

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

8 APRIL 2023

* Location: Hale Ikena, Fort Shaffter, Hawaii
* Meeting called to order: 1730 (HST)
* Present – Quorum was established
* SAR Western District VPG: Derek Brown
* Trustee: Rob Moore
* President: Art Tulak
* Vice President: Matt LoPristi
* Treasurer: Elbridge Smith
* Chaplain: Dan Curtis
* Members:
	+ Brett Ryan Oppegaard
	+ Peter Young
* Potential Members: Bill Sorrows
* Guests:
	+ Ms Janet Brown
	+ Ms N. Liz Curtis
	+ Ms Julia LoPristi
* Junior Members Present: None
* Meeting was opened with Pledge of Allegiance and SAR Pledge
* Agenda:
* Reports:
1. Western District VPG: Derek gave greetings from PG Pickett. Derek stated that he will continue the national support of the 250th American Anniversary celebration and that this is a top Priority of PG Pickette’s agenda, and that it provides the best opportunity to attract and engage new members and potential members. So far, 31 States have established a planning committee to support the celebration. Explained that California efforts to establish a 250th committee have stalled somewhat, and the Nevada legislature will consider legislation in the next assembly. Membership is also a significant mission for SAR. The current NSSAR membership numbers are approximately 34K members with approximately 1800 members in the Western District. Reported membership numbers across the Western District: Hawaii – 28; Nevada: 182, and California: 1,400. Derek’s term will expire at the end of Congress in July and that Rob Moore will be the presumptive VPG nominee. Derek also said that he is always available for questions and support.
2. President: Arthur Tulak made introductions and welcomed all to the HISSAR AGM. He noted that this was the first time that the gavel donated by Compatriot Elbridge Smith (see the Hawaii Patriot 2022) was used.
3. Vice President: Matt LoPresti said that the Hawaii Legislature had supported the SAR-led 250th American Anniversary through a joint resolution. Matt also stated that he is supporting Hawaii History Day. The current competition includes essays and projects focused on the War for American Independence and the establishment of the U.S.A.
4. Treasurer: Elbridge said that General Checking is $7,112.56 and the SAR CD is $5665.93.
5. Chaplain: Dan Curtis said that he has settled in Washington and now is getting ready to return to Hawaii for a civilian job opportunity.
6. Secretary report: Larry Patterson was unavailable due to illness. Minutes from the 2022mAGM were provided earlier via email.
7. Trustee: Rob Moore reported on actions from the past trustee meetings and Congress.
	1. The first and biggest item of discussion is the possible NSSAR dues increase of $15 that will be voted on at Congress. If approved, the increase will be effective January 1, 2024.
	2. Besides the President and Trustee, Hawaii is authorized one more member to be the Hawaii delegate at large. If interested, please notify the HISSAR President.
	3. SAR Trustees approved funds for the SAR Education Center and Museum, Phase 1 and 2. Approved were funds of $1.9M but needed is approximately $12M to complete the museum and open the center by July 2026 (the US 250th anniversary). Funds for this projected are mainly achieved from donations. A visualization of the planned center/museum can be viewed at the SAR Foundation web site (https://youtu.be/3JaOikT8nxM). Individuals and State/Chapter societies are also encouraged to donate/buy artifacts for the Museum. Rob passed out donor information for buying/donating artifacts.
	4. Todd Bales is the new NSSAR Executive Director. Todd oversees a staff of 27 people and is the cornerstone of the national society.
	5. Rob also reported that our Secretary, Larry Patterson, is currently in ICU for medical issues. Rob volunteered to act as temporary Secretary until Larry can come back to duty or a permanent replacement is found (Bill Sorrells volunteered to become the Secretary when his membership is approved).
	6. Rob also said that Hawaii has more veterans in their membership that are not recognized as veterans at the NSSAR level. Rob said that all Hawaii SAR veterans need to send him their DD Form 214 or other discharge papers (with military ID and/or Social Security numbers redacted and their personal information (name, address with ZIP+4, email, phone number, SAR member number, highest rank in the military when discharged, and years of service). His email address is robmoore@hula.net. Hawaii veterans who do this will receive a SAR Military Service Medal or War Service Medal as appropriate.
8. Registrar: Chris Smithson provided a report via email but was unable to attend the meeting. The following details were provided via email prior to the meeting:
	1. Bryan Wayne Dorrough of Honolulu, Hawaii
		1. Patriot: William Bowles (MA)
		Sponsors: Christopher T. Smithson & Dr. Michael K. Smith
	2. Peter Thomas Young of Kailua, Hawaii
		1. Patriot: Israel Moseley (MA) Sponsors Christopher T. Smithson & Dr. Michael K. Smith
