



GADSDEN GAZETTE

A quarterly newsletter of the Gadsden Chapter
New Mexico Sons of the American Revolution



IN THIS ISSUE

Birthdays/Anniversaries

Officer List
PAGE 1

President's Report
PAGE 2

1st VP Report
Calendar
PAGE 3

Unintended Consequences
PAGE 3

Our Patriot Ancestors
Chaplain's Corner
PAGE 5

2nd VP
PAGE 7

In Memoriam
PAGE 8

Chapter/State Happenings!
PAGE 9, 10, 11

Compatriot Escapades
PAGE 11, 12, 13

NSSAR News
PAGE 12



George Richards - 10/01 Bob Fike - 10/08
Coty Wheeler - 10/17 Bob Thum - 10/20
Paul Huntsberger - 10/28 Jim Libbin - 10/24

John Hill - 11/03 Bob Northrup - 11/07
James Williams - 11/15 David Minton - 11/17

Paul Vance - 12/02 James Northrup - 12/17
William Baker - 12/23



10 Years
William Rice - 11/01

15 Years
Wayne Mitchell - 11/02

DECEMBER 2024
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

ROBERT E. VANCE
revance58@gmail.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

TJ VALLEJOS
shoutingtoast@gmail.com

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

TANNER GUSKEY
tkguske@gmail.com

SECRETARY

BILL KINSELLA
kinsella1992@yahoo.com

TREASURER

DON BERGER
berger.don@gmail.com

GENEALOGIST

ROGER DOMBROWSKI
radombrowski47@aol.com

CHAPLAIN

STEVEN R. GRAVES
steven.graves0003@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

ROBERT E. VANCE
revance58@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

TJ VALLEJOS
shoutingtoast@gmail.com



Special thanks to

Russ Wilson at

www.rangercoin.com

Proud supporters of the

Sons of the American

Revolution

Gadsden Chapter

CURRENT OFFICER TEAM



ROBERT E. VANCE
PRESIDENT



TJ VALLEJOS
1ST VICE PRESIDENT



TANNER GUSKEY
2ND VICE PRESIDENT



BILL KINSELLA
SECRETARY



DON BERGER
TREASURER



STEVE GRAVES
CHAPLAIN



ROGER DOMBROWSKI
GENEALOGIST

Meetings:

3rd Saturday of the month

1:00 - 3:00 PM

(Subject to change)

No meetings July, August

Hacienda De Mesilla

1891 Avenida De Mesilla

Mesilla, NM

Thank you for choosing
Ranger Industries, LLC.
A Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business
If you are interested in creating a custom made project for your organization, we would consider it an honor to help you design your next...
Challenge, Unit, Command or Organization Coin,
Embroidered or PVC Organization Patch, Lapel Pin,
Proprietary Insignia and more!
Officially Licensed
ARMY • USMC • NAVY • USAF • USCG
USSF • VA • VFW • USFCR SAM • SDVOSS
www.RangerCoin.com
★ (775) 461-3725 ★

Find us at:

<https://www.gadsdenmsar.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064852984182>

**HACIENDA
DE MESILLA**
GRILLE | INN | CANTINA

President's Soapbox



With the end of 2024, I will also be bringing to an end my tenure as Gadsden Chapter President. After 2 years, it is time to hand the reins over to “new blood”. Our annual meeting and election of officers in January will usher in new leadership for Gadsden.

It has truly been a pleasure to have been given your trust in holding this position for the last 2 years, but I could not have done it without the help of the rest of the leadership team. Together, I believe we have accomplished quite a bit and I am very confident that the new team will continue to move forward in supporting this community and our Society.

But I will not be going away, I have thrown my hat in the ring for the position of 2nd Vice President, so if I am elected to that position I will continue to be actively engaged in chapter activities and will help and support the incoming officers.

