

January

2024

# San Diego Chapter

## Sons of the American Revolution

### Monthly Digest



## George Washington's Birthday Dinner

### Green Dragon Tavern-Museum

The President of the San Diego Chapter  
of The Sons of the American Revolution

cordially invites you to attend a Dinner in honor of His Excellency  
**General George Washington's 292nd Birthday on 24 February 2024 AD**  
at the Green Dragon Tavern & Museum located in Carlsbad, CA.

Our honored guest will be SAR's President General John Dodd and his wife  
and the keynote speaker will be Dr. Kent Gregory who will speak on  
*'SAR Art Artifacts Contemporary to George Washington'.*

This will be a Black-Tie *optional* or period dress affair, Compatriots in  
business suits are welcome and ladies are welcome in period or evening  
attire.



[Click Here for details](#)

## Presidents Message from the January Business Meeting

We begin the new year with a cautionary message that our Chapter's revenue will likely suffer a major decline in 2024. In 2023 we enjoyed over \$4,500 in income from our Wreaths Across America program that was paid to us for the 2022 Wreaths program (the bulk of this money comes in after the new year). This tremendous fundraising was due to our coordinator, Kristene Reardon, who moved to North Carolina in 2023 and while she continued her efforts on our behalf we could not find a member that would work with her for local personal visits and follow-ups. She also reported that most the contacts she made in 2022 were not purchasing or not as many wreaths as they did in 2022. Based on our 2023 purchases we anticipate a reduction of well over \$3,000 in income from this program.

We are not immune to the ravages of inflation as our black powder insurance is almost \$1,700 per year and our storage costs are almost \$2,400 per year. Meetings are harder to plan as venue and food costs have gone up dramatically. Clearly we have work to do this year.

### Goals for 2024

1. **Secure new avenues of fundraising.** Our chapter has shrunk, and our financial needs have grown over the years, and we cannot rely on our annual dues to cover our costs. We are in dire need of a Wreaths Across America lead that can devote time and energy to this program. Not only is it a worthy program, but it has also been the major source of funding for our chapter until 2023. I implore any member that might be interested in taking on this role to please contact me.
2. **Establish a program of investment that leads to a steady source of funding for our chapter's needs.** This is a long-term approach that will have its greatest impact several years from now. Our first such investment will be the "Pendleton Fund" named after Major General (USMC) Joseph H. Pendleton who was our Chapters 18th President and served two terms in 1929 and 1930. Funds collected for this endeavor are set aside for the purpose of investing and using the earnings to provide an ongoing source to fund our Youth Programs which we hope to fully fund at some point in the future. This fund was approved by last year's Board and is now active on our website's Donation page.
3. **Build our membership.** We made good progress in 2022 and 2023 attracting new members (16) and we must continue to attract and mentor new members for our Chapter to thrive. We cannot rely on a small group of members to take on leadership roles before they become weary of the role. Our newer members are our best source of new leadership for our chapter and I ask all members to embrace our new members, mentor and support them while encouraging their participation in our chapter and our programs.
4. **Establish a membership outreach program.** We have a lot of members that we have not heard from in years. Many of these are Life members but even more are regular members that always renew their membership. I will work with our Membership VP to establish regular personal contact with these members. This could take the form of volunteer members making phone calls or personal visits a couple of times per year. If you would be willing to participate, please contact me as I hope we can get this started in the first quarter of the year.
5. **Continue to strengthen our relationship with the Daughters of the American Revolution.** In 2022 our then President Michael Hirman began working on repairing our relationship with DAR which had become strained over the prior years. Peter Fagen continued that last year and I plan to build on their success in 2024. To that end I ask that our Chapter members attend one or more meetings each year with a nearby DAR Chapter. Those of us that have attended their meetings have all found they are a welcoming organization to our members just as we are to them. We look forward to working together on programs of mutual interest this year. DAR is very involved in our upcoming George Washington Birthday Dinner as they have agreed to take on the table and room decorations as well as put together and run the door prize drawing with the funds raised used to reduce the cost of hosting the event.



# January Business Meeting

The San Diego Chapter held its annual Business meeting on January 20, 2024, at the Broken Yolk in Carmel Mountain Ranch. We had an excellent crowd that saw two new members inducted and one new Dual member recognized. In addition to a lot of awards presented we updated our Bylaws with a unanimous vote, a 2024 budget summary was provided, and we installed our 2024 Board of Directors and welcomed three new members.

## 2024 Officers

**President**– Jim McAdory  
**1st Vice President**– Michael Hirman  
**2nd Vice President**– Steven Modregon  
**Secretary**– Bryan Bagnas  
**Treasurer**– Alan Winters  
**Chancellor**– George Brewster  
**Sargent-at-Arms**– Gary Newton  
**Color Guard Commander**– Duncan Campbell  
**Registrar**– Owen Stiles



Above-left to right, Peter Fagen 2023 President, Jim McAdory 2024 President, Michael Hirman 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Bryan Bagnas Secretary, Alan Winters Treasurer, Gary Newton Sargent-at-Arms, George Brewster Chancellor, Duncan Campbell Color Guard Commander and Gene Moore Membership VP. Not pictured are Steve Modregon 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Owen Stiles, Registrar.

