



San Francisco Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



Libertas et Patria

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NEWS FROM THE FOUNDING CHAPTER OF THE SAR—JUNE, 2011



NEXT SFSAR CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday, June 23, 2011 , 11:30 AM

SINBAD'S RESTAURANT, PIER 2, SAN FRANCISCO

June 23rd Joint Meeting with the Redwood Empire Chapter . . . Lt. Col. Bill Schwartz to speak on West Point & the American Revolution



West Point graduate ('59) and Vietnam platoon leader (infantry) Lt. Col. William (Bill) Schwartz will speak at the June SAR Meeting on the topic of West Point, Then and Now, including discussions of the role of West Point in the American Revolution, and the success of West Point recruitment efforts in the Bay Area today. The meeting, set for 12 noon, Thursday, June 23 at Sinbad's restaurant on the Embarcadero, is to be a joint meeting of the San Francisco and Redwood Empire chapters of SAR.

Bill's Army assignments included teaching company tactics at the Army Infantry School and, after earning a masters degree from the American University, teaching national security policy at West Point (Asst. Professor). Since retiring from the military in 1980, he has worked for several major defense contractors and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

For the last dozen years, he has worked as a volunteer with the West Point Admissions Field Force and coordinates the efforts of 20 Admissions Liaison Officers who recruit in 197 schools in Congressional Districts 7, 9 and 10. He personally recruits in the Oakland public high schools, including Oakland Military Institute Academy.

Fallen Warriors Honored at the Presidio

Compatriots Marston Watson AND Bob Ebert presented wreaths honoring World War II veterans and "the Greatest Generation" on Memorial Day at the Presidio National Cemetery. Carrying the "76" Stars and Bars flag, Chapter President Tony Bothwell Sr. marched behind the wreath-bearers, followed by Compatriots Tim Boddy, Tony Bothwell Jr., Charles Likas, Grant Noah, Mike Phelps, Jim Schuyler, Ed Sebree, Larry Wynne, and a contingent of family and friends. Speakers at the Presidio event included Maj. Gen. J. Michael Myatt, USMC (ret.), who explained the burdens of having sent brave warriors into harm's way. Our chapter president issued a statement that said: "We remember the Californios and all who added the American cause of 1776.... Here we honor all who have served – from those who gave their last measure of devotion at Lexington and Concord, to those whose mission to Abbottabad achieved a measure of justice for the victims of 9/11." Meanwhile, NSSAR President General James David Sympton issued a statement that said: "This day of remembrance of our nation's veterans is an important reminder of the sacrifices our men and women have made to preserve our freedom. It is not a time to give political speeches...."



SAR's Non-Political Tradition is Debated

The May issue of this newsletter reported on President Bothwell's statement, delivered at our Apr. 28 chapter meeting, on the nonpolitical nature of SAR." Compatriots from many chapters around the state e-mailed their support for this position. Comments included: "I sincerely appreciate your article regarding non-partisanship. Partisanship is fact one reason I have chosen to become inactive, and were I not a Life Member would not join. This country is about 50-50 politically, and by being partisan, we reduce our membership potential by half." "I heartily agree." "[SAR] certainly doesn't seem like an appropriate venue for political debates." "[W]e properly celebrate and preserve the history of the (from front page) Revolution. Our role is not to develop such in the context of today's world." "Thanks for this -- excellent, excellent, excellent!" "I agree 100%!" A dissenting view was expressed by CASSAR President John Dodd, who said that SAR can be a forum for arguments about "Obamacare" and the Patriot Act. Favoring educational programs about the American Revolution and honoring the Nation's heroes, Bothwell commented: "By pursuing initiatives on themes that unite us, we can optimize the impact of SAR programs; encourage each other and fellow citizens to celebrate and participate in the Nation's democratic processes; and build SAR membership."

Board of Governors to Vote on SFSAR's Life Membership Fund Proposals CASSAR President Dodd Seeks Agenda Items for Fall Meeting

CASSAR President John Dodd has called for proposed Bylaw changes and other resolutions for consideration at the CASSAR Board of Managers Meeting in San Diego during November 3-6, 2011.

The SFSAR has proposed two resolutions for the Fall 2011 Meeting that Chapter President Bothwell introduced at the Spring 2011 meeting. They are as follows:

- (1) Motion to rescind the November 2010 motion which reduced Life Membership Fund payment of dues to chapters from \$15 to \$10 per member (33.3 percent reduction) and left payment of dues to the State Society unchanged at \$18 per member.*
- (2) Motion to reduce Life Membership Fund payment of dues to chapters by \$2.30 to \$12.70 per member (15 percent reduction) and payment of dues to the State Society by \$2.70 to \$15.30 per member (15 percent reduction) and to make this change effective January 1, 2011.*

Webmaster Miller Announces Valuable Resource for Members

SFSAR Webmaster pro tempore Jon Miller has developed the new resource: a Chapter website at www.sfsar.webs.com.

