

**146th Annual Meeting of the Membership
California Society, Sons of the American Revolution
Zoom Meeting
April 17th, 2021**

The 146th Annual Meeting of the California Society was held electronically on April 17, 2020 by Zoom Meeting. President Donald Littlefield opened the meeting at 9 AM, with the normal opening rituals. There were about 85 participants on the Zoom Meeting.

CASSAR Officers attending were President Donald Littlefield, Executive Vice President Brian Stephens, Vice President North Craig Anderson, Vice President South Jim Klingler, Vice President Membership James Bunker, Secretary Fred Schuster, Treasurer John Ferris, Chancellor John Dodd, Genealogist Terry Briggs, Historian Scott Knecht, Surgeon Matthew Bowdish, Invested Funds Trustee Stephen Renouf, Invested Funds Trustee Kent Gregory, and Immediate Past President Robert Taylor. Chapter presidents attending were Chris Cerillo (Coachella Valley), Melvin Howell (Delta), Karl Blackmun (Eagle designee), Thomas Shaw (General Patton), David Gilliard (Gold Country), Brandon Villardi (Harbor), Michael Davis (Kern), Jack Francke (Monterey Bay), Doug Drake (Mother Lode designee), Phil Mitchell (Orange County), Shawn Price (Redlands), Bill Nay (Redwood Empire), Roger Cooper (Riverside), Michael Hull (Sacramento), Barry Key (San Diego), Luke Dziurzynski (San Francisco), Richard Ferman (Silicon Valley), Troy Munday (Sons of Liberty), Robert Whitman (South Coast), Derek Brown (Thomas Jefferson designee), and Randy Dhindsa (Yosemite). President Donald Littlefield declared a quorum. President Littlefield acknowledged guests, including President General Jack Manning, PG Mike Tomme, VPG James Fosdyck, Treasurer General Bruce Pickette, Genealogist General Jim Faulkinbury, Surgeon General Darryl Addington, VPG Jim Petres (Great Lakes District), VPG Christopher Moberg (North Central District), and NSSAR Trustee for California Derek Brown.

Chancellor John Dodd presented three Bylaws Proposals for the Bylaws Committee. The **first proposal** was to amend Bylaw 7, Section 6, to clarify the amount of life member dues paid to the chapters by referring to Bylaw 9, Section 5; to remove superfluous language; and to correct “obtain” to “purchase” a life membership. The proposal was approved unanimously. The **second proposal** was to amend Bylaw 2, Section 3(a), to add a requirement for chapters to report an inventory of non-cash assets held by the chapter. The proposal was amended to report non-cash assets over \$500, and it was approved with one no vote. The **third proposal** was to amend Bylaw 8, Section 1(g), to change the meeting notice requirement to 30 days to match the Articles of Incorporation, and it was approved unanimously.

The previous annual meeting minutes from April 2020, and the board of managers meeting minutes from November 2020 were approved unanimously. The officer reports were published electronically in *The Book*, which was placed on the state website. Chairman Renouf reported that the Invested Funds Trustees had met with the Morgan Stanley Advisor, who recommended that we hold off on increasing the risk levels for our accounts at the current time. The trustees will meet with the advisor in late summer to re-evaluate. The officer reports were also published electronically in *The Book*. Derek Brown reported that the Thomas Jefferson Chapter essay winner Ryan Fortani won the CASSAR competition, and his essay has been forwarded for the NSSAR Competition.

Brian Stephens reported that the Audit Committee reviewed the state treasurer’s records, and found no issues – Treasurer Ferris was commended for his work. Valley Forge Committee Chairman Bob

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Taylor said the California Society has an opportunity to add two more teachers to the Valley Forge Program. DAR Liaison Committee Chairman Stephens reported that the SAR Youth Protection Training was now available for CAR and DAR members who participate in SAR youth programs. Bob Taylor has a slide presentation on the SAR Youth Protection Program, and members may contact him for a copy. President Littlefield reported that state and chapter officers need to submit conflict of interest and whistleblower forms to him as compliance chairman. President General Jack Manning, and Past PG Mike Tomme brought greetings from the National Society.

Under old business, SAR Foundation Member John Dodd reminded compatriots there are numerous giving opportunities. The easiest way is the Liberty Tree Campaign, where you automatically pay a monthly amount on your credit card. He said the foundation is moving ahead with the SAR Outreach Education Center and Museum, and they are starting the next phase. There are naming opportunities for contributions of \$10k and above. They are now getting bids for the rooftop garden. There is also the Founders Circle for those donating \$10k or more in their will or estate plan. Contact John Dodd for more information. NSSAR Museum Board Chairman Kent Gregory noted that sixteen donations of Revolutionary War artifacts to the SAR Museum have come from California. The Ladies Auxiliary donated a 2-tiered chimney lantern, and John Dodd donated a leather messenger bag, both in the name of the late Jim Blauer. The Museum Board has a relationship with antique dealers, and has a list of potential items that can be purchased and donated to the SAR Museum. Contact Chairman Gregory for details.

