

## **2023 Board of Managers Meeting**

Queen Mary Hotel – Long Beach, CA

Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

**Call to Order:** 9:01AM by James Klingler

**Presentation of the Colors** – Brandon Villardi

**Pledge of the Allegiance** – Executive Vice President Don Littlefield

**SAR Pledge** – Randy Dhindsa

**Roll Call** – Don Littlefield (Quorum declared at 9:08 AM)

**Introduction of Guests** – led by James Klingler

### **Past CASSAR Presidents Introduced:**

- Bob Ebert
- Stephen Renouf
- Louis Carlson
- John Dodd
- Jim Faulkinbury
- Dr. M. Kent Gregory
- Derek Brown
- Don Littlefield
- Brian Stephens

### **National and State Officers**

- **President General John Dodd**, gave introductory remarks and spoke about the Henry Rifle program; and planned designs, such as the commemoration of the Boston Tea Party and the Continental Congress.
- **Past President General Joe Dooley** – commended CASSAR for the selection of venues of past meetings – expressed his satisfaction with the selection of the Queen Mary (QM) Hotel.
- **Secretary General Dr. Darryl Addington** -- gave brief greetings.
- **Treasurer General Michael Elston** – Treasurer General brief greetings and mentioned he came with his wife who is a native Californian and had visited the QM Hotel as a child.

- **Registrar General Allen Greenly** – Registrar General brief greetings, gave recap of the GW Fund and encouraged members to join, emphasized how the fund provides a long-term financial legacy for our Society; spoke of the recent increase in GW Fund Fellows from the TX Society as a way to encourage more CASSAR members to contribute.
- **Chancellor General Edmon McKinley** – arrived later.
- **Historian General Brooks Lyles** – brief greetings, encouraged members to download the Educational Outreach App on their phones, summarized the many useful features of the App; spoke to the 1824-25 trip of the Marquis Lafayette to the US and that the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up; gave an update on the many educational programs currently underway.
- **Librarian General Dr. J. Fred Olive, III** introduced: John Dodd, Jim Faulkinbury, and John W Cramer and presented them with certificates and medals at the podium, in appreciation of their contributions to the SAR Library; mentioned the presentation of flags on the walls of the Library; encouraged members to join the Friends of the Library (FOL).
- **Vice President (Western District) Rob Moore** – gave brief greetings and spoke highly of the many visits to Chapters throughout the Western region.
- **Vice President (International District) Derek Brown** – gave brief introductory remarks, spoke of the recent difficulty in visiting the many overseas Chapters; indicated that he would speak more about membership in Saturday's meeting.

### **Reading of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

- Minutes from the 148th Annual Meeting were read; James Klingler moved for them to be approved as-read, seconded by Randy Dhindsa. The Minutes were approved unanimously by all voting members present.

### **CASSAR Officer Reports**

- **CASSAR President James Klingler** – gave highlights of the National Meeting in Orlando, mentioned John Dodd's election as President General; spoke to the recent dues increases and the difficult decision behind that resolution but indicated the necessity due to recent budget deficits; mentioned the importance of online tools for membership recruitment/retention; youth programs, such as the brochure contest; spoke of the many programs underway, and introduced the Distinguished Guests (see Agenda for list), gave many highlights of meetings

attended across the state and nation; thanked again the Harbor Chapter for their work in supporting this year's conferences.

