

# FAIRFAX PARLOR NEWS

**AUGUST 2025**

## August Dinner 20 Features Appetizers, Risotto and Steak

Our August 20 mid-summer dinner will feature barbecued steaks prepared by Fred Schwab, appetizers and risotto created by Fred Codoni, and corn on the cob and dessert. Price is \$25 per person. Open to Native Sons and prospective members only. Bar opens at 6, with dinner at 7:30. Reservations from Kevin Courtz at [kcbscourT@aol.com](mailto:kcbscourT@aol.com) / (415) 717-4018 are limited to the first 75 who sign up.

## Parlor Funds

By Treasurer ERIC BOWEN

As of July 15, the Fairfax Parlor Stock Fund balance stood at \$375,000. As a reminder, in order to ensure good communication regarding the use of funds from the Parlor Stock Fund, our parlor voted to adopt a new policy at the April business meeting to inform parlor members in advance before any funds are withdrawn from the Parlor Stock Fund. To fulfill this obligation, we will use the newsletter to keep everyone up to date on the Parlor Stock Fund. There is no proposal on the August agenda regarding a request to transfer funds. At a future meeting, there may be a request to use a portion of the funds to pay for a bocce court at the Club and we will let everyone know in advance when that proposal is coming

## CALENDAR

[All events are at Fairfax Parlor's clubhouse at 130 Mitchel Drive, in Fairfax.]

**Wednesday, August 6** – Business meeting, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

**Tuesday, August 12** – Lunch. Bar opens at 11 a.m. lunch at 12:30.

**Wednesday, August 20** – Midsummer Dinner. Bar opens at 6 p.m., dinner at 7:30. Reservations required—see article in this newsletter and attached flyer.

**Tuesday, August 26** - Lunch. Bar opens at 11 a.m. Lunch at 12:30.

**Wednesday, September 3** – Business meeting, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

**Tuesday, September 9** – Lunch. Bar opens at 11 a.m. lunch at 12:30.

**Wednesday, September 17** – Dinner meeting. Bar opens at 6 p.m., dinner at 7:30. Reservations required,

**Tuesday, September 23** – Lunch. Bar opens at 11 a.m.,

*Thousands who saw the American and Bear Flags in the Fairfax Festival Parade will remember this tradition carried throughout the years. Burt Winn, great-great-grandson of the Native Son's founder, is carrying the parlor banner. More photos of the parade and the Fairfax Parlor beer booth are on page 2.*

*All photos by Burt Winn*





# FAIRFAX FESTIVAL



Flag bearers are ready to step out, led by Brother Marty Marcucci in his 1920s Model T taxicab.



We're back and so is our beer. After a one-year enforced hiatus, Fairfax Parlor sold beer at the Fairfax Festival.



Brother Burt Winn, great-great-grandson of Native Sons of the Golden West founder Albert Maver Winn, helps carry the parlor banner.



Now that's a crowd! Saturday is always the most popular at the Fairfax Festival—and it's great for beer sales, too!



Like stuffing toothpaste back into the tube, it's difficult to stuff the flags back into their carrying cases! Our thanks to Brother Kris Nelson for permitting us to use Petaluma-Nicasio #183's US and Bear Flags again this year.



Beer booth chair Joel Bantley greets a patron. Our thanks to the booth sponsors: Mike Ghiringhelli, Kate Warner Construction Lawyers, Fradelizio's Restaurant, Vaccaro's Tree Service, Nave's Sports and Spirits, Charlie Monte and Lawrie Burrafato.



## We've Had Grand Officers!

Some parlors haven't even had a grand officer, much less a grand president. Fairfax has been blessed with five grand presidents: Ray Shone, Bob Souza, Fred Codoni, Bob Rogers and Mike Anthony. Each of these men spent years in various positions in the Native Sons of the Golden West, eventually making their way through Grand Parlor chairs as grand trustee and Grand 3rd, Grand 2nd and Grand 1st Vice President. We've also had several grand trustees and supervising district deputy grand presidents and district deputy grand president. All of these Native Sons have made a commitment of their time and energy, honoring Fairfax Parlor and using their good works for the advancement of our Order.

### Want (or need) a Native Son Belt Buckle?

Grand President Gary Padgett will give you one if you bring in two or more new or reinstated members during the membership year, which ranges from May 1, 2025 to April 31, 2026.



