



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 26, 1966

OCTOBER 1997

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 8

August & September General Meetings

Minutes by Oscar Kraehenbuehl

The August meeting was held in the Tower Club with the purpose of conducting needed chapter business and discussing future plans. Nine members and one guest were present. The following reports and items of business were discussed:

+ President Harry Young had previously suggested he step down from office at this time due to an increase in other commitments. However, it was unanimously requested and he agreed to continue until the end of his term.

+ It was noted that Art Chapman, former Miami Chapter and State President, has been appointed Executive Director of the NSSAR. He was a Professor at University of Miami but he and his family have now moved to Louisville, KY, to take his new position.

+ The Treasurer reported that expenditures were expected to exceed income this year by about \$350. It is anticipated that the year-end checking balance will be about \$330. This is primarily due to low membership (49) and high (but usual) cost of the oration contest luncheon and awards. This is in spite of the fact that the chairman of this, and all committees, cover a significant portion of the incidental expenses. Cost reductions will be necessary in the future unless other sources of funds are created. It was unanimously agreed that in 1998, earned income from the Chapter Trust Fund would be used to: (1) purchase 14 ROTC medals for display in the local schools and (2) add \$300 to the operating capital account.

+ It was agreed that the annual Installation Banquet will be held on Thursday evening, December 4th, at The Landmark Restaurant located in Hollywood (near I-95). This is a historic building (1920s), newly restored and under new management. The menu is good and the environment offers music and nice accommodations. More information about this later, but plan to attend and mark your calendar now.

+ It was agreed that the chapter would not man a booth at Broward County Pioneer Days Exhibition this year. It will be held on the same weekend as the next BOM, and no manpower will be available.

+ Considerable discussion was held regarding the low attendance at chapter meetings and the need for new, active members. Ideas will be pursued to improve both.

As in the past, in lieu of the September Chapter meeting, members were invited and encouraged to attend the DAR Constitutional Week Luncheon. The members that were able to take advantage of this opportunity, with most accompanied by wives or companions, were: Jeff Cooke, George Dennis, Bob Dooley, Harry Koepke, Oscar Kraehenbuehl, Joe Motes, Roland Price. The ambiance of the Lighthouse Yacht Club and an excellent speech by Guest Speaker Stuart McIver about James Madison, Father of the Constitution, made it an enjoyable event.

NOTE:

Are transportation problems preventing you from attending meeting ??? If so, call Oscar Kraehenbuehl (564-2813) and arrangements will be made.

NEXT MEETING - OCTOBER 9

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

History of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the SAR, Part 2

C. Arthur Ralston was president in 1978 and during this period made a number of ROTC. Medal Awards as well as Law Enforcement Medal Awards. He became State Recording Secretary during the Rumbaugh regime, 1980-1981, and had attended every National Congress since 1976. Because of his many contributions to the chapter in and out of office he was awarded the SAR Meritorious Medal as well as the Chapter Past President Insignia. He received the Patriot Medal from the state society in 1991.

Howard Bogue distinguished himself as President in 1979 by arranging for our newsletter to be included with Orlando's bulk mailing thus saving this chapter a considerable amount of money during his tenure of office and in the years following.

Wilbur Randolph Casey became president in 1980 and, as is the experience with new leadership in an organization, he lifted the Chapter's Newsletter to even greater heights of interest. He edited the newsletter since 1979 and has demonstrated unsurpassed loyalty, intellectual courage and proven capacity to inspire and lead. It was for these wonderful qualities that the Chapter was happy to award Compatriot Casey the SAR Meritorious Service Medal in 1982 along with the Chapter's Past President Insignia.

Richard L. Aiken was president in 1981 and the highlight of his tenure of office was the enrollment of his five sons in this Chapter of the SAR. Unfortunately, from June to October he was unable to officiate at luncheon meetings being in Arizona with his wife, Margaret (one of the city's fine artists). Colonel Loomis filled in for Richard during his absence. Commander Richard Aiken had a distinguished career in the Naval Air Force for which the Chapter was pleased to award him the SAR War Service medal as well as the Chapter's Past President Insignia. Richard Aiken's National number was the third lowest in our Chapter and by way of interest he comes from the Pennsylvania SAR where his father before him was president.

Colonel Guy A. Loomis, Jr USA(Ret) was elected president in 1982 and awarded the SAR War Service

medal for 30 years longevity in the Army of which two and one-half years was spent in the European Theater of operations during World War II. He received the Bronze Star Medal and a battlefield Silver Star with two Bronze Star clusters as well as a Unit Presidential Commendation and other medals. Because of his three previous years as program chairman and his leadership qualities resulting in a complete revision of the by-laws under the supervision of Compatriots Wulff and Casey and publishing of the 1982 Chapter History and Roster combined under supervision of Compatriots Van Sickle and Wilson, the Chapter was pleased to award him the SAR Meritorious Service Medal. Paraphrasing Sir Winston Churchill, Colonel Loomis upon taking office recognized "how much had been done for the Chapter by so few for so many." So he set about acknowledging this indebtedness by awarding more National Meritorious Service Medals to deserving individuals than had ever been awarded since the Chapter was first organized. Roswell C. Van Sickle, Jean P. Tillman, Radm John T. Wulff and Charles S. Wilson received the SAR Meritorious Service Medal in 1982 for their loyalty and for their individual contributions "over and above the call of duty".

The Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the SAR has, itself, been the recipient of awards. In 1972 it won the National Arlene Wilson Grove Award for the second most active chapter of the SAR and in 1973 it won the state membership award for the most new members. The Fort Lauderdale Chapter in 1981 also took credit for being the largest contributor to the State Society by having enrolled the largest number of Sons, Grandsons and Nephews of the SARs and DARs. This made it possible for Florida to receive another coveted award, "The Eugene C McGuire Award" at the 91st Annual-Congress.

