

YEARLY REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUGUENOT SOCIETY OF FL  
REVIEWING 2010 ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

February 2011

Four delegates from Florida attended the Annual Huguenot National Congress in Washington, D.C. held April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This State President again served as Credential Chairman for the Congress as requested by President General Mac Manus during her term of office, which will end 2011.

After National Bylaws were updated in 2009, President National Mac Manus issued a call from for all State Societies to update their Bylaws. A Florida Bylaws committee was formed with Dr. Edward Neugaard as Chairman. His committee labored in an attempt to find the appropriate words for some needed updates to the Florida Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, and the Standing Rules. The Committee's steps were guided by our Counselor Mary Nelson Morgan. The proposals were first taken to the Executive Board on October 9, 2009 who then revised and made recommendation to the Florida Annual Membership Meeting February 20, 2010.

The February 20, 2010 Florida Annual Membership Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn Lakewood Ranch hosted by the Jean Calvin Chapter. There was discussion of replacement of the Florida State Huguenot Flag to match the quality of our new American Flag. Fund raising plans were put into place. A nominating committee was appointed for the year 2011 slate of officers. A discussion was held on the Bylaws revisions with hope to bring them before the Annual Membership meeting in February 2011 for adoption. White roster covers with handsome cross cover inserts were purchased for new members. Tote bags were purchased as a scholarship fundraiser. The tables were filled with photographs of notable Huguenot descendants from many fields of work. The Theme for the meeting was "We Are the Descendants of Huguenot Freedom Fighters." State Treasurer Brett D. Brown presented a slide program entitled "Huguenot Freedom Fighters".

An Internal Review committee presented an excellent report of the State finances. Treasurer Brett D. Brown had provided regular reports to all the officers of the FL Huguenot Society. He further reported our compliance with the Tax Exempt Status, noted he is on file as our Registered Agent, and he updated the FL Solicitation License. Counselor Mary Morgan recommended we renew the Solicitation License each year since Florida statutes require any organization operating as a charitable organization or sponsor in the State to be registered. Our State Treasurer was again bonded as required in our Bylaws.

Two more issues of the Florida Huguenot were produced by Fleur de Lis Chapter President and Newsletter Editor, J.B. deRosset in an effort to keep Huguenot members around the State in touch with each other and informed of chapter programs. These newsletters were mailed and/or emailed to all members.

At the February 2010 Annual Membership Meeting, State Chaplain Atwood Brewton reported with regret we had lost 4 members through death. By the end of 2010, the death count of members rose to 8. Those members were:

Marie Bigelow--Fort Caroline Chapter  
Martha Blizzard--Fort Caroline Chapter  
Grace Bowen--Fort Caroline Chapter  
Ruth Collette--Fort Caroline Chapter  
David Demarest--Jean Calvin Chapter  
May Henderson--Fort Caroline Chapter  
Gladys Hilton--Henry of Navarre Chapter  
Lillian Swingle--Ernst D'Erlach Chapter

State Registrar Charles Baker reported an increase of 4 members in midyear and that number rose to 9 by year's end but resignation and deaths put our total state membership once again at 186. He was happy to report 5 Youth Registrations from Florida for children under the age of 16 who have registered their Huguenot ancestors with the help of an adult relative. A membership plaque is passed along each year to the Chapter gaining the most new members.

The Huguenot Society of Florida reported 7 chapters and 186 members at the end of 2010.

The Semi Annual Meeting of the Executive Council of the FL Society was held in a French restaurant in Winter Park on October 9, 2010 with 16 state officers, chapter presidents, chapter representatives and guests in attendance.

The main goals at the Semi Annual Executive Council Meeting were to review and discuss participation in the National Huguenot Youth Contest; state scholarship funding; sales of tote bags; updates to the membership roster; the forthcoming new Huguenot ancestry book under research by Past National Registrar General Jeanine Kallal; the FL state newsletter and finalization of the Bylaw proposals to be presented to membership.