One of the things I have struggled with most over the past 2 years is how to keep you, the members engaged. This issue is not limited to our chapter as I hear the same issue from members around the country. However, we are at a disadvantage here due to our geographical location. There is just not a lot of Revolutionary War history close to us, so we have to be creative in planning our activities. Sometimes I feel the members from states that are rich in history back east are spoiled and don't have a full appreciation of our struggle. So where I'm going with this is I am asking you to support your chapter. Get involved, be engaged! Communicate your ideas, suggestions, gripes, whatever it is that might be on your mind about things you would like to see done. What can we do as a chapter to spark more interest.

In my participation with the National Membership committee one suggestion that gained some traction was to come up with regular social gatherings rather than just seeing each other at our monthly meetings. (We did something along this line at the state level with our first annual member picnic last August). Another idea was to have the chapter BOM (Board of

Managers) meet before the regular member meeting to take care of chapter business. I'm not sure this would work out for us, as I think most of the business we have been discussing has been of interest to the members also. These are just a couple of ideas, if you would support these or something else please speak up and together we can all stay engaged.

This all leads us to a hot topic of discussion at the National level, that being stagnant membership levels. For the last several years, new member approvals have barely kept up with the number of loses our society is seeing, with the total hovering around 34,000 - 37000 members. Past budgets have been approved based on a projected 3-5% growth in membership which has not happened, creating some financial problems that need to be addressed. The Membership committee has been working on a document to help with the membership issue called the 3 Rs, (Recruitment, Retention and Reinstatement) which is available for chapters to use on the national website. This issue is one of PG Addington's focus points and has asked all officers and members to see what they can do at their level to help solve the problem, for without growth we will continue to have financial issues. Items have already been cut out of the budget by our Treasurer General, Allen Greenly.

I recently heard in one of the meetings I attend that chapters/members are getting weary of perceived “top down” directives, and in my opinion, I agree. The feeling is that we are constantly being told that we, at the chapter level, are not doing enough to keep our current members engaged and therefore we suffer from a large number of “drops” each year. Yet, what do we get to help us other than written documents telling us what we “aren't doing”. I have been asked many times from various members, “what am I getting for my national dues”, and the answer I most often get when I pose the question to others who attend national meetings is “your dues pay the operating costs of our society”.

(continued on page 4)

1st Vice President



Compatriots,

Another year is done, and what a year it was—helping Veterans, presenting at schools, and participating in community events! I want to thank all of our compatriots who helped in any capacity. Everyone greatly appreciated and valued your time and commitment.

Next year will be just as busy with presenting for the homeschoolers, a BBQ for the Veterans on Oak St, and a possible float for the Veterans Day parade! I hope you will participate in these great events as they show our warmth and generous nature at SAR while we give back to the community. I encourage our new members to participate in these events and get involved to assist where they can.

Finally, I am looking to collaborate more with local charitable organizations to support events and find more speakers to discuss various subjects at our meetings. If you have suggestions for speakers or events, please contact me!

Have a great holiday season, and I look forward to another year with all of you!

TJ Vallejos
1st Vice President

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES?

At Congress in July 2024 a motion was passed to raise the application fees on 01 Sep, from \$100 to \$150, a 50% increase. This increase has not had much of an impact on new applications, average of new applications received per month prior to the increase was 188 and after the average was slightly higher at 192/month. (Excluding Aug-Sep, 664 were received in August alone). However there has been a significant drop in supplemental applications being submitted. These numbers below reflect the supplementals received at National. In the period prior to the effective date (01 Sep), from Jan-Jul there were a total of 742, average 106/month. After the effective date, Oct- Dec 23, the total was 105 or 35/month. The months of Aug and Sep were excluded, as there was a surge of applications prior to the increase, Aug - 222 and Sep - 85, which probably included some mailed before the effective date. So you can see there has been a drop of about 66%, most likely due to the increased fees, thus resulting in a revenue loss, at least in regards to supplemental application fees income.

