



SIGNERS CHAPTER NEVADA SOCIETY
MEETING MINUTES – January 6, 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 **January 6, 2018**, at Marie Callender's Restaurant, 8175 West Sahara Blvd, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89117. The meeting was called to order by President Donald Hotchkiss Jr. at 8:01 AM.

Attendance: Our January meeting was attended by 29 people - 25 Members and 4 Special Guests.

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

Pledges: President Donald Hotchkiss, Jr. 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 Carol Allen, Elaine Kessler, Denise Selleck, and Dorothy Brooks.

Induction of New Members: No new members were inducted today. Vice President Charles Smith mentioned that there will likely be a new member induction at the next meeting.

Minutes Approval:

1. The minutes of the October meeting, as prepared by Compatriot Al Conant and Secretary Robert Till, and distributed to the membership via the Internet, were discussed.
2. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Compatriot William Jones and seconded by Compatriot Neil Carmena.
3. The members unanimously approved the motion.

Officer Reports:

President: President Hotchkiss gave no report at this time.

Vice President Admin, Registrar: Vice President and Chapter Registrar Charles Smith reported that we currently have one supplemental application under review at the national level and two completed member applications awaiting approval. (See Attachment 1.)

Secretary: Compatriot Till noted that there has been no recent correspondence to report on. He mentioned to the members that the chapter is looking into the possibility of another monthly meeting room that can accommodate more than the current room does. Any suggestions are welcome.

Treasurer: Compatriot Al Conant gave the Treasurer's Report. He indicated that the chapter had \$5,154.05 in the operating budget at the end of the 2017 year, \$3,314.30 in the scholarship fund, and \$13,360.67 in the scholarship savings account. Receipts for the past year are being made available for review by the chapter's accountant. So far, for 2018, there has been \$260 in expenses.

Committee Reports:

Facebook Chair: Compatriot Antonio Reyes noted that our new Facebook page (Signers Chapter NV) is successful and has already received “likes” from 270 viewers. Compatriots Hotchkiss and Parriott are co-editors and are working to keep content current.

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. As always, donations of toiletries for male and female veterans are welcome. He has many letters of thanks on file for those who would like to see them.

Web Site Chair: Compatriot Tony Perry noted that arrangements have been made with PayPal so that members can make donations or pay dues online in the members section of the site.

Birthday Chair: Compatriot Fred Boughton acknowledged two members present today with a birthday this month – Compatriots Jeff Gutting and Geoffrey Dustin. Compatriot Boughton acknowledges with a card those members with birthdays not able to attend the monthly meeting. He asks that everyone keep addresses up-to-date through the national SAR web site and let State Secretary-Treasurer Tony Perry know as well.

Awards Chair: Compatriot Andrew Waller announced that awards have been purchased and are available for any upcoming award recognitions.

Wreaths Across America: Compatriot Conant reviewed our recent involvement in the WAA program. He reported that 92 wreaths were purchased and credited to our chapter, generating \$450 for our scholarship fund. At the December WAA ceremony, 40 wreaths were placed on graves of members’ family and friends. Several chapter members attended. President Hotchkiss thanked Compatriots Conant and Parriott, as well as others, for their work on this event.

Member Bio Chair: President Hotchkiss noted that the bio form has been made available and members are asked to fill it out. He mentioned that we will want to find ways to share this information among chapter members.

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. He also reported on his involvement through the year in the WAA ceremony and 12 other events for which he wore a uniform. He noted that Compatriot DeBeauchamp has donated his George Washington uniform (size 44) to the Signers Chapter. In addition to this uniform the Chapter has two complete Continental Style uniforms (with red facing on blue), a VA style militia uniform in light brown and finished with fringing plus a heavy duty canvas hunting shirt. All of these items are available for use by chapter members. Compatriot Parriott went on to talk about the importance of networking with DAR members, attending the genealogy fair, and participating in flag programs/dedications. The support we have received from NVSDAR has been outstanding. Their participation in our largest ever Joint Constitution Day Dinner, support for the Memorial Day service plus our recent Wreaths Across America event at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery is truly appreciated. Finally, as Chapter Color Guard Commander Gary presented a Bronze Color Guard certificate and medal set to Compatriot Larry Kessler for his participation in many events over the years.

Master Calendar Chair: Compatriot Till reported that we are working on a master calendar of events that will be useful for publicizing them and for coordinating with other groups, such as the DAR chapters.

JROTC Awards Chair: Compatriot Gravitt is taking over many of these activities from President Hotchkiss. It was noted that email addresses for the school district will be changing (which should be noted when arranging for awards to be given at particular schools).

Eagle Scout Chair: There was no report from Compatriot and Chairman Jay Chapman, who could not be present today.

GW Birthday Dinner Chair: Compatriot Gravitt noted that planning for the dinner is well underway. 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.

Flag Certification Chair: Compatriot Larry Kessler reported that flags have been purchased and are ready to be sent out.

Hat Fund Chair: Compatriot Bill Jones asked that members donate to raise the amount in our scholarship fund.

Heritage Moment Chair: Compatriot Smith requests that members consider making a 5-min presentation on an ancestor, a patriot, or some other aspects of the Revolutionary War period. He is willing to make multiple presentations this next year but wants others to be involved as well. (For ideas, one can check out myrevolutionarywar.com or on-this-day.com)

Old Business: There are only 6 chapter members who have not paid and renewed membership.

New Business:

Fund-raising. We are looking forward to our July 4 fireworks fundraiser.

Meeting room. If anyone has thoughts on a new meeting room location, please send input.

New Community Awards Program. The chapter leadership group has been discussing ways to make awards to firefighters, paramedics, law-enforcement officials, civilians or others who make important contributions to the safety or security of our community. We would like to make awards once or twice a year, possibly at the honoree's home department ceremony or meeting. Considering the scale of the recent October massacre, we might want to give more awards initially. Compatriot Reyes has made a good start in organizing this effort.

Announcements and Remarks for the Good of the Order:

Compatriot Perry announced that the Nevada Society, the Signers Chapter and the Ladies Auxiliary SAR will each be awarding an educational scholarship for the continuation of education at a university, community college, or trade school. Application is in the form of a letter. Awards will be announced around April 19.

President Hotchkiss alerted the group to the upcoming meeting of the Civil War Round Table on January 23.

The chapter's leadership group will hold their coffee meeting on January 12.

Heritage Moment

Compatriot Smith gave a brief heritage moment in which he talked about the Revolutionary War at the end of 1776 when the British thought they were winning and Americans had suffered recent defeats. Certainly a highlight of Charles' presentation is his myth-busting reminder that the Hessian soldiers that General Washington's men attacked on the morning after Christmas were NOT DRUNK. Nevertheless, they were defeated – an important victory for the Americans!

Adjournment: The SAR closing was recited and the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 AM by Pres. Donald Hotchkiss, Jr.

The next meeting of the Signers Chapter will be February 3, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Till

Secretary, Signers Chapter