Connecticut SAR – BOM Meeting

Plainville Library – Plainville CT - Saturday – 2024 February 24

created on February 25, 2024, and revised March 5, 2024 and approved via email vote

Call to Order by State President Selnau at 10:00 am

Invocation by State Chaplain Richard Kendall

Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag by Stephen Taylor

Pledge to the SAR by Ethan Stewart

The Quorum was established by State Secretary David Perkins.

Minutes from November 18, 2023 All-Member Meeting were approved as distributed. **Motion 1 by David Perkins and seconded by Robert Clark.**

Presidents Report

State President Paul Selnau welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief oral report. The State Committee list from June 2023 was presented with changes noted. Marcus Larkin to replace Jim Rothgeb on Real Properties, John Gelinas dropped from Eagle Scout, and Roger Smith and John Emblidge added with Tim Wilkins as Chairman. Alex Marshall added as C.A.R. liaison under the combined DAR/C.A.R. Liaison Committee. Investment Committee was added with Fred Lorthioir, Dean Gaugler and Robert Carrara as Chairman. Brief discussion about the status of the position of state chancellor. Ed Eckert will contact Compatriot Richard Slagle an attorney who is a member of the Roger Sherman branch about accepting the position. President Selnau stated that if we do not have a compatriot for Chancellor by the April meeting, a motion would be made to use his business attorney to handle any needs for the state society. **Motion 2 by D. Perkins, to approve the report and seconded by T. Wilkins. Motion passed.**

Treasurers Report

State Treasurer Ted Nelson was unable to attend, but reports were provided on January 13th to the State Secretary prior to his vacation. It was noted by State Assistant Treasurer Richard Kendall the investments appear to be from 2022 and not current. State Secretary Perkins agreed and stated that he has been working with Treasurer Nelson to resolve the issues regarding the handling of both the CT Life and Roger Sherman investments over the past 4 years. No deposits or withdrawals as required by the state bylaws were done. Following a brief discussion about the background of the funds and the reports the following motions were put forward and approved.

Motion 3 – By D. Perkins and seconded by Richard Kendall. That Life Fund distributions for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 be approved as shown on the Life Fund Analysis report dated January 13, 2024. Motion passed.

Motion 4 – By D. Perkins and seconded by Mike Bird. That $1,000 of the Roger Sherman donations from the dues collection for the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 that were never invested and sit in the CTSSAR state operating account be set aside for use in the 2024 CTSSAR budget to cover the cost of materials & postage related to the CT Sons of Liberty Campaign and the balance of $925 be deposited into the Roger Sherman Fund. Motion Passed.

Budget Committee

State Secretary Perkins reported on the work done to create the proposed 2024 Budget. The budget for 2023 was the same budget as used in 2022. The 2023 budget was not approved until June 4, 2023. Perkins provided a detailed overview of each line of the proposed 2024 budget. There was discussion on the Grave Marking line item and future discussion needs to happen.

Motion 5 – By S. Taylor and seconded by R. Clark. That we table this discussion and an ad-hoc committee be set up to handle the Grave Marking policy to be discussed at the April meeting. Motion Passed.

Stephen Taylor had an issue with the Trustee budget line being split into two lines for Trustee and Alternate Trustee. After a lengthy discussion, no action was taken.

Motion 6 – By R. Kendall, I move that 2024 Budget as proposed be approved. Second by T. Gerlander. Motion passed.

Motion 7 – By D. Perkins, I move that $1,000 from the 2023 Manross distribution that was returned to the CTSSAR state operating account at the end of 2023 be set aside for use in the 2024 Budget to cover the cost of travel expenses for the CT Congress Chairman. Second by M. Bird. Motion passed.

Motion 8 - By D. Perkins, I move that $21,688 of the 2023 Year End Unused Manross be transferred to the CT Congress budget account. Second by M. Bird. A brief discussion about the use of Manross Fund by S. Taylor and Real Property Steward Dave Packard stated that he does not need these funds. Secretary Perkins reported that the funds do not need to be spent by the congress committee if other funding can be raised. Motion passed.

Motion 9 – By D. Perkins, I move that $5,000 from the CTSSAR state operating account be transferred to the CT Congress budget account. Second by M. Bird. Secretary Perkins explained that this is half of the $10,000 that the state agreed to last year to provide to the congress budget. Motion passed.

