



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

**Chapter Meeting Minutes
18 October 2014**

Kind of Meeting: Regular Chapter Meeting

Name of Chapter: Silicon Valley Chapter

Date and Place of Meeting: Saturday 20 September 2014
San Jose West Valley Library Community Room
1243 San Thomas Aquino Road
San Jose, CA

Presence of Officers:

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

Hours of Meeting: 9:35 AM Call to Order
11:45 AM Adjournment

Number Present: 16 SAR Members
2 Guests

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag led by Compatriot Gary Ratts

Invocation by Compatriot Richard Ferman

Pledge to SAR by Compatriot Doug Bergtholdt

Introduction of Members and Guests by President Terry Briggs

Welcome to members and guests. President Briggs reminded attendees who would like to have refreshments, to place \$3.00 into the container at the sign-in table.

Introduction of Speaker by President Terry Briggs: Compatriot Mike Malone was introduced as the Guest Speaker who made a presentation titled, "Silicon Valley at the time of the American Revolution." The presentation was well received by those present and a number of enlightening questions were asked and answered.

Raffle: There was no raffle.

Induction of New Members: Registrar Alan Fitch presented a new member certificate and rosette to Jim Niforopulos.

Approval of September 20, 2014 SVSAR Meeting Minutes: Compatriot Doug Bergtholdt moved for approval and Compatriot Sam Prather seconded the motion. The vote of the members present was unanimous to approve the September 20, 2014 SVSAR meeting minutes as published on the SVSAR website.

Officer Reports:

A. President Terry Briggs:

- SVSAR meeting venue will be at the San Jose West Valley Community Room for the December 6th meeting. Alternate meeting sites will be discussed under “Old Business.”
- 2015 dues renewal process will begin with invoices being mailed in mid November 2014. The national, California and chapter dues amount will remain unchanged at \$67.00. It is requested that dues be paid by December 15th.
- SVSAR officers and committee chairmen are needed for 2015. Officer elections will held at the December 6th meeting. Officers are President, Vice President Membership, Vice President Programs (Brent Schmitz has volunteered), Secretary (no members have offered to serve), Treasurer (Bill Dunton has volunteered), Registrar (Alan Fitch has volunteered), Chaplain (Richard Ferman has offered to serve in this appointed position). Vacancies exist for President, Secretary, Vice President Membership and committee chairman for De Anza College Patriotic Essay Scholarship. President Briggs has been filling in, but cannot completely cover all the bases.
- CASSAR Fall Board of Managers Meeting will be held on November 7, 8 and 9 in Petaluma. President Briggs (CASSAR Genealogist) and Past President Bergtholdt (CASSAR Secretary) will be attending.
- The NSSAR National Congress will be held June 25th through July 1st 2014 in Louisville, KY. For the NSSAR, funds are being raised for the museum and exhibits in the new headquarters located on the Main Street museum row.
- Efforts are continuing to be made to further enhance the SVSAR’s collaboration with area CAR Societies and DAR Chapters. The Los Gatos DAR has invited SVSAR members to attend the unveiling of an educational plaque at the site of the former Jose Maria Hernandez adobe in Vasona Park at 4:00 PM on October 25, 2014.
- President Briggs has a collection of books and DVDs about pre-Revolutionary War and Revolutionary War periods and genealogy available for members to borrow.

B. Vice President, Programs Brent Schmitz.

- Brent Schmitz is working on guest speakers for future SVSAR meetings. Speakers are needed for the December meeting as well as meetings in 2015. Brent is open to suggestions from members for future guest speakers.
- In 2015 the focus of promotion of SVSAR youth contests and programs will be with the City of Santa Clara schools.
- Requests for Eagle Scout Recognition certificates have been received and been forwarded to SVSAR Eagle Scout Recognition Chairman, Peter Verbica and Peter has provided the SAR Eagle Scout Recognition Certificates to the Eagle Scouts along with invitations to apply for the SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship. The deadline for receiving SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship applications is November 16, 2014.
- Brochure submissions by 8th Graders are due by no later than December 31, 2014. The theme is "Founding Documents."
- The deadline for receiving SAR Knight Essay Contest applications is no later than December 31, 2014.
- The 2015 Youth Oration Contest is open to all high school students. The theme is "How Has the American Revolution Made Us Better Persons." 5 to 6 minute videos of the speeches are due at SVSAR no later than March 1, 2015.
- The 2015 SAR Youth Poster Contest submissions for students in Grade 5 are due no later than March 16, 2015. The 2015 theme is "the 1775 Battle of Lexington and Concord."
- Applications for the Valley Forge Teachers' Program Scholarship are due by March 16, 2015. SVSAR's nominee, Patti Harjehausen from Bishop O'Dowd High School, was selected by CASSAR to attend the 2014 program.
- ROTC Recognition and awards are made in April and May 2015.

C. Vice President Membership: Report given by President Briggs.

- SVSAR membership stands at approximately 110, which makes the SVSAR the fourth largest chapter in the state and puts the SVSAR in the Very Large Chapter category in the CASSAR chapter groupings.
- There were no 5 year increment membership anniversaries to report of October or November 2014.

