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December 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT
RON BARKER



In This Issue

<i>The President's Message</i>	1
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	2
<i>Chapter and Member News</i>	3
<i>State News (none)</i>	
<i>National News</i>	7
<i>Secretary's Minutes</i>	9

I want to thank you all for your support this past year during my term as president of the Gold Country Chapter.

I am especially proud of our Color Guard. They represented the chapter so well throughout the year. Gold Country Color Guard members are so very important; and, I want to thank them for their efforts, especially Commander Dale Ross, Barry Hopkins, Michael Howell, and Donn Dancer.

We cannot forget our wonderful ladies who join us in these events (Coreena Ross and Conni Barker) in colonial dress. As in the revolution, our camp followers are wonderful.

Gold Country Chapter members came out in force when our chapter hosted the April CASSAR annual meeting. We could not have had such a successful meeting without you. Thank you.

David Gilliard led our incredibly successful Elementary School 5th grade poster program. We went into 29 classrooms, gave presentations on colonial life and the Revolution to over 900 students and received 605 posters. How can the members that helped judge those posters forget those two challenging and exhausting weekends of judging? The national judges had it easy when they only had to judge 17 posters in one hour.

We posted colors at the Gold Trails DAR meeting. I hope this is just a start of having more activities with DAR chapters. Thank you Alan and Susan Brooking for thinking about the Gold Country Color Guard for the DAR event. I also felt blessed to be invited to help judge four high school essays for DAR in December. These outstanding students will be leaders of tomorrow.

The Gold Country Chapter was one of about a dozen chapters in 2011 that presented all four public service awards. We repeated this in 2012. Thank you Mike Holmes and Bill Adams for your help in recommending awardees. Our election poll workers (Ron Williams, Bruce Choate, Barry and Patricia Hopkins, and Ron and Conni Barker) earned over \$1200 for our chapter future programs. The only way that our chapter can reach out to the community is if our members step up and help.

Thank you for a wonderful year of support.

Please visit our website, www.GoldCountrySAR.com, to see more on our chapter and activities. There is also a Facebook link on the website for those of you on Facebook. Our webmaster Greg Hill does a wonderful job of maintaining our website. Thank you Greg.

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

February 28-March 1, 2013
Spring Leadership Meeting
Brown Hotel
Louisville, KY

State

CaliforniaSAR.org

April 12-13, 2013
138th Spring Meeting
Sheraton Hotel
Ventura, CA

Chapter

GoldCountrySAR.com

January 19, 2013
Speaker: Steve Hurst
Executive V.P. CASSAR

February 16, 2013
Speaker: Dave Tellman
Placer County Cold Case

March 16, 2013
Poster Contest Judging

**The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is
Saturday, January 16th at 9:00 AM
Lou La Bonte's Restaurant, Auburn**

The Gold Country Chapter's 2013 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 January edition of
The Forty-Niner is January 30th, 2013.**

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CHAPTER AND MEMBER NEWS

Bruce Choate

Bruce Choate, our treasurer of many years, has a bad leg infection but thankfully it is getting better.



Gold Country Year in Review

January 2012 Started School Poster Presentations with Weimar Hills-4 presentations and 96 students. Presented Flag Certificate to Weimar Hills.

February 2012 Speaker, Jim McCauley, County Clerk-Registrar of Elections. Eight Schools, 22 presentations and 709 students.

March 2012 One School presentation-70 students. Received and judged 604 Posters. Very Impressive. Spring Leadership Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

April 2012 Gold Country Chapter Hosted the CASSAR annual meeting at the Embassy Suites in Sacramento. Our own Keith Bigbee became CASSAR president and Ron Barker, CASSAR Secretary. Molly Bradshaw from Weimar Hills won the CASSAR poster contest. We entered first 8th grade brochure contest. April 19th Auburn Patriot's Day Color Guard Event. Speaker, Jim Holmes, Placer County Supervisor, talked about what was happening and changing in Placer County.

May 2012 Speaker, Dan DeFoe, history teacher at Sierra College talked about the War of 1812. Six Flag Presentations in Six Schools before over 600 students. Also presented cash prizes and ribbons.

