



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION BY THE MOTHER LODE CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

June 2012

Volume 5, Issue 6

# Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



Next meeting - June 26, 2012  
6:30 PM at Denny's Restaurant

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1 **Jim Harville** is a native Californian, being born and raised in Humboldt County. He worked in the commercial fishing and logging industries while living in that area. Jim moved to Rancho Cordova in the early 1990s where he worked in project and production management. He now calls himself semi-retired.

2  
3  
4 Jim has had a fascination with trains from an early age, and later took up railroad photography. He joined the Placerville Sacramento Valley Railroad [Organization] (PSVRR) several years ago, and was asked to join its Board of Directors in 2010. He was elected as President of PSVRR earlier this year. Jim and his wife, Beth, have five children, and still live in Rancho Cordova.

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6  
7 In the 1850s, California was in the midst of the Gold Rush. Getting mail and supplies to the population was a major undertaking. Everything had to take the several month long journey through deserts and over the Sierras, or it had to go south by sea through the Isthmus of Panama.

8  
9  
10 The SVRR was the first railroad west of the Mississippi River. Its original planned route was cut short because the actual construction costs in the end were 50% more than originally anticipated. The inaugural run on Feb 22nd, 1856, was quite an event, with a breakdown of the locomotive just short of Folsom. Despite this, passengers arrived safely, and were treated to a party that lasted into the next morning.

11  
12 The SVRR and P&SVRR made their mark on history. These railroads forged the roads that led to the building of the Transcontinental Railroad.

The PSVRR is a 501.3c non profit organization. They are committed to "...*protect, preserve, and develop the Folsom-Placerville Railroad Right-of-Way...*". To that end, their vision is quite simple.



Denny's Restaurant  
3446 Coach Lane  
Cameron Park, CA.

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park.

# The President's Corner by Bob Conover

<b>Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2012</b>	
<b>President</b>	Bob Conover
<b>1st Vice President</b>	Open
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Tom Adams
<b>Secretary</b>	Tom Douglas
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Douglas
<b>Registrar</b>	Jim Young
<b>Chaplain</b>	Gene Myers
<b>Dispatch Editor</b>	Vacant
<b>Historian</b>	John Krahn
<b>Webmaster</b>	Vacant
<b>Committee Chairmen</b>	
<b>Eagle Scout Program</b>	Vacant
<b>ROTC Program</b>	Vacant
<b>Knight Essay Contest</b>	Vacant
<b>Valley Forge Program</b>	Vacant
<b>Law Enforcement Program</b>	John Krahn
<b>Flag Certificate Program</b>	Doug Stone
<b>Americanism Poster Contest</b>	Tom Adams

This will be the last meeting before the summer break. I hope we have a good turnout of our members as we have a great speaker. Jim Harville's presentation will cover the history and current status of the PSVRR (Placerville Sacramento Valley Rail Road), the first railroad west of the Mississippi. I would like to request that everyone please come a little early so we can have all meals finished and the tables cleared before the speaker begins. This allows the speaker to have all of our attention without someone bussing tables in the middle of his presentation.

During the 2012 CASSAR Spring Meeting, our chapter was recognized as the winner of the Colonel Richard A. Locke Membership Award for the highest percentage of membership growth for our size chapter. I recently received a \$250.00 check for the chapter from the CASSAR Treasurer that accompanies this award. Hopefully we can continue what we have started for next year.

We still are looking for a newsletter editor to continue the "Dispatch", so if anyone wants to get involved, please let me know. I know Tom would be more than happy to help you get started.

I would like to receive ideas on having a Chapter Christmas Dinner like the one we had for the Service Awards Banquet. I will open up an idea portion of the meeting to ponder the idea.

I hope you will all be able to attend the June 26th meeting. I do want to wish everyone a safe and happy summer. I'll be looking forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on September 25th.

In Patriotic Service.

