

Miami Pioneers / Natives of Dade

celebrating and preserving the local history of Miami-Dade County, Florida

monthly meetings with historical programs • www.MPNOD.org • May, 2017

Next Meeting Sunday, May 7 at 2:30pm

Central Christian Church
222 Menores Ave, Coral Gables 33134

Enter the door at the south side of the building on Mendoza Ave. Parking in west lot is also available if you enter from Menores Ave. Street parking is also free on Sunday.

Please bring \$1 donation to cover the cost of the room. We very much appreciate those who can provide refreshments such as cookies, crackers, brownies, etc.

Correspondence

Send to MP/NOD at:
14900 SW 71 Ave
Miami, FL 33158

MP/NOD Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/MPNOD/>

Dues

Please bring your annual \$20 dues to the meeting, or mail your check made to MP/NOD to our Treasurer: Marlene B. Carlin, 14900 SW 71 Ave, Miami, FL 33158. If your envelope is marked, your dues are past. Please help by sending in your payment as soon as possible.

2016-17 Officers

our president is Jim Hartnett
305-667-5733
hartnettj@bellsouth.net

past president, Caesar Philips
treasurer, Marlene B. Carlin
corresponding secretary, Mary Pyle
recording secretary, Cele Diaz
sergeant at arms, Gerda Marchese
parliamentarian, Linda Hertz

May 7 Sunday Meeting

The next meeting of the Miami Pioneers and Natives of Dade will take place at the usual location at 2:30pm.

Organized Crime in South Florida

by Avi Bash with Casey Picket

Miami's Infamous History from Capone to Lansky

This lecture will examine the considerable, yet heavily under-publicized involvement of the American Mafia in South Florida.

Dating back to the first quarter of the twentieth century, resourceful gangsters, from across the nation, recognized the profitable business opportunities available in a wide-open Miami. The booming population, perfect climate, and cooperative law enforcement were strong draws for organized crime figures.

The promise of an open city, free from familiar encumbrances and restrictions, prompted eager mobsters from around the country to migrate south and trade in their suits and fedoras for swim trunks and flip-flops.



In Memoriam

MP/NOD member **Mildred Cornelia Kelly Wright**, Age 97, passed away on February 16, 2017. She lived in Miami, Florida for many years and worked at Jackson Memorial Hospital for 32 years. She was a member of First Union Methodist Church, and a member of the Pilot Club, serving as President for 2 years. She loved working with butterflies in her garden and growing orchids. She also was interested in genealogy and worked a lot to share information with family members.

MP/NOD member **Lyle Arnold Johnson**, 83, passed away Wednesday,

April 19, 2017, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born and raised in Miami, Lyle graduated from Miami Senior High where he met his wife Barbara. They eloped in November, 1952 to Thomasville, Georgia. After serving in the Army, he returned to Miami, where he worked for the United States Postal Service.

MP/NOD member **Erma Beth Bennett** passed away on March 1, 2017. Born on June 3, 1922 in Smith County, Kansas, she married Keith Neil Bennett and they moved to Miami, their only daughter Beth Ann was born in 1955. Erma was a political activist being a prominent member of the League of Women Voters, National Council of Senior Citizens, The First United Methodist Church and the Willa Cather Foundation.

MP/NOD members send their heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of these esteemed members.

May Birthdays

01 May Darlene Crum
01 May Dolly MacIntyre
02 May Edward English
04 May Dr. James Hutson, Jr.
14 May Russell Pfof
15 May Alyce Hundley
18 May Catherine Hilliard
21 May Frederick Kent
26 May Stephen Schaurer
27 May Sallye Jude

Save The Date: June 4

On the first Sunday in May we'll meet again.

Florida Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward

Broward County was founded on October 1, 1915. It was named for Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, remembered for his campaign to drain the Everglades and turn the vast swamp into “useful land.”

It was originally intended to be named Everglades County, but then-Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Ion Farris amended the bill that established the county to be named after Broward.

In 1915, Palm Beach County and Dade County contributed nearly equal portions of land to create Broward County.

Following William S. Jennings , Broward was the 19th Governor of Florida, holding the office from January 3, 1905 until January 5, 1909.

He was born April 19, 1857 in Duval County and died October 1, 1910 (aged 53) in Jacksonville, Florida. Broward was an American river pilot, captain, and a leading politician of his era.

Broward spent his childhood on a series of family farms along the St. Johns River in Jacksonville; during the Civil War the original farm was burned by Union troops that occupied the town.

Broward first worked on the river with this uncle, doing odd jobs during the summer on his uncle's steamboat during the summer. In 1876, having graduated high school, Broward became a ship's mate and traveled to New England. He stayed in that region for two years, working on ships up and down the New England coast. By 1885 he was back on the St. Johns, piloting his father-in-law's steamboat Kate Spencer.

Broward established his reputation as a good pilot and captain. In January 1888, a major prison break disgraced the city's sheriff, and he was removed from office. The county Democratic leadership got together to nominate a new sheriff, and quickly settled on Broward as the best man for the job. The governor appointed him to the post on February 27. In less than a month, he gained statewide notoriety for breaking up gambling operations in the city.

In the early 1890s, the Democratic Party in Florida was undergoing some internal strife. Two factions developed in Jacksonville that eventually became the major statewide camps, the Antis and the Straightouts. The Antis were

conservative and pro-business, whereas the Straightouts were allied with Populists and agrarians. Broward joined the Straightout camp.

Broward was approached by a prominent member of Jacksonville's Cuban community about shipping a load of munitions and some Cuban expatriates from Nassau to Cuba. Broward agreed, and in January 1896, The Three Friends shipped out of Jacksonville on her maiden voyage, bound for Cuba.

In 1900, Broward accepted the Democratic nomination for the State House and was elected almost without opposition.

Broward did not run for the House again in 1902, because he was busy with a salvage operation in the Keys.

During the summer of 1903, he

decided to run for the governorship. Broward's biggest push as governor was for drainage of the Everglades, then considered useless swamp, as people did not understand its ecology or relation to water table and habitat. Eventually he brought President Teddy Roosevelt down to the Glades for a trip through the drainage areas. Roosevelt was an avid supporter of drainage and became an important advocate for the program.

Today, few residents of Fort Lauderdale and the numerous small cities of Broward, are aware of the man who's name is ingrained in their county.

Perhaps even fewer would advocate his misguided campaign to drain the Everglades, a unique environment that sustains the critical water supply for millions of homes and businesses — and draws visitors from across the globe.

Napoleon Bonaparte Broward

