak, showing the text of pending motions, and the results of votes. An anonymous vote conducted through a designated internet service as required in this paragraph shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the bylaws of rules that a vote be conducted by ballot, and be further deemed to have provided a reasonable opportunity to participate.

501(c)(3) RESTRICTIONS ON SALE OF PROPERTY

Individuals operating 501(c) (3) organizations are often concerned about complying with the various restrictions imposed by the Internal Revenue Service – their organization's tax exempt status depends upon proper compliance. When selling the organization's properties, so long as the organization follows a few common sense rules, it should comply with IRS sales restrictions. A thorough understanding of the rules against improper excess benefits and self dealing will help 501©(3) organizations maintain their tax exempt status.

SECTION III ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A.

1. The Chapter President will appoint, in August, a three-man Nominating Committee including at least one former chapter president.
2. The committee shall select a committee chairman. The chairman shall contact the person nominated to be the next president for his input on other officer positions.
3. The Nominating Committee will report to the general membership, in November, the nomination of a slate of officers limited to one for each position.
4. Additional nominations shall be solicited 3 times from the floor at the November Meeting.
5. The Chapter membership will vote on the nominated officers at the November Chapter meeting. If there is only one candidate for each position, the election can be by acclamation and all candidates will be deemed as the elected Officers of the Chapter. If there is more than one candidate for any position, then there will be a secret ballot.
6. Ballots will be distributed to the members present and three (3) members will be selected as tellers to count and report the results of the balloting.
7. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes of the membership present will be deemed the elected Officer.
8. Installation of new officers will take place at the December meeting.
9. The Committee will determine, with the concurrence of the BOG, appropriate recognition for the outgoing President.
10. The President shall determine appropriate recognition for outgoing officers, committee chairman and members.

B. The officers shall hold office for one (1) year or until their successors shall be elected and shall have qualified.

C. In case of the death, disability, or resignation of any officer, the BOG shall have the power to elect a successor to fill the unexpired term of office.

D. Any Chapter officer unable or failing to perform his duties in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws may be replaced. The BOG shall nominate a successor to be voted on at the next Regular Chapter meeting. The elected successor shall fill the unexpired term of office. Prior replacing Chapter officer who the BOG feels it necessary to replace

they shall comply with the requirements of Bylaw X regarding Discipline, Procedure and Due Process.

SECTION IV

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. PRESIDENT

The President or in his absence the First Vice – President, shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter. He shall appoint all members of the standing committees and any additional committees and perform such other duties as pertain to his office. Including, but not limited to, meeting with officers and directors to discuss what he expects of them during his term in office. The President is also eligible to hold other positions except that of Treasurer.

B. FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1) The First Vice-President shall be chairman of the Program Committee and shall be responsible for arrangements for all programs at all regular meetings of the Chapter including the preparations for the presenter and appropriate award/certificates.. In the absence or disability of the President, he shall preside at the meetings of the Chapter.

2) It shall be the further duty of the First Vice President to perform such other duties as may be directed by the President.

C. SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

1) The Second Vice-President shall be chairman of the Awards Committee and shall be responsible for obtaining an appropriate supply of all medals and awards to be granted by the Chapter, and preparation of all certificates. He shall, in addition, provide a list of awards to the Historian for inclusion in the Chapter Archives. If no Second Vice- President is nominated and elected, these duties will be the responsibility of the First Vice-President.

2) It shall be the further duty of the Second Vice President to perform such of his duties as may be directed by the President.

D. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

1) The Secretary shall keep fair and accurate records of all the proceedings and orders and shall give notice to the several officers of all votes, orders, resolves and proceedings of the Chapter affecting them or appertaining to their respective duties and provide a copy of such minutes to the President as soon as possible following each meeting.

2) Give due notice to all members of the time and place of all meetings of the Chapter and of the BOG.

3) Maintain correct list of members, their addresses, and dates of admission to the Chapter, resignation, or other termination of membership in the format dictated by the State Society.