Bob Conover



**Bob Conover**  
Mother Lode President

*Bob Conover can be reached at 1-530-677-8826 (cell: 530-409-8829),  
or at: bobtrap@comcast.net  
Mother Lode Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Tax ID #26-1428350*

**Editors Note:** The statements and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Editor or of the California or National Societies, Sons of the American Revolution.

## Mother Lode Chapter Recognizes Winners in the CASSAR Brochure Contest

Past President and current Mother Lode Chapter Secretary Tom Douglas, and Tom Adams, CASSAR Youth Activities Director, awarded medallions and checks to winners of the CASSAR Brochure Contest from the Camerado Springs Middle School, and from the Rolling Hills Middle School. The winners were later recognized at the May meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter.



**Camerado Springs Middle School Winners: L-R Tom Douglas, 1st place, Abbey Albertazzi, 2nd place, Paige Downie, 3rd place, Brianna Shortt, with Principle Meg Enns, Teacher Rob Flowers, and Tom Adams.**



**Rolling Hills School winners L-R: 3rd place Nicole Spring, 1st place, Caileen Yu, 2nd place, Emily Ochs, with Tom Douglas. Caileen Yu was the overall CASSAR winner.**

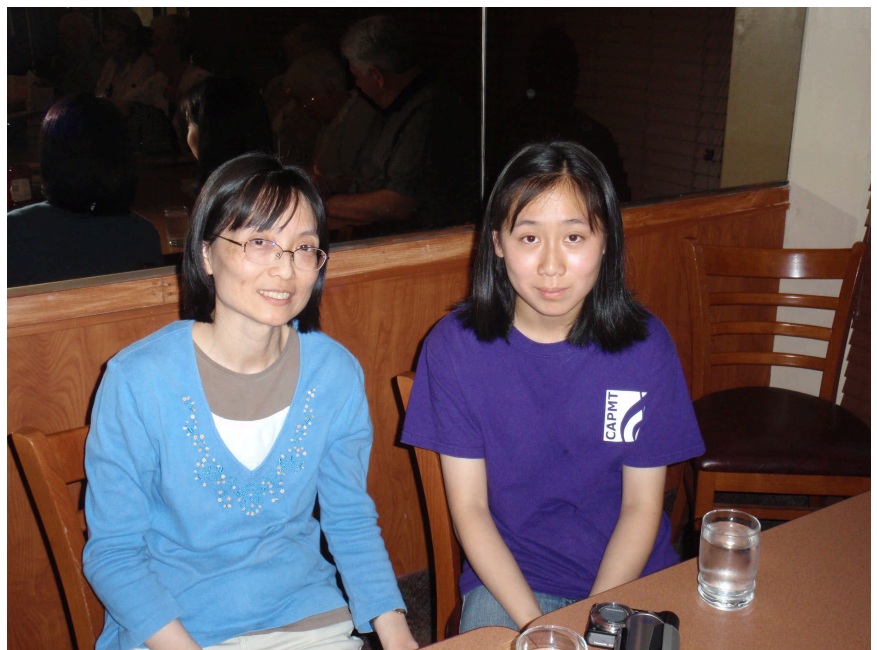
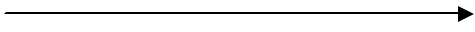
## Caileen Yu's Brochure Wins Top Chapter and CASSAR Awards

During the May meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter, Caileen Yu, an eighth grade student at Rolling Hills Middle School, was recognized as the first place winner at the Mother Lode Chapter level in the CASSAR Brochure Contest. She was awarded the winner's medallion and a check for one hundred dollars from the Chapter. A few minutes later, CASSAR President Keith Bigbee, and CASSAR Vice-President North Jim Faulkinbury, presented her with a check for three hundred dollars, and a large ribbon for placing **first** in the CASSAR competition, held during the 2012 Spring CASSAR meeting in Sacramento. Caileen was accompanied by her mother, Margaret Yu.