June 2012 Two more flag presentations in two Schools before almost 300 students and also presented cash prizes and ribbons. Gold Country Members staffed polling location in Auburn as fund raiser. Camp Beckworth lead by Michael Howell, Coreena and Dale Ross.

July 2012 Chapter participated in the Colfax, Lake Wildwood and Nevada City 4th of July Parades. National Congress in Phoenix. Molly's poster came in second.

August 2012 Past Auburn Mayor and chapter member talked about Understanding China.

September 2012 225th Anniversary of the US Constitution, Philadelphia 2012. Constitution Day Parade-Nevada City. Fall Leadership Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

October 2012 Speaker, Jim Faulkinbury, Vice President North, talked about changes in submitting ancestor records to SAR, as well as, his favorite sites. Honored Two Eagle Scouts.

November 2012 Gold Country Members staffed polling location in Auburn as fund raiser. Veterans Day Parade in Auburn. Presented all Public Service Awards, including the Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, EMS and Heroism Awards. Fall CASSAR meeting in Monterey. Presented Colors at Gold Trail DAR Chapter.

December 2012 Wreaths Across America, Dixon National Cemetery. Gold Country Christmas Party and Awards. Submitted Eagle Scout for the CASSAR and National Scholarship Contest.



National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Wreaths Across America Proclamation

December 15, 2012

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution celebrates its fifth anniversary of sharing this day with our Partners in Patriotism across the nation, the veterans in each of the seven uniformed services whom we remember at this event. Americans have always honored our fallen patriots and war veterans since that first shot was heard around the world on April 19, 1775 at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts.

This Wreaths Across America ceremony today is symbolic of how we honor those American heroes who served their country in the military and, in many instances, gave their lives on the battlefield to preserve democracy and freedom. While our words will soon be forgotten, the heroic deeds of the service men and women who served or who still serve our nation will long be remembered.

We, descendants of the patriots of the War of Independence, represented by our membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, share a common bond with those men and women who are interred in this cemetery. It is fitting to remember them, as well as the colonial men and women who dared to declare themselves independent from their English ruler and establish the United States of America.

We Americans who are here today are the beneficiaries of that legacy, regardless of our own heritage and ethnic origins. It would be fitting of us to remember a loved one or perhaps an ancestor who made the sacrifice that brought honor and peace to our nation.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is honored to be represented today at the national cemeteries and monuments across the nation, as participants in the patriotic memorial to our fallen heroes. We are proud to be a part of all Americans who have come here to remember these dedicated men and woman.

God Bless America.

Stephen A. Leishman

President General (2012-2013)



Left to Right: Michael Howell, Barry Hopkins, Ron Barker, Donn Dancer, Dale Ross and Sacramento Chapter members Jim Faulkinbury and Russ Kaiser

Our chapter participated in Wreaths Across America by performing Color Guard Duties at Dixon National Cemetery.



Donn Dancer, Dale Ross, Barry Hopkins and Michael Howell





Christmas Potluck

We held our Christmas potluck in the Rose Room at City Hall in Auburn. In addition to all of the wonderful eats, Ron Barker presented certificates of appreciation to all those who so generously helped with all of the various projects the chapter was involved in this past year.



Ernie McPherson, Ed & Io Beyer



Patricia & Barry Hopkins; Dale & Coreena Ross



Greg Hill and his "future" DAR and SAR members



National News

George Washington's 1776 Christmas Present

Saving the American Revolution

The American Revolution was over. The United States of America was finished. The Continental Army was all but finished in December 1776 as the British and their Hessian (German) mercenary allies settled in for a long winter rest. In those days, it was customary that armies rest and refit in the winter months in preparation for the campaign seasons of spring and summer. And the British were all about custom and tradition.

No matter, thought the British. They saw little need to move directly against Washington's army and risk further casualties. The Continental Army was disintegrating. Unpaid, ill-equipped, cold, and hungry, soldiers in the Continental Army were deserting or walking away as soon as their enlistments expired. A few were even switching sides! In fact, at the civilian level, hundreds of American families were reaffirming their allegiance to King George III.