4) Advise FLSSAR and NSSAR headquarters about membership and notify said headquarters after each election of officers.

5) Initiate and handle the official correspondence of the Chapter both internal and external.

6) Maintain the true Constitution and Bylaws of the Chapter, with the date of Chapter Approval, and signed by the President. All amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be maintained as a historical record in the Secretary's file.

7) The Secretary shall be responsible for filing the Chapter Annual Report required by the State Society as follows;

a. In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the State Society, each Chapter is required to file and return to the State Secretary, an annual report, as of the prescribed date, each year. This report must be filed in the format prescribed by the State Secretary.

b. A check as written by the Treasurer for the annual State Society dues, payable to the Florida Society SAR, shall be sent together with the above report to the State Secretary.

c. A second check as written by the Treasurer for the annual National Society dues, payable to the Treasurer General NSSAR, shall be sent together with the above report to the State Secretary.

8) The Secretary shall be responsible for filing the following forms in the format prescribed by the State Secretary;

- a. Transfers from another State Society to the Florida State Society.
- b. Transfers within the Florida Society.
- c. Dual Membership with another State Society.
- d. Change of Address of members of the Chapter
- e. Deceased forms with the obituary if possible.

9) It shall be the further duty of the Secretary to perform such other duties as may be directed by the President or the BOG.

E. TREASURER

1) The Treasurer shall collect and keep the funds of the Chapter and deposit them in a bank or savings institution designated by the BOG.

2) He shall draw on the funds for the payment of Chapter obligations.

3) He shall keep a true account of his receipts and disbursements and make a report thereof as required by the BOG.

4) The Treasurer will reimburse other officers for awards, medals and certificates ordered by the officers responsible for awards, medals, and certificates.

5) The reports of the Treasurer shall include income and expense, balance sheet, restricted funds and budget for the future fiscal year.

6) The fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31.

7) The Treasurer shall cooperate with the Financial Review Committee approved by the BOG. Such review shall be required annually.

8) The Treasurer shall ensure that no part of the funds of the Chapter may inure to the benefit of any member or individual. Upon dissolution of the chapter, the assets of the Chapter will be conveyed to the FLSSAR or an Association, society, or organization that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Code and are engaged in activities substantially similar to those of the Association.

9) No check shall ever be signed in blank, and all checks shall be signed by the Treasurer or an alternate designated by the President or the Chapter, and whose signature is on file at the designated depository.

10) It shall be the further duty of the Treasurer to perform such other duties as may be directed by the President or the BOG.

F. CHAPLAIN

1) The Chaplain shall be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the Chapter. His duties shall include the provision for opening and closing prayers at each meeting, including the Invocation and Benediction at Chapter meetings, the preparation and dispatch of all memorial resolutions and letters of condolence on behalf of the Chapter, and presiding over the necrology service at the Annual Meeting.

2) He shall arrange the services at the burial of the deceased when this Chapter is requested to participate in the ceremony.

3) He shall maintain or arrange for sympathetic and encouraging contact with ill or shut-in Compatriots and shall offer consolation and comfort to the Compatriot and/or their families in event of death on behalf of the Chapter.

4) It shall be the further duty of the Chaplain to perform such other duties as may be directed by the President.

G. REGISTRAR

1) The Registrar shall be chairman of the Membership Committee. The Registrar shall Manage the application status of all applicants of the Chapter, and shall advise an applicant when he is approved for membership in the Chapter. He shall work with the Secretary in maintaining a complete roster of the names, National and State numbers, addresses, dates of birth and dates of admission to the National society and the Chapter, resignations, discontinuance as an active member due to non-payment of dues as well as deaths, including date of death.

2) It shall be the further duty of the Registrar to perform such other duties as may be directed by the President or the BOG.

H. GENEALOGIST

The Chapter Genealogist shall examine all applications for membership in the NSSAR and shall approve those application found to be in accordance with the policies, criteria and procedures established by the NSSAR Genealogy Committee and the provisions of the NSSAR, FLSSAR and Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. The Genealogist shall be Chairman of the Genealogical Committee.

I. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

1) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for the maintenance of order at all meetings of the Chapter, subject to the instruction s of the President. The Sergeant-at-Arms is also responsible for the maintenance and placement of all flags at Chapter meetings and activities.

2) Maintaining an inventory of all equipment, rifles, drums, flags, and accessories belonging to the Chapter and the location thereof. The inventory shall be updated at least once a year and the inventory shall be reported to the BOG prior to the annual meeting.

3) It shall be the further duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms to perform such other duties as may be directed by the President.

I. WEBMASTER

The webmaster shall maintain, update the web page on the Clearwater SAR website. The webpage will be an electronic method of communicating with the membership.

J. GENEALOGY

1. The Genealogy Committee reviews genealogical procedures and establishes policies in accordance with NSSAR and FLSSAR policies to ensure that there is reasonable evidence that applicants are eligible for membership. The Committee recommends research methods for finding proof of Revolutionary services for ancestors and for the lineage from applicants to Revolutionary ancestors. The Committee also shall serve as a resource on genealogical sources and procedures.

2. The Genealogy Committee shall review all Applications to include but to not limited to New Member, Supplemental and Memorial applications along with all the direct blood line lineage, documents for completeness, accuracy, format and approve them before submission to the Chapter Registrar. One signed copy along with a complete set of all blood line lineage documents and a copy of Applicant's checks for all New Member, Supplemental, etc. application must be filed with the Chapter Registrar.

3. After the Chapter Registrar has reviewed and approved the Applicant's Application, in accordance with the requirements of NSSAR, and his checks (National & State) shall be sent to the State Registrar for review. Chapter Dues/Fees check should be held by Registrar until such time that the Applicant's Application is approved. Once Applicant Application is approved his check should be given to the Treasurer the Chapter.

SECTION V

COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint such special committees as shall be directed by the Chapter or BOG or as he may deem necessary. In addition to the members of the Standing Committees set forth in Section VI.

SECTION VI

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

1. The Membership Committee shall serve as the first contact with prospective members of SAR. The committee shall provide information about NSSAR, FLSSAR, and the Chapter and answer any other questions of the applicant. The committee shall be responsible for initial new member orientation and training. The committee shall the applicant to complete and instruct the applicant on collecting all required support documents, starting with the first three (3) generations of his family.

2. The Membership Committee shall act as sponsors of the applicant if no SAR member, in good standing, is standing as sponsor. The committee shall work closely with the Registrar on behalf of the applicants.

3. The Membership Committee shall also serve as the Chapter "telephone committee" to contact the current members and remind them of meetings and special activities planned by the Chapter. The committee shall advise the Chaplain of any members that are in ill health.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. The Finance Committee shall examine the financial condition of the Chapter and suggest ways and means of increasing its revenues and of limiting its expenses and report its findings to the President and Board of Governors. The Treasurer will serve as chairman of the Finance Committee.

2. If the Chapter has a 50/50 program, the Chairman shall be responsible for administering the program.

C. FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

The President shall appoint a Financial Review Committee to in October to review the books and records of the Treasurer prior to the annual meeting, which committee shall report its findings to the membership at the annual meeting.

D. PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

. The Publicity Committee shall have the objective to attract the interest of men who are possible candidates for membership. The committee shall seek the cooperation of newspapers, radio, and television stations to reach that audience. The committee shall also provide the State and National SAR news publications articles about the growth and activities of the Chapter. The committee shall work closely with the Program and Membership chairmen to coordinate activities and information about the Chapter.

2. The Publicist shall make every effort to have the activities of the Chapter reported in the various newspapers and other media in the Chapter area, have copies of clippings appearing in newspapers' submitted to the State Publicity Chairman for inclusion in the Earl Marlin Award contest, to place Chapter adds in the SAR magazine and To coordinate with the Webmaster publicity to be place on the Chapter Facebook page and web page.

