

## **The Council of Vice Presidents General**

From NSSAR History Vol. III 1983-2000 page 373

Since 1949, Vice President's General have been identified as representing and charged with oversight of the several geographic Districts of the Society. Their roll has been to support and mentor the officers of the State Societies in their District, and to promote the implementation in State programs of the goals and programs of the National Society.

The VPsG met informally until 1999. In July 1999, President General Howard Horne instituted The Council of Vice Presidents General. It was charged with being:

1. Responsible for providing advice and counsel to the President General.
2. Assisting the President General's VPG coordinator in arranging visits to the District and State Societies.
3. Helping with arrangements for the Incoming State and Chapter President's Seminar at the Spring National Leadership Meeting.

### **Revised Responsibilities**

President General Larry McClanahan submitted a Long Range Plan 2001 to 2021 at the 2001 Congress that reorganized the structure of the National Committees. The Council of Vice Presidents General was placed under the responsibility of the Secretary General. All General Officers are included in the "Council of General Officers", and have expanded roles to assist in Society activities and committee operations.

### **Goals for the Council**

By Dr. Ralph D. Nelson, Jr. P.E., as related in:  
"The History of the NSSAR Vol. III" page 373

We plan to continue to see that our district meetings are well planned and effective and that state officers who need some senior guidance receive it from their Vice President General or some other trusted and experienced source. We have a major responsibility for setting the tone of the Society and for guiding the efforts of the officers of the state societies toward the most constructive and effective paths. Our vigor and dedication to SAR goals and programs should be an example and a catalyst for trustees, national committee chairmen and members, and all who meet us within and outside the Society. We have a special responsibility to reach outside the SAR to attend or meet with high-ranking officials in other societies to promote cooperation that is consistent with SAR goals.

Whenever a new role is assumed in the SAR, there are few notes available as to how to actually do the job being assumed. Input from past VPs-G will be solicited to enable future VPs-G an insight as to what is expected.

## **MAKING THE PRESIDENT GENERAL'S VISIT GO SMOOTHLY!**

The PG Travel Coordinators function is to help provide the President General with the information that will make his visit a success. The President General and his wife need to know and be prepared for:

- Their schedule during the visit to your event,
- The expectations for dress, activities, meals, and
- Critical contact phone numbers (in case of family emergencies and NSSAR emergencies.)

Travel Itinerary Form: An enclosed form provides space for information the President General needs for a visit. If we need further information we will ask for it as the event gets closer. You may add or delete on the form as needed to provide the information that suits your particular event.

General Information: The President General and the first lady request non-smoking accommodations.

They have no special food allergies. By SAR protocol the District Vice President General is the official escort for the President General, but you may need to assign a local host to facilitate transportation, etc. In most cases the PG should be met at the airport and returned to the airport by the local host. Please assign a lady as an aide to the first lady so that she can be kept informed of all plans for her visit and insure that she is well cared for while at the event. The local host or another assigned person should be at the PG's side to introduce him to people at events.

**PROTOCOL:** (See the NSSAR Handbook, Vol II, page 30, 2005 version.) Remember that the host state's president has the highest position in protocol, followed by the PG, the VP(s)G, other General Officers, etc. Check over protocol well before the visit so as to avoid awkward moments during the event.

Dress Code:

We generally consider that -

- "Black Tie" means a tuxedo,
- "Dress Business" means a full suit,
- "Business" means a jacket and tie, and
- "Casual" means neither jacket nor tie.

Expenses: The National Society and the President General generally pay for round trip ground and/or airfare to the city of the event. The host society (the Chapter, State or District which invited him) pays for local expenses (hotel, lodging, food, meeting registrations, etc.).

Background Information & Other helpful notes:

Helpful Hints: See attached from Page 31 of the July 2005 NSSAR handbook:

- Greetings and Recognition
- Requests for visits by the President General