

# Trail Marker

Official Newsletter of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers™  
April 2006, Volume 2, Number 3

## **URGENT APPEAL FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

**CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:** Before the Chapter President's Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, will you please do everything in your power to **RENEW YOUR CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS AND SEND IN THE DUES TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE BY APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>?** On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we'll ask you to share the results of your hard work. **528 MEMBERSHIPS STILL NEED TO BE RENEWED! MANY SIMPLY NEED TO BE NOTIFIED** and they will readily renew. Olympus Hills, Beehive & Settlement Canyon have renewed 100% of their members. Squaw Peak, Cotton Mission & Hole in the Rock are nearing 100%.

Also noteworthy: **Twelve** chapters have **recruited over 6** new members since October, led by Lehi and Sevier Valley with 19 new members each!! Seven chapters have reactivated over 4 former members since October, led by Squaw Peak with 10!! Thank you for your **great** work to **Renew, Recruit and Reactivate!** -- Grant E. Barton

## **CHAPTER PRESIDENTS TO MEET SATURDAY, APRIL 22**

The semi-annual meeting of the **Chapter Presidents Council** will meet Saturday, **April 22, 2006** from **10 am to 2 pm** at the SUP National Building. All **Chapter Presidents** and **Chapter President-Elects** are invited to this meeting which will also be attended by the members of the National Board. In accordance with the new Bylaws, one purpose of this meeting is to select **three chapter presidents to be members** of the **National Nominating Committee** that will select the nominees for the 2007 President-Elect. The Past Presidents Council will select the other three members of this important committee. You are invited to come to the April 22 meeting with the **name or names** of Chapter Presidents you would like to recommend for this assignment, along with the names of members who could serve as President-Elect for 2007.

**President Grant Barton** and the Executive Council have several items on the agenda on which they need your input. They include a re-emphasis on **SUP Life Memberships** (see separate news item), the 2006 **Medallion** honoring the handcart pioneers, examination of ways to reduce the **deficit position** of the National organization, how to revitalize the **memorialization** of SUP members' ancestors, and how to attract **younger men** to the organization.

A **catered luncheon** will be served as part of the Council Meeting. The cost of the luncheon will be **\$5**. We are asking for an immediate RSVP to the national office, so we can plan for enough food. We encourage you to make plans to join with us on this important day.

## **Emphasis on Martin and Willie Handcart Companies**

This year, the Sons of Utah Pioneers has a special focus on the Martin and Willie Handcart Companies, who trudged 1300 miles in 1856 – one hundred fifty years ago. Over 1000 pioneers in those two companies fought a desperate battle of survival in the early blizzards of Wyoming.

Over 200 didn't make it. It's a wonder any survived. Selfless sharing of meager rations and inextinguishable Faith in God distinguished these pioneers. But few, if any, ever complained. For in their extremity, they came to know God. Of the 3,000 handcart pioneers in ten companies came half a million Americans. (Hafen and Hafen, Handcarts to Zion, p. 12)

### **2006 Medallion "Remember Martin's Cove"**

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual SUP Medallion will be available for sale at the Chapter Presidents Council meeting on April 22. This medallion features a magnificent view of **Devil's Gate** with a handcart in the foreground. President Barton has encouraged us all to have a **Medallion in our pocket** in 2006 to remind us to tell the story of the great sacrifice and spirit of our Pioneer ancestors, especially those who pulled and pushed handcarts. The retail price for these medallions will be established at the meeting. A **discount** will be given to chapters in lots of 10.



