

## **The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California**

Governing Board Meeting  
President 's Report  
Tuesday June 9, 2015  
Octagon House

I am so looking forward to our new year. Welcome to all the new officers and thank you to all those continuing on.

Just since our last Board meeting, we have had our annual meeting, our annual dinner with the wonderful San Francisco historian, John Martini. He spoke about the Panama Pacific International Exposition. Our beloved Octagon House was so close, what a bird's eye view it must have had of all the excitement.

From April 30th through May 3rd, I was in Oklahoma City at the NSCDA's first Super Regional Conference which included both Regions 1 and 3. At the president's meeting I had an opportunity to share with other presidents our concerns and needs. Museum Properties workshop showed how important it is to engage our guests and membership development also talked about how to engage our members.

Although we have our consent agenda, there is a lot to cover at this meeting: calendar for the year, summer lunches, electing a nominating committee to name a few of the action items.

Gail Sollid  
NSCDA-CA President

# The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California

## PROPOSED STYLE SHEET

### to be used in Proposed Bylaws Revision All NSCDA-CA written reports

#### Capitalization:

- Capitalize proper names (names of organizations, people, committees, boards, meetings, official titles.) Examples:
  - ○ Annual Meeting
  - ○ California Society
  - ○ President Gail Sollid
  - ○ Membership Committee
  - ○ Membership Committee Chairman
  - ○ National President Marcy Moody
  - ○ Semi-Annual Meeting
  - ○ The Governing Board
  
- Terms which are always capitalized. Examples:
  - ○ Colonial State Society
  - ○ Corporate Society
  - ○ Dame (when used to reference a member of NSCDA)
  - ○ National President (when used to reference the National President of NSCDA)
  - ○ President (when used to reference the President of a Corporate Society)
  - ○ Regent (when used in reference to Regent of Gunston Hall)
  - ○ Roll of Honor
  - ○ Special Committee
  - ○ Standing Committee
  - ○ Nominating Committee
  - ○ Town and County Committees
  - ○ Young Dames

#### LOWER CASE

- ○ alternates
- ○ board
- ○ committee
- ○ chairman
- ○ committee chairman
- ○ delegates
- ○ managers
- ○ meeting
- ○ member
- ○ officer
- ○ regular meeting

- ○ secretary
- ○ special meeting

#### ABBREVIATIONS

- ○ NSCDA
- ○ NSCDA-CA

#### COMPUTER AND INTERNET TERMS

- ○ email
- ○ Internet
- ○ website

#### NUMBERS

- ○ Spell out numbers from one to nine. Numbers over nine can be numeric.
- ○ Spell out numbers that begin a sentence.
- ○ First, second and third can be abbreviated as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### PUNCTUATION

- ○ Commas are used to separate items in a series. Ex. one, two, and three.
- ○ Semi-colons are used to separate items in a series if the individual items contains commas. Ex. Mrs. John Brown, chairman; Mrs. Robert Green, member.
- ○ Commas, periods, and semi-colons are placed inside quotation marks.

#### TITLES

- ○ Italicize the *Constitution* and *Bylaws*
- ○ Italicize book titles, newspapers, magazines, and movies. Ex. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*.
- ○ Quotation marks around song titles, program names, poems, newspaper articles, and magazine articles. Ex. "The Star Spangled Banner,"

#### Clarity AND CONSISTENCY

- ○ Avoid use of undefined abbreviations in place of the full term.
  - ♣ "The Governing Board" and later (in the same article, paragraph or sentence) the "Board." This is an example of incorrect usage.
- ○ Avoid use of multiple names for the same item.
  - ♣ "National Council" and "Biennial Council" refer to the same meeting. It is acceptable to state "...National Council, also known as Biennial Council" as used in Article XIII Section 1.
  - ♣ "California Society President" and "President" unless the section refers to California Society as used in Article V Section 1.
- ○ Avoid use of the same term for multiple meanings.
  - ♣ The President – meaning the National President (Acts in Council, Article VI, Section 3. The President...) This is an example of incorrect usage.
  - ♣ ...the President – meaning the President of the Corporate Societies (Acts in Council, Article IV, Section 3, paragraph a.)
- ○ Avoid use of extra words by adding "...of the..."

