

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California
Monterey Peninsula Committee
Minutes of Board Meeting – Saturday, November 16, 2019

Present: Marguerite Meyer, Margie Martin, Marcia Harrington, Nancy Griffith, Pat Anderson, Holly Ochoa, Suzette Hofman, Marilyn Riehl, Ruth Donohugh. Attending by phone: Leigh Haller.

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am by Chair Marguerite Meyer at her home. The pledge was recited, then the minutes of our Board meeting on August 31, 2019, was approved by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports

Marguerite asked if those present had received their invitations to the upcoming January State semi-annual meeting. We had.

Ruth drew our attention to a cover story on the Cooper-Molera adobe in the latest Preservation magazine.

Anne McPhee's committee of Margie, Marcia, and Marguerite continues to work on arrangements for the semi-annual meeting, though Anne was unable to attend today's meeting in person or by phone.

Margie gave the treasurer's report, a hard copy of which will be added to the binder. She asked for approval of a payment of approx. \$3,700 to the Monterey County Historical Society for work being done on the Weeks House. Ruth expressed concern about the slow pace of work there. After some discussion, we decided to send our donation with a cover letter indicating that we want the funds applied to Steps #4-6 on the list of renovation tasks. Ruth will send her own email to James Perry on this subject. The MCHS has a new, improved board of directors, and their fall fundraiser netted some \$2,235. The motion to send our check with instructions was passed unanimously.

Holly had nothing to report as recording secretary, but was thanked by Marguerite for her services.

Leigh reported that, as corresponding secretary, she will soon have the invitation for our holiday luncheon ready to send. Included will be a list of items to be collected at the luncheon as a gift

for the Veteran's Transition Center in Marina. Suzette added that she was able to confirm entertainment by the R. L. Stevenson School senior choral group.

Appointed Chair Reports

Nancy Griffith reported on Patriotic Services. Our college scholarship recipient, David Torres, coordinated our members' October visit to the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas. Some 15 attendees enjoyed the tour and lunch afterwards. Nancy then expressed her concern about continued support of the Close-Up Program at Pacific Grove High School, given that we spend \$2,000 on just one student. She wondered if we should redirect our funds to something like History Day where more young people could benefit. Holly inquired whether a report or thank you note was received from the Close-Up student so that we might know the impact and feel appreciated. It was agreed after some discussion that the counselor or teacher who selects and mentors the PGHS student should be told of our need to get feedback and a thank you in order to continue our financial support. Nancy agreed to convey that message.

Since grants came under discussion, Marcia raised the possibility of seeking a grant for a special project, such as landscaping at Weeks House or some historic garden. Holly agreed to help write the proposal if a funding source could be identified.

Marcia gave her latest report on member prospects and applications in the pipeline. A copy will be placed in the binder. Given that progress through the membership pipeline is so slow, she is trying to focus on legacy candidates, as well as reciprocal or courtesy memberships. Ruth reported that National Chair Anna Duff is aware of the application processing delays experienced in many states, and she is working on somehow streamlining the process. Marilyn has been helping candidates and says that Susan Clark is ready to complete her form. Finally, Marcia suggested that we gift new members with tote bags bearing the Dames logo, containing printed materials and a new member bow or other item/s. Margie and others said that such a tote bag should more appropriately come from the state. Inquiries will be made to our contacts at state as to the feasibility.

New Business

Marguerite will ask Elizabeth Barratt to head a nominating committee to create a slate of candidates for 2020-21. Marguerite will be reaching her six-year term limit as Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am.

Submitted by Holly Ochoa, Recording Secretary