



Volume 12, Issue 8

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November 2012

# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT  
RON BARKER



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Welcome to our December Newsletter.

This year has been a very successful year for the Gold Country Chapter of SAR.

Keith Bigbee became the CASSAR President and Ron Barker the CASSAR Secretary and in April our chapter hosted the California State meeting in Sacramento.

In January and February, David Gilliard took our chapter into 29 class rooms and the students rewarded us with 605 posters. Molly Bradshaw of Weimar Hills did a very impressive poster which won the state contest and came in second nationally. In May, we then went back into the schools and did an historic flag presentation and presented awards to the students.

In April we honored Patriots Day in Auburn with Color Guard members Donn Dancer, Dale Rose and Ron Barker.

In June and again November, the following members worked election polls- Bruce Choate, Patricia and Barry Hopkins, Ron Williams, Bob Gentry, Ron and Conni Barker. By working these two elections, the chapter will receive over \$1200 for its programs. Thank you.

In July, our chapter members participated in a total of three 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades.

The Veteran's Day Parade in Auburn on November 11 saw Keith Bigbee, Michael Howell, Dale and Coreena Ross and Ron Barker marching in the chapter color guard. Color Guard members, Barry Hopkins, Donn Dancer, Dale Ross and Ron Barker, presented the colors at the Gold Trail DAR meeting on November 20th and the Color Guard will participate in the Wreaths Across America on December 15 in Dixon.

At our November 17th meeting, we honored individuals for their public service. One Hero, Two District Attorneys who solved a cold case for the Law Enforcement Award and two members from the Roseville Fire Department for the Fire Safety and EMS Awards.

We will be having our December Meeting on December 15 around noon in the Rose Room at Auburn City Hall. This is a pot luck and recognizes members and family for their support.

If you have not visited our website, please do so at [www.GoldCountrySAR.com](http://www.GoldCountrySAR.com). There is also a Facebook link on the website for those of you on Facebook.

In liberty and service,  
Ron Barker

*The California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*



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2011 - 2012 TERM**

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## Calendar of Events

**National**

*SAR.org*

**State**

*CaliforniaSAR.org*

**Chapter**

*GoldCountrySAR.com*

**Chapter (continued)**

January 19, 2013

Speaker: Steve Hurst  
Executive V.P. CASSAR

December 15, 2012  
Wreaths Across America  
Dixon Cemetery

December 15, 2012  
Christmas Pot Luck  
City Hall, Rose Room  
1225 Lincoln Way  
Auburn

**The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is**

**Saturday, December 15th at 11:30 AM**

**Rose Room, City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn**

The Gold Country Chapter's 2012 regular meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month except in May, September and December. During these months special meeting dates occur in order to accommodate other Chapter or California Society activities. All regular meetings are held in the banquet room of Lou La Bonte's Restaurant, 13460 Lincoln Way, Auburn, (530) 885-9193, at 9:00AM. See you there!

**Visit our Chapter, State and National Websites**

GoldCountrySAR.com ♦ CaliforniaSAR.org ♦ SAR.org

**The submission deadline for the December edition of  
The Forty-Niner is December 26, 2012.**



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## CHAPTER AND MEMBER NEWS

### George Wilkes Peabody

Congratulations on being a member of SAR since October 23, 1939. That is almost 73 years of membership in our patriotic organization.

George grew up in the Los Angeles area. He earned an AA degree in Mechanical Technology at the Pasadena Junior College. He then went to work for Lockheed Aircraft Company in Burbank. When WWII broke out in 1944, George joined the U.S. Marine Corp. to keep out of the cold of Europe, hoping to find his dad and uncle who were captured by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands, and to prove himself. A rifleman in a combat patrol during the battle for Iwo Jima, on Volcano Island south of Japan, George was critically wounded, wrapped up in plaster and gauze body cast, issued a Purple Heart medal, and sent home, never afterward to see the Philippine Islands, his dad or his uncle.

George has been honored for fifteen years of active service with the Boy Scouts of America and eleven years with the 4-H club. Both the El Dorado Historical Society and the Heritage Association of El Dorado County honored George for meritorious service in the preservation of our heritage and history, and the El Dorado Forum's board of directors selected George to receive the Distinguished Citizen Award for historical contributions to El Dorado County.

