

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in California
Monterey Peninsula Committee

Minutes of Annual Meeting, March 23, 2023

The Monterey Peninsula Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in California, met for its 38th Annual Meeting on March 23, 2023 at the California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Seaside, California.

Call to Order: Chairman Whiz Lindsey called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. There were 19 Monterey Peninsula Committee members attending today's Meeting, and our State President Marian Bliss. After opening ceremonies, Whiz asked the Executive Board members, Committee Chairs, and Advisors to give their annual report.

Vice Chair: Mary Potter gave an overview of events during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

June 18th - Cyd Crampton and Sandy Freeman hosted a wonderful summer garden party at their historic adobe home in Monterey. Each garden and pond represented a serene view of nature.

October 22nd - Fall Luncheon at the Bayonet Black Horse Golf Club, with John Sanders as the Speaker. He outlined the history of the historic Del Monte Hotel where the Naval Postgraduate School is currently located; the major fire that destroyed parts of the current building still standing; and an upcoming preview about his forthcoming book: Dawn of the Seventeen Mile Drive and Its Scenic Roadways.

December 11th - Carmel Mission Inn. A nice Holiday Luncheon was enjoyed, with a live performance by costumed singers from the Peninsula Harmony Company.

January 14th - A Hot Cider Party was hosted by Suzette Hofman at her beautiful home in Pebble Beach, where many Members, Candidates, and Prospective Candidates enjoyed each other's company.

February 11th – President's Day Tea was hosted by Ruth Donohugh in her lovely Adobe style home. Along with the tasty treats, a Panel was hosted by Holly Ochoa, Marguerite Meyer, Abigail Janko, and Ruth Donohugh to present the origin of our local Colonial Dames, and our properties nationwide. A fun raffle for tea cups and saucers, silver tea set, and linens, closed out this wonderful event.

March 23rd – Luncheon and Annual Meeting held at the CSUMB Alumni Visitor Center, with the business of electing and installing the Executive Officers for the next fiscal year 2023-2024. Guest Speaker: Katherine Malone-France, Chief Preservation Officer at the National Trust of Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. The subject: “Historic Preservation is Not About the Past”.

Treasurer: Margie Martin – Reported on the opening balance at \$25,575.90. After expenses, contributions, and donations made during the fiscal year, the closing balance is \$20,389.23. Full written report filed with the Minutes.

Recording Secretary: Cathy Lee – Reported on her responsibilities as Recording Secretary. Attend all Board Meetings, and record the Minutes. Share with the Board for any comments, revisions, and final approval. Disseminate to the appropriate sources, and file in a timely manner. Attend all Membership gatherings and events if possible. Maintain all past and current Recording Secretary Binders with copies of the approved Minutes, and invitations of events. Maintain all Badges, keep current list of new members, Candidates, Prospective Candidates, and Guests. Coordinate with other Chairs re: RSVP’s when a meal is offered, or attendance at gatherings. The approved Minutes are then posted on our website by the Webmaster.

Corresponding Secretary: Leigh Haller was not present. Her report as follows will be filed with the Minutes. Responsible for the general correspondence of the Committee. Maintain and update Membership list for mailings and emails re: meetings, social events, thank you and condolence notes when appropriate. Attend all meetings either in person, phone, or Zoom. Create and send event invitations to all Members, Candidates, Prospective Members, and Guests. Keep track of RSVPs to coordinate with other Chairs. Work closely with the Membership Chair to keep up to date with addresses, etc. Keep records and receipts of costs incurred for invitation printing, postage, stationery, etc., for reimbursement by the Treasurer.

Patriotic Service: Susan Clark

Beginning balance of Patriotic Service Fund: 4/1/22 = \$6,458.05. Ending balance \$2,274.21.

September/October - All Monterey County History and Government teachers (public and private) Grades 10-12 were encouraged to participate in the Congressional Essay Contest. The topic: “Examine the US Constitution and explain why you think it does or does not fully protect the Right to Vote”. Winners received full tuition to the 2023 Washington, D.C. Workshop held June 17-23-23.

October – Letters were sent to all Monterey Peninsula Committee Members requesting donations to our Patriotic Service Fund.

