

**Mark A. Homrich**

March 17, 2006

I am a member of D A V Chapter # 3 on Fruitville Road in Sarasota, Florida. My membership dates back to 1997. I had never attended a meeting. In the later part of 2005, I received a letter that inspired me to seek a more active roll in Chapter # 3. The letter, sent from Sarasota Chapter # 3, informed me that the chapter was on probation. The reasons included attendance, by its members, to the monthly meetings.

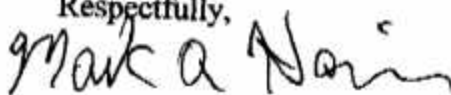
The chapter was requesting, of its members, to attend these monthly meetings. I believe that the letter generated a favorable response because there were several new people that attended that January meeting. They too were inactive, and, like myself, were inspired by the chapters plea for help. Plans were made at that meeting to put chapter # 3 back on its feet. It was a very productive meeting.

The February meeting was monitored by State Commander Stone. When I arrived Commander Stone was addressing the members. Mr. Stone continued for about one hour. He basically dominated that entire meeting. There was a growing uneasiness developing between the members and Mr. Stone and some arguing ensued. As I recall, one or two of the new people attending the meeting walked out. Mr. Stone corrected some procedural mistakes that were made by the Chapter Commander and the uneasiness grew.

When I arrived for the March meeting, I noticed that Mr. Stone was in attendance. As the meeting progressed, Mr. Stone corrected more procedural mistakes made by the Chapter Commander. More arguing developed between some of the members and Mr. Stone. The banter between Mr. Stone and the members grew more and more adversarial and again several new people walked out as a result of the fighting.

I am writing to complain about the methods Commander Stone chose to correct the problems that Chapter # 3 is experiencing. I believe that a more diplomatic approach should have been used to address our problems. I believe Mr. Stone could have taken notes during these last two meetings. He could have then approached those in need of help "in private", away from the members of the meeting. He could have then addressed us members in a diplomatic manner as to the required changes to be made. It was almost as if he was belittling instead of trying to help. His tone and demeanor created such an adversarial environment that, I believe, it is making his efforts "counterproductive".

Respectfully,



Mark A. Homrich