



SIGNERS CHAPTER NEVADA SOCIETY
MEETING MINUTES – January 2, 2021

Call to Order: An online video-conference meeting of the Signers Chapter of the Nevada Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NVSSAR) was held on **January 2, 2021**, using the Zoom app. The meeting was called to order by the chapter president, Charles B. Smith V, at 9:03 AM.

Attendance: Online participants at the meeting included 14 people, all SAR members.

Blessing: Pres. Smith provided inspirational thoughts and asked for a blessing on the meeting.

Pledge: Pres. Smith led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the SAR pledge.

Introduction of Members and Guests: Pres. Smith introduced himself and asked all members to do the same. He provided an introduction for anyone who did not have an adequate audio connection.

Minutes Approval:

1. The minutes of the December 2020 meeting, as prepared by Secretary Till, had been distributed to the membership via the Internet.
2. A motion was made by Compatriot Jim Farmer, and seconded by Compatriot Al Conant, to approve the minutes.
3. The members unanimously approved the motion.

Induction of New Members. There were no new members to be inducted at this time.

Awards: No awards were presented at this meeting.

Officer Reports:

President, Co-Registrar: Pres. Charles Smith reported on the recent SAR National Trustees meeting and ongoing discussion regarding a virtual format for the SAR National Congress this summer. As his term as chapter president comes to an end, he thanks the officers and compatriots of the chapter who have been a tremendous help to him. He will continue as Nevada State Registrar while the chapter registrar role will be taken by Doug Wood. VP Michael Gravitt is stepping down from the vice-president role but will continue with his work on the Patriot Research System for our chapter and the state level.

Pres. Smith also reported that, since our last meeting in December, the chapter has one new regular member application approved and two more awaiting approval. Five supplemental applications are also awaiting approval. As State Registrar, he has also processed similar numbers of applications for the Battle Born Patriots Chapter.

Vice-President, Co-Registrar: VP Gravitt was not at the meeting.

Secretary: Secretary Robert Till had no correspondence to report on but took a moment to thank the fellow officers and chapter compatriots who have assisted him at various times in his role as chapter secretary these past three years.

Treasurer: Treasurer Al Conant reported that there are about 12 chapter members who have not yet paid annual dues. He continues efforts to contact them and urge renewal.

Compatriot Conant reported that the current balance in the operating budget is \$10,067.83. The balance in the scholarship fund is \$5,054.63 and the balance in the scholarship savings account is currently \$13,379.56. Compatriot Paul Bell moved approval of the treasurer's report and Compatriot David Bentley seconded. The vote was taken and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Compatriot Conant reported that 66 wreaths were purchased through the Wreaths Across America program this year, yielding \$330 that our chapter can use to fund scholarships. All friends and relatives (of chapter members), who are buried at the Veterans Cemetery, received a wreath.

Old Business: Pres. Smith spoke about annual dues collection and its relation to chapter activities. He mentioned that we must always try to motivate and interest members through SAR activities and events that are worthwhile and seem of value to members.

New Business: Compatriot Don Hotchkiss, as chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of chapter officers to be considered for 2021-2022. The slate consisted of Timothy Hagan for President, Paul Bell for Vice President, and Al Conant for Treasurer (and Secretary until this could be filled as a separate role). Seeing consensus for a group swearing-in, Pres. Smith read the oath of office (via Zoom) and asked all three compatriots to respond with their acceptance.

Once sworn in, Pres. Tim Hagan took the lead and announced the appointed committee chairs. These include Compatriot Joe DeBeauchamp as Chaplain, Compatriot Larry Kesler as chair of the Flag Award Committee, Compatriot Antonio Reyes as Website and Facebook chair, Compatriot Patrick Wright as chair of the Awards Committee, Compatriot David Bentley as chair of the JROTC Awards Committee, and Compatriot Doug Wood as Chapter Registrar.

It was noted that, as Chapter Registrar, Compatriot Wood will need to be sworn in. There may be a need to review and/or change the section in our bylaws pertaining to this role.

Announcements for Good of the Order: Looking ahead, Compatriot Hotchkiss mentioned that JROTC Awards this spring will probably involve certificates delivered to cadets without any school ceremonies. Depending on the pandemic situation, we can hope for a fund-raising fireworks booth again this summer and a Constitution Day Dinner for the chapter in September. Compatriot Conant added his hope that SAR members will be able once again to personally place wreaths on graves next year (when group-size restrictions at the cemetery are relaxed).

Pres. Hagan asked the group about the date/place of the next executive committee meeting. Compatriot Conant noted that these "coffee meetings" have typically been on the second Friday of each month and he suggested Jan 15. There was brief discussion about restrictions on seating at tables (at places like Barnes & Noble) and whether such meeting might have to be via Zoom. This will be resolved later.

Compatriot Chris Smithson, who is State Registrar for the Maryland SAR Society, offered to be of assistance to members working on supplemental applications. He also suggested that it might help with our chapter's recruitment if we place membership flyers at Family History Centers in Las Vegas. This has worked back east.

Compatriot Patrick Wright asked about flag certificates. Compatriot Charles Smith noted that we have some to be awarded. He also noted that the chapter can receive recognition from the national level for our help with the destroying of unserviceable flags.

Master Calendar:

Pres. Hagan reminded the group that our next chapter meeting will be via Zoom or at O'Aces Grill, depending on state restrictions, on March 6, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

Adjournment: The SAR closing was recited and the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 AM by Pres. Smith.

The next meeting of the Signers Chapter will be at 9:00 am on March 6, 2021, and be conducted as an online (Zoom) meeting or in-person at O'Aces Grill.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Till

Secretary, Signers Chapter