

**The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California
Monterey Peninsula Committee
Minutes of Board Meeting
September 16, 2025**

The Monterey Peninsula Committee Board, Committee Chairs, and Advisors September 16, 2025 Board Meeting was held at the home of Marguerite Meyer. Present were Margie Martin, June McBride, Marcia Harrington, Marguerite Meyer, Mary Potter, Alicia White, Susan Clark, Ruth Donohugh. Not present: Elizabeth Barratt, Marilyn Riehl, Cathy Lee.

The Meeting was called to order at 4:10p.m. The Pledge was recited and attendance was taken.

Minutes from the March 6, 2025 meeting and the Annual Meeting Minutes March 20, 2025 were discussed. Minutes were approved as corrected and will be posted on the Monterey pages of the website by the webmaster.

Board Member Reports:

Chairman: Margie Martin reported that she had been busy as the Finance Secretary for the State Board working on the directory with Julie Sarno, Margo Wall, and Marian Bliss. She also has been involved with the creation for each Committee of online pages for new members' biographies and memorials for members who have passed away.

Margie has attended several meetings concerning new policies for the reinstatement of past members who would like to rejoin Colonial Dames. Discussions have included making the cost of reinstatement lower. California is the most restrictive state with their rule requiring the former member to be out for at least two years and in order to come back must pay one year of dues as a penalty in addition to paying the current dues. Other State Committees are having membership difficulties and have made the reinstatement considerably more attractive for former members to rejoin. In order to transfer to another state, a member must be in good standing.

The State E-Blast about the Annual State Meeting will be sent in Late October or November. The State Semi-Annual Meeting in San Francisco will be held September 25th and the Dedication of the Octagon House Garden will be held the following day. Margie Martin and Alicia White will be attending.

The Great American Treasures Coffee Table Book will be sent to each Committee as a fund raiser. This is also the Book that was given to Cyd Crampton.

Marilyn Riehl has stepped down as the Candidate's Helper. A gift of appreciation was discussed for all the work she has done for the Monterey Committee.

The National Colonial Dames has hired a new Executive Director, Gloria E. Kenyon, for the Dumbarton House. She comes from the Smithsonian with many years of experience. She will be in charge of the full time employees at National.

Soon there will be new permanent name tags offered for purchase by the State California Dames. Potentially the tags will be ordered in groups of 10 or more. Charges for each tag will be determined in the future.

Vice Chairman: Ruth Donohugh reported about her planning of future meeting locations. The invitations for the October meeting, tour and lunch at Rancho Cielo have been sent to the members. The December Holiday Lunch and meeting will be held at Woody's Restaurant, and the speaker has been contacted. Ruth reported the challenges finding good spots for future meetings. She has contacted the Pebble Beach Beach Club, but getting the date finalized will need to be in the future due to the Lodge's priority. The March meeting's speaker will be Connie Hess's husband Ken who can talk about a variety of subjects. Another meeting location suggested was El Torito in Cannery Row. It has the benefit of easy parking and good location. The price of meals were discussed in addition to speaker fees. The purchase of a speaker and sound system was introduced and a lively discussion followed. The consensus was to table the subject for a future Board meeting. Currently, the Committee borrows a speaker system from Mary Potter and the DAR.

Treasurer: June McBride reported that summer was a slow period for finances. The Financial Report was filed.

Corresponding Secretary: Elizabeth Barratt, no report.

Recording Secretary: Alicia White had no report.

Patriotic Services: Susan Clark reported that her solicitation letter had been completed and will be mailed in October after the reminder email about the October meeting. A separate email will be sent about Wreaths Across America. If the amount of wreaths purchased for the area is over the number needed, the overflow will go to another location. Susan reported that she is focused on the Congressional Essay Contest and selecting her committee.

Membership: Marcia Harrington reported that there are 73 members and 23 candidates. New member Stephanie Lee was approved in record time! There are 18 Junior members statewide, most are in the Monterey Committee. There was discussion about placing a mark on the nametags of Junior Dames (age 0-21) and Young Dames (22-50) to help identify these members.

Historian: There is a search for a new Historian. Shannon Kirby has stepped down.

Webmaster & Advisor: Marguerite Meyer reported that she has posted a recap and photos on the website of the first two events of the 2025/26 year: Jollyhase Garden and Home Tour in Carmel in June, and the participation of Monterey Dames as docents at the Octagon House in July.

Advisor: Cathy Lee, no report.

Old Business: Margie Martin and Alicia White will go to the Ribbon Cutting ceremony of the new Octagon House garden.

Margie Martin reported that a Committee has been formed for the planning of the April 21-22, 2026 State Annual Meeting consisting of the following: Elizabeth Barratt, Marcia Harrington, Ruth Donohugh, Cathy Lee, and Marilyn Riehl. Registration fee will be raised to \$35. Margie will report to the State Board with a list of Hotel Choices for the State Annual Meeting, so that attendees can make their own reservations. This will avoid our Committee having to pay any unreserved minimum. The planning will continue.

The meeting was adjourned by Margie Martin at 5:38 pm.
Respectfully submitted by Alicia White, Recording Secretary.