



NMSSAR

NEW MEXICO SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

EUGENE M. TOMLINSON, PRESIDENT

First Quarter 2010

Gene Tomlinson, Editor

President's Column

Eugene M. Tomlinson

On Feb. 20th in Las Cruces our 2010 Society officers were sworn in. We embark on a very active year with several projects underway and others in the wings awaiting detailed planning, resources, and personnel. We have an active Awards Committee under Capt. Walter Baker that includes the Eagle Scout program, Jim Thompson chair and the JROTC/ROTC program Jim Hesse chair. Eagle Scouts have been awarded certificates and ROTC units are selecting their awardees. Flag Certificates to businesses and individuals that correctly and consistently fly the Colors were awarded in Santa Fe and Las Cruces.

We have activated an Education Committee that will place Compatriots in classrooms. The program will begin in Albuquerque Public Schools and then move to Santa Fe and Las Cruces area schools in the fall. The SAR supplies a lot of material and we are working on adding the Spanish involvement in our Revolution to the lesson plans. Robby Robertson is the chair along with Sam Baty and Vernon Casius, David Harris and others in the Albuquerque Chapter.

The Color Guard is now nine members strong with Uniforms to be completed by June 1. We will be presenting the Colors at our June 5 BOM meeting at the Isleta Resort in Albuquerque.

All Compatriots are invited to this ABQ Chapter/BOM meeting featuring Tom Chavez as our speaker. You don't want to miss hearing Tom.

We need more active members to participate in these programs and we need to add more members to the New Mexico Society. Jim Thornton, Past President/Trustee is heading up our membership Committee with George Biles. and Ray Alexander.

Secretary's Corner

Ray Alexander.

On February 20th we had 37 members, wives and other guests attend the Board of Managers meeting in Las Cruces where the guest speaker was Dr. Lowell Catlett of New Mexico State University.

. At the end of January we had 91 members and have since added 2 reinstatements and 4 new members. We would like to welcome new Albuquerque member Charlie Maldonado, Statewide member Bill Yost who lives in Ranchos de Taos and Gadsden (Las Cruces) members Kevin and Jens Sandberg who live in El Paso. Jens is our first Junior member. We have one application currently being sent to National and several prospective members working on applications.

Treasurer's Report

John Farris

Our bank balance as of 25 April 2010 is \$ 9,622.06. This decrease from my last report is due to several activities. One of these was the payment of 2010 membership fees of \$2,460. Color Guard expenses totaled \$2,982. There will be an additional \$1,800 required to complete the first eight uniforms. Donations for Color Guard uniforms added \$500 plus \$1,400 from seven members of the Color Guard. Administrative and Award and Certificate costs including roster, website and newsletter printing, postage, copying and purchase of certificate and awards totaled \$738.69.

We will have \$220 left in our Color Guard donations funds after purchase of eight uniforms. **We will need to have additional donations as the Color Guard grows to its expected complement of 14 members.** In addition the Gadsden Chapter will be expanding its Colonial Guard unit and will require funds to support its activities.

Editor's Corner

This is the ninth newsletter I have produced and sent out over the last two years. This year we have added reporters in all our chapters to support the newsletter and to bring a local and personal flavor to our reports. This newsletter is primarily covering the activities of our Albuquerque Chapter and the Honoring of the Bataan March Survivors in Albuquerque. Some of their outreach activities might also be effective in our other Chapters.

As your State President as well as editor, I am looking for an editor to replace me. The NM Society will grow and develop as more Compatriots join in to take on a position or just a specific assignment of their interest.

The SAR is a patriotic brotherhood that was formed to perpetuate patriotism, tell the story of our Revolution and the founding fathers and the documents that guide our country of free people with rights and responsibilities unlike most of the rest of this world.

The NMSSAR has a website that is our primary method of communicating with our Compatriots and others that may be interested in our Society. We have a newsletter that seeks to inform you of our present activities and future plans. We have many committees both at the State and the Chapter level that require your support. We have programs and projects that fulfill our mission and promote our activities. They will publicize our efforts and should help to increase our membership.