*On the Back of the Buckle*

*"This is the first view of what the pioneers saw as they entered the Golden State. It was originally called Truckee Lake and changed to Donner Lake in 1846 after the ill-fated Donner Party."*

*"Native Sons of the Golden West, Grand President Gary Padgett. 149th Grand Parlor, 2025-2026."*

## Santa Rosa Changes Meeting Date, Has Dinner August 12

To avoid conflict with neighboring parlors, Santa Rosa #28 is changing its meeting night to the second Tuesday of each month.

Native Sons, families and friends are invited to the parlor's next dinner on Tuesday, August 12, at Santa Rosa's hall at 3318 Stony Point Road in the southern part of Santa Rosa.

Menu will be steak with various sides. Price is \$20 with beer, wine, soda and water available for a small donation.

Social is at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7.

Reservations are required so there is enough food. Call or text Deb Eynon (707) 291-3646.

## Motion Protocol

As long as we can remember, members attending a Fairfax Parlor business meeting were encouraged to make a motion about almost anything in the parlor. When seconded, discussion was followed by a vote.

At our last meeting, we were advised by parlor president Madsen that we must now adhere to the requirement of Roberts Rules of Order that each motion must be printed in a newsletter and placed on the agenda prior to the meeting before it can be considered.

We don't think that's what our members want, so we will be making a motion at the August business meeting to suspend that portion of Roberts Rules of Order requiring such prior notice and agenda placement. The rule that any motion can be carried over to another meeting will continue to be honored.

## Bocce Court Coming

Many years ago, our late brother Vince Schunk left Fairfax Parlor some money to build bocce courts on the property. Now those funds are being used to construct courts at the top end of our property. Keep tuned for developments.



## Deceased Member Plaque Available

We honor members of Fairfax Parlor who have gone to the Grand Parlor on High with a plaque. The plaque contains the members name and has a Bear Flag and other information. We will present the plaque to a survivor of the members or, if the survivor requests, we will place the plaque on the parlor wall with plaques of other deceased brothers.

## Petaluma-Nicasio BBQ August 15

Petaluma-Nicasio #183 invites everyone to its Annual Chicken Barbecue on Friday, August 15, at Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma.

Menu is salad, barbecued chicken, corn on the cob, roll, coffee and cake. Social hour is at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7. Raffle tickets are 2 for \$5, 10 for \$20.

Reservations are limited to 100 guests and are available from Dan Foppe (707) 849-2240; Larry Schork (707) 486-6897; Kris Nelson (707) 332-2376; or Harold Matzen (707) 706-98991

# Opinion

‘Opinion’ means that the content is the opinion of the writer and does not necessarily agree with that of the officers and members of Fairfax Parlor.

## WHERE THE OLD ROAD AND NEW ROADS MEET By RUSS KNUDSEN

There is small section of Olema Road in west Fairfax that was part of the main highway in the 1700s 1800s and early 1900s. This road connected and transported the Dairy Cowboy Country and Native American Country goods and services of Point Reyes Station and the surrounding areas into San Rafael, onto Saucelito and eventually ferried into San Francisco.

In the 1960s Sir Francis Drake Blvd. was built as more and more cars wanted to make that beautiful drive and make west Marin their home.

In this photo, the old road (Olema) meets the new road (Sir Francis Drake Blvd.). The Native Sons of the Golden West are represented in this photo. The elder Native Sons are Olema Road, the newer Native Sons are Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

The Native Sons of the Golden West are the pride of California. We must maintain our pride, our honor and respect, as many in our state look up to us...especially the newer members of our Order who have joined or perhaps those thinking of joining.

This brings me to the point of this article, Mutual Respect is lacking in our Order. The business meetings of Parlor 307 have been contentious as of late. Many times new members and the elderly members are not respecting each other during our business meetings. These are business meetings which should be primarily focusing on the financial state of affairs of Fairfax Parlor 307.

Other issues can be discussed and do they ever! Let's discuss our other issues without malice and anger, let

us be civil and professional as the eyes and ears of membership are watching and listening.

### Arguments Between the Roads

Arguments are generally between the Old Road and the New Road.

There is no need for argument...but there is a great need for MUTUAL RESPECT.

I would say to the Old Road, “the New Road sometimes gets overly enthusiastic with the intention to help improve the Native Sons...but perhaps traditional protocol for new ideas was not followed in a proper manner—but there is no need to chastise a new idea in public.”

