



CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

TAMPA CHAPTER

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Revised 17 March 2012

<http://www.patriot-web.com/>

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
TAMPA CHAPTER, SAR**

PLEDGE TO THE SAR

We, descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifices established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

THE AMERICAN CREED

I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic, a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established on those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity, for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

RECESSIONAL

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men.

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be: Tampa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. It is organized under the Florida Society, SAR.

Article II - Objectives

The objectives of the Chapter are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of those who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the War and the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States and the injunctions of President Washington in his Farewell Address to the American people.

The Chapter shall not carry on activities of propaganda, attempt to influence legislation or participate in political campaigns.

Article III – Eligibility for Membership

Section 1. Any male, 18 years of age or older, shall be eligible for membership in the Tampa Chapter who, being a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unflinching in loyalty to, and rendered active service in the cause of American Independence either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman or minuteman, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress of any one of the several Colonies or States, as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence, as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature, as a foreign national of, but not limited to, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, Sweden or Switzerland who rendered service in the cause of American Independence or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain, provided, however, that no person advocating the overthrow of the Government of the United States by use of force or violence shall be eligible for membership in this Chapter.

Section 2. Applicants will fall in one of several classes of membership as specified in the Official Handbook of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

Article IV – Officers and Board of Governors

Section 1. The Officers of the Chapter shall be:

President	Vice President
Secretary	Treasurer
Genealogist/Registrar	Chancellor

Chaplain	Historian
Sergeant-at-Arms	

Section 2. The Board of Governors shall consist of the elected Officers of Section 1, Supra, plus the immediate Past President and two Members-at-Large, who shall be elected each year during the elections of Officers.

Article V – Parliamentary Authority

The rules set forth in the most current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern all meetings of this Chapter and of the Board of Governors in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the National and State Societies, the Articles of Incorporation of the National and State Societies and any special rules of order the National and State Societies may adopt.

Article VI - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Chapter, provided a quorum is present and the proposed amendment shall have been presented at either a regular Chapter meeting or in writing at least one month prior to the vote. Publication of the proposed amendment on the Chapter Website and announcement of the same at a regular meeting and by electronic mail at least one month before the vote shall be considered sufficient notification within the intent of this Article. Amendments shall become effective upon adoption.

**BY-LAWS
OF THE
TAMPA CHAPTER, SAR**

By-Law 1 – Membership

Section 1. Application for membership in the National Society shall be made through the Chapter and the Florida Society in accordance with current procedures established by those Societies and must be accompanied by the requisite fees and dues. An applicant for membership shall be sponsored by two members of the National Society in good standing and the applicant shall make oath that the statements in his application are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Section 2. New members shall be inducted at a regular meeting and shall be presented with their Certificate of Membership, after which they shall take the SAR Pledge, during which all members shall stand.

Section 3. Requests for reinstatement, transfer and dual membership shall be processed in accordance with procedures established by the National and Florida Societies and must be accompanied by the requisite fees and dues.

Section 4. Members who are able to establish their eligibility on the services of more than one Revolutionary ancestor may file a supplemental application. Supplemental applications must be filed in accordance with procedures established by the National Society and must be accompanied by the requisite fees. Each supplemental membership may be denoted by a gold star worn on the breast ribbon or neck ribbon.

Section 5. A copy of each member's application shall be retained by the Chapter Secretary, either in paper or electronic form.

Section 6. The official designation of a member of the Chapter shall be "Compatriot."

By-Law 2 – Officers and Board of Governors

Section 1. The Officers of the Chapter shall be those enumerated in the Constitution.

Section 2. There shall be a Board of Governors as enumerated in the Constitution.

Section 3. The Board of Governors – a majority of those present constituting a quorum – is empowered to:

- a. Exercise general control and management of the affairs and business of the Chapter, and
- b. Declare any office vacant for good cause, and
- c. Fill an Officer vacancy occurring after the general election; the member so appointed to an unexpired term shall hold that office with full power until the next regular election.

Section 4. The President shall, when present, preside as Chairman of the Board of Governors and shall have a vote.