## New Members



Left to right- Doug Wright, John McFarlane and Matthew Wehland (dual)



## Five Chapter Presidents

Along with the new President we were joined by four past Presidents.

(left to right) Robert Fagely 2013, Fred Hall 2017, Michael Hirman 2022, Peter Fagen 2023 along with 2024 President Jim McAdory.



## 2024 Business Meeting-continued

### Award Presentations

#### Meritorious Service Medal:

*photos to right, in order*

James "Jim" McAdory  
Duncan Campbell  
Robert Welch  
George Brewster



#### Roger Sherman Medal:

Peter Fagen  
Gary Newton



#### Daughters of Liberty Medal:

Sarah Fagen-Silver

#### Good Citizenship Medal:

Bryan Bagnas  
Andrew Fagen

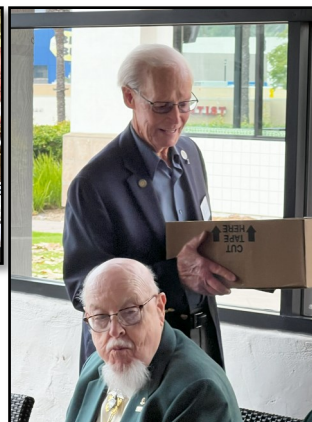


*Left-Left to Right,  
Peter Fagen, Gary  
Newton and Sarah  
Fagen*



*Left, Bryan Bagnas*

*Right, Andrew Fagen*





## 2024 Oration Contest

The San Diego Chapter was pleased to have three entries in our Oration contest this year. The contest was organized by Compatriot Ted Parsons and was conducted at the House of Spain in Balboa Park thanks to the assistance of the HOS President, Jesus Benayas.

Each entrant was well prepared and gave an excellent presentation, making it hard for the judges. After tallying the results Daniel Hernandez from Bonita Vista High School was selected as the contest winner.

Other contestants were Diego Castro also from Bonita Vista High School and Shree Patel from Del Norte High School.



Daniel Hernandez  
*Winner*



Shree Patel



Diego Castro



George Washington's Birthday Dinner  
Green Dragon Tavern-Museum

Join SAR's President General at our George Washington Birthday Dinner and enjoy our key-note speaker, Dr. Kent Gregory, Chairman of the SAR Museum Board.



P.G. Dodd



Dr. Gregory



[Click Here for details](#)

This is a *tentative* list of future events, Check our website Events page for a full list.

**February 3**, Mission de Alcala.  
SAR/DAR Plaque dedication.

**February 24**, George Washington Birthday Dinner, Green Dragon in Carlsbad.

**April 13th**, Venue and start time TBA.

**Elevator Pitch** "The Sons of the American Revolution promotes patriotism, serves the community, and inspires and educates the public about the history of the American Revolution".

**2024 Info Booth Schedule**

TBA

## Want to fire a musket?

We require anyone that fires a musket with us to have passed an NRA approved Black Power safety course. To make attending this course easy for our members, our Color Guard Commander is working on holding this course in our area in 2024. If you would like to attend (you don't need to bring a musket) please contact

[colorguard@sarsandiego.org](mailto:colorguard@sarsandiego.org)



# America 250

## Our Chapter Plans for America 250

Our Past President, Michael Hirman has been leading our America 250 committee and we have plans in place for an reenactment of the Boston Tea Party on December 16th this year. We are also actively contacting various civic leaders in our communities and at the county level.

Our goal is to have at least one major event each year during the America 250 program timeline. For 2024 we have a tentative plan to hold a program in Balboa Park centered around the first Continental Congress and in 2025 we will host a reenactment of the Battle of Lexington & Concord in the Laguna Mountains. Anyone that would like to participate in the planning and/or actual events please contact us at:

[Membership@SarSanDiego.org](mailto:Membership@SarSanDiego.org)

## Queen Sofia Spanish Institute adds America 250 Commission



### America&Spain250

Commission for the Celebration of Spain's Relationship with the United States, 1776 - 2026

#### About the Commission

The Commission's mission is to celebrate 250 years of the shared past, present and continued friendship between the United States, Spain, and the Spanish-speaking world.

Starting with the significant yet little-understood role of Spain in America's War of Independence, Spain's contributions to the history and development of the United States are many and diverse. They span numerous realms: science, medicine, agriculture and technology, along with language, literature, religion and the arts. The Commission aims to increase public awareness of these contributions and celebrate their importance over the course of 250 years of Spain's shared history with the United States.

The Commission also seeks to enrich the understanding of the complex, changing, yet enduring tripartite relationship between Spain, Spanish-speaking America and the United States.



**Join  
our  
Color  
Guard**