

Monterey Peninsula Committee
The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California
Annual Meeting Minutes March 20, 2025

The Monterey Peninsula Committee of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California met for the 40th Annual Meeting on March 20, 2025 at Woody's at Del Mesa restaurant located in Carmel Valley, California.

Call to Order

Pledge to the American Flag

Salute to the Colonial Dames Flag

There were 27 Monterey Peninsula Committee members present at the Annual Meeting. After opening ceremonies, Chairman Cyd Crampton asked the Executive Board members, Committee Chairs and Advisors to present their annual reports.

Vice Chair: Mary Potter gave an overview of events held during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

March 21 - The 2024 Annual Meeting was held at the Steinbeck House in Salinas. After the meeting, a program was presented about author John Steinbeck by Professor Susan Shillinglaw.

June 1 - Members enjoyed a beautiful garden tour of Edgemere Cottage and Garden located in Carmel-by-the-Sea. An elegant afternoon tea was hosted by the owner preservationist Janet Ayers.

July 18th - Members were treated to another Garden Tour at the magnificent Carmel home of Connie and Ken Hess.

September 20 - The Fall event was a tour of the Museum and Lower Presidio led by Cameron Binkley, the Command Historian of the Presidio.

December 8 - Holiday luncheon was well attended. The speaker was Dr. Kathy Gorn, Executive Director of National History Day.

February 8 - President's Day Tea was held at the home of Beverly Hamilton. Sherry Flumerfelt, Executive Director of the Western Flyer Foundation shared the history of the Western Flyer sardine boat, the iconic, recently restored fishing vessel immortalized in *The Log From the Sea of Cortez* by John Steinbeck.

March 20 - The 2025 Annual Meeting was held at Woody's Del Mesa Restaurant, with Lawrence Harris speaking on the Lewis and Clark expedition and its significance.

Treasurer: June McBride reported that finances are in very good shape, with assets divided into two main funds; Administrative and Patriotic. Revenue comes as dues, donations, and also proceeds from the sale of wreaths from Wreaths Across America. Donations were made to Veterans Transition Center, Monterey Lyceum History Day, and to the Monterey County Historical Society, as determined by the Grant Committee; Cyd Crampton, Ruth Donohugh, Margie Martin, Shannon Kirby, Diana Thelander, Susan Clark, and June McBride. The beginning amount of funds was \$19,3711 and the ending balance was \$18,224.

Recording Secretary: Alicia White reported that several women served in this role during the past year. Cathy Lee served when the elected Recording Secretary was unable to complete her term. Alicia became Acting Recording Secretary in January after agreeing to fill the role for the upcoming 2025-2026 term. Duties include recording and filing the minutes of all Board meetings as well as the Annual Meeting. In addition, this role is responsible for the management of member/guest name tags and menu choices for each General Membership meeting.

Corresponding Secretary: Marcia Harrington (Sept-Dec) and Elizabeth Barratt (Jan-March) served as Acting Corresponding Secretary during thist year when the elected Corresponding Secretary was unable to complete her term. Responsibilities are creating, emailing, and mailing invitations to membership and guests for each General meeting and activity.

Patriotic Services: Susan Clark reported that her duties include management of fundraising projects throughout the year. She writes and sends an October letter to the membership asking for funds to support our Dames projects.

This December 110 wreaths were purchased for laying at fallen veteran's gravesites for the Wreaths Across America project, a new record for the Monterey Dames. The income received was donated to the Veterans Transition Center. This year's student National Congressional Essay contest was not so well received. Only two students in the entire state submitted essays. One was local, from

Stevenson School. Students of winning essays attend a week in Washington D.C. to learn about the workings of Congress and tour the sites of our nation's capital. \$2,000 was given to support Monterey Lyceum National History Day. Members Cyd Crampton, Peter Miner, Susan Clark, Marguerite Meyer and Prospective Karen Letendre volunteered as judges of the student project competition March 15. A \$3,000 donation was given to the Monterey County Historical Society. Funds will be used for new signage at the Victorian Weeks House. The sign will have a QR code to direct visitors to the NSCDA-CA website.

Historian: Shannon Kirby was thanked for her work at reducing and organizing the many, many boxes that she received at the start of her term. This consists of photos, albums, genealogical data and other memorabilia. She remarked that she had visited the garages and storage places of every past Chairman. The size of the historical collection and documents are now a more manageable size.

Membership: Marcia Harrington reported that membership has grown exponentially this year. Marcia especially thanked Mary Threadgill, the previous Membership Chair, for her Colonial Dames journey of meeting so many women in the community and learning their family histories. Marcia also took a moment to recognize the women who lost their husbands in the past year. The membership stands at 72, including 3 courtesy members and 13 members between August 2024 and March 2025. There are 19 candidates and 10 legacy prospects. The Monterey Peninsula Committee was recognized twice in the National Society of Colonial Dames dispatched publication, and was also in the local news with their historical activities.

Webmaster: Marguerite Meyer reported that she is responsible for the maintenance of the Monterey Peninsula Dames website pages. Her tasks include write ups of each event along with posting photos taken and submitted by members. She added 15 new entries to the Newest Members web page. She posts Board minutes as they are approved. Another interesting part of the website, posted in the form of a PDF, is *Monterey Peninsula Committee Book of Ancestors*. It is a collection of member-submitted short vignettes about the Monterey members' ancestors. There is also a hard copy binder of the book.

Outgoing Chairman: Cyd Crampton recognized and thanked her Executive Board, Committee Chairs and Advisors with a wrapped gift and Certificate to each.

Election of Executive Board 2025-2026

The Nominating Committee offered the following slate for election:

Chairman: Margie Martin

Vice Chairman: Ruth Donohugh

Treasurer: June McBride

Recording Secretary: Alicia White

Corresponding Secretary: Elizabeth Barratt.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as presented. The vote was unanimous after the motion was made and seconded.

Conclusion: The new Vice Chairman, Ruth Donohugh, thanked all present for coming to the Annual Meeting. Ruth presented a gift to Cyd as a tangible expression of gratitude from the entire membership. The gift was a replica cover of the soon to be released book, “*Great American Women Preserving History Since 1891*”. When the actual book is released, Cyd will be given a copy. Cyd, a third generation Californian, has been an active NSCDA-CA member since 2022. The following is a part of the speech given by Ruth to Cyd:

“With no hesitation, Cyd willingly accepted the nomination to Chair the Monterey Peninsula Town Committee in 2023. She has presided over Board meetings, general meetings, field trips, annual meetings and consistently supported Monterey Lyceum National History Day, Wreaths Across America, and other patriotic service endeavors. She not only stands tall in stature, but stands confident and courageous in the hearts of our Committee. Her leadership style along with her infectious humour, generous spirit and hospitality has proven to be successful in steering our membership with kindness, energy and enthusiasm! Our Thanks to you, Cyd Crampton!”

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Full Annual Reports of each Board member are on file.

Respectfully submitted, Alicia White, Recording Secretary.