

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

Minutes of Board Meeting – November 9, 2023

The Monterey Peninsula Committee Board, Committee Chairs, and Advisors, met in person at the home of Cyd Crampton in Monterey. Present were: Cyd Crampton, Mary Potter, Margie Martin, Marguerite Meyer, Marcia Harrington, Shannon Kirby, Cathy Lee, Ruth Donohugh, Susan Clark, and Laura Neault by phone.

Cyd called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. We recited the Pledge. Roll call was taken.

Minutes from the September 14, 2023 Board Meeting were discussed, and the proposed revisions agreed upon. The Minutes were approved unanimously, and will be posted on the Monterey Peninsula Committee website, by the Webmaster.

Cyd asked for each Chair to give their report:

Vice Chairman: Mary Potter confirmed Vocal Point will perform at the Holiday Luncheon on December 3rd, from 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

President's Tea is confirmed at the home of Holly Ochoa on Saturday – February 10, 2024. Invitation to follow in January. Guest Speaker will be John Walton.

Treasurer: Margie Martin reported the opening balance total checking as of 4/1/2023 is \$20,470.06. The Patriotic Fund is currently at \$5,019.21. Margie stated that the Colonial Dames received a \$120.00 check from Wreaths Across America for our participation of purchased wreaths. At the State level: Margie reported, there will be a \$20.00 increase in Membership dues; Junior Members will be raised from \$75.00 to \$95.00; the Quill, and Directory will also have an increase. A complete account of transactions available in her full report filed with these Minutes.

Recording Secretary: Cathy Lee – nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary: Laura Neault reported the Holiday Invitation is complete after review, and ready to send in the mail on November 10th to all Members. An email will also follow to Candidates, and Prospective Candidates. Margie will update lists with RSVP's for this event. An email was sent this month to remind Members about Wreaths Across America to support our Veterans.

Patriotic Services: Susan Clark reported on Wreaths Across America. So far 55 wreaths have been purchased by our Members. We have received \$5.00 back for each wreath purchased. Members are encouraged to let their friends and families know of this project to help support the goal of purchasing a wreath to lay on every Veteran's gravesite. There are 552 gravesites, and 433 wreaths have been purchased to date from a variety of organizations.

Congressional Essay Contest: Grades 9-12 compete in a national contest that Colonial Dames sponsor every year. This year's subject theme is "Why did the nation's founder choose a government with separated powers rather than a parliamentary system?" Shannon Kirby was able to obtain a quote from Congressman Jimmy Panetta that was incorporated into a letter that was sent to all history/government teachers by the Congressional Essay Committee consisting of Cyd, Cathy, Shannon, Whiz, and Susan. All schools in the Monterey County were contacted.

A letter was sent in October to all Members asking for their support by contributing to the Patriotic fund. Funds go towards Lyceum History Day, Essay Contest, Weeks House renovations, and other worthwhile organizations in line with our Dames mission. The Grant Application Committee will review any requests for funding in January 2024.

Lyceum History Day: Now is the time to start encouraging Members and Candidates to participate as Judges to review student projects grades 7-8 from the local middle schools. It will be held at Los Arboles Middle School in Marina, Saturday March 9, 2024. The theme: "Turning Points in History." A workshop will be scheduled in January with Forbes Keaton to generate interest and encourage Monterey Dames to learn more about History Day and understand how to become a judge.

Membership: Marcia Harrington reported there are currently 50 Members which include (6) non resident; (3) Courtesy Members; (4) new Members; (2) resignations; (1) new Prospective since October 2023; and (21) Candidates to date. Full list of names is filed with these Minutes.

Webmaster: Marguerite Meyer reported postings were made on the Monterey Committee website pages of the August Carmel Drug Store Tour, the September Monterey County Historical Society BBQ event, and the Fall Luncheon and Tour at the 2 historic Monterey Adobes: Casa Abrego Club and the Old Capitol Club/Casa Amesti. The May 2023 approved minutes were also posted.

New member Beverly Hamilton was added to our website page: Meet Our New Members.

Assisted new member Laura Neault, coming onto the Board mid-year as Corresponding Secretary replacing Leigh Haller.

Reminder to Board Members to write about their ancestors to add to the Book of Ancestors.

Historian: Shannon Kirby reported she is filtering through many boxes of photos and albums to organize for future digitizing. There are a lot of unmarked loose photos that will need review by Members who can help identify people and past events. A committee will eventually be formed to help in this ongoing process.

Octagon House: Ruth Donohugh informed the Board, that Octagon House has reopened after all the renovations were completed indoors, in the garden, and ADA approval was granted. It is now open to the public the second and fourth Sunday of each month, except in January. She offered a carpool to anyone interested in being a Docent for a three hour period.

Nominating Committee: Marcia Harrington reported there is a new slate of officers for the 2024-2025 Executive Board ballot as follows: Chair: Cyd Crampton, Vice Chair: Mary Potter, Treasurer: Margie Martin, Corresponding Secretary: Laura Neault, and Recording Secretary: Tiffinie Meyer. A vote was taken, and the ballot was approved unanimously.

New Business: Cyd proposed discussion about contact relationship management software that's web based for updating data for membership and event purposes. More information and research to follow.

Cyd encouraged any new ideas for future events/outings/guest speakers, etc., for the 2024/2025 calendar. Many suggestions were proposed, and will start making contacts.

Next Board meeting Thursday, January 18, 2024. Place and date to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Cathy A. Lee

Recording Secretary