I would say to the New Road, “If you have a new idea you should discuss with the Old Road the Tradition, the

Protocol and the proper procedures for all that is Native Sons” The Old Road started the Native Sons and just like old Olema Road in the photo it is still standing and it represents the great strength, experience and knowledge of the founding fathers of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

I’ve been coaching football and track and field since 1985 and the first lesson I learned from the head football coach (Larry Gondola) was, “You Praise In Public... You Criticize in Private.”

I believe that if the New Road and the Old Road followed Larry Gondola’s simple advice...great results would be achieved.

Our future depends on new, better or improved ideas... but don’t forget nor lose respect for the old and original ideas...just remember those original ideas at some point... were the new ideas...now known as Tradition.

The Old Road and the New Road need each other equally...Mutual Respect is a two- way street.

### The Parlor Dues Mess Must be Fixed!

By FRED CODONI

We can’t sugarcoat what has happened with Fairfax Parlor’s 2025 efforts to collect the yearly dues. After 75 years when dues collection moved seamlessly under the direction of the late Financial Secretary Gene Ardito (65+ years!) and Financial Secretary Bill Addy with help from PGP Fred Codoni, the attempt to change billing to the Internet was an utter failure.

As members of Fairfax Parlor, you are entitled to know how bad it was. Here’s what happened:

- Dues bills were not sent until March 5.
- Many members did not receive their dues bills until recently and its possible some are still have not received them.
- There was no information in the parlor newsletter about the increase in cost and the change in billing method from U. S. mail to e-mail.
- Tired of waiting for a bill that never came, some members sent in their dues at \$75, resulting in a loss of \$15 per member since additional bills were not sent. This loss could be as much as \$1,000.
- Dues notices were sent without having reference to adding a sum for our charities. We estimated loss of several thousand dollars for the Cleft Palate Fund and Fairfax Parlor’s Scholarship Fund..
- Members of Mt. Tamalpais Parlor were billed for dues. When Fairfax Parlor merged with Mt. Tam, a sum of \$20,000 was paid from Mt. Tam’s bank account to pay their Fairfax Parlor dues for their members for life.
- Many who paid dues were billed again.

We offered to help at the start, but were told it wasn’t needed.

In addition, our Finance officers, (our treasurer and our financial secretary), owe an apology to our members with the promise that it will never happen again!

*This disaster should never have happened!* It is not fair to our faithful members. Let is hope that those involved will solve this problem and do it RIGHT NOW!





## Festival Once Was Ours

We've been asked about Fairfax Parlor's involvement in the Annual Fairfax Festival. For many years, our parlor entered the parade with our two flags and (except for 2024) we've had a beer booth at the Festival.

Few remember that Fairfax Parlor ran the Festival in the 1950s. Here's an excerpt from a booklet I prepared for the 50th anniversary of the parlor. -Ed.

In 1953, Fairfax Native Sons took over the Annual Fairfax Fourth of July Festival which had been sponsored by Fairfax Celebrations, Inc. Rosemary Ravani of Fairfax reigned as queen of the 1953 Festival, which featured free fireworks and entertainment. The *Marin Independent-Journal* described the Festival: [This was a 4th of July festival over a weekend.]

"Fairfax Park will open at 7 p.m. Friday with games, carnival rides and music. Fireworks displays will be presented at dark Friday and Saturday in the Fairfax Ball Field.

"Saturday will be Kiddies Day, featuring Chico Dell and his trained monkeys. Candy, gum and balloons will be distributed free to all children throughout the day.

"During the three-day celebration, entertainment programs will feature stage, screen, radio and TV personalities. There will be no admission fee."

During these years, Fairfax Parlor continued its participation in local and state parades. Most of the entries were comic, ranging from the original diaper brigade through hillbillies and old-fashioned scenes. In the 1954 Old San Rafael Fiesta Days Parade the mood turned more serious when a dozen Fairfax Natives dressed in white operating gowns marched alongside an ambulance carrying four polio victims and collected \$742 from spectators for the March of Dimes.

In 1956, the Town of Fairfax commemorated its centennial. Once again, parlor members were in the lead, with Brother Dick Sloan and Native Daughter Agnes O'Connell portraying Lord and Lady Fairfax.

The Eighth Annual Fairfax Native Son Festival in 1957 featured a "variety stage show" with "unforgettable" (?) acts such as Toy Yat Mar, the "Chinese Sophie Tucker."

