



**NMSSAR  
NEW MEXICO SOCIETY OF THE  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

JIM P THORNTON, PRESIDENT

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Fourth Quarter 2008

Gene Tomlinson, Editor

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**President's Column**

Jim P. Thornton

It's a new year; therefore, we need to review what was accomplished last year and plan for what we wish to accomplish this year. A new web site, a newsletter, and revised constitution and by-laws were some of the highlights.

This year we need to concentrate on increasing our membership, both in members and in chapters. Getting people to serve as officers and on committees is also a pressing need.

Plans are underway to establish a color guard in New Mexico using 1780 Spanish Uniforms. For more information contact Gene Tomlinson.

The ballot for State Officers and dues notice has been mailed to all members. Have you returned yours?

New Mexico has accepted the registration committee duties for the 2012 National Congress. This means that we will have to furnish people to work the registration desk

Current information about what is happening in New Mexico at the State and Chapter level is located on our website at:

[www.sar.org/membership/contact.html](http://www.sar.org/membership/contact.html).

Everyone is encouraged to check the New Mexico Web Site regularly.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS  
SPECIAL EVENT**

The annual meeting of the NMSSAR is set for Saturday, March 21, 2009 in Albuquerque. A guest speaker, Kirk Ellis, the screenwriter for the Adams Chronicles, who resides in Santa Fe, has tentatively accepted. The 2009 State officers will be installed at the annual meeting.

**SAR Secretary's Corner**

Ray Alexander

We continue to add new members to the society and ended the year with 104. We had one member, Mike Barger transfer in from another State and we lost one member to Texas. Two members resigned and I am also sad to report we lost Dale Sparks, Col. Russell Bessom, James Gravlin and Dr. James Kerr III this year. Our condolences are sent out to their family and friends.

We are currently counting ballots for the election of officers for 2009. These were to be sent to John Farris or myself by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any interest in increasing your level of participation in the New Mexico Society by signing on to a committee please contact me at (505) 730-4415 or email at [anniealex@earthlink.net](mailto:anniealex@earthlink.net). Your society needs your participation to carry out its projects and support its several stated objectives.

Your dues should have been sent to John Farris, Treasurer by the end of December. If you haven't sent in your dues, please do so as soon as possible.

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**NMSSAR Participates in 2012 Congress**

In November President Jim Thornton, Past President Charles Martinez and VP Gene Tomlinson attended the 2012 Congress planning meeting in Phoenix, AZ. NMSSAR is a co-sponsor of the 2012 Congress to be held at the Biltmore Resort. We will handle reservations and other duties connected with the program. Your support of this major event is required and we will be asking for your attendance and active involvement in the 2012 Congress.

## Treasurer's Report

John Farris

Our bank balance as of 31 December 2008 is \$ 8,731.10. This increase from my last report is because of member dues being paid. When Ray Alexander closes out the roster in early 2009, I will then issue a check to each chapter for \$10 a member. There are no unpaid bills that have been submitted to your treasurer. There are also no funds, other than dues, due to NMSSAR that are outstanding. Our account reconciles at the end of each month with our bank statement from Bank of the West.

A payment of \$215 was made in October to the SAR Foundation to be applied to our NMSSAR pledge for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage (CAAH). This is our second contribution and represents contributions in 2008 from 23 of our members. In addition, on 22 Nov 08 a check for \$1,000 was sent from NMSSAR to the CAAH fund. Also the ABQ Chapter sent a check for \$1,000 to the CAAH fund. Thus our total 2008 contribution is \$ 2,520. This is in addition to donations to the CAAH fund that have been made by individual NMSSAR members.

The dues for 2009 and due for all of our members and were increased by \$5 to build a fund to help cover the expenses of our National Congress in 2012 in Phoenix.

To save expenses and time we have dispensed with issuing annual membership cards unless they are specifically requested.

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### Las Cruces Chapter Honors Retired Colonel John Archibald Smith with Patriot Medal.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Las Cruces Chapter honored its former long-time Secretary and Treasurer, Colonel John Archibald Smith, by presenting him with the SAR Patriot Medal. The Patriot Medal can only be awarded by a State Society. It is the highest SAR award given for service at the state or chapter levels. It can be earned only once and represents long, faithful, and outstanding service at the state and/or chapter level. A sterling silver

medal, it bears the likeness of General of the Army and SAR Compatriot Douglas MacArthur.



