



NMSSAR

NEW MEXICO SOCIETY OF THE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

JIM P THORNTON, PRESIDENT

Fourth Quarter 2009

Gene Tomlinson, Editor

President's Column

Jim P. Thornton

It's a new year and while we are making plans for the coming year a look back at our accomplishments is needed. In the last year or so, we revised our Constitution and Bylaws; for the State and the Local Chapters, developed an Officers Handbook; developed a website; published Quarterly newsletters; updated our history; celebrated our centennial year as a society; and are in the process of establishing a Color Guard.

This coming year we need to take a good look at our standing committees and ask "are they functioning in a way that meets our current needs? Do we have enough people working on each committee? Where can each of us serve?"

New officers of the society will be install at the Annual Meeting in Las Cruces on February 20, 2010. I am sure they will find many challenges in the years ahead.

To all of you who supported me for the last two years as the New Mexico Society President – Thanks. I did very little, while you did a lot.

Treasurer's Report

John Farris

Our bank balance as of 31 December 2009 is \$ 10,257.75. This increase from my last report is due to several activities. One of these was the payment of 2010 dues of \$2,320. There was a donation of \$100. for clothes for the Veteran's Hospital and \$2,700 donated for Color Guard Uniforms. Administrative and Award/Certificate costs including roster and newsletter printing, postage, copying and purchase of certificate and awards totaled \$528.77. There were additional expenses associated with the visit of PG Ed Butler of \$510.

The Secretary's Corner

Ray Alexander

On November 7 we had 37 members, wives and other guests attend a dinner for Honored Guest NSSAR President General Ed Butler and his lovely wife Robin at the Hotel Albuquerque. President General Butler met all members and gave an inspiring address. Guest dined on a choice of Prime Rib, Chicken Wellington or Seared Salmon.

We are currently in the process of gathering year-end reports from all officers and committee chairmen. If you haven't sent your report in detailing your committee or office activities for 2009, please do so as soon as possible. We are also collecting dues for 2010. As of the end of the first week of January, we've received dues from 62 of the 109 current members. Thanks to those of you who have sent in your dues and if you haven't sent your dues in as of yet, please do so as soon as possible. If dues aren't received by January 31st the member will be dropped from membership and required to be reinstated if dues are received after January 31st. Along with the dues letter, we also sent a Ballot to elect officers for the coming year. The deadline for the ballot is January 15th. We'll announce the officers for 2010 after this date.

We continue to add new members to the society and we would like to welcome new Albuquerque members George Garcia and Robert Alexander; and Gadsden (Las Cruces) member Wayne Mitchell. We have three applications and one Junior Member Application currently being processed at National. We ended the year (2009) carrying 109 members in the New Mexico Society.

We are sad to report the passing of Compatriot **William Canup** of the Santa Fe Chapter. .

Editors Corner

This is the eighth newsletter I have produced and sent out over the last two years. All of them are available on our website. We have come a good distance in that time, growing our Chapters and the State Society. Now it is time for us to reach out to New Mexico and tell our story and show the colors. We will embark on that road in 2010. Asked for donation for the Color Guard, many of you have responded and we have over \$3,200 for our uniforms. We are ready to cut cloth and present and parade the Colors. More donations are welcome. We are also ready to have some of you go into the schools and tell our story to history and civic classes. This will happen in the 2010.

We will continue to award recognition to our JROTC/ROTC and Eagle Scouts and to present certificates to deserving citizens for their patriotism and civic support. We will honor our own members for their efforts and service to the SAR.

Our Society needs your personal support and involvement on our committees and our community outreach. Please, contact me at **505-438-7300** or your Chapter Officers and volunteer some of your time.

Being a member of the SAR requires more of each of us than just our dues and maybe a financial donation. If we are to carry out our mission, we must work within our local area and our State to demonstrate who we are and more importantly what we stand for. Just to say we are members is not enough, we must demonstrate our patriotism and be involved in activities that are appropriate. Our Color Guard and working with our young people are imperative. Telling the children in the schools about the Revolution that founded this nation and the people who were involved is necessary. Leaving a positive and lasting impression on our youth should be our goal.