D. Registrar, Alan Fitch:

- Since the September 20th SVSAR meeting no new members and no supplementals have been approved. A number of new applications and supplementals are under review.
- The NSSAR application fee for supplementals has increased from \$40.00 to \$60.00.
- A number of inquiries regarding membership have been received by both President Briggs and Compatriot Fitch.

E. Treasurer, Bill Dunton: Books are up-to-date and balanced as of the date of this meeting.

F. Secretary, Jeff Moore: Absent, no report.

G. Immediate Past President and Current CASSAR Secretary, Doug Bergholdt:

- Reported that at present there are is total California SAR membership of approximately 1,700 members. The national reports having approximately 31,000 members and membership continues to grow.
- The most significant issue to be addressed at the November 2014 CASSAR Board of Manager's Meeting will be CASSAR insurance and insurance issues related to California chapter colorguards men firing weapons in public. The CASSAR insurance does not cover CASSAR chapters and does not cover liability associated with firing of weapons in public.

Committee Reports:

A. Chaplain: Vacant. No report.

B. Chairman, Social Events, chairman Jack Mallory was absent: Report by President Briggs - A fundraising event to visit the Revolutionary War period print collection at the offices of attorney Richard Alexander in downtown San Jose is being considered.

C. Wreaths Across America (John Kohli):

- A new chair of the Golden Gate National Cemetery Wreaths Across America has been put into place. December 13th will be the next distribution of wreaths at Wreaths Across America ceremonies at cemeteries across the country including at Golden Gate National Cemetery and possibly Madronia Cemetery in Saratoga. The SVSAR Color Guard will participate at Golden Gate National Cemetery but not at Madronia Cemetery.

D. ROTC/JROTC and Photography (John Kohli): Awards were given to Santa Clara University ROTC members on May 15th. Junior ROTC events are planned on April 4, 2015 at Andrew Hill High School, April 15th at Oak Grove High School and on April 23rd at Overfelt High School.

E. Color Guard (Chris Palmer):

- Recent Color Guard Events: President Terry Briggs marched with the YAPs on Memorial Day on the USS Hornet in Alameda. July 4th a contingent participated in the Saratoga Independence Day celebration, and President Terry Briggs marched with the YAPs at the Ardenwood Farm Independence Day Celebration in Fremont. A five man SVSAR color guard presented the colors at the September 6th DAR California Northern Council meeting in Walnut Creek.
- Upcoming events include the November 11th Veterans Day Parade, December 13th Wreaths Across America at both the Golden Gate National Cemetery. Participation is requested by the YAPs at the Pleasanton Veterans Parade on November 2nd and at the December 6th Pleasanton Holiday Parade.
- Volunteers are needed. Some uniforms are available to borrow. A brief discussion was held as to where to purchase uniforms and accouterments.

F. Chairman Eagle Scout Recognition (Peter Verbica, absent), report by President Briggs:

- Eagle Scout recognition certificates have been given out.
- Deadline for Eagle Scout Scholarships is in mid-November 2014. The chapter makes an award of \$100.00 to the winner and the State awards \$750.

G. Chairman of Guest Speakers: (Vacant) Report by Vice President Programs, Brent Schmitz - Brent is identifying several guest speakers for future SVSAR meetings.

H. Chairman of De Anza Scholarship: (Vacant) Report by Vice President Programs, Brent Schmitz. The committee is working on coordinating this scholarship program and will report at the December 6th SVSAR meeting.

Unfinished Business:

A. Youth Awards:

- Ida Price Middle School received a donation of \$300 from the SVSAR as approved at the September 20, 2014 SVSAR meeting.
- A \$200 donation is being made to the Young American Patriots (YAP) Fife and Drum Corps. as approved at the September 20, 2014 SVSAR meeting. A Certificate of Appreciation will be presented to the founder of the YAP Fife and Drum Corps, Jason Giamio as approved at the September 20, 2014 SVSAR meeting.
- A donation of \$100.00 will be sent to the California State Children of the American Revolution to support their state conference in the spring of 2015 as approved at the September 20, 2014 SVSAR meeting.

B. SVSAR Meeting Venue: Richard Ferman further presented a possibility of holding 2015 SVSAR meetings at the American Legion Hall for Post #318 located on Minnesota Avenue in San Jose complete with a generous breakfast. If SVSAR meetings were to be held at the Post #318 American Legion Hall the meetings would need to be held on Sunday Mornings. Other possible future meeting venues were suggested and discussed. An informal poll of the members present was that keeping the SVSAR meetings on Saturdays was preferred rather than changing meetings to Sunday mornings.

New Business:

Dick Ferman gave a brief explanation of the newly forming United Veterans Alliance, a 501(c)3 non-profit. It may be beneficial for the SVSAR to join this Alliance to work with other Veterans related groups in the Santa Clara Valley area.

Conclusion:

- The next SVSAR meeting will be on Saturday, December 6th at 9:30 AM at the San Jose West Valley Library Community room. The speaker will be announced at a later date and on the SVSAR website.
- President Terry Briggs led the SAR Recessional.
- Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

End of 10.18.2014 Meeting Minutes.