

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California  
Monterey Peninsula Committee  
Minutes of Board Meeting – Thursday, January 9, 2020

Present: Marguerite Meyer, Marcia Harrington, Pat Anderson, Holly Ochoa, Suzette Hofman.  
Attending by phone: Leigh Haller, Ruth Donohugh.

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm by Chair Marguerite Meyer at her home. The pledge was recited, then the minutes of our Board meeting on November 16, 2019, was approved by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports

Marguerite provided an overview of attendance expected at each event within the Semi-Annual Meeting to be held on January 25 and 26. Transportation and registration logistics were reviewed, and volunteers assigned to various duties. Goodie bag contents were also discussed, with Ruth and Leigh speaking to us by phone. Name tags for registrants will be provided by Octagon House to achieve a consistent look, to be picked up by either Ruth or Susan Johnson. Marguerite will welcome attendees at the various events scheduled, as we are the host committee. Ruth will bring a short video on the Great American Treasures project to show at the Monday luncheon meeting. Our speaker Chris Kenney is confirmed. Two new members will be formally welcomed at that time.

As Margie was absent, Marguerite gave the treasurer's report, a hard copy of which will be added to the binder. The motion to transfer \$3 K from the General Fund to Patriotic Services was passed unanimously. Marguerite stated that \$3,647 was paid to the Monterey County Historical Society for the Weeks House project, earmarked for the window glazing and installation of windows, and mailed with a note from Ruth encouraging them to get the windows done before the rain.

Holly will ask Emilio to supply permanent name tags for Marcia, Suzanne Hennon, and new member Cathy Lee.

Appointed Chair Reports

Reporting for Nancy, who was absent, Marguerite said that fliers have been posted at CSUMB announcing the next round of our Founders scholarship selection.

Marcia gave her latest report on member prospects and 16 candidate applications in the pipeline. A copy will be placed in the binder. Cathy Lee's membership has now been finalized. Marcia expressed a special thanks to Marian Bliss for help with Rhode Island applications.

Marilyn was absent for health reasons. Anne was unable to attend, as well, for personal reasons.

### New Business

Abigail presented for consideration an idea to revive a student essay contest that we used to conduct, formerly called "Student Voices on Democracy." There could be different themes for each of five chosen high schools, with winning essays to be published in the Herald or another publication. There could be prize money of \$100 to each winning essay writer. Holly reported that the local DAR was having problems gaining cooperation from schools, and Marguerite mentioned that the Herald was uncooperative at the end of the time we last ran the competition. After much discussion, it was agreed that Nancy should be involved in any such undertaking going forward. Other names were mentioned of members or prospects likely to assist in the essay contest.

Given the unsettled slate of candidates for several officer slots next year, we agreed to entertain ideas for next year's programming early. Marcia came prepared with ideas that everyone seemed to like: (1) a field trip to the Santa Lucia Preserve for a presentation on its history; and (2) a visit to the Cook residence at Tehama to view their stellar early California art collection. Marcia also proposed that our annual meeting in March 2021 could feature a program on the Big Sur Land Trust. We would have our holiday luncheon as has been the custom at Monterey Peninsula Country Club, but skip the February Presidents Day tea, in order to lessen the demands on our time until our membership grows. We discussed alternative governance models, lacking volunteers at the moment for the Chairman and Vice Chairman spots. Several individuals present voiced an interest in approaching Elizabeth Barratt to take the reins. This question was left unresolved.

Ruth put in another plug for Lyceum's History Day on March 7, urging strong attendance from our members, as it could be a viable new area of focus. She will get details to us via email and scope out a restaurant to go to after the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Submitted by Holly Ochoa, Recording Secretary