2025 Calendar

(Subject to Change)

JANUARY

18th: 1:00-3:00, Chapter Meeting - Hacienda

FEBRUARY

1st: 11:30-1:30, NMSSAR Annual Meeting - Black Angus, ABQ

15th: 1:00-3:00, Chapter Meeting - Hacienda

22nd: PG Addington Visit - Denver, CO

Feb 27-Mar 1: Spring Leadership - Galt House - Louisville, KY

MARCH

15th: 1:00-3:00, Chapter Meeting - Hacienda

APRIL

19th: 1:00-3:00, Chapter Meeting - Hacienda

MAY

17th: 1:00-3:00, Chapter Meeting - Hacienda

JUNE

21st: 1:00-3:00, Chapter Meeting - Hacienda

JULY

No Chapter Meeting

12th-18th: 135th Congress - Uncasville, CT

AUGUST

No Chapter Meeting

SEPTEMBER

20th: 1:00-3:00, Chapter Meeting - Hacienda

OCTOBER

2nd-4th: Fall Leadership - Louisville, KY

18th: 1:00-3:00, Chapter Meeting - Hacienda

NOVEMBER

8th: 10:00-12:00, Veterans Day Parade - Las Cruces, NM

8th: 1:00-3:00, Chapter Meeting - Hacienda

DECEMBER

13th: 8:30-11:30, Wreaths Across America - Ft Bayard Cemetery

20th: 1:00-3:00, Chapter Meeting - Hacienda

(continued from page 2)

While that is true and necessary, a lot of members do not see any tangible “return on investment” of their national dues, and at this point I am starting to agree.

At Congress in Orlando in July of 2023, a motion was passed to raise our national dues from \$35 to \$50 and one of the selling points for this raise was to implement a national dues billing and collection system. This has been a subject of discussion for years and each time the question was asked about online payment for dues, the answer was “they’re working on it”. This year at Congress in Lancaster, I was made aware of an ongoing project to implement a national dues billing and collection system using Club Express (CE). After hearing about it and bringing it to our state BOM, I volunteered NM to participate in the program. At the time, national had budgeted \$60,000 for the maintenance costs of CE which was based on fees of \$0.10 per member per month (\$1.20 annually, a small portion of the \$15.00 increase in dues). When NM joined the project, there were 14 states participating representing about 13,000 members. Also at the time, there were other states, having become frustrated with the “speed of government” implementation of the national dues billing and collection, went out on their own with other systems, such as “Member Clicks”. The main focus with CE this year is on dues, providing renewal notices and offering an online payment option. The many other features that CE offers will be rolled out and go live after this dues cycle.

Things were going well with this until Fall Leadership, when our new Treasurer General addressed the attendees that he, along with the finance committee, have decided to cut the funding for CE in the 2025 budget, which was proposed and passed by the trustees. The participating states were told to that they needed to do this on their own, as national could not afford it. I felt as if the rug had been pulled out from under these 14 states with the loss of support from national, and several states must have felt the same way, as 10 decided to not continue with CE. Currently there are only 4 states participating, representing about 3200 members. What this means to these states is that in 2025, we will have to cover the CE fees, which are based on number of active members. At 10,001 the cost is \$0.10, but dropping to 3200 the cost is \$0.16 per member. It was stated that one of the main reasons for national not supporting the CE

project was that the 2 financial systems could not communicate and staff hours needed to input dues payments received from CE was prohibitive. (This reason is disputed by some). Those making the decision to pull funding, I believe, were not educated as to all the features (tangible return on investment) that CE has to offer members in addition to the ability to pay dues online.

Bottom line, I am still sold on the value to members that CE has to offer and will advocate to our state BOM that we continue even if we have to bear the cost ourselves. Some of the features that are included at no additional cost that I have been using include:

Dues - as of this writing in this dues cycle, we are at 77% of our members paid and of that 69% have paid online using CE, so this is a feature that the majority of our members want and are using. An added benefit is that dues payments received are distributed every 10 days into the applicable accounts accordingly, meaning national and the chapters do not have to wait until reconciliation in January to receive their funds.

Communications - emailing with up to date distribution lists of our members, also in the communication module there is the ability to send mass text messages;

Event calendar in which we can create events for all to see, include the ability to register for that event and if there is any charge for the event the member can pay online. (I have created “Donation” events for our charitable activities such as Wreaths Across America and meals for veterans to name a couple);

Website hosting for District, State and Chapter websites, which means we will not need to pay for our website domains once this feature goes live;

Virtual membership cards which members can print if they choose;

Reports including searchable membership rosters and financial transactions with the ability to run and print these reports;

and numerous other features that I have yet to explore.

