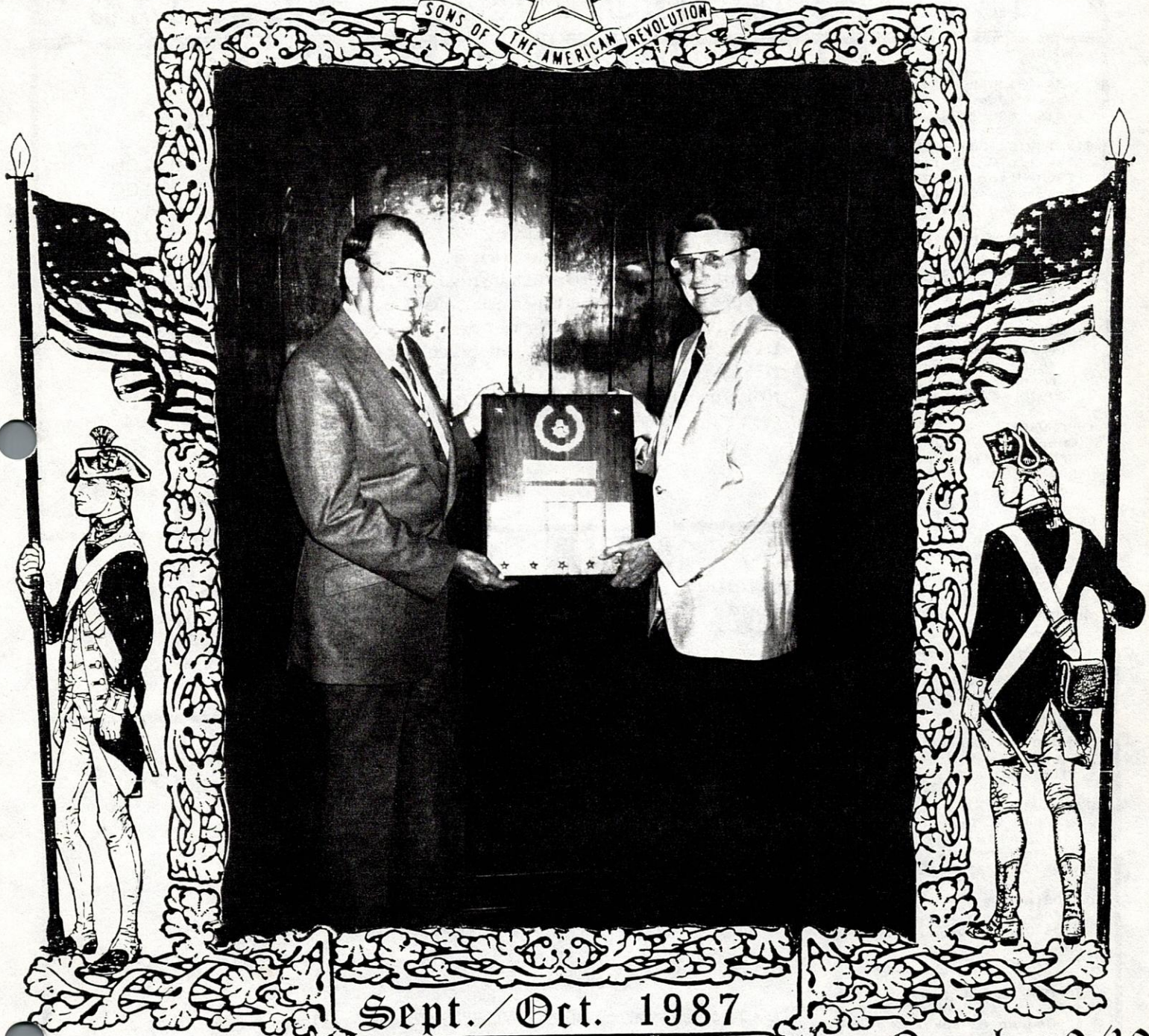


# The Valley Compatriot

San Fernando Valley Chapter



SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Sept. / Oct. 1987

Volume 7

Number 9/10



**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER**

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## THE FRONT COVER

BURBANK, CALIFORNIA -- 29 June 1987 - President Roger E. Robertson and CASSAR Vice-President Arthur Wm. Barrett displaying the "WILLIAM Y. PRYOR AWARD" won by the California Society, SAR

## THE VALLEY COMPATRIOT

The VALLEY COMPATRIOT is the official publication of the

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER,  
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY,  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Donald Norman Moran  
Editor

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The editorial content of the VALLEY COMPATRIOT reflects the opinions of the Editor or the authors of the various articles and is not necessarily the official position of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution, unless so stated. Back-issues of this publication are available for the cost of postage.