An active charter member and historian for the El Dorado County Committee on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, George participated in the "Rock Across America" project which provided the mariposite stone for the State of California to the "Fountain of Freedom – Constitution" monument in Philadelphia, and transported the stone, along with the stones from several other western states, to their destination. He served as chairman of the Constitution Tree Committee which selected and publicly dedicated the Bankers' Tree, a huge Ponderosa pine tree south of Kyburz. He was Chairman of the U.S.S. Placerville Committee which publicly dedicated that World War II submarine chaser for its action in defense of the Constitution. Both the tree and the sub chaser were honored with special cancellation marks arranged by George. He has been responsible for all newspaper announcements and articles written for the Bicentennial Committee through 1991. If all of these accomplishments were not enough, George is also his family's genealogist.

Let's say it has been a full and productive life. George, we wish you many more to come.



## Public Service Awards for 2012

Suzanne Gazzaniga and David H. Tellman, of the Placer County District Attorney's office, are both receiving the SAR Law Enforcement Award. They successfully researched and prosecuted a "cold case" which led to the conviction of a former deputy sheriff. The crime occurred on September 8, 1982 when Janet Kovacich disappeared. In October 1995, a skull was found in Rollins Lake when it was partially drained for maintenance. It could not be identified as Janet's. New information was received in 2003 as a result of media coverage. In 2006,



more sophisticated DNA techniques were used and a positive match was made in February, 2007. Detail after detail was presented to a jury; and on January 27, 2009, Paul Kovacich was convicted of the murder of Janet Kovacich, who disappeared 26 years earlier. Susanne Gazzaniga was elected a Placer County Superior court Judge in the June 2012 election.

Captain Joseph Tuoto III of the Roseville Fire Department is receiving the Sons of the American Revolution EMS Award. Captain Tuoto became the “go to” person for EMS supplies, research and development and training. He became the Fire Department’s first Continuous Quality Improvement Coordinator and was instrumental in developing many programs within the EMS division.

Battalion Chief Kathy Finney of the Roseville Fire Department is receiving the Sons of the American Revolution Fire Safety Award. Chief Finney has been instrumental in developing and implementing various safety practices within the Roseville Fire Department over the last fifteen years. Her work has helped prevent many accidents.

Scott Teuscher, a Federal Express truck driver, is receiving the Sons of the American Revolution Heroism Award. On July 12, 2012, he came upon a crash between a car and semi-truck on Highway 20 near Grass Valley. When he arrived at the scene, he thought that everyone was out of the vehicles. When he asked if everyone was alright, he was informed the truck driver got out. When he asked about the driver of the car, those at scene said that they did not know. The car was on fire and fuel was starting to leak from the tank of the semi-truck. Scott then ran to the car, pulling the unconscious driver from the car just 30 seconds before it exploded into flames. The woman was taken by helicopter to a local hospital trauma center.



David Tellman, Ron Barker and Susanne Gazzaniga

Bill Adams, Captain Joseph Tuoto III, Battalion Chief Kathy Finney, Ron Barker



## Proposed officers for the Gold Country Chapter for 2013

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the December 15th meeting:

President: Open

First VP: Michael Holmes

Second VP: Dale Ross

Secretary: Michael Howell

Treasurer: Open

Registrar/Genealogists: Ed Beyer/Io Beyer

Historian/Chaplain: Barry Hopkins

Webmaster: Gregory Hill

Chancellor: Craig Hopkins

Newsletter Editor: Donn Dancer

## Veterans Day Parade



**Veterans Day Parade, November 11, 2012**

Left to Right: Dale and Coreena Ross, Ron Barker, two young men who joined us, Mike Howell and Keith Bigbee



*Compatriots Ron Barker, Donn Dancer, Dale Ross and Barry Hopkins at the Gold Trail Chapter meeting at Thunder Valley Casino on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November.*



## Presentation of Colors

The Gold Country Chapter presented the colors for the Gold Trail Chapter of National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution held at Thunder Valley Casino in Lincoln, California. The DAR chapter gave us a certificate of appreciation for our efforts. The ladies also treated us to lunch.



Ron Barker, Donn Dancer, Dale Ross and Barry Hopkins



## Events for December 15<sup>th</sup>

December 15<sup>th</sup> will be a busy day for the chapter. We have an event planned at Dixon National Cemetery. The Color Guard will be participating in Wreaths Across America starting at 9 am (all Color Guard members need to be there at 8 am). That is also the day of our Christmas potluck which will take place in Auburn in the Rose Room of City Hall.