E. HISTORY COMMITTEE

The Historian shall maintain a record of the activities of the Chapter and its members. His duties shall include the maintenance of a scrapbook containing the photos, clippings, and other relics of such activities for presentation to the State and National Society conventions, as well as the maintenance of such archives as the Chapter might require.

1. The Historian shall keep newspaper clippings and other documents reflecting the activities of the Chapter in chronological order. Such shall include, in addition to newspaper clippings, minutes, awards, correspondence, budgets, and photographs generated by the chapter and items deemed significant to the mission and life of the Chapter. Such items may be maintained in scrapbooks, or other organized groupings so that individual documents of historical interest can be readily found when needed.

2. Once a year, the Historian shall bring to a meeting and display the news paper clippings accumulated for that calendar year for inspection by the general membership.

3. The historian shall work and cooperate with the Publicity Committee in filing the Earl Marlin Contest book with the FLSSAR annually by February 1 of each year.

F. PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee, when appointed, shall plan for speakers or other types of programs for the Chapter. At least half the meetings should feature historical or patriotic programs. The committee chairman is the 1st Vice President and

he shall work closely with committee members assisting him with the agenda and speakers for Chapter meetings.

G. AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee shall seek out individuals and/or organizations for the purpose of providing commendations for distinguished service. The broad categories for which commendations are given are for service in the armed forces, recognition for community service, as a reward within the SAR and DAR, and for heritage-oriented youth activities. The committee shall nominate candidates; however, no awards or certificates shall be issued without the approval of the President and/or the Board of Governors. Members of the committee may be asked to coordinate the Eagle Scout, Oration, Poster, and Law Enforcement program.

H. NEWSLETTER EDITOR

1. The Editor is to prepare a publication monthly unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Governors and to distribute it to all members of the chapter in such a manner and style as appropriate to the office. A draft of the publication shall be submitted to the President for approval before final publication.

2. The publication should inform the members about recent happenings and present planned activities and programs of the FLSSAR and the NSSAR, of the Chapter, and of members of the Chapter.

3. Where appropriate, to disseminate official information, such as minutes of meetings, notices and agenda for future meetings, financial and other reports, proposed Chapter By-laws amendments, and other announcements.

4. The publication should provide a vehicle for officers of the Chapter to share and exchange views and information with the general membership.

5. The Editor shall enter the newsletter in the **CARL F. BESSENT AWARD** Contest. This award is presented to the chapter editor producing the best multiple sheet periodical or newsletter.

SECTION VII

QUORUM

1. Eleven (11) members of the chapter must be present at any of the chapter's meetings to establish a quorum and make the proceedings of that meeting valid.

2. A quorum for the transaction of business of the BOG shall include at least 51% of the BOG.

SECTION VIII

AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Chapter by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that notice of such intended alteration or amendment is given at the previous regularly scheduled meeting immediately preceding the meeting in which the vote would be taken or with at least thirty (30) days written notice before the meeting in which the vote is to be taken.

SECTION IX

EXPENDITURES AND CONTRACTS

1. No member or officer shall commit Chapter funds for any project, contract, or agreement without prior approval of the BOG and Chapter in a regular or called Meeting, except for charges made as part of an approved annual budget.

2. Before payment by the Treasurer, all invoices are required to have signature approval, by the President, or Vice-President in the absence or disability of the President.

3. All contracts or agreements made on behalf of the Chapter must be signed by the President or Vice-President in the absence or disability of the President.

SECTION X

DISCIPLINE, PROCEDURE AND DUE PROCESS

Section 1. Charges. A Compatriot may be charged for (1) violating the (a) Code of Business Ethics and Conduct of NSSAR or FLSSAR; (b) Conflict of Interest/Code of Organizational Conduct; (c) Whistleblower Policy; (d) Record Retention Policy; or (e) Guidelines For Chapter Officers in the bylaws; or (2) for rendering himself unworthy of membership by engaging in felonious conduct, a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or conduct disloyal to the ideals or prejudicial to the interests of the Sons of the American Revolution, all as set forth in the NSSAR handbook.

