

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California

Monterey Peninsula Committee

Minutes of Board Meeting - January 18, 2024

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

Cyd called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. We recited the Pledge. Roll call was taken.

Minutes from the November 9, 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 reported there were 24 Members and Guests that attended the October 2023 Fall Luncheon at Casa Abrego, hosted by Marguerite Meyer. A tour followed at Casa Amesti. It was hosted by Cynthia Riebe and was a big success, thanks to our Dames responsible for organizing this special event.

President's Day Tea: February 10, 2024, will be hosted at the home of Holly Ochoa, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided by Dames and Guests, and will be served from 11:30 -12:30. Guest Speaker: John Walton. He will present "Monterey's Colonial Stories" from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Laura will send written and email Invitations by January 25th.

Annual Meeting and Luncheon: Thursday - March 21, 2024, at the John Steinbeck House in Salinas. The speaker will be Susan Shillinglaw, about Steinbeck's life. Further details will follow.

Treasurer: Margie Martin reported the opening balance and total checking as of December 31, 2023 is \$23,399.69. Margie stated that \$155 was recently received for our participation in the Wreaths Across America. There were a total 95 wreaths purchased, and \$5.00 per wreath was refunded back as a donation to the Monterey Dames Committee. Full report filed.

It was suggested by Cyd, that the rebate money from the wreaths, be donated to benefit living Veterans through the Veterans Transition Center of California in Marina.

Corresponding Secretary: Laura Neault reported she has issued 7 correspondence emails and Invitations since the last Board Meeting in November 2023: These include (2) Holiday Luncheon; (2) Patriotic Services; (2) Judge's Training; (1) Membership Momentum She also updates the Membership list when necessary.

Patriotic Services: Susan Clark reported feedback on efforts regarding the Congressional Essay Contest. There were only 10 students in the state of California who participated. None from the Monterey County. She suggested, we start contacting schools in September to encourage the teachers and staff to participate. Cyd will contact April Skou, California State Patriotic Services Chair, and our Monterey Dame living in the Washington, D.C. area. Cyd will ask April for ideas how to better engage and support our local high school student participation.

Fund raising: A Solicitation Letter was mailed to all members asking for donations to fund our projects for the 2023-2024 year. As a result: \$1,725 was collected.

Grants: Grant Applications were sent to various organizations through January 25, 2024, to inquire if they would like to submit a request for funding a project, etc. The Committee will meet to determine their requests to grant money in 2024.

A donation of \$300 was granted to Friends of Dumbarton House, Gunston Hall, Sulgrave Manor, and \$2,000 to Octagon House.

Lyceum History Day: A campaign to recruit Judges for the March 9, 2024 Lyceum History Day is supported with a training session on February 3, 2024 at noon, led by Forbes Keaton, former Lyceum Executive Director, veteran History Day judge, and retired teacher. Dames, Candidates, and Prospective Candidates are encouraged to participate to learn about the judging process and what is expected of a History Day judge.

National Wreaths Across America was a big success. Several of our Colonial Dames participated in this moving ceremonial event at the local California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery in Seaside (formerly Fort Ord). A wreath was personally placed at each veteran's gravesite.

Membership: Marcia Harrington reported there are currently 53 Members, to include (2) new Members as of January 2024: June Lorraine McBride and Susan Hubbell Nycum Schueler. There are (18) Candidates, and (1) Prospective Candidate. Full report filed.

Candidate's Helper: Marilyn Riehl reported she helps assists any Prospective Candidate upon request.

Historian: Shannon Kirby (not present). Margie reported that Shannon is in the process of identifying historical photos, papers, etc., to scan and digitize for the website. This will be a long and involved process. It will require careful consideration by a committee with knowledgeable computer skills, responsible for prioritizing, organizing, and itemizing what should be retained and archived or what is not needed.

Webmaster: Marguerite Meyer reported she has posted: November 9, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. Three Dames events with descriptions and photos: October Fall Luncheon at the Casa Abrego Adobe, and tour of the Casa Amesti; December Holiday Luncheon at the Carmel Mission Inn; and Wreaths Across America. She has also added new member bios on the Meet Our Newest Members page, and updated the Monterey 2024 calendar to the NSCDA-CA website main Calendar page, as well as on the Monterey Peninsula Committee page.

New Business: Cyd asked everyone for ideas for the upcoming 2024-2025 year events.

Marcia Harrington suggested that a personal Carmel home "Garden Tour" in May be considered. She has already cleared it with the property owner. It was unanimous by the Board to plan a date in May.

Tiffinie Meyer currently works at the Presidio of Monterey, and suggested she could arrange a tour of the vast property, arranged in stages. This may take 2-3 tours at different times of the year. She will inquire as to the possibilities.

Cathy Lee suggested a Carmel Foundation Guest Speaker: Lawrence Harris, Historian and Philosophy teacher His subject matter would be Jamestown.

Cyd suggested we set a date for the next December Holiday Luncheon. We all agreed to Sunday - December 8, 2024. Place to be determined.

Other New Business:

Cathy Lee suggested we no longer wait to vote on the approval of Minutes at the next scheduled Board Meeting, which is usually 2-3 months after the prior Board Meeting. The time frame is too long after they have already been reviewed, revised, and approved by email within 7-10 days from the Board Meeting. The Board agreed and voted to have a more efficient timeframe once everyone has given approval with a vote by email. This will also allow more timely dissemination to the appropriate State Officials, and posted sooner on our website.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2024 at 5:15 p.m., at the home of Cathy Lee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Cathy A. Lee, Recording Secretary