

**The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in California  
Monterey Peninsula Committee – Minutes of Board Meeting  
November 18, 2025**

The Monterey Peninsula Committee Board, Committee Chairs, and Advisors November 18, 2025 Board Meeting was held at the home of Marcia Harrington. Present were Margie Martin, Elizabeth Barrett, Susan Clark, Marcia Harrington, Ruth Donohugh, Cathy Lee, Mary Potter and Alicia White. Marguerite Meyer on phone. The Meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. The Pledge was recited and attendance was taken.

Minutes from the September 16, 2025 meeting 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:** Before giving her report, Margie Martin passed around a small early Christmas gift to each Board Member. Margie began her report by thanking Marguerite Meyer for arranging the Rancho Cielo campus tour and Lunch. Everyone had a wonderful time at the event and a special mention of thanks was given to the Tour Guide, Christopher for being especially informative.

Elizabeth Barratt sent an email about the passing of Liz Lord and the date of her life celebration, January 17, 2026 at the Church in the Forest beginning at 11:00 a.m.

A big Thank You to Shirley Morgan for writing 20 Thank You notes for the State Board about the Octagon House Garden Fund. She has been diagnosed with cancer and we will keep her in our prayers.

Julie Sarno, State President, announced that she has nominated all four CA State Committees to be recipients of the American Heritage Award. Total award to the four committees would consist of \$1,000 from National, \$1,000 from State, and what the Western Committees donate. Ms. Sarno would like the Monterey Committee to donate the money received (\$750) to Rancho Cielo. Hopefully, the award could be given as part of the State Annual Meeting activities. This will be further discussed and reported back to the Board.

On Veterans Day Margie and her family were invited to the Monterey Peninsula American Legion Post 41 as they posthumously honored Former Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers of the Commonwealth of Mass. Congresswoman Rogers was our Chairman Margie's husband Frank's great aunt. Frank and his family were presented with a framed replacement medal of the American Legion's Distinguished Service Cross, originally awarded to Congresswoman Rogers in 1950.

Congresswoman Rogers is known for introducing the GI Bill. She also was a supporter of Women's Rights during her tenure and beyond. She supported the 40 hour work week and the reduction of children working. She was a Colonial Dame and a DAR member. The family has a photo of President Roosevelt signing the GI Bill and Congresswoman Edith Rogers is standing behind him, the only female in the photo.

Marguerite Meyer put a very nice article about the award on the member website.

A discussion of the plans for the December Holiday Lunch included meal selection for the speaker Lawrence Harris and his plans for his presentation at the meeting. Cathy Lee was asked to have Mr. Harris sign a form in the event of recording his program "Christmas in America 1941" for placement on the website. Mary Potter was asked to bring the DAR microphone.

Margie Martin plans to attend the State Christmas Party at Octagon House December 14 and asked if others were interested in attending.

**Vice Chairman:** Ruth Donohugh reported that the February Tea is tentatively scheduled to be held at St. John's Chapel. If any other locations are recommended, then they would be considered. Cathy Lee said that her brother's restaurant, Kona, might be available. The date chosen is February 21, 2026.

**Treasurer:** June McBride was unable to attend. Her Financial Report was filed.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Elizabeth Barratt reported that she emailed a request to members to volunteer as docents at Octagon House for the date of July 27, 2025. She printed and delivered new member certificates, and emailed invitations for the Fall Rancho Cielo tour and lunch on October 16. She emailed requests to the membership to participate in Wreaths Across America in Dec., and invitations for the Dec. Holiday Luncheon at Woody's/Del Mesa. A final reminder will be sent on November 19, 2025.

**Recording Secretary:** Alicia White had no report.

**Patriotic Services:** Susan Clark reported that she sent the annual Solicitation Letter in early September and was disappointed in the results: only 10 people donated with an amount of \$1,378. Another Solicitation Letter was sent and hopefully will result in more contributions. Wreaths Across America website shows 48 wreaths have been donated by Dames. There could be more donated by the deadline of December 1, 2025. Many other organizations in the area are also supporting Wreaths Across America.

The Congressional Essay Contest is something that has not had much support from the membership. Only two essays in all of California were submitted the past year. A student at Stevenson School was one of the contestants, and it has not been clear if the student participated in the trip to Washington. There was a discussion about how to make the Contest a less burdensome job for the Committee Chair to solicit student participation, given the disappointing results.

Susan, with the help of Ruth Donohugh, sends a letter by email to Monterey County Schools. This year's Essay Contest topic: "Describe the principles of the Declaration of Independence you believe are the most important in lifting the human condition and explain how they help this country meet evolving challenges over our 249 years".

The Lyceum History Day will be Sat. March 7th. Last year, acquiring enough judges was difficult. The Board hopes to encourage more members and candidates to participate as judges for this year's History Day.

**Membership:** Marcia Harrington reported there are 75 members, 15 Candidates, 5 perspectives, 6 resignations and 1 death.

**Historian:** There is currently no Historian.

**Webmaster & Advisor:** Marguerite Meyer reported that the Monterey Committee's website pages are up to date with the latest posting of the Fall October event and luncheon at Rancho Cielo in Salinas. Also posted is a recap of the Veterans Day posthumous presentation to former Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers's family of a replacement medal of the American Legion's Distinguished Service Cross, originally awarded in 1950. And 3 new members are posted on the Meet the Newest Members web page.

**New Business:** Margie formed a Nominating Committee for 2026/27 year of Marcia, Alicia and Marguerite.

**Old Business:** The following dates of the Monterey Peninsula Committee are:

December 7, 2025	Holiday Luncheon
December 13, 2025	Wreaths Across America
January 6, 2026	Board Meeting
February 21, 2026	President's Day Tea
April 21-22, 2026	State Annual Meeting

Meeting was adjourned by Margie at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia White, Recording Secretary