

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California

Governing Board Meeting
President's Report
Tuesday March 10, 2015
Octagon House

I recently received an email from Marcy Moody, NSCDA President, alerting Society Presidents about a number of communications we will be receiving in the coming months from National Committees. She is asking that we be responsive and how our input is important in the development of projects and programs that address the current needs of our members.

I am asking the same of our California Dames and specifically the Board of Governors. We are in the process of increasing correspondence which requires your attention. Hopefully you have read our new and improved e-newsletter that Kimberlee Caniglia designed for us. Margaret Christiansen added the links to our website so that you can get more in-depth information. This will come out bimonthly.

As we are trying to engage our membership with activities that support our mission, it is important that everyone keep up with the affairs of our Society. Our Officers and Chairman put a lot of effort into their reports for our Board meetings. In the future those reports will be posted on the website prior to the meeting so you can review them ahead of time. Please take the time to read them.

We will be doing a "mini" SWOT after the Board meeting today. This will be a trial run and hope everyone has fun doing it!

Gail Sollid
NSCDA-CA President

NSCDA-CA

First Vice President's Report

March 10, 2015

Even though we have not been busy docenting in the month of January, we have had several educational events for Dames and their guests and friends.

On January 14, 2015 we attended a docent tour of the Houghton Hall exhibit at the Palace of Legion of Honor. This private tour covered the history and preservation efforts on this home which had been built originally built by the first prime minister of England, Sir Robert Walpole. Rooms were recreated and some furnishings and video recordings enhanced the experience.

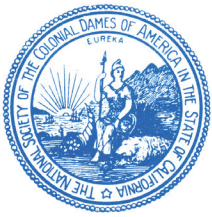
On January 15, 2015 we filled our Octagon House with Dames and guests for a fascinating lecture on the influence of octagon house architecture (and Orson Fowler) on modern architecture and society. James Dixon, a prominent San Francisco architect, gave a power point presentation complete with many pictures showing the evolution of contemporary architecture and the octagonal design influence on famous architects. Particularly interesting was Frank Lloyd Wright's own home in Illinois where he used a staggered octagonal ceiling design in his studio.

On March 4, 2015 we visited the Carolands in Hillsborough. This significant mansion built in Hillsboro by the heiress to the Pullman fortune is finally open to the public after many years. We had a Dames only private tour and were treated to a house which was built emulating the highest of French design. The house has now been restored and decorated to an exquisite level and is run by The Carolands Foundation.

The Book of Ancestors project is ongoing. All California Dames have been sorted by the ancestor name. Much new information has been uploaded to the website. We included an article in the recent Quill outlining how to participate. We hope to expand this project for the state of California. Please continue to visit the website to see the latest updates.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Donohugh



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

March 10, 2015

Membership of the Monterey Peninsula Committee currently stands at 39, with 2 courtesy members.

The fourth Executive Board meeting of 2014/15 was held on Jan. 17, 2015.

Monterey Dames Historian Francie Blinks and her new History Committee, including Abigail Janko, Pat Anderson, and Carol Todd, presented the efforts of their new project at the February 11th President's Tea at Casa Serrano in Monterey. The team compiled a complete **History of the Monterey Peninsula Committee** since its beginning in 1985. In more than 1 full binder is included a listing and photo of each past Chairman, their terms in position, and highlights of the various events, projects and accomplishments throughout the years.

There were 26 members and guests at the above mentioned Feb. Tea. Also in attendance was the Casa Serrano manager who explained several ways the Dames might be able and interested in supporting the adobe museum, such as acting as docents on regular open house days, or for school tours.

Two Monterey Dames and one guest travelled to San Francisco March 8, 2015, for the third field trip this year in Monterey's efforts to support the Dames' mission of historic preservation and the Octagon House museum as volunteer docents at the Sunday Open House. Thanks to Julia Emby for her time before the Open House to give a mini-training to us newer docents. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about and share with interested visitors our House Museum's treasures and history.

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 IN
CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING March 10, 2015

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Since our last Registrar's report on December 9, 2015, we have eight new members, no reinstatements, no transfers in, no transfers out, one resignation, three deaths, and four dropped.

