



**Virginia Society, Colonial Dames XVII Century
Minutes from State Conference March 9, 2024
Roanoke, VA**

CALL TO ORDER

President Lorraine Sims called the State Conference of the Virginia Society, Colonial Dames XVII Century, to order at 9:53 a.m. and welcomed all attendees. She thanked the host chapters of Region VI: Colonial Trails, Wilderness Trail, and Wood's River.

RITUAL

The invocation was given by Patricia Haile, State Chaplain. The National Anthem was led by Nathalie Steinbach, State Chairman Music. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Karen Leighton, State First Vice President. The Salute to the Flag of the Colonial Dames XVII Century was led by Margaret Stromberg, State Second Vice President. The Salute to the Flag of Virginia was led by Maureen Holbert, State Recording Secretary. The American's Creed was led by Donna Hall, State Treasurer. The Object of the Society was read by Janice Snead, State Parliamentarian.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the Standing Rules was made by Karen Leighton and seconded by Janice Poole. The motion passed.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Myrtle Buchanan, President of the Wilderness Trail Chapter, extended a welcome on behalf of the Region VI hostess chapters. Response was given by Second Vice President Stromberg.

President Sims introduced the 2023-25 State Officers: State First Vice President Karen Leighton, State Second Vice President Margaret Stromberg, State Chaplain Patricia Haile, State Recording Secretary Maureen Holbert, State Corresponding Secretary Anne Terio, State Organizing Secretary Melody Moen (absent), State Treasurer Donna Hall, State Registrar Janice Poole, State Historian Natalie Rochelle, State Librarian Crystal Geller (absent), and State Parliamentarian Janice Snead.

First Vice President Leighton introduced National Officers, Honorary State Officers, National Chairmen and Past National Officers: Second Vice President General Courtenay Stanley, Chaplain General Faye Sobel, Historian General Karen Landers, Headquarters Supervisor Margaret Stromberg, Honorary President General Nan Ackerman; Honorary Virginia State Presidents Robin Bagnall 2003-2005, Karen Landers 2007-2009, Nan Ackerman 2009-2011, Janice Snead 2017-2019, Faye Sobel 2019-2021, and Constance Paradiso 2021-2023; National Committee Chairmen Nan Ackerman Long Range Planning, Cheryl Davis Music, Donna Hall Ticket Sales & Registration, Janice Snead Courtesy Resolutions; and

Past National Officers Karen Leighton Corresponding Secretary General and Historian General, and Robin Bagnall Recording Secretary General.

President Sims recognized the Pages: Cheryl Davis from Lettice Lee Chapter, Phifer Herrala from Colonial Trails Chapter, and Kathy de Jonge from Lettice Lee Chapter.

State Parliamentarian Snead read the eligibility to vote at State Conference from Article VIII, Meetings and Boards.

ROLL CALL

State Recording Secretary Holbert took roll call as follows:

State Officers

Office	Name	Present?
State President	Lorraine Sims	Yes
State First Vice President	Karen Leighton	Yes
State Second Vice President	Margaret Stromberg	Yes
State Chaplain	Patricia Haile	Yes
State Recording Secretary	Maureen Holbert	Yes
State Corresponding Secretary	Anne Terio	Yes
State Organizing Secretary	Melody Moen	
State Treasurer	Donna Hall	Yes
State Registrar	Janice Poole	Yes
State Historian	Natalie Rochelle	Yes
State Librarian	Crystal Geller	

State Appointed Officer

Appointed Office	Name	Present?
State Parliamentarian	Janice Snead	Yes

Honorary Virginia State Presidents

Name	Present?
Margaret Bennett, 1983-1985	
Alice Birdseye, 1999-2001	
Robin Bagnall, 2003-2005	Yes
Fran Davis, 2005-2007	
Karen Landers, 2007-2009	Yes
Nan Ackerman, 2009-2011	Yes
Jo Ann Killeen, 2011-2013	
Janice Snead, 2017-2019	Yes
Faye Sobel, 2019-2021	Yes
Constance Paradiso, 2021-2023	Yes