Most Chapters continue to meet regularly with programs pertaining to Huguenot history and ancestry—often from the members themselves. The Louis Du Bois Chapter received the happy news that Chapter Treasurer Theodore Duay has stepped forward as the new President insuring the Chapter's continuance. The Navarre Chapter has struggled to maintain a regular attendance and to find members willing to serve as officers. This Chapter may request dissolution. This president and her husband were happy to attend the Fleur de Lis Chapter meeting in the Fall held in the Coral Reef Yacht Club and the Admiral Gaspard de Coligny Chapter at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. She recently visited the Ernst D'Erlach chapter in January in Deland and installed their new officers. She will install the new Admiral Gaspard de Coligny officers after the Annual State Membership Meeting on February 12, 2011. She will be pleased to visit all chapters when schedules can be arranged. Our Florida meetings are held in many venues including restaurants, retirement homes and club facilities.

"Mereau Medals" are being distributed for a donation of \$10.00 with proceeds to go toward the new State Flag or the Allen-Parker Scholarship fund. The méreau (plural méreaux) is a circular token the Huguenots used in France from the 1550's to the mid 19th century. During Holy Communion an elder would give a méreau before the service to each parishioner who qualified to receive the sacrament. The others, who did not attend catechism regularly or had been admonished by the consistory, would not receive a medal. During the service each individual would hand his mereau to an elder standing next to the communion table before receiving bread and wine.

On this méreau, Christ is depicted as a shepherd, with a staff in His left hand, holding a trumpet in His right hand. Two fig trees, one on either side of Christ, with a cross and banner are also shown. A flock of sheep, symbolizing His followers, is shown at His feet. The back side shows an open bible, which is opened at St. Luke chapter 12, verse 32, saying in French: "Have no fear little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Above the Bible is a symbolic shining sun and six stars.

Florida Scholarship Chairman Monica Darling Douglas reported the deadline for completion and receipt of forms is March 30th. Scholarship Application forms are available on our State Huguenot website at: [http:// www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flhuguen/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flhuguen/)

Chairman Douglas reported the 2010 State Scholarship Winner of \$650.00 was Mary-Kate Harvey of Tampa, Florida who was sponsored by Admiral Gaspard de Coligny Chapter. Mrs. Douglas is also the Chairman of the Jean Calvin's Karlene O. Darling Scholarship award now in its tenth year. The \$400.00 scholarship recipient was Kyle Redden of Salisbury, MD.

Florida State Corresponding Secretary Judi Adams reported she had sent the "Call" to the Semi Annual meetings in a timely manner along with the "Florida Huguenot" newsletters by email and by regular mail. She distributed the minutes for the Executive and Membership meetings and the youth contest information. She mailed out the "Call" to the 2011 Annual meeting through email and postal mail to the membership in a timely manner as well as the proposed changes to the Articles, Bylaws and Standing Rules.

The Corresponding Secretary continued to update the state roster as she received notification from the chapters. She reminded everyone to keep their chapter member information up to date with their address, phone number, and e-mail addresses to prevent returned mail. The cost of returned copies of the "Cross of Languedoc" to the National Society is very expensive, as well. The Corresponding Secretary will be obtaining quotes on printing the 2011 roster and Florida Bylaws.

Webmistress Susan Szewczyk has updated the State website with all "Florida Huguenot" newsletters, the scholarship form, and a link to the National website and local chapters.

The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting of the Huguenot Society of Florida, Inc was scheduled for February 12, 2011 in St. Petersburg, Florida with the Admiral Gaspard de Coligny in charge of arrangements. The Executive Board met the afternoon and evening before at Holiday Inn Lakewood Ranch. Delegates for 2011 National Congress will be

elected; Bylaw revisions presented for adoption and the 2011-2013 Slate of Officers elected and installed.

This president attended the Semi Annual General Council Meeting of the National Huguenot Society in Phoenix, AZ October 22nd and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 and will be attending 75th Annual Congress of *The National Huguenot Society* which will meet at the Washington Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C., on Friday, April 8th and Saturday April 9th, 2011. She also plans to attend the Fall 2011 Mid-Year Meeting of the General Council of the National Society is being planned for Friday October 7th and Saturday October 8th, 2011, in Louisville, Kentucky.

I wish to thank the members of the Huguenot Society of Florida for the vote of confidence and the opportunities you have given me to carry on the work of the Florida Society in your name. None of it would have possible without the most conscientious and cooperative Board of Officers and Chairman ever elected to the Huguenot Society of Florida.

It has been a pleasure to support the work of the National Huguenot Society and President General Mac Manus.

In Huguenot Faith,

Linda L. Smith, President  
Huguenot Society of Florida, Inc