Committees of Safety

Committees of Safety, Correspondence, and Protection

What were they?



- They were governments established in the absence of the ability of the existing government to provide for the needs of the people and civilized society.
- > They were Civil Bodies Politic.
- On the voyage from England to America the Pilgrims, with the Mayflower Compact, created a Civil Body Politic.
- > Jamestown also had a civil body politic.

Committees of Safety, Correspondence, and Protection



- Over the years, they were known by various names such as:
 - Committee of Protection
 - Committee of Correspondence
 - Committee of Safety
 - Associations for, or of

Their purpose was always to provide for the needs of a civil society - a civil government.

What were they?

Committees of Safety existed prior to 1689 and were called by various names

- The Committee which was created in that year in Boston, New York is significant in that it was created by the members of the militia.
- The colonists were dissatisfied with the government of the Crown headed by Governor Sir Edmund Andros.
- Recognizing that the military (militia) authority must always be subordinate to the civil authority, and having serious concern over the abusive authority imposed by Andros, the militia of Boston created their own civil authority in the form of the Committee of Safety.
- Representation on the Committee was based upon two delegates being selected by the citizenry to represent each community.
- The delegates gathered and exercised their authority by, eventually, imprisoning Governor Andros for a period of one year.

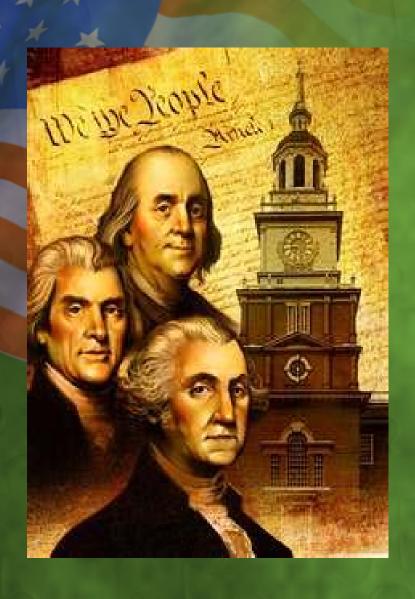
- In 1774, the various Committees of Safety called for the First Continental Congress.
 - Delegates to that Congress went from town, to county, to Provincial level Committees, before being selected to go to Philadelphia.
- In Western Massachusetts, Committees of Safety sent armed militia to force resignation of judges appointed under the Massachusetts Government Act (1774).
- Some Committees, such as Worchester County, declared independence from British rule, unless Massachusetts government was returned under the original charter (1774).
- On April 12, 1775 (just one week before the Battle of Lexington/Concord), John Hancock, President of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress (later, the Massachusetts Provincial Committee of Safety) requested that all counties, towns and districts form Committees of Safety.

Cambridge April 29, 1775

This may certify that the bearer, Mr. Paul Revere is messenger to the <u>Committee of Safety</u> and that all dispatch and assistance be given him in Instances that the business of the Colony may be facilitated

Jos. Warren, Chair.

Rotential of the Committees



- Representation
- > Unity
- Organize and call up Militia
- Correspondence with other Committees
- Coordination

What if ??...

- What if we had a natural or man made disaster that disabled local government and emergency services?
- What if our county/city disbands the police dept. like other cities are doing in the U.S? i.e.: Clarkston MI, Pontiac MI, Aztec NM, and many more...

We need to form and actively create a civil body politic regarding:

- Communications
- Supplies/Food storage/Water storage
- Command Structure
- Emergency Services (Police/Fire/EMT)

so that if the time ever arises where the Committee needs to take the reins to protect the community, the plans, means and manpower will already be prepared to do so.

Create and join a Committee of Safety For your own safety



- If you had a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other natural disaster would you want to wait for FEMA?
- If crime were to become rampant in your community would you want to rely solely on the police?
- If food shortages occurred would you have shared production and storage of food?
- If power outages occurred would you have a shared source for food preservation and water wells?
- ➤ If a foreign Country or the U.N were to invade the United States would you wait for the military to help?

Cultural Challenges

- The time to reinstitute neighborhood Committees of Safety and to address issues when existing government ignores them or fails to address them properly, is NOW!
- As a result of the devolving social, political, and economic conditions, renewed interest in the Committee of Safety concept is spreading across the Union.
- ➤ Those actively elevating the concept into action are facing a serious challenge: At the most basic level of community life the neighborhood there exists a culturally-institutionalized level of interaction among modern American neighbors that is arguably the lowest of any in American history.