- ♣ Nominating Committee Chairman – not Chairman of the Nominating Committee
- ♣ Standing Committee list – not list of the Standing Committee
- ○ Avoid use of pronouns in place of the full term.
  - ♣ “The President shall...” and later (in the same article, paragraph or sentence) “...she shall...” This is an example of incorrect usage.

## REFERENCES

Terms defined in *Acts in Council*, Article II should be used EXACTLY as defined below.

### *Acts in Council* Article II Definition of Terms

SECTION 1. The term “National Society” applies to the partnership or alliance of the various Corporate Societies.

SECTION 2. The term “Corporate Society” applies to each and every Society forming The National Society.

SECTION 3. The term “State Society” applies to all the Corporate Societies save and except the Society in the District of Columbia.

SECTION 4. The term “the original fourteen Societies” applies to the thirteen Colonial State Societies and the Society in the District of Columbia; the fourteen Societies that alone formed The National Society until the Council of 1898.

SECTION 5. The term “Colonial State Society” applies to the thirteen Colonial State Societies which represent the thirteen Colonies.

SECTION 6. The term “Charter Society” or the “Domicile” applies to the Society in the District of Columbia, the legal residence of The National Society.

SECTION 7. The term “Associate State Society” applies to the Societies in the non-Colonial States.

SECTION 8. The word "Non-Colonial" is used as a prefix to the words State or States, and never to the words “Dame” or “Society” standing alone.

SECTION 9. The term “Region” applies to the Corporate Societies grouped geographically for conference purposes.

Approved by The Governing Board

\_\_\_\_\_ date

## Report of the Los Angeles- Pasadena-Santa Barbara Committee

The Board of the Los Angeles- Pasadena-Santa Barbara Committee met on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 to discuss plans for the 2015-16 year. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Committee and a birthday celebration dinner is being planned for October 3, 2015 at the California Club in Los Angeles.

The committee felt that our year should focus on “Who we are as Colonial Dames and as Americans” and we are, hence, trying to plan programs and projects that reflect those things.

In September, hopefully on Constitution Day, we are planning a visit to the exhibit of the Magna Carta at the Huntington Museum in Pasadena. At our November meeting, Nancy McAteer will come speak to us about Octagon House and our mission as Colonial Dames. In February we will have a “Washington’s birthday” luncheon featuring Colonial recipes with a program on Sulgrave Manor. Our annual meeting will be in March. Although we have not yet decided on the program, we are hoping that Karen Daly, Executive Director of Dumbarton House and Scott Stroh, Executive Director of Gunston Hall will come speak sometime during the year, perhaps at that meeting.

2016 marks the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (VDR) penned by our own George Mason of Gunston Hall. The Bill of Rights and many state constitutions are based on concepts in this important document, and our committee hopes to take comparative looks at these documents as well as at the Patriotic Services Washington Workshops question which has to do with the VDR.

We will also be looking for schools that are interested in the “Why America is Free” curriculum, and we hope to work with an organization that supports our service men and women deployed overseas.

Our membership will be encouraged throughout the year to write a brief biography of their Colonial ancestor and also to report on this at meetings. And we very much hope to somehow have our members visit headquarter in San Francisco... perhaps for the annual meeting next April.

We are exited about the year and about being Dames and welcome any suggestions for speakers or programs along these line.

Anne Rhett Merrill  
Chairman  
Los Angeles- Pasadena- Santa Barbara Committee

The National Society of Colonial Dames of America in California – San Diego County Committee Report for May/June 2015:

Our annual membership coffee will be on Tuesday, June 9, at the lovely La Jolla home of Nancy Assaf. Board members, as usual, will serve coffee, tea and refreshments. This is always our opportunity to, not only greet our fellow Dames, but to welcome potential members as well. Invitations have been sent to 110 members and 28 suggested, proposed and legacy candidates.

