



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

website: www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html



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President's Message

My kids have a bookshelf filled with trophies that they have received over the years for everything from sports, science fairs, academic excellence and who know what else. While the display is somewhat impressive, there have been many times over the years when I've rolled my eyes watching them receive some of the "honors".

The truth is, a lot of them were presented for doing nothing particularly outstanding. Some were simply given out just for participation. I've always thought this dilutes the importance of awards, when you get too many... too fast... too easy. It's probably tied to the modern concept that everyone is so "special" and we have to be careful not to hurt the feelings of those who might otherwise go home empty handed.

We in the Son of the American Revolution give out awards but in our case, the awards truly mean something special. Not only are we part of a well recognized and highly respected organization with a long, rich history, we are also selective to whom we present awards.

It is in our power to honor people for their service to our country, for outstanding patriotism, for community service, to outstanding JROTC members, for service to the SAR and more. We can even honor those who display our nation's flag properly and with devotion... no small task I might add.

I spoke with an outstanding teacher last week. We will present an award to him at our May meeting and he was openly excited and truly honored to have us recognize him. Word swept throughout the school and I received an email from the headmaster telling me how proud they are of this talented educator. You can sense the excitement. It's important. It's powerful. And it means something!

And that's the way it should be.

This teacher, by the way, will also be our guest speaker in May.

This Month's Guest Speaker

My quest for speakers for our meetings took me to the Boca Raton Historical Society last week. It was an amusing experience.

Some of these wealthy towns in South Florida have very nice historical society buildings but their chief function as an organization is far more social than historic. When I finally got the receptionist to unlock the doors (40 minutes after their sign says they open), and she finally put the phone down, I realized her major task was to prevent me from gaining access to the very people I wanted to see.

The museum is dull and uninspiring (unless you're impressed by old furniture from a local resort) and about the only time you hear about the place is when they are hosting a fundraiser. In my 11 years living in Boca Raton, I've never seen or heard any sign that the society was really doing any historical research. They have a huge operating budget but I'll be darned if I know what they do there.

I'd be stunned if anyone there could find Yorktown on a map.

Anyway, after having to deal with the receptionist, I quickly realized the only topic anyone there could discuss would be ball gowns and the history of the gold dome that adorns their building.

And like I said, it was all quite amusing.

NEXT MEETING - MARCH 20, 2010

**Colony West Country Club
6800 NW 88th Ave in Tamarac**

**Future Dates:
APRIL 17, 2010
MAY 15, 2010**

**Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon
Buffet Luncheon - \$15.00
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-441-8735
or e-mail Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com**

**Fort Lauderdale Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Minutes of Meeting on February 20, 2010
Held at Colony West Country Club in Tamarac, Florida**

The meeting was opened at 12:05 PM by President Charles Crowell with 15 members and guests present. The invocation was offered by Jim Lohmeyer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the SAR Pledge, each led by the President. President Crowell asked that each member and guest introduce themselves.

The President asked the officers of the Chapter to report with the following results:

Vice President: Nothing to report

Secretary:

Minutes of the previous meeting were posted in the Newsletter. There being no changes, it was moved, seconded, and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer and Newsletter:

The Treasurer (Joe Motes) was absent but provided a copy of the treasurer's report. There was a short discussion on the amount of money saved by electronically distributing the Newsletter which is in the neighborhood of \$300 per year. There being no other discussion it was moved, seconded, and the report was accepted.

Genealogist and Registrar: No report was requested or provided.

The President opened a discussion of trustees for the Trust Fund. There are three trustee positions with staggered 3 year terms. Currently, only one of the positions was filled, and that by George Dennis whose term expires 12/31/2010. Ted Duay discussed the duties of the trustees and the President asked for volunteers: Kenneth Loomis volunteered for the position expiring 12/31/2011 and Jim Lohmeyer for the position expiring 12/31/1012. The President requested a motion accepting these individuals as trustees for the terms indicated and it was made, seconded, and the motion was approved.

The President asked the status of the Chapter Roster and was informed by several individuals there are several rosters floating around in various formats, none of which is necessarily correct in all aspects and none of which contain exactly the same information. Normally the Secretary maintains the chapter roster but in this Chapter, by agreement of those concerned several years ago, the duty has devolved upon the Treasurer/publisher of the Newsletter. The discussion ended as an action item for the Secretary and the Treasurer/publisher of the Newsletter to determine the status of the roster, complete it as required, and to report back by the next meeting.

The President opened a discussion of SAR medals recognizing individuals who have served in the armed forces of the United States. There are two different medals, one for individuals who served in theater during time of war or in a period or place recognized as a military campaign and the other for those who served during peace time or out of theater in actual war time.

With certain exceptions and despite overlapping periods, an individual is usually only eligible for one or the other. One such exception would be the award of the peace time medal to an individual who subsequently served in a war or recognized campaign. Four such medals were ordered by the Chapter for eligible members in November or December and have not yet been received.

The President expressed his concern that all individuals were not being kept abreast of Chapter news and events by the electronic delivery of the Newsletter. Some may not have access to E-mail, others may not receive or download the material, and others will not bother to print it out. No change was made other than to agree that a printed version would be provided to anyone on the E-mail distribution list that desired a hard copy. (The Secretary has transmitted the request of George Dennis for a hard copy to Joe Motes.)

The President brought up the subject of years of service pins which are available to members who have been SAR members in increments of 5 years; e.g. a five year pin, a ten year pin, etc. It was decided to research the rosters and determine which Chapter members were eligible for the various devices and then to decide on an appropriate number to order.

The meeting was halted temporarily for lunch.

Subsequent to the lunch break the President spoke of an individual teacher in Boca at St. Andrews's School that had received a medal and certificate from the local DAR Chapter for his outstanding work as a history instructor. After some discussion it was decided that he would be invited to address our Chapter at a future meeting and that we would also present him with a certificate and medal from the SAR in recognition of his work. The President also discussed the fact that a 7 year old girl in Troy, New York, had been soliciting donations for child cancer patients as well as donated cuttings from her hair for their wigs. He stated that he would like to send a letter and certificate from our Chapter to her school so that she would be recognized for her work. The members were amenable with the suggestion that he also inform the local SAR Chapter in order to avoid any kind of a turf war.

The President next brought up the fact that the Chapter had ordered and received two medals recognizing the superior achievements or actions of local law enforcement officers but had never made a decision or sought recommendations on appropriate individuals to receive the awards. Paul Blackington volunteered to contact local law enforcement agencies and to report back his discussions and recommendations at the March meeting.

Jim Lohmeyer led a short session on the origin of various common sayings, like 'bringing home the bacon' before he opened the Chapter's celebration of George Denny's 96th birthday. The celebration included a birthday cake and a champagne toast to the oldest member and several times over former President of the Chapter.

The meeting was concluded with the SAR Recessional led by George Denny.

Respectfully Submitted

John Dye, Secretary

The Chapter celebrated George Dennis' 96th birthday. The celebration included a birthday cake and a champagne toast to the oldest member and several times over former President of the Chapter.



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Sons of the American Revolution
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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