

The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 26, 1966

MARCH 1997

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 3

Contributors to the Chapter Trust Fund

By Oscar Kraehenbuehl, Secretary

Special thanks and appreciation are warranted for the many and generous contributions this year to the Chapter Trust Fund. Seventeen members contributed a total of \$835, both of which are larger than in any year since the fund was established in 1991. The fund's balance is now about \$4200. Contributions of all sizes were received and all are welcome and appreciated. However, two are worthy of special notice since we seldom have an opportunity to see either of these members to thank them in person. Brian Sullivan donated \$100 and Jim Organ donated \$500.---THANK YOU COMPATRIOTS!!

The interest from this fund can be used to help support the chapter's projects or in any way deemed appropriate by the membership and officers. Currently a portion will be used to provide a modest reward for the winner of the local Essay Contest. It is hoped the fund will grow large enough for its earnings to offset rising project costs, reduced reimbursements from the state and national organizations and to enable adoption of additional programs that further the purposes of the Society. Keep the contributions coming (any time)!

Those members who contributed this year are: Stuart Browne, Oscar Kraehenbuehl, Joseph Motes, Dumond St. Martin, Fred Topper, William Cook, Andrew Lewis, James Organ, Brian Sullivan, Joseph Dorsey, Kenneth Loomis, Wellington Romer, Edward Sullivan, Richard Jones, Allen Moore, William Slinkard and Wilmer Thompson.

REMINDER:

WE MUST GUARANTEE OUR RESERVATIONS 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

You could be billed for the cost of the lunch if you reserve and fail to attend. If you don't reserve, you can attend -- come anyway -- we can't promise that you can be fed, but no one has gone away hungry yet!

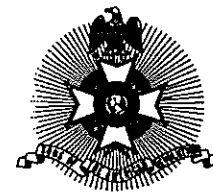
Our Annual Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest

Our three regular contest schools of Hollywood Hills, Stranahan and McArthur High Schools will be joined by three new schools, A.P.Travella High and St. Thomas Aquinas.

Westminster Academy had made application but unfortunately their contestant had to withdraw. There will be 11 student contestants and five teachers present at this years Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest.

Returning to compete this year will be last years' Chapter and State winner; Paul Hembd.

Because of the number of students and teacher attending, please make your reservations with President Harry Young early, as space is limited at the Tower Club.



**NEXT MEETING - MARCH 13
TOWER CLUB !!!**

**\$15.00 INCL. TAX AND TIP
11:30 SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH
28TH FLOOR NATIONS BANK
1 FINANCIAL TOWER
SE 3RD AVE. & BROWARD BLVD
FORT LAUDERDALE
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:
HARRY YOUNG 581-4506**

Annual Membership Report

by Oscar Krachenbuchl, Secretary

The annual dues have been collected and forwarded to the state society. Unfortunately, our chapter membership has dropped to 48, compared to 56 at this time last year. Don't jump to any new conclusions regarding this drop. There are many reasons, none of which appear related to the recent increase in state dues.

4 members died 1 transferred to another state 2 transferred to other chapters 4 dropped membership due to business demands or are not living in a nearby community

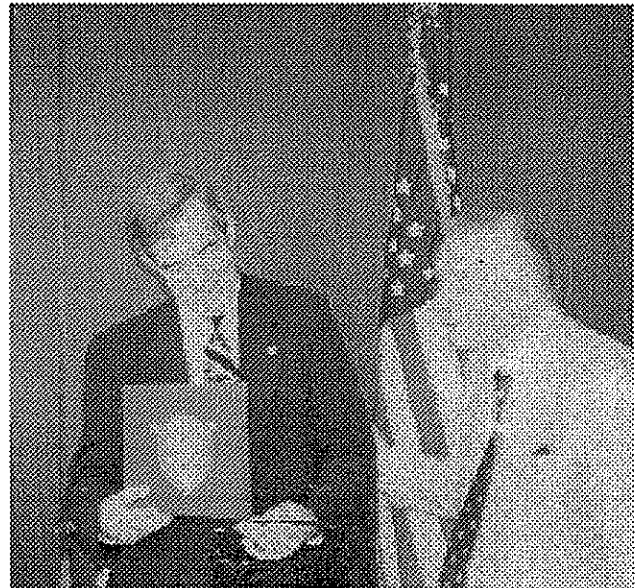
This kind and magnitude of reductions are not unusual, therefore the real reason for our membership continuing to drop is the failure to attract new members. We had a total of four new members this past year, including two from reinstatements and a transfer. Of these, only two were able to remain active. - Membership is a problem in most organizations due to the demands of a myriad of social, fraternal and/or business commitments. We have to make our society more attractive and easier to join by those men who are qualified. One way this might be improved is to have

some existing members volunteer to guide and encourage known prospective members. Your secretary and other officers receive inquiries periodically and provide these prospects with all the information and paperwork required to apply for membership. There seldom is any further follow-up. Most of these men are overwhelmed or loose interest when none is shown for them. - Could we establish a plan where each new prospect is assigned to a member who will at least call the person periodically and provide moral support? Our Genealogist, President and others have the skills to provide more technical guidance, as needed, but showing interest may be the missing ingredient. - This commentary was unsolicited, but seemed appropriate in view of the bleak report I have made. Let's talk about it at the monthly meetings.

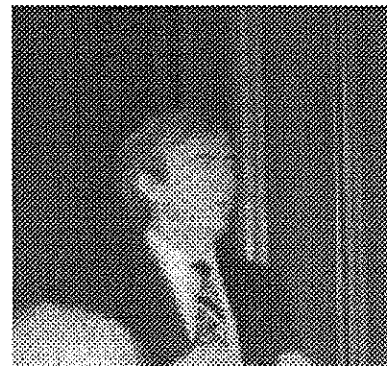
**Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the
Sons of the American Revolution**
12237 SW 50 ST, Cooper City, FL 33330-5406

1997 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Guest speaker, Ken Staab is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by President Harry Young for his presentation during the February meeting.



Guest Speaker Ken Staab.