This year the San Diego Committee celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as it was founded on April 14, 1940. At that time among the projects these founding Dames committed themselves to were: The Casa de Machada and the Casa de Estudillo in Old Town as well as the preservation of Pioneer Park in Mission Hills. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee consisting of Lisa Gordon and Marvie Norris as co-chairs and Joan Stone, Connie Stone, Gay Grossman, and Lynda Jeffries as committee members are planning a celebration for Sunday October 18 at the La Jolla Country Club. Pat Fleming will endeavor to obtain a Proclamation recognizing our anniversary, its history and achievements of the last 75 years from the County Board of Supervisors. She will also attempt to get a feature story in the local media.

Regarding our Patriotic Service efforts, we served nearly over 100 service men and their families dinner at our downtown USO on Tuesday, May 12 and sponsored a Naturalization Ceremony at which close to 1,000 people became new citizens. Both were most inspiring events for our participating Dames.

Terry Whitcomb continues her efforts working with the State of California to bring the Casa de Estudillo's furnishings back to the appropriate historic era. It is a detailed effort. Four generations of the Estudillos lived in the residence. Exhaustive research continues and will be ongoing.

Dates for Board meetings and events for 2015/16 for the San Diego Committee are as follows:

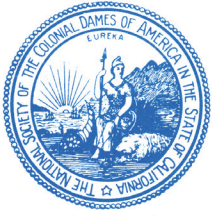
2015

- Tuesday, September 8, 2015 Board Meeting, Home of Carol Shively
- Tuesday, October 13, Board Meeting, Home of Rebecca Bradbury
- Tuesday, October 13, USO Dinner
- Sunday, October 18, Fall Cocktail Party and 75th anniversary celebration, La Jolla Country Club
- Tuesday, November 10, Board Meeting, Home of Anne Marshall
- Tuesday, November 17, Fall Business Meeting

2016

- Tuesday, January 12, 2016 Board Meeting home of Marvie Norris
- Tuesday, February 9, Board Meeting, home of Nancy Assaf
- Tuesday, March 8, Board Meeting, home of Jean Wirick
- Tuesday, March 15, Spring Business Meeting – La Jolla Country Club
- Tuesday, April 12, Board Meeting at home of Barbara Smith
- Tuesday, May 10, Board Meeting, home of Terry Whitcomb
- USO dinner, date to be determined
- Tuesday, June 14?, Membership coffee --location and date to be determined

Pat Fleming, Chairman, San Diego Committee



**The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California  
San Francisco - Governing Board Meeting  
Report of 5th VP and Chairman of Monterey - Marguerite Meyer**

June 9, 2015

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California, Monterey Committee has begun its new Dames year since the Monterey Peninsula Committee's March 25, 2015 Annual Meeting and election of 2015-2016 officers.

Our first Board meeting was held on May 23, at which we set a calendar of Monterey's events and meetings.

Monterey Peninsula Committee will be hosting the State Semi-Annual meeting on Sunday and Monday, January 24, 25, 2016. Our new Vice Chairman Leslie Geyer is heading the planning committee with 3 other members. Invitations will be mailed in early December, 2015.

Patriotic Service Chairman, Ruth Donohugh, announced Tyler Chisman as the Monterey Peninsula College history student chosen to receive our annual Founders Scholarship of \$2000. He plans to continue his studies in history and transfer from MPC to a UC school in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Meyer

California Society 5th Vice President and Chairman of the Monterey Peninsula Committee

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA  
CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING June 9, 2015

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Since our last Registrar's report on April 9, we have no new members, no reinstatements, no transfers in, no transfers out, three resignations, no deaths, and none dropped.

