



California Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution

Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., Chapter

Minutes of the Meeting for
11 June 2004

The Friday, 11 June 2004, meeting of the General George S. Patton, Jr., Chapter of the CASSAR was held in the library of the Berylwood Officers Club, being called to order by Chapter President J. Stephen Hurst. Following the pledge and the invocation, members adjourned to the buffet. In attendance were seven compatriots: President J. Stephen Hurst, Ron Risley, Joe Coffman, Don Wooldridge, Alan Buckley, Dennis Richardson and Robert Taylor; and two honored guests, Betty Coffman and Rosemarie Risley. President Hurst reconvened the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

The minutes for 14 May 2004 were distributed and approved as amended; amendment consisted of the addition of dates for the Spirit of America Awards, which will be on Wednesday and Thursday, 16 and 17 June 2004.

The Treasurer's report was distributed and accepted with no changes.

The Registrar's report was presented and approved as written.

The Chaplain is out of town on vacation, and no report was presented.

Old Business:

The Memorial Day activity at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park was reported on by President Hurst. Compatriot Ron Risley was in attendance, and President Hurst presented a wreath. Many participants took part in the ceremonies, which included a four-plane flyover.

The ceremonial funeral cortege in honor of Civil War Major General William Vandever conducted on Memorial Day as part of the effort to restore the St. Mary's Cemetery in Ventura was reported on by President Hurst. Both President Hurst and Compatriot Risley walked in the parade in uniform from the Ventura Mission to Cemetery Park, site of the original cemetery, where speeches by President Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt re-enactors were given, followed by gun and cannon salutes.

USAF Major Tom Zuparty of the USAF ROTC unit at Camarillo High School invited Chapter members to honor ROTC 2nd LT Mike Garland at a Friday ceremony at the school.

The Spirit of America awards were discussed. Ceremonies will be conducted at the Camarillo Middle School graduation ceremonies on Wednesday and Thursday, 16 and 17 June. President Hurst and Compatriots Ron Risley, Joe Coffman and Robert Taylor will represent the Chapter at these ceremonies.

Entrance requirements for the CBC Base were reviewed. Entry list is typed by Compatriot Ron Risley, a Gate Pass is obtained from CBC Security, who sends a copy of the entry list to the gate. A Chapter representative then goes to the gate with another copy of the list to ensure the list is there.

The Knight Essay Contest was also discussed. Two history teachers at Buena High School were contacted, and advised that the Career Center should be informed. The Career Center representative, a descendant of John Q. Adams, thought immediately of 10 candidates, and took the action to post an announcement on the County Career Guidance Network internet site.

As a follow-on to retired Rev Leonard DeWitt's inability to prove his U.S. citizenship, revealed during his acceptance speech for the Good Citizenship Award presented last month, Compatriot Ron Risley conducted research, and identified Rev. DeWitt's father and mother in the 1930 census in Nebraska, and further identified Revolutionary War ancestors in his lineage, making him eligible for membership in SAR.

New Business:

President Hurst presented the possibility of instituting a Chapter Color Guard. In addition to President Hurst and Compatriot Ron Risley, Compatriots Joe Coffman and John Bayles have uniforms. No final action completed to institute Guard.

Mrs. Patty Longo, regent of the Ventura Chapter of DAR, has suggested a joint meeting with the Chapter. Proposal to be pursued when the DAR Chapter reconvenes in September following the summer recess.

President Hurst invited Mrs. Judy Shaw to our meeting to recognize her newly established Lifetime Membership in the Ladies Auxiliary.

The unfortunate business of the flag pole at Cemetery Park being destroyed by the Ventura Parks and Recreation Department was reported, and was described as a "Mistake" by a Ventura City official. The flag pole was to be used during the Memorial Day Gen. Vandever funeral cortege procession for a flag raising ceremony.

Announcement was made regarding the 31 July SAR social pot luck to be held at the John L. Dodd residence in Santa Ana.

The Chapter program was an interesting presentation by Compatriot Joe Coffman regarding his Revolutionary War ancestors, Major John Ashby being one, his ancestry back to the King of Scotland, and his circuitous route to become a member of SAR.

The meeting was adjourned following the SAR recessional and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Taylor, Chapter Secretary.