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**FORMER PRESIDENTS**

- Col. George A. Eckert, Jr  
1986
- George Sutherland Van Dorn  
1985
- Lt. Col. James Bellah, II  
1984
- Donald Norman Moran  
1981-1983





COMPATRIOTS  
IN THE NEWS



Several of our Compatriots have been appointed to national committees by President-General Nolan W. Carson. We have listed them here for your information:

U.S. FLAG COMMITTEE:  
Col. Thomas D. Gillis

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Roger E. Robertson

MAGAZINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Donald Norman Moran

MINUTEMAN AWARD COMMITTEE  
Augustus di Zerega IV

NEWSLETTERS AND PERIODICAL COMMITTEE  
Donald Norman Moran

PATRIOT INDEX COMMITTEE  
Augustus di Zerega IV  
Donald Norman Moran

Compatriot Keith A. Gouger a long time member of the Chapter has moved to Oregon. His new address: 300 Luman Road #208 Phoenix, Oregon, 97535.

SEPTEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS

- none -

SEPTEMBER  
ANNIVERSARIES

Charles and Margaret Barnard  
01 September 1946

Robert and Virginia Emrey  
19 September 1943

Richard and Helen Kammerer  
23 September 1967

OCTOBER  
BIRTHDAYS

Robert S. Moore - - - - - 10-07  
Norman P. Moran - - - - - 10-10  
James A. McKellop - - - - - 10-25  
Thomas D. Gillis - - - - - 10-29

OCTOBER  
ANNIVERSARIES

Roger and Mary Lou Robertson  
23 October 1955

Arthur and Elizabeth Bruner  
27 October 1937

Bruce and Betty Jagger  
27 October 1962

A very special congratulations to Arthur and Elizabeth who are celebrating their 50th anniversary this month.

\*\*\*\*\*

OUR  
VETERAN'S BOOK  
DRIVE PROGRAM



Chairman Berni K. Campbell and his wife Mary made another delivery of books to the Sepulveda Veterans Hospital. 470 paperbacks! A delivery is also being scheduled for the Sawtelle Veteran's Hospital in Los Angeles.

Please bring your books ( paperback only ) to the next meeting or call us for a pick-up if you have a large quantity.

The veterans at both hospitals greatly appreciate our efforts on their behalf. Berni reported at our August meeting that he is met "curb side" each time he makes a delivery and with great enthusiasm. This is one of our most worthwhile programs and needs your support.

CHAPTER  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
TO THE STATE  
SOCIETY

**A**t the September meeting of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. two recommendations were unanimously approved. These will be presented to the California Society, S.A.R. for consideration, and if approved submitted to the National Society for their consideration and enactment.

The War Service Medal

**T**he present criteria for the S.A.R.'s War Service Medal is stated as follows: "This medal may be presented by state societies and chapters to S.A.R. members who have served or are presently serving in the armed forces of the United States during war or an emergency recognized by Congress."

We believe this prerequisite is inconsistent with the S.A.R.'s doctrine of fairness.

Many Americans have seen service in the Armed forces of the United States that are not entitled to this recognition even though they, by their service, they have been placed in life threatening situations in defence of their Country.

Others are permitted to display the ribbon bar declaring War Service (i.e. World War Two, Korea, or Vietnam), who were never near the theater of action. Some never left the Country. We therefore recommend that the War Service Medal be redesignated as the National Defence Medal, and be

made available to any member of the S.A.R. who has served his Country as a member of the Armed Forces.

The War Service Bars may be presented to any member of the S.A.R. who has been awarded the Society's National Defence Medal who has received a Campaign medal from the United States for his service in a theater of war.

Youth Membership

**O**btaining membership for the Society continues to be a major problem. Additionally, as the genealogies to the American Revolution grow longer with every generation, and more difficult to establish, it becomes necessary that the Society review any membership prerequisite that could be impeding our future growth.

The lack of a youth membership is one such prerequisite.