- **CASSAR Executive Vice President Don Littlefield** – spoke of his visits to several Chapter meetings throughout the State (10 or 11 meetings), spoke to his work on the monthly newsletter, Audit and Budget committees; attended the memorial service of Tom Adams.
- **CASSAR Vice President (North) Randy Dhindsa** – spoke of his attendance at a few Chapter meetings (incl. Zoom meetings), work on the Color Guard, met with an Assembly Member re the 250 Program, traveled to DC and met CA delegation and represented/advocated the America 250 program.
  - James Klingler thanked Randy again for his work representing the America 250 program and advocating for Senate Bill 6 (that creates state commissions for America 250).
- **CASSAR Vice President (South) John Ferris** – spoke to his goal of visiting more Chapters throughout the state; and his recent contact to all chapters supporting the Flag Certificate program.
- **CASSAR Vice President (Membership) Scott Whitman** – gave praise to his predecessor Dr. (James) Bunker and the good state of affairs that he maintained for the succession; spoke to the establishment of “New Member Leads” in Chapters across the state and the importance of keeping public-facing Chapter info current for prospective members; recapped the website navigation from the CASSAR website to Chapter website; spoke of current issues with the “Chapter Locator” feature on the website and hopes to address it later this year; mentioned recent IT issue with National referral notifications – he discovered that it was a firewall issue but raised the possibility that some inquiries might have fallen through the cracks.
- **CASSAR Secretary Chris Cerillo** – mentioned his recent communication with National Registrar John Toon and informed that all executive members of Chapters could access the reconciliation report; for the past three years, for example, a deceased member was still on the roster, as an example of many currency issues with the roster so reminded all chapters to keep membership events current; also informed chapters that they could keep these membership summaries on MS Word and submit them to Chris that way; reminded Chapters to not carry over members who haven't paid for 2024 dues; reminded Chapters to verify their membership and dues numbers to stay accurate.
- **CASSAR Treasurer Kevin Bidenkap** – thanked the Secretary for his partnership, as the Secretary's updates helps him keep the budget accurate and

up-to-date; gave a favorable report of the current CASSAR financial situation; on p. 4 of the Treasurer's report, he mentioned that there are some shortfalls on the balance sheet in light of the 25,000 USD donation for the construction of the SAR Education Center and Museum, he thanked James Klingler and John Ferris again for their assistance in submitting annual 501(c)(3) paperwork to the IRS; spoke to cooperation with the DAR Chapters by sending Color Guards to DAR meetings and the value of carrying out Color Guard activities as a profile raising activity that would likely be attractive to prospective members.

- **CASSAR Chancellor Michael Hirman** – informed that there are no lawsuits at present; reminded all Chapters of the need to stay compliant with 501(c)(3) paperwork.
  - James Klingler underscored the requirement to submit 501(c)(3) paperwork – if not compliant, would have to pay at least 800 USD in franchise fees.
- **CASSAR Genealogist David Morrow** – mentioned communications with some members regarding genealogy policies and his frequent cooperation with Terry Briggs to support applications that may have lineage documentation challenges; going to have an FAQ session in Zoom regarding genealogical policies/documentation and will summarize for the newsletter.
- **CASSAR Registrar Terry Briggs** – absent but submitted reports to James Klingler to read on his behalf; had to request Historian present first while he located the reports (request report for details)
- **CASSAR Historian Scott Brooks** – thanked Randy Dhindsa, Don Littlefield, and James Klingler for their support in learning about the details of keeping the minutes, spoke of his intent to visit the Archive in Roseville to review what's in stock, including artifacts of interest that we may want to revive and bring to our annual gatherings; spoke to the value of having a School Guard program where SAR/DAR members visit schools and present in front of 5<sup>th</sup> grade learners.
- **CASSAR President James Klingler read the Registrar's report in Registrar Terry Briggs' absence**
- **CASSAR Chaplain Rev. Scott Elliott** – spoke of the importance of Chapters keeping information current regarding deceased members and sharing with him for memorial services if/when scheduled.
- **CASSAR Surgeon Dr. Matthew Bowdish** – spoke to visiting a few Chapters to give medical history talks; looking forward to working with the incoming surgeon

general; working with National to create challenge coins commemorate surgeons that served during the Revolutionary War.

- Dr. Addington mentioned that he brought a few such medical history challenge coins with him today

--- Recess called: 10:26AM ---

--- Called Back to Order: 10:38 AM ---

## Chapter Reports

**Central Coast Chapter** – absent

**Coachella Valley Chapter** – Chris Cerillo spoke highly of the late David Grinnell; introduced new Chapter Registrar Bill Haines; was happy to report growing membership; invited members to join the Veterans Day parade in Palm Springs – mentioned that there would be a horse drawn carriage.

