



The Courier



March 2013

Sacramento Chapter – Sons of the American Revolution

Vol. 45, Edition 3

IN THIS ISSUE

This month's program	1
President's Corner	2
New Member: William La Plante	3
Proposed new C.A.R. Society	3
Minutes, February meeting	4
Minutes (continued)	5
Poster Contest	5
Von Steuben Trains our Troops	6
Von Steuben continued	7
New ROTC Chairman	7
Photos from Feb. Meeting	8
Photos from Feb. Meeting	9
Coming events	10

March Meeting

J Stephen Hurst is currently the CASSAR Executive Vice-President. He is a native of Florida (where his father was stationed), and spent his childhood in Norfolk, VA, and Pensacola, FL. He graduated from California State University at San Diego with a B. S. Degree in Chemistry, and later from the University of Missouri with a MBA. Steve served as a Captain in the U. S. Air Force where he was munitions officer, missile launch officer, and an equal opportunity officer, serving in Okinawa, two tours in Thailand, North Dakota, Missouri, and Vandenberg AFB. He is retired after spending more than thirty years as a financial advisor at a major investment firm.



Steve joined the General George Patton Chapter, SAR, in 2002, and served as its President for several years. He is a CASSAR Life member, and served as the CASSAR Registrar in 2006. He has received the SAR Meritorious Medal, Silver Good Citizenship Award, Outstanding Citizenship Award, and the Bronze Color Guard Award.

Steve is a member of the NRA, American Sailing Associate, Bareboat Charter Diplomat, the Roseleaf Ragtime Club, life member of the Society for Sedimentary Geology Pacific section, and a subscriber to the New West Symphony Church.

In addition to the SAR, Steve belongs several other lineage societies, including the California Society of the War of 1812 (Past Secretary), Order of the First Family of Maryland (Past Governor General), Society of Colonial Wars, and Life Member Society of Indiana Pioneers.

Steve had three children, stepdaughter Stephanie, foster son Thuan Huynh, and deceased son Eric, who was a recipient of Carnegie Hero Award. Eric lost his life in 2002 while trying to save the life of another boy on a canoeing expedition in Minnesota. Grandson Nathan Huynh is a Youth Registrant of the SAR.

"Call me Steve", he asks. "From my efforts as [CASSAR] Registrar, I know how congenial our society can be. It is a pleasure to associate with men interested in our country's patriotic heritage. I want to help us to continue to grow by welcoming new, younger members."

Steve will speak on "George Washington and Dale Carnegie."

Cattlemens Meal Selections:

10 oz. Top Sirloin Steak	\$24.
Grilled Salmon	\$24.
Teriyaki Chicken	\$24.
Pesto Spinach/Cheese Ravioli	\$24.

Next meeting

Friday, March 15, 2013, 7:00 PM at

Cattlemens Restaurant

12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

If the telephone committee has not taken your reservation and menu selection(s) by **Wednesday evening, March 13**, please call Don Littlefield at **(916) 985-6544 directly and leave a message** by noon on Thursday.

We strongly encourage reservations be made in advance. All reservations are guaranteed. Don't be a "no show."

Wives, guests and visiting compatriots are always encouraged and welcome.

Officers for 2013

Russ Kaiser
President

Don Littlefield
Executive Vice President
Treasurer, Webmaster and
Courier Newsletter Editor

Mike Wolf
2nd Vice President

Craig Anderson
Vice President & Secretary

Ron Carello
Vice President & Registrar

Jim Faulkinbury
Color Guard Commander
Genealogist

Ernie Garcia
Chairman
Law Enforcement Program

Jeff Goodwin
Chaplain

Don Spradling
Photographer
Guardian of the Flags

Committee Chairmen

Tom Chilton
ROTC Program Chairman

Neil Zinn
Eagle Scout Program Chairman

Calling Committee

Carl Ahlberg, Chairman
Tom Chilton
Ernie Garcia
Ed Heidig
Russ Kaiser
Don Littlefield

President's Corner

It is getting closer to Spring every day. We have already had some warm sunny days. Our next meeting on March 15th will be extremely important. J Stephen Hurst, CASSAR Executive VP will be here. We will have our Eagle Scout scholarship winner this year, Chris Konstad. We will vote on the poster contest and many more things. As you can see, our members are actively perusing the ideals of SAR, that is to promote patriotism.