Soon thereafter, Fairfax City officials decided to landscape and improve Fairfax Park, rendering it "unsuitable for use by private organizations." The matter was debated for several years, with the anti-festival faction finally winning so, in July 1960 the eleventh and last festival was held. The local press described it as "a tremendous finale to the eleven-year tradition."

We welcome your letters and articles and comments. We believe in a truly free press, whether it be the *New York Times* or the Fairfax Parlor. We will print anything you send, on anything pertinent to Fairfax Parlor, the Grand Parlor or our Charitable and Historical Preservation Foundations.

Many centuries ago, the philosopher Voltaire said "I disagree with what you said but will defend to the death your right to say it."

We couldn't agree more.

## Tiny Item Worth a Lot!

Most of us never think about the pull tabs on the aluminum cans we use all the time. We may throw the cans away or take them to a recycling center. But one piece of each can is worth collecting and donating to Fairfax Parlor: the pull tab at top. Members at our lunches and business meetings have been collecting them and providing them to the parlor. When we get a substantial number we turn them over to Brother Kris Nelson, who sees that the Native Daughters get them. Next, the Native Daughters turns them into cash which helps support the Ronald McDonald House.

We ask our members to save the tabs, bringing to a business meeting, lunch or dinner. It's a painless way to help sick children and their families.

### What's Ronald McDonald House?

Spread near children's hospitals throughout the nation, Ronald McDonald Houses have private family bedrooms providing safe and comfortable spaces for families to rest and recharge together following long days at the hospital. More than a roof over their heads, these accommodations relieve families of the stresses of finding a place to stay while far from home and allow parents to be stronger partners in their children's critical care. The House at Stanford accommodates 123 families every night.



*Even Fairfax Parlor ladies get into the act! Here Irene Langlamet poses with Petaluma-Nicasio's banner in the Sonoma Fourth of July Parade.*



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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## AUGUST

NAME	DATE	YEARS
Michael Dibley	1st	23
Daniel Murphy	2nd	25
Tom Kyne	2nd	25
Rick Saber	2nd	25
Dan Freeman	2nd	9
Ray Potter	3rd	31
Dave Zischke	4th	2
Scott Rohrs	4th	29
Michael Kluse	5th	25
Korri Grigsby	5th	2
John Loutas	6th	29
Bill Rogers	6th	29
Daniel Dellosso	8th	13
Ralph Ardito	9th	38
Glenn Kabanuck	9th	37
William Knapp	9th	38
Jeff Garon	12th	2
William Glueck	13th	9
Vincent Patterson	13th	12
Jay Brown	13th	4
Craig Zellers	14th	20
Brian Franzoia	14th	9
John Mohr	15th	25
Ron Hinck	16th	29
Brian Kennedy	18th	30
Pasquale Tarantino	18th	25
Cortney Balzan	19th	38
Peter Barto	19th	15
William Denson	21st	54
George Thornton	22nd	43
Rich Bonfiglio	22nd	40
Mark Porto	26th	20
David Scafani	27th	31
Jack Pizza	27th	23
Robert Phelps	28th	49
Joe Morrison, Jr.	29th	10



### Hawaii Comes to California!

Brother Joe Tassone has created a shirt that marries two states: Hawaii and California. With poppies, emblems of California and the Native Sons of the Golden West, this high-quality "Hawaiian" shirt is available from Joe at [tassonejoe@hotmail.com](mailto:tassonejoe@hotmail.com). Price, including tax, is \$75. Joe asks you reserve your shirt(s) by August 6 so he can place the order with the supplier.

### Fairfax Parlor News

Published each month by members of Fairfax Parlor for the information of all parlor members and friends.

It is distributed by e-mail to members who can receive it that way, and by U. S. Mail to those who do not have e-mail. We pledge that *every* member will receive our newsletter!

Articles and advertisements are welcome. For information, change of address and other items, contact Brother Fred Codoni at [nsgwfpc@comcast.net](mailto:nsgwfpc@comcast.net) or at (415) 459-7082.

### Scholarship Fund Donations

Donations are always welcome to support Fairfax Parlor's Scholarship Fund.

Each year, we give several scholarships to students who are related to Fairfax Parlor members or widows of Fairfax Parlor members.

Send your checks, payable to Fairfax Parlor NSGW, to the parlor at 135 Mitchell Drive, Fairfax 94930, specifying in the remarks portion of the check it is for the Scholarship Fund.

All contributions are tax deductible.