	3. James Donald Bailey of Honolulu, Hawaii
		1. Patriot: Sarah Davis Heap (SC)
		Sponsors: Christopher T. Smithson & Dr. Michael K. Smith
	4. Lee Van Bailey of Honolulu, Hawaii
		1. Patriot: Sarah Davis Heap (SC)
		Sponsors: Christopher T. Smithson & Dr. Michael K. Smith
	5. William Thompson Sorrells, Jr. of Kapolei, Hawaii
		1. Patriot Joseph Thompson (SC)
		2. Sponsors: Christopher T. Smithson & Dr. Michael K. Smith (alternate submission needed since original application in Larry’s house)
	6. Online Application System
		1. Chris sent membership inquiries to everyone that prepared an application on the website. It was around 30-35 people. Several responded positively. Only one in the negative. There are at least two sets of family plans memberships in the works. I did not send inquiries to the ones that Arthur was working with.
9. Cadet Awards Committee. Chairman Arthur Tulak
	1. **ROTC.** Compatriot Tulak attended the in-person tri-service Awards ceremony, jointly hosted by University of Hawaii Army and Air Force ROTC programs on May 5th. The Navy Cadets had their first awards ceremony as a dinner the previous day. COL Ret. Bill Sorrells supported the UH Navy ROTC 29 April at the UH Manoa Ballroom, for the Navy detachment’s formal banquet.
	2. **JROTC**. Hawaii SAR Compatriots and DAR members presented in 2022:
		1. Juanita Allen DAR –Nanakuli Dan Curtis –Kahuku JROTC.
		2. Elbridge Smith –Punahou JROTC May 2nd. Also volunteered for Kailua AFJROTC, but the ceremony was cancelled.
		3. Arthur Tulak – JROTC, Aiea AFJROTC on April 27th and Farrington High School on May 5th.
		4. JROTC May 6th, and Waianae JROTC May 12th.
	3. This past year, the Hawaii Society was aided by volunteer presenters recruited by Compatriot Tulak from several military HQs. We had three Lieutenant Colonels and one Warrant Officer volunteer to present our certificates to JROTC cadets.
	4. Mahalo to our Active Duty Volunteers:
		1. Lt Col Brion Piriyakarnjanakul, USAF, Kaiser AFJROTC
		2. WO1, S. Kai Bovaird, JIATF West, Waipahu JROTC and Campbell NJROTC
		3. Lt Col, Walt Priebe, U.S. Space Force, Dep. Director of Space Forces, Radford NJROTC
		4. Lt Col Christopher D. Parker, USAF Deputy Command Surgeon, SOCPAC. Roosevelt JROTC Mahalo to our Active Duty Volunteers:
	5. We had no designated presenter the two JROTC programs on the Island of Hawaii, namely Hilo Army JROTC, Konawaena Army JROTC in Kealdekua, and Kealakehe Army JROTC in Kailua-Kona. We also had no dedicated presenter at Baldwin Army JROTC on Maui. Likewise, we were not able to organize a dedicated presenter for Waimea Army JROTC on Kauai. The schedule for the 2023 awards ceremonies was provided to all Hawaii Compatriots. Current volunteers are Dan Curtis, Arthur Tulak, and Elbridge Smith. Juanita Allen from DAR has volunteered to cover Waianae HS JROTC on 11 May and Nankuli HS JROTC on 12 May. Brett Oppegaard volunteered for Roosevelt H.S. on 13 May. Many schools have no presenter identified. Priority was to fill the events on 14 April. Arthur will cover Farrington, and volunteers are needed for Kaiser and Aiea.
10. **Eagle Scout Recognition Committee. Chairman Arthur Tulak**
	1. Since the last AFM, we recognized three Eagle Scouts since our last AGM:
		1. Derrick Djou
		2. Connor Jensik
		3. Brady Jensik
		4. Katelynn Burchette
	2. **Eagle Scout Derrick Djou** of Troop 311 received his certificate at the court of honor April 24th at the Saint John Vianney church in Kailua. Derrick’s Eagle project was Refurbishing a Mural, completed on August 29, 2021, and his Board of review was completed on November 18, 2021. Derrrick Djou is the son of Troop 311 Scout Master Dennis Djou.
	3. **Eagle Scout Connor Jensik** received his certificate at his Eagle Court of Honor on May 7th at the Chapel on Wheeler Army Airfield. Connor and his brother Brady are the sons of COL Michael C. Jensik and Amy Jensik. Connor’s Eagle Scout Service Project was a trail improvement project at the Wheeler Saddle Club on Wheeler Army Airfield, Wahiawa, HI. Wheeler Stables offers memberships to active duty, retirees, dependents and Gold Star families for their horses. It has a variety of equestrian services to include lodging (stalls/stables), and exercise areas/equipment (outdoor arena; round pen; plenty of jumps, barrels, and poles; various fields; two large turnout areas; and many miles of trails). The purpose of the project was to improve one of the popular trails used for recreational use for both horseback riders and hikers. Connor passed his Eagle Board on 31 JAN 2022
	4. **Eagle Scout Brady Jensik of Troop 24 at Schofield Barracks.** Brady follows his older brother Connor who received his Eagle Scout on May 6th. Brady’s Eagle Scout Project was the reconstruction of the entryway to the Keiki Clubhouse on Camp Palehua.  He passed his Eagle Board on 6 June 2022. Brady received an SAR Eagle Scout certificate from Compatriot Tulak at a Troop Meeting held at the Scout Shack on Schofield Barracks on 22 August.