We do these things at our own expense because we are dedicated to our mission and want to insure that our children and grandchildren know and understand the great gift and ultimate sacrifice that our founding fathers gave to us.

This is why we need to be active and to reach out and to teach. It is our responsibility because we were somehow blessed to be descendents of those who gave us this country and our way of life.

It may have been difficult to become a member. It was a lot of work and investigation. Now we can help others who need to complete their applications and join in our efforts. One might say it is our duty to ourselves and our heritage that we join and that we serve.

Gene Tomlinson, Editor

Albuquerque Chapter Develops New Initiatives Sam Baty and Vernon Casias

Under the leadership of its new President, Michael Barger, the Albuquerque Chapter has developed a number of new thrusts designed to make the SAR more appealing to eligible personnel who are not yet members. A first step in accomplishing this objective is to make eligible personnel aware of the SAR. A number of Chapter members noted it is an unfortunate reality that many people have never even heard of SAR. It is thought that using the public media in a more proactive fashion, such as acquiring radio and TV spot announcements, can inform people of what SAR does, that it is a nonprofit organization that is accepting new members.

A second thrust will be to induce eligible people to join by lining up interesting speakers for the year, such as personnel from the NM Veterans' Affairs/Services Division, the NM State Historian's Office, members of the Navajo Code Talkers, organizers of the Bataan Memorial Death March, and other speakers of interest..

A parallel but supportive effort will involve fundraising activities.. The Chapter is exploring several ideas to raise funds as a non profit organization.

Finally, our Chapter is investigating ways of becoming "better" and more attractive to eligible people who are not yet members. Ideas under consideration are to contact public libraries, churches, and senior centers for speaking engagements, contact the City of Albuquerque to find a way to get an SAR article printed in the "Neighborhood Newsletter".

NMSSAR First Vice President Ted Adams shows the way by service to his Compatriots

Teddy Adams has continued his Herculean efforts on behalf of the ABQ Chapter. In addition to serving on the Student Education Committee, Ted is chairing the committees on Color Guard, VA Clothing, and Calling. In one week, Ted made over 100 calls. He also is the State's Society Historian with special duties assigned by the State President. Hats off to you, Ted.

**2010 NMSSAR ABQ Officers Installation
January 23, 2010 in Albuquerque**



From right to left: Jim Thornton (NMSSAR President presiding), Michael Barger (ABQ Chapter President), David Harris (Second VP), Vernon Casias (Secretary), John Farris (Chaplain and Treasurer), Raymond Alexander (Registrar and Historian), (Picture by Claryce Yost)

SAR ABQ Chapter President Michael Barger (left) Presents Distinguished Service Award to Past ABQ Chapter President Will Hanrahan



Request to all Compatriots

We still need donations to the Color Guard Uniform Fund. We have completed eight of the Uniforms, but have a ninth member and expect up to 14 for a full complement. Your continued support would be welcome. Make your donation to the NMSSAR Color Guard and send it to John Farris, Treasurer.

SAR ABQ Chapter President Michael Barger (right) welcomes Richard Almeter as First Vice President of the ABQ Chapter



David Harris (left) joins Committee Chair James Robertson on ABQ Chapter's crucial Student Education Committee



**SAR ABQ Chapter Initiates New Student Education Thrust
Sam Baty**

Under the leadership of committee chair Jim Robby Robertson, the ABQ Student Education Committee met to discuss plans for a media blitz to advertise the desire of SAR to inform school students of the importance of the Revolutionary War and how it enabled us to establish our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of Free Men and Women. (con't on page 4)

Attending the Student Education Committee meeting were Robertson, David Harris, Ted Adams, and Sam Baty. Robertson discussed the approval that he had received from the Superintendent of Albuquerque Public Schools via the Office of Communications to liaison directly with the individual schools. Robertson confirmed that we need to poll the schools to determine their degree of interest in such a program. He also stated his belief that Charter Schools will be very interested recipients of the proposed SAR program. Finally, David Harris added that home school organizations should not be overlooked.

