



California Society



Spring Leadership Meeting April 2022 Meeting Minutes

Please see attached minutes from the Spring CASSAR Leadership Meeting.
Please let me know if there are any corrections or edits that need to be made.

Libertas et Patria,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Dhindsa".

*Randy Dhindsa
CASSAR Historian
Yosemite Chapter Registrar and President
Sons of the American Revolution*

California Society Sons of the American Revolution
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn Downtown-Arena
Sacramento, California
April 22-23, 2022

Meeting was convened by President Brian Stephens at 9:00 am, Friday, April 22, 2022

Rev. Scott Elliott gave the invocation. The CASSAR Color Guard, commanded by Brandon Villardi presented the Colors. Kevin Bidenkap led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by David Gilliard leading the reciting of the SAR Pledge.

A roll call of Chapter Presidents, or their official designee, and CASSAR Officers was conducted:

[Chapters] Scott Elliott, Delta Chapter; Bob Taylor, GG Patton; GG Washington, Owen Stiles; Gold Country, David Gilliard; Harbor Chapter, Brandon Villardi; Paul Garcia, Orange County; Bill Nay, Redwood Empire Chapter; Riverside, Mark Kramer; Sacramento, Jim Faulkinbury; San Diego, Michael Hirman; San Francisco, Bob Ebert; Silicon Valley, Terry Briggs; Thomas Jefferson, Dan Shurtz; [CASSAR Officers] Brian Stephens, President; Craig Anderson, Executive VP; Jim Klingler, VP South; Bill Van Valkenburg, VP North, John Ferris, Treasurer; John Dodd, Chancellor; Kent Gregory, Inv. Fund Trustee; Stephen Renouf, Inv Fund Trustee; Don Littlefield, Past President. Craig Anderson reported "We have a Quorum."

President Stephens then introduced special guests: Susan Broderick, CASDAR Regent; Past CASSAR Presidents: Bob Ebert, Stephen Renouf, John Dodd, Jim Faulkinbury, Kent Gregory, Ron Barker, Jim Fosdyck, Derek Brown, Bob Taylor, and Don Littlefield; and National Officers: Charles Smith, VPG Western District; John Dodd, Treasurer General; Dr. Fred Olive II, Librarian General; (Fred presented Phillip Mitchell (OC) a Certificate of Life Membership to Friends of the Library); Derek Brown, Inspector General; Dr. Kent Gregory, Chairman, Museum Board (acknowledged gifts donated). Jim Faulkinbury, IT Committee, reported the "Yellow System" has been abandoned; the "Blue System" is now the system of record. All updates go through the Blue System. CASSAR Secretary and Chapters should notify National of state and chapter officers so permissions can be granted. Also, about 94% of lineages for records since 1970 have been digitized in Patriot Research System (PRS).

Motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Managers Meeting, November 5-6, 2021. Discussion: Mark Kramer clarified that John Dodd had asked for budget to help cover the cost of hosting a hospitality suite at SAR annual Congress. Don Littlefield made the motion to approve \$1500 for hospitality expenses, Stephen Renouf seconded. The motion was approved but was omitted in the minutes. Motion was made by Jim Faulkinbury to amend the 2021 Fall BOM meeting minutes to include the hospitality budget. Brandon Villardi seconded. **Motion passed** to accept the amendment. Owen Stiles moved to accept the BOM Minutes as amended. Jim Faulkinbury second. **Motion passed.**

CASSAR Officer reports are in "The Book." Significance: **John Ferris, Treasurer, reports** \$585,892 in total assets; \$112,544 in receipts, of which \$14,800 was an Intel Foundation grant, \$500 from Chevron, and \$3000 from the Ladies Auxiliary. Expenses were under budget by \$21,000. **Owen Stiles, Registrar, reports** 21 new applications, 19 supplementals, 1 junior member application.

Chapter Reports are in “The Book.” Notable: One reoccurring theme among chapters is the lack of volunteers willing to accept leadership positions and a general drop in meeting attendance following the covid shutdowns of 2020-2021.

