

August 2022

Final

San Diego Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

Monthly Digest



August Birthdays

Richard Leslie, 2nd
Andrew Wadlington, 2nd
Kelly McNeil, 10th
Sebastian Walker, 10th
Robert Awalt, 12th
Gabriel Cardenas, 24th
Bruce Decker, 24th
Michael Welch, 26th
Brandon Dawson, 27th
Nathan Griggs, 27th
Philip Norfleet, 27th
Eric Rupert, 27th

Large Turnout for August Meeting

We had 37 people at our August meeting at the [Green Dragon Tavern and Museum](#) in Carlsbad. We have not had a meeting of this size since well before COVID.

Michael Hirman opened the meeting and introduced Jim Klingler, Executive Vice President of CASSAR who spoke on CASSAR activities. Other meeting highlights:

- A new member was introduced, Rob Welch and his wife and daughter were in attendance. Rob recently joined us as a Dual from Scottsdale.
- Lynn Farrar introduced himself. He became a member late in 2021 but this was his first meeting.
- Michael Miller was a guest of Peter Fagen.
- Rev. Stan De Long introduced John Fosdyck and his wife Uni, guests of Ray Raser. John was a recent recipient of the [SAR Minuteman award](#).
- We then proceeded to a guided tour of the Green Dragon Museum which houses a collection of original documents (and copies) along with Revolution era artifacts. John Lek, co-founder and manager of the Museum, provided an excellent overview and spoke about the planned expansion of the museum which will hopefully include space for displays from our Chapter.
- When the meeting resumed, Philip Hinshaw spoke on items of interest on George Washington that he had on display.
- Our Minuteman visitor, John Fosdyck spoke on the [George Washington Endowment](#) program and was able to recruit a new support of Gail Raser. We will post more on this program soon in the Digest.
- Jim McAdory gave an America250 presentation on the “Battle(s) of Drowning Creek” which was part of the “Tory War” in North Carolina in 1781.

This was a lunch meeting rather than our more common breakfast and it was well received by members and guests. Arrivals began early around 9:30 and people continued to enter the room after the meeting started.





August Meeting Photos

Left to Right, (1) Jim Klingler of CASSAR, (2) Museum Tour, (3) Rev. Stan DeLong introduces our Minuteman Award guest, John Fosdyck. (4) John Fosdyck and his wife, Uni, recognize Gail Raser as the newest sponsor of the George Washington Endowment program.



September Meeting in Balboa Park

Join with us to celebrate Constitution Day at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park. We will start the day in the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park at 9AM. Our guest speaker is Jon Paul LaBruzzo, Capt., USN. His topic will be: *"American Exceptionalism: why I am thankful to be an American, why the USA and the Constitution matter, and what should we do today as citizens if we care about our nation"*.

Capt. LaBruzzo is currently in Bremerton, WA. training the USS NIMITZ carrier strike group which will be his last assignment before retirement after 30 years of Naval service. Capt. LaBruzzo has over 1700 flight hours and over 400 carrier arrested landings.

New Applications Moving Quickly

After a long period of almost no new membership applications we have seen a flurry of interest since mid-June. As of the end of August, we have one Regular and three Junior applications at NSSAR and one Junior applications and four regular applications that are at CASSAR.

The great news for our chapter is that we are working closely with our State Society's Registrar, Owen Stiles, to move applications successfully through the process. Owen is the most experienced person in California for dealing with the SAR membership application process.



Wreaths Across America

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day we Remember, Honor and Teach by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. The fundraising drive begins every year in July to allow sufficient time to amass enough donations to meet our goals.

The San Diego Chapter is sponsoring wreaths at Miramar and Ft. Rosecrans National Cemeteries. For each \$15 wreath purchased, the Chapter receives \$5 which we use for our ongoing educational and community programs. Our Chapter coordinator is Kristine Reardon who the daughter of our late SDSAR Compatriot, Lawrence “Larry”

Harden. Join us by donating for a veterans’ wreath at a cemetery near you, volunteering or donating to a local sponsorship group.



The funds raised in this program are a major portion of our Chapter’s revenue. To purchase a wreath that is linked to our Chapter, please use one of the links below:

[Click here to sponsor wreaths at Ft. Rosecrans or Miramar](#)

New Webpage on Spain’s Role in our Independence



At our SDSAR display at the House of Spain over the July 4th weekend in Balboa Park we spoke with several teachers, both active and retired, of which only one was aware of the vital role that Spain played in our fight for Independence. The most common comment was “I am not aware of this” or “how could I taught history and never heard of this”. Several SAR (and DAR) Chapters have worked to address this gap in the knowledge of our history including ours and we are expanding our effort.

We have created a [new webpage](#) and downloadable packet directed at teachers. The page provides a summary of Spain’s motivations and actions and contains a more detailed timeline view with references and numerous links. The packet that can be downloaded contains a Word version of the webpage, maps, images and other articles and includes a recommended reading list.

We hope to find a teacher that can utilize this material to create lesson plans that can be included in the packet. The page can be found under our “Programs, [Youth & Teacher Programs](#)” and “[Resources](#)” menu options. Let us know if you are aware of anyone that would be willing to help by emailing us at: webmaster@sarsandiego.org

This is a **tentative** list of events that are planned for the next few months.

September 10th, Clairmont Family Day, Color Guard and we will host a double booth with Wreaths Across America. We can always use members to help man the booth.

September 11th, Color Guard members will participate at a 9/11 Memorial in Newport Beach. The muster time is 10:30AM at the American Legion located at 215 15th Street.

September 17th, Constitution Day Meeting (our monthly meeting) in Balboa Park at Hall of Nations at 9AM.

October 15, Our statewide "Massing of the Colors" event will take place in San Diego this year. You should plan to arrive at the [Mormon Battalion Historic Site](#) in Old Town on Juan St, by 9:30AM. The Parade of the Colors will begin at 10:30AM.

November 19, Final Chapter Meeting, TBA.



America 250

The **"250 Minute"** refers to brief presentations given by members on topics related to the Revolutionary War Period. These are short, one to five minute presentations and can be longer if needed. Visual aids such as a PowerPoint presentation are not required. Members earn points for each presentation which are accumulated for America 250 medals and awards (see the link below for more information).

Here are some guidelines from CASSAR.

- Celebrate and draw attention to colonial ancestors.
- Increase awareness of challenges, struggles, sacrifices
- [Revolutionary War Master List](#)

We recently added a new "America 250" page on our website where we will post more details and recent activity.

From our NSSAR President General, Davis Lee Wright:

"Other organizations are counting down to July 4, 2026. While July 4, 2026 will be an essential celebration for the SAR, celebrating that singular event is not our charge. Our charge is for a broader in scope and much longer in time. It is not a short term or one time project. Our mission is to plan – and execute – a celebration of our Patriot ancestors and the entirety of their contributions to the United States. Our Patriot ancestors struggled and rebelled for over a decade and actively engaged in open warfare for eight years – to guarantee our liberty.

We owe them nothing less. Our mission, therefore, is to celebrate and commemorate the entirety of the American Revolution period from the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party in 2023 to the 250th Anniversary of the British Army's departure from New York City in 2033.