

President's Message

October / November 2019

It's mid-September as I write this. The days are still hot here in San Miguel, but there is a chill in the mornings. The peaches, apricots and plums in my orchard have been harvest-ed and the pears and apples are still ripening. The local grape harvest is in full swing. Summer is winding down and, in a month, or so I will need to start splitting wood for the winter. It has been a good summer and I am encouraged by the work that we have accomplished so far.

The Grand Secretary has been working with the other Grand Officers and committee chairs to write and catalog procedures and policies for various functions and activities. Many members and Parlors are reluctant to take on projects or assignments because they don't know what is expected of them or even where to start.

As we have moved through the year, the Grand Secretary and I have been documenting what needs to be done for each event such as Sloat's Landing, Statehood Day and so on. To assist Parlors in hosting dedications, the Grand Historian has written a procedure that will walk you through the process from the very beginning to the very end. This document is so well done that I have shared it with the Native Daughters to help them in their efforts. This is an ongoing process, and these and other, procedures will be available on the Native Sons website for future use and refinement.

I believe that my most solemn duty as Grand President is to protect the fair name, and further the missions, of our Order. I am dismayed that some people feel that it is theirs to denigrate other Parlors, officers and members on social media. I won't delve into whatever psychological maladjustments might drive them, I won't succumb to being as un-happy in life as they appear to be. I have, however, assigned an ad hoc committee to rein in the behavior on our social media sites. Among other things, I have instructed them to establish rules of conduct and vigorously enforce them. Sites that bear the name of the Native Sons will be places for announcements, celebrations and other POSITIVE discourse. Gripping, backbiting, trolling etc. is not welcome and will not be tolerated. I am sure that this will make me less than popular with some, but I don't care. I will do what needs to be done to protect the Native Sons of the Golden West.

This summer has seen Brothers, from all over, working for the advancement of our Order. In early August, District 13 hosted what we believe to be the first sextuple dedication weekend event. It was, by any measure, an unqualified success as each of the six Parlors in the district- Sutter #261, Bidwell #21, Argonaut #8, Downieville #92, Quartz #58 and Hydraulic #56- hosted a dedication of a historic marker. The events were well publicized, and we had a good turnout for each of them. For many of the observers, this was their first introduction to the Native Sons and they got to see us doing what we do best.

Later in the month, Nicasio Parlor #183 rededicated the Crane Melon Barn in Santa Rosa. Members from several North Bay Parlors, including Sonoma #111, Santa Rosa #28, Fairfax #307 and Sea Point #158, joined with Nicasio to put on a barbeque and

make it a District-wide event. The plaque will be mounted in a large monument by the flagpole, to be seen by all who visit the property and make use of the Crane's outdoor event area. I am proud of the Parlors in these two Districts for their cooperation and good works. I am also happy to see Parlors taking the work of our order seriously. As I have said That's what I'm talkin' about.

Another of our core missions is to celebrate the admission of California into the Union and Statehood Day activities abounded. I wish to personally thank the Brothers of Piedmont #120 for moving their annual barbeque and car show at Rowell Ranch to August 31st in order to accommodate my Board meeting and Statehood Day dinner hosted by Los Banos #206 on September 7th.

The Parlors of District 7 NSGW and District 15 NDGW, the San Francisco districts, again pooled their efforts to celebrate California's statehood with a luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. I am happy to see Native Sons and Daughters partnering in such events. As this sort of cooperation made us stronger in years past, it is going to be key to the long-term success of both organizations. before; our historic markers give us the opportunity to get out in front of the public and be recognized, and they leave a lasting legacy of our work. I recently received an online member-ship request and in the area that asked how he had heard of our Order, he answered that he had seen our name on historical markers and elsewhere-

In a historic first, I was recently honored to initiate Cynthia Connelly, the first Past Grand President of the Native Daughters to join the Native Sons. Already she has commented to me on how differently we operate. We have much to learn from each other.

The Native Sons' Hall Association hosted a rededication of the forgotten California Hall of Fame on Admission Day. It was encouraging and heartwarming to see the re-discovery and celebration of our history and I congratulate the Hall Association on their efforts to fulfill the original vision for the building.

My heart swells with pride in our Order and in my Brothers. In the last few months I have seen many members giving of their time and talent to help further the objectives of the Native Sons. I am humbled by the many Brothers who are stepping up to make this year a successful one and I thank you all. The days are getting shorter and the nights cooler but the Native Sons of the Golden West are active and alive, and our future is as full of promise as ever.

Next stop; Southern California Weekend. I hope to see you there.

**In friendship, loyalty and charity,
James King
Grand President 143rd Grand Parlor
Native Sons of the Golden West**