**Delta Chapter** – Rev. Scott Elliott gave greetings from the Delta Chapter; spoke of recent growth in membership; thanked Scott Whitman for his work in referrals; going to join the Silicon Valley Chapter for the Veterans Day parade; spoke of the importance of tracking 250 minute speeches to recognize those who reach the Bronze, Silver, and Gold medal point levels; spoke of the upcoming plan to participate in the Wreaths Across America event; spoke of work to update the Chapter website.

**Eagle Chapter** – absent

**George Patton Chapter** – absent

**George Washington Chapter** – absent

**Gold Country Chapter** – David Gilliard spoke of the Chapter's active membership in the 250 program, presented 250 challenge coins to 23 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers; plan to march in the Veterans Day parade in Auburn; participated in the Constitution Day parade in Nevada City, will participate in the Wreaths Across America and the Boston Tea Party anniversary.

**Harbor Chapter** – James Bunker thanked Harbor Chapter members, esp. Brandon Villardi, for arranging for the QM venue, noted the recent and significant increase in membership in the Chapter; mentioned how several members have given 250 minute presentations; encouraged that presenters find a connection with patriot ancestors; spoke of active veteran presence in Chapter meetings and the creation of a promotional

video; repeated the Chapter Locator algorithm issues that CASSAR might want to look into.

**Kern Chapter** – Bruce Wearda (for Mike Davis) spoke of their School Guard program and that SG members have visited 8-10 schools this semester to give historical presentations; their Color Guard has participated in the Memorial Day and Independence Day events at community center in Bakersfield; will participate in the Wreaths Across America.

**Monterey Bay Chapter** – absent

**Mother Lode Chapter** – absent

**Orange County Chapter** – Phil Mitchell spoke of the memorial of Past CASSAR President Jim Fosdyck, thanked John Dodd, Lou Carlson, James Klingler, and John Ferris, and his Chapter officers; spoke of importance of inter-Chapter cooperation, and finding ways to intersect programs (e.g., NJROTC medal to the student, a Flag Certificate to the School, and a 250 challenge coin to the Principal) and the importance of giving (challenge coins / certificates) to civic leaders as a profile raiser.

**Redlands Chapter** – Ben Hobbins for Don Boatright spoke of his recent transfer from Wisconsin to Coachella Chapter and then to the Redlands Chapter; currently looking at Chapter-level membership development, spoke to a daily America 250 Daily Minute mass email project; spoke of importance of coordinating with CAR and DAR on that mass email project as one way to foster cooperation; 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event for Vietnam Veterans led by DOD, looking forward to working with Chapters and DAR and CAR to support this recognition program.

**Redwood Empire Chapter** – Bill Nay mentioned the current membership increase and challenges in getting members to step into leadership/officer roles; spoke of the young age of new members coming in as a hopeful sign for future succession; spoke of recently departed members; interacted with local Boy Scout troops and supported the Law Merit Badge; announced the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chapter; Bill Nay has presented America 250 challenge coins and lapel pins to attendees at many different veterans events.

**Riverside Chapter** – Michael Mann noted that there are currently 6 new applicants in the pipeline; joined DAR in Corona for the Independence Day event; a professor of history is scheduled to speak to the Chapter about the hardships of winter for the American Revolutionary War soldier.

**Sacramento Chapter** – Jim Faulkinbury for Jon Wroten noted the challenges in getting younger members to take on officer/leadership roles; expressed some concern about the recent decline in number of membership referrals; noted the participation in parades, joint picnic with DAR, American Heritage Partners event; noted the high level of participation in the Poster contest, awarded 19 JROTC programs, supported the

Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge program, noted the awarding of several America 250 medals to members of the SAR, CAR, and the American Legion, presented our Chapter's 1776 Book Program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms and noted how anyone could participate in the program and donate books; already has raised 10,000 USD for this program; Don Littlefield briefly spoke at the podium about the "door hanger" program as another grassroots engagement/outreach initiative.

