



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 26, 1966

NOVEMBER 1997

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October General Meetings

Minutes by Oscar Kraehenbuehl

The October 9th meeting was held in the Tower Club, President Harry Young presiding. We were pleased to have in attendance: PPG Matt Sellers and his wife Marilyn and Dr. Tom Dennis, son of Compatriot George Dennis. The highlight of the meeting was the induction of George Dennis into the society by PPG Sellers. It also was a pleasure to announce the recent membership approval for Allen Manning. (Since that time, notice has been received that the processing of Compatriot Harry Koepke's transfer from the Illinois Society was completed.) All are welcomed and it is hoped they will be active members and find their contributions rewarding.

The members present assisted in developing the following slate of chapter officers to be nominated for the coming year. Anyone else may be nominated from the floor at the November meeting, after which the election will be held.

President -	Joseph M. Motes
Vice-President -	Kenneth E. Loomis
Secretary/Treasurer -	A. Oscar Kraehenbuehl
Registrar/Genealogist -	George R. Dennis
Chaplain -	Gilbert L. Buckbee
Chancellor -	Roger L. Shaffer
Sgt-at-Arms -	Richard A. Jones



December 4th Induction Banquet

Details of our annual banquet are given in the separate invitation and reservation sheet enclosed with this newsletter. This is the highlight event of the year and everyone is urged to attend. The number of active members in our chapter has dwindled in recent years for several reasons, so it is hoped as many as possible will take this opportunity to show support and thanks for the efforts expended by the outgoing and incoming officers and committee chairmen. While more physical support is desired, a show of moral support is needed periodically to insure that activities are carried on and that there is hope and interest in chapter growth and pursuit of the society's programs. --- HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE BANQUET!!!

REMINDER: After November, the next regular chapter meeting will be January 8th, 1998.

NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 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:

JOE MOTES 434-6060

Fall BOM Meeting Comments

The Fall BOM was held on October 17-18, at Daytona Beach Shores. It was attended by Chapter President Harry Young (and Susan), FLSSAR Sr. VP Edward Sullivan (and Betty), SE Regional VP Stuart Browne and (plain ol') Oscar Kraehenbuehl. Highlights of the business discussed and conducted will be reported in the next "Florida Patriot", but one item should be mentioned now.

The project of publishing a Florida Patriot Index (listing of all patriots and ancestors from FLSSAR member's applications) proved to be too expensive for book form. This information has now been combined with a listing of the patriots from all NSSAR applications and will be issued on a CD ROM for (IBM compatible) computer buffs. This will be produced by a commercial firm in Canada, with significant proceeds going to the NSSAR. The disk also will contain information about the SAR society, membership, committee activities and just about everything will promote the organization. - The data isn't error or duplicate free but, hopefully, it will be upgraded someday. It does provide an easily searchable database of 450,000 possible ancestors from all SAR applications. A family line can be viewed as a pedigree or decendency chart, if such information is included. The disk won't be issued until June 1998 but, if you are planning to buy it, there is a special deal for FLSSAR members which ends December 31, 1997. Early bird price: \$29.95 + \$5.00 S&H. Regular price will be \$49.50. To order, call 1-800-565-0018 or get an order form from the Chapter Secretary at the next meeting.

1998 Dues Notices & Society Finances

The 1998 dues notices and membership cards will be mailed early in December. Payment is due by the first of the year, but no later than the end of January. Details will be provided with the notice. Those who have been viewing the SAR discussion on the Internet, are aware of the (over)reaction of some members to the \$3 increase in national dues. One would think it was for the benefit of a few and will be the downfall of the society. Some calmer and more knowledgeable persons have posted messages to explain the society's budget and to describe staff activities at the SAR National headquarters in Louisville.

This information is believed of interest and instructive for everyone, regardless of the dues flap; therefore, some of the data is presented here:

++++ This first message is from Ralph Nelson, Delaware Society Officer, in reply to a message that dues and spending were excessive.