Youth memberships opens a whole new area of recruitment for the Society. Many of members have sons or grandsons that will be eligible, in time. Many more have to sons, but do have daughters and grandsons. If given the opportunity to provide them with an S.A.R. membership they will be both enhancing the Society's present membership and helping to overcome the genealogical problems of the future.

The argument most often presented in opposition to a S.A.R. youth membership program is our support of the Children of the American Revolution. We submit that that argument is invalid.

At the Western District

meeting of the Society held in December of 1986, and again at the National Congress at Valley Forge, the President-General reported to the delegates that he had personally written to all the young men of the C.A.R. that were old enough to transfer to the S.A.R. The net result was a gain of SEVENTEEN (17).

Some years ago, the San Fernando Valley Chapter started presenting a document acknowledging special heritage of newly born children and grandchildren of our members. The Certificates of Recognition has been a success and is greatly appreciated by the membership. That Certificate translates to a membership to the S.A.R.

We do not advocate our discontinuing our support of the C.A.R., but feel, strongly, that there is room for both, and both serve a definite purpose.

Our last argument in favor of youth memberships addresses the special, but not unusual genealogical problem of the member who is without children to pass on his documented lineage. Generally, that member has nephews, many bearing a different surname (a sister's child), who would carry on the membership tradition of the member.

As an example, our Secretary who does not have a son, has a daughter who is about to marry a young man who was given a life membership to the S/R at birth by his maternal uncle. That membership provided him with evidence to twelve (12) Revolutionary War ancestors. The daughter has six (6) documented Revolutionary War ancestors on her fathers side, and another

twenty-four (24) Revolutionary War ancestors (mostly undocumented on her mother's side. That would provide a grandson with membership in the S.A.R. and FORTY-ONE (41) supplemental ancestors. Many of these supplemental ancestors are not listed in the D.A.R. Patriot Index or will they be in the S.A.R.'s Patriot Index! It is also likely that the Secretary will not be with us when his grandson becomes of age.

The S.A.R., should be documenting these ancestors through it's membership, and yet, because of this membership restriction it is not being done. At the same time, the lack of that genealogical information is impeding some men from obtaining that data which would enable them to join the Society.

We are, by this inaction, denying membership not only to our own, but to future generations of Revolutionary War descendants.

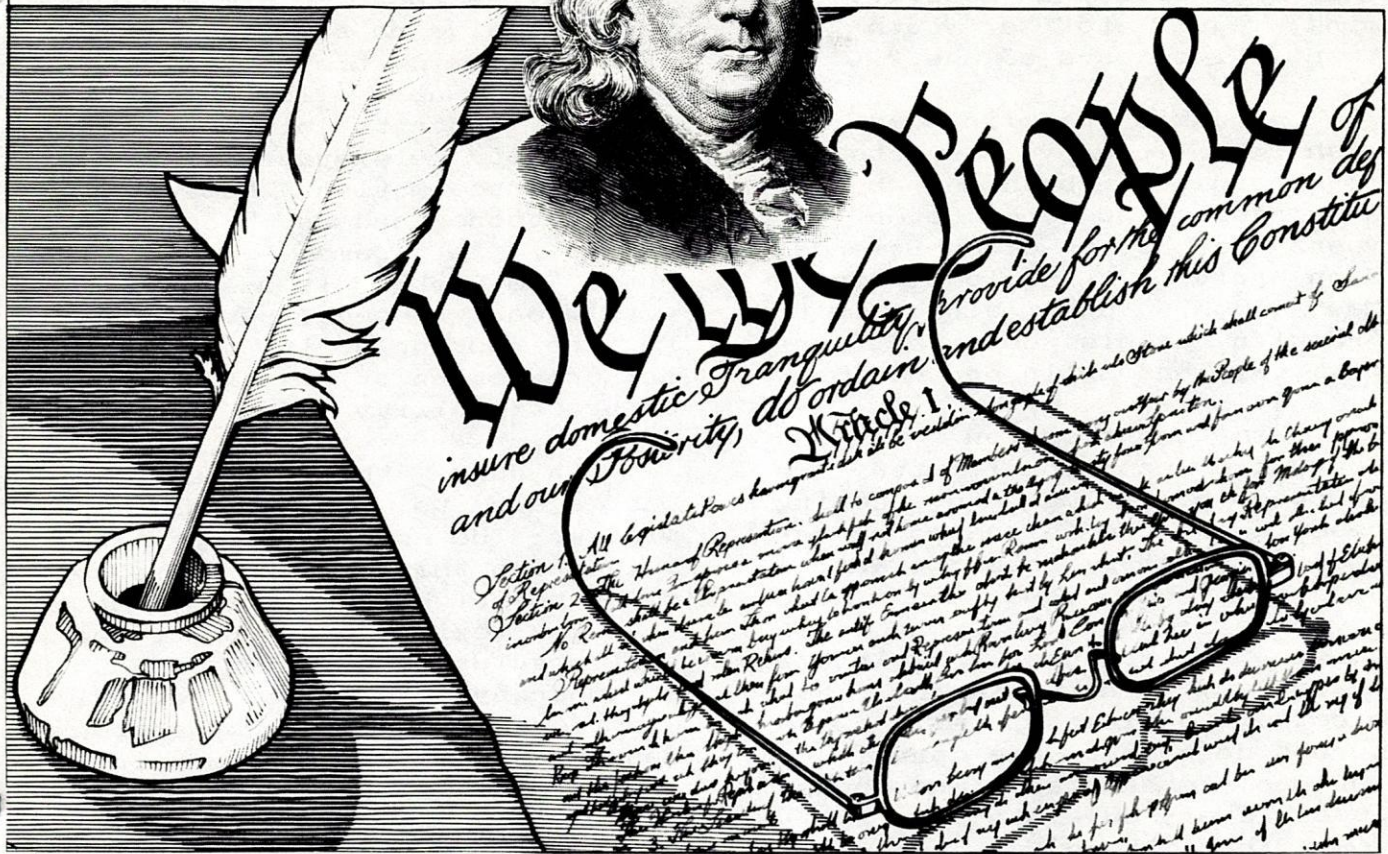
The San Fernando Valley Chapter of the S.A.R. strongly recommends that action be taken to change the membership requirements of the Sons of the American Revolution to permit youth membership. Our posterity will benefit from this change, and the Society will be protecting future generations that may, by our inaction, be denied their own heritage.