Program Reports are “In the Book.” Notable: **Dan McKelvie, Youth Programs**, stressed the importance of members interacting with youth and all Color Guard members to get certified and stay current with Youth Protection Training. The SAR now offers its own online course. This training protects the society, the chapter, and the individual. Take it. Awards for youth that place high in the Orations Contest are actively under review and are expected to increase significantly. Thus, Chapters should be advocating this contest with their local high schools. **Americanism Poster Contest Chairman, David Gilliard**, announced the 2022-2023 theme will be The Adams Family: Sam, John, Abigail. Students can pick one or pick all to create their poster. **Eagle Scout and Sea Cadet Chair Bill Nay**: John McFee won 1st Place in the Eagle Scout Contest, winning \$9000 (won \$1k for 5th place in 2020), cumulative award is capped at \$10k. Would like to get more states to follow CASSAR lead with Sea Cadets and create a National Sea Cadet program. **John Ferris, America 250 chairman**, reported on CA AB1600 (Assemblywoman Janet Nguyen-OC) to create a California Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial with the CASSAR having a seat on the board. John stressed how important it is for every SAR member to get involved in planning and promoting America’s 250th Anniversary. **Craig Anderson, Chair of the Audit Committee** reported they’ve met in March and our Treasury records appear to be in order. Craig also Chairs the Budget Committee. They met in November and decreased reinstated member budget from \$4200 to \$1000. They also added a America 250 budget item for \$250 and eliminated the California Compatriot budget item of \$1600. Congress hospitality has been increased to \$1500. A tax advisory budget item of \$2500 has been added. In total our Operating Expense budget is \$60,090. **John Dodd** advised that CASSAR minutes must be kept forever and that we have them dating back to 1906. The **Bylaws Committee** reported they have reviewed the CASSAR bylaws and no changes are recommended. **Brandon Villardi, Color Guard Commander** reported that the Guard is rebuilding following the Covid shutdown and is re-activating, and re-excited, and planning for the onslaught of events as America’s 250 celebrations approach. **Randy Dhindsa** (Yosemite) has agreed to be the CAR Liaison. **Don Littlefield, Compliance Chairman** reported that efforts have intensified in 2020 and 2021 to bring all chapters into compliance with their regulatory obligations and that efforts to inform, educate, and advise chapters of their duties will continue with the message to chapters: “You own it.” **Derek Brown Handbook Chairman** reported the updated handbook “State and Chapter Reference Manual” is now available on the CASSAR website. **Bob Taylor, Nomination Chair** reported Randy Dhindsa has accepted the position of Historian. **Terry Briggs, Genealogist**, reported 9623 California records have been entered into the Patriot Research System, 350 remain. **Jim Fosdyck, George Washington Endowment Fund Chair (GWEF)** reported California won the race for most new GWEF members with 10. **Don Littlefield, Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Policy**: The policies are on the CASSAR website. All CASSAR Officers and Program Chairmen, Color Guard Members, and Chapter Officers, and anyone else who directly or indirectly has a financial interest in an enterprise the CASSAR or Chapter does business with are required to sign the *Conflict of Interest* document. All CASSAR and Chapter Officers and Program chairmen are required to sign the Whistleblower policy. These policies are to be signed annually, soon after installment or appointment to a position.

President Stephens, without objection, recessed the Annual Meeting until Saturday at 9:00 AM.

President Stephens reconvened the 147th Annual Meeting of the CASSAR at 9:00 AM, April 23, 2022.

Rev. Scott Elliott, gave the invocation. Chris Cerillo, Coachella Valley, led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Greg Owen (Thomas Jefferson) led the reciting of the SAR Pledge.