I have sent out over 40 letters to members who have joined us in the past few years asking for their help. We still have lots of openings including Color Guard, phone committee and a newsletter editor. Speaking of that, thank you Tom Chilton for editing this issue.

SARSAC will have its first ever Color Guard and Firelock day at Sacramento Yacht Club on May 18th. The purpose is to practice our drills and demonstrate the safe firing of the firelock. We will start about 10 am and break for lunch at 12. The lunch will be free to all who attend and we hope to see you all there.

SARSAC has a raffle at almost every meeting. Someone asked last meeting about the raffle so I thought of elaborating here. All of the monies earned at the raffle go to the SARSAC and the raffle prizes are all donated by the membership. We can always use more contributions. They can be virtually anything that you might want to win yourself. We have had books, videos, wine and even cookies donated so please, help support SARSAC by bringing a raffle gift.



President Russ Kaiser

Russ

New Member - William Joseph La Plante

William Joseph La Plante was born in Collbran, Colorado, and spent his childhood mostly in Auburn, California. He graduated from Placer High School in 1959.

He is married to Lana Louise Smolnisky. Bill and Lana have four adult children, Michelle Louise, Christina Maria, and Nicole Ann, and Gedeon William La Plante.

Bill is a Retired Superintendent of Schools, and adjunct faculty member of Brandman University, part of the Chapman University System, where he teaches courses in School Administration. His hobbies include golf, fishing, and church volunteer work.

Bill's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on January 16, 2013. His patriot ancestor, Simon Kenton, served as a spy and a soldier with Gen. George Rogers Clark in 1780 and 1782.



Proposal to Form a New C.A.R. Society

First, a little background about the Sacramento Society Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.). The C.A.R. refers to the first level of their organization as a Society. As many of you may know, the Sacramento Society was defunct for several years, and it has left many of you wondering if there are still C.A.R. members meeting in the Sacramento area.

Several years ago the Sacramento Society C.A.R. was re-activated, and its meeting location and base of operations moved to Placerville. While some of the C.A.R. members living in the greater Sacramento area travel to Placerville to attend the C.A.R. meetings, it is very inconvenient for most, resulting in a steady decline membership in the C.A.R. for those children living in this area.

Several members of the Sacramento and Mother Lode Chapters of the SAR have investigated the possibility of organizing a new C.A.R. Society to serve the greater Sacramento area. One of the challenges facing these compatriots was to find a DAR member willing to assume a leadership role in this proposed new C.A.R. Society. That problem appears to have been solved. Sarah Watkins has offered to assume this leadership role. Ms. Watkins is a member of the Central Valley DAR, and will soon transfer her membership to a Sacramento area DAR Chapter. She is a Past-President of the California State Society C.A.R.



Sarah Watkins
Past-President C.S.S.C.A.R.

Tom Adams, Mother Lode Chapter SAR, and Ms. Watkins, will be attending this month's meeting to brief the Sacramento Chapter members on their visions for the Capitol City Society C.A.R.. If you have children and/or grandchildren who might be interested in joining the C.A.R., I encourage you to attend this meeting. Bring all your questions – Ms. Watkins and Tom Adams will be happy to answer them. Jim Faulkinbury, the C.A.R. Registrar for the Sacramento Society C.A.R. will also be available to answer your questions.

February Meeting Minutes

Minutes Sacramento Chapter Meeting, February 15, 2013

Sacramento President Russ Kaiser called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Russ then asked Jeff Goodwin to give the Invocation, followed by Ford Osborn who led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Carl Alhberg who led the Pledge to the SAR.

President Kaiser next introduced the Sacramento Past Presidents. They included: CASSAR VP North and Sacramento Past-President (2005-06), Jim Faulkinbury; CASSAR Chancellor and Sacramento Chaplain and Past-President (2009), Jeff Goodwin; immediate Past-President, Tom Chilton; CASSAR Chairman of the Wreathes Across America Program and Sacramento Treasurer and Past President (2010-11), Don Littlefield; President of the Delta Chapter, Jeff Sylvan; and Past-President of the Silicon Valley Chapter, Ford Osborn.