Both the WAR SERVICE MEDAL and the YOUTH MEMBERSHIP recommendations were unanimously approved at the September 28th meeting of the San Fernando Valley Chapter.

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DOCTOR  
BEN FRANKLIN

AND THE  
CONSTITUTION



**D**octor Benjamin Franklin was in 1787 second only to George Washington in National popularity. Ben Franklin was the diplomat that secured the foreign aid that enabled our armies to achieve victory over the British. George Washington led those armies, hence these two men shared the laurel wreath of victory.

The Country called George Washington out of retirement and on March 28th, 1787 choose Ben Franklin as a delegate to the convention.

Events in the six year old country were proving that the Articles of Confederation were not strong enough to sustain us. The Shay rebellion in Massachusetts was frightening. The difficulties we had in dealing with it and the possibilities of similar situation developing was behind the call for Congress to meet and correct the problem.

Franklin was President of the State of Pennsylvania (elected unanimously) and lived in Philadelphia. He was eighty-one and in failing health. He had a sedan chair built and used it to travel around the city as it was the least painful conveyance for him. He suffered from a kidney stone and gout and the other ailments associated with old age. But William Pierce a delegate from Georgia wrote of him: "...he is no speaker, nor does he seem to let politics engage his attention. He is however, a most extraordinary man,

and tells a story in a style more engaging than anything I ever heard.....he is eighty-two and possesses and activity of mind equal to a youth of twenty-five years of age."

Benjamin Franklin was like Washington in many respects. It is known that both men became acquainted 1755 and over the years they became close friends. Upon arriving in Philadelphia on May 13th, and dined with Franklin at his home the very next day, and again on the 16th.

His contribution to the Convention was conciliatory. He devoted his time to keeping peace among the delegates rather than directing them toward a specific goal. He did have favorite ideas. We wanted a single legislature, a multiple executive, non-payment for elected officers. All were turned down. But his contribution was immeasurable nevertheless. Every delegate was fully aware that there was present a philosopher among them, who could influence their thinking almost at will. When the debate became inflammatory, Franklin would write out his speeches in advance, and since standing was so painful for him, he would have one of the other delegates read it. As a result, more of his important speeches have survived than any other delegate.

It is believed that his first speech was given on May 31st. The subject being debated was on the power of the national legislature to overrule state laws that conflicted with the proposed national laws. He added these words: "or any treaties subsisting under the authority of the union." It was approved.