NEW MEMBERS:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Miss Madeline Erickson Callander, (LC), NC | 1/1/2015 |
| 2. Mrs. George Alexander Crichton, (LC), NC | 1/7/2015 |
| 3. Ms. Langley Ellen Kreuze, (LC), NC | 2/11/2015 |
| 4. Mrs. Robert Henry Laws, NC | 1/18/2015 |
| 5. Ms Leitia Leigh Sanders, NC | 1/14/2015 |
| 6. Mrs. Philip Sargent, LA | 1/2/15 |
| 7. Mrs. Jolene Semtner, M | 1/2/2015 |
| 8. Mrs. Robert E. Stephenson, NC | 1/1/15 |

REINSTATEMENTS:

TRANSFERS IN:

TRANSFERS OUT:

RESIGNATIONS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Mrs. B. Bevan McGowan, (Barbara) M | 12/26/14 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|

DEATHS:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Mrs. Chet Alexander Patterson, (Roberta) NC | 1/1/2015 |
| 2. Ms. Lucretia Lee Scott, NR (was residing in New York) | 12/12/2014 |
| 3. Ms. Margaret Lieb SD | 2/28/ 2015 |

DROPPED:

1. Mrs. Thomas F. Emerson
2. Ms. Katherine Rippel
3. Mrs. Matthew Ward Russell
4. Mrs. Daniel Carter Wood

As of March 10, 2015 our total membership is 465.

Respectfully submitted:

Juanita Dickson
Registrar, NSCDA/CA

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America In California
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT
Regular Meeting of The Governing Board
March 10, 2015
Octagon House
San Francisco, California

The Membership Committee met on Wednesday March 4, 2015 at Nancy Maushardt's home in Sonoma. Nancy and Lucy Maushardt prepared a lovely luncheon for us and we thoroughly enjoyed being in the "the country" on such a beautiful sunny day! In attendance were Mesdames Gerlach, Kasanin, Matthews, L. Maushardt, N. Maushardt, and McCormick, in addition to Ex-Officio Member, NSCDA-CA Registrar, Juanita Dickson (Mrs. James Dickson).

We invited and welcomed Kirsten Vernon (Mrs. Robert Vernon), who will serve as NSCDA-CA Registrar following the annual meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2015. I provided copies of the "All" chart (listing all of the NSCDA-CA candidates statewide), as well as the "Northern California" chart, and we summarized the "steps" and the details tracking the status and progress of our California candidates that are noted on these charts for Kirsten. Juanita Dickson also had two binders she maintains as Registrar, and provided a quick review. Juanita and Kirsten plan to meet together, and I will join them, too, prior to the annual meeting in April. We are all delighted Kirsten will serve as a Registrar and will welcome her as an ex-officio member of the membership committee as well as a member of The Governing Board!

The main topic of discussion at this committee meeting was how to manage queries from women who have sent e-mails to the national headquarters of the NSCDA or to Octagon House, after seeing either the national website or our beautiful California website, asking "how to join". As most of you may know, NSCDA-CA President Gail Sollid sends an e-mail reply, with the help of Kimberlee Caniglia, Octagon House Assistant, which outlines the two criteria for membership:

- One must be descended from an ancestor who rendered distinguished service by July 5, 1776, such as a colonial governor, an officer in the militia, a judge, or a clergyman.
- Secondly, membership requires sponsorship by current members who are well acquainted with the candidate.

Gail had asked the membership committee, in an e-mail dated 3/3/15, to "rewrite the letter that we do send to membership inquiries" noting that we could "add more specific information for membership requirements". We recommend Gail ask "How did you hear about us?" and "Where do you live in California?".

We suggest clarifying that the suggestions given of types of service are just examples, and the letter might read:

.... such as, but not limited to, a colonial governor, an officer in the militia, a judge, or some members of the clergy.

Apparently one woman did not understand that her ancestor's service in the House of Burgess qualified.

We also appreciate that Gail has added a statement in the outgoing letter that "There are Public Genealogical Resources available on the National website for NSCDA at www.nscda.org, which suggests that they begin to do some genealogical research on their own.

I also looked at the national website and printed **Chapter VIII, Suggested Replies to Letters of Inquiry Re: Membership**, which offered two suggested letters to send as replies "to an unsolicited request for membership", one of which is basically the exact template for our current letter, without the reference of the National website address. Since most of the queries are from women who have already looked at the website(s), you might reconsider including that website address again.