**San Diego Chapter** – Jim McAdory (for Peter Fagan) recognized and repeated the same membership challenges, noted high turnout at Chapter meetings (approximately 40-50 on average) and high participation in veterans recognition programs; spoke to the active Color Guard, participating in about 5 events where the CG has set up a booth and interact with the public; have appointed coordinator positions (e.g., Poster/Brochure Contests) as one way to acclimate the next generation of Chapter leaders; will have a George Washington Birthday Dinner in Carlsbad on February 24<sup>th</sup>, showcased on member who has actively engaged DAR chapters as a way to raise awareness for their members' sons/male relatives – approximately 40 recent applications have come in through this effort; announced the upcoming Boston Tea Party commemoration event in San Diego.

--- Recess for lunch: 11:50 AM ---

Public Service Luncheon held (see Chair for list of Awardees)

--- Called Back to Order: 2:15 PM ---

**Sons of Liberty Chapter** – David Morrow spoke about participating in recent community events; currently looking into sponsoring Honor Flights to fly veterans to visit their war's monument in Washington D.C., looking for celebrities who have Patriot Ancestors as another way to raise profile.

**San Francisco Chapter** – Bob Ebert filled in for Andy Martinez and reported on the recent Chapter meeting and the big turnout; noted that the Chapter has been issuing Flag Certificates and participated in a 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.

**Santa Barbara Chapter** – absent

**Silicon Valley Chapter** – James Klingler filled in for absent representative and read the report sent to him; remarked on the awarding of Sea Cadet and Eagle Scout certificates.

**South Coast Chapter** – Scott Whitman announced that he is finishing his term at the end of December as Chapter President; noted large increase in membership recently; announced the celebration of the Chapter's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the awarding of America 250 medals to a CAR member and to a DAR member, as well as Flag Certificates; the Color Guard has joined the Orange County Chapter to participate in 4

Veterans events; will also participate in the Wreaths Across America event and present a Junior Member a 5-year service certificate.

**Thomas Jefferson Chapter** – Derek Brown (for Danny Shurtz) announced the upcoming celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025; noted the number of prospective members and pending applications; expressed some concern about a slight drop rate in the membership; joined local DAR chapter and placed US flags on gravesites of buried veterans; actively supporting the JROTC programs; expressed progress toward establishing a Color Guard

**Yosemite Chapter** – Scott Nichols announced 11 new members this year; praised the Color Guard's activities this year and reiterated the profile raising aspect of having a Color Guard in their Chapter; presented colors at two Cal State Univ. Fresno sporting events; shared the goal of presenting the colors at a televised CSUF football game and the plan of participating in the upcoming Veterans Day parade and in Wreaths Across America; and reported on their active support of the Flag Certificates, Poster Contest and school presentations (School Guard) – at which, he emphasizes the importance of Spain during the Revolutionary War; proposed the installation of a 95-100 foot flagpole at River Park as well as a grassroots fundraiser campaign to finance it and a Donors List to recognize the donors; awarded Randy Dhindsa a Chapter Distinguished Service Medal for his past work for the Yosemite Chapter

## Youth Program Reports

- **Youth Activities** -- Dan McKelvie: reminded the youth protection training that each youth program volunteer needs to take, good for 3 years.
- **Poster Contest** -- David Gilliard: reported on the welcome reception of the Poster Contest and interest in the upcoming Boston Tea Party commemoration.
- **Brochure Contest** -- James Klingler: reported in Danny Shurtz's absence on the Brochure Contest and the variety of topics (such as the Articles of Confederation and the Resignation of George Washington as C-in-C of the Continental Army
- **Eagle Scout** -- Bill Nay: reported on the recent increase in female Eagle Scouts participating in the program; noted the issuance of awards; and emphasized that Courts of Honor and National Jamborees are opportunities for SAR members to attend/interact with Eagle Scouts and their families.
- **NSCC/NLCC** – Bill Nay: noted difficulty of awarding the medal during that organization's Annual Inspection in February and asked participating Chapter representatives to discuss coordinating further on making that timeline; reported that he was able to bring in several prospective members through his interaction with families in this program.