Cultural Challenges

The challenge is even greater because the Great Depression was so long ago and we have not seen war on American soil since 1865...

Americans to visualize what life would be like if we were under attack in our homes or if store shelves were empty, most businesses were closed and there was no electricity, food or water—unless they just close their eyes, think and imagine about it...

Take a minute and do so now...

Cultural Challenges

- ➤ One should feel a significant degree of alarm
- >At this point we can:
 - -Be paralyzed by fear

OR

-Begin preparing to survive whatever disruptions our logic and reason determine may come our way in the near future

- There are 310+ million people currently living in America, as our Union experiences the worst economic downturn since 1929.
- The Union is already experiencing a severe "recession" that will almost inevitably develop into a full-blown "depression."

 But that is not the "worst case" scenario.
- There are a myriad of global and domestic indicators strongly suggesting that people should consider preparing to survive a social and/or economic storm of cataclysmic proportions.





- If and when we enter a depression (or worse), the trucks and trains could stop running and the lights may go out.
- At that moment, our own levels of personal preparedness and how well we have organized our neighborhoods will determine the severity of discomfort and inconvenience we will be forced to endure until a state of normalcy returns, no matter how long that might be.

- At this moment in history, it matters not whether you are certain the government is here to save the world or if you have been studying the global conspiracy since 1947.
- ➤ We all need food, water, shelter, safety and EACH OTHER to survive any kind of an extended emergency situation.

At this time WE MUST

- Summon the common sense of cavemen and of the original colonists
- Become acquainted with our neighbors and initiate meetings with them to discuss how we will organize and act...
 - As individual households
 - As inter-dependent communities
 - ... if the trucks stop running and the lights go out

- We need prominent figures and community leaders to be involved in Committees of Safety.
- Elders and Seniors with life and worldly wisdom
- Your experience is greatly needed in your community.
- Veterans and veteran organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and American Legion have already served their country.
- They were willing to give their all so that their posterity could enjoy the fruits of this great nation, as you should also.
- ➤ They have served, with honor, and now they are retired from that service...but those who can will do it again if needed.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!



Many soldiers that had fought side by side with the British against the French and Indians chose to continue service to their communities as members of the Committees of Safety.



- Continental Army to victory.
- He was later recalled to serve as
 President of the Constitutional Convention.
- He then returned to spend his time under his own "fig tree and vine".
- ➢ He was called, once again, to serve as the first President of the United States.
- He served when his country called him to serve and retired from military service when he was no longer able to serve in such capacity.
- ➤ He served twice more in civil capacity because he was needed.

- Do veterans have any less obligation to continue to serve that which they once served so proudly?
- Can they find another way to serve so that their posterity will enjoy the fruits of this great nation?
 - Have we learned all we need to from our Elders?
 - Being past the age and physical condition required for military service should veterans serve as members of a Committee of Safety?
 - ➤ If the country needs them, as it did George Washington, can we withhold such service when the need is so great?



Their service, then, was for ours now

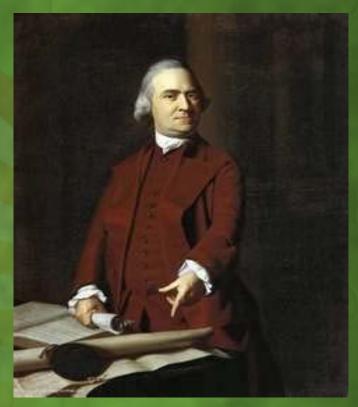
Our service now is for those who are to follow

Join a Committee of Safety Your service and experience IS NEEDED!