Under new business, Chancellor Dodd reported that the late CASSAR Historian Jim Blauer left the SAR a large library of history books. The books have been divided into banker's boxes of 15 books for a donation of \$100, and bags of 7 books for a donation of \$50, with the donations going to the Orange County SAR Eagle Scout Fund. Jim Blauer was an Eagle Scout, and was dedicated to supporting the program. There are a few valuable books and other items that will be raffled at the Fall Board of Managers Meeting in Riverside.

Secretary Schuster requested that a committee be established to study the position of state secretary, and recommend ways to reduce the workload and assist the secretary. The committee will report its recommendations at the Fall Board of Managers Meeting. Fred will work with Incoming President Stephens to create the committee, possibly with Stephen Renouf, Derek Brown, Craig Anderson, and Karl Blackmun.

President Littlefield discussed using Constant Contact to deliver a monthly newsletter to replace the *California Compatriot*, which is only issued a few times a year with information that is stale. VP North Anderson displayed a beta version. President Littlefield said we will be trying the new format for the remainder of 2021 and get feedback to see if it is a better solution.

VP South Klingler reported that he will get quotes from local CPA firms to file the 990 form for the California Society. The form is becoming increasingly complex, and it would be better to be filled out by a professional. Once he has the quotes, he will make a proposal at the Fall Board of Managers

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Meeting. NSSAR Inspector General Derek Brown reminded compatriots that the state/chapter membership rosters are confidential. They should only be given out to state/chapter officers as necessary and should only be used for official business.

Outgoing President Don Littlefield gave his farewell address to the California Society. He said it was a great privilege to serve the society, and that he enjoyed working with the great team of volunteer officers. He said that we learned about using Zoom Meeting during the pandemic to continue the activities of the SAR, and he hoped the California Society would integrate it into meetings once we are able to meet in person. We had lots of participation from members who are not able to travel to our meeting sites, and we should continue to take advantage of their virtual participation.

Nominating Committee Chairman Derek Brown read the slate of CASSAR officers for 2021-22: President Brian Stephens, Executive Vice President Craig Anderson, Vice President South James Klingler, Vice President North William Van Valkenburg, Vice President Membership (2021-22) James Bunker, Secretary Fred Schuster, Treasurer John Ferris, Registrar Owen Stiles, Chancellor John Dodd, Genealogist Terry Briggs, Historian Scott Knecht, Chaplain Lou Carlson, Surgeon Matthew Bowdish, Invested Funds Trustee Stephen Renouf (2020-23), Invested Funds Trustee Kent Gregory (2019-22), Invested Funds Trustee John Dodd (2021-24), and Immediate Past President Donald Littlefield. Robert Taylor is our nominee for NSSAR Trustee for California, and Brian Stephens is our nominee for NSSAR Alternate Trustee for California. There were no nominations from floor, and the slate of officers was elected by acclamation. President General Jack Manning installed the new officers, and PG Mike Tomme installed Brian Stephens as CASSAR President. Brian's wife Diane Stephens placed the CASSAR State President neck ribbon on President Stephens.

President Stephens gave an abbreviated inaugural address. He thanked the National officers for attending our meetings, as well as the past presidents who were mentors to him. He commended the volunteers on the Patriot Research System project, and re-appointed all the committee chairmen. He said it was an honor to serve as president, and he would listen, work hard, and communicate with the members. He will continue President Littlefield's monthly meetings of top officers. He is excited to work with the new officers to make 2021 a banner year for the California Society.

President Stephens announced that the Fall Board of Managers Meeting was scheduled for November 4-7, 2021 at the Mission Inn in Riverside, California. Room rates are \$159 per night, and reservations should be made soon. Chancellor Dodd announced that the registration for the SAR Annual Congress in Renton, Washington, should be open in mid-May 2021. Room reservations were filling up, so interested members should make them now. The hotel is on Lake Washington, not in Seattle, and the tours should be firmed up by May. There will be a California Society Suite for drinks, refreshments, and to gather with compatriots. With the cancellation of congress last year, California will have two Minutemen installed in Renton – Rev. Lou Carlson (2020) and Dr. Kent Gregory (2021). It is a short plane ride to Washington, so California should be able to fill all our 32 delegate slots. Executive VP Craig Anderson reported that the 2022 CASSAR Annual Meeting will be held at the Downtown Holiday Inn,

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300 J Street, Sacramento, California. It is a short walk from the Golden1Center and the Tower Bridge. The banquet will be on the top floor of the hotel.

