



**SIGNERS CHAPTER NEVADA SOCIETY**  
**MEETING MINUTES – December 1, 2018**

**Call to Order:** The monthly meeting of the Signers Chapter of the Nevada Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NVSSAR) was held on **December 1, 2018**, at Giuseppe's Italian Grille, 2630 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Henderson NV 89052. The meeting was called to order by President Donald L. Hotchkiss, Jr. at 9:13 AM.

**Attendance:** Our December meeting was attended by 18 people - 12 members, 1 candidate, and 5 special guests.

**Blessing:** President Hotchkiss provided us with an inspirational invocation and asked for continued blessing on us all.

**Pledge:** President Hotchkiss led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the SAR pledge.

**Introduction of Guests:** Secretary Robert Till introduced our special guests at this meeting. The guests were Lee Nishimoto (featured speaker today), Dwight Mazzone, Denise Selleck, Virginia Requa, and Jan Thompson.

**Awards:** President Hotchkiss asked Compatriot Tommy Thompson (aka Lt Col Thompson, retired) to come forward to receive certificates and be included in two of SAR's veterans programs - Vietnam War Veterans Corps and Special Ops Veterans Corps. Compatriot Thompson received these and recalled for the group a few memories of his time in Vietnam.

**No swearing-in of candidates today.**

**Minutes Approval:**

1. The minutes of the November meeting, as prepared by Secretary Till and Michael Gravitt, had been distributed to the membership via the Internet.
2. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Compatriot Larry Kesler and seconded by Compatriot Jeff Gutting.
3. The members unanimously approved the motion.

**Officer Reports:**

**President:** President Hotchkiss did not give a report at this time.

**Vice President Admin, Registrar:** VP/Registrar Charles Smith reported that he has been working with potential candidates including candidates for Nevada's northern SAR chapter. He is waiting on national SAR approval of our candidate Jim Farmer. (See Attachment 1.)

**Secretary:** Compatriot Till reported that he (and others) have had communication with Compatriot Michael Gravitt of our chapter. Michael has indicated that he will not continue his SAR membership due to work and personal

circumstances. His work in college admissions involves considerable travel and he has seen a big increase in demands on him. We have expressed our regrets at his leaving and have wished him the best.

**Treasurer:** Compatriot Al Conant gave the Treasurer's Report. He indicated that the chapter currently has \$3,778.69 in the operating budget, \$4,035.30 in the scholarship fund, and \$13,367.57 in the scholarship savings account. (See Attachment 2.) He mentioned that today is the last day to purchase a wreath through Wreaths Across America. Our chapter has received \$320 so far for our contributions to WAA and we are still collecting. These funds are earmarked for the Signers Chapter scholarship fund. Placement of the wreaths will occur on Dec 15 and Compatriot Conant still needs volunteers to help with this.

Most members have already paid their 2019 SAR dues, but Compatriot Conant reports that there are about 20 members who have not yet paid. He asked for members' help in nudging those who have not yet paid.

The motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Compatriot Larry Kesler and seconded by Compatriot Jeff Gutting. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Committee Reports:** In the interest of time, President Hotchkiss summarized activity within these committees unless the committee chairs had something new or unique to be reported.

**Facebook and Web Site Chairs:** Compatriots Antonio Reyes and Anthony Perry continue to update these. The Signers Chapter web site has now been moved to a new server. The *url* (web address) for that site has been provided to members. <http://www.sar-nevada.com/Signers/signers.html>

**Veterans Committee Chair:** Compatriot Len Becker was not present today but asks that we all continue to collect toiletries for the Veterans Home to be used by visiting families.

**Birthday Chair:** Compatriot Joe de Beauchamp could not be present today but he had previously sent cards or made calls to those with December birthdays (including Compatriot Till).

**Awards Chair and Civic Awards Chair:** Pres. Hotchkiss is temporarily handling this and is looking ahead to giving awards to firemen, police, paramedics and other deserving individuals. This is an open position awaiting a volunteer who would like to serve the SAR.

**Flag Certificate Chair:** Compatriot Kesler has spotted yet another business worthy of our Flag Certificate Award and will contact them.

**JROTC Awards Chair:** In the spring, members will be asked to help deliver these awards to the schools in their area.

**State Conference Chair:** Pres. Hotchkiss reminded the group of the state meetings scheduled for next April 12-14 in Tonopah, NV and to make their reservations now by calling the Hotel at 775-482-3030 and asking for the special SAR rate.

**GW Birthday Dinner Chair:** Compatriot Al Conant is currently handling the planning for this February event. We are looking for a SAR Compatriot to step forward and volunteer to take over as Chairman for this position.

**Heritage Moment Chair:** The schedule for monthly heritage moments is open from Feb 2019 on. Please let Charles Smith know of your interest in giving a future Heritage Moment talk.

**Nominating Committee:** Compatriot Ben Allen provided a preliminary report of the Nominating Committee and indicated that additional nominations can be made from the floor. The election will take place at our January meeting.

The slate of officer nominations is:

President	Charles Smith
Vice President	Jeff Gutting
Secretary	Bob Till
Treasurer	Al Conant
Chaplain	Joe DeBeauchamp
Registrar	Charles Smith

Harney Trust Fund	President	Charles Smith
	Secretary	Bob Till
	Treasurer	Al Conant
	At large member	Tony Perry
	At large member	Ben Allen

With committee chairs to be appointed by the Trust Fund committee president.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Pres. Hotchkiss noted that we need a new chair for the Awards & Civic Awards Committee. We also need a Color Guard Commander.

He asks that if anyone knows a principal or teacher at a local CCSD or private school, please let him know so he can approach them and ask if they would be interested in having a George Washington program in April.

He also asks for any suggestions (names) of individuals whom we might give a Good Citizenship Award.

A new camp (#31) of the Sons of Union Veterans (SUV) is forming in Henderson NV. First meeting is Jan 5 after the SAR meeting.

**Remarks for the Good of the Order:** None.

**Master Calendar:**

Upcoming events were mentioned (and were listed on the meeting agenda).

There will be a Signers Chapter **Christmas party** on Dec 15. The **George Washington Birthday Dinner** will take place on February 23. The Nevada Society **NSSAR Annual State Conference** will take place April 12-14, 2019 in Tonopah, Nevada. There will be an all-day bus tour of the **Old Nuc Test Site** (NNSS) on June 17, 2019 for the SAR and their families. The **NSSAR National Congress** will take place in July 2019 in Orange County, California.

At 9:42, there was a short break in the meeting to allow food to be served (and eaten).

**Speaker Program:** At 10:00, our featured speaker, Lee Nishimoto, gave an interesting presentation entitled “Rumblings of War” and featuring the lives of Col. Israel Shreve and his sons. Ms. Nishimoto and her husband are directors of the Las Vegas Family Search Library. She encouraged interested members to come to the Library to check out the resources.

**Heritage Moment:** At 10:37, Compatriot Geoff Dustin spoke on the topic of Hannah Dustin, an ancestor of his who was a Puritan mother in colonial Massachusetts who was taken captive by Abenaki natives during a raid in 1697. She escaped from her captors by killing them during the night and fleeing in their canoe. She is said to be the first woman honored in the United States with a statue.

**Adjournment:** The SAR closing was recited and the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM by President Hotchkiss.

**The next meeting of the Signers Chapter will be at 9:00 a.m. on January 5, 2019, at Giuseppe’s Italian Grille.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert Till*

Secretary, Signers Chapter

Attachment 1

Attachment 2