November – A Grant Application form was created by the Board and procedures were put in place to have all organizations request funds by filling out the Grant Application. They would be reviewed by the Grant Committee in January.

December 17th – Our Monterey Peninsula Committee participated in the National Wreaths Across America Day at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery in Seaside, CA, where wreaths were placed on the graves. Other organizations were also there. U.S. Congressman Jimmy Panetta attended, presented a moving speech, and stood for a photo with our Dames.

December-January – The Board voted to grant funds to the following:

Octagon House Capital Fund (ADA/Garden Project) \$2,000

Friends of Dumbarton House \$300

Friends of Gunston Hall \$300

Friends of Sulgrave Manor \$300

Wreaths Across America \$255 (17 Wreaths)

Lyceum of Monterey County \$1,000

Monterey County Historical Society \$5,000

March 4th – Monterey Lyceum National History Day – Theme “Frontiers in History: People Places, Ideas”. Four of our Members (Marguerite Meyer, Marcia Harrington, Ruth Donohugh, and Susan Clark); and Karen Letendre, Candidate, also participated as volunteer judges of the student projects. History Day was a big success. There were over 125 students entered in this year’s competition, and 27 were selected as County winners who will represent Monterey County at the state competition in Rocklin, CA in May. Also 33 projects received special awards sponsored by local individuals, organizations, and businesses.

A full report filed with the Minutes.

Membership: Marcia Harrington

Members: There are currently (48) (includes (6) nonresident Members) and (1) Courtesy Member. (6) Members approved since April 2022. (3) transferred to Texas. (2) resignations.

Candidates: (1) withdrawal, (13) new – (9) since March 2022.

Prospective Candidates: (15)

A full report filed with the Minutes.

Candidates Helper: Marilyn Riehl

Currently assisting any Candidate with research.

Webmaster: Marguerite Meyer

Postings were made on the Monterey Committee website pages of our (8) events and activities for the year. Photos were taken by Members. Due to the success of Marcia's recruitment of new Members, a new page was added to the website called "Meet the Newest Monterey Members". This page includes their photo and a short bio.

A full report filed with the Minutes.

Board Advisors: Marguerite Meyer, Ruth Donohugh were present. Pat Anderson was absent. Ruth stated there are currently 430+ Members throughout California.

Chairman: Whiz Lindsey gave an overall summary of our fiscal year progress with implementing new ideas for social gatherings; re-evaluating Board job descriptions; and our successful Membership events.

Nominating Committee: Margie Martin, Marguerite Meyer, Cathy Lee, and Marcia Harrington. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of new Executive Officers for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Chair: Cyd Crampton

Vice Chair: Mary Potter

Treasurer: Margie Martin

Recording Secretary: Cathy Lee

Corresponding Secretary: Leigh Haller

Whiz handed over the gavel to Cyd Crampton for the transition as the new Chairman. Cyd accepted the gavel, she thanked Whiz for her service as Chair, and Mary Potter presented Whiz with a gift.

The meeting concluded at 12:00 p.m., and 13 Guests were invited to the luncheon.

Newly elected Chairman Cyd Crampton introduced herself and her partner, welcomed the program speaker and Guests, also introducing State President Marian Bliss and Past President Ruth Donohugh. Three past Monterey Chairman in attendance were recognized. Candidates and Prospective Candidates were introduced. 32 in attendance for lunch and program.

Induction of New Members:

Marcia Harrington formally introduced three new Members that were present: Mary Britton, Edith Appleton, and Laura Neault. Lara Grossman was unable to attend. Marcia presented each of their interesting bio's and qualifying ancestors. A Welcome NSCDA-CA tote bag filled with membership and Dames information was given to each of the four new Members.

State President: Marian Bliss welcomed everyone. She spoke of the upcoming 2-day State Annual Meeting in April, and invited everyone to attend. She also gave an overview on the progress of the Octagon House.

Lunch was served.

Guest Speaker: Katherine Malone-France, Chief Preservation Officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Subject: "Historic Preservation is Not About the Past".

Her program was very enlightening about the wide range of historical properties and projects across America that are officially funded and supported for preservation. This includes historic structures and landscapes currently in progress and in the future. A question and answer session followed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cathy A. Lee
Recording Secretary