



President's Message

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone who has made my year as Grand President so truly memorable to me. I would like to thank my wife, my parlor, Dominica Lau, my family and every parlor who has stepped up and contributed to assist me this year and in years past. I would like to thank those that contributed to the Native Sons of the Golden West's return to the New Year's Day Tournament of Roses Parade. That was one, of if not the highlight of my Native Sons career to date. To all the Parlors I have visited over the years, thank you for welcoming me in. For those that I have yet to visit I thank you for the unseen contributions you have made to our or-der. To those not yet started, I hope to be a part of that.

Grand Parlor is coming! I hope to see you all there. Delegates, you will be making the decisions to move forward or to continue the same path we have been going for quite some time. I am not ready to accept the direction we have been going. Some parlors think they are doing fine and maybe they are in their own little community. But what they are doing is not helping the order beyond their little fiefdom. They still think the order, in its current state is doing just fine. It is time for those ostriches to pull their heads out of the sand. If they are truly leaders then they should stand up and lead, not sit in their little world and say "look what we have. I don't understand why you all can't do this". Those that are the leaders in their parlors, did they contribute to the parlors current position? Or are they making sure we have a great party living off of what those who came before had already done. I think we have all been living in the past and now it is time to get into the present and maybe even try to move into the future.

I am going to Grand Parlor with the hopes that I have helped to continue some change and the hope that more changes are to come. If you have not noticed again membership in our parlors continues to decrease and at a rapid rate. What can us, the bodies of Grand Parlor do to stop this trend? Ideas are pitched each year and the naysayers continue to decide that we do not need change. Please listen to the ideas to increase membership and make the right decisions to increase membership. Looking at the February Membership report I see the two largest districts 14 & 15 with only 1 out of 15 parlors with a positive increase in membership. Plus, they lost a parlor Glen Ellen this year. I would like to commend districts 11 & 13, along with Georgetown from D12 for making a positive impact. In 11 & 13, Amador #17 and Bidwell #21 did the bulk of the work. Their double-digit increases make up for a little over 1/5 of the 10 double digit loss

parlors in the order. Do I need to call these parlors out for these double-digit loss figures or a common factor? I see a trend and I personally do not like it. Moving forward I will not be a part of it.

I look forward to helping to try to make the changes needed in my coming years, not by talk but by action.

In friendship, loyalty and charity,

Carey Pearce
Grand President 142nd Grand Parlor
Native Sons of the Golden West