### Christmas Potluck

Gold Country SAR

Christmas Pot Luck/Awards

11:30 to 1:30 Dec 15th

Everyone bring a dish. Bring your own drinks, plates, silverware. Glasses will be provided.

RSVP:

Ron Barker [ron0729con@comcast.net](mailto:ron0729con@comcast.net)

Coreena Ross [cr7861@jps.net](mailto:cr7861@jps.net)



### State News

The current supplemental charge is \$40 for National and \$10 for California. If you are thinking about getting a supplemental for another patriot ancestor, you should do it now. National is assessing changes in the charges for supplemental applications and the costs of reviewing them is at least as much as the \$80 charged for a new member's application review. Most prospective members will submit their easiest ancestor to prove and leave the more difficult ones for later. I know that I did.

A new CASSAR Life member schedule was established for those who want to prepay their State and Chapter dues and not have to bother with the annual dues payment for the State and Chapter. The chapter would receive \$10 from the trust fund annually for each life member to cover the chapter dues. This is seen as an advantage to dual members from other state societies.

There is currently a CASSAR life member schedule that covers National, California and pays the Chapter \$10 for dues. Both schedules are age based and on the CASSAR web site <http://www.californiasar.org> under the member section with a password of CASSAR.

The California Society voted for and endorsed the following individuals for National Office for the 2013 Congress:

President General-Joseph W. Dooley (VA)  
Secretary General-Lindsey C. Brock (FL)  
Treasurer General-Thomas E. Lawrence (TX)  
Chancellor General-John L. Dodd (CA)  
Genealogist General-Larry P. Cornwell (AL)  
Registrar General-J. Michael Tomme, Sr. (GA)  
Historian General-Robert L. Bowen (VA)  
Librarian General-Michael C. Wells (AL)  
Chaplain General- Rt. Rev. Louis V. Carlson, Jr (CA)

Following is a summary of upcoming National Congress's as reported at the Monterey meeting:

123<sup>rd</sup> Congress - July 6-10, 2013 Kansas City Missouri Society (Host)

124<sup>th</sup> Congress- July 19-23, 2014 Greenville, South Carolina(Host). Tours of Cowpens and Kings Mountain Planned.

125<sup>th</sup> Congress- June 27-July 1, 2015 Louisville, Kentucky (Host). Hopefully we will tour the completed National Headquarters of NSSAR.

126<sup>th</sup> Congress- July 7-13, 2016 Massachusetts Society (Host).

Future-

2017 -Knoxville, Tenn. has submitted proposal

2018- Texas has expressed interest

2019- California has expressed interest

2020- Virginia has expressed interest

The National Congress is something you want to experience at least once. Hearing the Oration students compete from across the country. See, Hear and Meet the leaders of tomorrow. Winners of the Oration Contest, Eagle Scout Award, Enhanced JROTC Award, Essay, History Teacher, and of course the Elementary Poster Contest, and in the near future, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade brochure contest. Did you know that the Gold Country Chapter has won the National Elementary Poster Contest three times and last year finished second.

Ron Barker





## National News

### Lincoln Proclaims Thanksgiving

Very few people probably think of Thanksgiving as a national holiday that was started in gratitude for the Union Army victory at Gettysburg. Although George Washington, leader of the revolutionary forces in the American Revolutionary War, proclaimed a thanksgiving in December 1777 as a victory celebration honoring the defeat of the British and the surrender of British General Burgoyne at Saratoga, it was not an event that was held annually. It was very common during this period in the 1700's for a day of thanksgiving to be designated in honor of a military victory, an adoption of a state constitution or an exceptionally bountiful crop.

It wasn't until October 1863 that President Lincoln, in a speech written by Secretary of State William Seward, declared that the fourth Thursday of every November would be an official U.S. holiday for Thanksgiving. (This article was on the Bugler Newsletter, [www.paradestore.com](http://www.paradestore.com).)

### Experiencing America's Founding in Philadelphia

September 17th marked the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of our nation's Constitution. Philadelphia was the center of a 3-day celebration. The Philadelphia SAR chapter sponsored a parade by our national SAR Color Guard across the historic mall from Independence Hall to the national Constitution Center. It was a beautiful parade, with 108 color guardsmen from all over the U.S., and about 40 wives. The visual experience of all these people in Revolutionary garb, with the men carrying flags of the Revolution and state flags was spectacular. Cyndy and Keith Bigbee joined us at the parade. Our group arrived in Colonial dress about 2 hours prior to the parade. You would simply not believe how many people from around the U.S. and the world had their photos taken with us during that time. We would be standing somewhere, and someone would come up with a camera, then 10 more cameras would come out. When this happened with a group of French tourists, we thanked them for their help during the Revolution.