L-R: Tom Douglas, Caileen's teacher Kevin Tierney, Tom Adams, Jim Faulkinbury, CASSAR VP North, Caileen Yu, overall winner of the Brochure Contest, Bob Conover, and Keith Bigbee, CASSAR President.

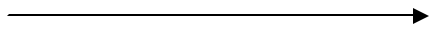
Caileen Yu, Chapter and CASSAR Brochure Contest winner, and her mother, Margaret Yu.



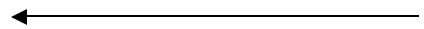
# Max Bonini's Poster Wins Top Chapter Award

During the May meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter, Max Bonini, a fifth grade student at Holy Trinity Elementary School, was recognized as the first place winner at the chapter level in the NSSAR Americanism Poster Contest. He was awarded the winner's medallion and a check for fifty dollars from the Chapter. A few minutes later, CASSAR President Keith Bigbee presented Max with a check for one hundred dollars, and a large ribbon for placing **third** in the CASSAR competition. Max was accompanied by his mother, Joann Bonini. If the name Bonini looks familiar to Mother Lode members, it might be because Max's older sister, Mia, was the Chapter's Americanism Poster Contest winner three years ago!

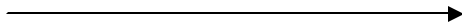
L-R: Tom Douglas, Max Bonini, Bob Conover, Mother Lode President, and Keith Bigbee, CASSAR President



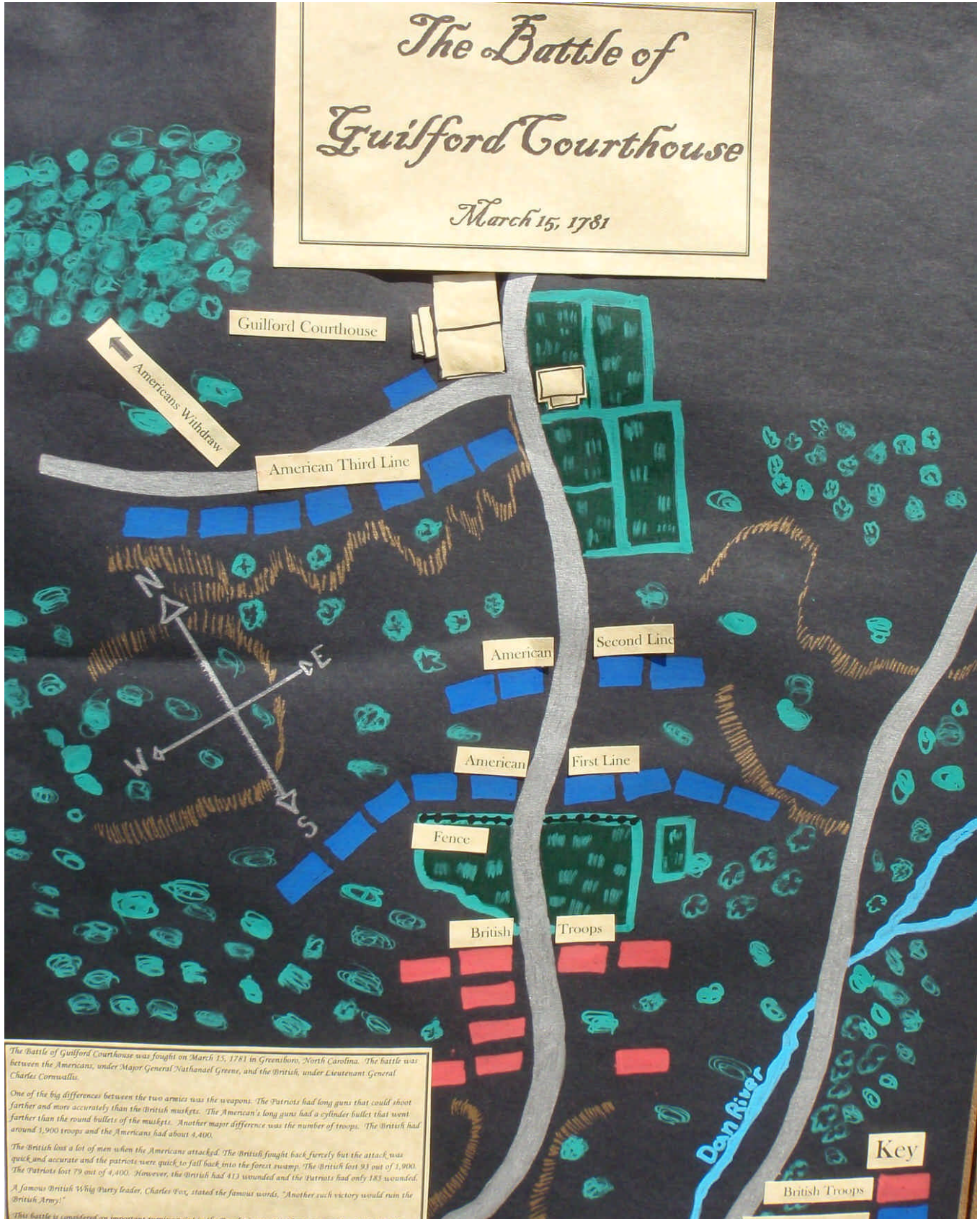
L-R: Tom Adams, Tom Douglas, Max Bonini, Bob Conover, and Keith Bigbee.