Some things Never Change

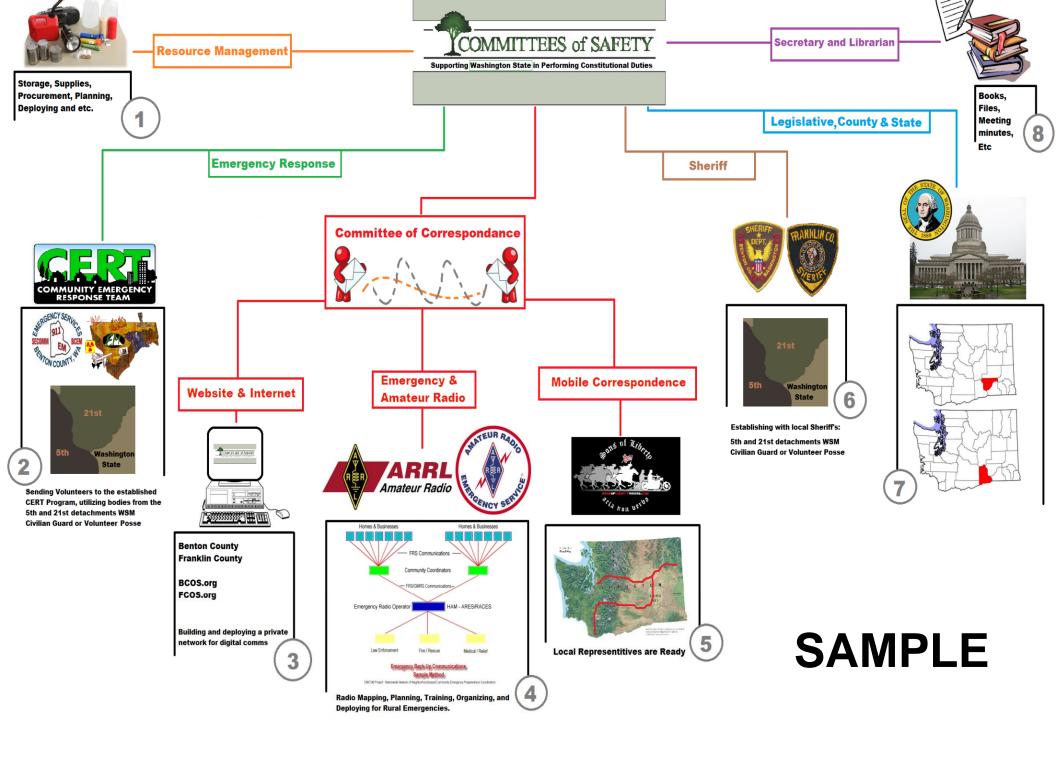


It is appropriate to end this presentation by revisiting the Founding era to show that, while times and technology may have changed over the last 250 years, the responsibility of government to the people and future generations has not...



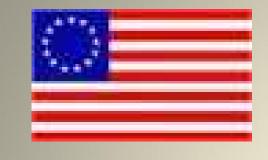
"If ever a time should come when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in government, our country will be in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin."

Samuel Adams



The Boston Liberty









In Provincial Congress, Concord, *April* 12, 1775.



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WHEREAS the Preservation of our Country from Slavery, depends under God, on an effectual Execution of the Continental and Provincial Measures for that Purpose:

RESOLVED, That there be now appointed for each County in this Colony, a Committee consisting of Five Persons, any Three of whom to be a Quorum, whose Business it shall be, to receive from the Committees of Correspondence in their respective Counties, a State of the Conduct of the Towns and Districts, with Respect to their having executed the Continental and Provincial Plans as aforesaid; and it shall be the Duty of said Committees to meet on the first Wednesdays of May, July, September, November, January and March, and prepare a Report of the same, to be laid before the Congress at it's then next Session, that any Neglect of such Towns and Districts in executing such Plans, may be speedily and effectually remedied.

Also, RESOLVED, That it be, and it is hereby strongly recommended, to the Committees of Correspondence in the several Towns and Districts in this Colony, some Time before the first Wednesday in May, July, September, November, January and March aforesaid, to render to any one of the Members of their County Committees aforesaid, a true State of the Conduct of their respective Towns and Districts, with Respect to their having executed each Plan recommended by the Continental and Provincial Congresses; and to use their utmost Diligence for this important Purpose.

And whereas some Towns and Districts in the Colony, may be destitute of so excellent an Institution as Committees of Correspondence:

RESOLVED, That it be, and it hereby is strongly recommended to such Towns and Districts, forthwith to choose them, and to afford them Assistance at all Times, in effectually suppressing the Efforts of the Enemies of America, whenever they shall make them.

> Signed by Order of the Provincial Congress, John Hancock. President.