



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

**Regular Chapter Meeting  
6 December 2014**

Name of Chapter: Silicon Valley Chapter  
Date and Place of Meeting: Saturday 6 December 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	Absent
Registrar:	Present – Alan Fitch
Secretary:	Present – Jeff Moore
Treasurer:	Present – Bill Dunton
Past President:	Present – Doug Bergtholdt

Hours of Meeting: 9:41 AM Call to Order  
12:01 PM Adjournment

Number Present: 23 SAR Members  
2 Guests

**Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag led by Compatriot Alan Fitch**

**Invocation by Compatriot Richard Ferman**

**Pledge to SAR by Compatriot Jack Mallory**

**Introduction of Members and Guests by President Terry Briggs**

**Presentation of SAR Certificates and Medals:** Compatriot Chris Palmer presented to Compatriot Jim Hollabaugh the Bronze Color Guard Medal; Compatriot Rainey Thayer and Jim Niforopoulos, Military Miniatures for service on Color Guard.

**Welcome to members and guests.** Registrar Alan Fitch welcomed new member John Holland.

**Color Guard Recognition:** President Terry Briggs announced that at the November 2014 CASSAR Board of Manager's Meeting that the Color Guard had received two streamers for participation in various events and a certificate for participating in "Partners in Patriotism."

**Introduction of Speaker by President Terry Briggs:** Compatriot Chris Palmer talked about “The War of 1812 and the 1814 Defense of Washington and Baltimore.”

**Raffle:** There was no raffle.

**Approval of Minutes:** Compatriot Doug Bergtholdt moved and Compatriot Richard Ferman seconded the motion for approval of the October 18, 2014 meeting minutes, which in the vote that followed, were unanimously approved.

**Election of Officers:** The Nominating Committee nominated: President, Terry Briggs (3<sup>rd</sup> and final year); Vice President Programs, Brent Schmitz; Vice President Membership (no nomination); Treasurer, Bill Dunton; Secretary, Jeff Moore, and Registrar, Alan Fitch. All nominations were unanimously approved and in a vote that followed all of those nominated were elected. CASSAR Secretary Compatriot Doug Bergtholdt administered the oath of office.

## **Officer Reports:**

### **A. President Terry Briggs:**

- 2015 dues renewal process began with invoices mailed to members in November. Total dues remained unchanged at \$67.00. Members are encouraged to submit dues by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Currently, two-thirds of the members have submitted their checks.
- President Terry Briggs and Compatriot Doug Bergtholdt attended the Los Gatos DAR educational plaque ceremony for the Jose Maria Hernandez Adobe in Vasona Park on October 24, 2014.
- CASSAR Fall Board of Managers Meeting was on Friday and Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in Petaluma. SVSAR and several members received certificates and medals. The SVSAR Color Guard received two flag streamers. The SVSAR received a Partners in Patriotism Certificate. President Terry Briggs received the CASSAR Patriot Medal and three Liberty Medal oak leaf clusters. Compatriot Doug Bergtholdt and President Terry Briggs served on the CASSAR Color Guard.
- Other business discussed and approved during the CASSAR meeting included: due to insurance issues, CASSAR members are not to fire any weapons at events unless they have individual chapter insurance for that purpose; Dr. Kent Gregory was nominated for the 2015-2016 CASSAR president, and Ron Baker was nominated for the 2015-2016 Executive Vice President. The April 2015 CASSAR Annual meeting will be held in Irvine, CA.
- NSSAR Operation Ancestor Search has been requested to be started at the Veterans Hospital Palo Alto Poly-trauma Center. SVSAR members are requested to contact President Terry Briggs if they are interested in participating in this program. President Briggs has given information to the Los Gatos DAR.
- SVSAR has been asked to host the November 2016 CASSAR Fall Board of Manager’s Meeting in our area. This is 2 ½ day event. SVSAR would be required to finance the meeting up front, but would receive reimbursement from reservation fees collected. The last time SVSAR hosted this meeting was in November 2010. Whether the SVSAR should accept the responsibility to host the November 2016 CASSAR Fall Board of Managers Meeting will be discussed at 2015 SVSAR meetings and should be approved by a majority of SVSAR

members attending the meeting before responsibility of hosting the meeting is accepted.

- Efforts continue to me made to enhance the SVSAR's collaboration with the area's SAR and DAR Chapters and CAR Societies. To this end, President Terry Briggs has represented SVSAR at a number of CAR meetings. SVSAR member Bill Jennings has recently resigned as the Captain Matthew Ramsey Society CAR Senior President. Judy Brown has again become the Senior President of the Captain Matthew Ramsay Society CAR.
- The SVSAR website continues to be updated to include announcements, meetings and events. Members are encouraged to refer to the website for dates of meetings, events and other chapter information.
- SVSAR needs members to serve as officers and committee chairmen. Open positions include arranging for guest speakers and the De Anza College patriotic essay contest chairman for 2015.

