



SIGNERS CHAPTER NEVADA SOCIETY
MEETING MINUTES – July 7, 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 **July 7, 2018**, at Giuseppe's Italian Grille, 2630 W. Horizon Ridge, Henderson NV, 89052. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Charles Smith at 10:30 AM since President Hotchkiss is out of town.

Attendance: Our July meeting was attended by 22 people - 14 Members, 1 candidate, and 7 Special Guests.

Blessing: Vice President Smith reported that one of our chapter members recently living in Pahrump, Compatriot William Goodwin, recently passed away and is survived by his widow. Compatriot Joe DeBeauchamp then provided us with an inspirational invocation and asked for continued blessing on us all.

Pledge: Compatriot Michael Gravitt led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the SAR pledge.

Introduction of Guests: As Secretary, Compatriot Robert Till introduced our special guests at this meeting. The guests were Virginia Requa, Em Becker, Janet Thompson, Steve Small, Pat Maycumber, David Smith (candidate), and Alan Aimone (our guest speaker).

Induction of New Members: Vice President Smith announced that there would be no swearing-in of new members today.

Minutes Approval:

1. The minutes of the June meeting, as prepared by Secretary Robert Till, had been distributed to the membership via the Internet.
2. Secretary Till noted that he had received word about errors in the listing of chapter members who had been involved in the presentation of awards to JROTC and ROTC students at local schools. He offered a corrected version of that listing that read as follows: "The recognized members present at the meeting were Leonard Becker, Michael Gravitt, Jeff Gutting, Don Hotchkiss, Larry Kesler, Gary Parriott, and Tommy Thompson. Additionally, Jay Chapman, Bill Jones, Dan Orr, Charles Smith, Antonio Reyes, and Douglas Walker were recognized but were not able to attend the meeting."
3. A motion to accept the minutes, with this correction, was made by Compatriot Michael Gravitt and seconded by Compatriot Al Conant.
4. The members unanimously approved the motion.

Officer Reports:

President: President Hotchkiss is out of town.

Vice President Admin, Registrar: Vice President and Chapter Registrar Charles Smith reported that several new member applications are being prepared. (See Attachment 1.)

Secretary: Compatriot Till had no new communications to report on.

Treasurer: Compatriot Al Conant gave the Treasurer's Report. He indicated that the chapter currently has \$5,054.39 in the operating budget, \$3,052.30 in the scholarship fund, and \$13,364.74 in the scholarship savings account. (See Attachment 2.) A motion was made by Compatriot Ben Allen and seconded by Compatriot Michael Gravitt to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Compatriot Conant had previously spoken about the need to raise funds for the scholarship awards that we give annually and suggested that we begin an annual collection process. He reported today that he has already received donations from 5 or 6 members.

Committee Reports:

Veterans Committee Chair: Compatriot Len Becker reported that donations for the veterans have been slow lately and reminded the group that he collects donations such as toiletries and turns them over to the VA Hospital for use in the Fisher House. This is a place that kin can stay, at little or no charge, while their sons/daughters are hospitalized.

Birthday Chair: Compatriot Joe DeBeauchamp reported that Compatriot Larry Kesler has a birthday this month as do 9 other chapter members not present today.

Awards Chair and Civic Awards Chair: Vice President Smith reported that these two positions will be merged and Compatriot Antonio Reyes has agreed to take on these tasks. Antonio will also organize the annual JROTC/ROTC award presentations.

Flag Certificate Chair: Compatriot Kesler did not report giving any recent certificates but did comment on the recent showing (on TV) of Ken Burns' *Gettysburg Address*.

Member Bio Chair: Compatriot Conant reminded those who may not have done so to turn in a short member bio with basic information about themselves.

Hat Fund Chair: Compatriot Kesler reached for the tri-corner hat. He did not pull out a rabbit, but asked for members to consider making a donation (to our scholarship fund) and passed the hat around.

Constitution Day Dinner Chair: The date for the dinner is set as Sep 22 and the speaker will be Mark Hall-Patton, Curator of the Clark County Museum. The location will again be the Las Vegas National Golf Club. Compatriot Gravitt will send out a registration form (RSVP) to be returned by Sep 12.

Patriot Bio Chair: Compatriot Parriott was not present, but VP Smith encouraged members to submit bios. He explained that the national SAR web site for doing this has been completely revamped and is now a useful source for finding information about patriot ancestors.

Heritage Moment Chair: VP Smith reported that the schedule for monthly heritage moments has been filled for the rest of 2018 (as listed on the back of today's agenda).

Old Business:

VP Smith took this opportunity to recognize Compatriot Dan Orr with a SAR pin for his help in presenting JROTC awards since Dan could not be present last month. Compatriot Orr also thanked the chapter for recent scholarships awarded to his son and daughter.

New Business:

A report on the Fireworks Fund Raiser will be presented at our next meeting. VP Smith added only that we raised more money for our chapter than we did last year.

Several members plan to go today, after our meeting, to check out a possible breakfast meeting location that would be on Eastern Ave, not far from the Giuseppe's location. VP Smith asked for any comments regarding meeting on the 1st or 3rd Saturday of the month. A few comments were offered but focused more on the breakfast vs. luncheon aspect of the meeting.

President Hotchkiss is taking on the role of project manager for our annual NSSAR State Conference to be held in Tonopah next April at the Mizpah Hotel.

VP Smith reminded the group that our plan is to bring Carl Closs to Nevada. Mr. Closs has frequently appeared in the role of George Washington, providing both education and entertainment to audiences. We need to find 10 schools willing to support (pay for) an appearance by Mr. Closs at the schools (and at our state conference). Please send suggestions for schools to President Hotchkiss.

Master Calendar:

In addition to the leadership coffee meeting and the Civil War Round Table meetings already listed on the agenda, VP Smith reminded the group of the Constitution Day Dinner on Sep 22 and the National SAR Fall Leadership meetings in Louisville KY beginning on Sep 27.

Heritage Moment: No presentation today.

Speaker Program

Special guest Alan Aimone gave an informative presentation on the role of the militia in the American Revolution with special attention to the militia in New York State.

Adjournment: The SAR closing was recited and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM by Vice President Smith.

The next meeting of the Signers Chapter will be Aug 4, 2018. Location TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Till

Secretary, Signers Chapter

Attachment 1

Attachment 2