



SIGNERS CHAPTER NEVADA SOCIETY
MEETING MINUTES – May 4, 2019

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 4, 2019**, at Giuseppe's Italian Grille, 2630 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Henderson NV 89052. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jeff Gutting at 9:08 AM.

Attendance: Our May meeting was attended by 19 people - 11 members, 1 candidate, and 7 special guests.

Blessing: Compatriot Larry Kesler provided us with an inspirational invocation and asked for a blessing on the meal we were about to share.

Pledge: Vice President Gutting led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the SAR pledge.

Introduction of Guests: Secretary Robert Till introduced our special guests at this meeting. The guests were Jan Thompson, Denise Selleck, Luiz Marzullo, Jessica Jennings, Paul Bell, Vincent Vitiello, and Nicholas Vitiello.

Awards:

Vice President Gutting presented a Paul Jones Memorial Educational Scholarship to Nicholas Vitiello who was accompanied today by his father, Vincent Vitiello.

VP Gutting presented a Military Service Certificate along with two medals to Compatriot David Jennings for his service to the military in Kosovo. Compatriot Jennings expressed his thanks to fellow compatriot Fred Boughton who had been instrumental in preparing the genealogical aspects of Jennings' application to SAR some time ago.

VP Gutting also presented Longevity Awards (certificates) to Compatriot Robert Till for 10 years in SAR and to Compatriot Al Conant for his 5 years in SAR.

Induction of New Members. No new members were inducted today.

Minutes Approval:

1. The minutes of the April meeting, as prepared by Secretary 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 Don Hotchkiss.
3. The members unanimously approved the motion.

Officer Reports:

President, Registrar: President Charles Smith was not present at today's meeting but he submitted a monthly registrar report. (See Attachment 1.)

Vice President: VP Gutting had no additional comments at this time.

Secretary: Secretary Till reported briefly that he had received the Registrar's Report from President Smith before Smith left town. He is awaiting approval of 3 membership applications from our national office for candidates in the northern chapter and 1 application for a candidate in our (Signers) chapter. In addition, supplemental applications were submitted by 3 members of our chapter. President Smith also spoke with two other individuals interested in SAR membership.

Secretary Till also reviewed communication (both live and by email) with Roger Linscott and David Hess of the northern chapter (Battle Born Patriots chapter). They described in detail their format for informal chapter meetings known as "Boys Night Out." The northern chapter does not have bylaws and simply follows the state-level bylaws requiring one meeting of the chapter per year. That meeting is typically held somewhere on the premises of the state's annual meeting. At other times (e.g., once per month), the chapter has informal gatherings at a designated bar/restaurant without the need to take notes or maintain absolute order. No business, such as elections or nominations, occurs at these gatherings. Instead, they order drinks, socialize, order food, and let the President or anyone else bring up items for discussion. Often, they start with introduction of guests and members and some brief histories of patriot ancestors, then they move to discussion of various topics such as upcoming events, parade attendance, fundraising, planning for annual state meeting, etc. Roger and David claim that this has been a very effective way to recruit and keep members in SAR.

Treasurer: Compatriot Al Conant gave the Treasurer's Report, indicating that the chapter currently has \$5,555.85 in the operating budget, \$3,482.30 in the scholarship fund, and \$13,371.90 in the scholarship savings account. Our chapter recently awarded 3 scholarships. (See Attachment 2.)

The motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Compatriot Larry Kesler and seconded by Compatriot Don Hotchkiss. The motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports: In the interest of time, Vice President Gutting summarized activity within our chapter committees unless the committee chairs had something new or unique to be reported.

Birthday Chair: VP Gutting reported that Compatriot Joe DeBeauchamp, who was not present today, has been regularly sending out birthday greetings to members.

Awards Chair and Civic Awards Chair: Compatriot Jim Farmer reported that until recently the chapter has had 7 SAR membership badges (which any member may purchase). He has now sold 4 of these, but still has 3 left for anyone interested.

Master Calendar Chair: Secretary Till referred to the many upcoming events listed on the agenda and asked that anyone with additional information, about events of interest to our members, please contact him.

Hat Fund Chair: The hat was passed around and members were encouraged to donate to our scholarship fund.

JROTC Awards Chair: VP Gutting reported that presentations have now been made at several of the ROTC/JROTC award ceremonies this spring. More are still ahead. He thanked all who have helped with presentations, especially Compatriots Don Hotchkiss and Tommy Thompson who have done several. He also indicated that due to a conflict we are still in need of a presenter at Centennial High School on May 16. He noted that as SAR representatives we attend and are dressed professionally (coat and tie); this is not always the case for representatives from other groups giving awards.

Speaker/Heritage Moment Chair: Focusing on the brief "Heritage Moment" option, VP Gutting asked for members to let him know if they are able to present for 5 minutes on a patriot ancestor or issue related to the American Revolution.

Old Business: Compatriot Hotchkiss reported that the annual state conference, recently held in Tonopah, went well. The northern chapter will take the lead on selecting a site for next year's state conference. He added his thanks to those who have or who will make presentations at JROTC/ROTC awards ceremonies and noted that we need another presenter for the May 16 ceremony. The summer bus tour to the Nuclear Site is full, but there may be a second bus. Compatriot Hotchkiss is continuing to seek volunteer time from members willing to staff the fireworks booth (July 1-4) – an important fundraiser for our chapter. Let him know if you can help.

New Business:

1. Secretary Till brought up issues related to the format and frequency of chapter meetings. As interesting as the northern chapter's "Boys Night Out" may be, the first concern would seem to be the Signers Chapter Bylaws. Those bylaws bind us to a chapter meeting on the first Saturday of every month (adjusting in case of holiday). And, the bylaws charge the secretary with recording and maintaining minutes of all chapter meetings.

As secretary, I recommend we change the chapter bylaws. The bylaws allow for such change by means of an orderly process in which the changes are presented in written form to the chapter at the chapter meeting prior to the meeting at which the proposal is considered. To pass, the proposed amendment must receive at least a 2/3 vote of support of those chapter members present at the meeting.

If possible, I would ask that we have time on the agenda of the June meeting to the proposed change. Then again, at the July meeting, with the motion put forth and seconded, there would also be time for any discussion prior to the vote.

I suggest that the written proposal state that the bylaw section on meetings (Section VI – A) should be changed. The revised wording could end up like this: "Meetings of the chapter shall be held 6 times during the calendar year, generally the first Saturday of every other month..."

I believe that the bylaw change should say nothing about "Boys Night Out" gatherings, the timing or location of them, or the format they might follow. Of course, we will want to talk about such matters but they need not be settled prior to making the bylaw change.

2. Compatriot Hotchkiss reported on a possible location for our chapter meetings. He visited the O' Aces Bar & Grill on Decatur and finds that it is a nice set up with a bigger, private room, better suited for speakers. The age 21 limitation may not be a problem in the private room.

Announcements for Good of the Order:

Compatriot Thompson announced that it is his (and Jan's) anniversary today. They've been married 61 years.

Master Calendar:

VP Gutting read or commented on several of the events appearing in the calendar on today's agenda.

Program Speaker: There was no speaker today.

Adjournment: The SAR closing was recited and the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 AM by VP Gutting.

The next meeting of the Signers Chapter will be at 9:00 am on June 1, 2019, at Giuseppe's Italian Grille.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Till

Secretary, Signers Chapter

Attachment 1

Attachment 2