A roll call of Chapter Presidents, or their official designee, and CASSAR Officers was conducted:

[Chapters] Scott Elliott, Delta Chapter; Bob Taylor, GG Patton; GG Washington, Owen Stiles; Gold Country, David Gilliard; Harbor Chapter, Brandon Villardi; Paul Garcia, Orange County; Bill Nay, Redwood Empire Chapter; Riverside, Mark Kramer; Sacramento, Jim Faulkinbury; San Diego, Michael Hirman; San Francisco, Bob Ebert; Silicon Valley, Terry Briggs; Thomas Jefferson, Dan Shurtz; [CASSAR Officers] Brian Stephens, President; Craig Anderson, Executive VP; Jim Klingler, VP South; Bill Van Valkenburg, VP North, John Ferris, Treasurer; John Dodd, Chancellor; Kent Gregory, Inv. Fund Trustee; Stephen Renouf, Inv Fund Trustee; Don Littlefield, Past President. Craig Anderson reported "Mr. President, we have a Quorum."

President Stephens resumed Chapter and Committee Reports. Reports are "In the Book." Notable: **Randy Dhindsa, Yosemite**, reported the SAR Yosemite will lead the DOD armed services unit in the Fresno Veterans Day parade, the largest VD Parade in the United States. All interested SAR members and friends are invited. Yosemite is also aggressively working on events with Fresno County Supervisors and the Fresno City Council. President Stephens announced that Randy Dhindsa has accepted his appointment as CAR Liaison. **Invested Finds Trustees Report:** Stephen Renouf reported March 2021 having \$506,000 invested at the end of February 2022 we had \$526,000. We have been considering making changes to our asset allocation for some time. Now is the time to do that. The recommendation is to use the JP Morgan Hedged Equity 2 Fund to increase the equity allocation that has some downside hedging because of volatility in the market. The recommendation is to reduce our cash allocation from 8.8% to 5.8%, increase equities from 46.4% to 47.8%, decrease fixed income & preferreds from 37% to 34% and increase alternatives from 7% to 11%. Stephen Renouf, on behalf of the Invested Funds Trustees called for the vote. President Stephens called for discussion, hearing none, called for the vote to accept the committee's motion to approve the Trustees Report. **Motion passed.**

President Stephens introduced America 250 co-chair John Ferris who then gave the audience an **America 250 Minute on Lexington and Concord**, from PG Manning's blog.

President Stephens introduced Jim Klingler, chair of the **Life Member Dues Task Force (Full report is in "The Book.")**, that studied a proposal to increase the give back to chapters from \$10 for each California Life Member to \$15. Following discussion, Jim Klingler, on behalf of the committee, recommended adoption of the increase to \$15 for each California Life Member, and so moved. President Stephens called for any other discussion and hearing none, called for the vote. **Motion passed.**

President Stephens then gave the floor to Librarian General Fred Olive to talk about Alabama's American Village. LG Olive extended an invitation to all CASSAR member to visit The American Village.

President Stephens then gave the floor to CASSAR Chancellor John Dodd. The Chancellor introduced a motion for the CASSAR to participate in the Tom and Better Lawrence American History Teacher Award program and select one recipient of a Valley Forge Foundation Award and submit that person to the national program. The Valley Forge Committee shall have the discretion to determine the method by which the nominee is selected. President Stephens called for a second. Dan McKelvie seconded the

motion. Discussion ensued. President Stephens called for more discussion, hearing none, he called for the vote. **Motion passed.**

President Stephens gave the floor to Sea Cadet Chairman Bill Nay. Bill introduced a motion to name the new Sea Cadet of the Year award to the "Captain William Smith Award." Motion seconded by Owen Stiles. President Stephens called for more discussion and hearing none, called for the vote. **Motion Passed.** Bill Nay then gave a pitch for members to attend the Fall BOM meeting at the Doubletree Sonoma Wine Country, Rohnert Park, November 4-5, 2022.

President Stephens called for other new business from the floor. Hearing none, he gave the floor to Nominating Committee Chair Bob Taylor. The slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee was read, nominations from the floor was called for, hearing no nominations from the floor, Chancellor Dodd moved nominations be closed, second by Mark Kramer, President Stephens called for the vote. **Motion passed.** Motion offered by Chancellor Dodd to elect the slate of nominees by acclamation. Mark Kramer second. President Stephens called for the vote. **Motion passed.**

CASSAR President then yielded the floor to Vice President General Western District, Charles Smith.