It appeared that New York and New Jersey would be firmly back under King George's "protection" within just a few months. They had already humiliated the Continentals out of New York, inflicting heavy damage on Washington's army. There was no reason for the British to mess up their Christmas in 1776. Everything was going their way.

On the American side, despair and hopelessness were the order of the day. The situation was worse than grim. The American cause was all but over. Except for one man, that is - a man who refused to give up. George Washington was the "Rocky" of the American Revolution. In spite of countless setbacks and up against incredible odds, Washington never threw in the towel. He never gave up. And his legendary perseverance was on full display in Christmas 1776.

In an audacious display of desperation and determination, General Washington decided to attack. In a few days, his army would be virtually gone, due to the scheduled expiration of enlistments. If he was going to lose his army, he was going to go down fighting. So, he attacked.

On Christmas night 1776, General George Washington led the rag-tag Continental Army across the Delaware River to attack the Hessian outpost at Trenton, New Jersey. Two Continental Army soldiers froze to death on the long trek to Trenton after crossing the icy Delaware. Three of Washington's detached units never made it across the Delaware. When word reached him that the muskets were unlikely to fire due to the inclement weather, he told his officers to "use the bayonet." He was absolutely "resolved to take Trenton." Nothing would stand in his way!

The morning of December 26, 1776, as the Hessians were rising for a new day, they were startled by an attack by Washington's forces on the town. Two Americans were wounded in the attack, including future President James Monroe. The Hessians suffered numerous casualties and most of the Hessian garrison was forced to

surrender. Johann Raul, the Hessian commander, was mortally wounded before surrendering.

It was a brilliant victory for George Washington - and a tremendous morale boost for the Americans. Within a few days, Washington followed up his victory with another at Princeton, and then quartered his troops at Morristown. The British were forced to redeploy in a way that gave up most of New Jersey and limited their reach in New York. It was a masterful campaign that stabilized the American Revolution and made victory possible.

And it was all due to George Washington. So, this Christmas, remember Washington and the greatest Christmas present he ever gave the United States. The gift of hope. The gift of victory. The gift of America.

Contributed by

Reprint from Brian Tubbs

David L Grinnell

Published December 20, 2006



"December 7, 1941 a day which will live in infamy..."

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on December 7 is to honor and remember the more than 2,000 American citizens killed and more than 1,000 injured in that surprise attack. Click to view [National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day](#).

The U.S. flag should be flown at half-staff till sunset. When flying the flag at half-staff, the flag should be raised to the top of the staff for an instant, then lowered to the mid-way point of the staff (half-staff). It should be raised to the top of the staff again before lowering the flag at the end of the day.

From the Bugler (www.paradestore.com), a reminder about Pearl Harbor Day. As this is the December newsletter, I thought it might be appropriate make some comment. We get so busy with the hustle and bustle of the holidays and might lose sight of the great sacrifice made in December of 1941.



1. Opening Ceremonies

*The Gold Country Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Minutes of the December 15th 2012 Meeting*

At Rose Room, City Hall, Auburn

By Compatriot Michael Howell



President Ron Barker called the meeting to order at 12 noon. The Invocation was given by Barry Hopkins.

Attendance: 9 members and 7 guests attended the meeting. DAR members Coreena Ross & Patricia Hopkins from the Captain John Oldham Chapter.

Members and guests enjoyed a pot luck meal.

President Barker discussed the chapters year in review including the Wreaths Across America event held earlier in the day at 9 am at the Dixon National Cemetery with Ron Barker, Dale Ross, Barry Hopkins, Donn Dancer and Michael Howell who in uniform were honor guards during the ceremony.

President Barker opened nominations for club officer's slate and the following was approved by unanimous voice vote:

President	- Dale Ross
1 st Vice President	- Mike Holmes
2 nd Vice President	- Ron Barker
Secretary	- Michael Howell
Treasurer	- David Gillard
Chaplin	- Barry Hopkins
Web Site	- Gregory Hill
Poster Contest	- Dave Gillard
Chancellor	- Craig Hopkins
Newsletter Editor	- Donn Dancer

President Barker then presented certificates of appreciation to all those members who had assisted him and the chapter this last year.

Reports:

Color Guard – Our Color Guard team presented the colors at the DAR meeting held at Thunder Valley Casino.

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