However, the consensus at the membership meeting, and expressed in several e-mails from members that I have received, is that the requirement that a prospective candidate must be proposed and seconded by members who know their candidate well for 2 years remain unchanged.

Reviewing the national website, please note the following:

The NSCDA Constitution, Article III, sets forth the eligibility of members as follows:

MEMBERSHIP.

The Corporate Societies shall be composed entirely of women who are descended in their own right from some ancestor of worthy life who, residing in an American colony, rendered efficient service to his country during the Colonial period, either in the founding of a State or Commonwealth, or of an institution which has survived and developed into importance, or who shall have held an important position in a Colonial government, or who by distinguished services, shall have contributed to the founding of our nation.

DATE OF ANCESTOR'S SERVICES.

All services which constitute a claim to membership must have been rendered before July 5, 1776, but this date shall be held to include all signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Article V, Section 4, further explains the Corporate Societies role:

The members of the Corporate Societies of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America at the date of certificate of incorporation of the Corporate Society shall be elected members of the corporation at the first meeting of the said Society subsequent to the incorporation, and thereafter no person shall be a candidate for admission unless invited and proposed by one member and seconded by another member of the Society, to both of whom the candidate must be well known, and by whom she shall be recommended. The Board of Managers of each Corporate Society may decide whether to accept a candidate proposed by a member of another Corporate Society.

Additional information is found in Acts in Council, Article XIII, Corporate Societies: Section 1.

Admission to Membership.

a. A candidate for admission to a Corporate Society shall be proposed and seconded by any two members of the local Society. A candidate may also be proposed by a member of another Corporate Society if the Board of Managers of the receiving Corporate Society approves. Each of the 44 Corporate Societies may have other requirements for candidacy including that a prospective candidate be well known to several members of their Corporate Society Board.

* * * * *

Interestingly, one year ago, at the **March 4, 2014 meeting of The Governing Board**, the Membership Committee report focused on this very issue. We asked for opinions, regarding our current requirement that NSCDA-CA members know their candidates well for at least 2 years, and reported as follows:

“Some very important issues were discussed at length at the membership committee meeting on 2/3/14. We have had several instances lately when there has been some confusion over the “rule” that NSCDA-CA members need to know their candidates well for 2 years or longer.

DISCUSSION:

(1) We need to stress that proposers must serve as mentors to their candidates and remain in close contact during the application process (bring them to events, check how they are doing with their papers, etc.), and share their concerns and updates with the Membership Chair(s) and/or NSCDA-CA Registrar for follow up.

(2) Proposers (and all of our members) need to understand the rules and guidelines outlined in the blue Directory, regarding proposing and/or seconding candidates for membership.

- To propose a Regular candidate, you must have been a member for 2 years.
 - You must have known your candidate well for at least 2 years.
 - You find a seconder, and five endorsers.
 - You may only propose two Regular candidates and second two Regular candidates each year.

- To propose a Legacy Candidate, you do NOT need to have been a member for 2 years, and you only need to find a Seconder.
 - There are no limits to the number of Legacy Candidates members may propose and/or second each year.
 - Members may propose their own relatives (daughters, grandmothers, aunts, cousins, etc.), as well as candidates whose deceased relatives were NSCDA members.”

President Gail Sollid has organized a “Meet and Greet,” to be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at Octagon House, for several women who have sent e-mail inquiries. Also included will be friends of a few current members who have expressed an interest in joining NSCDA-CA, although I am not sure which members were asked whether they had friends they wished to bring. In any case, it promises to be a lovely event, and Gail may plan to hold additional “Meet and Greet” gatherings periodically throughout the year.

NSCDA-CA welcomed eight (8) new members since January 1, 2015. This is phenomenal!

(1) The Membership Committee feels we should focus on welcoming all of our new members to help them learn more about the Society they have just joined and to encourage their participation in meaningful ways.

(2) We want to continue to ensure that prospective candidates are well known to NSCDA-CA members for a period of 2 years or longer.

(3) That is not to say that interested women who may attend a “Meet and Greet”, or other events as guests, could not develop friendships with current members who then may propose them at a later date.