Registrar/Reconciliation Report

Secretary Perkins reported that we started the year with 478 and closed 2023 with 456 members for a net drop of 22 members. Actual drops for non-payment of dues were 63 compatriots. We have 32 duals members and 3 new members in 2024 for a total membership of 491. A signed copy of the reconciliation and confirmation letter will be emailed to the National Registrar Jonathan Toon by 2/25/2024. Treasurer Nelson will need to send a check for $19,040.00 to National HQ next week. Secretary Perkins wishes to thank State Assistant Treasurer Kendall once again for his efforts in handling the annual dues process.

Real Property Report

Property Steward Packard briefly reported on his 2024 budget. Asked the BOM to increase the Coast Guard Award from $300 to $400. BOM stated that it was a Real Property decision not BOM. Manross needs for 2024 is expected to be about $10,800.

CT Congress Planning Committee Report

Chairman Taylor reported that national feels we are ahead of the game. Asked that branches invite himself, President Selnau and Secretary Perkins to any upcoming meetings. Reported that the 250th bench projects & 250th event are all being moved to state responsibilities and not congress committees.

R. Kendall reported that women have done a great job based on the last congress zoom meeting. President Selnau stated that CT Congress Leadership report does not reflect what is being discussed. Chairman Taylor will revise the report to include women's efforts.

Secretary Perkins reported on CT Sons of Liberty Campaign. A new Col. John Durkee level of $100 is being offered to help us achieve our goal of $50,000 which stands at $46,700.

Ethan Stewart circulated a revised version of the 250th bench project for Ft. Griswold for approval.

Motion 10 – Ethan Stewart, I move that revised bench design be approved with the 'F' in Freedom be capitalized. Second by S. Taylor. Motion passed.

Chairman Taylor will speak to Marcus Larkin who is also a member of the Friends of Ft. Griswold to have him speak with the Ft. Griswold Park Supervisor Eric Gileau - (860) 376-2920 - Eric.Gileau@ct.gov to secure written permission on the location for a bench, a base and the bench design.

Ethan Stewart briefly discussed a rack card for the Ft. Griswold bench project. President Selnau asked that Ethan and anyone who wants to help, put something together for approval at the April meeting.

Historic Suites & Celebration Committee Report

Chairman Gerlander reported on plans for 250th events in 2024. Two events are planned related to The First Continental Congress 250th (SAR Theme for 2024).
a. 250th Ceremony for Roger Sherman – Humphreys Branch/Sherman Branch
b. 250th Ceremony for Eliphalet Dyer – Trumbull Branch

Eagle Scout Committee Report

Chairman Wilkins reported on the 3 Eagle Scouts who participated. The state winner is Gavin Villepigue of Troop 788, Weston who will be recognized at the annual meeting. A ceremony for all 3 Eagle Scouts each hosted by a branch will be at Putnam Park in July.

Historian Report

Historian Gary Pitcock reported on acquiring two photos of the War Office from 1891. He also reported that CT member Doug Coe, grandson of Howard Coe reached out to him about turning over his grandfather's President General badge and gavel from 1965-1966, and has items from 1939 and 1966 congresses. These could be part of a display at our 2025 congress.

New Business

March 25 New England District Meeting

President Selnau announced that the CTSSAR is hosting the meeting at the Union Street Tavern in Windsor, CT. and that the state secretary had two motions to bring before the BOM.

Motion 11 – By D. Perkins, I move that Ethan A. Stewart, Sr. as the current New England District Secretary be confirmed as the CTSSAR candidate for the position President of the New England Council and nominee of the District for election as Vice-President General of the NED. Seconded by M. Bird. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 12 – By D. Perkins, I move that the following slate of delegates be approved for the March 23, 2024 meeting of the New England District. We are entitled to 5 delegates.