We need every member to support these efforts if we are to carry out our mission and to be active patriots in our time.

We will be asking many of you to serve on Committees and to Chair Committees as we go into 2010. E-mail Gene Tomlinson at SARGMT@aol.com if you can support.

Where do we go from here?!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Gene Tomlinson, President Elect 2010

Over the past two years, we have made major progress in several areas. We have by Constitution and By-laws, defined the New Mexico Society and each of its Chapters. We have developed a Handbook, a guideline for our officers and for the Committee Chairman that will put our programs in place over the next several years. We have set up a two-way communication link for all our members using a quarterly newsletter like this one and a website that contains information pertinent to our Society and its Chapters. We have embarked on the establishment of a Color Guard with members in all our Chapters. We have continued our awards programs for the ROTC and the Eagle Scouts and begun programs that will lead to our involvement with our young people in the various schools near our Chapters.

What is next, you ask? Well we need to have a more active awards committee and to add members to the ROTC and Eagle Scout sub-committees to assure that we are present in all areas of New Mexico. We need to let our communities know that we have a Color Guard that can contribute to the state's patriot and national holidays. We need to gain approval of the superintendent of school and the principals of schools so we can enter the classrooms and talk to the young people. We need to inspire our young people to be good and contributing citizens. All of these activities are a part of the SAR Mission. (See the bottom of page 4)

We need to be active on several fronts and thereby build our membership by showing that we are a society worth belonging to. As suggested in the Editorial, we need you to participate.

If we participate in these activities in 2010 and 2011, we will be ready to support the State of New Mexico's Centennial celebrations in 2012 and to make a fine showing at the 122nd Annual Congress of the SAR in Phoenix, July 7-11, 2012. We can present Colors at the Congress and we can carry our weight at the registration table, an assignment we have already accepted.

That is where we are headed! I hope all of you will be going with us. What a trip!!

Wreaths Across America

Wreath Presentation at the State Capital

On December 7th NMSSAR First Vice President Gene Tomlinson joined Jimmie Fennel, President of the Santa Fe Chapter and his wife, Jennie, DAR Regent, to take part in presenting a Wreath in the Rotunda of the State Capital in Santa Fe honoring all those who have served our nation since the formative years in the late 1700 to today. This marks the second year the NMSSAR has been a part of this ceremony.

This service was timed to take place at the same time wreaths were presented at all State Capitols across the United States and at the National Capitol by the President of the United States honoring all our service personnel.

The NMSSAR had the honor to speak to the citizens and military personnel assembled during this presentation.



Santa Fe Chapter President, Jimmie Fennell addresses the participants in the Rotunda of the State Capitol.

Less we forget – Let us remember and honor!

Wreath laying at the National Cemetery



On December 12th over 2,800 wreaths were laid on the graves of service personnel at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe. After a formal presentation honoring all branches of the service, members of many organizations including the DAR and the NMSSAR placed the wreaths at the markers across the cemetery. Last year 1,700 wreaths were placed in the Santa Fe cemetery. LANL employees provided \$6,000 for wreaths and came to participate in large numbers. The Santa Fe Chapter of the NMSSAR provided \$150 for wreaths. The program grows each year

This service also was carried out at over 360 National Cemeteries across the nation at the same hour on the same day. All the graves at Arlington, VA were marked with a wreath.

Each year in co-operation with the DAR we can add wreaths to our cemeteries. We will endeavor to increase our support and involvement.

VA Secretary Shinseki Honored for Patriotic Service

Sons of American Revolution to Honor Achievements

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki was awarded the Gold Good Citizenship Medal by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) during an honors dinner Jan. 9 at the Mount Vernon Inn. The gala was hosted by the George Washington Chapter of the SAR.

“Serving as Secretary of VA is a chance for me to give back to those on whose shoulders I stood – those of our greatest generations who served in World War II and Korea, those with whom I went to war in Vietnam, and those young people I sent to war as Army Chief of Staff,” Secretary Shinseki said. “Caring for those who have ‘borne the battle’ is both an honor and a privilege.