"OK, you've motivated me. Let us see just what we are buying when we pay SAR dues. According to the budget forecast from the Fall Trustees meeting there are 25,300 members paying \$17.00 dues to the SAR for 1997-98. Where does it all go? Using that budget statement I get the following:

#1. SAR magazine expenses cost each member (through national dues) \$5.57 - not one cent of which comes from the chapters (to coin a phrase). It's sure worth that to me. It has uniformly excellent articles and is the only way that many of our members experience the power of the SAR. Total \$141,000 per year.

#2. Headquarters payroll and office expense (excluding the part covered by fees and merchandise) cost each member (through national dues) \$5.60/yr. You can't run a national organization without a paid staff to manage records, answer questions, keep track of the finances, mail the letters, and arrange for two trustees meetings and national meeting each year. \$5.60 is a lot less than I pay for a low-budget chapter luncheon meeting. Total \$140,000 per year (where's that \$75,000 salary?). (Editor's note: Someone said the increase was to pay such a salary to a new hire.)

The payroll and office expenses associated with admission and supplemental fees is excluded because it is paid for by those fees (\$94,000). Some other payroll and office expense is paid for by profit from merchandise sales and Christmas cards (\$52,400). Clearly we need a registration staff and we want to be able to purchase merchandise. Aren't we glad they pay their own way?

#3. Library acquisitions and preservation cost each member (through national dues) 3.32/yr. The library preserves our records of this nation's history and the people who created that history. It provides a central location for genealogical research for our members and the public. National committees have worked hard to extract and publish useful material from our library so

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that members who cannot easily come to Louisville can benefit from the collection. Think of the Revolutionary War Graves Index and the soon-to-be-published Patriot Index. I believe that gathering and preserving and publishing records is an important part of our charter. I'm willing to pay this; it costs less than the gas I use getting to SAR chapter meetings. Has your chapter donated books to the library lately? Total \$84,000 per year.

The cost of headquarters building operation and maintenance (depreciation), insurance, auditing is paid for entirely by income from the investment fund and interest income from our endowment fund (\$56,000) with \$2,000 left over to cover national committee expenses. What kind of a society would we be without a building to house our staff and magnificent historical and genealogical library? Isn't it great to have an endowment fund to cover the cost of our headquarters building so that is DOESN'T come from our dues? And did your chapter supply any of this cash? No! Our compatriots who believed in the value of a strong national society and donated to the NSSAR did it all.

#4. The PG spends a lot of time and money on long-distance calls, letters, and travel to headquarters, to many of our state societies, to a number of other national societies' annual meetings, and to public ceremonies and appropriate national government functions. During his term of office he and his wife spend most of their weekends on the road, eating and sleeping in a wide variety of places. They also spend a great deal of their own money to supplement the funds the society can provide. The SAR's subsidy to the PG costs each member (through national dues) \$0.75/yr. That's peanuts (check your local vending machine) to provide a significant national presence at our own functions and to represent the SAR to the public. How much did your chapter contribute to the PG/s expenses? I thought so. Total \$19,000 per year.

#5. Computer and other expenses cost each member (through national dues) \$0.70/yr. Computers provide for efficient data processing, finance tracking, library operation, and member-officer-staff communication. I am delighted that we are not trying to operate without computers, and it costs me about what two stamps would. (And the price of postage is going up next year.)

Total \$17,000 per year.

#6 Why do awards come last here? It's because this is the place that chapters carry the load. National awards amount to a mere \$0.25 per member, a total of \$5,600. Give yourselves a big cheer, chapter members, because this is where you shine. And perhaps we should all give more than a quarter a year to the national society so that we can provide more awards for excellence in history and education and thereby gain more public recognition.

Well, that's about it. $\$5.57 + \$5.53 + \$3.32 + \$0.75 + \$0.70 + \$0.25 = \$16.12$, so we have \$0.88 left over to make even better programs next year. Total \$22,000 per year.

