

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

Minutes of Annual Meeting

March 21, 2024

The Monterey Peninsula Committee of The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in California, met for the Annual Meeting on March 21, 2024 at the Steinbeck House in Salinas, California. Present were 25 present: (21) members, (3) Candidates, and (1) Guest Speaker.

Chairman Cyd Crampton called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. The Pledges were recited. Cyd recognized past Chairmen: Marguerite Meyer and Marilyn Riehl. After opening ceremonies, Cyd asked the Executive Board members, Committee Chairs, and Advisors to give their annual report.

Vice Chair: Mary Potter was not present. Cyd spoke on Mary's behalf with an overview of events during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Summer Event – August 27, 2023 - Outing at the historical Carmel Drug Store on Ocean Ave. Docent tour led by historian Joan Burk Murphy. There were (25) members and guests that attended. A picnic followed at Devendorf Park.

Fall Event – October 19, 2023 - Luncheon at the historic Casa Abrego Adobe in Monterey, hosted by Casa Adobe Club Member Marguerite Meyer. After lunch, a docent led tour by Cynthia Riebe was held at Casa Amesti, owned by the Old Capitol Club. There were (24) members and guests that attended.

Holiday – December 3, 2023 - Luncheon was held at the Carmel Mission Inn. Entertainment provided by a women's Barbershop Quartet. There were 34 members and guests that attended.

President's Tea – February 10, 2024 - Hosted at the lovely home of Holly and Eduardo Ochoa. Members and Guests brought an array of tasty foods and desserts. Guest Speaker: John Walton spoke about Monterey's Colonial History, accompanied by slides of historical Monterey photos.

Annual Meeting – March 21, 2024 – Held at the Historical Steinbeck House in Salinas, CA. Chairman Cyd conducted the Membership meeting and overview of the 2023/2024 fiscal year, to include the votes to elect a new slate of Board Executive Officers. Guests were then invited to attend the Speaker's presentation and luncheon. Guest Speaker: Susan Shillinglaw spoke about the history of the Steinbeck House, John Steinbeck as a famous author: quoting some of his works; and describing his personal and family life. During lunch, a House Docent informally added several fun anecdotes about the house and his family life.

Annual Reports of Executive Officers and Appointed Chairmen:

Treasurer: Margie Martin reported beginning opening balance total checking (4/1/2023): \$20,470.06.

Balance of checking account total (3/31/2024) \$18,732. Full detailed report attached for review.

Recording Secretary: Cathy Lee reported there were (3) Board Meetings in 2023, and (2) in 2024. Minutes of each were reviewed, approved, and posted on the California State website's Monterey Peninsula Committee section..

Patriotic Services: Susan Clark reported on the following events:

"Wreaths Across America" was a big success as a second year effort to purchase and place fresh wreaths at the gravesites of Veterans at the California Central Coast Veteran's Cemetery. Several members were present to participate.

Congressional Essay Contest: This is a national contest that Colonial Dames sponsor every year. The high school student winners win a trip to Washington, D.C.. A committee of members contacted all Monterey County High Schools by phone and letter to participate. The Theme was: "Why did the nation's founders choose a government with separated powers rather than a parliamentary system?"

Fundraising for the Patriotic Service Committee. A letter was sent to all Members for donations to fund projects for the 2023/2024 year. As a result, \$1,725 was collected. \$560 was earmarked for help with refurbishing of the Monterey County Historical Society's old Victorian Weeks House in Salinas. "Wreaths Across America" gave a \$5.00 rebate for each wreath donated = \$475 back to the Patriotic Services Fund.

Grants: Request from 3 organizations were received by January 25, 2024. The Grant Committee recommended to the Board, and was approved to allocate:

\$ 500 Veteran's Transition Center
\$2,000 Lyceum History Day
\$2,000 Monterey County Historical Society

Lyceum History Day: A Zoom training by Forbes Keaton helped assist participating Judges in advance with criteria of Lyceum History Day. Nine Monterey Committee Members, Candidates, and 1 Dames husband were judges again this year, to review and rank the Middle School student projects.

Webmaster: Marguerite Meyer reported postings were made on the Monterey Committee website of 9 events and activities for the year. Included are write ups of each event along with fun photos taken by members.

Meet Newest Monterey Members Website page additions: There are (12) new Members thanks to Membership Chair Marcia Harrington. Each Member's listing includes her photo and short biography.

Book of Ancestors: Each Member can submit an entry to show her qualifying Ancestor and his/her State, and a short vignette. It will be posted on the Monterey Peninsula Committee website.

Membership: Marcia Harrington reported there are currently (61) Members (included are (4) nonresident and (3) courtesy members). There have been 3 resignations. A total of (15) new Members during 2023/2024 are also included. A full report filed with the Minutes.

(3) New Members - Marcia introduced each person with their impressive bio's:

- 1) Mary Alice Brown McCary
- 2) Sara Elizabeth Mehlin McCary
- 3) Alicia Beth Castle White

Current Membership Roster: Marcia painstakingly created an up-to-date Membership Roster as a companion to the Blue Book issued only once a year.

Corresponding Secretary: Laura Neault took over for Leigh Haller who relocated a few months ago. Laura has done a tremendous job of picking up where Leigh left off to keep the transition as smooth as possible. She maintains the membership listing; creates and sends Invitations by mail and email for events in a timely manner. Follow-up on events, writes correspondence, etc.

Chairman Cyd Crampton called for the vote on the Slate of Nominees for Executive Officers for 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Nominating Committee: Marcia Harrington, Margie Martin, Marguerite Meyer, and Cathy Lee. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of new Executive Officers for the 2024-25 fiscal year. *Chairman:* Cyd Crampton, *Vice Chairman:* Mary Potter, *Treasurer:* June McBride, *Recording Secretary:* Tiffinie Meyer, *Corresponding Secretary:* Laura Neault. The motion was approved by the membership.

After lunch, Cyd suggested visiting the Gift Shop adjoining the Steinbeck House.

The Annual Meeting concluded at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. Lee, Recording Secretary