I encourage all of you to start exploring and using CE as I intend on using it more and more to serve you.

Hopefully there will be a change of heart at the national level and support for this program in the form of budgeted funds will be reinstated in the future.

And with that, I’ll step off my soapbox and pass it on!

Our Patriot Ancestors



PVT Jacob Alter - Warren Alter
 PVT John Anderson - William Rice
 PVT Isham Beasley - Samuel Massey
 PVT Philip Peter Baker - Chris Lauderman
 PVT Henry Baugh - Tom Rigsby
 CAPT Thomas Beale - Warren Alter
 SOL Herber Berger - Don Berger
 PVT William Blakely - Wayne Mitchell
 PS Ratliff Boone - Darin Rouse
 PS John Cantrell - Dale Cantrell
 PVT Samuel Covey - Bill, Bennett Dials
 PVT Joseph Culpepper - Samuel Massey
 PS John Curtiss - Dave Curtiss
 PVT William Daniel - TJ Vallejos
 CORP Daniel Driggs - Roger Dombrowski
 PVT Charles English - Tom Rigsby
 PVT Elijah Fenton - Dave Curtiss
 PVT Stephen Francis - Robert Francis
 PS Christopher Gwinn - Don, James Williams
 PS Thomas Hamilton - Steven Graves
 SURG David Holmes - Bob Clark
 PVT Daniel Hough - Dave Curtiss
 PVT Abraham Huntsberger - Paul Huntsberger
 PVT Thomas C. Jones - John Hill
 Thomas Kelly - Tom Rigsby
 SGT Ebenezer Landers - Russ Wilson
 SOL Samuel Leidy - George Richards

PS Nathan Lewis - Dave Curtiss
 PS John LLOYD - Tom Rigsby
 LT Alexander McClellan - Jim Libbin
 PS William McClure - Tom Rigsby
 PVT William McFerrin - William Baker
 CS Colin McKenney - Tom Rigsby
 MAJ John T.W. Medearis - Coty Wheeler
 PS Anacleto Bernardo Miera Y Pacheco - Bill Kinsella
 PS Bernardo Pascual Joachim Miera Y Pacheco - Bill Kinsella
 MAJ John Moore - Bob Thum
 PVT Isaac Newell - Dave Curtiss
 PVT David Newton - Richard Newton
 PS James Northrup - Bob, James Northrup
 PVT Stephen Northrup - Bob, James Northrup
 PVT William Patterson - Eric Randler
 PVT Gad Pomeroy - Bob Sherman
 SGT Patrick Porter - Glen Porter

LT COL Thomas Posey - Tanner Guskey
 CAPT Adrain Proveaux - Harry Murray
 CAPT Samuel Ransom- Daniel Samples-Thieman
 PS John Reese - Tom Rigsby
 CAPT Henry Rhoads - Shannon Franks
 PVT Jesse Richardson - Tom Rigsby
 PS John Robinson - Bob Northrup
 SGT John Rockett - Robert E. Vance
 PVT Phillip Stickleman - Carl, Don Connor
 CAPT John C. Stoever - Wesley Shumaker
 PVT John B. Stovall Sr - Tom Rigsby
 PS John Stryker - Greg Whited
 PS John Swearingen - Tom Rigsby
 PVT William H. Taulbe - Tom Rigsby
 SOL John Tyree - David Minton
 PVT Isaac Van Bibber - Daniel Samples-Thieman
 PVT John Van Gieson - Robert Middleton
 PVT David Vance - Robert, Paul Vance James Lee
 PS Aaron Warner Sr - Bob Northrup
 PVT Jonathan Warner - Bob Northrup
 LT COL William Washington - Harry Murray
 PVT Jesse White - Tom, Jacob, Mathew Rigsby
 PS Samuel Whitehead - Tom Rigsby
 LT Job Winchell - Bill Oltmanns
 PVT Michael Young - Tom Rigsby

Chaplain's Corner

Last issue we talked about the Continental Army Chaplain Corps. In this issue we are going to reprint an article by Rick Chromey:

(This will be in place of our "Revolutionary War History" this issue)



George Washington and Valley Forge: How a Christmas Prayer Saved America

The winter of 1777 should've been the end of the great American Revolution.