NEW MEMBERS:

REINSTATEMENTS:

TRANSFERS IN:

TRANSFERS OUT:

RESIGNATIONS:

- |                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Ms. Elizabeth Katherine Allen     | 1/1/2015  |
| 2. Mrs. Frank William Barner (Grace) | 4/29/2015 |
| 3. Ms. Winston Holmes Carney         | 5/12/2015 |

DEATHS:

DROPPED:

As of June 9, 2015 our total membership is 458.

Respectfully submitted:



Kirsten Vernon  
Registrar, NSCDA/CA



**THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA  
IN CALIFORNIA**

Annual Meeting  
Francisca Club  
San Francisco  
April 16, 2015

Report of Treasurer

It is so nice to be able to start my report with the same sentence that I have used the last three years. And that is: Our California Society is fiscally sound. As I have stated in the past that the generosity and diligence of our members is the main reason for this. Some members have gifted cash, others have gifted by paying the expenses they incur on behalf of our Society. Of course, the donation of each member's time in promoting the purpose of our organization is priceless.

Our monies are invested with the future of our Society in mind. Endowed funds are invested conservatively in mutual funds. Only the income from each fund is spent.

The Walker-Palmer Fund, our largest fund, provides the income to enable us to maintain Octagon House, our state headquarters. The income this past fiscal year was \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The Finley Garden Fund income of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is used for the garden and floral arrangements. Because of these two funds we do not have to use General Fund monies for routine expenses of Octagon House.

Our General Fund is the one which finances our day-to-day expenses. The annual budget for this fund is approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The dues we pay provide most of the income. The major expenses are insurance \$ \_\_\_\_\_ National dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Town Committee allotments \$ \_\_\_\_\_ our annual directory, The Quill, and other printing \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

We also have the Life Membership Fund, which added about \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to our General Fund this past year.

The market values of our funds as of March 31, 2015 were:

Walker-Palmer Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Finley Garden Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Life Membership Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Reserve Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

As of March 31, 2015 the balance in Museum Fund was \$ \_\_\_\_\_ the General Fund was \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Patriotic Service was \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of which \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is reserved for future specific programs; and Historical Activities was \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Anderson, Treasurer

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in California.  
Report for the Board Meeting June 9th, 2015.  
From Patsy Fish, Corresponding Secretary.

1) I have written to Ms. Winston Holmes Carney in regards to her Resignation of May 12th, 2015. She was a member in the LA Committee.

2) I did not write to Mrs. Elizabeth Katherine Allen, as she has moved twice from the LA Committee, to Non Resident, and then to Spain. We do not seem to have an address for her at this time. She resigned on May 15th, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patsy Fish,  
Corresponding Secretary

## Business Secretary Report

After taking over the monthly memo mid-April 2015 from Quincy Wolfensperger, I have sent out two memos - the April & May memos.

Please send any changes to me and most importantly to Emilio.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlotte Scherman

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN  
CALIFORNIA

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
June 9, 2015

*THE QUILL*, EDITOR'S REPORT

The collection of possible items for the Fall *Quill* has begun. Please consider submitting articles, notes and/or publications about California Dames' accomplishments to me.

If space permits, I will try to include a profile of a new member each publication. The Fall edition will feature Virginia Doyle, for example.

Photographs are always welcome, especially from Committees other than the Northern California Committee (where I can often be on hand to take photos myself).

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Powell, Ph.D.  
Editor, *The Quill*

## Patriotic Service Committee Report

June 9, 2015

Submitted by Campbell Merrifield

### 1. California Awards Selections in 2015!!!

There will be a kickoff conference call by the end of June with each of the Town Committee Patriotic Service Committee Chairs to discuss the Regional and District Awards for American History Graduate students. The District award is typically between \$1,000 and \$2,000 funded by the states in our District. The Regional award is \$5,000 funded by NATIONAL.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Campbell Merrifield directly.