ABQ Chapter Members and Wives Attend Event Honoring Bataan Survivors Sam Baty and Vernon Casias



From left to right: Belinda Garcia, George Garcia, Ray Alexander, David Harris, Ted Adams, Vernon Casias, Ken Yost, and Claryce Yost (ABQ DAR – Zia Chapter)

Based on the timely notification by SAR ABQ Secretary Vernon Casias, members of the ABQ Chapter turned out in mass to honor Bataan survivors at an April 10 ceremony in Albuquerque. Seven chapter members and two wives honored the survivors of one of the most horrific events in American history. In 1942, after fighting for three months on starvation rations and with little ammunition and medicine, 12,000 Americans and 66,000 Philipinos finally capitulated to Japanese forces. The capitulation started what became known as the infamous Bataan Death March. During six days of torture, and with many denied food, water, or medical care, the Japanese marched the very brave Americans and Philipinos to the prisoner-of-war camp known as Camp O'Donnell. Generations of Americans since World War II have vowed never to forget the sacrifice of the

brave men and women of Bataan and Corregidor. Honored at the event were Vincent Silva, Max Causaus, and Faustino Olguin. The NMSSAR salutes these brave men and the others who gave so valiantly in perhaps America's darkest hour. History now shows beyond a shadow of a doubt that the time these brave men bought the country with their blood, pain, and sweat contributed immeasurably to the eventual winning of the War.

Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Park Filled with Attendees to Honor Bataan Survivors



The Bataan Survivors along with family members and friends are assembled at the front of the packed Memorial Park. Five members of the NMSSAR ABQ Chapter are seated in the front directly across from the Bataan survivors.

SAR ABQ Compatriots Ted Adams (left) and George Garcia (second from right) meet with Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry and Mayor's Assistant Sally Mayer



Compatriot Ted Adams worked tirelessly during the event to assure that NMSSAR received great exposure and that it was highlighted on ABC TV Channel 7 at both the 1730 and 2200 newscasts. Compatriot George Garcia provided a great service by introducing our organization to Mayor Richard Berry of Albuquerque and his assistant, Sally Mayer. (con't on page 5)

Master of Ceremonies Cris Underwood, Director, Filipino-American Foundation of New Mexico and Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Foundation of New Mexico



Cris Underwood introduced the speakers and gave an impassioned speech regarding how much the sacrifices made by those who defended Bataan mean to all of us.

Keynote Address Given by Brig. General Jack R. Fox. (Gen Fox is a prospective member of the SAR)



General Fox, Deputy Adjutant General, New Mexico National Guard, gave a moving tribute to the Defenders of Bataan. He provided attendees with a detailed account of what these brave, selfless soldiers encountered as they fought for every inch of ground against an enemy which was far superior in numbers and equipment, but not in courage.

White Surrender Flag Removed, Stars and Stripes Raised



Bataan Survivor Vincent Silva (right) Reads the Poem “The Defenders of Bataan”



92 year-old Vincent Silva, author and veteran of G battery, 515th Coast Artillery, read the poem “The Defenders of Bataan.” There were few dry eyes in the crowd by the time he finished.

Bataan Survivors Max Causeus (seated, rear) and Faustino Olguin (seated, front) Take in the Activities at the Event



In their nineties, Max Causeus and Faustino Olguin met well-wishers and related tales of their experiences during the defense and later fall of Bataan. Both had vivid recollections of the occurrences during this fateful time period.

In a moving tribute, the white flag of surrender was lowered and the Stars and Stripes raised. Directly below the American Flag was the POW/MIA Flag, reminding us of the overwhelming sacrifices that the defenders of Bataan had made. Other memorable events on the program that will never be forgotten were: the National Anthems of the Philippines and the United States of America; the Pledge of Allegiance by Boy Scout Troop 459 and Venture Crew 459, who represent the future of this great Nation;



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