

# **BUGLE CALLS, JANUARY 2018**

## **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE**



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### **1. JANUARY 11TH MEETING:**

Denny's Restaurant: 710 W. Shaw, Clovis

6:00 Social Hour and Meal

7:00 Meeting and Program (Show & Tell)

Please bring an item, book, or share a story

**NEXT MEETING: FEB. 8TH**

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## **2. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

By Michael Spencer

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to graciously thank you as your president elect. I have many ideas to share and yet to be thought of. I've never held a position as high before, so this will be quite the learning experience for me. My first agenda as President is to take our Round Table to ( Facebook ) for now. Everything these days is just that "social media". When the Facebook page is up and running with a link to the website, my goal with this is to attract new members.

On a side note I was chatting up a few friends about the civil war. I was shocked to find out that this generation is clueless about our history... I find it pleasing to give tidbits of information that I know of the civil war. Sorry for the digression. Many of you know that I work at California Pizza Kitchen and my job is to not just to wait on guests but to engage them in conversation, quite a few are my regulars. I love talking about many things including the Civil War and our round table group. So I'll bid everyone to have a Happy New Year in 2018.

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## **3. AFTER ACTION REPORT:**

CHRISTMAS MEETING OF 12/14/17

By Ron Vaughan

Thirteen persons were present for our annual Christmas party at Gail's house. She provided a great taco bar, and there were plenty of delicious desserts brought by attendees. Everyone enjoyed conversing, and liked the gifts they unwrapped. This will be our last party at this lovely house, as Gail has sold it, and is moving soon.

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#### **4. CIVIL WAR HUMOR:**

From "The Blue & Gray Laughing"

"Colt's arms are useful when you want to fight, but if you want to run away, colt's legs are better."

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#### **5. CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION NEWS:**

During the past year, the Civil War Trust has saved over 2,000 acres of hallowed battlefield land on 25 battlefields in 10 states.

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#### **6. BOOK REVIEW: *Grant* , by Ron Chernow**

In case you missed it, the 12/27/17 Fresno Bee had a rave review of this new book. It stated that the book is a "must read of 2017, which debunks Southern myths." The reviewer, Albert Hunt, wrote that in the post-war years the Southerners sought to elevate the reputations of their generals and denigrate Grant. They characterized him as a military butcher, a drunk, a corrupt and failed President.

Chernow tells a different story, of Grant's victorious campaigns, his generosity towards the defeated Confederates, and his civil rights accomplishments. He appointed many minorities to government posts, and tried to enfranchise the Blacks. The book does not white wash Grant, but also deals with his mistakes, and his regrets.