



San Francisco Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

Libertas et Patria

INSTITUTED JULY 4, 1876



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FROM THE FOUNDING CHAPTER OF THE SAR ESTABLISHED JULY 4, 1876

Happy New Year January Newsletter



NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday February 19 2014

9:00 a.m. Ceremony at George Washington High School
12:00 noon Lunch at the Presidio Café



Constitutional scholar Mark Meuser – playing the role of Thaddeus Hayes, “a friend of James Madison” who traveled through time to our January 23, 2014 meeting – gave a “first-hand” account of the Madisonian “movement” and the framing of the Constitution.

THE TEACHER WHO SAVED GEORGE WASHINGTON

Jo Marcus, the retired SFUSD teacher who rescued the great bronze statue of George Washington from a junk pile south of Mission will be honored at the Washington's Birthday celebration on February 19 at G.W. High School, 600 32nd Ave., San Francisco. The JROTC cadets will march with us, the band will play, the choir will sing on Wednesday, the 19th, a school day, instead of the actual February 22 G.W. birthday which this year falls on a Saturday. Brief presentations will be made by representatives of the school and the SAR and DAR chapters. A red, white and blue wreath will be placed at the statue of the Father of our Country. Afterwards, join us for lunch at the Presidio Café at the Golf Course, 300 Finley Rd., the Presidio of San Francisco.

TOP WINNERS NAMED IN SFSAR ESSAY CONTEST

Marco Antonio Perez, an Advanced Placement U.S. History student at Lowell High School, which he notes is "the oldest high school west of the Mississippi," is First Prize winner of the SFSAR 2014 essay contest, for his essay, "The Battle of Paoli." A California Academy of Sciences intern, the son of Mexican immigrants also demonstrated interest in history when he was a student at Aptos Middle School, where his final project was on "The Cuban missile crisis and how it affected the American psyche."

Marco Perez' essay, which has advanced to CASSAR's statewide Knight Essay competition, tells how the Revolutionary cause turned a military defeat into a propaganda victory. The "Paoli Massacre," in which 271 patriots were killed in a bloody battle in Chester County, Pennsylvania on September 20, 1777, "turned out to become a rallying cry for Americans" against alleged British atrocities "for the rest of the Revolutionary War." Like the Boston Massacre, the "Paoli Massacre" was important to a new nation that "needed its people to be united and all fighting for the same cause."

Tevin Keme, writing on "Women of the Revolution," is the winner of Second Prize in the SFSAR essay contest. "Many women in the American Revolution fought on the sidelines, assisting their husbands during the fight, looking after the homestead and children, nursing wounded soldiers, spying for the Patriot cause, and furnishing the supplies and materials needed to wage war," he wrote. "Some even broke the status quo and fought side by side with the men, often surreptitiously disguised as men." Thousand of lives were saved by Jane Tuers, Emily Geiger, and the mysterious Agent 355 (of the Culper Ring) and many other anonymous women who were intelligence agents for the Revolution, Tevin Keme wrote.

Christine Chang's essay, "The Building Block of America," took Third Prize for her story of the Constitutional Convention and the charter that created the American government. The compromises reached at Philadelphia created three branches of government, a bicameral legislature, and a system of checks and balances "where not one party would be able to dominate," she wrote. The necessary-and-proper clause, the interstate commerce clause and judicial review are cited as key elements of our constitutional system. The essayist added that "the Framers thought about the problems that laid ahead and created the document in order to bend and solve upcoming problems, such as slavery."

The three winners were chosen from among 29 entries from Lowell High School students. Chapter Education Director Curran Engel narrowed the list to ten best from which the chapter president chose the top three.

DR. DEDO UNVEILS SPY SECRETS FROM 1778 AND 1941

Compatriot Herb Dedo, in his capacity as our chapter's historian, shares fascinating historical vignettes at our regular meetings. The Culper spy ring, regarded as the most

successful intelligence-gathering operation on either side in the Revolutionary War, was the topic of Dr. Dedo's tale in our November 21, 2013 meeting at Sinbad's. Two weeks later, we gathered for lunch at Sinbad's on the 73rd anniversary of the Japanese Empire attack on Pearl Harbor. Dr. Dedo then reported on the post-war interrogation of a Nazi officer who told about U.S. signal intelligence that warned Washington of the raid that was to take place on December 7, 1941.

COMPATRIOT CHRISTOPHER DeNOIA IS INDUCTED

Christopher DeNoia was inducted as a member of SAR at our January 23 meeting. He gave us a memorable briefing on his patriot ancestor, Lt. Joseph Balcom, who took the oath to the newly organized government at a town meeting in Mansfield, Connecticut on September 9, 1776, and served under General Washington.

RESPONDENTS SUPPORT MEETING SCHEDULE

Here's how SFSAR members responded to a recent survey: Should plenary chapter meetings continue to be held on the fourth Thursday? Yes 5, No 2. Should social continue to be at 11:30 a.m. and business lunch at noon? Yes 7, No 0. Should we continue to meet at Sinbad's? Yes 4, No 3. Should we continue to celebrate Washington's Birthday each February at G.W. High School? Yes 7, No 1. Should we always take part in Memorial Day events at the Presidio of San Francisco? Yes 7, No 1. Should we continue to have a Constitution Day banquet each September? Yes 6, No 1. Should we continue to have plenary meetings in January, March, April, June and November? Yes 5, No 0.

One respondent asked what is a plenary meeting? One proposed we "share meetings with DAR." Another commented, "Nice website. Add a forum for members who can't attend meetings. No doubt some members would like to spend time with their families on the weekends. I think any weekday would be better."

How to encourage attendance at meetings? A survey respondent commented: "Speakers and presentations that address contemporary issues that are much the same as those which prompted the original American Revolution, instead of just Norman Rockwell flag-waving. Our Revolutionary forebears were social activists and reformers, not sentimentalists. Don't just get misty-eyed about the American Revolution of 250 years ago; reactivated it today. That's how to be a son of it." One more thing: "Listen to KPFA for a while and get some ideas for Revolutionary speakers."

"Continue to have good speakers," a member said. "Have some guest speakers," said a member who had not attended a meeting in two years.

AWARDS RECOGNIZE SUPPORT AND SERVICE FOR S.A.R.

Chapter President Tony Bothwell Sr. presented a medal and certificate on January 23 to Past President Alexander Mitchell for generous support for the NSSAR Center for Advancing America's Heritage. He also presented Distinguished Service awards to Registrar Grant Noah, Awards Chair Ed Sebree and former First Vice President Fred Bothwell. Compatriot Mitchell presented a Distinguished Service Award to Color Guard Commander Bob Ebert. Past President Mark Rose presented a Distinguished Service Award to our current chapter president for past service as chapter chancellor. Each chapter president who was in office in the past five years has been authorized to

present one Distinguished Service Award to someone who gave outstanding service in each presidential year. Compatriots Rose and Mitchell had one-year terms as president in 2009 and 2010 respectively. Compatriot Bothwell is in the last year of his second two-year term as chapter president. "I am working on my farewell address," he said. Meanwhile, Dr. Herb Dedo has accepted appointment as First Vice President. Compatriot Rob Brown has been named Acting Secretary.