The DAR members attending were, from the Sacramento Chapter DAR: Medora Allen, and Marilyn Chilton, and Cynthia Fine, and from the El Dorado Chapter DAR, Ellen Osborn. Other guests included Bill Wells, our speaker, William La Plante and his wife, Lana, Tal Norwood and his wife, Sue, and Jordan Villar-Cayabyab, our JROTC contest winner, with his parents, Anthony and Judy Yon, his grandparents, Joe and Annette Villar, and his brothers and sister, Jayden Villar-Cayabyab and Gabriel & Taylor Yon. William La Plante is a new member to be inducted later in the evening and Tal Norwood is a prospective member.

After the introductions, President Kaiser asked Jim Faulkinbury to come forward to describe the flags brought to the meeting: the Grand Union and the Fort Moultrie flags. President Kaiser then asked Bill La Plante to come forward. Jim Faulkinbury read his bio and President Kaiser swore him in as a new member after which the members were asked to come forward and give the usual handshake of welcoming.

Under business, it was announced that the proposed Bylaw revisions had been posted after the last meeting, and the suggested changes made to the proposal before this meeting were described. It was then asked if there were any other suggested changes. None were offered, so it was announced that the revised Bylaws would be voted on at the next meeting in March. Mention of the upcoming CASSAR annual meeting in Ventura was made and also a planned Color Guard practice at the Sacramento Yacht Club on May 18th with free lunch for all who attend. The members were also invited to attend this practice to see what the Color Guard does. A new Color Guard "Manual at Arms" has been prepared and will be distributed to all of those firing weapons in SAR activities.

Concerns for members included mention of Secretary Craig Anderson who is recuperating from bypass surgery, Ernie Garcia who is home with the flu, and Rich Tolman's wife who has been hospitalized as a result of an illness which could affect a previous lung transplant.

At this point in the meeting, our Outstanding JROTC Cadet Contest winner, Jordan Villar-Cayabyab, who had been delayed in traffic travelling from Suisun City, arrived with his family, and the presentation of the Chapter award consisting of the Chapter level Medallion and a check for \$250 was made. Jordan read his award winning essay for the membership.

Dinner was then served. Following the dinner, our speaker Bill Wells, Executive Director of the California Delta Chambers & Visitor's Bureau, gave a presentation on issues facing the Delta. He included Gov. Brown's plan to build two large tunnels which would channel off to Southern California 9000 cubic feet of water per second now flowing down the Sacramento River. The diversion of water to Southern California represents about 50% of the water that currently flows down the Sacramento River into the delta and thus could significantly impact the delta, allowing salt-water intrusion and causing major damage to the environment. He indicated that although the project is being opposed by most environment groups and will probably cost more than \$50 billion, the administration is proceeding under the assumption that a vote by the public is not necessary (a previous vote turned similar down attempts to divert the delta water). The best course of action is for those who oppose this planned diversion to voice their concerns to their legislators.



February Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 4)

Following the presentation, President Kaiser presented Bill with a Certificate of Appreciation and the Liberty Bell. He then called for Christie Kaiser to conduct the raffle. Those donating gifts for the raffle include: Don and Donna Spradling, Clair and Medora Allen, Ursula and Jeff Sylvan, Jim and Karen Faulkinbury, Marilyn and Tom Chilton, Cynthia and Glen Fine, and Sidney and Harlan Tougaw.

Russ then asked Don Littlefield to tell about next month's Sacramento Chapter meeting. Don announced that CASSAR Executive Vice President, Steve Hurst, will give a talk about George Washington at that meeting. A call was made for a motion to adjourn. It was made, seconded, and passed. Tom Chilton led the SAR Recessional, and Jeff Goodwin gave the Benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM following the singing of God Bless America.

Respectfully submitted.