National Officers, National Appointed Officers, and Honorary National Officers

Name	Present?
Courtenay Stanley, Second Vice President General	Yes
Faye Sobel, Chaplain General	Yes
Karen Landers, Historian General	Yes
Jan Welch, Assistant Librarian General	
Margaret Stromberg, Headquarters Supervisor	Yes
Nan Ackerman, Honorary President General	Yes

National Chairmen

Name	Present?
Nan Ackerman, Long Range Planning	Yes
Suzanne Fichter, Marketing & Preservation of Historic Sites	
Donna Hall, Ticket Sales & Reservations	Yes
Janice Snead, Courtesy Resolutions	Yes
Sylvia Thorp, Mary Florence Tany Scholarship	Yes
Cheryl Davis, Music	Yes

State Chairmen

State Chairmanship	Name	Present?
America 250	Juliana Geris	
Awards, Gifts & Special Activities	Tina Barry	Yes
Bylaws	Nan Ackerman	Yes
Colonial Heritage, Research and Records	Connie Schroeder	
Credentials	Anne Jackson	Yes
Flag Custodian	Kathy Thomasson	Yes
Grave Markers	Susanne Fichter	
Gravestone Preservation	Sylvia Thorpe	Yes
Headquarters Decorating	Barbara Rooney	
Heraldry & Coats of Arms	Sue Evangelista	Yes
Insignia	Nancy O'Reardon	
Junior Membership Co-Chairman	Elise Geller	
Junior Membership Co-Chairman	Sophie Geller	
Marguerite Schaffler Award	Brenda DeJarnette	
Marking and Preservation of Historic Sites	VACANT	
Mary Virginia Clyde Intelligence Community Scholarship	Lea Fowlie	
Membership	Pamela Meiring	
Museum	Judith Vars	Yes
Music	Nathalie Steinbach	Yes
National Defense	Katherine Collins	Yes
Pages	Cheryl Davis	Yes
Pocahontas Projects	Courtenay Stanley	Yes
Printing & Publications	Cindy Steinbach	Yes
Protocol	Margaret Marshall	Yes
Public Relations	Melissa Clevenger	Yes

Scholarships	Sue Ray	Yes
State President's Project	Kathy Thomasson	Yes
Technology Support	Pamela Curtin	
Teller	Phifer Herrala	Yes
Timekeeper	Trudy Tanzillo	
Veterans Service	Sandra Reese	

Chapter Presidents and Members

Chapter	Chapter President	Chapter President Present?	Number Members Present?
Anne Constable Lee	Natalie Rochelle	Yes	3
Colonial Trails	Janice Snead	Yes	6
Eastern Shore	Christine Knudson		
George Mason I	Shawn Martin		2
House of Burgesses	Brenda Rose		2
Jamestown	Anne Terio	Yes	3
John Goode	Elizabeth Gielow		2
John Witt	Crystal Geller		2
Lettice Lee	Anne Jackson	Yes	7
Liberty Hall	Sarah Splaun		1
Lord De La Warr	Jennifer Carver		
Meherrin	Lucy Currin		
Necostin	Shelley Rodgers		
Pinnacle	Katherine Collins	Yes	2
Richmond Virginia	Barbara Owens	Yes	2
Shenandoah	Karen Landers	Yes	1
Sir Thomas Dale	Sylvia Thorpe	Yes	2
Suffolk	Mary Standahl	Yes	3
The Reverend James Blair	Patricia Collmeyer	Yes	2
Thomas, Lord Culpeper	Sue Evangelista	Yes	4
Virginia Colony	Margaret Stromberg	Yes	1
West of the Falls	Betty Jean Arrington		2
Wilderness Trail	Myrtle Buchanan	Yes	5
Wood's River	Susanne Bledsoe	Yes	4

The first credentials report was given by Anne Jackson, State Chairman Credentials. There are 53 voting members present which represents a majority accredited delegates. A quorum is present.

State Corresponding Secretary Terio presented the conference program.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

APPOINTMENT OF THE MINUTES APPROVAL COMMITTEE

President Sims appointed Margaret Stromberg and Janice Poole to the committee to approve the minutes of the 2024 State Conference.