### 2. Essay Contest Update:

Interesting news from Biennial Council this year, if we fund students to participate in the Washington Workshop, we can determine how we select the student, and are NOT required to use the essay. If you are interested in pursuing other alternatives to recruit students, please contact Campbell Merrifield.

The topic for 2016: "2016 marks the 240th anniversary of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, penned by George Mason of Gunston Hall. Why does this historic document remain relevant today?"<sup>3</sup>. Octagon House is a Blue Star Museum! Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, military families are offered free admission to visit Octagon House!

### 4. Don't forget about our other opportunities to be of patriotic service:

Knitting for Blue Star Moms: helmet liners, scarves  
Letter writing to service men for including in care packages  
Collect supplies for Care Packages (see Campbell for the list)

There are opportunities for committees for new projects, lunches and the like! Please contact me if you know someone interested in helping out!

**California Museum Properties Report**  
**Board Meeting**  
**June 9, 2015**

1. Earlier this year, I completed a survey on the Octagon House that the National Society conducted to gather information that will be useful in the “development of a nationally recognized consortium of museums”. The goal of the museum consortium is to further engage the public in NSCDA’s work with museum houses.

2. The Octagon House is one of seven San Francisco museums (the others are the Contemporary Jewish Museum, the DeYoung, the Legion of Honor, San Francisco Fire Department Museum, the Walt Disney Family Museum and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts) participating in this year’s Blue Star Museum program. This program offers free museum admissions to active military and their families from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Prospective participants can look up participating museums on the Blue Star Museum website by state and city. The program also provides participating museums with a PR toolkit that can be used to create posters and post-cards to publicize the program. Since the Octagon House doesn’t charge an admissions fee, it won’t be waiving a fee like most of the other museums in the program. However, I recommend we use the PR toolkit to create several posters to hang on the fence on Open House days, as well as five to ten informational postcards to keep at the sales table to give to any active military duty visitors, so they can check out other museums participating in the program. Although we may not get any active duty military visitors this summer, I think the program is a good one and should have our support.

3. A nice article about the San Diego Committee’s work (under the leadership of Museum chair Tracey Whitcomb) on refurbishing Casa de Estudillo was published in the June 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the National Society’s *eDispatch: Musings*. Many thanks to Terry Whitcomb for her hard work on this important project.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janis M. Horne  
California Museum Properties Chairman

**The NSCDA-CA Web Site**  
**Report to the NSCDA- CA Governing Board, June 9, 2015**  
 By Marguerite Christiansen, Communications Chairman

It has been over a year since we launched the NSCDA-CA website on March 5, 2014. The following is a report of activity for the past quarter (March 1 – May 31, 2015). Many thanks to all for pitching in!

**A) Website Use by Quarter:**

	Users	Inc. from the previous quarter	New Visitor	Returning Visitor	Page views
Mar. 5 - May 31, 2014	353	NA	309 sessions	505 sessions	3,948
June 1 - Aug. 31, 2014	368	4%	331 sessions	358 sessions	2,451
Sep. 1 - Nov. 30, 2014 *	913	148%	865 sessions	467 sessions	3,877
Dec. 1, 2014 - Feb. 28, 2015**	1007	10%.	959 sessions	382 sessions	2,989
Mar. 1 - May 31, 2014 +	2258	124%	2,205 sessions	339 sessions	4,406
Total Mar 5, 2014 - May 31, 2015	4,715	NA	4,669 sessions	2,051 sessions	17,671

\* NSCDA-CA website URL (address) updated on Google in Sept. 2014.

\*\*NSCDA-CA website URL (address) updated on Yelp and Citysearch in Jan. 2015

+ NSCDA-CA website added to Union Street Merchants Association in Mar. 2015.

**B) The following are some metrics from Google Analytics for March 1 to May 31, 2015:**

1) Most sessions were from “not set” (657). This definition means that the location was not captured – common with mobile devices. The rest of the top five locations were: San Francisco (400), San Diego (58), Santa Rosa (52), and Los Angeles (33). San Rafael, Santa Barbara, New York, Monterey, and Sacramento followed to make up the top ten.