Max and his mother, Joann Bonini



# Max Bonini's Poster



The Battle of Guilford Courthouse was fought on March 15, 1781 in Greensboro, North Carolina. The battle was between the Americans, under Major General Nathaniel Greene, and the British, under Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis.

One of the big differences between the two armies was the weapons. The Patriots had long guns that could shoot farther and more accurately than the British muskets. The American's long guns had a cylinder bullet that went farther than the round bullets of the muskets. Another major difference was the number of troops. The British had around 1,900 troops and the Americans had about 4,400.

The British lost a lot of men when the Americans attacked. The British fought back fiercely but the attack was quick and accurate and the patriots were quick to fall back into the forest swamp. The British lost 93 out of 1,900. The Patriots lost 79 out of 4,400. However, the British had 413 wounded and the Patriots had only 183 wounded. A famous British Whig Party leader, Charles Fox, stated the famous words, "Another such victory would run the British Army!"

This battle is considered an important turning point in the Revolutionary War.

## CASSAR Ladies Auxiliary

By Marilyn Chilton

The Ladies Auxiliary of the California Society Sons of the American Revolution has been of major assistance to the California Society since it was organized over 25 years ago. The ladies group has raised thousands of dollars to help the Society in carrying out its mission of inspiring patriotism and informing others of the contributions of our revolutionary war ancestors.

Membership in the Auxiliary is open to the wives, mothers, daughters, step-daughters, sisters, aunts, nieces, and other women relatives of members of the California Society Sons of the American Revolution who are in good standing.

The ladies attend all CASSAR Spring Membership and Fall Manager's Meetings, plus they schedule many of their own events. They hold their own board and membership meetings, and sponsor a trek/field trip of local interest at each state meeting. In addition, many ladies attend the National Congress held every year in a major city in the United States. This year's Congress will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, from July 7 – 11.

At the California meetings, the ladies sponsor raffles, coordinate the prizes, and add decorations to the tables. They also give monetary gifts to the CASSAR winners of the Knight Essay Contest, the Eagle Scout Contest, the JROTC Contest, the Americanism Poster Contest, and the Valley Forge Teachers Contest.

Membership dues in the Ladies Auxiliary are \$10.00 per year, and can be sent to:

Mrs. Karen (John) Dodd  
10073 Highcliff Drive  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, husband's name, and the name of his SAR chapter. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Chilton.



