



A PUBLICATION BY THE MOTHER LODGE CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

March 2013

Volume 6, Issue 3

# Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



Next meeting - March 26, 2013  
6:30 PM at the Denny's Restaurant

## Posters, we've got Posters!!

Several years ago the SAR developed a contest for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students – the Americanism Poster Contest. Students are encouraged to make a poster (22 x 28) depicting a major event of the American Revolution. This year's theme is the Declaration of Independence. We will pre-judge the posters, and bring the best from each class to the March meeting. There we will ask you, our members, to judge and select the winners. I hope you will be able to attend, and see the talent some of these young students have. Thank you.

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The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park. Wives, guests and visiting compatriots are always welcome.

Come socialize with us at 6:15PM. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 PM.

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

## The President's Corner by Bob Conover

### Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2013

**President**

Bob Conover

**1st Vice President**

Open

**2nd Vice President**

Tom Adams

**Secretary**

Tom Douglas

**Treasurer**

Tom Douglas

**Registrar**

Jim Young

**Chaplain**

Gene Myers

**Dispatch Editor**

Vacant

**Historian**

John Krahn

**Webmaster**

Vacant

### Committee Chairmen

**Eagle Scout Program**

Vacant

**ROTC Program**

Vacant

**Knight Essay Contest**

Vacant

**Valley Forge Program**

Vacant

**Law Enforcement Program**

John Krahn

**Flag Certificate Program**

Doug Stone

**Americanism Poster Contest**

Tom Adams

The March Chapter meeting will be a very busy one with all the judging and decisions that have to be made. As of now, we will not have a speaker, but the time will be well spent on other important issues.

The first thing we must do is judge the posters submitted by the local fifth grade students for our Americanism Poster Contest. There will only be two schools this year that will be judged, as we need more help to expand the school lists. Tom Adams has in the past, along with others, worked hard to have more schools in the contest. The posters we judge, we hope, will repeat the success we had last year. Also, at this meeting, we must decide on how many and who to give the Public Service Awards.

The Awards dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2013. We must decide on what type of meal is going to be served, and what the cost of tickets will be. We have a choice of a buffet or a sit down style, like we did last year. The sit down is the best for time control and keeping the meeting on track. I'm hoping to have a costs estimate for both choices by the meeting.

In Patriotic Service,

Bob Conover



President Bob Conover

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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.





*Mark Your Calendar **Now!***

**138<sup>th</sup> Spring Meeting of the Membership  
of the  
California Society  
**Sons of the American Revolution**  
**April 11-13, 2013****

Sheraton Four Points Hotel – Ventura Harbor

Hosted by the Gen Patton Chapter

Registration is \$125 and includes Friday Luncheon, Saturday Luncheon and Saturday Banquet

Our special SAR Room Rate of \$119 includes FREE daily full breakfast

The Sheraton Four Points is located immediately adjacent to the Ventura Marina

Within easy walking distance is the Ventura Harbor & Marina with its mix of shops and restaurants, the Channel Islands National Park visitors center, and beautiful views of the Pacific Ocean, Channel Islands and beach vista.

Interesting sites within easy driving distance include restored downtown Ventura with its eclectic mix of shops and restaurants, the 1782 San Buenaventura Mission, the Camarillo Outlet Malls, the quaint town of Ojai, and the relaxation of the Ventura pier

Please Look for Your Registration form On-Line soon at [www.CaliforniaSAR.org](http://www.CaliforniaSAR.org) and in your Fall Meeting packets.

# Von Steuben Trains Washington's Troops

By Andrew J. Stough III. Edited by Harold Rogers

By March there was a new enthusiasm as the weather moderated and signs of spring began to appear. The crisis had passed; more supplies and new enlistees were coming to Valley Forge. In previous years it would have been time to build a new army around the few veterans remaining. This year it was only necessary to further train the old soldiers and incorporate the new recruits.

France, as well as Washington, believed that until the Americans could openly and decisively defeat a major British army on the open field, that total victory could not be assured and that independence could not be obtained from Britain.

In 1777, Count St. Germain, French Minister of War, persuaded a professional soldier, Count Von Steuben, to come to America to help Washington build an army which could stand up to the British army in open combat. He volunteered to serve the American army, asking only to be accepted on his own experience and merit to improve the quality of the army. He was approved and recommended to Congress by Benjamin Franklin as an excellent teacher of Prussian military tactics, an outstanding recommendation as Prussia was noted for its military excellence.



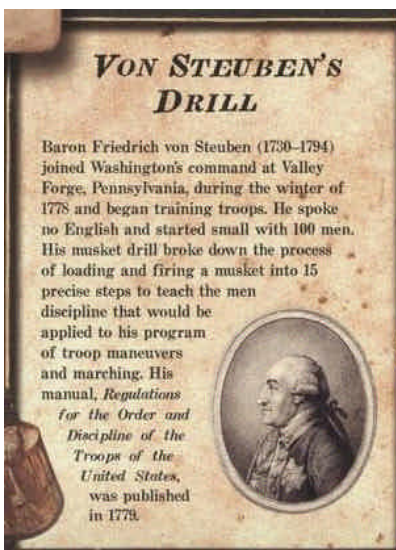
Baron Von Steuben

Washington had just seen the end of the Conway Cabal and was leery of any new appointments for foreign officers, but Von Steuben was unique and his credentials were impressive. He was born into a family of lesser Prussian nobility, which for years had produced soldiers of merit. He led a soldier's life from his 14th birthday becoming an aide-de-camp to King Frederick throughout the Seven Years War; for the next ten years he was Chamberlain for the Prince of Hohenzollern-Hechingen.