“At VA, we advocate for Veterans – it is our overarching philosophy and, in time, it will become our culture,” he added.

Secretary Shinseki’s remarks came amid the department’s massive payout of educational benefits to Veterans under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. To date, more than 162,000 beneficiaries have received payments and over \$1.3 billion dollars have been paid out. That program, along with plans to expand health benefits to an additional quarter-million Veterans previously not eligible, are part of Secretary Shinseki’s transformation of the VA into a more people-centric and results-driven organization.

The George Washington chapter, based in Alexandria, is the largest SAR unit in Virginia. Past recipients of the Gold Good Citizenship Medal include Presidents Truman, Ford and Carter.

Our Mission to fulfill NSSAR Mission

See the National Mission Statement in the next column. In short we should present and parade the Colors and we should be talking to the youth in the schools about patriotism and good citizenship.

President General Honors

New Mexico Heros

On Saturday 7 November 2009, the National President General of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Judge Edward Butler, Jr. honored two New Mexico recipients of the Order of the Purple Heart. The ceremony took place at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park. The colors were presented and posted by the New Mexico Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron. Our national anthem was sung by Jamie Foster of Albuquerque. President General Butler then presented SAR challenge coins to Sargeant First Class Greg M. Holmes of Santa Fe, NM and Christopher Ragland of Moriarty, NM and thanked them for their sacrifices and services to the country.



Mission of the SAR

The SAR is a historical, educational, and patriotic non-profit, United States 501(c)3, corporation that seeks to maintain and extend

- * the institutions of American freedom and appreciation for true patriotism
- * a respect for our national symbols and the value of American citizenship
- * the unifying force of e pluribus unum that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation and one people.

We do this by perpetuating the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men who achieved the independence of the American people in the belief that these stories are universal ones of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefield and in our public institutions.

NMSSAR Celebrates 100 Years

President General Ed Butler addresses the NMSSAR at its Centennial dinner at the Hotel Albuquerque on November 7th, 2009



The President had been hosted by our Society with meetings in Santa Fe and visits to the Spanish Cultural Center in Albuquerque and the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe. He discussed the activities in progress in Louisville, KY to complete our new Genealogical Library and the Center for Advancing America's Heritage.

He further indicated that work was in progress to associate our Center with the Smithsonian and thereby add funding to expand its collection as well as to preserve the items already in our Museum. He and his wife, Robin, are involved in extensive travel across the continent and overseas on behalf of the SAR. They are visiting most of the states and are planning to travel to Spain. In Spain they hope to meet with King Carlos and to inaugurate Spain's SAR Society.

Origin of the New Mexico Society of the Sons Of The American Revolution

On December 11 1908, Sons of the Colorada SAR, Doctor John Wilson Bider, George Alexander Campbell, Frank W. Clancy, and George S. Klock met in Dr. Elder's office and discussed the formation of a New Mexico Society. Eligibles were invited to a banquet on December 26, 1908. Twenty members of the National Society attended and agreed to form a New Mexico Society of the Sons of the American Revolution under the direction of vice-president Guyer and Joseph F. Tuttle Jr. Of Colorado. At this time New Mexico was still a territory. There was 22 charter members and 6 transfers from other states. The following were the first officers of the newly formed society and elected for two years.

President: Dr. John Wilson Elder Abq
VP Harold H. Hurd Roswell
VP Arthur M. Edwards Farmington
VP Pitt Ross Abq
Secretary George A. Campfield Abq.
Registrar Frank W. Clancey Abq.
Historian George S. Klock Abq
Treasurer Orville Arthur Matson Abq.
Chaplain C. C. Bateman Fort Bayard

Thus was the origin of the New Mexico Society. At this time there were no chapters. In 1948, interest in forming an Albuquerque chapter was hampered by the loss of the State's Constitution and Bylaws and the inability to obtain one. The Albuquerque Chapter was finally established on 12 January 1951. On 19 February 1952 a charter for a Santa Fe chapter was approved. The Las Cruces Chapter (now the Gadsden Chapter) was established on 15 February 1986.

From::Commander Russell L. Camp USN (Ret.)



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