On June 2nd, Dr. Franklin moved that the recommendation for a single executive be amended, so that said executive would receive no salary. He said "Remembering British politicians we should not allow American posts of honor to also be posts of profit. Alexander Hamilton seconded the motion, however it was postponed and not brought up again. In James Madison's notes, he wrote: "It was treated with great respect, but rather for the author of it than from any conviction of its expediency or practicability."

On June 4th, the assembly was again to hear Franklin's wisdom. He spoke against the suggestion that the executive be given the right of absolute veto over the legislature. He stated that absolute veto might lead to a monarchy and cited several examples. The Convention unanimously approved Franklin's objection. Today, a two-thirds vote of Congress can override the President.

June 5th brought about another round of debate, this time centered on the method of selecting federal judges. Doctor Franklin humorously suggested the Scottish method: The lawyers nominate the ablest of their profession in order to get rid of him and divide up his practice.

Until this time the Convention was proceeding well. But the subject of state representation in the proposed new legislature proved to be its undoing.

The Virginia plan was approved on June 13th by majority vote, virtually unchanged. The smaller states

suddenly realized that the Virginians had managed to get a plan approved that was a coalition of the three largest states; Virginia, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, supported by three other states with hopes of fast growth, Both Carolinas and Georgia. The approved plan, as stated by James Madison was not to include equality of the states in the new national legislature, but rather an "Equitable ratio of representation". That would give the larger states total control of the new government.

Delaware, the smallest State present, with a total population of 59,000, Rhode Island not being represented at the convention, took on the role of David versus Goliath. George Read rose and addressed the assembly: "I move that the whole clause relating to the point of representation be postponed. I would remind the committee (the Convention was then meeting as a Committee of the whole) that the deputies from Delaware are restrained by their commission from assenting to any change of the rule of suffrage".

The words of George Read had threatened to dissolve the convention. Undaunted James Madison declared: "If a majority of the larger states concur, the fewer and smaller states must finally bend to them."

An attempt was made by many of the delegates to defuse the situation by changing the subject matter to how the representatives would be selected. Much to everyone's surprise, Roger Sherman and Elbridge Gerry, spokesmen for New England opposed election by popular vote. It is thought

George Washington Potomac neighbor, George Mason, of whom Thomas Jefferson wrote: "was the wisest man of his generation." stated that: "He feared that in turning away from too much democracy we should run into the opposite extreme; tyranny."

The large states, naturally, favored the popular vote, the smaller states opposed it. Finally, by majority vote, the motion was approved. The popular vote would be used.

The next day, hot and humid was opened by smaller stater William Paterson of New Jersey. He advised the Committee that the convention was called to revise the Articles of Confederation and promised that the small states would reject any plan based on an all powerful national government that denied the smaller states an equal voice. He went on to warn: Let them unite if they please, but let them remember that they have no authority to compel other to unite. New Jersey will never confederate on the plan before the Committee. She would be swallowed up."

Maryland's degelate, Martin Luther rallied the support of John Lansing and Robert Yates of New York and all of the delegates from Connecticut and Delaware. This minority proposed what has become known as the New Jersey plan, again demanding that each state have a single vote. Alexander Hamilton confused the issue by speaking against both the Virginia and New Jersey plans. James Madison spoke against the New Jersey plan. He successfully destroyed the alternate plan. The vote against it was 7 to 3. But this was an empty victory.

June 29th opened with a continuing debate, but far more ferociously than before. James Madison and Alexander Hamilton both realized that the existing union was being destroyed by the arguments and that dissolving the union would lead to petty wars between the different states, foreign alliances in others, and resorted to the cry of the Revolution, "United we stand, divided we fall." Their plea fell on deaf ears.

The Delaware delegate, Gunning Bedford took the floor and roared: "The larger states were acting out of self-interest and I for one am not deceived. Sooner than be ruined, there are foreign powers who will take us by the hand." His speech ended the days deliberations.

On Monday Morning, July 2nd, Washington called the convention to order. Roger Sherman of Connecticut was first to take the floor. He pleaded that someone had to do something, or else the convention would break up. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney of South Carolina took up the challenge. He proposed that a "Grand Committee" be formed with one delegate from each state to find a solution. To avoid more trouble, After the Grand Committee was selected, George Washington adjourned the Convention until after the Fourth of July celebration was concluded. Washington was in fact providing a cooling off period. His timing was excellent. Martin Luther wrote home: ".....was on the verge of dissolution, scare held together by the strength of a hair."

Benjamin Franklin had sat through all of the debate saying little. His great experience

in negotiating in Europe was to come forth. It was he who had been a member of the American Commission that work out the Treaty of Paris that gave us our liberty. It was he, alone, that convinced the French to aid us and to finally declare war on Great Britain. He proposed to the Grand Committee that the national legislature retain the two levels. The first level we suggested be of equal state representation. The second level would consist of proportional representation, and it would at that level that all money bills would have to originate. The radical new proposal, placed before the Grand Committee by a man of Ben Franklin's status naturally carried the committee.

James Wilson presenting the smaller states and James Madison the larger fought for hours. On July 16th, Washington called for the vote - The Great Compromise as it came to be called was approved by a vote of 5 to 4. Franklin had saved the Convention, and in doing so, saved what was to become the Constitution of the United States of America!

His fame, wisdom, and more importantly, the respect in which his colleagues regarded him won the day. No delegate present, save Franklin, could have proposed such a compromise successfully.

After the states ratified the Constitution, Franklin wrote his old and aging friend, George Washington. He wrote: But, though those years have been spent in excruciating pain, I am pleased that I have lived them, since they have brought me to see our present situation."

16  
ANNUAL



CS

LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAMERS  
&  
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY 4H CLUBS

*Invite you to the*

**Bill Webb**

MEMORIAL

**HANDICAPPED MEET**

Saturday November 28, 1987

Dear Students, Parents and Friends:

This is a cordial invitation for you to attend our sixteenth Annual "BILL WEBB Memorial Handicapped Meet," sponsored by the Los Angeles Live Steamers and the San Fernando Valley 4 H Clubs. The event will take place on Saturday, November 28, 1987 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Los Angeles at the Live Steamers Area of Griffith Park, just east of Travel Town on Zoo Drive.

Activities at this holiday program include miniature train rides, music, displays, live entertainment, celebrities, animals, and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Free beverages and popcorn will be available. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy under the trees. This is a fun day for all ages, and best of all, the activities are free. A paramedic will be on duty.

There is a map on the reverse side which will show you where the Live Steamers Area is located. Should it be raining on the 26th, we will postpone until the following Saturday, December 5, 1987.

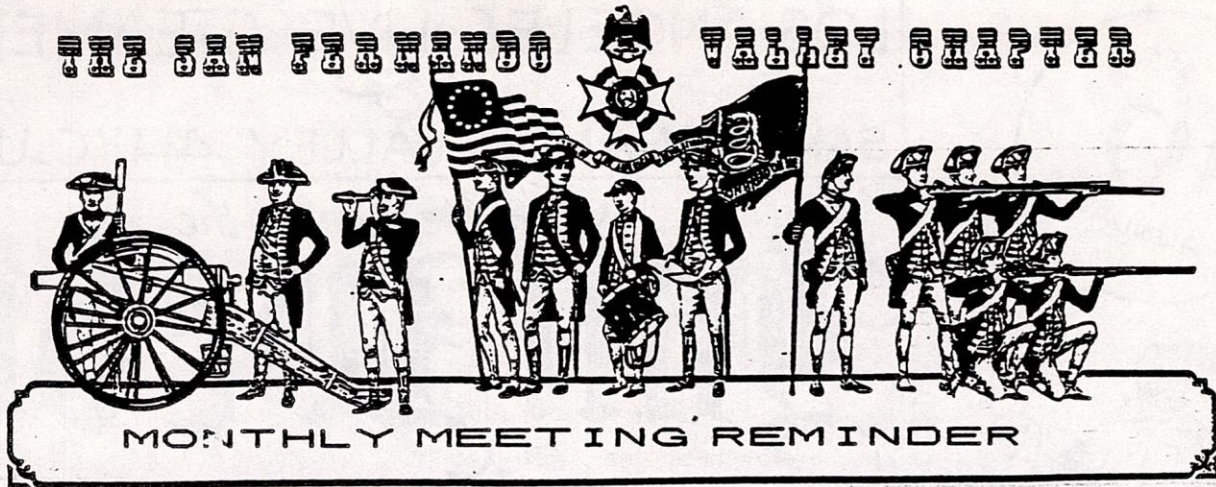
Please call us if you have any questions. Hope to see you there.