By the first of March he had begun to train the Continental Army. A tireless taskmaster, he personally drilled the men, even in the snow. Previously officers had not concerned themselves with drill or training; that was a duty for sergeants. Von Steuben insisted that officers train and drill their men so that everyone could understand and obey commands. He trained small units first, and then the small units trained larger units until the day came when the entire army moved as one. In European armies when an order was given it was obeyed without question. Von Steuben found that Americans had to be told why an order or maneuver was necessary, then they responded cheerfully. Under his tutelage the soldiers learned to understand military commands and to execute complicated battle maneuvers. The result was a more orderly, better-disciplined

army that was prepared to meet the enemy on his own terms, not only to withstand, but also to win a battle against the charge of British professionals using the cold steel of bayonets on an open field

Washington was delighted with Von Steuben and his results. Not only did he teach the army to drill and fight in the European manner, but he wrote the first set of military regulations to govern the actions of the army. The soldiers liked the "Old German" both for his results and his antics. He was ecstatic when the troops responded properly, flew into tirades when they failed, but was loved by all for his gruffness that masked a great affection and concern for the men. At first they resented the foreigner who needed an American to translate his French into instructions they could understand. In time the soldiers realized the improvement he had made in their ability as soldiers. The drills in the snow were forgotten, and the men now looked forward to the mass drills and parades, each unit trying to out-do the other. It was the beginning of an esprit-de-corps not to be exceeded by any European army, and the men felt that they owed it all to the "Old Dutchman."





# Von Steuben Trains Washington's Troops

By Andrew J. Stough III. Edited by Harold Rogers  
(continued from page 4)

It was just the beginning of Von Steuben's devoted service to the United States of America. After Gate's defeat at Camden in 1780, he was placed in command of the District of Virginia with the mission of training recruits for the Southern Army. He remained in that command until 1781 when he was succeeded by General Lafayette. For his service, Congress, in 1784, gave him a vote of thanks, a gold hilted sword, and later on a pension of \$2,500 dollars. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia gave him grants of land for his services in training their soldiers. Retiring from the army after the war, he spent the rest of his life in the town named for him, Steubenville, NY, where he died in 1794.

Von Steuben wasn't the only one responsible for this turn-around in the Continental Army. First there was the tough, resilient bodies and spirit of the common soldier and their officers, the result of living in, and coping with, life in this mostly new and raw land. Under such conditions only the strong survived. Couple that with an unswerving desire for independence and you have an army that could and did survive the rigors of that winter at Valley Forge. Finally, there was Washington!

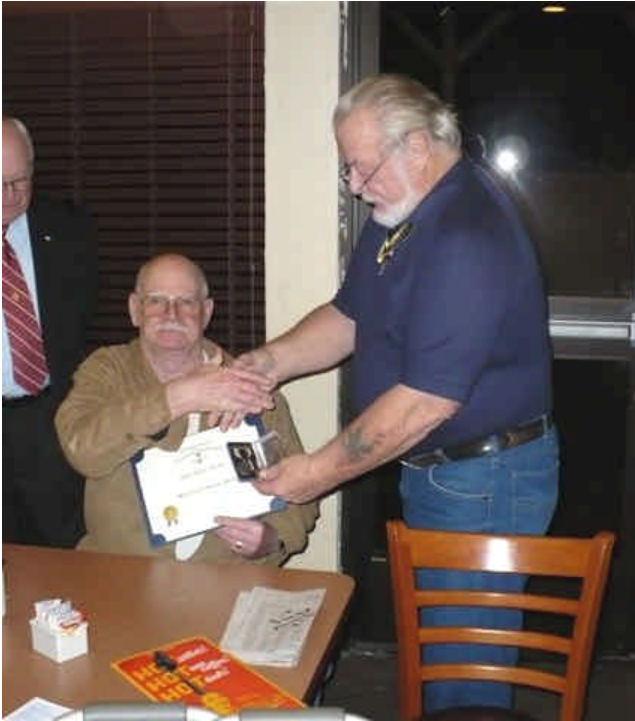
The differences in feelings the Army had for Von Steuben and Washington might be summed up as the difference between gratitude and a liking for Von Steuben's earthiness and training ability. They respected Washington's ability, and they were confident in his character and leadership. He had nurtured and led this army through good times and bad. He had never asked his men to do what he would not do, nor had he ever needlessly sacrificed men in battles that he did not expect to win. He had always gone into battle confident that the army could win. When the army faltered as it did at Princeton, he entered the forefront of the fray encouraging and urging them on to victory. His troops appreciated the fact that Howe could not pin him down, and that Washington always had a safe way out planned and available to lead his men to safety in event their position became untenable.