### **'Long Walk Home' tells story of Willie Handcart Company**

Please circle your calendars for an outstanding evening of music & historical reader's theater entitled: 1856: Long Walk Home, depicting the story of the Willie Handcart Company. The composer is acclaimed pianist Harriet Bushman (Her father-in-law is Richard Bushman, author of Joseph Smith, Rough Stone Rolling and a feature speaker at the 2005 National SUP Convention)

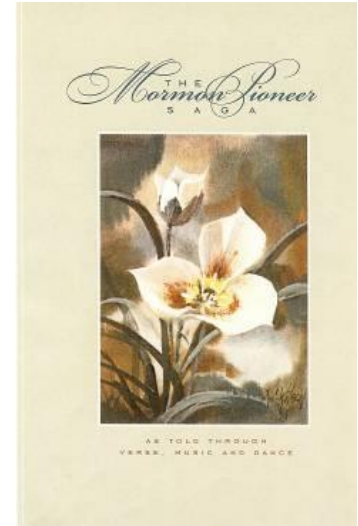
Free Concerts, co-sponsored by the Sons of Utah Pioneers, will be held in the SLC Assembly Hall on May 18 & 20th, the Provo Tabernacle on May 23rd and the Logan Tabernacle on May 24th.

### **SUP Life Memberships- The Foundation of our Organization**

Through the years, the **Life Members of the Sons of Utah Pioneers** have been the sustaining force for fulfilling the organization's mission. The names of these members are engraved on the **plaques** mounted in the **Upstairs Legacy Hall at the National Building**. Beautiful **SUP ruby-studded lapel pins** are worn proudly by all Life Members. A life membership represents a **life-time commitment** to the purposes and goals of the organization. As of March 14, 2006, the SUP has issued **2,668 Life Memberships**. (**Wendell Christensen**, National Director over Memberships became **#2668** at the March National Board Meeting!)

Over the past several years, the number of new life members has **dwindled**. In former years there were often well over **100** new life members in a year, but in recent years only **a few**. (Between 1980 and 1989 over **1,400** life memberships were issued compared with only 161 between 1995 and 2006). Due to the deaths of life members, the total number of life members has decreased each year, and this **vital source of strength** for the organization is **diminishing**. The national database of Life Members contains all 2,668 names. **No Life Members have ever been dropped from the SUP rolls**. We are in the process of updating the database to account for deaths and to identify all **living Life Members** with current addresses so that we can continue to keep in touch with them.

We invite all annual members of the SUP to seriously consider **upgrading their membership** to a **Life Membership**. The present **Life Membership fee is \$300**. Besides a numbered entry on the plaque, a ruby studded lapel pin, and a frameable certificate, each new Life Member in 2006 will receive a **copy of the just-released CD , DVD and memorial booklet** honoring the **Pioneers through verse, music, and dance** produced by **Robert Cundick**, former Tabernacle organist. This outstanding collector's item will be marketed in retail stores for about \$25.00. The life membership also provides for a 50% reduction in the members annual dues (\$15 at present, instead of \$30). The annual fee is **waived** for the year the life membership is granted and in the subsequent year. We especially encourage all **Chapter Presidents** and **Chapter Board Members** who are not presently Life Members to consider strengthening our organization by making this additional commitment.



## CHAPTER NEWS

Please be sure to send your news items **and your monthly newsletter** to [nssup@hotmail.com](mailto:nssup@hotmail.com) or to 2714 N. 880 E. Provo, Utah 84604. Tell us about your "Top Recruiters" who have brought new members to make your chapter grow!

**SUP Member Honored by Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge.** Gene Jacobsen, of the Cotton Mission Chapter, has been a public school teacher and administrator and a university professor since his World War II air force career. Shortly after the outbreak of the war in the Pacific, he was captured by the Japanese and forced to join the infamous Bataan Death March, where he watched hundreds of American soldiers die of fatigue, hunger, thirst and brutality. He spent many months in the Cabanatuan prison camp eating weeds, bugs and cast-off rice to avoid starvation. Somehow he survived, while many fellow prisoners did not, the many illnesses, the abuse of enemy guards and 16-hour days of forced labor underground. He finally returned at the war's end to marry a childhood sweetheart, pursue his lifelong vocation and find peace in forgiving his brutal enemy guards. His book, *We Refused to Die*, earned the National Meritorious Award for Public Communication.