Jim Faulkinbury

Acting Secretary

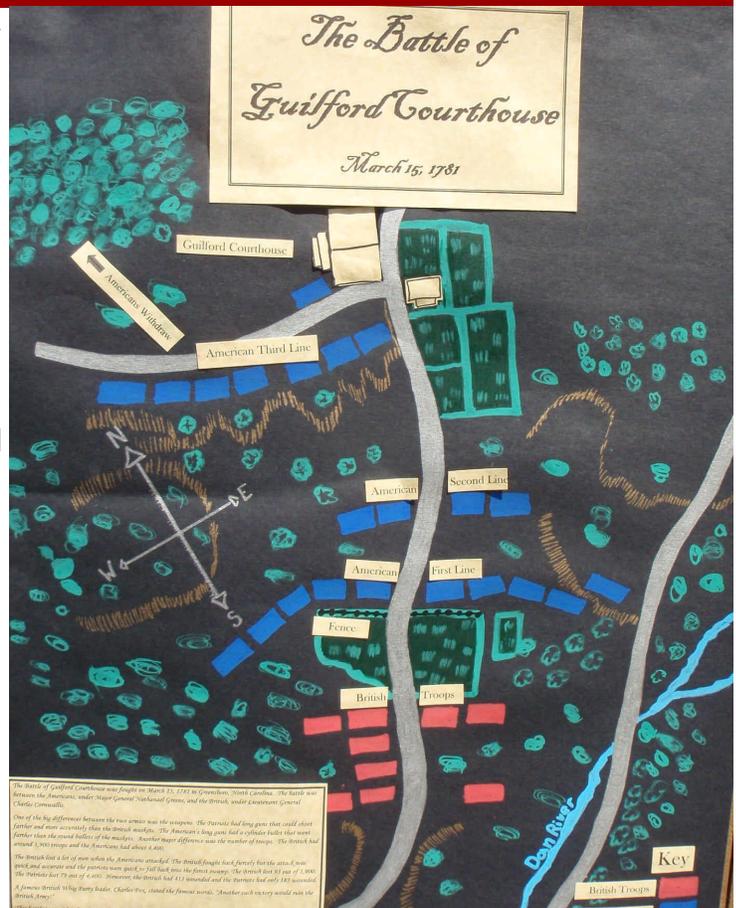
Come Help Us Judge Our Americanism Poster Contest Entries

Several years ago the SAR developed a contest for 5th grade students – the Americanism Poster Contest. Students are encouraged to make a poster (22 x 28) depicting a major event of the American Revolution. This year's theme is the Declaration of Independence.

For some reason this program has had a slow start in the Sacramento Chapter. In past years we have received very few entries, none of which has won at the state level. This year we have actively promoted the contest in three schools, Green Valley Elementary School, Sandra J Gallardo Elementary School, and Isador Cohen Elementary School. We anticipate receiving about 300 entries, one of which we hope will be a winner.

We will pre-judge the posters, and bring the three best from each class to the March meeting. There we will ask you, our members, to judge and select the winners. I hope you will be able to attend, and see the talent some of these young students have. Please plan to arrive a little early so you will have time to view the posters and make your selections. Thank you.

→
A poster from the 2012 Contest submitted to the Mother Lode Chapter.



Von Steuben Trains Washington's Troops

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

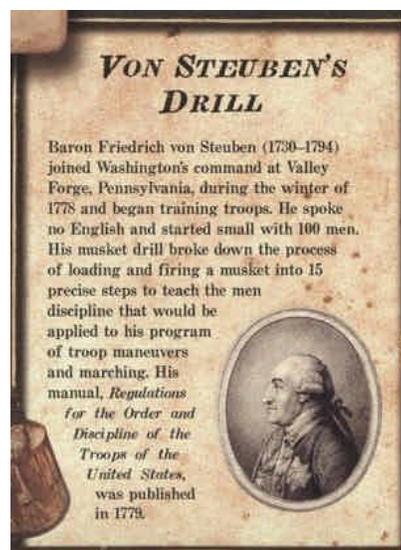
By March there was a new enthusiasm as the weather moderated and signs of spring began to appear. The crisis had passed; more supplies and new enlistees were coming to Valley Forge. In previous years it would have been time to build a new army around the few veterans remaining. This year it was only necessary to further train the old soldiers and incorporate the new recruits.

France, as well as Washington, believed that until the Americans could openly and decisively defeat a major British army on the open field, that total victory could not be assured and that independence could not be obtained from Britain.