Everything was going wrong for our patriot forefathers at that time. Throughout the fall of 1777, the British army had tightened its grip on the colonies. When Philadelphia was captured, the war looked over. It usually is when a capitol city is occupied. Our Continental Congress were now "wanted men" and forced to flee for their lives. Meanwhile, fear raced through the colonies as thousands of Americans were captured and confined on British "starving ships". Most died on board.

(continued on page 6)



Steven Graves
Gadsden Chapter
Chaplain

George Washington and Valley Forge: How a Christmas Prayer Saved America

(continued from page 5)

It was a trying, desperate time in early America.

On December 12, 1777, the Fugitive Congress awarded Gen. George Washington “full power” to “direct....the operations of the war”.

A week later Washington retreated with 11,000 soldiers to Valley Forge, PA to wait for spring....and hopefully better days.

Washington’s rag tag volunteer army consisted of enlisted men from ages 12 to 60. Most were Europeans, but free blacks and Indians also served. By Christmas 1777, the weather had turned ugly. The bitter cold and snow proved deadly to man and beast. Horses perished by the hundreds. Over 2500 troops froze, starved or died from typhoid, pneumonia or dysentery. Over 500 women also died at Valley Forge that winter....and countless children too. Families often fought together. Wives kept the army fed, clothed and nursed. And now they were among the dying too.

George Washington noted that nearly 2900 of his men were “unfit for duty”. Most of his troops had no shoes and many were barely clothed. Washington confessed that without “some great and capital change” his army would “starve, dissolve, or (need to) disperse”. If his army didn’t live to spring, Washington rightly feared their war of revolution was over.

At one point, it was so bad that the Continental Congress debated replacing Washington as “commander-in-chief”.

Many politicians had lost faith in George’s abilities, but none of his men did. As one patriot soldier confessed, Washington’s army was fused together with a “spirit of liberty”. They believed in Washington. They believed in this revolution. “Give me liberty or give me death”.

George Washington needed a Christmas miracle in 1777. And that’s when this man of deep and devout faith turned, once again, to his God. In the bitter cold of Valley Forge, the “Father of our Country” retreated outside of camp, knelt down in the snow and prayed.

Washington’s prayerful pose became one of early America’s most famous images. For nearly 200 years American children were taught how Washington’s prayers at Valley Forge turned the Revolutionary War to our advantage. U.S. Presidents routinely reminded Americans of Washington’s prayer. Artists and sculptors recaptured this prayer. In fact, paintings of Washington

praying at Valley Forge were more popular than his famed crossing of the Delaware. It was common to see this image in homes, schools, courthouses, businesses and churches.

George Washington recounted that terrible winter of 1777-1778.

“No history”, he wrote “can furnish an instance of an army’s suffering such uncommon hardships as ours has done...to see men without clothes to cover their nakedness, without blankets to lay on, without shoes, by which their march might be traced by the blood from their feet, and almost as often without provisions...marching through frost and snow, and at Christmas taking up their winter quarters within a day’s march of the enemy... is a mark of patience and obedience which...can scarce be paralleled”.

Washington’s desperate prayers and pleas worked.

When Virginia Governor Patrick Henry heard of the conditions at Valley Forge, he was furious. He petitioned Congress to do something immediately...and they did. Within days a new quartermaster had resupplied Washington’s troops with clothing, food, blankets, ammo and other supplies. In February a Prussian drill master arrived to train Washington’s volunteer army to become better soldiers. Morale immediately boosted.

Throughout that terrible winter, particularly at Christmas, a certain carol was sung.

