



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 26, 1966

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Charter Schools: A New Concept in Public Education

By President Richard Aiken

It has been asked exactly what is public about our public schools. Public means citizens can choose from a verity of infrastructure or service options which are available to all. Citizens can choose which public parks to use or which route they plan to take to get from point A to point B on our public roads and transportation systems. But government dictates to which public schools we send our children based solely upon where we choose to live. Then they have the authority to move our most precious resource from one school to another, seemingly on a whim.

According to Jonathan Hage, President and Chairman of the Charter Foundation here in Fort Lauderdale: "What we have today are not public schools; they are government schools, and they have more in common with prisons than they do with parks or roads."

There is now great hope for true change in public education because Florida's legislature has finally taken steps that will allow groups of parents, teachers, business leaders and community activists to form their own independent public schools. These "charter schools" are inherently free not only to create their own curricula, but also to develop their own management

structures to suit each individual school mission. These new and innovative schools will be allowed to operate virtually free from regulation imposed by the thick bureaucracy many feel is at the root of our failing public educational systems.

There is however and will continue to be resistance from within our school boards and teachers' unions to the charter school concept. It will take much effort to force change in a system that too often acts as though we are incapable of deciding what is best for our children. A new nonprofit organization called The Charter Foundation has recently been formed to assist charter school organizers. Its President Jonathan Hage is our guest speaker for the November 14 luncheon. Be there to get yourself up to date.

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!

NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 14

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:

RICHARD AIKEN 568-0143

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

October 10, 1996 - Tower Club; Minutes by Oscar Kraehenbuehl

The meeting was called order by President Rick Aiken at noon. It was a pleasure to have our Chaplain Fred Topper back and giving the blessings. Guests were introduced and welcomed, including our Regional VP Jim Blackburn and prospective member Lyon and his son. It was gratifying to have a good turnout at the meeting, but the number of unexpected exceeded the available table settings and some delay and confusion was created while preparing for them. President Aiken didn't want to discourage attendance, but urged everyone to make reservations if at all possible.

VP Jim Blackburn explained and solicited support for the "365 FUND" which was approved at the summer BOM as a means of increasing the capital in the Florida SAR operating budget trust fund. This program seeks volunteer contributions in any of several suggested amounts. Donations are to be sent to FLSSAR or local chapter secretary. Details are given in a separate article in this newsletter.

SAR national officer candidates were reviewed by Compatriot Harry Young. In particular, the candidacy of Secy. General Carl Hoffmann for the office of President General was touted. We were reminded that Carl was a founder of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter. A motion was made and passed unanimously that our chapter endorse him for this office and a letter be sent to the NSSAR Nominating Committee Chairman, William Gist. A similar motion was made and passed to endorse Thomas Bond for Secretary.

FLSSAR candidacy by our Edward Sullivan for Sr. Vice President was announced. It was moved and passed that the chapter president and secretary endorse Ed's application for nomination to this office. (It is also known that Stuart Browne has submitted an application for nomination as SE Regional Vice President.)

Ten boxes of SAR Christmas (holiday) cards were received by President Aiken for sale to our members. Samples of these quality cards were circulated and several boxes were purchased. More remain and it is hoped you will call President Rick to buy them. There are 24 cards in a box (4 designs) being sold for a \$20

donation; with \$10 being tax deductible. More information and photos are given in the Summer 1996 issue of The SAR magazine (pp16-17).

Nominating Committee report for 1997 chapter officers was presented. (Committee consisted of: Bob Dooley-Chairman, Stuart Browne, Jeffrey Cooke, Oscar Kraehenbuehl)

The Committee's slate was:

President - Harry L. Young, Jr.

1st Vice Pres. - Joseph M. Motes

2nd Vice Pres. - Open

Secretary - Oscar Kraehenbuehl

Treasurer - Richard D. Aiken

Registrar/Gene. - Jeffrey L. Cooke

Chaplain - Fred F. Topper

Sgt. At Arms - Richard A. Jones

Chancellor - Roger L. Shaffer, Esq.

Any additional nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the election at the November regular meeting.

NSSAR Essay Contest announcements have been mailed to all Broward County schools by Chairman Richard Jones. He reported that the local winner of the contest and his/her teacher will be invited to attend a future chapter meeting.

Oration Contest chairman is needed!! President Aiken discussed the merits of this most important annual activity and the past successes of this program in our chapter. The task requires two mailing to Broward schools and follow-up with the candidates and our chapter contest in March. Several schools regularly participate and provide the desired quality contestants. - Please! Won't someone help our chapter and this great program?

Roger Shaffer, author! It was noted that Roger has had his book published, "Letters Home, A Soldier's Legacy". This is the story and collection of letters from his uncle, Lt. William A. Rogers, who served and died in WWII. It provides an insight to the lives and families of those caught up in that war. - It was published by Republic of Texas Press and I bet Roger can tell you where to get a copy (\$12.95 - soft back) if it isn't in your local book store.

Special Agent Raul Pompa of the FBI spoke to the group about the sources and kinds of terrorism in our country and ways the FBI tries to detect and prevent it. The photos he circulated of different objects that can be explosive devices demonstrated how difficult their task is. It was an interesting talk but the bottom line seemed to be that terrorism was going to get worse before it got better. - Everyone should be alert to that potential.

365 FUND - Pennies for Patriotism

In order for the FLSSAR to fund and support the many programs relevant to our main objectives of patriotism, history and education, more money is needed in the Operating Budget Trust Fund. The "365 Fund" was created in July and outlined in the Fall 1996 issue of The Florida Patriot. Voluntary contributions are earnest solicited from all members, who will get special recognition. Won't you participate today by writing a check for one of the following amount, payable to "365 Fund FLSSAR"- Indicate "Ft. Lauderdale Chap" in lower left, and then send it to Lauren Bradley, FLSSAR Secy., Box 827, Elfers, FL 34680 (or give check to chapter secy. - Oscar K.)

+ \$ 3.65 Equivalent to a penny-a-day ("Compatriot" membership for a year)

+ \$36.50 Equivalent to dime-a-day ("Patriot" membership for 10 years)

+ \$365.50 Equivalent to dollar-a-day ("Son of Liberty" membership for life+pin)

Everything costs more these days! Help the FLSSAR keep/catch up.

He is already going full steam to get things rolling and expects to have local high school participation like we've never seen before.

Essay Contest

Because of job commitments this coming year Rich Jones will not be able to chair the Oration Contest. However he will now be able to concentrate his efforts to make the essay contest the biggest we've ever had. There have been numerous requests for information from local high schools already.



Installation Dinner

Mark off Friday night December 13 for our annual installation/holiday dinner. It will again be held at the Tropical Acres in Dania. Last year's event was notable because of the superior food and service at this restaurant. Look for details and reservation form by mail in the near future.

Oration Contest

Michael Kuriakon has agreed to take on the very important task as Chairman of our Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest for 1997.

Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the
Sons of the American Revolution

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO: