

# Grand President's Message

Dec '17 – Jan '18

As I noted in last month's message, we're all human and make mistakes. Grand Officers, Past Grand Presidents and even Grand Presidents are not immune. When I took office, and as I noted in my installation speech, I intended to make, and have to a great extent, changes that I believed were for the betterment of the Order as a whole, even if they were received poorly by a small, but vocal minority of members.

One such change was my desire to return The Native Son

One such change was my desire to return The Native Son, our official publication, to a true, historical periodical. The theory being, that when we interact with other historical, archeological or archivist organizations, it would present a professional picture of the Native Sons of the Golden West. The perception of our Order as a serious, competent historical fraternal organization is imperative to cooperation with other like-minded organizations and will only serve to open more doors that will help us fulfill our duties as reflected in the mission statement of our Constitution and incorporation documents.

What this also meant, however, was that articles about corned beef and cabbage, crab, spaghetti, sausage, prawn, steak and other various and sundry food events would go by the wayside so as to devote more page space to our true and stated mission. While this has received a positive response from most members I have spoken with, many of the knife and fork members felt disenfranchised, which was never the intent.

***“In my official capacity it has been my constant aim and unalterable determination to do what lay in my power toward bringing about the improvements needed in the Order.”***

***- Grand President, Erik Christeson***

I believed, perhaps naively, that the avenues of subordinate parlor newsletters, Facebook pages, and websites; Dates to Remember issued by Grand Parlor to every single subordinate parlor; and the [www.nsgw.org](http://www.nsgw.org) calendar (and the Easy Events Form) would be sufficient to cover the majority of these dinners so that members would continue to be apprised of the sorts of events that interest them.

What I've also come to learn is that many subordinate parlors do not share the Dates to Remember and many members are unaware of the website calendar or even their own parlor websites. In order to help resolve this issue, I ask that subordinate parlors 1) share their parlor newsletters with other nearby parlors, highlighting the events of local interest; 2) publicize subordinate parlor Facebook pages and websites among its

members; 3) share the Dates to Remember issued monthly by Grand Parlor; and 4) begin to actively use the [www.nsgw.org](http://www.nsgw.org) website calendar.

To utilize the website Calendar, simply point your browser to [www.nsgw.org](http://www.nsgw.org). At the right-hand side of the screen is "Our Calendar". There you can see all of the events entered by Grand Parlor, subordinate parlors and other organizations within the Native Sons. If you wish to add your own event, at the top of the page is a button called "Easy Events Form". Once you click on this, there is a fillable form that you can use to add your event to the NSGW Calendar. Ain't technology grand?

I readily acknowledge that the overhaul of The Native Son is a work in progress and as such, the Editor and I have concluded it would be beneficial to begin including a section for subordinate parlor events for those Brothers who cannot or will not utilize the alternative methods discussed above. Emphasis will be placed on, and preference given to, events that have an appeal to Brothers in a broader geographical, regional or historical sense, such as participation in parades, local dedications, district wide celebrations, or participation in information booths; essentially things that promote our Order and its mission. Hopefully these forthcoming changes will alleviate the concerns and frustrations voiced by some Brothers.

No man ever discharges any trust to the fullest degree. Effort serves but to lead us nearer to the unattainable. In my official capacity it has been my constant aim and unalterable determination to do what lay in my power to-ward bringing about the improvements needed in the Order. Not everyone will agree with every step I have taken, but I hope they can all agree that I did it with the best of intentions.

As always, I welcome any questions or suggestions Brothers may have at [grandpresident@nsgw.org](mailto:grandpresident@nsgw.org).