(4) The committee is interested in knowing how this list of individuals who have submitted e-mail inquiries will be maintained, and whether forms will need to be revised to indicate the date their inquiry was received, etc.

(5) The committee recommends that the management of unsolicited requests for membership, including the e-mail and U.S. mail communications and any such tracking lists with contact information, etc., be provided by the NSCDA-CA president, and/or her designee, rather than the Membership Committee.

California enjoys a robust NSCDA membership, in comparison to many other Corporate Societies, with close to 500 members statewide. The membership committee is anxious to serve our members and to facilitate their proposed candidates who are diligently working to complete the membership process. There are currently 68 candidates statewide – 38 Regular and 30 Legacy Candidates, with a total of 18 candidates in Northern California, 8 in the Monterey Peninsula, 20 in LA-P-SB, and 22 in San Diego.

Hopefully our surge in membership will continue and we can celebrate 2015 as a record membership year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Dosia Matthews (Mrs. J. Christopher Matthews)
NSCDA-CA Membership Chair

Cc: President
Recording Secretary
Historian

Patriotic Service Committee Report

March 10, 2015

Submitted by Campbell Merrifield

1. California Awards Selections in 2015!!!

American History Graduate Student Awards Season...2015-2016. By September 2015 a committee will have decided how we will proceed to identify and "score" our graduate students. There are hundreds of colleges and universities in California, how do we select one winner for each the District Award and Regional Award????? Come help us out and see!

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. This is the first time in 10 years we've awarded the Regional Award...and they are asking us to do both REGIONAL and DISTRICT in the same year. If we elect to solicit multiple candidates, we need a committee of at LEAST six to review candidates, and only THREE of that committee can be Dames.

Join the fun, I'm looking for folks from ALL of our town committees to participate!

2. Washington's Birthday Lunch: Thank you to all who attended, it certainly was an interesting presentation from the Museum of the American Indian. Colleen and Teresa were very entertaining and even brought along props for us to see. Thank you especially to Kitten Ford for identifying our speaker, to Eloise for the marvelous food, Gail for the always adorable flowers on the tables, Juanita for bringing some samples of her baskets, and Kimberly for the excellent invites.

3. Essay Contest Update: the topic for 2016 is...you tell me! The Maryland Dames are again chairing the topic selection process. They've made a call for topics, and we'll have the usual email votes too...stay tuned! More information is on the web site, thank you Marguerite.4.

The American Indian Nurse Program. Dotsie McLeod is supporting this project, and feels strongly we should continue to support the project. We have received a nice brochure updating us on who is participating this year. In the past our requests for updates were not answered, so it is a step in the right direction for them. Do we want to consider a nominal donation this year? Brochure is circulating.

5. 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!

Library Chairman's Report to the meeting of the CDA, March 10, 2015

The Literary Society of the Colonial Dames of America will meet on April 30th to discuss Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks. This well-researched book from a Pulitzer Prize winner is set on Martha's Vineyard in the 1660s. The meeting will take place at 11 o'clock at 2636 Union Street, San Francisco. Please call (415) 346-7582 if you plan to attend. I will have a list of future possible books and dates at this meeting.

The Library Chairman has nothing else to report.

OCTAGON HOUSE MANAGER'S REPORT

March 10, 2015

A new hot water heater was installed in the basement of Octagon House on February 25. In preparation for the installation, the plumbers discovered that the per inch water pressure on the pipes was too high. (90 lbs. of pressure per square inch vs. the desired 50-60 lbs.). A pressure valve and expansion tank were installed on the new hot water heater and on the main exterior pipe that runs along the back of the house to the right of the back door as you exit. The reduction of water pressure will relieve the wear and tear on our aging pipes. Very small leaks were noted under the house from old pipes. The plumbers recommended replacing these 1940's iron pipes with copper plumbing. There will be an inspection on March 10 at which time an estimate for the job will be given.

The kitchen sink faucet was replaced on February 25, as well. The gaskets that control the water flow were not engaging and the water couldn't be shut off. Pipes under the sink were inspected and tightened.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Thomas K. McAteer (Nancy)
Octagon House Manager

The NSCDA-CA Web Site

Report to the NSCDA- CA Governing Board, March 10, 2015

By Marguerite Christiansen, Communications Chairman

On March 5, 2014 we launched the nscda-ca.org website to the public. Many thanks to the Communications Committee of Gail Sollid, Ruth Donohugh, Marguerite Meyer, Judy Mack, Connie Stone and Kimberlee Caniglia. The following is a report of activity for the past quarter (Dec 1 – Feb. 28). Many thanks to all for pitching in!

