



# Silicon Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

## Chapter Meeting

### Minutes for September 16, 2006

Kind of Meeting:  Regular Chapter Meeting  
 Special Chapter Meeting

Name of Chapter: Silicon Valley

Date and Place of Meeting: Saturday, September 16, 2006  
Bay Café and Deli (Palo Alto Golf Course)  
1875 Embarcadero Road  
Palo Alto, California 94303

Presence of Officers:

President:  Present – Charles A. Smart  
 Absent – Substitute \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President:  Present – Charles H. Hicks  
 Absent – Substitute \_\_\_\_\_

Registrar:  Present – Terry Briggs  
 Absent – Substitute \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary:  Present – Rene Charles Borbon  
 Absent – Substitute: Charles A. Smart

Treasurer:  Present – John A. Thompson  
 Absent – Substitute \_\_\_\_\_

Past President:  Present – John R. Kohli  
 Absent – Substitute \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes of Previous Meeting:  Approved  
 Approved as Corrected  
 Dispensed with the Reading

Hours of Meeting: [09:30 am] Call to Order  
[11:30 am] Adjournment

Number Present: [19] Members  
[3] Guests

Actions Taken:

- Motion #1
- A motion was initiated by Compatriot Jack Mallory that “The membership of the SVSAR Chapter approve the minutes of the following meetings, which have been posted on the SVSAR Website, reviewed by the SVSAR Executive Board, and Moved and Passed by Unanimous Consent by the SVSAR Executive Board for membership consideration and approval”.
- December 10, 2006
  - January 21, 2006
  - February 18, 2006
  - March 18, 2006
  - April 15, 2006
  - May 20, 2006
- Seconded by Compatriot Robert Loudon  
[ ] Passed by [ ] Yes, [ ] No and [ ] Abstention  
[x] Passed by Unanimous Consent
- Motion #2
- A motion was initiated by Compatriot Terry Briggs that “The members of the SVSAR Executive Board approve the minutes of the following meeting which have been posted on the SVSAR Website”.
- September 9, 2006
- Seconded by Compatriot Charles H. Chicks  
[ ] Passed by [ ] Yes, [ ] No and [ ] Abstention  
[x] Passed by Unanimous Consent
- Motion #3
- A motion was initiated by Compatriot Terry Briggs that “The membership approve and adopt the new website developed by Compatriot Charles A. Smart at [www.svsar.com](http://www.svsar.com) as the official SVSAR Website”.
- Seconded by Compatriot Richard Knock  
[x] Passed by [15] Yes, [0] No and [4] Abstention  
[ ] Passed by Unanimous Consent
- Motion #4
- A motion was initiated by Compatriot Jack Mallory that “The membership adjourn the meeting”.
- Seconded by Compatriot Terry Briggs  
[ ] Passed by [ ] Yes, [ ] No and [ ] Abstention  
[x] Passed by Unanimous Consent
- Points of Order:
- Question: May the Presiding Officer of a small assembly 1) initiate a motion, 2) second a motion, 3) debate a motion, and 4) vote on a motion?**

Our organization is a non profit, 501(c)3, Public Benefit Corporation with approximately 90 members. Between 12 and 20 members attend our monthly meetings where business is conducted.

In searching “Robert’s Rule’s of Order – Newly Revised – 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, I did not find any statement that expressly supported or prohibited the Presiding Officer in initiating, seconding, debating or voting on a main motion before the assembly. I did get the impression that in large assemblies these actions are prohibited in order to maintain the requirement of impartiality on behalf of the Presiding Officer.

In searching “Robert’s Rule’s of Order – Newly Revised – 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, pages 570 – 571, I did find useful rules for small boards and assemblies, which is listed below.

**PROCEDURE FOR SMALL BOARDS.** In a Board meeting where there are not more than about a dozen members present, some of the formality that is necessary in a large assembly would hinder business. The rules governing such meetings are different from the rules that hold in other assemblies, in the following respects:

- 1) Members are not required to obtain the floor before making motions or speaking, which they can do while seated.
- 2) **Motions need not be seconded.**
- 3) There is no limit to the number of times a member can speak to a question, and motions to close or limit debate (15, 16) generally should not be entertained.
- 4) Informal discussion of a subject is permitted while no motion is pending.
- 5) Sometimes, when a proposal is perfectly clear to all present, a vote can be taken without a motion’s having been introduced. Unless agreed to by unanimous consent, however, all proposed actions of a board must be approved by vote under the same rules as in other assemblies, except that **a vote can be taken initially by a show of hands**, which is often a better method in such meetings.

- 6) The chairman need not rise while putting questions to vote.
- 7) **The chairman can speak in discussion** without rising or leaving the chair; and, subject to rule or custom within the particular board (which should be uniformly followed regardless of how many members are present), **he usually can make motions and usually votes on all questions.**

Summary: The above procedures are clearly appropriate for SVSAR Executive Board meetings. With regard for SVSAR Chapter meetings, it is less clear. The above procedures are for “a Board meeting where there are not more than about a dozen members present”. Does this apply to a SVSAR Chapter meeting with 12 to 20 members? In our current SVSAR Chapter meetings we follow procedures 1), 3), 4), 5) and 6), but do not follow procedures 2) and 7). Should we become more formal, and consistently use all of the procedures of large assemblies? Or, should remain informal and consistently use all of the procedures of small assemblies? Or, is it OK to use some of the procedures of large assemblies and some of the procedures of small assemblies? In the end, I believe that it’s up to us.

Appeals:

None