Past President Littlefield then reported on the awards given by the California Society. The public service winners were announced: The **Robert Burt Scout Volunteer Award** was awarded to Michael A. Allen (Silicon Valley Chapter), who was an Eagle Scout himself, and he has mentored 15 Eagle Scouts. On September 12, 2020, two Los Angeles Sheriff Deputies were shot in an ambush attack in Compton, California. They were parked in their car when their attacker walked up to their vehicle and fired multiple rounds through the window. Deputy Claudia Apolinar was struck in the jaw and arms, and Deputy Emmanuel Perez was struck in the forehead, arm and hand. Ignoring her own injuries, Deputy Apolinar assisted Deputy Perez to a place of safety, and applied a tourniquet to his wounds. She also radioed for help, despite her shattered jaw and excruciating pain. The **SAR Heroism Medal** was awarded to Deputy Apolinar for her heroic actions that day, and the **SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal** was awarded to Deputy Perez for his fight to survive, and tactical skills. The Quilt Reaction Force presented a US Navy Blanket to Craig Anderson for his past military service.

The youth contest winners were announced: There were four entries for the **Americanism Poster Contest**: the winners were: 1st place Lina Sabneh submitted by Sacramento Chapter (\$300), 2nd place Gold Country Chapter (\$200), 3rd place Orange County Chapter (\$100), and 4th place Harbor Chapter (\$75). The **Brochure Contest** winners were: 1st place Taryn Mills submitted by Mother Lode Chapter (\$400), and 2nd place Taylor Ditmar submitted by Orange County Chapter (\$300). The **Knight Essay Contest** winner was Ryan Fortani submitted by Thomas Jefferson Chapter, who will receive \$1,000. The **Oration Contest** winner was Julia Abbott submitted by Sons of Liberty Chapter, who will receive \$1,000. The **Eagle Scout Contest** winner was John McPhie submitted by Orange County Chapter, who will receive \$1,000. The **JROTC/ROTC Enhanced Essay Contest** winner was William Kersey submitted by Sacramento Chapter, who will receive \$1,000. The **Sea Cadet** winner was Miguel-Aris Barisan submitted by Redwood Empire Chapter, who will receive \$1,000.

The **DAR Referral Program Award** of \$100 was awarded to the Bakersfield Chapter, with 15 referrals. President Stephens will present the award on May 8, 2021 at the Bakersfield Chapter's 100th anniversary meeting. The **CASSAR Richard F. Locke Award** for membership retention with a cash award of \$250 was awarded to: Redlands Chapter (9 net new members, +37%), Yosemite Chapter (8 net new members, +42%), Harbor Chapter (8 net new members, +15%), Kern Chapter (7 net new members, +12%), Redwood Empire Chapter (6 net new members, +10%), and South Coast Chapter (6 net new members, +11%).

CASSAR Color Guard Commander Kramer announced the **CASSAR Von Steuben Medal** was awarded to Duncan Campbell of the San Diego Chapter. The **Best Chapter Color Guards** were: Orange County (very large chapter), Riverside (large chapter), Harbor (medium chapter), Coachella Valley (medium small chapter), and there were no entries for small chapters.

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Outgoing CASSAR President Donald Littlefield awarded the **SAR Silver Roger Sherman Medal** to Charles Erik Frye (Redlands Chapter), and Matthew Stiles Bowdish (Sacramento Chapter), who participated in the CASSAR Speakers Bureau. The **Meritorious Service Medal** was awarded to Jeffrey Sylvan of the Delta Chapter for his work on the Patriot Research System (PRS) – he entered 778 Patriots, 1,069 applications, and 1 biography.

The **SAR Certificate of Appreciation** was presented to the following compatriots for work on the Patriot Research System: David Grinnell, Clifford Hope, Jim Faulkinbury, Jeffrey Sylvan, John Ferris, Terry Briggs, Steve Steinberg, Anthony Chakurian, Daniel McKelvie, Robert Shroyer, William Lewis, Derek Brown, William Haines, Robert Whitman, Brandon Villardi, Paul Sapp, Kevin Allec, Jared Nathan, Gary Jensen, Russell Haynes, Owen Stiles, Eddie Smith, Harry Stover, Gary Morgan, Jon Russell, Dean Chase, Michael Guarino, Adam Morrill, Eric Nay, Wilson Crider, Henry Russell, Donald Littlefield, Michael Mann, William Heavy, Ward Williamson, Jack Mulkey, Michael Muetz, Ronald Raider, Melvin Howell, Randy Dhindsa, Scott Crowell, David Jester, Gregory Owens, Thomas Douglas, Ronald Barker, Steven Hurst, Chris Scrimiger, Tyler Lee, Trent Lee, Patrick O'Connor-Marer, Stanley Anderson, Dwayne Meyer, William Jump, Gary Ratts, Robert Taylor, Jack Franke, William Jennings, Gordon Clark, and David Basham.