CASSAR President then yielded the floor to Treasurer General, John Dodd to share information about the 2022 Congress in Savannah, Georgia, July 10-15 at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront. A California dinner will be at Paula Dean's "The Lady and Sons" restaurant at a cost of \$40/head. It was also pointed out that Jim Fosdyck and Fred Olive will be installed as Minutemen, the highest individual award the SAR bestows on a member.

President Stephens hearing no new business entertained a motion to adjourn the 147th Annual Meeting of the CASSAR. Motion second by Don Littlefield. President Stephens called on CASSAR President-elect D. Craig Anderson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

California Society Sons of the American Revolution
Chapter Reports at the Annual Meeting
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**Coachella Valley Chapter:
Report by President Christopher Cerillo**

Meetings are back to in person full time at the Mission Hills Country Club in the Valley. The Chapter meets on the third Friday of the month @ 11:45 with lunch and meeting starting at 12:00. Currently, about 10 members are in attendance at each meeting.

Delta Chapter
Report by President Scott Elliot

Chapter has been working to bring presenters to meetings to encourage attendance and recruit new members. President Elliot updated the chapter website to include the members patriot ancestors, service records and details that match the national website/PRS to add more of a legacy to the chapter and Patriot Ancestors.

Chapter has been utilizing national best practices to generate publicity and recruitment amongst the community and members. Chapter is working to get more membership active in its community outreach. Currently, there are 35 active members with about 10 that participate actively with Chapter events.

Current challenge is finding a registrar for the chapter. This has inhibited the ability to grow and recruit members. Compatriot Owen Stiles, (CASSAR Registrar), has been helping to take on that role in the absence of a chapter member stepping in.

**General George Patton Jr. Chapter:
Report by Treasurer Robert Taylor**

President Eric Kaufman was unable to attend. The Chapter has gone back to an in-person meeting, which has been beneficial from the standpoint of trying to get back into a period of normalcy. It has been challenging to get members to attend in person. One of the newer best practices has been the institution a Zoom capability in addition to our meetings.

it has allowed the chapter to add an additional method of connecting for people that are not able to get to the meetings in person to be able to check in and see and get a little idea of what's going on in the community. The Chapter needs to be proactive in getting the message

out to the members. The Chapter has been struggling with getting leadership roles filled in the various educational committees.

The goal is to get members and new members to step up and start getting their chapters organized in regard to getting people involved with some of these chapter functions. The discussion of America 250 is a good way to go.

Chapter has maintained numbers. The Chapter loses approximately about 10 to 12 people every year when we have the reconciliation reports primarily before the people that wanted to get the certificate. Then basically that's the extent of their involvement, but we have a very active registrar and assistant who is a member of the DAR as a matter of fact. That's another thing I would encourage you. Your DAR chapters also have capability of assisting you. Ours does. Having said that, we basically get enough new members every year to cover the losses. We're still hanging in there at about a hundred. That's my report.

General George Washington Chapter

Chapter was on verge of disbanding. The goal has been to re-establish chapter meetings to rebuild the chapter. His project right now is Pearl Harbor Survivors. He has physically visited 40 or 50 of the Pearl Harbor Survivors around the US that are still alive. He finds a picture of them hopefully when they were in uniform in World War II. Then he takes a picture or finds a picture of him now, and he's doing a then-and-now scenario. Chapter has invited a guest speaker for the next meeting who is a combat artist and has taken on the role of VP. The next meeting is on April 30th.

Gold County Chapter

Report by President David Gilliard

Chapter is maintaining membership at about where it's been historically, around 60 members. The continuing challenge is getting participation both in meetings and SAR activities. It has been difficult getting members to take on leadership roles.

The primary chapter activity has been that the poster contest, Chapter has been able to visit 20 different fifth grade classrooms this year and present some historical background on the topic and to get posters. Chapter has received about 500 posters from students in our chapter area. We're very happy with that. Chapter also participates in the Race Across America and we also are involved in the ROTC. The chapter provides the medals and certificates.

