

Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
MINUTES
Board of Management and Annual Meetings
Panama City, May 10, 2002

The meeting was called to order by President Carter; he was followed by Compatriot Hal Miller who led FLSSAR members in the Invocation. "A Toast to the Flag" was then read by Registrar Stevenson. President Carter led the Pledge of Allegiance, the Pledge to the SAR and the American's Creed.

Members attending the BOM for the first time were introduced; they were David Ramseur, Lindsey Brock and George Lockhart, all of the Jacksonville chapter.

Secretary Wilson ascertained a quorum. Subsequently, it was moved that the minutes for the Winter BOM be approved. The motion **passed**.

President General L.D. McClanahan was introduced and spoke briefly. He pointed out that National is placing much more information on the NSSAR Website; it is designed to be useful to State Societies and individual Compatriots. Examples include status of applications and supplements, available SAR merchandise, minutes of the Trustees meetings, budget information and so on. This shift, plus electronic interface between and among the national Officers, Trustees, State Presidents and others, has improved communication and is also leading to budgetary savings. He further indicated that, while funds are limited, attempts are being made to respond to applicant's questions in a timely manner; he then briefly described the processing procedures for an application. Subsequently, he spoke about the "Census Project". While not explaining just how it works, he did indicate that it was progressing at an appropriate pace. He indicated that the Society now has over 27,000 members and, as a result of the Census Project (in part anyway), he believes that the NSSAR membership should rise to over 700,000 (perhaps even a million) in the foreseeable future. Finally, he reviewed fund raising efforts and indicated that this campaign already has produced \$300,000. NSSAR is now approaching both its membership plus several foundations for support. He suggested that, with the building program progressing as it has been, construction of the library should begin within the year.

National Trustee Tinny provided some information about the new NSSAR library building and the fund raising program. He also indicated that all Compatriots would be receiving letters requesting that they support these building projects. He then indicated that the SAR Library currently is collecting the military histories of all SAR members for its archives. He requested that Compatriots thereby forward appropriate information about their military service. There are forms available for this purpose.

At this juncture, reports by the State officers and committee chairs were considered; they can be found in the Appendix.

President Carter received a standing ovation when he thanked the FLSSAR members for "the honor of serving as your President".

Secretary Wilson orally discussed his report on membership by contrasting the years 1999 (a FLSSAR membership of 1676) to 2000 wherein it dropped to 1610 -- and then to the year 2001. By the end of that year, FLSSAR membership had dropped again and to only 1559 Compatriots (hence the three-year net loss was 117).

The next discussion was about applications and supplements; it came after Registrar Stevenson's report. The DAR "legacy" (or short) forms were reviewed as were some of the newer SAR procedures. Use of the application computer program ("i.e., the form filler") provided by National was recommended. Since every State Society has this CD, it should be available to all Compatriots. All that is needed then is the acid free (watermarked) paper which must be used for applications; NSSAR will only accept those printed on this paper.

Webmaster Fowler added to his report by indicating that he now has Newsletters online from 14 of our chapters and all of them are receiving a large number of hits each day. He urges all chapters with Newsletters to send them to him for inclusion. Finally, he hopes to have The Patriot on the FLSSAR Web page sometime during the year.

The deliberations of the Executive Committee were reported orally by President Carter. It was ruled that individuals who are not bonafide SAR members cannot hold office at any level. Discussion of additional issues was deferred to the Annual Meeting.

An oral report of the Planning Committee was provided by Sr.VP Hodalski. He indicated that Compatriot Hollien had submitted drafts of several "Procedural Outlines" for FLSSAR Youth (and other) programs; they are being developed as an aid to the relevant chapter chairmen.

Compatriot Boone reviewed the many outstanding efforts being made by the Ladies Auxiliary in support of the FLSSAR programs. He urged all Compatriots to buy "opportunity tickets" in order to aid them.