Marilyn Chilton



# Photos from the May Meeting



Lisa and Doug Keefauver



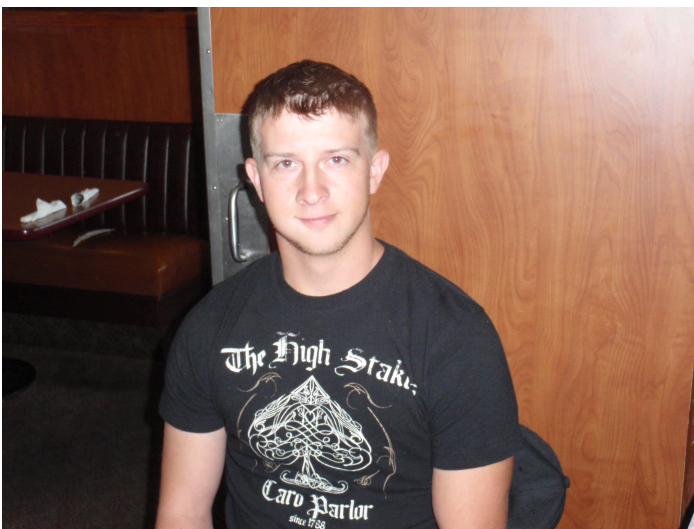
Gene and Jeanie Myers



Karen and Kevin Tierney



Joy and John Krahn



Prospective member Alexander Brady



CASSAR President Keith Bigbee



# More Photos from the May Meeting



Secretary Tom Douglas and President Bob Conover



Past CASSAR President Wayne Griswold, Karen Faulkinbury, and CASSAR V-P North Jim Faulkinbury



Jim Young and Marilyn Chilton



President Bob Conover presents CASSAR President Keith Bigbee with the Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation.



CASSAR President Keith Bigbee



President Bob Conover presents Marilyn Chilton with the Certificate of Appreciation for her presentation on the Ladies Auxiliary.



# Minutes from the meeting held on May 22, 2012

By Tom Douglas

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Conover at 6:30 PM at the Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park, California.

The Invocation was given by Chaplain **Gene Myers**, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Jim Young**, and the SAR Pledge was led by **Tom Chilton**.

There were eight members and 15 guests present. The guests included **Marilyn Chilton**, Sacramento Chapter DAR, **Jeanie Myers**, El Dorado Chapter, DAR, **Joy Krahn**, LAUX, **Jim Faulkinbury**, CASSAR Vice President North and his wife, **Karen Faulkinbury**, **Caileen Yu**, youth award recipient and her mother, **Margaret Yu**, **Kevin Tierney**, teacher and prospective member and his wife, **Karen Tierney**, **Keith Bigbee** CASSAR President, **Doug Keefauver**, prospective member and his wife, **Lisa Keefauver**, **Alexander Brady**, active duty U. S. Marine and prospective member, **Max Bonini**, youth award recipient and his mother, **Joann Bonini**.



**Tom Douglas**  
Secretary and Past President

The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Fifth grade student Max Bonini was introduced to the members and guests and was presented with the awards for his poster. Max was presented the awards for first place in his school and first place in the chapter by chapter Secretary Tom Douglas and CASSAR Youth Activities Coordinator Tom Adams. Max was also presented a check from the chapter for fifty dollars for his accomplishments in the poster contest. CASSAR President Keith Bigbee then presented Max with a large red, white and blue ribbon w/rosette along with a one hundred dollar check for third place in state competition at the CASSAR Spring Meeting held in Sacramento this past April.

Eighth grade student, Caileen Yu, was introduced and was presented with her awards for winning the Chapter and CASSAR Brochure Contests. She was presented awards for first place in her class, first place in her school, and first place in the chapter by Compatriots Douglas and Adams. Caileen was also given a one hundred dollar check from the chapter for her accomplishments in the brochure contest. CASSAR President Keith Bigbee, along with CASSAR Vice President North Jim Faulkinbury, then presented Caileen with a large red, white, and blue ribbon w/rosette and a check for three hundred dollars for winning the CASSAR competition at the CASSAR Spring Meeting held in Sacramento this past April.