President Sims introduced Melissa Clevenger as the Timekeeper.

REPORTS OF STATE OFFICERS

State President Lorraine Sims. State Vice President Karen Leighton took the Chair while President Sims gave her report. President Sims resumed the Chair.

State First Vice President – Karen Leighton

State Second Vice President – Margaret Stromberg

State Chaplain – Patricia Haile

State Recording Secretary – Maureen Holbert had no report.

State Organizing Secretary – Melody Moen (absent) filed report.

State Treasurer – Donna Hall. Finance and Budget Committee Member – Karen Leighton.

State Registrar – Janice Poole

State Historian – Natalie Rochelle

State Librarian – Crystal Geller (absent) had no report.

State Parliamentarian – Janice Snead had no report.

REPORTS OF STATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

National Defense, Katherine Collins; Awards, Gifts & Special Activities, Tina Barry; Flag Custodian, Kathy Thomasson; Gravestone Preservation, Sylvia Thorp; Heraldry & Coats of Arms, Sue Evangelista; Insignia, Nancy O'Reardon; Membership, Pamela Meiring; Museum, Judith Vars; Music, Nathalie Steinbach; Pages, Cheryl Davis; Pocahontas Projects, Courtenay Stanley; Public Relations, Melissa Clevenger; Scholarships, Sue Ray; State President's Project, Kathy Thomasson.

CREDENTIALS

The final credentials report was given by State Chairman Credentials Jackson.

	# present
State Officers and Appointed Officers	8
State Chairmen	11
Chapter Presidents, or their elected alternate	17
Honorary State Presidents	6
National Officers and Appointed Officers	4
Honorary National Officers	1
National Chairmen	4
Non-Voting Chapter Members	2
Delegates	17
Guests	
Total Attendance	55
Total eligible to vote, without duplication	53

REPORTS OF THE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

President Sims presented awards following the report from each chapter. Anne Constable Lee, Natalie Rochelle; Colonial Trails, Janice Snead; George Mason I, Shawn Martin (Presented by Nathalie Steinbach); Jamestown, Anne Terio; John Goode, Elizabeth Geilow (Presented by Bonnie Bew); Lettice Lee, Anne Jackson (Presented by Kathy de Jonge); Liberty Hall, Sarah Splaun (Presented by Jan Speare); Pinnacle, Katherine Collins; Richmond Virginia, Barbara Owens (Presented by Kathy Thomasson); Shenandoah, Karen Landers; Sir Thomas Dale, Sylvia Thorpe; Suffolk, Mary Standahl; The Reverend James Blair, Patricia Collmeyer; Thomas, Lord Culpeper, Sue Evangelista; Virginia Colony, Margaret Stromberg; West of the Falls, Betty Jean Arrington (Presented by Barbara Van Wagner); Wilderness Trail, Myrtle Buchanan; Wood's River, Susanne Bledsoe.

RECESS

Grace was given by State Chaplain Haile. The meeting recessed at 11:56 a.m. for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The meeting reconvened at 12:39 p.m. with the State Chorus Program by State Music Chairman Steinbach.

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

President Sims presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee to donate \$10,000 to the Heraldry Library. The motion passed.

President Sims called for nominations for alternates for the State President and the State First Vice President to the National Conference at the Washington Marriott Georgetown from 10-13 April 2024. Robin Bagnall nominated Janice Snead as Alternate for State President and Cheryl Davis as Alternate for State First Vice President. The motion passed. Others who plan to attend are Patricia Haile, Sylvia Thorpe, and Kathy de Jonge.

State Parliamentarian Snead read the Requirements for Elections of Nominating Committee by Ballot Voting from the Virginia Society Bylaws, Article VI. Pages assisted Credentials Chairman Terio with distribution of ballots. President Sims declared that the following members served on the previous nominating committee and are ineligible to serve: Jennifer Smith, Janice Poole, and Karen Leighton. The Nominating Committee's proposed slate will be announced at the 2024 Fall Board of Management and the election and installation will take place at the 2025 State Conference. Karen Leighton nominated Cindy Steinbach, Kim Defibaugh nominated Sylvia Thorpe, and Kathy de Jonge nominated Patricia Haile. Karen Leighton moved to close nominations which passed. Ballots were collected and the Tellers Committee reported that of 53 ballots there were only 50 counted due to three being ineligible.