Its opening lyrics stated: “God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay”. This song reminded colonial patriots that God was in control, and He alone provided the “rest”. With God on their side, what did they have to fear? Furthermore, they rode with the great George Washington - a patriot general who had already escaped death five times. Horses were shot out beneath him. His hat was shot off. His clothes were nicked and ripped by bullets.

However, a Lutheran clergyman named Henry Muhlenberg was more impressed by George Washington’s spiritual leadership. He wrote: *“I heard a fine example today, namely that His Excellency General Washington rode around among his army yesterday and admonished each to fear God, to put away wickedness... and to practice Christian virtues...From all appearances General Washington does not belong to the so-called world of society, for he respects God’s Word, believes in the atonement through Christ, and bears himself in humility and gentleness”.*

(continued on page 7)

George Washington and Valley Forge:
How a Christmas Prayer Saved America

(continued from page 6)

Muhlenberg concluded: *“Therefore, the Lord god has also singularly, yea, marvelously preserved [George Washington] from harm in the midst of countless perils, ambuscades, fatigues, etc., and has hitherto graciously held him in his hand as a chosen vessel”.*

George Washington’s leadership and God’s Providence through that desperate winter eventually turned the War to the colonial patriots.

It inspired more patriot soldiers to enlist and lit a new fire under Americans to support the war.

What was Washington’s response for God’s Provision at Valley Forge? He ordered a “religious day” of “fasting, humiliation and prayer” on April 22, 1778. Washington commanded all troops in his Continental Army to cease work and go to church for spiritual instruction and worship. Washington proclaimed: “To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to laud the more distinguished Character of Christian”.

America has faced many desperate Christmases since Valley Forge in 1777. We’ve endured war and Depression, crisis and catastrophe, bitter cold and deadly disease. And yet through each historic trial, and an increasingly secularized culture, most Americans still pause to reflect on the Reason for the Season.

It doesn’t have to be Christmas for us to endure a winter of trial and trouble.

Perhaps Washington’s prayer life should be a model for us? And maybe that old carol that sustained the troops at Valley Forge should become our song?

“God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.

For Jesus Christ our Savior, was born on Christmas day;

To save us all from Satan’s power, when we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,

O tidings of comfort and joy”.



**2nd Vice
President**



Our initial applications and supplementals of our ancestors and the work of our society are key in ensuring those who enabled our independence are recorded for all time. I have had the wonderful opportunity to further this goal by working with the SAR's Patriot Research System (PRS). New and Supplemental applications are approved proofs of our ancestors and our descent from them by genealogists. These applications need to be preserved and available for future generations, researchers, and potential members. That's where the PRS comes in. Approved applications are transcribed, connected to the profile of the patriot, and ensure information is reflective of the most recent, accurate records. If you wish to contribute as well, please reach out to prs@sar.org and request to be a volunteer. 40 hours of volunteering (a combination of 80 application transcriptions and/or 160 profile updates) qualifies you to receive the Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal, with olive branches for each additional 40 hours. As an aside, I am doing a similar project, though far less organized than the PRS's mission, with the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans. If you have any desire to assist in identifying the Spanish American War Veterans of New Mexico, please reach out to me.

Tanner Guskey- 2nd Vice President

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

February 21-23, 2025, Battle of Valverde Reenactment -- Battle reenactment, held each year at Escondida Bridge, just north of Socorro. Contact Anthony Campisi at campamc@comcast.net for reenactment information.

May 24th 2025 10:30am

Presentation by Tanner Guskey and Viki Simkins at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library on Hereditary Societies and Genealogical Research Aids.

In Memoriam



TWO LONGTIME NEW MEXICO SAR MEMBERS HAVE GONE TO THEIR FINAL REWARD



Ralph Earl Barker Jr.
27 Nov 1945 - 18 Oct 2024

Compatriot Barker joined the Albuquerque chapter 02 Nov 2013 and held several officer positions in the chapter and state.
Ralph was a veteran of the U.S. Army, Vietnam War era.
There was no obituary published as per his request.