In 1777, Count St. Germain, French Minister of War, persuaded a professional soldier, Count Von Steuben, to come to America to help Washington build an army which could stand up to the British army in open combat. He volunteered to serve the American army, asking only to be accepted on his own experience and merit to improve the quality of the army. He was approved and recommended to Congress by Benjamin Franklin as an excellent teacher of Prussian military tactics, an outstanding recommendation as Prussia was noted for its military excellence.

Washington had just seen the end of the Conway Cabal and was leery of any new appointments for foreign officers, but Von Steuben was unique and his credentials were impressive. He was born into a family of lesser Prussian nobility, which for years had produced soldiers of merit. He led a soldier's life from his 14th birthday becoming an aide-de-camp to King Frederick throughout the Seven Years War; for the next ten years he was Chamberlain for the Prince of Hohenzollern-Hechingen.

By the first of March he had begun to train the Continental Army. A tireless taskmaster, he personally drilled the men, even in the snow. Previously officers had not concerned themselves with drill or training; that was a duty for sergeants. Von Steuben insisted that officers train and drill their men so that everyone could understand and obey commands. He trained small units first, and then the small units trained larger units until the day came when the entire army moved as one. In European armies when an order was given it was obeyed without question. Von Steuben found that Americans had to be told why an order or maneuver was necessary, then they responded cheerfully. Under his tutelage the soldiers learned to understand military



Baron Von Steuben

commands and to execute complicated battle maneuvers. The result was a more orderly, better-disciplined army that was prepared to meet the enemy on his own terms, not only to withstand, but also to win a battle against the charge of British professionals using the cold steel of bayonets on an open field

Washington was delighted with Von Steuben and his results. Not only did he teach the army to drill and fight in the European manner, but he wrote the first set of military regulations to govern the actions of the army. The soldiers liked the "Old German" both for his results and his antics. He was ecstatic when the troops responded properly, flew into tirades when they failed, but was loved by all for his gruffness that masked a great affection and concern for the men. At first they resented the foreigner who needed an American to translate his French into instructions they could understand. In time the soldiers realized the improvement he had made in their ability as soldiers. The drills in the snow were forgotten, and the men now looked forward to the mass drills and parades, each unit trying to out-do the other. It was the beginning of an esprit-de-corps not to be exceeded by any European army, and the men felt that they owed it all to the "Old Dutchman."

Von Steuben Trains Washington's Troops

(continued from page 7)

It was just the beginning of Von Steuben's devoted service to the United States of America. After Gate's defeat at Camden in 1780, he was placed in command of the District of Virginia with the mission of training recruits for the Southern Army. He remained in that command until 1781 when he was succeeded by General Lafayette. For his service, Congress, in 1784, gave him a vote of thanks, a gold hilted sword, and later on a pension of 2,500 dollars. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia gave him grants of land for his services in training their soldiers. Retiring from the army after the war, he spent the rest of his life in the town named for him, Steubenville, NY, where he died in 1794.

Von Steuben wasn't the only one responsible for this turn-around in the Continental Army. First there was the tough, resilient bodies and spirit of the common soldier and their officers, the result of living in, and coping with, life in this mostly new and raw land. Under such conditions only the strong survived. Couple that with an unswerving desire for independence and you have an army that could and did survive the rigors of that winter at Valley Forge. Finally, there was Washington!

The differences in feelings the Army had for Von Steuben and Washington might be summed up as the difference between gratitude and a liking for Von Steuben's earthiness and training ability. They respected Washington's ability, and they were confident in his character and leadership. He had nurtured and led this army through good times and bad. He had never asked his men to do what he would not do, nor had he ever needlessly sacrificed men in battles that he did not expect to win. He had always gone into battle confident that the army could win. When the army faltered as it did at Princeton, he entered the forefront of the fray encouraging and urging them on to victory. His troops appreciated the fact that Howe could not pin him down, and that Washington always had a safe way out planned and available to lead his men to safety in event their position became untenable.

Note: The names of the ministers for war, Germain from Britain and St. Germaine of France, are purely coincidental. The similarity of names may stem from the numerous invasions of England, particularly the invasion and subjection of England by the Norman French under William the Conqueror in 1066, and the continued reign of William over both England and his previous Norman possessions in France.