Name	# votes
Cindy Steinbach	27
Patricia Haile	12
Sylvia Thorpe	11

President Sims declared that Cindy Steinbach would be Chair of the Nominating Committee. Cheryl Davis made a motion to destroy the ballots and the motion passed.

State Parliamentarian Snead read the Requirements for Endorsements for National Office from the National Bylaws, Article VI. President Sims called for endorsements. Myrtle Buchanan endorsed Lorraine Sims, and Honorary President General Ackerman endorsed Donna Hall, Karen Landers, Faye Sobel, Courtenay Stanley, Karen Leighton, and Janice Snead. Recording Secretary Holbert distributed the signed endorsement forms.

State Chairman Bylaws Ackerman read the proposed bylaws and standing rules.

- 1) Change Bylaws Article VIII Section 6.b to “The Executive Board shall meet prior to the Annual State Conference and the Fall Board of Management meetings to transact the business of the Society. The meeting may be held virtually. The Executive Board shall consider all matters affecting the welfare of the Society, submitting all recommendations at the Annual State Conference and Fall Board of Management meetings for final action. It may also meet for an emergency when called by the State President or by any three members of the Executive Board after due notice of said meeting shall have been sent in writing to all members of the Board.” The motion was made by Nan Ackerman and seconded by Karen Leighton. The motion passed.
- 2) Change Bylaws Article VIII Section 10 to “The Executive Board by majority vote, may authorize a virtual platform meeting of the Virginia Society. The meeting will be subject to all rules adopted by the Executive Board. These rules shall supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority but may not otherwise conflict with rules or decisions of the Society. A secure, anonymous vote conducted through the designated voting platform shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the bylaws or rules that a vote be by ballot.” The motion was made by Nan Ackerman and seconded by Natalie Rochelle. The motion failed.
- 3) Insert Standing Rule #29 to “The State dues shall be eight dollars (\$ 8.00).” The motion was made by Nan Ackerman and seconded by Katherine Collins. The motion passed.
- 4) Change Standing Rule 1.b to “Registration fees for the Annual State Conference and the Fall Board of Management Meeting are \$15 per member and \$15 per guest.”. The motion was made by Nan Ackerman and seconded by Anne Terio. The motion passed.
- 5) Change Standing Rule #7 to “Upon submission of an expense reimbursement request, the State Treasurer will reimburse the State President up to two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500) each year for her personal and operating expenses.” The motion was made by Nan Ackerman and seconded by Cheryl Davis. A proposed amendment to the motion was made by Nan Ackerman and seconded by Karen Leighton to change the language to, “The State Treasurer will reimburse the State President up to two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) each year for her personal and operating expenses.” The amendment was adopted and the motion passed.
- 6) Change Standing Rule #8 to “The State Society and Chapters shall erect markers when practicable at suitable sites in Virginia. The State shall budget five hundred dollars (\$500) annually to help defray the cost of Chapter markers. A Chapter may apply only once during the two-year term for a two hundred fifty dollar (\$250) grant. This will allow another Chapter an opportunity to apply for some assistance.” The motion was made by Nan Ackerman and seconded by Carolyn Shepherd. The motion passed.
- 7) Remove Standing Rule #22. The motion was made by Nan Ackerman and seconded by Margaret Stromberg. The motion passed.

The invitation to the 2024 Fall Board of Management was extended by Anne Terio on behalf of the Chapters in Region VII (Jamestown and Necostin). It will be held October 11-12, 2024 at a venue in Northern Virginia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Sims reminded chapters to visit the sales table.

BENEDICTION

The benediction was given by State Chaplain Haile.

President Sims thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the 2024 Virginia Society State Conference at 2:19 p.m.

Maureen Holbert, Recording Secretary