



SIGNERS CHAPTER NEVADA SOCIETY
MEETING MINUTES – October 3, 2020

Call to Order: An online video-conference meeting of the Signers Chapter of the Nevada Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NVSSAR) was held on **October 3, 2020**, using the Zoom app. The meeting was called to order by the chapter president, Charles B. Smith V, at 9:06 AM.

Attendance: Online participants at the meeting included 16 people - 15 members and 1 guest.

Blessing: Compatriot Larry Kesler provided us with inspirational thoughts. He and Pres. Smith both asked for blessings on first responders and all those under assault during the pandemic.

Pledge: Pres. Smith led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the SAR pledge.

Introduction of Members and Guests: Because there are new members and because not everyone could be seen on our Zoom video screens, Pres. Smith introduced all present at the meeting by name.

Minutes Approval:

1. The minutes of the March 2020 meeting, as prepared by Secretary Till, had been distributed to the membership via the Internet.
2. A motion was made by Compatriot R J Koser, and seconded by Compatriot Tim Hagan, to approve the minutes.
3. The members unanimously approved the motion.

Induction of New Members. There were no new members to be inducted at this time.

Awards: No awards were presented at this meeting.

Officer Reports:

President, Registrar: Pres. Charles Smith referred to his report which had been distributed to members ahead of this meeting. Since March, he has attended, in-person or online, several national, district, state, and local meetings. At some, he represented us as chapter president. At others, he served as a National Trustee or as Western District Secretary. One topic at the meetings, of considerable interest to members, was the decision at the national level pertaining to the new SAR logo. Pres. Smith will send the new logo out to chapter members.

Pres. Smith also reported that, since our last meeting in March, we have had seven new members approved: Cash Karlan, Jason and Torrhens Lesley, Kevin and Timothy Hagan, Mathew Pickar, and David Layton. We are waiting for the final approval of five supplementals.

Vice-President: The report distributed by Pres. Smith also contained a summary of work done by him and VP/Co-Registrar Michael Gravitt. They have worked together on new-member applications and have completed the project to enter all of our members' lineage data and patriot records (through July 2020) into the Patriot Research System (PRS) website. Pres. Smith credits VP Gravitt with doing the "lion's share" of the work. VP Gravitt will be doing PRS maintenance on an ongoing basis, i.e., adding the lineages and patriots for all new applications from now on.

Secretary: Secretary Robert Till announced that members would soon hear about the nomination committee that will solicit nominations for members to fill various leadership positions within the chapter, including the chapter secretary position. He offered a few observations regarding the tasks and duties of the chapter secretary. The secretary's tasks may include preparation of the minutes of our chapter meetings and uploading of them to our website, introduction of guests who attend our meetings, maintaining of a calendar of events of interest to SAR members, communication with businesses/individuals regarding scheduling of chapter event venues, and participation in the chapter's executive committee meetings used for brainstorming and planning of chapter events.

At this point, Pres. Smith mentioned that the chapter will also be looking for a new President and Vice-President. He took a moment to describe some of the duties of these positions as well as the Treasurer position.

Treasurer: Compatriot Al Conant referred to the Treasurer's Report which had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Compatriot Ben Allen moved to approve, and Compatriot Jim Farmer moved to second approval of the report. Compatriot Conant noted that the large balance in the operating budget (\$10,087.74) is due to proceeds from our summer fireworks sales. He noted that some of this could be used for the monthly cost of our storage unit and some could be shifted to our scholarship fund (which has a current balance of \$4,724.63). The balance in the scholarship savings account is currently \$13,379.11. The vote was taken and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Compatriot Don Hotchkiss spoke as chair of the Nomination Committee. He explained that the chapter will be seeking nominations in anticipation of our January elections. Openings exist for President, Vice-President, Secretary, JROTC Chair, and Awards Chair positions. He has spoken to some individuals who are interested in positions but encourages all to try a leadership position.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business:

1. Compatriot Conant reported on changes in the Wreaths Across America program for this year. Because of concerns related to the pandemic (social distancing), the chapter cannot go to the cemetery to place wreaths on graves as we have in the past. Staff members are looking to restrict activity at the cemetery and plan to do the placing of all wreaths brought to the cemetery. Our chapter will still benefit from wreath sales (\$5 per wreath, added to our scholarship fund), but we will not be allowed the social aspect of placing wreaths as a group. Compatriot Hotchkiss suggested we set a goal of selling 100 wreaths. Compatriot Koser reported that his experience (elsewhere) with staff placing wreaths has been positive.

2. Compatriot Conant reminded everyone that dues notices would be coming soon. He encouraged us to use PayPal, if possible, to minimize the handling of lots of checks. Pres. Smith noted that retention of members is important for SAR and the addition of new members helps to offset the inevitable drops. We want to find ways to keep members

challenged and allow them to participate. Pres. Smith encourages new members to speak up if they think there is a role they can play.

Announcements for Good of the Order: There were no announcements.

Master Calendar:

There was discussion about future meetings to be held in January (annual meeting with elections) as well as November and/or December. Pres. Smith acknowledged that some have concerns about in-person meetings during the pandemic and suggested that we plan an online (Zoom) meeting for November 7 at which time we can discuss and/or vote on the format for subsequent meetings.

Adjournment: The SAR closing was recited and the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM by Pres. Smith.

The next meeting of the Signers Chapter will be at 9:00 am on Nov 7, 2020, and be conducted as an online (Zoom) meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Till

Secretary, Signers Chapter