- **Knight Essay** – Patrick Cecil: absent.
- **Orations Contest** – Mark Torres: absent.
- **ROTC/JROTC** – Brandon Villardi: noted sending reminders on timeline to submit required paperwork for awards; noted the various award denominations for the top 5 awardees.
- **Spirit of America Middle School Program** – Robert Taylor: absent due to illness; Ben Hobbins is presenting in absence – noted 5 awards granted.
- **Valley Forge Teacher Program** – Robert Taylor: absent due to illness; Ben Hobbins noted 2 awards granted.
- **Spirit of America High School Leadership** – Craig Anderson: absent

## Committee Reports

- **America 250 Committee** – John Ferris reminded us of the importance of speaking to the program in our Chapter’s monthly newsletters and of the purchase of America 250 challenge coins, remarked on the number of recipients of the Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals.
- **California Compatriot Committee** – Don Littlefield commented on the upcoming issue that should be released before Veterans Day, thanked Chapters for sending content and asked participating Chapters to send select content instead of entire issues for him to edit.
- **Chapter Activities Committee** – Brandon Villardi will send out information toward end of the year; deadline to submit will probably be end of January
- **Chief of Protocol** – nothing to report
- **Color Guard Committee** – praised the Color Guard members; thanked Duncan Campbell and mentioned how they’re working together on Color Guard presence at award and certificate presentations, working on new Color Guard certificates to present in the coming year

- **CAR Liaison – North** – Randy Dhindsa spoke about the similar goals and importance of encouraging young relatives to join the CAR; also spoke to events where SAR members have jointly participated with CAR members
- **CAR Liaison – South** – Ben Hobbins recognized Sue Fitzpatrick, CAR California Society Senior President and reiterated how SAR and CAR chapters can cooperate, such as for Vietnam Veterans recognition program
- **Color Guard Adjutant – North** -- Russ Kaiser (absent)
- **Color Guard Adjutant – South** -- Duncan Campbell noted the many Color Guard events taking place in Southern California throughout the year, including presentation of colors at CAR and DAR meetings; announced that Flag Certificate presentations in uniform will be included in Color Guard reports
- **Compliance Committee** – Michael Hirman (tabled to next year)
- **Congress Planning Committee** – President General John Dodd shared challenges of finding someplace affordable/desirable to hold the Congress in CA; earliest possible Congress to be convened in CA is projected to be 2034.
- **DAR Liaison** – Brian Stephens – remarked on how chapters have been able to increase cooperation with local DAR chapters and announced awards to those DAR members who have referred several members to the SAR
- **Ethics Committee** – Rev. Scott Elliott remarked how we're still acting ethically and that all is well.
- **Flag Committee Co-Chairmen** – John Ferris and Randy Dhindsa reported on the high level of participation in the program among the Chapters.
- **Handbook Committee** – Derek Brown commented on the annual updating of the Handbook online, encouraged members to contact him directly with any inquiries/suggestions.
- **Information Technology Committee** – Greg Hill (absent)
- **Medals and Awards Committee** – Glenn Martin (absent)

- **Media and Public Relations Committee** – Dave Gilliard encouraged Chapters to do something to commemorate Boston Tea Party anniversary, and commented that interested Chapters could contact him directly for more information on issuing press releases, for example.
- **Nominating Committee** – Brian Stephens remarked that they conducted their meeting and will present the nominations tomorrow afternoon.
- **Operations Ancestor Search** – Ray Raser (absent)
- **Public Service and Heroism Committee** – Brian Stephens noted Sacramento and Mother Lodge chapters present public service awards and reminded participating chapters to send to the Committee their report on any public service awards that have been issued in the year; reminded participating chapters to send pictures of the ceremony, as well.
- **Patriot Research Project Committee** – report presented earlier under Terry Briggs' report
- **Veterans Programs Committee** – Phil Mitchell noted that one of today's public service awardee was a fellow Marine veteran that served during the Tet Offensive and that another awardee was from his hometown and an alumnus of his rival high school; encouraged members to find ways to interact with and support veterans, such as taking a veteran out for lunch or dinner
- **Wreaths Across America Committee** – remarked on the importance of this annual event and suggested to retirees over the age of 70 to donate directly from their 401k to their Chapter to buy wreaths and those who pay for wreaths get reimbursed and encouraged members to confirm that their Patriot Ancestors gravesites are marked with an SAR gravemarker

