

Seth Jewel Chapter

from Steve Oberlin <steve@oberlins.com>
to Donald Gradeless <DrG@execpc.com>
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subject Seth Jewel Chapter

Don,

During the past few years, there have been numerous conversations among the Indiana Society leadership regarding inactive chapters. The Seth Jewel action occurred over a period of several months in full transparency to the House of Delegates. The meeting minutes have been posted on the INSSAR website for the entire world to read.

To fully understand the situation, one needs to go back to the July 2009 House of Delegates meeting. There was a serious discussion then concerning inactive chapters. As a result, the Seth Jewel and Simon Kenton Chapters were given written notice of their obligations to their membership and the Indiana Society. There were several other chapters identified, but no other action was taken other than investigative. I chaired the July meeting and remember it being very specific that our objective should be to strengthen or combine weak and inactive chapters, not disband them.

As recorded in the January 2010 meeting minutes, there was considerable discussion about several chapters with action items noted on most of them. All of the "troubled" chapters expressed some degree of cooperation and willingness to work with the Indiana Society and/or each other. There had been no reply whatsoever from the Seth Jewel Chapter and no representation at either the October or January meetings. Frankly, the House of Delegates felt as if the Jewel Chapter wasn't interested in being a part of the Indiana Society and therefore had little choice but to revoke the chapter's charter. The Jewel members were "administratively" transferred to the nearest chapter with the understanding they can belong to any active chapter.

Until this weekend, I am not aware of anyone from the Seth Jewel Chapter even questioning this situation during the past ten months. Perhaps better communication could have prevented this revocation.?

The revocation of the Seth Jewel Chapter charter was disappointing for me personally. My family was among the pioneers of Dekalb County. NE Indiana is extremely ripe with potential SAR candidates. I've repeatedly offered my help and my genealogy database to Ray. At no time was any effort made to accept my offers. Should you, or anyone else want to start a new chapter, there are people willing to help.

Regards,
Steve