



SIGNERS CHAPTER NEVADA SOCIETY
MEETING MINUTES – May 5, 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 **May 5, 2018**, at Giuseppe's Italian Grille, 2630 W. Horizon Ridge, Henderson NV, 89052. The meeting was called to order by President Donald L. Hotchkiss, Jr. at 10:50 AM.

Attendance: Our April meeting was attended by 26 people - 14 Members, 1 candidate, and 11 Special Guests.

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

Pledge: President Hotchkiss led the group as the SAR pledge was recited.

Induction of New Members: President Donald Hotchkiss Jr., with the aid of Vice President Charles Smith, inducted one new member. Michael Pelletier was sworn in and was presented with the SAR certificate. Michael explained that he was originally from Montana, had found relatives who were Confederate soldiers, and had traced their roots back to his ancestor, William Brewer, a member of the South Carolina militia who served during the Revolution.

Minutes Approval:

1. The minutes of the March meeting, as prepared by Secretary Robert Till, 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 reported that he had presented JROTC awards and recently gave a commencement address at one of the schools, focusing on the rights and responsibilities of young adults. He reminded us that these students are some of the best and that it is quite an honor to speak to them.

Vice President Admin, Registrar: Vice President and Chapter Registrar Charles Smith reported on several developments at the recent state-level SAR meeting in Reno. He noted that the business meeting, the reception, and the black powder shoot had all gone well. He noted that State Treasurer Tony Perry gave his report and reminded members that they can now pay their dues online through PayPal.

VP Smith reported that there have been 9 new members added to our chapter during 2017 and that the membership now stands at 151. Compatriot Gary Parriott reported in Reno on the status of the Color Guard. Compatriot Al Conant (chapter treasurer) was elected to serve as treasurer for the state-level SAR organization.

In his Registrar role, Compatriot Smith noted that Alexander Carmer was unable to be here today for the induction as a new member. That will happen later. Smith noted that the chapter has received approval on three supplemental applications submitted by members. His report is attached. (See Attachment 1.)

President Hotchkiss spoke about a possible plan for next year's state-level meeting in Tonopah NV, a town with much history and much appeal that is roughly halfway between Reno and Las Vegas.

President: Coming back to the matter of awards, President Hotchkiss took this opportunity to recognize fellow member Leonard C. Becker who most recently served as State President of the Nevada Society of SAR. He was given a Certificate of Appreciation for all his efforts.

Secretary: Compatriot Till reported that he had communication from Compatriot Jay Chapman who sent a flyer showing his role in award presentations at the recent AFJROTC ceremony in St. George UT. Compatriot Chapman also reported that there were 25 Eagle Scout awards in April for a total of 111 so far this year. Our chapter is planning to phase out this award as we continue to use up the current supply of printed certificates.

Treasurer: Compatriot Al Conant gave the Treasurer's Report. He indicated that the chapter currently has \$5,028.50 in the operating budget, \$2,339.30 in the scholarship fund, and \$13,353.41 in the scholarship savings account. Scholarship awards, totaling \$1,500, were recently sent to the recipients. (See Attachment 2.)

Compatriot Conant noted that, because of the recent death of Compatriot Gene Butler, we have needed to add someone new as a signer on our bank accounts (savings and checking). Compatriot Tony Perry has agreed to take on this role. A motion was made by Compatriot Jeff Gutting and seconded by Compatriot Larry Kesler to approve Compatriot Perry for this signatory role. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Compatriot Larry Kesler and seconded by Compatriot Michael Gravitt to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

President Hotchkiss suggested that, in the interest of time, we need not hear committee reports from those committees having little new information to report at this time.

Birthday Chair: Compatriot Joe DeBeauchamp reported that all birthday cards for the month had been mailed out. He acknowledged the birthday of one member present today – VP Charles B. Smith V.

Constitution Day Dinner Chair: Compatriot Gravitt reported that the date is set for the dinner. It is Sep 22 and the speaker will be Mark Hall-Patton, Curator of the Clark County Museum. He is currently looking at possible locations for this event, other than the Las Vegas National Golf Club where the dinner has been in the past.

Heritage Moment Chair: VP Smith explained that we will pass around a sign-up list in an effort to recruit members for future heritage moments (2 or 3 minutes on a Revolutionary ancestor or event).

Fourth of July Fireworks Fundraiser: President Hotchkiss again mentioned the upcoming fundraiser organized by the Friends of the Fort, noting that members' helping in the booth would bring in funds for our chapter. He also made available listings of fireworks packages for those that might like to buy some or help sell them to others. This too would bring funds back to our chapter.

Old Business:

None at this time.

New Business:

The most important new business has been our need to relocate our meetings. President Hotchkiss noted that several possible locations have been considered but so far none seems suitable enough for us to switch.

Master Calendar: Compatriot Till described a new approach in which the meeting agenda will contain a calendar section for events of the next two months of possible interest to the group (i.e., a “moving window” on the calendar). He offered to answer or redirect any questions on the events listed in today’s agenda. There were none.

Heritage Moment: Compatriot Roger Goeb could not be present today.

Announcements and Remarks for the Good of the Order:

State President and Veterans Committee Chair, Len Becker, has once again received thank-you notes from Veterans Affairs and the folks at Fisher House (veterans and families) who were most appreciative of the toiletries that have been donated.

Speaker Program

Special guest Dr. Michael Green gave an informative presentation on Las Vegas in 1776, noting the activities of natives, missionaries, explorers and others who had some interest in the Las Vegas area.

Adjournment: President Hotchkiss, seeing that members were still finishing their meals, chose to read the SAR closing and elaborate on its meaning. The meeting was then adjourned at 12:00 PM by President Hotchkiss.

The next meeting of the Signers Chapter will be June 2, 2018. Location TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Till

Secretary, Signers Chapter

Attachment 1

Attachment 2