**B. Vice President, Programs Brent Schmitz (Report Given by President Briggs)**

- Guest speakers are needed for January through May 2015.
- No applications have been received by the SVSAR for the Eagle Scout Scholarship for the November 15, 2014 deadline. The 2015 deadline will be November 15, 2015.
- Applications must be received by December 31, 2014 for the Knight Essay Contest. This is open to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors.
- No applicants have been received for the Youth Brochure Contest for middle school students. The deadline is December 31, 2014. The theme is "The Battle of Lexington and Concord."
- Applications will be due on March 1, 2015 for the Youth Oration Contest. This is open to high school students, who must submit a five to six minute video.
- The Youth Poster Contest for students in grades three through five will be due at SVSAR by no later than March 16, 2015. The theme is "The Battle of Lexington and Concord."
- Applications for the Valley Forge Teacher Scholarship are due March 16, 2015.
- ROTC recognition and awards will be made in April and May 2015.

**C. Vice President Membership: (Report given by President Briggs.)**

- SVSAR membership stands at 115 (110 regular and five Junior), which makes the SVSAR the fourth largest chapter in California. Bill Gainey was recognized for ten years membership in the SAR.

**D. Registrar, Alan Fitch:**

- New member since the last meeting is Jon Shamblen. Since June 2014 there have been 4 new members and 8 supplementals have been approved.
- One new applicant has been approved and two are under review.
- In previous years, ten to fifteen new members were approved each year. This year, ten new members have been approved by December 6, 2014.
- 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 balance. The current bank balance is \$23,419.03. This balance includes 2015 dues that must be paid to the CASSAR and the NSSAR in January 2015.

**F. Secretary, Jeff Moore:** No report.

**G. Immediate Past President and Current CASSAR Secretary, Doug Bergtholdt:** Nineteen applicants have recently been received state-wide, including fifteen from one family.

**Committee Reports:**

**A. Chaplain:** Compatriot Richard Ferman has been appointed SVSAR chaplain for 2015.

**B. Chairman, Social Events: Jack Mallory:**

- A visit to the Alexander Law Firm in San Jose is being planned with the DAR to view their revolutionary war period print collection. February 2015 is a possible time frame for the event. More information will be provided when it is available.
- Fund-raising book raffles will commence with the January 2015 SVSAR meeting.

**C. Wreaths Across America (John Kohli):**

- The SVSAR Color Guard will participate at the December 13<sup>th</sup> wreath laying ceremony at the Golden Gate National Cemetery.
- No ceremony is planned at the Madronia Cemetery

**D. ROTC/JROTC and Photography (John Kohli):** No report.

**E. Color Guard (Chris Palmer):**

- Recent Color Guard Events: President Terry Briggs marched with the YAPs on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Pleasanton Veterans' Parade. The SVSAR Color Guard with an eleven man contingent marched again near the front of the San Jose Veterans' Day Parade.
- Upcoming events: Pleasanton December 6<sup>th</sup> Holiday Parade with the YAPs; Wreaths Across America, Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Golden Gate National Cemetery
- Volunteers are needed. Some uniforms are available to borrow.
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**F. Chairman Eagle Scout Recognition (Report Given By President Terry Briggs)**

- Recognition certificates are being prepared for mailing to Eagle Scouts upon request. Peter Verbica continues to spear-head the SVSAR Eagle Scout Recognition and Scholarship Committee.

**G. Chairman of Guest Speakers: (Report Given By President Terry Briggs):**

- Chairman is needed.
- Speakers are needed for January through May, and September through December 2015.

**H. Chairman of De Anza Scholarship: (Brent Schmitz not present)** No report.

**Unfinished Business:**

Discussion was had regarding where to meet. A Possibility is the HomeTown Buffet in Santa Clara on El Camino Real and Kieley, which has a suitable room. The price would be \$8.50 including drinks. There is a 25 meal minimum for a total of \$212.50 to get the \$8.50 price. President Briggs asked for additional recommendations. The next meeting will be at the San Jose West Valley Library.

**New Business:**

Compatriot Doug Bergtholdt mentioned that SVSAR will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year in 2015.

**Conclusion:**

- SAR Recessional was led by Compatriot John Kohli.
- Benediction by Chaplain Richard Ferman
- Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 12:01 PM