Harbor Chapter

Report by Registrar Brandon Villardi

President was unable to attend in person this meeting. The Chapter has changed the dates of meetings to the 2nd Thursday of each month, meeting at a restaurant in San Pedro by the USS Iowa. Attendance is approx., 18 out of 68 members.

Youth programs continue to grow, speakers are helping meeting attendance. Chapter has an applicant for the Valley Forge Teacher Program and chapter is active in presenting ROTC certificates and medals to local recipients. Chapter has been active promoting the America 250 program.

Mother Lode Chapter
Report by Tom Adams

Current membership is about 20 members. Meetings are held at the local Dennys and there are about 8 members who attend in person. The chapter also participated in the poster contest and had a successful run. The chapter puts on an annual community awards banquet which has been successful in the community. Challenges have been getting members to be in leadership roles. The chapter does not currently have a registrar so that has made getting new members challenging.

Orange County Chapter
Report by Vice President Paul Garcia

The Orange County Chapter celebrates its 55th anniversary this year. Chapter is back to holding live meetings monthly. Current membership stands at 160 members and the chapter is having great success promoting the America250 in Orange County, thanks to John Ferris's hard work. Just working out with the different associations that the Chapter is affiliated with. Our chapter color guard has been very busy attending patriotic events throughout Orange County as they do every year.

Next month in May, on a yearly basis, the chapter is invited to the Field of Honor. This year will be the 13th annual Field of Honor. It's at Castaways Park, which overlooks Newport Harbor, and the Marines from the first battalion, first Marines put up 1,776 flags overlooking the harbor. This event will go over two weekends at the end of May.

In June, The Sons of the American Legion has invited our color guard to do a special flag day, which is put on for the students of schools in Orange and Orange county. Every year the color guard has been invited to the Huntington Beach Fourth of July parade.

The Chapter has voted to support the Ukrainian Relief Program. Chapter was able to donate \$1,160 to that. That was to the American Red Cross on the Ukrainian relief effort. Also, Chapter has had a very successful poster program actually.

Redwood Empire Chapter
President William Nay

Chapter has about 60 members on paper. Chapter meets in person at the Mary's Pizza for a luncheon. Usually about 10 members, about half of them bring their spouses, so we get 15 to 20 people there. The chapter has speakers to present. Chapter includes a 250 minute at

meetings. Chapter has a strong relationship with local veteran organizations and our scouting program. The Chapter just upped the ante and we've entered into formal partnerships with each of them, presenting them the 250 coins. Each meeting will have somebody there like the scout executive and/or somebody from the AMVETS.

Through those partnerships, The Chapter has three different Fourth of July events that we're looking at. The good thing about the 250 is a lot of these organizations are liking the idea of the colonial uniform augmenting their color guards. One way to get that in there, A good best practice is to go down to your American Legion, your Marine Corps League, and start by giving them a American flag display certificate and a 250 coin, and there you've hit two things. You got your points for the 250th and you got your points for the American flag certificate, and you've got them back working with you on that.

Through those veteran organizations, the chapter has sponsored a veteran scholarship with Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society, and they just had their 80th anniversary in Las Vegas. I want to give a shoutout to our VPG. We're going to do a proclamation for the 250th out there. I said, "I think we got somebody out there." I reached out to the VPG instead of President Bill Nay, Redwood Empire Chapter making a proclamation. We had VPG West to attend that meeting. Thank you for coming and sharing that podium with us.

We're getting the word out. This 250th is actually going to open the door. We have a thing in Sonoma County called the Human Race. Rather than all getting nickel dimed by all the different non-profits, they have one day where they have a 5K. In the square in Santa Rosa, they have all kinds of booths where people are getting ready to go to the 5K, or after the 5K, or cheering on the 5K can go look at and talk to the various non-profits. We're going to have a booth there on May 7th in Santa Rosa Square for the 250th.

Look into your communities and see where you have these events where you can get the word out. What it's done to us now is I've got, I think, nine people working on paperwork. They're not into the registrar yet, but we've got quite a few that are very interested. John, I'm going to talk to you later about this genealogy thing. I was recently added to the stakeholder committee for the San Francisco VA system that goes from Ukiah to Palo Alto, to San Francisco.