BILL SEMERAU  
2908 Highridge Road  
La Crescenta 91214  
1(818) 248-5387

LINDA CODE  
Pres. 4H Council  
San Fernando  
1(818) 767-2006

JAMES LAWRENCE  
2435 Riverside Pl.  
Los Angeles 90039  
1(213) 664-5090

THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER



The San Fernando Valley Chapter,  
California Society,  
Sons of the American Revolution

Meeting will be held:

Date: 26 October 1987.....Monday Evening  
Cocktails: 6:30 P.M.....No Host Bar  
Dinner: 7:00 P.M.....From the Menu  
Location: LEON'S STEAK HOUSE.....10945 Victory Blvd  
No. Hollywood, Ca.  
Program:.....Business Meeting

RESERVATIONS

Reservations are not required, however, the restaurant would like to know how many to set up for. Please advise our Secretary if you plan on attending. Donald Norman Moran, 1248 Herzel Ave. Lancaster, California 93535 - telephone 805-945-9071

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93535  
Lancaster, California  
1248 Herzel Avenue  
Donald Norman Moran  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER  
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

JULY 27th MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution was held at 6:30 P.M. on July 27th, 1987 at Leon's Steak House, North Hollywood, California. President Roger E. Robertson presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Roger E. Robertson	Arthur Wm. Barrett
Berni K. Campbell	Jeffrey L. Towery
Col. George A. Eckert, Jr.	Robert B. Warwick
Donald Norman Moran	Charles M. Pitchford
Walter High Walley	

GUESTS PRESENT

Mary Campbell	Mary Lou Robertson
Kitty Warwick	Kathy Towery
Helen R. Barrett	Linda T. Moran
Antonette Pitchford	Audel H. Hicks

OLD BUSINESS

1. THE MINUTES OF THE 29 JUNE 1987 MEETING

IT WAS MOVED by Compatriot George A. Eckert, Jr. and SECONDED by Compatriot Walter High Walley, that The Minutes of the June 29th 1987 meeting of the Chapter be approved as presented. The MOTION CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

President Roger E. Robertson presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Compatriot Bill Semerau. The Chapter is in very good financial shape.

3. THE REPORT OF THE VETERAN'S BOOK DRIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Berni K. Campbell reported that 475 books were donated to the Sepulveda Veteran's Hospital. Another delivery is being scheduled for the Los Angeles Veteran's Hospital.

4. THE REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Registrar Berni K. Campbell reported that we have received the application for Audel Hicks and that it looks very good.

THE JULY 27TH MEETING MINUTES

Page Two

NEW BUSINESS5. THE VALLEY COMPATRIOT

Our Editor, Donald Norman Moran reported that several Compatriots have mentioned that the meeting notice in the VALLEY COMPATRIOT is arriving to early and requested that no more than two (2) weeks notice be given. Since the Chapter has established that we will meet the last Monday of every month, except for December (President's Open House), and in the event of a special meeting, ample notice will be given. The VALLEY COMPATRIOT will now be mailed mid-month.

6. THE CHAPTER'S PERMANENT FUND

At the written request of Compatriot Bill Semerau, acting Treasurer, the motion was made to invest the Chapter's Permanent fund in a "Triple A" fund. THE MOTION was made by Compatriot Walter H. Walley and SECONDED by Compatriot George A. Eckert, Jr. THE MOTION CARRIED.

7. ELECTION OF THE TREASURER

President Roger E. Robertson advise the meeting that Compatriot Charles M. Pitchford had volunteered to serve as Chapter Treasurer.

Compatriot George A. Eckert, Jr. MOVED that Charles M. Pitchford be nominated for Chapter Treasurer. The Motion was SECONDED by Compatriot Robert B. Warwick. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Compatriot Walter H. Walley MOVED that the Nominations be closed. The Motion was SECONDED by Compatriot Berni K. Campbell. THE MOTION CARRIED

Compatriot George A. Eckert, Jr. MOVED that the election be Unanimous. The Motion was SECONDED by Compatriot Walter H. Walley. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Compatriot Charles M. Pitchford was sworn in by State President, Donald Norman Moran.

8. REPORT ON THE HISTORICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

President Roger E. Robertson addressed the Chapter on the subject of Historical Education and the "Anti-American" history found in the State's text books. He played a Jack Anderson tape on the subject and a general discussion followed. It was MOVED by Compatriot Berni K. Campbell and SECONDED by Compatriot George A. Eckert, Jr. that the Chapter get involved. THE MOTION CARRIED.

