

January 2026

Volume 52, No. 1



CALIFORNIA STAR

Native Daughters of the Golden West

Preserving the History of California!

NEW YEAR - NEW CALIFORNIA STAR!



**Have you heard?
eNews is now the *California Star*!**

The Board of Directors are thrilled to announce that the *California Star* remains the official publication of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, now delivered electronically every month by the Electronic Communications Committee. This transition from a quarterly publication marks a new era of timely updates on Parlor activities, Committee events, and member contributions across the state.

To ensure your voice is heard, please submit articles by the first of the month prior to publication to webmistress@ndgw.org. Join us in making the *California Star* a vibrant reflection of our Sisterhood!

NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST
LIGHTHOUSE
PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



Preserving History, Protecting Heritage,
California's Coastal Beacons

Join us in keeping lighthouses shining bright
for generations to come...



CALIFORNIA LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION

Submitted by: Christine Tripod, PGP, Chairman

For the past 20 years the Native Daughters of the Golden West has helped support the many lighthouses along California's coastline. Funds have been raised for help with restoration, interpretive and educational programs, and many special projects of the lighthouses. Historical markings have been done in association with a few of the lighthouses as well as updates to existing displays for future use.

Each of the lighthouses has been asked how we can help support their work, whether it is funds for exhibits and displays, scientific studies or projects to protect our coast or educational material for school age children. We support the visions of the lighthouse associations to provide the rich cultural, historical and natural aspects of the area. This includes information from the original indigenous peoples to wild shipwrecks and more.

The California Lighthouse Preservation Committee is part of the CFIC committee and as such can provide donation receipts for all donations. Help us keep this part of our history alive for future generations to come! [Click Here to Donate](#) and select "Lighthouse Preservation" from the drop down list.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARDS

Do you know a Woman that is not eligible for membership who has achieved significant or noteworthy service for the Native Daughters of the Golden West or the State of California? Service can be in any area, such as noteworthy service in any area, such as historical projects, the arts, education, conservation, civic participation, social welfare, and /or medicine.



Once again it is time to think about nominating your Parlor's Candidate for consideration for the Native Daughters of the Golden West **Roll of Honor**. Please refer to Committee Policies, Page 37, for rules, guidelines and information about qualified candidates for this distinguished recognition bestowed by the Native Daughters of the Golden West to a woman not eligible for membership in the Order **Deadline to receive candidates is March 15, 2026.**

The Annual Native Daughters of the Golden West **California Image Award** Contest is open for consideration. The NDGW California Image Awards will be awarded to individuals, groups, organizations, or businesses that publicly portray the positive image of California.

Deadline is March 1, 2026. Refer to Committee Policies , Page 35, for rules, guidelines and information about qualifications for consideration for this Award. Another reference is Public Relations and Community Outreach, CGP, Procedures, Native Daughters of the Golden West State Committees, Page 40-42.

We look forward to receiving nominations for these NDGW Public Relations and

Community Outreach Honors. Submit entries electronically or mail to Joanne Davis, 13114 La Barr Meadow Rd., Grass Valley, 95949 or joannedavisaloha@gmail.com

Thank you so much for your enthusiasm for these significant recognitions! Awards and recognition will be announced and honored at NDGW Grand Parlor Annual Meeting, Stockton Hilton, June 2026.

Fraternally,
Joanne Davis
PRACO Program Manager
Roll of Honor and NDGW California Image Awards



PRACO HAS A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

publicrelations@ndgw.org

PARLOR AUDITS AND PER CAPITA TAX DUE BY JAN. 31st

Remember to send all four pages of the semi annual audit form, along with the per capita tax, to the Grand Parlor office at the new mailing address: PO Box 170275, San Francisco, CA 94117-1405



Parlor Happenings...



Prairie City Plaque

Submitted by Barbara Seaton, Forrest Parlor No. 86, Plymouth

It was a foggy Saturday December 13, 2025 with the temperature around 41° when thirty sturdy individuals gathered to rededicate the historic Prairie City plaque located off Highway 50 near Folsom California.

Prairie City was a booming mining town founded in 1853. It's been reported that at its peak the town comprised of 100 buildings, including 15 stores and 10 boarding houses. As with many gold rush towns work for the locals depended on the common everyday needs of the miners. Buildings housed a drug store, a mercantile store, a saloon, Wells Fargo Express and others. Two stages lines ran daily between Sacramento and various sister mining towns.

Gold production peaked at just over \$81 million in 1852 and bottomed out at \$17 million in 1866. After the 1864 election, the Prairie City voters, once the second-largest election center in Sacramento County vanished. By 1876 the only building remaining was a school. There were also remnants of an old livery stable and one cabin

The original historical plaque was placed in 1950, California's centennial year, by the California Centennials Commission, Fern Parlor No. 123 NDGW and Granite Parlor No. 84 NSGW. The Department of Natural Resources designated the plaque as California Registered Historical Landmark No. 464. The plaque was reportedly stolen sometime in 2023.