## Old Business

- **Joint CASSAR-CSSCAR America 250 Program** – John Ferris gave a favorable report on the growing enthusiasm in CAR chapters to participate in the America 250 Program
- **CASSAR Annual and BOM Meeting Task Force Proposal and Change of Meeting Dates** – Don Littlefield remarked on the formation of a task force and highlighted the suggestion to continue to hold 2 semi-annual meetings but located more centrally in CA; noted the difficulty in finding attractive locations that would be more desirable than main destinations in the North and South; will

discuss more in the coming months from Yosemite Chapter as it explores central CA venues and conference package rates;

- also spoke to the suggestion to have a 5,000 USD grant from Intel to offset the advance paid by Sacramento to the Hyatt for the Spring meeting matching contribution by the Sacramento Chapter to bring down the overall registration fee for the 2024 (149<sup>th</sup>) Annual Meeting;
- **Legislative action** -- after clarifying comments from James Klingler and Don Littlefield, a motion was made by Don Littlefield and seconded by Scott Nichols to use funds from the Unallocated Fund in the CASSAR Operating Fund to offset the 5,000 USD advance paid by Sacramento Chapter to the Hyatt as a deposit; approved unanimously.
- **Legislative action** – to change the ByLaws to allow for meetings during the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of April and the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of November, 2024; after dissenting opinion, James Klingler restated the motion to change the ByLaws just to scheduled the April meeting and hold further discussion for the November meeting, Scott Nichols seconded; approved unanimously .

--- Adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM ---

***Saturday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>***

**Call to Order at 9:04 AM**

**Invocation** – Rev. Scott Elliott

**SAR Pledge** – VP Membership Scott Whitman

**Roll Call** – Don Littlefield

**Candidates Forum:**

The following candidates gave speeches in support of their election to the following offices:

- **President General** -- Darryl Addington
  - Spoke to the current trend of declining membership and the need to retain current membership through personal contact, reconnecting with previous members to see if they would reinstate, and gain new membership.
- **Secretary General** -- Michael Elston
- **Treasurer General**

- 1<sup>st</sup> candidate Alan Greenly
- 2<sup>nd</sup> candidate Lee Popham for this position
  
- **Chancellor General** -- Edmon McKinley, Esq.
  
- **Genealogist General** – Gary Green
  
- **Registrar General**
  - (1<sup>st</sup> candidate John Berg was absent)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> candidate Derek Brown
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> candidate Brooks Lyles
  
- **Historian General** – (candidate Jeff Thomas was absent)
  
- **Librarian General** -- Dr. Keith Weissinger, MD
  
- **SAR Foundation Board** -- James Klingler
  
- **SAR Foundation Board** – (candidate Sam Powell was absent)
  
- **Motion to endorse national officer candidates** – John Dodd,
  - seconded by Stephen Renouf; approved by majority vote (1 against)
- **Balloting for contested positions**
  - For the position of **Treasurer General**, Dan McKelvie moved to endorse Lee Popham (motion seconded by Lou Carlson)
    - Dan McKelvie then spoke briefly in support of Lee Popham
    - 28 members present and eligible voted; motion carried by majority 27 – 1 vote
  - For the position of **Registrar General**, Jim McAdory moved to endorse Brooks Lyles (Dr. Kent Gregory seconded)
    - Jim McAdory then spoke in support of Brooks Lyles
    - Motion carries by majority (12 to 10)

**Recess Called: 10:48 AM**

**Called Back to Order: 10:58 AM**

- David Gilliard, Gold Country Chapter moved to reconsider the endorsement of Registrar General in favor of a motion to endorse both Brooks Lyles and Derek Brown, seconded by Jim Faulkinbury, motion carried by majority vote (one opposed).

## Old Business

### Investment Fund Trustees Report

- Stephen Renouf, Kent Gregory, and John Dodd gave the report (Stephen Renouf spoke at the podium), see attached Investment Fund Trustees Report
  - Lou Carlson had a question about the Life Membership fund; need to reevaluate what the required funds are in the account which hasn't been done in several years.

### Audit Committee Report

- Don Littlefield gave report; provided summary of activities (checks written vs checks paid for a period from March to end of September). Committee members chose 2-3 deposits off the list provided by Treasurer and 2-3 checks written off each list provided by the Treasurer for support document review; no issues reported – all records were found to be in good order.