The **Meritorious Service Medal** was awarded to Lukasz Dziurzynski of the San Francisco Chapter for his work as Compliance Chairman, and awarded to David Grinnell of the Coachella Valley Chapter for his work as Awards Chairman. The **SAR State Medal of Distinguished Service** was awarded to Terry Briggs of the Silicon Valley Chapter for his work coordinating the PRS project for California.

The **SAR Patriot Medal**, the highest award a state society may present, was awarded to Gregory Hill of the Gold Country Chapter for his work on the state website and awarded to Frederick Schuster of the Riverside Chapter for his outstanding work as secretary.

The **SAR Certificate of Distinguished Service** was awarded to John Ferris, Fred Schuster, Jim Klingler, Craig Anderson, and Brian Stephens for their service on the monthly state meetings. The **SAR Certificate of Appreciation** was awarded to James Bunker (VP-Membership), Owen Stiles (Registrar), John Dodd, Esq, (Chancellor), Terry Briggs (Genealogist), Scott Knecht (Historian), Rt. Rev Louis V. Carlson (Chaplain), Matthew Bowdish, MD (Surgeon), Stephen Renouf (Chairman, Invested Funds Trustee), John Dodd (Invested Funds Trustee), Dr. Kent Gregory (Invested Funds Trustee), Robert Taylor (Immediate Past President), Derek Brown (NSSAR Trustee for California), and Robert Taylor (NSSAR Alternate NSSAR Trustee for California).

The **SAR Certificate of Appreciation** was awarded to all the committee chairmen: Brian Stephens (Budget & Planning); Stephen Renouf, John Dodd and Don Littlefield (Bylaws); Brian Stephens (*California Compatriot*); Benjamin O'Neal (CAR Liaison); Mark Kramer (Chief of Protocol); Stephen Renouf (Handbook); Mark Kramer (Color Guard Commander); Russ Kaiser (Color Guard Adjutant – North); Brandon Villardi (Color Guard Adjutant – South); Brian Stephens (DAR Liaison); Rev. Lou Carlson (Ethics); Greg Hill (Information Technology); David Grinnell (Medals & Awards); Ron Barker (Nominations Liaison); John Dodd (NSSAR Congress Planning); David Gilliard (Media & Public Relations); Ray Raser

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(Operation Ancestor Search); Paul Garcia (Spanish Patriot Researcher); Linn Malaznik (Veterans Programs); Bob Stephan (Assistant Veterans Programs); David Gilliard, and Brian Stephens (Flag); Karl Blackmun (Wreaths Across America); Don Littlefield (Compliance); Brian Stephens (Public Service and Heroism Awards); Jim Fosdyck (George Washington Endowment Fund); Terry Briggs (Patriot Research System Coordinator); and Rev. Lou Carlson (250th Anniversary USA).

The **SAR Certificate of Appreciation** was awarded to all the youth committee chairmen: Dan McKelvie (Youth Activities Coordinator), David Gilliard (Americanism Poster Contest), Bill Nay (Eagle Scout Program), Patrick Cecil (Knight Essay Contest), Brandon Villardi (ROTC/JROTC Program), Bob Taylor (Valley Forge Program), Bob Taylor (Spirit of America Program), Kevin Tierney (Brochure Contest), John Ferris (Rumbaugh Oration Contest), and Bill Nay (NSCC/NLCC Program). President Stephens then recessed the CASSAR Annual Meeting.

VPG James Fosdyck convened the Western District Meeting. He noted that it was his second year as VPG since last year's SAR Congress had to be cancelled. He thanked everyone for their support – especially Charles Smith (NV), who served as secretary for the Western District, and Greg Hill, the webmaster of the Western District website www.WDSAR.org. VPG Fosdyck recently installed Charles Smith as president of the Nevada Society. Charles Smith has been nominated to succeed Jim Fosdyck as Vice President General of the Western District in July 2021. President Rob Moore of the Hawaii Society announced that the next Hawaii SAR Annual Meeting would be held on April 24, 2021 in Honolulu, Hawaii, and new officers will be elected. VPG Fosdyck reminded compatriots to become an SAR George Washington Fellow. VPG Fosdyck adjourned the Western District Meeting.

CASSAR President Brian Stephens then adjourned the 146th Annual CASSAR Meeting at 11:20 AM, and Shawn Price delivered the benediction in the absence of Chaplain Lou Carlson.

By Stephen Renouf, Chairman of the Trustees of the Invested Funds, with information from Secretary Fred Schuster.