Note: The names of the ministers for war, Germain from Britain and St. Germaine of France, are purely coincidental. The similarity of names may stem from the numerous invasions of England, particularly the invasion and subjection of England by the Norman French under William the Conqueror in 1066, and the continued reign of William over both England and his previous Norman possessions in France.

References: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Ward's War of the Revolution, and Flexner's Washington.



# Photos from the February Meeting



**President Bob Conover presents John Krahn with the Meritorious Service Medal.**



**President Bob Conover presents Tom Adams with the Meritorious Service Medal.**



**President Bob Conover presents Rob Charny with the Certificate of Appreciation.**



**President Bob Conover presents Joy Krahn with the Martha Washington Medal for her service to the Mother Lode Chapter.**

# Minutes of the Meeting held on February 26, 2013

By Tom Douglas

President Bob Conover opened the meeting at 6:40 PM at the Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park CA. In the absence of Chaplain Gene Myers, Secretary Tom Douglas gave the Invocation. Compatriot Sam Bradley led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Compatriot Tom Adams led the SAR Pledge. President Conover then introduced the guests attending the meeting. Joy Krahn (LAUX), Jackie Purdy (El Dorado DAR), and Compatriot Tom Chilton (Sacramento Chapter member and Mother Lode Chapter Dual Member). Rob Charny, our guest speaker and his son, Jonathan Charny, were in attendance. The minutes of the January meeting as printed in the February Dispatch were approved.

Reports:

**Secretary:** Tom Douglas reported a chapter membership of 30 members. Although we gained four members during 2012, we had to drop three members due to non-payment of dues or resignations.

**Treasurer:** Tom Douglas reported a balance of \$1708.00 in the checking account after payment of national and state dues. There is a balance of \$502.00 in the savings account.

**Registrar:** Jim Young was not in attendance. His report was read by Secretary Douglas. "Chuck and Rob Smith's application packages are in Louisville and on the website. Nothing else to report"

**Historian:** John Krahn has nothing to report

**Youth Activities:** Tom Adams reported on the ongoing brochure and poster contests. The brochures were "judged" by the chapter at the January meeting. The "Mother Lode Players" presented programs about the Americanism Poster Contest to seven fifth grader classes at three schools. Mother Lode Chapter will get the posters from Jackson and Holy Trinity, and Sacramento Chapter will get the posters from Green Valley School. The "Mother Lode Players" consist of Compatriots Tom Douglas and Tom Chilton in period uniform and/or period dress. Jim Young and Bob Leach introduced the players and described the rules of the contest. Compatriot Wayne Griswold brought period artifacts to show the students.

President Conover then presented Compatriots John Krahn and Tom Adams with Meritorious Service Medals and Certificates. John Krahn was recognized for his support of the chapter by his faithful attendance at chapter meetings, his willingness to accept responsibility for the office of Historian, and for chairing the Community Service Awards Program. Tom Adams was recognized by the Mother Lode Chapter for his work as Youth Activities Director. Because of his efforts, the Mother Lode Chapter has been recognized as a leader in youth activities by our State and National Societies. President Conover then presented Joy Krahn with the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate for her ongoing support of the Mother Lode Chapters activities. Her support of the year end dinner and raffle, held jointly with the Sacramento Chapter, helped bolster the Mother Lode Chapter's bank account. Joy's presence, participation, and presentations at the chapter meetings are an important part of our chapter's life.

Guest Speaker Rob Charny regaled us with his humor and "facts" about the twenty-seven amendments that have been ratified since the original signing of the Constitution. Rob has personal feelings about the First, Second, and Fourth amendments which he considers the most important to him personally. But, by no means does that make the twenty-four other amendments any less important. Rob invited us to go to his web page at [www.theogt.tv/about/](http://www.theogt.tv/about/) to learn more about his feelings as to how technology has helped form our opinions about the Constitution. There was a time for questions and answers after Rob's presentation, and a number of attendees asked questions and shared their appreciation of his programs on channel 44. It was noted that Rob's son, Jonathan, was an important part of Rob's program.

The Benediction was given by Secretary Tom Douglas. The SAR Recessional was led by Compatriot Tom Chilton. Compatriot Chilton led the singing of "God Bless America" and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.



**Tom Douglas**  
**Secretary and Past President**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tom Douglas, Secretary  
Mother Lode Chapter, CASSAR

# Mother Lode Chapter's 2013 Calendar

March 26, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

October 22, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

April 12 - 13, 2013 - CASSAR 138th Spring Meeting  
Sheraton Hotel, Ventura, CA

November 1 -2, 2013 - CASSAR Fall Meeting  
To be announced

April 23, 2013 - Awards Banquet  
Time and location to be announced later.

November 26, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

May 28, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

December 14, 2013 - Wreathes Across America  
Sacramento Valley National Cemetery Dixon

June 25, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

December 2013 - Date and program to be announced

September 24, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

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**TO THE POSTMASTER  
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