



SIGNERS CHAPTER NEVADA SOCIETY
MEETING MINUTES – February 3, 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 **February 3, 2018**, at Marie Callender's Restaurant, 8175 West Sahara Blvd, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89117. The meeting was called to order by President Donald L. Hotchkiss Jr. at 8:04 AM.

Attendance: Our January meeting was attended by 36 people - 21 Members, 2 candidates, and 13 Special Guests.

Blessing: Compatriot Joe DeBeauchamp provided us with an inspirational invocation and asked for continued blessing on us all.

Pledges: President Hotchkiss led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and following this the SAR pledge was recited.

Introduction of Guests: As Secretary, Compatriot Robert Till introduced our special guests at this meeting. The guests were Elva Becker, Janet Thompson, Dorothy Brooks, Denise Selleck, William Smithson, Andrew Reed, Aiden Reed, and six late-arriving guests who accompanied candidate Arthur Spear, Jr.

Minutes Approval:

1. The minutes of the January meeting, as prepared by Secretary Robert Till, and distributed to the membership via the Internet, were discussed. Secretary Till asked for a correction to show that the minutes approved at that meeting were from December (rather than October as had been incorrectly listed).
2. A motion to accept the minutes, with that correction, was made by Compatriot Len Becker and seconded by Compatriot Antonio Reyes.
3. The members unanimously approved the motion.

Officer Reports:

President: President Hotchkiss gave no report at this time but reminded the group of the importance of our being a nation of laws.

Vice President Admin, Registrar: Vice President and Chapter Registrar Charles Smith reported that 2017 has been a great year for growth in SAR with an increase in the number of members. The staff working in the genealogy area at National are described as the most qualified, most experienced, and most educated that SAR has ever had. VP Smith also reported that two completed member applications have been approved. (See Attachment 2.)

Secretary: Compatriot Till noted that there has been recent correspondence from Compatriot Jay Chapman noting that Eagle Scout recognitions for 2017 totaled 470.

Treasurer: Compatriot Al Conant gave the Treasurer's Report. He indicated that the chapter had \$7,133.07 in the operating budget at the end of the 2017 year, \$3,377.30 in the scholarship fund, and \$13,361.38 in the scholarship savings account. (See Attachment 1.) Compatriot Becker moved acceptance of the Treasurer's report and

Compatriot Ben Allen seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Compatriot Allen then noted that he had reviewed the 2017 financial records of the Chapter's operating account and the Harney Scholarship Fund in detail, finding excellent audit trails and no inaccuracies. These funds are in excellent shape. Compatriot Conant is commended for his excellent work as treasurer.

Committee Reports:

Facebook Chair: Compatriot Antonio Reyes noted that there is information on our Facebook page about the upcoming George Washington Dinner and about the SAR state conference. There are also a few new photos.

Veteran Committee Chair: The Honorable State President, and Chair of our Veterans Committee, Len Becker thanked everyone for their contributions and noted that the veterans are grateful for all of the support.

Web Site Chair: Compatriot Tony Perry noted that the SAR chapter web page is updated and the PayPal option is available for those making payments or donations. As the State Secretary/Treasurer, he reports that dues checks have been sent in for 88 members.

Birthday Chair: Compatriot Fred Boughton, as chair of our Birthday Committee, acknowledged 7 member birthdays in January by sending cards and acknowledged birthdays of 3 members present today – Compatriots Joe DeBeauchamp, Roger Goeb, and Gary Parriott. Looking ahead, the group also acknowledged the upcoming March 3 birthday of today's new inductee, Arthur Spear, Jr.

Vice President Charles Smith took this opportunity to announce an anniversary – the liberation on Feb 3, 1945, of Curtis and Dorothy Brooks who had been in captivity as children during World War II in a Japanese POW camp in the Philippines.

Awards Chair: Compatriot Andrew Waller was not present at the meeting.

Flag Certificate Chair: Compatriot Larry Kesler had no report today.

Member Bio Chair: Compatriot Al Conant reminded members that the bio form has been made available and members are asked to fill it out.

Civic Awards Chair: President Hotchkiss reported on the Fire Department's desire take a pass this year rather than nominate someone. There had been so many heroes in the October 1 massacre that naming a few would be difficult.

Master Calendar Chair: Compatriot Till reported that, in addition to a master calendar of events, there has been thought that we might regularly present members at meetings with a handout that identifies upcoming SAR events, deadlines, or other news related to the activities and interests of the chapter. This could serve as a sort of "moving window" on events just ahead. Compatriot Till invited anyone with thoughts on the matter to send him input.