**Las Cruces Chapter President George Biles presenting Colonel Smith with the Patriot Medal**

Compatriot John Smith became a member of the SAR and NMSSAR in 1993. During his 15 years of membership, he served faithfully as Secretary and Treasurer of the Las Cruces Chapter for 13 ½ years. His tenure as Secretary and Treasurer was marked by efficiency, dedication, and outreach into the Las Cruces community. The Chapter was served well by Colonel Smith and is extremely proud that he was nominated for and unanimously approved for this prestigious award.



**Colonel Smith surrounded by members of the Las Cruces Chapter: from left to right – Former State President Perkins Patton, Colonel Smith, Chapter President George Biles, and Former State President and Former Vice President General of the SAR, Captain Walt Baker.**

## Wreaths Across America

### Wreath Presentation at the State Capital

On December 8<sup>th</sup> NMSSAR President Jim Thornton and his wife, Mary Ann, DAR joined Gene Tomlinson, President of the Santa Fe Chapter to take part in presenting a Wreath in the rotunda of the State Capital in Santa Fe honoring all those who have served our nation since the formative years in the late 1700 to today.

This service was timed to take place at the same time wreaths were presented at all State Capitals across the United States and at the National Capitol by the President of the United States honoring all our service personnel.

The NMSSAR had the honor to speak to the citizens and military personnel assembled during this presentation.

### Wreaths laid at the National Cemetery

On December 15<sup>th</sup> over 1700 wreaths were laid on the graves of service personnel at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe. After a formal presentation honoring all branches of the service including the Merchant Marine members of many organizations including the DAR and the NMSSAR placed the wreaths at the markers across the cemetery.

This service also was carried out at National Cemeteries across the nation at the same hour on the same day. All the graves at Arlington, VA were marked with a wreath.

**In future years it is hoped that even more of our departed military can be honored with wreaths here at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. Wreaths can be purchased for \$15.00. Perhaps it can be a future NMSSAR project. More information in future issues of this newsletter.**



Presenters in the rotunda of the State Capital from left to right are: Gene Tomlinson SAR, Francis Garcia, Blue Star Mothers, Judy Reed and Carol Johnson DAR and MG Franklin F Miles of the Military Order of the World Wars.



## Editorial

This the fourth quarterly NMSSAR Newsletter and after one year of publication we have communicated to you messages from the Officers of your Society, Chapter news, specific member activities, awards given and received and opportunities to contribute and to become active in your Chapter and in the State Society. Some of you have responded, but we need a lot more to fill positions, take an active part in some SAR function that is of specific interest to you, and as a result make our Society a visible patriotic organization in New Mexico.

The NMSSAR Constitution and By Laws have been revised and approved and all three Chapters Constitution and By Laws have been revised. Both Las Cruces and Albuquerque Chapters have approved their revised By Laws and Santa Fe will complete the process in the next quarter. Copies of these documents are available through our web master and website. They will be available for future use by any new Chapters that form and for further revisions when that process becomes necessary.

During this year we have developed our web site and made this quarterly newsletter available to you on the web. We will continue to improve the website next year with the help of our web master and new SAR member William Baker.

We will continue to improve our newsletter. With your suggestions and solicited comments from the National SAR Newsletter Committee we will work to improve our communication to you.

President Jim Thornton, Vice President Gene Tomlinson and Trustee Rev. Perkins Patton are preparing to go to the National Trustee/Leadership Meeting in March. Two draft reports are in preparation to present to National Committee's. One report is a request to the Genealogical Committee regarding the need for a clear definition of the Spanish soldiers and settlers in New Mexico that contributed to our Revolution.

The second is a report and request to the Color Guard Committee regarding the use of the 1780's Presidio Soldier's Uniform for our state Color Guard. Look for more information on these activities in our next newsletter.

We will be actively pursuing Spanish descendents of Presidio Soldiers and determining their relationship to those who served during the 1779 to 1783 period and gave two pesos by request of the Spanish King that resulted in support to our Revolution, thus, making the way clear to accept their descendents as SAR members.

We are continuing to reach out into the communities in New Mexico, but we need to develop our Color Guard(s) and to be visible in our state in parades and functions that allow us to show the colors and make the general public aware of our presence. We need the members of the Color Guards to visit the schools in uniform and with their presence highlight specific days and historic events that contributed to our countries founding and to explain how the Spanish were a part of our Revolution.

