

Welcome back from your summer vacation and the beginning of another year of interesting meetings and activities.

The Summer Board of Management (BOM) meeting recently held in Kissimmee proved to be a new experience for some of our chapter members. This was a first time event for Compatriots Ron Ryan and Phil Wright. Others participating in this BOM were Ben DuBose, George Darby, and Don Richardson. Ron, Phil, Ben, George and I joined others in the Friday Banquet Color Guard assembly.

Our chapter's Host responsibilities for this BOM included staffing the Registration Table in greeting our attending compatriots with their badges and handout materials and providing direction to meeting rooms. Don and Phil did an outstanding job meeting and greeting our fellow Florida compatriots. Our chapter members staffed the Hospitality Room Friday afternoon and Friday evening after the Banquet & BOM meeting. The Hospitality Room facilitates the camaraderie between our Florida compatriots. Ron and George were exemplary in hosting the room. Caloosa Chapter will be the hosts for the Fall BOM and they have a tough act to follow given the super job our chapter members performed.

Each of these compatriots deserves our thanks for supporting our chapter in hosting this event. I really appreciate their efforts in supporting my acceptance of this task. Our success was entirely due to their efforts.

This BOM, like others, dealt in the tasks required to keep the state society moving forward. The meetings provide information to our chapters on the many activities that the Florida Society sponsors and takes part in. These are:

- (1) Future copies of new member applications, both the FLSSAR copy as well as the NSSAR copy must be on the acid-free, water-marked paper. Previously only the NSSAR copy had to be on such paper.
- (2) In the future, local chapters may have to file 990 forms with IRS to maintain their 501C3 status. Watch for more info on this subject in the Fall.
- (3) A new youth contest, the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest for 4th and 5th graders is being developed and is set to begin next June, 2008.

There are issues, occasionally, that demand more discussion and effort in resolving. Regardless of the issue or the opinions expressed, I have seen a sincere effort by those involved in working toward making our society better.

I would like to encourage each of you to consider attending at least one BOM a year. If we can harness together all of our collective skills and participate in leading, our State Society and the National Society can benefit immeasurably.