2) Table of Top 25 Pages Viewed:

1	Home Page	1,642	Public
2	Octagon House	445	Public
3	Octagon House – Visiting the House Museum	102	Public
4	LA-P-SB Home	100	Members Only
5	NSCDA Membership	78	Public
6	Octagon House – History Uncovered	76	Public
7	Members Section	75	Members Only
8	California Society	63	Public
9	California Society History	49	Public
10	Calendar	43	Members Only
11	Octagon House - (same page as 2, may be brochure)	43	Public
12	Contact Us	41	Public
13	Octagon House – Octagons a Popular Design in the 1860’s	41	Public
14	Octagon House – Saved! Renovation as a Museum	41	Public
15	Octagon House – Original Owners Harriet S and William McElroy	34	Public
16	Docenting 2015	32	Members Only
17	San Diego Home	32	Members Only
18	Forms	28	Members Only

19	State Projects-Hist. Activities	26	Members Only
20	Publications	26	Public
21	Projects – Essay Contest	24	Public
22	Monterey Peninsula Home	23	Members Only
23	Society News	22	Members Only
24	Town Committees	22	Members Only
25	Projects – Historical Activities and Preservation	20	Members Only

**C) Website Content added in September through November:**

- 1) "Why America is Free" Education Project webpage.
- 2) NSCDA-CA Governing Board Meeting web pages for March and June with links to reports.
- 3) Filoli House & Garden Tour Webpage.
- 4) Annual Essay Contest Topic webpage.
- 5) Literary Society Webpage for NC.
- 6) Portraits and Prosecco Young Dames Event Webpage.
- 7) Colonial Ancestors in Delaware, Georgia, New York and North Carolina
- 8) Meeting & Luncheon with Elizabeth Stewart for the LA-P-SB Town Committee.
- 9) New Members and In Memoriam pages continue to be updated.
- 10) Updates to Calendar and Society News!
- 11) Updated names and photos for California Society Officers for 2015/16
- 12) Updated Managers & Chairman for 2015/16 and Octagon House Chairmen 2015/16.

**D) Website Costs and Maintenance Plan with David Kerr Design:**

1) Volunteer/staff time putting up and updating content

Kimberlee Caniglia, Marguerite Meyer, Connie Stone and I continue to share the content work.

2) Tech support to resolve design issues and training volunteers/staff

During this quarter, we had one bill from David Kerr Design in the amount of \$60.00 for work in April. This was to resolve a linking problem on the Home page slider.

3) Website technical maintenance.

NSCDA-CA has a Website Maintenance Plan with David Kerr Design, our website designer and developer. The new plan provides backup, extra security and WordPress maintenance (including plug-ins and other more major WordPress changes.) In January we paid for this plan through December 2015.

**E) Next Steps**

- 1) We need your help with content! Please tell members of the communications committee when important dates are set or about information that our members or the public should know.
- 2) A website administration policy was drafted and needs to be finalized to guide web content on public and private sides of the website. It will also include a record of all web photo licenses and applications used.
- 3) Add content approved at the three workshops last year on the members' only section of the website.
- 4) Need to schedule and hold periodic meetings of the Communication Committee to assist with using and editing the website.
- 5) A second phase could be added in a couple of years or more and would expand the member's only section to become a member portal. This portal would allow each member restricted access to update their contact information for the directory, share interests and more. Another element could be a candidate's portal too.

Many thanks to the Communications Committee of Gail Sollid, Ruth Donohugh, Marguerite Meyer, Judy Mack, Connie Stone and Kimberlee Caniglia.