### Budget Committee Report

- Don Littlefield referred to the CASSAR Annual Budget 2024 document of which copies were made available for all members to read through (see attached Budget 2024 document); during discussion, Don Littlefield noted the reasons behind certain cost increases (e.g., storage locker in Roseville cost increase, Constant Contact software, etc.) that the biggest change was the \$50 increase in National Dues
- Don moved to approve the report as read, seconded by Scott Brooks, motion carried unanimously

### Nominating Committee

- Brian Stephens presented the following members as candidates to serve during the 2024 year:
  1. **President:** Don Littlefield
  2. **Executive Vice President & President-Elect:** John Ferris
  3. **Vice President - North:** Randy Dhindsa (2nd year)
  4. **Vice President - South:** Brandon Villardi
  5. **Vice President - Membership:** Scott Whitman (2nd year)
  6. **Secretary:** Chris Cerillo
  7. **Treasurer:** Kevin Bidenkap
  8. **Registrar:** Terry Briggs
  9. **Chancellor:** Michael Hirman
  10. **Genealogist:** David Morrow
  11. **Historian:** M. Scott Brooks
  12. **Chaplain:** Rev. Scott Elliott
  13. **Surgeon:** Dr. Matthew Bowdish
  14. **Investment Fund Trustee:** John Dodd

15. **National Trustee:** Jame Klingler

16. **Alternate National Trustee:** John Ferris

- James Klingler noted that the candidates will be voted upon in April
- James Klingler then spoke about the establishment of the following two committees:

#### **Americanism Report Committee**

- James Klingler asked Jim Faulkinbury to speak about this effort
- Jim Faulkinbury spoke about how he believes that CASSAR could carry out activities that underscore Americanism – suggested that Chapters record events for compilation and submission to the Americanism effort (check verbiage), noted that this report could cover the Color Guard.

#### **Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Scholarship Award Committee**

- James Klingler remarked that he needed a member to chair this committee, noted that Bob Taylor would be a helpful member to work with.
- James Klingler also mentioned a vacancy on the **ByLaws Committee**.
- James Klingler also commented on the past practice of donating \$1,000 to the **CAR Senior President's project**, asked if we would consider a \$1,000 ex budget expenditure for 2023; so moved by Jim Faulkinbury and seconded by John Ferris.
- James Klinger then remarked on the idea a **project to commemorate recently departed Past Color Guard Commanders** Jim Fosdyck and Peter Goebel; one idea was to develop a training video fund and asked us to consider a \$5,000 donation to this fund;
- Brooks Lyles mentioned how training videos currently being developed are high quality and developed in cooperation with Shenandoah University and would be posted on the National Society website and YouTube; Bob Ebert (SF Chapter) so moved, seconded by Scott Whitman – discussion held; John Dodd moved to amend the motion to specify that the \$5,000 be made from the 2023 and 2024 Budgets (2-year funding), seconded by Stephen Renouf; motion approved unanimously as amended.

**Recess for Lunch: 11:52 AM**

**Call Back to Order: 2:21 PM**

**President General John Dodd** made the following comments on outreach and engagement efforts, including the following:

- the Boston Tea Party commemoration t-shirts as an example of the Liberty T-shirt Campaign as an outreach. Annually, over the next 10 years, new t-shirt designs will be related to a select America 250 event. We can visit the NSSAR website for more info.
- social media campaign to raise visibility, reminding chapters that a lot of their website information is out of date and that they should confirm that their websites contain current information and social media links;
- members wearing clothing with SAR logos, rosettes, and lapel pins.
- the upcoming trip to France, scheduled for early April 2024 and noted how they have been in contact with the French Society of the SAR.
- how Chapters can set up information/genealogy booths at conventions of veterans organizations, wearing colonial dress and hand out flyers, take a picture and post it on social media pages (Chapter and National),
- current efforts to recruit celebrity members to raise profile of the SAR. Many celebrity members, like James Woods, use social media and are likely to post Revolutionary War history / SAR-related messages on their social media for their many followers to see.
- a current outreach campaign to Hispanic Americans in Florida, noting that Spanish soldado ancestors who served in Cuba are also eligible to join.
- How current members can introduce the SAR to relatives, and can ask younger new members for help on social media outreach – noting that framing outreach as requests for help often get a positive response.
- requested members to support the First Lady’s project (to raise money to support low-income schools having field trips – see website for more information).

