Western District, Vice President General Brian Stephens opened the meeting following remarks from President General John Dodd, at approximately 11:15 am on April 26, 2025.

VPG Report

Brian began his remarks by listing SAR activities attended since the last District Meeting held in October. Including attending Fall Leadership in Louisville, KY; Annual Nevada Society Meeting in Reno, NV; California Society Meeting in Bakersfield, CA; Mother Load Chapter Public Service Awards Dinner in Placerville, CA; Harbor, Riverside, and San Diego Chapter Meetings; and was a firing team member for the Riverside Salute to Veterans Parade.

He represented the District at the DAR/SAR Christmas Luncheon in Bakersfield, CA and a DAR Colonial Fashion Show fund raising luncheon in Rancho Pales Verdes, CA.

He announced that the America 250 State Commission in Hawaii is not listed on the National America 250 Commission website and the California Link is promoting 175 years of Dreaming. Compatriot Rob Moore, HI Trustee is a member of the National 250 Commission.

The National Council of VPG's of which he is Vice-Chair has been working with its members to encourage and assist State Presidents with Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement and to increase Americanism Report Submissions.

The WDSAR website has been updated and now includes the SAR Mission Statement and the nomination of Western District Secretary, Jim Klingler who was not present at the meeting was submitted to National for election at Congress in July.

Brian then addressed the chapter's options for officer roles and training. Those interested in positions like chapter registrar can access online training through SAR University, complete courses, and print certificates upon passing required tests. To become certified chapter president, one must complete all supporting role courses. It was clarified that

completion of all classes qualifies a member as a certified chapter officer. Specific duties such as color guard fall under separate committees. Most questions about chapter roles can be answered online, noting that the treasurer's responsibilities and compliance with the state attorney general or IRS were addressed by Jim Klingler who posted reference resources to the CA state website. There are dedicated online courses for chapter treasurers, ensuring compliance information is readily accessible, and the group acknowledged the need to actively seek and use these resources.

The discussion shifted to fundraising, highlighting a Nevada chapter's method of purchasing an SAR rifle and holding a raffle, successfully doubling their investment, a model replicated in Ohio. Questions arose about compliance with California's firearm regulations; it was explained that the chapter must transfer the firearm to the raffle winner through a federally licensed dealer (FFL), incurring a $35 paperwork fee, and that raffles must be registered with the state attorney general. Members noted that obtaining a raffle permit becomes routine after several years.

Old Business
The minutes from October 26, 2024, were approved without amendments as posted on the WDSAR website.

New Business
Western District's awards: certificates of distinguished service were presented to Gregory Hill (Webmaster) and James Klingler (Secretary). Both were absent, but their contributions were recognized. The President General had also tasked vice president generals with fostering relationships with state presidents; Don Littlefield was commended for his cooperation and received a certificate of appreciation, while Nevada Society President Jeff Gutting was honored at his Nevada state meeting two weeks prior. Brandon Villardi, the color guard commander, was recognized for teaching black powder classes and participating in district events, earning a certificate of appreciation for his dedication.

There was no new business from the floor and without objection the meeting was adjourned just before 11:30 am with light-hearted remarks and expressions of gratitude to all for their support of the Western District.