Orange County Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Meeting

January 11, 2014

Members attending: Richard Adams, Jim Blauer, Joe Boyer, Doug Bradley, James Bradley, Danny Cox, Marcus Deemer, John L. Dodd, Gerry Ellington, Jim Fosdyck, Bill Gaumer, Kent Gregory, Dan Henry, Jim Klingler, Arthur Koehler, Jeff La Marca(Sons of Liberty Chapter), Craig Matheny, Dan McKelvie, Doug Milliken, Jim Oakes, Jim Quinnelly, Hugh Richards, Hammond Salley, Dan Shippey, Jon Vreeland, Jim Wallace, & Larry Wood.

Guests: Helga Adam, Lacy Dodd, Gus Fisher, Jackie Gaumer, Liz Matheny, Karen McKelvie, Claudia Milliken, Karen Richards, Scott Williams, Barbara Winkler, Dray Wong, Sharon Wood, & Un Hui Yi.

The meeting was called to order at 11:31 by President McKelvie. Chaplain Adams gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant-at-Arts Danny Cox. The Pledge to the SAR was led by Dan Henry. The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 12:10. Everyone introduced themselves and their patriot ancestor. Jim Fosdyck moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting; John Dodd seconded; motion passed. Arthur Koehler gave the Treasurer’s report, reporting $ 2,592.33 in the bank account and $150 collected for the raffle. Secretary Jim Klingler reported he had submitted the annual Dues Reconciliation Report. The chapter now has 91 active members, 40 of them are Life Members.

No reports were given by the Chancellor, Vice President, Chaplain, and Sergeant-at-Arms. CASSAR Vice President Gregory announced the Spring Meeting in Sacramento on April 11. He also announced no new members in December, although we’re waiting to hear on two new members and two supplementals that have been submitted. President McKelvie reported on the December collection of peanut butter and tobacco sauce that was mailed to troops overseas.

Jim Fosdyck, CASSAR Color Guard Commander, announced the Massing of the Colors in February. He also announced that Karl Jacobs has CASSAR polo shirts for sale. Eagle Scout Chairman Jim Blauer reported that 800 Eagle Scout certificates were distributed in 2013. Knight Essay Chairman McKelvie announced that one essay had been received for the essay contest.

Chapter member Doug Milliken was the guest speaker. He talked about his experiences in the Army in 1969-1970. He received Basic Training, Army Infantry Training, and Cadre Leadership training at Fort Ord, CA and NCO training as a Squad Leader at Fort Benning, GA. He was sent to Long Binh, Vietnam as part of the 4th Battalion, 8th Infantry, where he was assigned to a Recon Platoon.

On May 4, 1970 his unit was sent to the Cambodian border to be part of the largest single invasion by helicopter in the war. Over 600 Huey UH-1 Assault Helicopters transported five battalions ten miles into Cambodia to interrupt the flow of ammunitions, troops, and supplies from North Vietnam to the south along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Doug described the problems including helicopter ambushes, and his experiences in his recon unit. During the invasion, 46 American soldiers were killed in action, and 118 were wounded. The results included the destruction or capture of 550 tons of rice, 859 weapons, 200 pistols, 9,000 rounds of ammunition, 55 anti-tank mines, 2,000 gas masks, 2, 157 structures, 450 underground bunkers, and 2 hospitals.

After the presentation, President McKelvie presented Doug Milliken a Certificate of Appreciation, the Vietnam War Service Medal, and a Wounded Warrior Coin and certificate. Barbara Winkler of Quilts of Valor presented Doug with a hand-made quilt for his service. Dan Henry announced that Walter Elhers, local Medal of Honor winner, was in poor health, so a card was passed around to be signed by all. Kent Gregory moved to nominate Dan Shippey as Chapter President; John Dodd seconded; motion passed.

President McKelvie then presented several awards. Larry Wood received the Distinguished Service Award. The Roger Sherman Award was presented to Jim Blauer, Kent Gregory, Jim Fosdyck, Arthur Koehler, Jon Vreeland, John Dodd, Dan Henry, Danny Cox, and Hugh Richards. Karen McKelvie was presented the Martha Washington Medal. Jim Fosdyck then presented the Bronze Von Steuben Color Guard Medal to Karen McKelvie. Dan McKelvie was then presented the SAR Bronze Color Guard Medal. Jim Klingler and Jim Wallce were presented the 125th Anniversary medal.

The installation of 2014 chapter officers was conducted by National Society, SAR Chancellor John Dodd. The officers are Dan Shippey, President; Arthur Koehler, Treasurer; Jim Klingler, Corresponding Secretary; Jim Blauer, Recording secretary; Kent Gregory, Registrar; John Dodd, Chancellor; Richard Adams, Chaplain; and Danny Cox, Sergeant-at-Arms. A letter was read from the non-profit Patriots & Paws thanking the chapter for the donation to their organization.

The next meeting on February 8 was announced to celebrate George Washington’s birthday. Chaplain Adams gave the benediction. Dan Henry led the SAR Recessional. Dan Henry moved to adjourn; Dan McKelvie seconded. The meeting ended at 1:50.