**Stephen Renouf** suggested that National Society contact Congress to see if we could submit designs for 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary coins (similar to the bi-centennial quarters).

## **SAR Membership**

- **Derek Brown** noted declining membership numbers and, during his report, encouraged Chapters to ask themselves the following questions:
  - How are we doing with membership?
  - Are we connecting with other Chapters?
  - Are we in frequent communication with DAR and CAR?
  - How successful are we with retention and recovery?
  - Do you know about the “3 Rs”? (Recruitment, Retention, and Recovery/Reinstatement)
  - How has “Concept America” mentorship been working? Is it successful or not?

- **Derek Brown** reminded members to connect with recently dropped members to re-engage to find out why they may have dropped and entice them to reinstate; suggested a 5-year timeframe to identify those who have dropped within that time in order to re-establish contact;
- **Alan Greenly** noted that there is a Branding Guide on the national website to use as a resource.
- **Jim Faulkinbury** noted that one valuable talking point to emphasize during induction and outreach to members who may have dropped is that we are a community service organization. This talking point carries a connotation of duty/responsibility to members and help reduce drop-out rates.
- **Derek Brown** finished up his report by reminding members to use the membership resources available and that he will look forward to providing a summary from the Reconciliation Reports in the next meeting. Gary Green made a supplemental comment encouraging more members to become Mentors (by joining the Mentorship program).

## **New Business from the Floor**

### **Education Center and Museum -- Dan McKelvie spoke about the**

- The Request for Proposals (RFP) Committee contracted with team of engineers and architects regarding the design and physical plant of the facility. Performance of Construction should commence contracting work in January approx. cost \$3-4 million, approximately 9-month period to construct Projection: Sept/Oct of 2024, museum will be able to start receiving exhibits; total projected cost of the facility is approx. \$13 million; looking at building out the retail store and theater – subject to funding.
- SAR Foundation – reminded that CASSAR committed \$100,000 over a 4-year period; additionally, Dan McKelvie announced that one recently departed member left \$140,000 to the Society in his Last Will and Testament.
- Working with the KY Legislature, noting that many members are associated with the Legislature, to secure additional funding (approx. \$5 million); Dan McKelvie noted the strong possibility that this funding will be granted.

**Reconciliation Report --** Chris Cerillo reported on his communication with National Registrar John Toon at National regarding the currency of the report. John Toon informed Chris that updating happens in real-time through synching between databases.

**Youth Video Contest –** Dr. Keith A Weissinger encouraged CASSAR (or even Chapters within CASSAR) to participate in the Youth Video Contest program. This

program is similar to the Knight Essay Contest but in video form where a student can make a video about an event during the Revolutionary War, and informed members that there are release forms and supporting materials for any Chapter that would like to participate. The video could be a skit – entries could be made by individuals and by groups. There are incentives for donors to contribute to this program fund to make it a National Program. Currently focusing on HS students and, while there is not National level award money for this program, State Societies may decide to grant a monetary award. He also pointed out that if Scouts participate in the Program, they may be eligible to get both a Video Production Merit Badge and an award from this Video Program.

**Annual (April) Meeting Planning Committee** – Don Littlefield commented on the upcoming Annual Meeting in Burlingame, noting that Burlingame was an easily accessible and most affordable option. It will be at the Hyatt Regency SFO in San Mateo County, and mentioned the benefits of the location. It will take place on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27 with April 25<sup>th</sup> check-in period start. \$158 a night, \$10 a day for parking, free airport shuttle; Don will follow up with the hotel on meal pricing options for the Friday night dinner.

**Congress Planning** – John Dodd spoke about his visit to Lancaster, PA to look at the venue and gave a favorable report on the venue and the side tours scheduled as part of the package.

**--- President James Klingler adjourned the BOM at 3:48 PM ---**