Conni and I took the opportunity to combine this trip with a week-long exploration of Revolutionary War history in the Philadelphia area, as well as a little exploring of my ancestors' participation. We joined SAR friends from Texas and Missouri to see many Revolutionary War sites in the area. Here are some highlights:

- At Washington's Crossing state park, where Washington crossed the Delaware, we participated with our state Color Guard Commander Jim Fosdyck and his amazing wife UnHui in a grave marking where 22 of Washington's troops who died there have markers. Only one is known, the other 21 are unknowns.
- At Valley Forge national historic park, where Washington and von Steuben wintered with their troops and trained them, we toured the battlefield and obtained information about Ron's ancestor who wintered there as quartermaster of some of the Virginia Continental troops. Amazingly, 3 of the 7 people in our group of 8 found information on ancestors who wintered there.
- We visited the Old Barracks in Trenton, NJ, where some of the Hessian troops were staying the day of the surprise raid by Washington's troops on December 26, 1776.

- In Old Town Philadelphia, we visited the Betsy Ross House, the Second National Bank Portrait Gallery, where many famous portraits of founders are located, Independence Hall, the Constitution Center, and numerous other wonderful historic sites. At the Constitution Center, we saw an original Dunlap Broadside of the Constitution which was on display for a week.

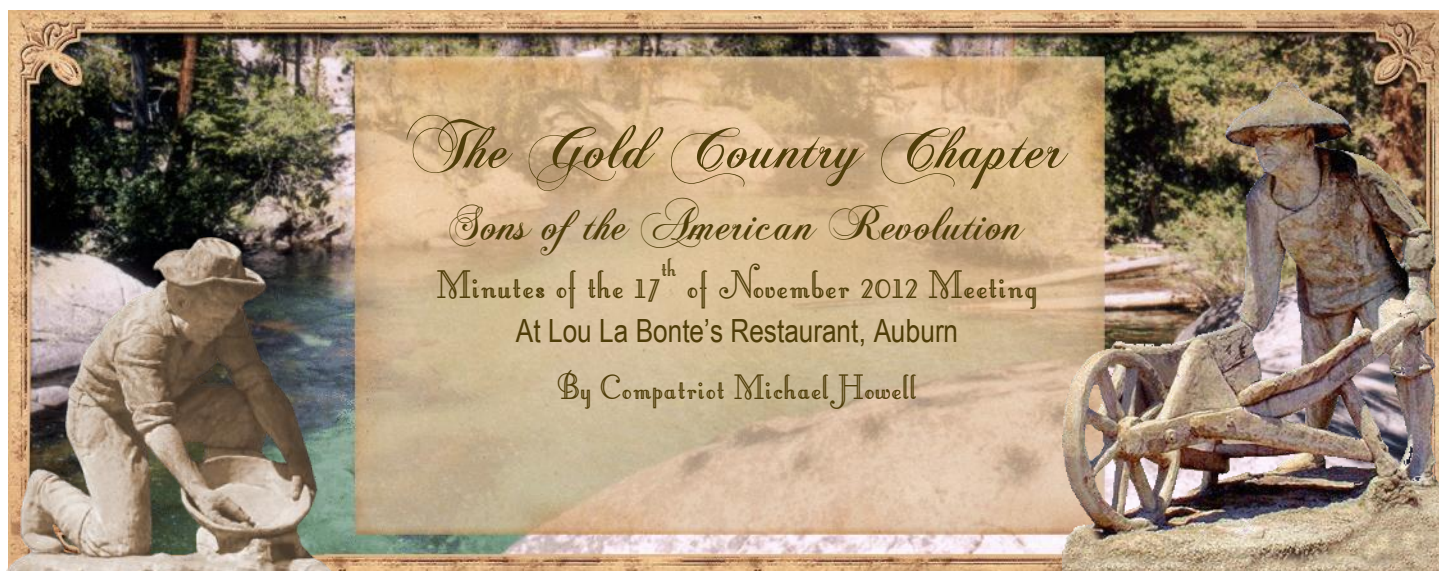
In addition to the parade on Saturday, another highlight of the trip was dinner on Friday evening. We were met by a young man with a large backpack who met us and told us he was our guide. As we walked with him to the City Tavern, where many of the founders would discuss their ideas informally, we were stopped by a man in 1770s clothing who seemed in a panic. He was John Dunlap, who was looking for Thomas Jefferson. It seems that Mr. Dunlap was the printer for the Continental Congress, and he needed the draft of the Declaration of Independence that he was to be printing. Mr. Dunlap looked at us and said “You are dressed rather queer....are you for King George?” We also quickly answered NO in loud unison. He asked where we were going, and when we told him City Tavern, he decided to join us to look for Mr. Jefferson.