Regards,

Marguerite W. Christiansen

Reminder: The Member's Only Password is Eureka!1895

Pg. 2



NSCDA-CA Library Chairman's Report, June 9, 2015 - Amanda Hayne Kirkwood

The Literary Society of the Colonial Dames will meet on Wednesday, July 28th to discuss Lafayette: Hero of the American Revolution by Gonzague Saint Bris. The meeting will be held at 2636 Union Street, San Francisco 11:00 a.m.

On Wednesday, October 29th, we will meet to discuss Bunker Hill: A City, A Siege, A Revolution by Nathaniel Philbrick, also at 2636 Union Street at 11:00 a.m. Philbrick is the author of Mayflower which was extremely well-received by the Literary Society.

I was going to suggest that we read My Theodosia, a biography of Aaron Burr's daughter. Alas, the descriptions of her husband and his family, the Alstons of South Carolina (my relatives) are so ghastly that family pride makes me resist.

We had a lively discussion with the small group who met to discuss Caleb's Crossing, the story of the first Native American to attend Harvard.

I was fortunate to be able to visit Dumbarton House while in Washington in April. They would love to have a good exterior photograph of Octagon House to put on their wall. Does anyone have one?

The Library Chairman has nothing else to report.

TO: Gail Sollid, Dinny Chase  
FROM: Mardi Leland, Chair, Thursday Open Houses  
RE: Report for June 9, 2014, Governing Board Meeting

Since our Annual Meeting on April 16, we have held 3 Thursday Open Houses. Captains included Mimi McCarty, Patsy Raven and myself. Each Captain was assisted by between 3 and 4 docents.

Total Visitors:	43
Total Sales:	\$18
Total Donations:	\$178

Respectfully submitted,

Mardi Leland



6/9/15

NSCDA-CA RETIRING TOUR CHAIRMAN'S FINAL REPORT

March, DAR local chapter, 28 guests, Mrs. Robert Haines organized and assisted.

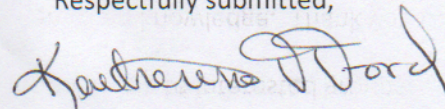
April, Daytrippers from Santa Rosa, 31 guests, Mrs. Frank Walsh(non- Dame)assisted.

May, Daughters' of the Cincinnati, 30 guests, Ms. Eloise Jonas assisted.

May, Seniors from Fairfield, 8 guests. I assisted the new Tour Chairman, Mrs. Frederick Donohugh.

It has been my pleasure through many years to show our beautiful house to interested groups, though some groups I believe are booked more for entertainment than knowledge. Thank you Dames of California for entrusting me with your Octagon House.

Respectfully submitted,



Mrs. Katherine T. Ford



June 9, 2015

Dear Gail, and members of The Governing Board,

The Membership Committee met on May 19, 2015 and discussed at length some of the proposed changes that are being considered by The Governing Board regarding membership development. Having several members on our Committee who have been part of the NSCDA-CA for decades, participating and experiencing the growth of our society, we would like to be a part of strategic discussions and planning for the future.

As the Membership Committee, which on behalf of the NSCDA-CA, offers the invitation and assistance to prospective candidates, we keenly feel our responsibility to the ideals and values of the NSCDA. Individually and as a group, we take this responsibility very seriously. In order to fulfill our job, we follow defined, consistent guidelines codified in our bylaws to ensure all candidates meet the same requirements, including that our members are well acquainted with their candidates and have known them for at least 2 years. These requirements ensure that every applicant is treated fairly and equally. This is important for not only the credibility of the Membership Committee, but also the reputation of our Society. Your Membership Committee wants to stress this responsibility to The Governing Board.

We want to be supportive of our Society's adoption of new technology. Our beautiful new website allows the NSCDA-CA to be more visible and accessible. It is to be expected that it will attract women who want to join. The NSCDA-CA welcomes new members and our committee enthusiastically works with individual applications to move them through the process. Our process is designed to encourage members to sponsor qualified women with whom they would like to share the Dames experience. A significant time of friendship and or acquaintance between candidates and sponsors is a valued component of this process.