Section 5. Meetings of the Board of Governors shall be held at the call of the President or at the request of the members of the Board, acting in concert, and should occur as often as may be required to properly discharge the responsibilities of the Board.

The date, time and location of all meetings of the Board of Governors shall be communicated in advance to the members of the Chapter and shall be open to all members of the Chapter who wish to attend. An announcement of a Board of Governors meeting at a regular meeting of the Chapter or by electronic mail shall be considered sufficient notification within the intent of this By-Law.

Section 6. None of the elected or appointed officers shall receive any remuneration.

By-Law 3 - Meetings

Section 1. The Chapter shall meet monthly with the exception of June, July and August at a date, time and place selected by the Board of Governors. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the Board of Governors.

Section 2. The order of business at chapter meetings shall be established by the President and shall include, but is not limited to, an Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States, the Pledge to the SAR, Minutes of the previous meeting, Reports from the Board of Governors, the SAR Recessional and a Benediction. The order of business may be altered or suspended when joint meetings are held with other Chapters or Societies.

Section 3. Ten (10) members or 20% of the membership at the prior year-end, whichever is greater, shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at a regular or special meeting and a majority vote of those present shall determine the will of the Chapter, except as otherwise provided herein.

By-Law 4 - Communications

Section 1. The Chapter shall maintain a website for the benefit of its members and members of the public seeking information on the Chapter and its activities.

Section 2. The Chapter shall publish a newsletter for those months in which regular meetings are held. The newsletter shall be distributed by electronic mail at least one week prior to each regular meeting.

By-Law 5 - Elections

Section 1. The election of the Officers of the Chapter and the Members-at-Large of the Board of Governors shall be held each year at the November meeting.

Section 2. To prepare for election, not later than the September meeting the President shall call for nominations from the floor of three members to constitute a Nominating Committee to propose a slate of Officers for the ensuing year. The three nominees receiving the greatest number of votes shall constitute this Committee. The slate of Officers proposed by the Nominating Committee at the November meeting may be supplemented by nominations from the floor. Voting shall be by written ballot if requested by any member.

Section 3. Newly elected Officers and Members-at-Large of the Board of Governors shall take office at the December meeting of the Chapter.

By-Law 6 - Committees

Section 1. The Chapter President shall appoint all Committees except the Nominating Committee and shall be an ex-officio member of the same.

Section 2. Within thirty (30) days after taking office the President shall appoint standing committees at his discretion.

Section 3. The President shall appoint such other committees as he shall deem necessary.

By-Law 7 – Fiscal

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Chapter shall be from January 1 through December 31.

Section 2. The annual dues to the Chapter shall be set by the Board of Governors with the approval of the membership.

Section 3. All funds of the Chapter with the exception of a nominal Petty Cash Fund shall be held on deposit in the name of the Chapter in an FDIC insured bank or FSLIC insured savings and loan association. Expenditures shall be by check drawn on such bank or savings and loan association, signed by the Treasurer. In the event of the unavailability of the Treasurer, the President may sign checks. All expenditures must be accompanied by a competent receipt.

Section 4. Other than dues and fees assessed by the National and Florida Societies, this Chapter shall incur no obligations without prior approval of the Board of Governors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the President may approve individual expenditures up to \$100. The Chapter shall be prohibited from incurring liabilities in excess of Chapter assets.

Section 5. No Chapter funds shall be expended for the personal benefit of any Chapter member, but that shall not preclude the reimbursement for expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of official duties, subject to the prior approval of each expense by the Board of Governors or the President. Reimbursements to the Treasurer shall be made by check signed by the President.

Section 6. There shall be an annual audit of the funds of the Chapter, and such other audits as may be required, by a committee of two members appointed by the President. The annual audit shall be conducted after January 1 and completed before February 1.

By-Law 8 – Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the Chapter, the Board of Governors shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of the Chapter, convey all assets of the Chapter, including the Chapter Flags, to the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Inc.

By-Law 9 – Amendments

The By-Laws of this Chapter may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Chapter, provided a quorum is present when the vote is taken.

Originally adopted 20 April 1985

1st Amendment 17 September 1988

2nd Amendment 20 January 1996

3rd Amendment 17 March 2012

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