A) Website Use:

Our first six months, from March 5 to August 31, the website had 681 users. From September through November the website had 913 users. From Dec. 1 2014 through Feb. 28, 2015, we had 1007 users - a 10% increase from the previous quarter. The following are some metrics from Google Analytics:

1) From Dec 1 to Feb 28, the website's had 1007 visitors using 1,341 sessions. There were 2,989 page views- 2.23 pages per session. New visitors accounted for 959 (71.5%) of the sessions; returning visitors accounted for 382 (28.5%). Most sessions were from San Francisco (343), San Diego (87), Santa Rosa (46), and Monterey (35). Unset (no city), Los Angeles, San Jose, Berkeley, Washington made up the rest of the top 10 places.

2) Of the 1,341 sessions, 953 (71%) people accessed the website using desktop computers, 272 (20%) used mobile devices and 116 (8.65%) used tablets. Of the 1,341 sessions those using Google's Chrome's browser totaled 544 (40.5%), 465 (35%) used Safari's browser and another 16 (1 %) used the Safari (in-app), Firefox and Internet Explorer were 146 (11%) and 145 (11%) respectively and Android Brower had 20 (1.5%) users.

2) Table of Top 25 Pages Viewed:

1	Home Page	575	Public
2	Octagon House	449	Public
3	NSCDA Membership	105	Public
4	San Diego Home	90	Members Only
5	Octagon House – Visiting the House Museum	76	Public
6	Octagon House – History Uncovered	75	Public
7	Calendar	65	Members Only
8	California Society History	58	Public
9	Contact Us	52	Public
10	Members Section	51	Members Only
11	Monterey Peninsula Home	51	Members Only
12	Docenting 2015	50	Members Only
13	California Society	49	Public
14	Octagon House – Original Owners Harriet S and William McElroy	44	Public
15	Octagon House – Octagons a Popular Design in the 1860's	43	Public
16	Forms	40	Members Only
17	Town Committees	34	Members Only
18	Octagon House – Museum Collection & Garden	30	Public
19	Publications	27	Public
20	State Projects-Hist. Activities	26	Members Only
21	Ross Octagon House (Post)	24	Public
22	Octagon House – Saved! Renovation as a Museum	23	Public
23	NSCDA-CA Semi-Annual Meeting 2015	20	Members Only
24	Projects – Historical Activities and Preservation	20	Public

25	Publications – Articles and News	19	Public
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B) Website Content added in September through November:

- 1) A Public Posts with a link to the San Francisco History Expo 2015.
- 2) NSCDA-CA Semi-Annual Meeting web page with link to registration form.
- 3) Houghton Hall and Carolands Tours Webpages.
- 4) “Eight is Enough” Presentation by James Dixson
- 5) Patriotic Services Luncheon, featuring presentation by Ms. Colleen Hicks.
- 6) Museum of the American Presidency tour by San Diego Town Committee
- 7) Upload of Book of Ancestors project by San Diego Committee.
- 8) Jim Terzian and Sir Frank McGinity presentations for the LA-P-SB Town Committee.
- 9) Job Descriptions and News and President’s Tea by Monterey Peninsula Town Committee.
- 10) New Members and In Memoriam pages continue to be updated.
- 11) Updates to Calendar and Society News!
- 12) Marguerite Meyer and Connie Stone created great “how to access the website” pages to help members.

C) Updating Octagon House Website URL at Public Search Engines

In September we were able to update the new website address (URL) to Google. In January we updated Citysearch.com, Yelp.com and are working on Yahoo. Exterior photographs and text about visiting Octagon House was also sent for the Union Street merchants’ new website due this week.

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 \$120.00 for work in January. This was to create an “expand/collapse” feature to help us present information on the website.

3) Website technical maintenance.

In August, we signed up for 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) Continue to study website usage using Google Analytics.
- 5) Need to schedule and hold periodic meetings of the Communication Committee to assist with using and editing the website.
- 6) 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.

Regards,
Marguerite W. Christiansen