Victor R. Ortega
05 Jan 1933 - 17 May 2024

Compatriot Ortega joined the Santa Fe chapter on 30 Jan 1953 and was an active member until his passing in 2024 (71 years). He was the grandson of a signer of the New Mexico constitution.
Victor was a veteran of the U.S. Army served in the maintenance of the Nike Guided Missiles in Washington, DC area.
After his military service he became a lawyer, serving in several high ranking positions in the State and Federal government.

CHAPTER / STATE HAPPENINGS!

October 19th chapter meeting welcomes 2 new members!



New member induction ceremony.



Compatriot William R. Oltmanns



Compatriot Glen L. Porter



Sunrise Lions Club banner of appreciation presented by TJ Vallejos

On October 23rd, the Three Rivers chapter in cooperation with the Desert Gold chapter DAR planted New Mexico's first SAR Liberty Tree at Berg park in Farmington, NM



Pictured (L-R): Robert E. Vance, Douglas Smith, Kris Jones, Cecil Scales, George Brenton, Elliott Hebert and Clifford Roberts

CHAPTER /STATE HAPPENINGS!



Compatriot Kinsella discusses the Spanish Presidio soldier lance, shield and heavy leather coat.

On Nov 8th, the Speakers Bureau presented to the Hometown Heroes Academy homeschool group at Veterans Memorial Park.

The presentation focused on Revolutionary War weapons, tactics and notable battles. After the presentation, the students held a mock battle to put to use what they learned.



Compatriot Guskey marches onward to battle in support of his troops.



The speakers bureau made 5 presentations to 6 different classes at Vista Middle School on December 5th. Total audience of about 220 students, teachers and guests. Presenters were TJ Vallejos, Harry Murray, Bill Kinsella and Robert E. Vance.



New member Richard Newton receives his rosette at the Nov 9th meeting. He was also presented with the Military Service Medal.



Our Veterans Day Parade marchers included a drummer this year, Tanner Guskey, and WOSAR Andrea Vallejos carrying our New Mexico flag. (L-R) Robert E. Vance, Tanner Guskey, Harry Murray, TJ Vallejos, Bill Kinsella and Andrea Vallejos.



CHAPTER /STATE HAPPENINGS!

Veterans Thanksgiving

On Monday, November 25th, members of the Gadsden Chapter - NM SAR, in cooperation with the Dona Ana Chapter DAR, VFW Post 10124, VFW Post 10124 Auxiliary, The Sunrise Lions Club, and other friends and volunteers provided an early Thanksgiving meal to approximately 30 veterans and guests at the Oak Street Veterans Transitional Living apartments in Las Cruces, NM.

The meal consisted of five turkeys, a large ham, and an abundance of side dishes, desserts, and drinks. Several came back for second helpings, and there was enough left over for a few more meals this Thanksgiving week.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time or provided items for this event, which we hope to continue in the future. A special shout out and thanks go to Compatriot TJ Vallejos for taking on the role of "ring-master" and coordinating everything with Roland LaFranc (one of the long-time residents) to bring this to a very successful conclusion.



NMSODAR Patriot Marker dedications:

Chaves County Courthouse
November 11th

La Luz Pottery Factory
December 20th
w/ NMSODAR State Regent
Eleanor Ortiz



Wreaths Across America
Fort Bayard National Cemetery
December 14, 2024



(L-R) Bill Kinsella, Robert E. Vance, Tanner Guskey, Glen Porter

Tanner Guskey presents a Vietnam War Veteran lapel pin to a Native American veteran. (More than 45 Vietnam War veterans were honored with lapel pins).



Robert E. Vance presents a wreath to 1 of 10 service representatives to lay at the Remembrance Ceremony.

COMPATRIOT ESCAPADES

SAR Memorial Benches



Compatriot Shannon Franks at Andrew Jackson's plantation, Hermitage, TN

Savannah and Naomi Granddaughters of Compatriot Harry Murray, in Savannah, GA



NSSAR NEWS

COMPATRIOT ESCAPADES



Fall Leadership this year, Oct 3-5, was moved from the historic Brown Hotel to the Galt House just a few blocks from HQ. While we lost the “turn of the century” charm of the Brown, the Galt House offered larger rooms including guest, banquet and meeting rooms allowing for a better experience overall. However, the layout of the Galt was not as “mingle” friendly thus the ability to network was diminished.

