

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER * CALIFORNIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Nationally Instituted October 22, 1875
Organized July 4, 1876, Incorporated February 17, 1930
Chapter Chartered April 15, 1967

Board Meeting August 20, 2016

The meeting was opened by President Ferris at 11:40am at Avila's Restaurant. Those in attendance included; President John Ferris, CASSAR Executive Vice President Jim Fosdyck, Recording Secretary Jim Blauer, Vice-President and Brochure Contest Chairman David Beall, Essay Contest Chairman Dan McKelvie and Valley Forge Contest Chairman Cole Zehnder.

Discussion ensued on how we can get better participation in the various contests for our chapter. To start with it was suggested that we contact our friends, neighbors and family who have children in school as we have contests for elementary, Jr. High and High School levels. If we contact the schools and we get a bite we need to follow up and see if there is anything we can help with and show our interest in getting any entry or entries from them.

We need to figure out a format for all letters that are used to contact and follow up with those interested parties.

Awards and prizes were also discussed. A suggestion we might want to give \$10 gift certificates to In & Out Burgers for the students. Maybe work with the CEO of the In & Out Burger chain. Another possibility is to see if we can get some help from Bank of America. Get Corporate Sponsors for awards. We now give out \$600 in cash to the various youth contests as well as Medals & Certificates for First Responders & Veterans, We would like to be comparable to other groups.

We could give something the teachers could use in classrooms like posters, broadsides from the various congresses, booklets on the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. The National Society puts out a CD on teaching American History that is free to all members and chapters to give away. Jim Blauer told of a previous time when our chapter had a booth at the Anaheim Convention Center where there would be seminars for teachers to attend. Our chapter handed out several hundred of these CDs.

President Ferris is going to speak with Gus about a possible item on the dues notice where members could add a donation to one of the specific programs, or the general fund to be used for any of the programs. Maybe \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$25 for the Youth, Veterans, 1st Responders awardees. The possibility of getting corporate sponsors will require that we get donations from our chapter members.

It was also deemed important to incorporate more information on each of our contests on our website. Possibly have a photo page for the individual Youth Contests or a page that covers all the youth contests where we would place a photo of the various winners and their winning essay. This could also be done when we recognize Veterans and First Responder award recipients. Have a photo and a bio for which they are receiving the award. Have information with medal, certificate and cash award on each contest on the website.

It was noted we need to have all the members involved in youth programs to go to the Boy Scout website and watch the video for youth protection.

Maybe have a Youth Awards month luncheon in which all the winners are invited from our Youth programs and in the case of the schools, invite the teachers to attend. We could have youth/teacher awards in May, 1st Responders in April or June and in November have Veterans.

We had JROTC Units present the Colors at our meetings. They were very well received, but need the money for their lunches and certificates of Appreciation for each cadet.

Another consideration is to create the office of Youth Programs Director who like the State position would oversee all the Youth Contests.

We might want to consider having an Awards Night dinner where awards for members are handed out. They did this in Riverside. Maybe do this as a barbecue rather than a dinner. If this does not work out we could incorporate the presentation of Awards at our January meeting as this is when the outgoing president hands out awards to members. Do this, rather than doing it once a month at our regular meetings.

Having these special meeting to honor the various groups we make awards to would also assist the Vice-President in not having to get a speaker for that month.

We should think about putting a link to our website in the letters sent to each school.

Compatriot Fosdyck noted we received \$300 from the Cerritos for the Let Freedom Ring participation and it goes into the general fund for use with whichever area is needed. He also suggested that we might want to rename our Color Guard the Walter Davis Memorial Color Guard. President Ferris believes this may have some resistance from members, but can still propose it to the membership and see how it goes.

This was considered a very productive meeting and the question arose as to possibly having our Board Meetings on different days than our meetings as we do not necessarily have to have our Board Meetings when we meet. It also gives us more time for our discussions as we are sometimes limited at our meetings and have to be out of the room at a certain time.

With ideas in hand and no further discussion on the topics covered today, President Ferris adjourned the meeting at 1:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted
September 10, 2016

James F. Blauer
Recording Secretary