Hat Fund Chair: The hat is here, but Compatriot Bill Jones, chair, could not be today.

JROTC Awards Chair: President Hotchkiss spoke about upcoming JROTC awards that would be given at local high schools and asked for volunteers who might present such awards. He described the award ceremonies as heartwarming experiences.

Eagle Scout Chair: Compatriot and Chairman Jay Chapman could not be present today. His report was noted earlier.

GW Birthday Dinner Chair: Compatriot Gravitt reminded the group that the dinner is planned for Feb. 17. Checks should be sent to Compatriot Al Conant. Speaker for the event will be author Stan Vaughan, who will focus on the Anti-Federalist papers. There will be a silent auction, managed by our co-sponsors, the United States Daughters of 1812. Money will go to our SAR scholarship fund. Compatriot Conant added that about 57 have signed up for the dinner so far.

Patriot Bio Chair and Chapter Color Guard Commander: State Color Guard Commander Gary Parriott requests that members continue to document their Patriot's bios for inclusion in the National SAR database by forwarding them to him. Any information is valued. Our Patriots' stories need not be limited to the battles they may have fought in. Stories of where they lived, what their occupation was, their religious beliefs, who they married or information about their children all help to keep their memory alive.

Dr. Joe has graciously donated a Revolutionary War uniform to the Chapters growing wardrobe of Colonial era attire. Our collection now includes two full blue Continental uniforms with red facing, a Continental blue Coat with gold facing as well as several items that the Militia soldier would have worn. All of these uniforms are available for checkout and he'd encourage everyone to be wearing one when representing SAR at public events, like JROTC awards ceremonies, and other Lineage Society events.

Commander Parriott announced that he has decided not to serve as the Chapter Color Guard Commander for 2018. He does plan to continue as Nevada Society Color Guard Commander and will be attending Spring Leadership and meetings of the Committees he belongs to. The proposed safety regulations for muskets and edged weapons (like swords) will be discussed at the National Color Guard's Committee meeting, which he will attend.

Locally, he is considering organizing a Patriots Day Celebration at the base of the American Revolutionary War statue (at the NV Veteran's Memorial in Las Vegas) on Monday April 16th. This would be along the lines of what we did last year, nothing very elaborate. Contact him if you would like to help organize the event or participate in it.

Heritage Moment Chair: Compatriot Smith requests that members consider making a presentation on an ancestor, a patriot, or some other aspects of the Revolutionary War period. This is part of our effort to emphasize program more than business at our meetings.

Fourth of July Fundraiser: President Hotchkiss mentioned this summer fundraiser and asked that we consider donating one hour of time to help. For that time, \$10 would be given to our chapter.

Scholarship Committee: The committee has not met recently but will talk soon (at the upcoming leadership coffee meeting).

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business:

The most important new business is our need to relocate our meetings. President Hotchkiss pointed to the poll on the back of today's agenda and he circulated a spreadsheet so that members might give their input regarding location, time, and format of our future monthly meetings.

Announcements and Remarks for the Good of the Order:

The monthly leadership coffee meeting will be held at Barnes and Noble on February 16 at 9 am.

The State SAR convention will be in Reno, April 13-15.

LV Round Table will meet on Feb. 27.

Visiting SAR member, William Smithson from Maryland, spoke briefly of his role as a national trustee in the Maryland Society SAR.

Induction of New Member: One new member, Arthur Spear, Jr., was inducted today. President Hotchkiss led the swearing in and invited Compatriot Spear to speak to the group which he did, thanking the chapter for this opportunity.

Heritage Moment

Compatriot Smith gave a brief heritage moment in which he talked about Colonel Griffin and the skirmish at Petticoat Bridge in December 1776 in which Griffin's men hoped to create a distraction for the Hessian Colonel Von Donop while George Washington maneuvered to attack Hessians in Trenton. But it seems a certain beautiful widow (possibly Betsy Ross?) gets the credit for detaining Von Donop for a few extra days while Washington successfully led his attack!

Compatriot Smith also noted that today (Feb 3) is the anniversary of our country's first mass murder- a shocking crime committed in 1780 by Barnett Davenport.

Adjournment: The SAR closing was recited and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM by Pres. Donald Hotchkiss, Jr.

The next meeting of the Signers Chapter will be March 3, 2018, most likely at Giuseppe's Restaurant. Watch for the announcement.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Till

Secretary, Signers Chapter

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

Attachment 3

Attachment 4