A hot topic issues presented was the budget. Below are some numbers from the proposed 2025 that was passed as presented.

Total dues revenue based on projected membership of 34,631 - \$1,604,000. This amount pays for the operational costs of the Society. Total new application revenue is projected to be \$321,000 and supplemental application fee income: \$135,000. Based on the analysis of supplemental applications received after the fee increase, if the rate stays steady this income will be about \$63,000, far short of the projection. This revenue is earmarked for the genealogy department so that dues revenue is not used for application processing.

Some of our major expenses include: payroll and benefits - \$450,000; office - \$77,000; IT - \$82,000; insurance - \$58,000; audit & legal - \$61,000; PG expense - \$45,000; awards - \$14,000; CAR support - \$5,000; education committee - \$10,000; marketing and PR - \$56,000 and SAR annual conference of the Revolution - \$10,000. There is nothing in the budget for: national dues billing (Club Express, which was \$50,000 last year); member orientation & training; nor 250th anniversary marketing. This is not a complete list of revenue and expenses, but an overview of some. At the end of the budget there is a line of “Revenue greater than Expenses” of \$63,000, which gives us a “Net increase in Net Assets” of \$63,000. Coincidentally, this is much higher than the \$50,000 that was cut from the budget for the promised “National dues billing” project. This excess was used to create a new

(continued on page 13)

A GOOD DAY TO YOU SIR!

Longtime chapter member and past President, William Baker and his wife Erin have relocated to Utah and extend an invitation to visit to any who may be passing through. We extend our best wishes as they open this new chapter in their life!

7230 S Jonathan Cir
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

William Baker (575) 640-5861

“We'll have plenty of guest space for anyone who wants to visit.”



Compatriot Harry Murray visited the San Miguel Chapel in Santa Fe.

The top middle painting was painted by Compatriot Bill Kinsella's ancestor Bernardo Miera Y Pacheco in the 1700's.



NSSAR NEWS

COMPATRIOT ESCAPADES

(continued from page 12)

budget item of a “funded operating reserve fund” of \$50,000, the amount that was cut for Club Express. This was stated to address the issue of having to borrow against a line of credit at the end of the year when our dues revenue has not come in yet but the expenses need to be paid. Club Express addresses some of this issue as dues payments are remitted to National when they are paid instead of waiting until after reconciliation in January.

Other notes from Leadership:

Genealogy - Genealogist General Gary O. Green reported on “Approval ready applications - those that did not need any further information from the state point of contact in order to approve. Of the 10 applications from NM that were approved, 7 (or 70%) were approval ready. The national average was 64.24%.

Museum and Education Center - Construction of phase 0 is expected to be 100% complete by January 2025. Phase 1 & 2 will be the construction of the initial exhibit areas: Cabinetry/millwork; 15 life form figures in uniform and A/V interactive exhibits. Trustees approved the budget for these phases at about \$4.5 million, which is being funded by a \$5 million grant from the Kentucky State Legislature. A soft opening is scheduled for July 2026 to coincide with the 250th Anniversary celebrations.

It was announced that the 2029 Congress was awarded to Texas (city TBD). The next 5 Congresses are: 2025 - Uncasville, CT; 2026 - Greensboro, NC; 2027 - New Orleans, LA; 2028 - OH and 2029 - TX.

Meritorious Service Medals are now authorized for multiple presentations.

There will soon be a new Youth Protection Training module available. Current certificates remain valid through their expiration date. All officers and any member who might interact with youth should complete this training, available under the eLearning tab on our national website.

Current queue time for applications: (as of this writing, 23 Dec) oldest date for a new application awaiting review is 26 Aug 2024 (17 weeks); oldest for supplemental is 02 Oct 2023 (64 weeks).



Vallecito Reservoir
Vallecito, CO



Shady Lady Saloon
Silverton, CO
(My patronage was not allowed)



MERRY CHRISTMAS
from
ALTO, NM