



**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

Dear Compatriots,

Back in the 1963 when I was 6 years old, my great grandmother wrote me a most interesting letter. The content of the letter was way over my head at the time but she knew my parents would save the letter and give it to me later in life. I'm mentioning this because it's an example of how we as a society have changed over the last century or so.

My great grandmother was in her 90's when she wrote this letter to me. She was born in 1869, was in the DAR, a past regent, started a CAR chapter, was involved in politics, loved genealogy, spoke publicly on historic subjects, and was generally, a pillar of the community. She was also a storyteller who, according to my father and uncle, could captivate children with her tales of the old days. But her tales always had a message hidden in there somewhere. A tale of moral guidance, proper behavior and values.

She took the time to write this letter to me in 1963 knowing full well that I wouldn't benefit from it until many year after she was gone. The subject was simple, it was about "usefulness". She said she had a dream about me and consequently felt the urge had to write to me which she did immediately upon awakening. She expressed her belief that I would grow up to be very "useful", and she was quite excited about the prospect.

What a wonderful yet simple message. And what a terrific example of how people thought before our modern age. These people didn't aspire for riches or fame, they simply wanted to be useful. It didn't matter if you were a lowly farmhand, a merchant, a minister or a mate on a whaling ship. You were expected to work hard and be useful, and in so doing, you could hold your head high. You were held in high regard. You were accepted and admired. You belonged. A while ago I read an old newspaper article from the 1880's. Seems in a certain part of a certain town there were some unsavory individuals. The newspaper came right out and called them "useless characters". It was a supreme slap in the face. It would be hard to find a more devastating insult. And people in that part of town would be embarrassed to have their neighborhood infected with such people.

Today of course, we live in a different world. Today usefulness, as my great grandmother knew it, is all but forgotten. Today, rather than saying goodbye, people often say, "Take it easy" which might very well be the slogan of our times. Wasn't too long ago that comment would have been scorned and ridiculed as contrary to everyone's teachings.

My great grandmother died two years after writing that letter to me. My parents didn't give me the letter until I was 30. I think I'll read it to my three kids this Thanksgiving. I think that will be useful.

Respectfully,

Charlie Crowell

President, Ft. Lauderdale Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

**Fort Lauderdale Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Minutes of Meeting on October 16, 2010
Held at Colony West Country Club in
Tamarac, Florida**

The meeting was opened at 12:00 PM by Jim Lohmyer in the absence of the President. There were 10 members and guests in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Lohmyer and an Invocation offered by Chaplain Rob Joynt.

The following Officer reports were made and received: The following Officer reports were made and received:

President:	Not in attendance
Vice President:	No Report
Secretary:	Minutes had been distributed electronically and in the mailed newsletter. Acceptance was moved by Rob Joynt, seconded by Joe Motes, and approved by voice vote.

NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 20, 2010

Colony West Country Club
6800 NW 88th Ave in Tamarac

Future Dates:

Installation December 18, 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
2133 NW 208 Terrace**

Treasurer: The treasurer reported a balance of \$4,812.22 in the operating fund and \$14,573.12 in the trust fund. He noted that the operating fund was larger than usual as annual dues are being paid but national and state dues have not been sent forward. He also noted that 14 members have yet to pay their annual dues. Acceptance was moved by Jack Dye, seconded by Rob Joynt, and approved on a voice vote.

Genealogist: Not in attendance

Jim Lohmyer called for any discussion of old business. There being none, the meeting proceeded to the discussion of new business.

- Joe Motes, noting the small turn out questioned the efficacy of the printed news letter. He also stated that it was his intent to start notifying members, electronically, well in advance of meetings and without waiting for the printed news letter to be complete.

- Ed Spence, former Chapter member and now Sumter Chapter member asked that notification of a planned event, Veterans Appreciation Week, and in which his Chapter was participating, and in which his Chapter was participating, be included as a news item in our news letter. He is to send the details to Joe Motes.

Following lunch the discussion of new business continued.

- There was a general discussion of the desirability of a more structured type of meeting with presentations of interest to the members. Part of the discussion centered around the possibility of delegating responsibility for programs to a Program Chairman. No action was taken on this as it seemed to be the consensus that this was a part of the responsibility of the Chapter President assisted, as required, by the Vice President to plan meetings.

- There was discussion of projects or other undertakings that the Chapter could do to create an atmosphere of belonging and assistance to the community. Joe Motes indicated that the VA Clinic in Fort Lauderdale was in need of donated books and current magazines. He stated that magazines would have to be no more than 2-3 weeks old, but both paper and hard back books would be welcome. If members bring these to meetings he will see that they get delivered. Jim Lohmyer suggested that we get the Toys-For Tots donations started. Jack Dye suggested that members could be asked to make presentations on historical incidents, such as Revolutionary War battles or campaigns. Joe Motes also announced the program he had set up for the November meeting, details of which will be in the news letter.

- Jim Lohmyer led a discussion of a slate of officers for the coming year to be presented and voted on at the November meeting and the following names will be submitted for consideration:

President:	Ken Loomis
Vice President:	Paul Blakinton
Secretary:	John Dye
Treasurer:	Joe Motes
Genealogist/Registrar:	Ted Duay
Historian:	George Dennis
Trustee for Trust Fund Charles Crowell (term ending Dec. 2013)	

The meeting was concluded at 1316 hours with a benediction delivered by Rob Joynt..
Respectfully Submitted, John Dye, Secretary

Note: The money collected for the 50/50 raffle is being held until the next meeting.



2010 CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -CHARLES CROWELL
950 SW 20 STREET
BOCA RATON FL 33486-6832
561-361-7003

VICE-PRESIDENT -F.D. FLANNERY
2599 NE 15 Street
POMPANO BEACH, FL 33062-8253
954-781-6314

REGISTRAR / GENEALOGIST - TED DUAY III
1641 SW 102 TERRACE
DAVIE FL 33324-7420
954-473-2754

SECRETARY -JOHN DYE
7951 NW 11th Street
PLANTATION, FL 33322-5158
954-476-0287

TREASURER / SGT-AT-ARMS - JOSEPH MOTES
2133 NW 208 TERR
PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-2320
954-441-8735

CHANCELLOR - EDWARD SULLIVAN, ESQ
2837 NE 27 STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE FL 33306-1912
954-564-1014

CHAPLAIN - ROBERT JOYNT
1740 NW 42 STREET
OAKLAND PARK FL 33309-4459
954-772-1798