Thank you, generous donors! Thank you, hard-working staff! Thank you, self-sacrificing national officers! Thank you, dedicated and persevering members!

You all know you put more of your time and treasure into the SAR than you benefit personally, but that's why it's called a charity, isn't it? We all know that the public benefits from our good works, and that the future of the nation depends on an informed and well-educated citizenry, and that our efforts are required to ensure that future. What's that old chant? Give 'til it helps!

The SAR congress assembled and voted for a \$3.00 increase in dues, and that penny a day couldn't be better spent! I want all of you who have read this far to stand with me in affirming that our costs are reasonable, that our cause is great, that those who would diminish the SAR by failing to support reasonable adjustments for inflation need to be better informed, and that you will commit yourselves to improve their understand. ----- Thank you.

++++ The next message was posted by Jessie Hagan, who is in charge of Genealogy on Supplemental applications at National Headquarters.

"I just want to say thanks to Ralph for his excellent answer to the dues increase complainers. I think it couldn't have been said better. I wanted to address one

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point from my unique perspective as an employee and a State Society President.

We receive many calls from Compatriots who have never visited the National Headquarters who seem to have some misconceptions about the staff. Some of these callers have given the impression that we have a large staff with plenty of free time and unlimited funds to do their bidding.

The truth is we have a very small staff to run the National Society. Our Executive Director, Art Chapman oversees operations.

Comptroller, Lorin O'Hara handles the accounting operations with her assistant Kathy Seay.

Mike Scroggins runs the Merchandise Department with his assistant Kim. Mike Scroggins is often asked to perform duties other than his job in merchandising, including keeping the computer network operational, helping staff with software or hardware problems and any other odd projects assigned by the Executive Director.

Mike Christian runs the Library with his assistant Robin and a part time cataloger, Sue.

Joyce Adams runs the Registrar's Office with part time assistance from Ann Carrell.

Debbie Smalley is a research assistant who answers mail and handles inquiries.

We have a temporary person, Aaron to answer the phone and man the front desk.

Susan Acree is in charge of Genealogy on new Applications.

I, Jessie Hagan, am in charge of Genealogy on supplemental applications.

I along with Mike Scroggins are often called upon to do items which are not a part of our primary functions at SAR. These include Plumbing, Electrical, Computer work, Moving Furniture and running errands to pick up items necessary to run the headquarters. You might ask

why are Mike and I called on to perform these and other unnamed duties? Because there is no one else to do them and they must be done, that's why.

It has been alleged that the staff is overpaid for their duties. I cannot speak for anyone else in the building, but I can speak for myself. I am in my seventh year as an employee at National Headquarters. When I started, I worked 2 hours a day or 16 hours a week. 4 years ago I left a full time job to work at National two full days a week, or the same 16 hours. The other 3 days, I care for my children. When I left my full time job, I took a \$1.50 per hour cut in pay. I have still not gotten back to that level. I won't quote my actual rate of pay but I will say this: Yesterday, the Burger King near my home had a sign out that says they will start burger flippers at up to 50 cents an hour less than I make. Keep in mind that I am working as a 14 year Genealogist and have been in my position for 7 years. I could go to work tomorrow at Kroger bagging groceries and receive a 50 cent raise, plus health benefits of which I receive none. I get two paid holidays a year, my birthday and Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the only holiday celebrated on a Tuesday or Thursday that I work. --- I will ask this, when was the last time anyone out there tried to hire a genealogist to do any work for them for less than \$8.00 per hour?

When you guys speak of "National", keep in mind that no one on the staff is getting rich. When you wonder why it is taking so long to receive your merchandise order or get your supplemental approved, remember that every time Mike or I are asked to do a special project, that means our regular work is just sitting there. Also remember that I only work 2 days a week.

We at National are doing our best to provide the best service possible to our members and fellow Compatriots. Please remember that our resources are limited and please remember that when you make general statements about "National" that there are real living, caring individuals out here that "feel" those comments. -----Thanks for reading."