THE JULY 27th MEETING MINUTESPage Three6. ADDITION FOR THE COLOR GUARD

Secretary Donald Norman Moran advised the Chapter that he desired to add a "Drummer" to the Color Guard. Said drummer to be dressed in the uniform of one of the "Commander-in-Chiefs" musicians - Buff coat with blue facings, tricon hat, all else being the same as the Washington Life Guards/Comander-in-Chiefs Guards. This to be done at no cost to the Chapter.

PROGRAM

Vice President South, Arthur William Barrett gave a living history presentation on the American Revolution. Portraying an Ensign in the Continental Navy, he did a monologue on the state of the Continental Navy in 1783. Part of the monologue concerned a conversation with Benjamin Franklin and the need for one authority over the navy rather than the thirteen colonies.

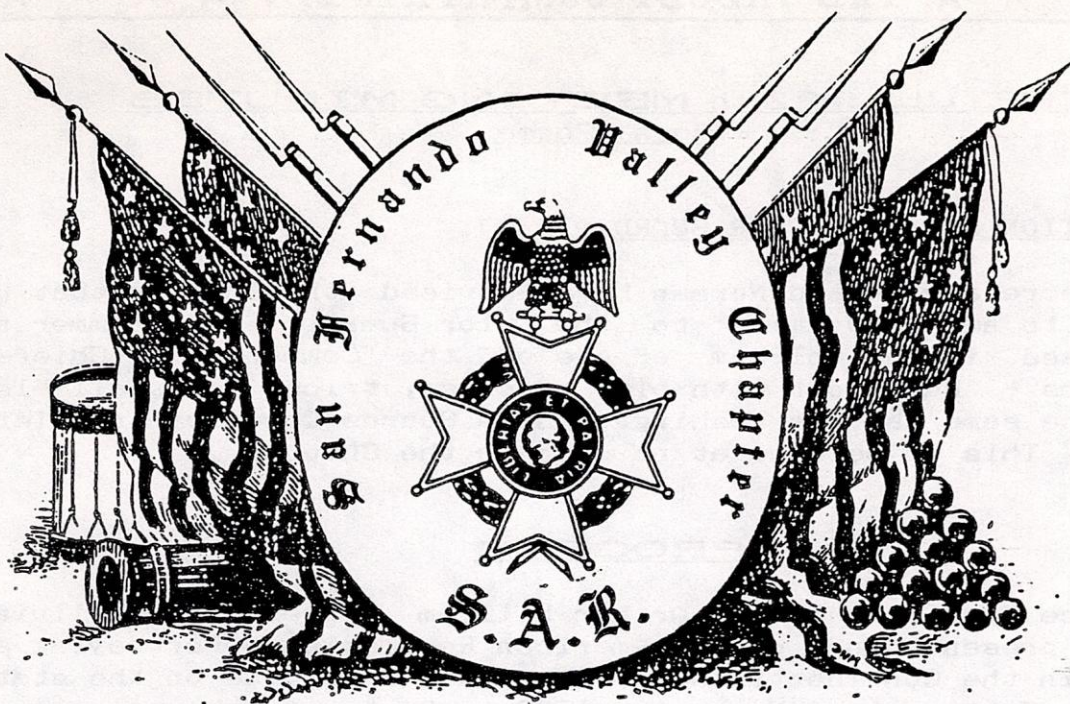
This was presented as a demonstration of Compatriot Barretts idea for an S.A.R. "Living History" speaker's Bureau. The concept was well received and the Chapter will investigate the possibility of providing such a service to the community.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS before the San Fernando Valley Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution, President Roger E. Robertson declared the meeting adjourned.

Donald Norman Moran, Secretary  
San Fernando Valley Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution

NOMINATIONS FOR 1988 OFFICERS

he Chapter will be accepting recommendations for the 1988 Chapter officers. Under our By-Laws all members of the Chapter who are in good standing are eligible to serve. All former Chapter presidents serve on the Nomination Committee. Please contact one of them if you are interested in an elected office. Our Elected officers consist of: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Chancellor, Genealogist and Historian.



San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R.  
1248 Herzl Avenue, Lancaster, Ca. 93535

To:

First  
Class

Dated Material