Sr. VP Hodalski discussed the restructuring of the Rumbaugh oration contest. In the future, it will be held at the Winter BOM; hence, while the award will be given at the Annual Meeting (now to be held at a central location), these changes will permit transportation to National to be secured early enough to afford the FLSSAR budget material savings.

Compatriot Curtis (as reported by Sr.VP Hodalski) indicated that a problem has arisen relative to the Endowment Trust Fund. The costs of medals and related materials have been increasing and, as a result, more and more chapters have been requesting reimbursals which are greater than the \$250.00 allowed. Hence, and in order to permit reasonable program operation without the need to obtain numerous Executive Committee approvals, he recommend that the limit be raised to \$350.00. It was so moved and the motion passed.

Compatriot Tinny reported on the activities of an ad hoc committee which had been formed at the Winter 2002 BOM to develop a pamphlet or brochure describing the FLSSAR. He produced a completed flyer suggesting that copies be provided to the chapters so that they can reproduce and use them. However, some concern was expressed by several in attendance: 1) It was not indicated on the brochure that our logo is a registered trade mark, 2) a number of the individuals listed as "contacts" are no longer in that position, 3) no mechanism was established which would

permit the needed corrections to be made except by a chapter and this means that the copies disbursed by other chapters would be in error, 4) committee members indicated that they were not consulted about errors, etc. (i.e., “the text is not justified”; certain statements are “awkward or somewhat misleading” and so on). Compatriot Tinny suggested that each chapter make its own corrections and use or not use the brochure at its own discretion. It appears that a very good start has been made but some additional work is needed.

Compatriot Beal, chair of the CAR liaison committee indicated that presently an SAR member is CAR Senior President — and for only the third time since 1933. It is Steve Cahoon. He urged that all chapters actively support CAR units (Recording Secretary’s Note: While the DAR supports 27 of the 28 CAR chapters in Florida, only seven have the support of a SAR chapter) and that he, in turn, will see to it that each chapter is notified when a male CAR in their area reaches his 18th birthday. However, under the new SAR-CAR procedures, this notification may not be necessary as CAR males can now receive joint membership. This change will result in not having to further recruit them from the CAR as they can attain SAR membership while still a child. The process will involve the SAR conducting the usual vetting process and, when approval is forthcoming, sending the dual membership on to the CAR. However, such dual membership will not be mandatory.

Compatriot Bauchspies brought up two issues for discussion and was joined by a number of other Compatriots. First, he urged all members to wear uniforms whenever possible as they create good publicity, interest in both U.S. history and our Society, and the kind of attention which permits us to get out our message to a variety of groups. He suggested that, if a compatriot does not have a Revolutionary War uniform, he should wear his “Bravo” uniform (i.e., a Navy blazer, grey pants, an SAR tie and accoutrements) with a tricorne hat (contact him for hat sources). Second, he pointed out that some of the JROTC units around the state are under attack -- primarily for financial reasons. With tight budgets, some schools are having trouble funding (or do not want to fund) the senior JROTC instructors. Anyway, he urges all Compatriots to take an active role in the support of that program.

The need for an Education Committee was again addressed. Several of the BOM members in attendance related horror stories about the lack (or even absence) of appropriate U.S. history courses/topics in the public schools, the inadequate focus found there, dissemination of misleading information, “problem” textbooks and on and on. Numerous and excellent suggestions were made. Most of them assumed that FLSSAR will organize a program to: 1) assess relevant history texts and history courses, 2) attempt to influence (positively, of course) how history is taught in the public/private schools, colleges/universities, 3) attempt to have a relevant voice in the local, state and national arenas and 4) influence politicians at all levels. A groundswell of opinion occurred, viz., that a committee be formed. Accordingly, President Carter appointed an (ad hoc) FLSSAR Education Committee consisting of: Compatriots R.L. (Bud) Bauchspies Jr., A.L. Davidson, H. Hollien (chair), R. Liebler, S. Montes-Bradley and D. Ramseur. This committee will initiate its organizational activities via e-mail.