Members can keep up-to-date with chapter activities by using several convenient sections of the website. Under "News," Members will find vital, often time-sensitive, information. The "Meetings" section keeps Members up-to-date on the plans for future meetings. Under "Commentary" Members can place thoughtful analyses of topics of (from previous page) interest to the Society and its members. The "Officers" section

provides contact information for each of the Chapter's leaders. Under "\$4SAR" Members will find a new and easy way to help the Chapter support its many activities. Other sections are "Membership," "Awards" and "Bylaws." Miller has asked Chapter Members, "Please explore the new site, make sure that its works well for you and make suggestions for improvements by emailing me at JM330@att.net."

Compatriot Grant Noah Honored for His Service

Our chapter registrar, Grant Noah, leads a volunteer corps of some 15 Sonoma County vets who perform as civilian honor guard at funerals of those who served honorably in the military, as the Press Democrat newspaper reported May 29. "On almost 1,400 occasions, Noah has appeared at vets' funerals or burials to salute them and confirm to their loved ones that what they did or were prepared to do in uniform is remembered and valued," reporter Chris Smith wrote. "These people served their country," said Noah, a 71-year-old Cold War-era Army veteran whose ancestors answered the call at Jamestown and in the Revolutionary, Civil and Second World wars. A gesture of respect at a former service member's funeral, he said, is "the least we can do."



SAR Good Citizenship Medal Is Presented

Henry Trione was awarded the SAR Good Citizenship Medal May 25 in the Cardinal Newman Senior Awards ceremony in Santa Rosa. Henry, who has been accepted to attend Stanford University, previously won SAR's Knight Essay Contest on "The Industrialist of Independence, Robert Morse." The medal recognizes the student's notable service on behalf of American principles. *(Photo by Kirk Bietau)*

Did you know.....????

The Americans of 1776 had the highest standard of living and the lowest taxes in the Western World! Farmers, lawyers and business owners in the Colonies were thriving, with some plantation owners and merchants making the equivalent of \$500,000 a year. Times were good for many others too. The British wanted a slice of the cash flow and tried to tax the Colonists. They resisted violently, convinced that their prosperity and their liberty were at stake. Virginia's Patrick Henry summed up their stance with his cry: "Give me liberty or give me death!"

There were two Boston tea parties! Everyone knows how 50 or 60 "Sons of Liberty," disguised as Mo-hawks, protested the 3 cents per pound British tax on tea by dumping chests of the popular drink into Boston

(from previous page) Harbor on December 16, 1773. Fewer know that the improper Bostonians repeated the performance on March 7, 1774. The two tea parties cost the British around \$3 million in modern money.

Benjamin Franklin wrote the first Declaration of Independence! In 1775, Franklin, disgusted with the arrogance of the British and appalled by the bloodshed at Lexington and Concord, wrote a Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson was enthusiastic. But, he noted, many other delegates to the Continental Congress were "revolted at it." It would take another year of bitter conflict to persuade the Congress to vote for the Declaration of Independence written by Jefferson -- with some astute editorial suggestions by Franklin.

John Adams defended the British Soldiers after the Boston Massacre! Captain Thomas Preston led some British Soldiers to aid another British Soldier who was having things thrown at him and was also hit several times with a board. After their arrival, the people continued to pelt the soldiers and finally shots were fired and the infamous "Boston Massacre" was over. Captain Thomas Preston and eight soldiers were charged with murder. Future President John Adams took up the defense of the soldiers. He, along with Joshua Quincy, was able to get all but two acquitted by a local jury. Those two were found guilty of manslaughter, but claimed benefit of clergy. This means that they were allowed to make penance instead of being executed. To insure that they never could use benefit of clergy again they were both branded on the thumbs.

History's first submarine attack took place in New York Harbor in 1776! The Connecticut inventor David Bushnell called his submarine the Turtle because it resembled two large tortoise shells of equal size joined together. The watertight hull was made of 6-inch-thick oak timbers coated with tar. On September 6, 1776, the Turtle targeted the HMS Eagle, flagship of the British fleet. The submarine was supposed to secure a cask of gunpowder to the hull of the Eagle and sneak away before it exploded. Unfortunately, the Turtle got entangled with the Eagle's rudder bar, lost ballast and surfaced before the gunpowder could be planted.

Benedict Arnold was the best general in the Continental Army! "Without Benedict Arnold in the first three years of the war," says the historian George Neumann, "we would probably have lost the Revolution." In 1775, the future traitor came within a whisker of conquering Canada. In 1776, he built a fleet and fought a bigger British fleet to a standstill on Lake Champlain. At Saratoga in 1777, his brilliant battlefield leadership forced the British army to surrender.