Section 2. Robert's Rules of Order. The provisions of this Bylaw and the NSSAR Handbook, FLSSAR bylaws and Chapter bylaws shall govern the investigation and hearing of any charges brought pursuant to Section 1 of this Bylaw. Where the provisions of this Bylaw or the NSSAR Handbook, FLSSAR bylaws or this Chapters bylaws are silent then the Disciplinary Procedures contained in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, may be applied.

Section 3. Reporting Compatriot Violations of Ethical Standards.

a) Compatriots with information regarding the conduct of another, that may support the proffering of charges pursuant to Section 1 above, should provide such information to the President or Executive Committee. The report of information must: (1) be submitted in writing and under oath; (2) be signed and dated by the compatriot providing the information and (3) contain an affirmative statement that the facts presented are true, accurate, and complete to the best knowledge of the Compatriot, and (4) contain signed statements under oath of the asserted facts from knowledgeable individuals if the Compatriot did not possess personal knowledge of the asserted facts. If a complaint alleges a violation by the President, the written complaint shall be submitted to the Secretary, in which case all actions required by the President set forth below shall be performed by the Secretary.

b) A Compatriot shall not bring a complaint, or assert allegations against another compatriot, unless such complaint, and/or allegations are well grounded in fact and warranted by NSSAR's, FLSSAR's or the Chapters governing instruments. The filing of a frivolous and groundless complaint may constitute a violation and make the filing party subject to an ethics complaint.

c) The President shall review the complaint and if in the opinion of the President the complaint is clearly without merit or does not constitute a violation of Section 1 may forward the complaint to the Chancellor, or if no Chancellor has been appointed, then to the BOG, if both agree the complaint or report does not constitute a violation of this bylaw then the President may dismiss the report or complaint. If the Chancellor or BOG find there may be merit in the complaint, then it shall be processed in accordance with this section.

d) If the President and Chancellor, or BOG if no Chancellor decide the complaint has or may have merit, the President may request the parties meet and seek resolution their

disputes on an informal mediated basis. No statements made during the meeting shall be admissible at any later hearing of the State or National Ethics committee.

e) If the President or BOG believe the charges constitute a violation of Section 1 that cannot be handled in mediation, he shall refer the matter to the FLSSAR ethics committee to be handled in accordance with the rules and procedures of the FLSSAR

Section 4. Non Performance of Duties.

Non performance is determined by the President and confirmed by the BOG. is basis for removal from office. Non performance is defined by the missing of two consecutive BOG or Chapter meetings without excusal.

I. Section XI

INVESTMENT FUND

The Chapter shall have an Investment Fund consisting of two separate parts held in one account. The first account shall be the Permanent Fund, the second the Life Member Fund. The terms of the two funds shall be set forth below:

A. Permanent Fund:

- 1) A corpus of funds entitled a Permanent Fund is established in the form of cash or acceptable securities intended for a body of investments, Certificates of Deposit, or other negotiable securities, to be held permanently, with earnings from there available for Chapter activities in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Chapter.
- 2) The Permanent Fund shall be under the control of the Chapter Treasurer, responsible to the BOG of the Chapter, and the Treasurer may invest the funds of the Permanent Fund under a "prudent man" rule" first priority, low risk
- 3) At the end of each Chapter fiscal year, the earnings of the Permanent Fund shall accrue to the chapter operating fund as they become available.
- 4) Receipts intended for inclusion in the Permanent Fund shall be in the nature of memorials, honorific gifts, and/or other such increments with the understanding that such gift is not returnable and cannot be specified for a specific project or Chapter program, as a portion of the corpus. This plan is not intended to supplant other memorial programs, such as the Florida State Endowment Trust Fund. In the case of memorials, a permanent memorial record shall be maintained by the Chapter Secretary as a matter of Chapter Archives so that the gift will be acknowledged in perpetuity.
- 5) An annual review shall take place by the Chapter President at a regular Chapter BOG meeting, in the nature of a review to examine the performance of the Permanent Fund for the fiscal or chapter year, at which time consideration shall be given to continuing the Fund operation or making such alterations in the written rules as may be practicable for the purpose intended, the basic goals of the SAR as historic, patriotic and educational.
- 6) The \$7,500.00 initial principal invested in the fund, and any additional principal specifically invested in the fund, is not to be spent, but the interest to be used for any Chapter expense. The fund is to use the above guidelines.