Delegate 1 – State President Paul Selnau
Delegate 2 – State Secretary David Perkins
Delegate 3 – State 1st Vice-President Michael Bird
Delegate 4 - Past State President Todd Gerlander
Delegate 5 – Past State President and NED Secretary Ethan A. Stewart, Sr.
Alternate Delegate 1 – National Trustee Kenneth Roach
Alternate Delegate 2 – State Historian Gary Pitcock
Alternate Delegate 3 – Hale Branch Secretary Dayne Rugh.
Alternate Delegate 4 – Manross Supervisor Robert Carrara

Seconded by Mike Bird. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Safety Deposit Box

Secretary Perkins reported that Compatriot Bruce Lyon is 77 and worried that no one will have access if he dies. The only other access is Compatriot Bill Robbins who lives in upstate New Hampshire.

Motion 13 – D. Perkins, I move that Paul Selnau, Ken Roach and Robert Carrara meet with Bruce Lyon to transfer access to the Safety Deposit Box. Seconded by Mike Bird. Robert Clark asked if we could do an Ex-officio for this, to avoid having to change it each time. It is in Webster Bank, branch location not listed on paperwork, but it will be looked into. Motion passed.

Migration to Quick Books Online

President Selnau spoke on the discussion last year to migrate to the online version. A previous treasurer set up Quick Books Online, but with no one having access, so it was moved back to a desk top version with the next treasurer Don Studley. With wanting to do an audit, no one could access the current version without having to visit the treasurer. So, discussion was had that CTSSAR should set up Quick Books Online (QBO) so that the assistant treasurer, state secretary and state auditor would have limited access. State Treasurer Nelson is not interested in this change to QBO and would not be willing to stay on as state treasurer according to discussion with President Selnau. Bob Carrara has agreed to step up as the next treasurer and is fully familiar with QBO.

Motion 14 – D. Perkins, I move that the Quick Books software be migrated to Quick Books Online. Seconded by S. Taylor. The cost is about $75.00 per year using Tech Soup vendor for 501c3s. Robert Clark asked what were Treasurer Nelson's concerns. President Selnau noted that in discussion with Nelson, that his CPA was not in favor of QBO. Tim Wilkins asked about timing. President Selnau proposed that we start the transition now and plan to be completed by the April meeting. Dave Packard has a concern about who will be the Real Property treasurer. Taylor raised questions about the security as to who will have access and how it will be supervised. Motion passed.

Branch Annual Reporting

Secretary Perkins put forth a suggested listing of items that he would like each of the branches to be required to report at the state annual meeting as required by the state bylaws. They are branch officers with their term start and end dates, their preferred contact information. Copy of the prior year 990N filing with the IRS. Date of the next scheduled branch meeting. Bank name and bank accounts numbers for checking, savings, and any investments to include the balances at the end of the last year. Flag

inventory and height of the poles and stands. Taylor suggested that it be a bylaw change. Robert Clark asked if we could have a checklist set up for this annual meeting.

SAR Magazine Recognition

Secretary Perkins held up a copy of the latest SAR Magazine which has a picture of PG Deming of CT and a full article inside, written by Ethan Stewart and Kurt Potter who are both attending today's meeting.

Ceremonial Bugle

1st Vice-President Mike Bird put forth a request to have the state acquire a digital ceremonial bugle for when we do grave markings across the state. The cost is $580 with $200 for an additional insert. With one on each side of the state. There is a website to see it.

Motion 16 – By Gary Pitcock, I move that the CTSSAR make the purchase of up to $800 out of the Roger Sherman fund for the Ceremonial Bugle and digital insert. Seconded by S. Taylor. There being no further discussion. Motion passed.

CT Congress Challenge Coins and Grave Markings

Stephen Taylor reported that the 100 coins have arrived and will be sold at spring leadership.
If anyone is doing grave markings, that the event be posted on our Facebook page.

SAR Recessional by Paul Selnau

Benediction Richard Kendall

Meeting ended at 12:25 pm

Attendees: 17 (16 members and 1 guest)
Branch 1 - Ethan Stewart, Marshall Robinson, Richard Kendall, Tim Wilkins (Proxy)
Branch 4 - Gary Pitcock, Todd Gerlander
Branch 5 - Robert Clark, Dean Gaugler, Kurt Potter, Edd Eckert (Proxy)
Branch 6 - Dave Packard, Dayne Rugh, Stephen Taylor
Branch 7 – Ken Roach
Branch 9 - Dave Perkins
Branch 10 - Paul Selnau, Mike Bird

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Perkins, Sr.

CTSSAR Recording Secretary