	5. **Katelynn Burchette’s** Eagle Scout Service Project, she refurbished and painted 13 – 4 squares and 5 hopscotches at Mililani Uka Elementary School in Mililani, HI. Her Court of Honor was held on August 6th at the Mililani Recreation Center. Compatriot and Society Vice President Matt LoPresti, presented our certificate. Katelynn is a founding member of Troop 664 for girls and is the first female to earn Eagle in the troop. Both of her older brothers earned Eagle Scout as well.
11. **Flag Committee. Chairman Arthur Tulak**
	1. No flag certificates were presented since last year’s AGM. The Hawaii Society has offered to FVW Post 10276 to recognize their flag destruction ceremonies. Date of presentation pending, was expected to be in MAR, but is likely to occur in April meeting.
	2. No Flag display certificates were presented to recognize the proper display of the flag since our last AGM. Per the minutes of the DEC EXCOM meeting, HI SAR selected the Hale Koa and Ala Moana Surf Rider Hotels and contacted both to set up a date. These presentations are not on the calendar yet, and will likely be done in conjunction with a quarterly or semi-annual meeting of the hotel staff.
12. **250th Committee. Chairman Arthur Tulak**
	1. President Tulak attended the installation of the DAR marker at Walker Park near the site of Old Fort Honolulu on Dec. 12, 2022. https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=557017753130693&set=pcb.557017993130669
	2. Peter Young received an award from the DAR at their 4 March annual meeting for his work on the Kendrick memorial.
	3. Rob Moore reported that he contacted the Hawaii Governor’s office to initiate the 250th planning effort. The point of contact is Fele Tau in the Governor’s staff. Talks are continuous.
13. **50th Vietnam War Commemoration Committee. Chairman Arthur Tulak**
	1. The Hawaii SAR conducted no commemoration activities since the last AGM.
14. **Outreach to Hawaii DAR**
	1. Elbridge and Peter Young attended the Joint SAR/DAR Luncheon, which went very well with approximately 50 people in attendance, including 5 kids from the Leahy Society (C.A.R.) who helped out as pages.  Next year the conference will be in Hilo, the first Monday in March, and the NSDAR President General will attend.
15. **Congress**: Rob said that the next Congresses are Orlando, FL (2023); Lancaster, PA (2024) and New Haven, CT (2025).
* New Business
1. The 2022 AGM Minutes and Financial reports were accepted by voice vote.
2. Elections: The elections were held for HISSAR officers for the 2023-2024 period. The nominating committee recommended a slate of officers and with no others being nominated from the floor, the new officers were accepted by acclamation. The new officers will be sworn in at the first EB meeting after the 2023 Congress in Florida. The following are our new officers for the 2023-2024 period:
	1. President: Arthur Tulak
	2. Vice President: Matt LoPristi
	3. Secretary: Larry Patterson
	4. Treasurer: Elbridge Smith
	5. Registrar: Christopher Smithson
	6. Chaplain: Dan Curtis
	7. HISSAR Trustee Nominee: Elwin Spray
	8. HISSAR Alternate Trustee Nominee: Robert Moore
3. Leadership: Rob plans to attend the 2023 Congress, September 2023 and March 2024 Leadership meetings in behalf of HISSAR.
4. Annual 2024 HISSAR Meeting: Rob said that comments were made that either the SAR PG or the SAR Secretary General would like to attend the next HISSAR Annual Meeting.
5. Next EB Meeting: Rob recommended that the July EB meeting be July 19-23, 2023 and requested that the December HISSAR EB meeting be held between December 1-8, 2023, excluding December 2 in the evening) so he can attend in person.
6. G Drive Access: Rob requested that all Officers either be given a password access to the HISSAR G Drive or a periodic copy of the HISSAR membership data base.
7. Peter Young gave a presentation on the ***Revolutionary Times***. This project provides an opportunity to create and share short 1-2 page historical summaries capturing key personalities and events during the foundation of the USA. Those in attendance received printed copies of the of the ***Revolutionary Times*** articles he wrote, namely “Captain James Cook, Hawaii and the American Revolution,” and “John Kendrick – American Patriot Who Died in Honolulu.”
8. Medal/Awards Presentation:
	1. Peter Young was presented a 250th Medal by Arthur Tulak for the work he has done supporting Hawaii DAR with the CAPT Kendrick monument, and his weekly news on significant Revolutionary events, and contributions to the “Revolutionary Times”.
	2. Alim Shabazz, Vice Flotilla Commander of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Commander of American Veterans (AMVETS) Post #7, and a Scout Leader for Troop 32, was presented the Good Citizenship Award by Matt LoPresti. See his biography attached to these minutes.
	3. Rob Moore was presented the State Distinguished Service Medal by Arthur Tulak.

Next Meeting: TBD.

The SAR Recessional and benediction were made.

Adjournment: 7:56 PM

Prepared by Rob Moore, temporary Secretary