

Salt Lake City Chapter

The Sons of Utah Pioneers

Newsletter - February 2016

Ron L. Andersen to speak to us on Thursday, March 3rd, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.

About the Author



Ron L. Andersen is the founder of the Lincoln Leadership Society and a dynamic and compelling public speaker on the remarkable life of Abraham Lincoln. He maintains a following of thousands of Lincoln admirers, and this is his third book on the subject of Abraham Lincoln. Ron also served for six years on the board of the largest young men's organization in the world, promoting integrity and faith in the lives of over 600,000 youth in nearly every country.

Ron is also a popular Lincoln lecturer, traveling the country speaking at various community forums. He is married to Kathleen Brown, and together they have five children and ten grandchildren.

He authored *Abraham Lincoln - God's Humble Instrument (2010)* and *Abraham Lincoln*

and Joseph Smith, How Two Contemporaries Changed the Face of American History (May 2014).

The second book reveals the remarkable religious and political similarities of Abraham Lincoln and Joseph Smith.

His presentation will be about the dramatic impact these two men had on our nation's history.

Our February meeting presentation



Steve Sorensen about the Jungle Refugee Scouts

Steve shared with us the experience he is having in helping the people who have come to Utah, called the Karen and Karenni people from Myanmar as a result of war in that area of the world. They can only emigrate from the camps if they win a lottery, controlled by the United Nations. The Lottery means that occasionally a family can emigrate, and they must go as a family, the parents and their children. No other relatives, not aunts, uncles, cousins, or even grandparents. Each nuclear family must win their own lottery.

The families here in Utah that are being helped have been organized into a Branch of about 400 members, 100 of whom are young men, and roughly the same number of young women. Before the young men were organized into three scouting units, many of them were in trouble with the law, and the police report that after they started into scouting the crime rate dropped about 80% in their neighborhood.

Steve and other leaders were able to take these young men to the National Scout Jamboree in Virginia a couple of years ago, then they conceived the thought of taking them to the International Jamboree in Japan last year, and combined that with an opportunity to go back to Myanmar and visit the relatives who had been left behind of many of the boys, who did not accept the Lottery to leave. He told about one young man who visited with his grandparents, whom he had not seen for many years (8 or 10?). Many older people will not leave as they do not want to go into a "foreign" society and are more comfortable staying at home.

The story of the meeting was very touching. In their society they do not like to show emotion, and in one of the photos Steve pointed out that one of the boys was showing to the grandparents photos on his cell phone of the family back in Utah, and grandpa was huddled in the far corner of the room with his back to the camera. He would occasionally come and look at the cell phone for a few minutes then go in the corner and release his emotions.

One of the boys pictured with Steve, Bo Reh, told us that it was very hard to be a refugee, that they could not leave the camp where they were assigned, and Steve told some stories how if they did leave their camp, they would be shot, by either party on each side of the border. Even when they needed a little more food and went into the forest to hunt, chances were very great that they would be discovered. So life in the camp was very dull and confining. No employment. Not many of life's necessities. Very desperate.



The hope on the part of the Scout and Branch Leaders is that all of these boys will be able to serve a mission for the church, possibly returning to their native land, or after serving being able to return and help their people.

It was a delight to hear a brief statement from these two boys, Lwel Say and Bo Reh, and the chapter wishes to thank Steve, the boys, and Sister Sorensen for coming to share their story, show us lots of slides, and explain what is now happening to Karen & Karenni Refugees.

Chapter Calendar

- April 16, 2016 (Saturday) - Scholarship Banquet at the Sheraton Hotel.
- May 5, 2016 (Thursday) - Chapter Trek in Salt Lake City - a visit to the Armstrong Inn and the Governor's Mansion, with dinner following.
- July 7, 2016 (Thursday) - Days of '47 Royalty
- September 1, 2016 (Thursday) - Visit the State Capitol
- December 1, 2016 (Thursday) - Institute Choir

National Calendar

- February 20, 2016 (Saturday) - Ogden Regional History Symposium - \$30 per person - featuring Dr. Richard W. Sadler speaking on the Railroad and its impact on Northern Utah, Audrey Godfrey on Prominent women

of the Church in early Utah, Kenneth Alford on the U.S. Civil war impacts in the Utah Territoy, Dr. Gene A. Sessions, and Elder Marlin K. Jensen as keynote speaker

- April 30, 2016 (Saturday) - Spring Clean-up day - 10:00am - noon
- May 7, 2016 (Saturday) National Symposium - 9:00am - 2:00pm
- July 18, 2016 (Monday) SUP Day at This is The Place Heritage Park - 4:00pm
- July 25, 2016 (Monday) - Sunrise Service in the Tabernacle and Parade
- September 22, 2016 (Thursday to Saturday) - SUP National Convention in Hurricane, Utah
- More information on these items at the [National Web Site](#)

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January 11, 2016 ~ Alonzo Cook, editor

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