B. Life Member Fund:

- 7) The Board also previously voted to establish a Life Membership for any member who pays the sum set forth in such schedule as in effect at the time of payment. Any funds given by a member for a Life Membership are to be allocated to the Life Member Fund, within the Fund, and the interest earned, or investment return shall be used annually to pay the member dues. If necessary, the

principal allocated to the Life Member Fund may be used to pay Life Members' dues.

8) The cost of a life membership from and after November 15, 2022, shall be determined on an annual basis by the BOG and shall be used to pay NSSAR, FLSSAR and Chapter dues. The BOG shall have the option to pay for a NSSAR Life Membership out of the life membership of new life members if they determine it is in the best interest of the Chapter to do so.

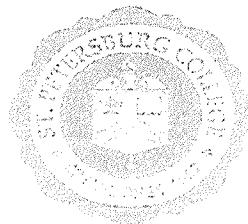
9) The Life Membership Fund was closed to additional Clearwater Life Memberships effective December 2022.

10) In the case that dues exceed \$60.00 per year, the board has the option of billing Life Members for the excess.

11) In the case of death of the Life member any funds that would have been allocated to the member, shall inure to the principle of the Fund. Once all the members who purchase a Life Membership have passed, any remainder will be allocated to the operational funds.

SECTION XII

Scholarship Fund



The Clearwater Chapter, Florida Society: Sons of the American Revolution Endowed Scholarship Fund

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Clearwater Chapter, Florida Society: Sons of the American Revolution Scholarship Fund is to provide financial assistance for tuition, fees and books for St. Petersburg College students seeking a degree in history, political science or government with preference given to students majoring in American History.

FUNDING AND SCOPE

An initial gift of \$7,500 from the Clearwater Chapter, Florida Society: Sons of the American Revolution (and other additions which may be provided by the initial donors, other donors, and State of Florida matching funds) will create an endowed Scholarship Fund that will live on in perpetuity and provide scholarships to students from the annual net earnings of the fund.

A spending allocation for use as scholarship awards will be determined annually by the board of Directors of the St. Petersburg College Foundation, Inc. The objective of the spending policy shall be to preserve the principal and to protect the longevity of the fund.

CRITERIA

Emphasis will be placed on students who are Pinellas County residents and have graduated from Pinellas County High Schools, have been home-schooled, or have earned a GED certificate with a grade point average of 2.5. Additional criteria include demonstrated financial need and school or community service. Each scholarship will be awarded based on selection by the St. Petersburg College Foundation and representatives of the Clearwater Chapter, Florida Society: Sons of the American Revolution. (The Sons of the American Revolution organization may request recipient to attend a meeting.)

IMPACT

The donor recognizes that expenses may be greater than the financial resources of some students and that these scholarships will greatly enhance the educational opportunities for such students to earn their college degrees with St. Petersburg College.

This agreement replaces the previous agreement for the Clearwater Chapter, Florida Society: Sons of the American Revolution Fund.

Signed: Donor(s)

II. Date

SPC Foundation, Inc.

Date

CERTIFICATION

I, Warren Wilson, Secretary of the Clearwater Chapter, Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution, hereby certify that at the Chapter Meeting, held on the _____ day of December at Dunedin, Florida, at which meeting there was a quorum of Members authorized to vote, the **Amended Constitution and By-Laws** were duly adopted.

Secretary

Attested:

President