Reports: **Secretary** Tom Douglas reported on his participation, along with Tom Adams, on youth award presentations for the brochure and poster contests. Compatriot Douglas enjoyed the enthusiasm shown by both the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. He looks forward to continuing to do the presentations in years to come.

**Treasurer** Tom Douglas reported a balance of \$2,516.50 in the checking account, and \$501.00 in the savings account. There are \$150.00 in outstanding checks that have not been cashed by youth award winners.

**Registrar** Jim Young reported on ongoing prospective members Keefauver, Tierney, and Brady.

**Historian** John Krahn again reported he has not received any of the history items from the past historian. Secretary Douglas said he would do his best to acquire the items.

**CASSAR Youth Activities Coordinator** Tom Adams reported he was able to get the Civil Air Patrol to present the History and Etiquette of the American Flag at the next CAR meeting. Compatriot Adams is looking for a volunteer(s) to give an educational presentation on the United States Constitution at a future CAR meeting. Compatriot Adams expanded on the youth awards presentations at the various schools.

# Minutes from the meeting held on May 22, 2012

By Tom Douglas

(continued from page 10)

President Conover asked the membership to consider the responsibility of becoming editor of the Mother Lode Dispatch. Tom Chilton is acting as editor for the present time. President Conover presented to the historian, John Krahn, the award certificates presented at the CASSAR Spring Meeting. They included most CASSAR Programs Participation, Most Publicity, Most Publications, Most Chapter Meetings, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Best Website.

CASSAR President Bigbee was asked if he had any comments from the floor. He mentioned a state proclamation on which he was working, and would explain more later in the meeting as speaker. Jim Faulkinbury, CASSAR Vice-President North, mentioned from the floor that the state membership had finally reached 1500. He thought some of the activity in applications might be from SAR becoming part of Ancestry.com.

Marilyn Chilton gave a presentation about the CASSAR Ladies Auxiliary (LAUX). She gave us information on becoming a member of the auxiliary, their help with CASSAR projects, especially fall and spring meetings. They have given generously to the work of the CASSAR with time and money. Marilyn invited all wives of the chapter to become members of the Auxiliary.

Tom Chilton and Jim Faulkinbury presented two flags from the Sacramento chapter's collection. The flags were the 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Rifles Flag and the Green Mountain Boys Flag.

CASSAR President Bigbee spoke about the state reaching 1500 members, and how that may have been achieved through Ancestry.com and other on-line sites that promote genealogy. He introduced a new member booklet that will be given to each new SAR member to help them navigate through the objectives of the SAR. The booklet includes how meetings work, nominating and voting procedures for officers, and tries to answer the questions that new members have. President Bigbee introduced a CASSAR proclamation honoring the founders of the San Francisco Presidio. President Bigbee commented on the state society's commitment to the many state youth programs.

The Benediction was given by Chaplain Gene Myers; the SAR Recessional was led by Jim Young. After singing "God Bless America" the meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM by President Conover.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Douglas, Secretary



# Mother Lode Chapter's 2012 Calendar of Events

June 26 - Regular Meeting at Denny's.  
Jim Harville will speak on the history and status of the Placerville Sacramento Valley Railroad

July - No meeting

August - No meeting

September 25 - Regular Meeting at Denny's.  
CASSAR Executive Vice President Stephen Hurst will visit our Chapter. His presentation is titled "George Washington and Dale Carnegie".

October 23 - Regular Meeting at Denny's.

November 2 & 3 - CASSAR Fall Manager's Meeting to be held in Monterey, CA.

November 27 - Regular Meeting at Denny's.

December 15 - Wreaths Across America  
Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon

December - Regular Meeting at Denny's.  
Date to be determined

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