Barbary Leary, a Folsom historical society member and recently elected Councilmember, contacted Native Daughters inquiring about the possibility of replacing the plaque. A group was formed and headed by Forrest Parlor No. 86 and donations were obtained from the committee of California History, Landmarks, and Historic Buildings (CFHC) NDGW, Past State Presidents Association No. 16 NDGW of Amador County, Save the Landmarks organization, Forrest Parlor No. 86 NDGW and Native Sons' Grand Parlor.

The Native Sons of the Golden West provided a meaningful dedication ceremony as only the Native Sons can. Following the program light refreshments were served at the Hampton Inn & Suites.

To learn more about the organizations that were part of this Prairie City plaque committee please visit their websites: <https://savethelandmarks.org>; <https://www.parks.ca.gov> (Office of Historic Preservation); <https://www.nsgw.org> and <https://thebillbeaverproject.com>



Sutter's Mill No. 336 Participates in the 47th Annual Hangtown Christmas Parade.

Submitted By Leona Sunseri, Sutter's Mill Parlor No. 336, Coloma

The 47th Annual Hangtown Christmas Parade, themed Old Fashion Cowboy Christmas, showcased the vibrant spirit of our community on December 7, 2025. As a proud participant, Sutter's Mill No. 336 played a significant role in this cherished tradition, emphasizing their commitment to local heritage and fostering community engagement. The event drew a large crowd to Main Street in Downtown Placerville, where families enjoyed the festive holiday atmosphere, culminating in Santa distributing over 3,500 bags of candy to children. Such events reinforce the importance of preserving local history while celebrating community.

Pictured: Parlor President Linda Ficklin, Driver Laurel Ferrel, Sisters Rebecca Marty and Leona Sunseri.



Sutter No. 111 Celebrates the Holidays with Friendship & Charity

Submitted by Annette Emery, President

We are pleased to share a recap of the Sisters of Sutter Parlor No. 111 holiday luncheon held on Sunday, December 14th.

The event featured a wonderful potluck lunch and a Christmas ornament exchange. We were especially delighted to welcome new members from Zinfandel Parlor. The

Zinfandel Sisters bring great dedication to NDGW, and Sutter Parlor is very happy to get to know our new sisters and is so pleased that they have joined us.

With so many new Sutter sisters present, we played a game designed to help everyone get acquainted. This trivia activity involved finding members who met various criteria, such as having parents born in California, visiting California ghost towns, and wearing Christmas socks.

Following a suggestion from one of our new members, we also held a collection for a local food pantry. We gathered approximately 50 pounds of food to donate to local families in need.

We all had a wonderful time connecting with each other. Looking ahead, we plan to expand our exploration of California history into the Lodi area to learn more about the wineries and the many interesting places within a short driving distance from Sacramento.

Cheers to a great New Year!



[New Members - Click Here & take the survey](#)

Califia No. 22: Maryellen Burns-Dabaghian

Santa Cruz No. 26: Constance Taylor

San Jose No. 81: Patricia Lawson

Forrest No. 86: Joel Allen, Robert Pinotti

Golden Era No. 99: Teresa Torbett

San Luisita No. 108: Robyn Kranz

Sutter No. 111: Jeannine O'Brien

Eschscholtzia No. 112: Kristy Girven, Kory Hayden, Glenda Hubbard, Angelee

Hurlimann, Hayley Moyles

Oakdale No. 125: Tamara Crim, Michele Wolf

Placer No. 138: Mona Barba-Ott, Karen Geiger, Lillian Hallums, Carol Shuey

Hiawatha No. 140: Lora Hudson, Bonnie Hyatt

San Juan Bautista No. 179: Tami Aviles, Moira Casey, Nadgie Martinez, Sandra Tomlin

Morada No. 199: Lorraine Bowen, Lynnell DiFrancia, Linda Shafer, Michelle Shafer, Angela Smith

Fort Bragg No. 210: Kelley Corten, Laurel Hosford, Dawn Mermer

Petaluma No. 222: Adele Calkin, Jo Ann Wallenstein

Sutter's Mill No. 336: Laurel Ferrel

Amapola No. 338: Catherine Navarrete-Smith



In Memory of...

Joaquin No. 5: Sandra Wild
Forrest No. 86: Vivian Mailhot
Reichling No. 97: Linda Fisher
El Vespero No. 118: Dorothy Arata
Oakdale No. 125: Frieda Lansdowne
San Juan Bautista No. 179: Jim Botelho
Donner No. 193: Lois Stornetta
Fort Bragg No. 210: Florence Brazill, Gladys Delsol
Petaluma No. 222: Susan Shields
San Bruno No. 246: Phyllis Richardson
Rancho La Puente No. 331: Shirley Burton

Parlors: Please email picture of deceased Member to webmistress@ndgw.org to be included in the tribute presented at GPAM 2026.

Lists of Initiations and Deceased Members from 10/8/2025. to 01/05/2026

The monthly *California Star* is brought to you by the Members of the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC). We welcome your suggestions and feedback via email to: webmistress@ndgw.org

www.NDGW.org



Native Daughters of the Golden West | 543 Baker Street | San Francisco, CA 94117-1405 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)