**Dr. R. Wayne Pace**, who has served as chapter president and as Area Vice President in Central Utah was recognized by the BYU Alumni Association for his work in forming the Academy of Human Resources and Development.

**The Pioneer Chapter** heard Darrell Moench, a long-time chapter member tell of the miracle of the Printing of *The Book of Mormon*, and has scheduled United States Congressman Rob Bishop to speak in April. **The Squaw Peak Chapter** greatly enjoyed the presentation of the Prophet Joseph Smith by actor Bryce Chamberlain, of "Man's Search for Happiness" fame. The chapter will trek to Martin's Cove and to Tuacahn (in St. George) this spring.

**The Cotton Mission Chapter** will unveil a new monument at Pine Valley on July 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a cooperative venture with the Pine Valley Community. The Chapter is also planning a float trip for members on the Colorado River at Historic Lee's Ferry.

**National Convention.** Remember at each meeting to promote attendance at the National “Encampment/Convention” in Heber Valley September 14-16. It will be great -- one-of-a-kind!

### **Guest Speakers**

Have you heard from your local mayor, your college president or history professor, returned mission president or missionary from Mongolia Asia or West Africa, where there are great stories about modern-day pioneers? How about your local “Modern-day pioneer,” who has made a big difference in your community? There may be local doctors, scientists, musicians or artists who can tell stories few have yet heard. Your newspaper editor has tales to tell. And don’t forget prominent women as possible speakers.

**Larry Dahl**, prominent author and retired BYU professor, is available as a speaker on the Wasatch Front. He speaks eloquently of church history and was the first Director of the Nauvoo LDS Academy. (Phone 801.373.5948). **Rick Robison**, President of The Mideast Source ([www.mideastsource.com](http://www.mideastsource.com)) is a popular speaker on the volatile Middle East. He has worked for private industry and for the U.S. Foreign Service and the CIA. **Michael Stewart**, former gubernatorial candidate, BYU history professor and Chairman of the Salt Lake County Commission is available to speak on any of three themes: 1) The legal history of early Utah, 2) Joseph Smith, and the Constitution hanging by a thread, 3) Helping young people overcome their fears. ( Ph. 801.533.8848)

### **Great Treks**

The trek season is here! It’s time for some fun in the spring sun. May 10<sup>th</sup> marks the 137<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Wedding of the Rails” at Promontory Point. The fine visitor center and the original railroad bed are great reminders of Utah history. A longer “Must Do” trek is to the “Hole in the Rock” site south of Escalante. Read Professor David E. Miller’s book in preparation. There are also ghost towns to explore, significant historic sites to experience, short day trips, longer trips **and trips to SUP historic markers and monuments. SPECIAL REQUEST:** The next Pioneer Magazine will feature several SUP monuments, including most of the following: Early Rexburg, ID, Mormon Hollow, PA, Mormon Battalion, San Diego, Early Arizona Pioneers, Mesa, Genoa Mormon Station, Genoa, NV, Mormon Pioneer Fort, Fort Laramie, WY, Hilda Anderson, Grantsville, Ellen (Nellie) Unthank, Cedar City, Brigham Young Grave, SLC, Jacob Hamblin Home, Santa Clara and a recent marker in Heber City. The Editor, Susan Lofgren at 3045 South 2850 East, Salt Lake City 84109 (Ph. 801.484.7277), needs pictures and information about the history of these monuments. Your help would be appreciated!

### **Tomorrow’s Pioneers**

Are you honoring some outstanding youths by presenting college scholarships – those who have overcome significant personal hardships and demonstrated the pioneer virtues of courage, faith in God, loyalty to country and personal integrity? **Another Special Request:** Please send to [nssup@hotmail.com](mailto:nssup@hotmail.com) or to 2714 N. 880 E. Provo, UT 84604 copies of the winners’ biographies for publication on the SUP Website and possible use in the Pioneer Magazine.