We have work to do and I hope that all who read this editorial will consider how they can better serve the NMSSAR and their own Chapters' activities.

Gene Tomlinson, Editor

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## Every member get a member Campaign

Beginning in 2009 the NMSSAR is asking every member to get a new member. This program is aimed at doubling our membership over the next several years and thereby developing active participation at the State, as well as at the Chapter levels.

We all know men or meet them that say, "I think I qualify for membership in the SAR!" Bring them to a Chapter meeting and introduce them to the genealogist and other officers and help them get started filling out their application. Many of our prospective members need just a little help in the process.

As we complete the study on Spanish descendents of the Presidio Soldiers and early settlers, there will be further opportunities to introduce our Spanish (Hispanic) friends to the SAR and bring them aboard.

**Las Cruces Chapter Remembers Veterans at meeting, on November 15, 2008**

Helping us remember Veterans Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>, we welcome our speaker, Master Chief Petty Officer Jim Vizethann, USNR (Retired). Jim served in the Riverine Warfare Force during Vietnam. His PBR was deployed in An Loc, Cambodia, and points between, operating often as part of a Special Operations Group (SOG) action.

Jim received the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for this service. Upon discharge from active duty, Jim came to NMSU on both a football scholarship and the GI Bill, earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees. He's therefore a genuine Aggie. After graduation, Jim was an elementary school teacher, a football coach, and a part-time sailing instructor in Rhode Island for over 30 years. Additionally, he served in the Naval Reserves for 31 years, retiring as the Force Master Chief Petty Officer (Reserves) for the U. S. Navy's Naval Construction Force (Seabees).

Jim and his wife Lenore live aboard their 52-foot motor-sail boat home-ported in Newport, Rhode Island – but have recently arrived to be landlubbers in Mesilla this winter. We thank Jim and all our veterans here today for their service to our great nation.

**Las Cruces Chapter will meet on Feb 21st at the Las Cruces Country Club. Compatriot Jim Proctor will speak about the SAR and Ft. Bayard in Silver City.**

**Santa Fe Chapter hosts NMSSAR BOM meeting November 2008**

The Board of Managers meeting was held in Santa Fe as part of the Santa Fe Chapter meeting. Nominations were accepted for Chapter Officers and the revised State By Laws were discussed.

The BOM meeting reviewed activities of all the committees. Board members discussed our concerns about Spanish descendents for SAR membership and the proposed Presidio Soldier uniform for our State Color Guard. Reports (requests) to National SAR Committee's are being prepared to solicit their input and approval on these actions.

**Santa Fe Chapter will have its annual meeting on February 11, in the Board Room at the Lodge of Santa Fe at 12:00 noon. VP General Norm Kronvall will install 2009 Chapter Officers.**

**Albuquerque Chapter Saturday Luncheon Meetings**

**Program of October 18<sup>th</sup>**

Compatriot Teddy Adams our historian ([teddya1@comcast.net](mailto:teddya1@comcast.net)) provided a very interesting program exhibiting many items that he had collected during his military career and spoke about U S Army flight training as part of his military experiences. His presentation was enhanced with pictures and humorous stories

**Program of November 15, 2008**

Compatriot John Farris as usual, ([JohnAFarris@comcast.net](mailto:JohnAFarris@comcast.net)), presented an outstanding program explaining the power of Y-DNA to find cousins that we never knew existed. John presented a Human and DNA time line from 23,000,000 years ago; a complex comparative Genome of Species by Species and then John presented a detailed discussion of DNA (Y, MT, & X type DNA) and how we use it to trace our extended family.

A John Farris presentation is never complete without the usual reading list and we weren't disappointed today as he prepared a detailed reading list for our continued interest.

**The next regular meeting of the ABQ Chapter, NMSSAR will be at noon on 31 January 2009 at the La Peep Resturant.**

**Need to Communicate with a NMSSAR Officer?**

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[jthornton12@comcast.net](mailto:jthornton12@comcast.net) 505-466-7146
- Gene Tomlinson (Vice-President)  
[SARGMT@aol.com](mailto:SARGMT@aol.com) 505-438-7300
- Ray Alexander (Secretary)  
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