



**Silicon Valley Chapter
of the
Sons of the American Revolution**

**Chapter Meeting Minutes
16 March 2013**

Kind of Meeting: Regular Chapter Meeting

Name of Chapter: Silicon Valley Chapter

Date and Place of Meeting: Saturday 16 March 2013
The Forum at Rancho San Antonio
23500 Cristo Rey Drive
Cupertino, California 95014

Presence of Officers:

President:	Present – Terry Briggs
Vice President, Membership	Present – Alan Fitch
Vice President, Programs	Present - Bret Schmitz
Registrar:	Vacant
Secretary:	Present – Jeff Moore
Treasurer:	Present – Bill Dunton
Past President:	Present – Doug Bergtholdt

Hours of Meeting: 9:40 AM Call to Order
11:15 AM Adjournment

Number Present: 16 Members
1 Associate
3 Guests

Invocation by Compatriot Alan Fitch

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Doug Bergtholdt that “The membership of the SVSAR Chapter approves the minutes of the February 16, 2013 SVSAR meeting, which were posted on the SVSAR Website for a least a week prior to the meeting.” Motion was seconded by Richard Knock and passed unanimously.

Attendance: Sixteen members, one associate and three guests attended the meeting.

Actions Taken:

1. President’s Report:

- a. Blossom Festival will be held in Saratoga on Saturday, March 23rd from 10:00 – 4:00.
- b. Federation of Genealogical Societies/Ancestry – Digitizing War of 1812 Pension Records. Donations are being sought to fund this. Ancestry . com is matching donations dollar for dollar.
- c. Essay Contest Winner will reschedule reading of winning essay.
- d. President Briggs attended the March 10 Captain Matthew Ramsay Society, CAR meeting to coordinate efforts of CAR and the SVSAR in promoting SAR youth contests.
- e. Chapter needs: Eagle Scout Chair, Registrar.
- f. Election of V.P. Programs: Brent Schmitz was unanimously elected. President Briggs included a list of tasks included in the job.
- g. President Briggs has made available to members books and DVDs on various historical subjects from his library.
- h. CASSAR meeting will be held on April 12 and 13, 2013 in Ventura. President Briggs and Past-President Bergtholdt are planning to attend.

2. Committee Reports:

- a. Color Guard Commander: President Briggs reported that additional volunteers are sought to participate with the SVSAR Color Guard at upcoming events. Some uniforms are available to be borrowed for future events. The color guard will be attending a number of events in the coming months.
- b. Vice President Membership: Compatriot Alan Fitch reported that the Facebook page is improving to make it more accessible and that the SVSAR website is regularly being updated. March birthdays were announced, as well as membership anniversaries.
- c. Registrar: The SVSAR Registrar resigned in mid-February 2013 and President Briggs is performing Registrar duties in the interim. Since the Registrar position is vacant, President Briggs reported that three new members and four supplementals have been approved since last month, which brings the total new members for 2013 to ten. Two new member and seven supplemental applications are currently submitted for review.
- d. Treasurer: Compatriot Bill Dunton reported that SVSAR finances are in good shape. President Briggs reported that a 2013 SVSAR budget has been prepared largely based upon a review of 2012 income and expenses.
- e. Chairman ROTC: John Kohli reported that awards will be made to ten high schools, San Jose State University and Santa Clara University in May and June 2013. Volunteers are needed to attend award ceremonies, preferably in uniform.

- f. Chairman Fundraising and Social Events: Compatriot Jack Mallory reported that with the help of Compatriot Mike Malone the committee is exploring a fundraising and social event to visit a significant private collection of Revolutionary War prints and artifacts downtown San Jose. Information to follow.
- g. Chairman De Anza Scholarship: Compatriot Richard Knock reported that progress is being made toward the selection of a 2013 recipient. He has indicated he is intending to resign from chairman at the end of this year. As a result, a new chairman will be needed next year.
- h. Chairman of Photography: Compatriot John Kohli had nothing to report.
- i. Chaplain: Vacant.
- j. Publisher of the Forge: Vacant.
- k. Secretary: Compatriot Jeff Moore had nothing to report.

3. Old Business:

- a. Wreaths Across America. Compatriot John Kohli reported that a fundraiser will be held in October to support the Wreaths Across America program. The placing of the wreaths will be at ceremonies in December. Wreaths can be purchased for \$15.00 each.
- b. Eagle Scout Scholarship: Compatriot Mike Malone reported that the SAR scholarship program is being publicized. In addition, his book on Eagle Scouts is being offered to the members with the proceeds being donated to the chapter.
- c. Knight Essay Winner: President Briggs reported that our SVSAR essay contest winner did not win at the State level.

4. New Business: There was no new business.

5. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. April 20th: President Briggs will talk about the Battle of Lexington and Concord.
- b. May 18th: Compatriot Mike Malone will talk about his new book on Eagle Scouts.

6. Roundtable Discussion: "Where We Are and Where Do We Go Now?" Compatriot Alan Fitch did a power point presentation and led the discussion backed up by President Briggs.

- a. Where we are: We had 103 members at the beginning of 2013, which makes the SVSAR the fourth largest CASSAR chapter. In 2012 we added a record 20 members. Of the 94 new members new since 2004, 32 (34%) have dropped their memberships. Nationally, 46% of all members dropped out before year six. Early indications are that new members since 2006 are dropping out at a rate of 60%.

- b. **Priorities for the future:** The members agree that the highest priority is for the SVSAR to attract excellent speakers on historical and patriotic subjects. It was suggested that we network with other SAR and DAR chapters to develop a roster of speakers. We need to determine if there is a state roster of guest speakers. It was suggested that the local colleges and universities as well as noted high tech business leaders might be possible sources for guest speakers.
- c. **Meeting Location:** It was agreed that the location, date and time of our meetings is good. President Briggs reported that other larger rooms are available to accommodate more attendees.
- d. The SVSAR needs to explore and identify ways that might result in more of our non-participating members to participate more in the SVSAR. The SVSAR might consider re-establishing the "calling tree" system to make telephone contact with all members reminding them of upcoming SVSAR meetings and events. Making videos of SVSAR meeting guest speakers and making these videos available from the SVSAR web-site or SVSAR Facebook page might allow more SVSAR members to stay connected with the SVSAR.
- e. The SVSAR needs to explore and identify ways that might reduce the number of members who drop their memberships at the end of each year.
- f. **Other suggestions:** Less business at the front end of the meetings, members would like to get to know other members better, ask members to give a brief biographical sketch of their patriot ancestors and themselves (5 minutes at most), and that we do a better job of publicizing chapter activities. It was suggested that we poll our members to see if they would be interested in social activities in addition to our regular monthly meetings. It was also suggested that the SVSAR prepare and send a survey to all SVSAR members to obtain feedback and suggestions to enhance the SVSAR.

Adjournment:

Motion: A motion was initiated by Jack Mallory that "The membership adjourned the meeting." The motion was seconded by Richard Knock. The motion was passed by unanimous consent at 11:15 PM.

Points of Order: None

Meeting minutes prepared by: Jeff Moore, SVSAR Secretary
(If there are any corrections or clarifications required, please contact Jeff Moore).