When we reached the tavern, we were served food of the 1770s and ales by a tavern wench. Dunlap excused himself to look for Jefferson, and Jefferson of course then joined us. Jefferson was also puzzled by our dress and asked us if we were for the King. When we quickly said NO, he told us about the politics and drafting of the Declaration, and said he had been chosen to write it because he is a better writer than a speaker. Then he told us “I need to find that printer Dunlap.” When we told him we had just seen him, he said “If you chance to see him again, inform him that I can be found at the Pennsylvania State House [today we know it as Independence Hall]. I bid you good eve.”

Dunlap of course returned, and when we told him Jefferson has just left, he said he had to go off to the State House to find him. Dunlap invited us to follow him, and said he might be able to talk the night watchman to let us in, too. When we reached the State House, he and the guard had a little argument, but eventually they let us all in. We had the chance to look at the hall itself, then we heard some arguing and saw Messrs. Jefferson and Adams walking down the stairs having a heated discussion, apparently about the language in the Declaration. The 2 continued for a while, then suddenly, a gentleman who had been sitting in a corner apparently sleeping made a loud tapping noise with a cane. The man arose from the chair, and lo and behold, M. Franklin began gently lecturing Jefferson about the language he had used in his draft and why the changes needed to be made. Mr. Jefferson then conceded. It was indeed a wonderful experience to witness some of our most important founders in their discussion. We heartily recommend that if you visit Philadelphia, you take advantage of the opportunity to participate in one of these dinners.

By Ron Barker, with credit to our friend Larry Stevens from the Piney Woods, TX chapter





## 1. Opening Ceremonies

*The Gold Country Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Minutes of the November 17, 2012 Meeting  
At Lou La Bonte's Restaurant, Auburn*

*By Compatriot Michael Howell*

President Ron Barker called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The Invocation was given by Barry Hopkins. Dale Ross the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike Holmes led the SAR Pledge.

Attendance: 13 members and 10 guests attended the meeting.

President Barker recognized DAR members: Coreena Ross, Mary Dancer & Patrica Hopkins from the Capt. John Oldham Chapter; Susan Brookings from the Gold Trails Chapter.

President Barker discussed the two events for December 15<sup>th</sup> : 9 am Wreaths Across America and then the Christmas pot-luck at 11:30 am in the Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn. Next, he gave a report of the SAR Board of Managers Meeting. Keith Bigbee (State SAR President) said he was happy to have made it through.

President Barker announced the nominees for upcoming elections:

President	- (open)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	- Mike Holmes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	-Dale Ross
Secretary	- Michael Howell
Treasurer	-Dave Gilliard
Registrar/Geneologist	-Ed Beyer/Io Beyer
Color Guard	- Dale Ross
Historian/Chaplin	- Barry Hopkins
Web Master	- Greg Hill
Chancellor	- Craig Hopkins
Newsletter Editor	- Donn Dancer

Four Awards were presented at the Public Service Awards Breakfast:

### Law Enforcement Commendation Medal

Suzanne Gazzaniga

David H. Tellman

Placer Country DA's office

### Fire Safety Commendation Medal

Battalion Chief Kathy Finney

Roseville Fire Department

### EMS Commendation Medal

Captain Joseph Tuoto III

Roseville Fire Department

### Heroism Medal

Scott Teuscher



Reports:

Color Guard – Color Guard team is needed for the DAR meeting being held at Thunder Valley Casino on Tuesday, November 20th at 1 pm.

Eagle Scout – One application is in process for the state level awards.

Valley Forge Teacher Program – Mike Holmes said a few teachers are interested in applying.

JROTC – Sunset Whitney will have their ceremony in January, but have not announced the cadet to receive the award.

Closing: There was a moment of Silence in Remembrance of Passed Chapter Compatriots. Barry Hopkins gave the Benediction and Michael Howell led the SAR Recessional.