The BOM closed with the SAR Recessional and a Benediction.

Annual Meeting

The BOM meeting gave way to the 2002 Annual FLSSAR meeting. The first order of business was to identify individuals that were in attendance for the first time. They included the three Compatriots who were introduced at the BOM plus Steven Cahoon, Senior State President of the CAR, L.P. Matheson, Fort Walton Beach and B.T. Beal, St. Augustine.

President Carter then introduced NSSAR President General Larry McClanahan, Past President General C. Hoffman, Registrar General R. Friberg and J. Wallace, President of the Alabama SAR.

President Carter recognized Dr. Arthur Chapman who addressed the assembly. He discussed his experiences as NSSAR Executive Director, some of the programs he and President General Hoffman attempted to develop and the problems he faced because of a limited budget (not being able to replace lost personnel, donating his personal expenses to the Society and so on). He thanked the many FLSSAR Compatriots who continued their friendship to him (and attempted to aid him in being reimbursed) after he was discharged; he regrets that they were penalized for this support. He further indicated that he was saddened by the actions of those (from other areas) he had befriended -- by their unwillingness to honor their debts to him and by placing these allegiances below personal gain. He also was distressed by the penalties the National Society imposed upon him. He yet again singled out, and thanked, the FLSSAR Compatriots for their many kindnesses. He then made a number of observations about SAR. He said that he has reluctantly concluded that our society is doomed -- and for a number of reasons. First, he contended that, while we can recruit new members, we cannot retain them -- primarily "because we are a bigoted and racist society." He implied that the NSSAR administration did not even appreciate his success in obtaining national-level publicity simply because it was broadcast on PBS. Second, he indicated that a strong trend toward centralization is underway and this change is destructive in nature. He believes that such activities as the shifting of authority (to raise dues, for example) away from the membership; the elimination of the financial accounting system (which has permitted the membership to track the NSSAR finances) all serve to reduce the ability of the membership to control their own society. Third, he contended that the NSSAR "management" appears to be operating unrealistically. For example, they were not interested in being *given* a church close to National Headquarters nor an auditorium across the street. Rather, they purchased land upon which they plan to build a new and expensive center. Finally, he argued that a small clique has control of NSSAR and they are pretty much responsible for most of the aforementioned problems. "You as Compatriots," he said, "must place our Society above any personal indulgence." To do so, you must regain financial control and elect officers who also will place SAR above themselves. The only hope for our great society lies within our membership. He received virtually a standing ovation.

It was moved that the minutes from the last general assembly be approved. The motion **passed**.

The Charter and By-laws changes -- which had been proposed, published in the last issue of the Florida Patriot, voted on by the Winter BOM and reported in the minutes and officers reports were then considered by the membership present and voting. The first of them, ie., 1) the change in status of the Chapter Challenge committee (from ad hoc to standing) was ruled as the prerogative of the BOM not the General Assembly -- and it already has been authorized by that authority, 2/3) The next two By-laws changes (ie, BOM voting rights for committee chairman

and approval of electronic communication by the Executive Committee) were moved and passed. The change in the number of members of the Medals and Awards Committee (from 5 to 6) was moved but failed and 5) so did the effort to reduce the number of meetings per year from 4 to 3 (also fail). The vote here was "by voice" but it appeared that the number of votes against the change were slightly in the majority. Accordingly, no request for a secret ballot was made primarily because, to pass, a two thirds majority was necessary.

The next order of business was the election of officers, all nominated candidates ran unopposed with a single exception. There were two candidates for the West Central Regional Vice President; they were Charles Shafer and James Armitage. All unopposed candidates were elected as was Compatriot Armitage (by a vote of 21 to 19). They were later sworn in (at the banquet).

Compatriot Coleman again spoke for the membership in acclaiming "the magnificent" presidency of John Carter. "You have our utmost respect" he said. The Assembly concurred.

Compatriot Miller provided the benediction; President Carter read the recessional and closed the meeting.