Riverside Chapter Report by Mark Kramer

President Roger Cooper was unable to attend. The chapter has been rebuilding since Covid and getting the Color Guard back into action. Riverside will have a veterans day parade and the chapter will participate. There is a chance that there will be a 4th of July parade that the color guard would also be a part of.

The chapter has had its members present on their patriot ancestors and research and present on their service during the war for independence. At the last meeting, John Ferris presented on the America 250 program.

Sacramento Chapter
Report by Registrar Jim Faulkinbury

It has been difficult to get members to take on leadership roles within the chapter. Meeting attendance has been declining as well. Meetings have been moved to the third Wednesday at Spaghetti Factory in Sacramento.

The chapter has been active with the America 250 program, having an America 250 Minute at each meeting. The Chapter has issued bronze medals to community members and is working with CAR on the getting more involved. The Sacramento Chapter is celebrating its 100-year anniversary this year.

San Diego Chapter
Report by President Michael Hirman

Like most chapters, the Chapter continues to struggle with filling leadership roles. The chapter held virtual meetings during Covid and has now moved back to 100% in person meetings at Mimi's Café in Mission Valley. There has been a 50% drop in meeting attendance and chapter is working to get those numbers up.

The Chapter is promoting the America 250 Program and would like to get more information of medallions and other best practices on executing in the community. The chapter has a great Color Guard and will be awarding a Sea Cadet Medal to a local recipient. The chapter is planning to throw some "tea", into San Diego Bay on Dec 23rd.

San Francisco Chapter
Report By Robert Heller

Chapter has faced the same challenges as the previous chapter reports. The Chapter is focusing on reinstating older members who were dropped inadvertently from the rosters. The chapter has a great newsletter that it needs to promote more. The Chapter has been active with present Junior ROTC medals. The chapter will also present a medal to a fallen police officer in May.

Silicon Valley Chapter
Report by Terry Briggs

Current Chapter membership stands at 106, the 5th largest in CA. Chapter has been dormant over the last couple of years, holding zoom meetings since 2021. The first in person meeting is scheduled for May 2022. The chapter is active in presenting Eagle Scout awards, ROTC awards and the Sea Cadet Program. Currently, in attendance at meetings are approximately 8-10 members.

South Coast Chapter

Report by President Scott Whitman

Chapter has resolved its tax issue with the State of California and is now in full compliance. Chapter has a member who lives in Japan and oversees newsletter and IT. Chapter has had zoom meetings for membership meetings and has been able to fill the Registrar role. The chapter is working on providing both in person and zoom offerings for its member meetings.

Chapter has been able to maintain at 61 members including 6 members dropping off and adding 7 new members to the roster. The chapter has been reviewing its website information to ensure accuracy between the state and local websites. Out of 60 meeting attendees, about 15 are members with the balance being guests and spouses.

The chapter has also been active in the ROTC program, present medals and certificates. The chapter supports 5 high schools in the area and is looking to get back to in person awards presentations.

Thomas Jefferson Chapter

The Chapter has hybrid in-person and Zoom meetings. They have had approx. 30 members in attendance with the new meeting format. The chapter meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

The chapter has been active in the ROTC program, Scouts and Junior ROTC programs. The chapter has a newsletter it puts out.

Yosemite Chapter

Report by President Randy Dhindsa

The Yosemite Chapter has approx. 45 members and is on track to exceed 50 by year end with new and transfers. Some highlights include: The formation of a chapter color guard that is active in the community, presenting at local awards, ROTC, JROTC and community events.

The chapter will be a part of the Armed Services group at the upcoming Fresno Veterans Day parade, (The Largest in the country). The chapter has sent out an invite to the other State chapters to join and participate.

The chapter holds meetings on the 4th Saturday of each month and offer both in person and zoom capabilities. The Chapter is active in ROTC programs, Flag certificates and community events. The chapter has adopted a local Military cemetery and is working on supporting a memorial to be presented at the 250 Anniversary celebrations. The chapter holds an America 250 minute at each meeting and has several members who have qualified for a bronze and silver medal.