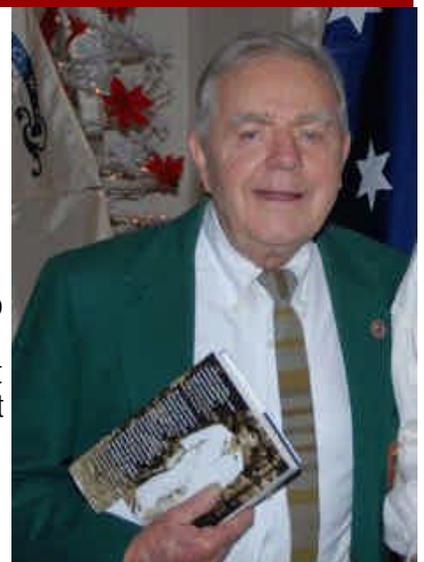
References: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Ward's War of the Revolution, and Flexner's Washington.

Ted Robinson Steps Down As ROTC Chairman

by Tom Chilton

After serving the Sacramento Chapter as its ROTC Chairman for almost 10 years, Ted Robinson is stepping down from that position. Ted will celebrate his 93rd birthday in April, and thinks it is time to cut back on his activities. Quite frankly, I don't think cutting back is in his vocabulary, as he still serves as a Sacramento County Park Commissioner. I (Tom Chilton) have agreed to fill this position – and will be filling some very big shoes!!

The job of the ROTC Chairman is to coordinate with the various Commanding Officers of the local ROTC and JROTC units to insure that our ROTC Medals are available for their Awards Ceremonies, and that SAR members are available to make the presentations. In the past, Compatriots Don Littlefield, Zack Amis, Jim Faulkinbury, Ted Robinson, myself, and others have made these presentations. It is not a difficult task. All that is required is that you arrive at the given school at the given time, and when called upon, come forward to present the medal to the Cadet receiving the award. There are always a number of representatives from the other national organizations, including (but not limited to) the DAR, Founders and Patriots, Navy League, and the Daedalions, to name a few. If you would like to assist in making these presentations, please contact me.



Ted Robinson

February Meeting Photos



President Russ Kaiser presents ROTC Contest winner Jordan Villar-Cayabyab with the ROTC Medallion, neck ribbon, and certificate. Later Treasurer Don Littlefield presented him with a check for \$250.00.



Jordan Villar-Cayabyab with his grandparents, Joe and Annette Villar, and brothers and sister, Jayden Villar-Cayabyab and Gabriel & Taylor Yon.



Jordan Villar-Cayabyab with President Russ Kaiser, Acting Secretary Jim Faulkinbury, and Treasurer Don Littlefield.



Jordan Villar-Cayabyab, with his parents, Anthony and Judy Yon

February Meeting Photos



President Russ Kaiser presents speaker Bill Wells with the SAR certificate of Appreciation and the SAR Liberty Bell.



Glen and Cynthia Fine.



L-R: Marilyn Chilton, Donna Spradling, Ursula Sylvan, and Karen Faulkinbury.



Sue and Tal Norwood

Photos courtesy of Don Spradling

Coming Events

7:00 PM Friday, April 19, 2013 — Dinner Meeting

Barry S. Martin, Collector extraordinaire of Revolutionary War autographs

7:00 PM Friday, May 17, 2013 — Dinner Meeting

Albert and Carol Howenstein, "*Mansion Memories*" California Governor's Mansion

Presidential Birthdays

Andrew Jackson - March 15, 1767

James Madison - March 16, 1751

Grover Cleveland - March 18, 1837

John Tyler - March 29, 1790

A PUBLICATION BY THE
SACRAMENTO CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

EDITOR:
DONALD B LITTLEFIELD
DON.LITTLEFIELD@SARSAC.ORG

On the Internet at:
[HTTP://WWW.SARSAC.ORG](http://www.sarsac.org)

Sons of the American Revolution
P. O. Box 6664
Folsom, CA 95763-6664

**TO THE POSTMASTER
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Sacramento Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization
EIN No. 68-0004288**