We feel that a letter, which clearly outlines application requirements, is the appropriate response to all queries. The National recommended letter Sample "Reply to an unsolicited request for membership" (Rev. February 2015) is in our opinion an excellent letter. It says essentially what we need to say.

We have a strong membership base made up of women who wanted membership strongly enough to go through our process, which is consistent with the National requirements. Because this process includes interaction with colonial states, it can take some time from beginning invitation to membership. As you know, some colonial states respond more quickly than others.

Your Admissions Committee would like to work with you and The Governing Board to evaluate the effects of the broader exposure of the NSCDA-CA through our websites on membership and the application process. How we as a Society respond is important to all of us.

Sincerely,

NSCDA-CA State Membership Committee

Dosia Matthews, Chairman (Mrs. J. Christopher Matthews)  
Marnie Gerlach (Mrs. Herbert H. Gerlach, Jr.)  
Anne Kasanin (Mrs. Mark Owen Kasanin)  
Lucy Maushardt (Mrs. Peter Wells Maushardt)  
Nancy Maushardt (Mrs. Bernard L. Maushardt)  
Margot McCormick (Mrs. Edward McCormick)  
Jane Reynolds (Mrs. Amanda Jane Reynolds)  
Bobbie Saxton (Mrs. Richard Epperson Saxton)  
Diana Wild (Mrs. Nelson Wild)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for your interest in The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA). We are a Lineage Society with certain criteria for membership.

A prospective candidate must be a direct lineal descendant of an ancestor who provided significant service to the founding of our country prior to July 5, 1776. Significant service includes such categories as Historic Founder, Members of the Judiciary, Military Officers, Educational Founders, Ministers and the like. Eligibility of service varies by Colonial State Society.

A prospective candidate must also be proposed by friends or acquaintances who are members of the NSCDA in the State in which she resides. Each State Society has specific membership requirements, which vary by State Society. In California, proposers must be well acquainted with their candidates and have known them for at least 2 years.

The NSCDA is dedicated to furthering an appreciation of our national heritage, through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects. Active membership participation in our mission is encouraged.

In California, our members serve as docents at Octagon House, in San Francisco, which is our State Headquarters. The Patriotic Service Committee offers an annual essay contest for high school students. In addition to Northern California, we have three Town and County Committees: Monterey Peninsula; Los Angeles-Pasadena-Santa Barbara, and San Diego. There are countless opportunities for involvement, such as serving on one of the many committees and/or holding positions on The Governing Board.

You can find out more about the NSCDA and our mission by visiting the National website at [www.nscda.org](http://www.nscda.org).

To learn how the California Society of the NSCDA contributes to the mission, please visit our website at [nscda-ca.org](http://nscda-ca.org).

Once again, thank you for your interest in The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California (NSCDA-CA).

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
NSCDA-CA President

cc: \_\_\_\_\_  
NSCDA-CA Membership Chair

## YOUNG DAMES SAN FRANCISCO REPORT

Submitted for: June 9, 2015 Board Meeting

On Sunday May 3rd 1-3pm, the San Francisco Dames hosted an afternoon event "Portraits and Prosecco" at the Octagon House for Young Dames, relatives and friends. The intention of the event was to create a social setting to gather and introduce Young Dames and increase awareness of the organization among relatives and friends. There were 15 Dames and friends who attended the event.

A local photographer from TwoCapture was hired to document the event as well as take portraits of each guest in attendance. Marguerite Christiansen kindly set up an Ancestry.com station during the event using her laptop to provide insight into ancestral history to those interested. Julia Emby generously volunteered her time to set up the Octagon House before the event.

Light snacks, prosecco and juices were provided.

On behalf of all the Young Dames, I'd like to thank the Dames of San Francisco for facilitating the successful event. We'd also like to especially thank Gail, Marguerite and Julia for helping to plan and host the event. There is potential to make this an annual event.

Respectfully submitted,

Miss. Sarah Elizabeth Torney