



South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes January 27, 2026

Meeting Location: Jack's Restaurant & Bar 1502 Saratoga Ave, San Jose, CA 95129 located in the Westgate Center Shopping Mall and via ZOOM

Special Activities & Events:
None

Officer Reports

President

No Report

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

- The ending balance on our Wells Fargo bank account as of 12/29/25 is \$2,349.62. an increase of \$50.00 (dues payments) from the prior month.
- Change to Wells Fargo Checking Account Terms:
 - Effective 03/01/26:
 - To avoid a monthly service fee of \$15 need to maintain a minimum daily balance of \$2,000
 - Since now is the low point of the year, before collecting most of our annual dues, should be okay without having to increase dues
 - Will have to be careful; no more donations.

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About The Anaconda Plan?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 10 (10 in-person; 0 via ZOOM)

This Month in Civil War History: January

1861: Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas secede from the United States.

1862: Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky. This Federal victory weakened the Confederate hold on the state

1863: The Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect. The Emancipation Proclamation was a war measure that declared enslaved people in rebelling states to be free, authorized the enlistment of black troops, and outraged white Southerners. The proclamation was an important turning point in the war for the United States and in the eventual shift from the goal of restoring the Union as it was, to building a better Union without slavery.

1864: President Lincoln approved a policy allowing plantation owners to free slaves and rehire them under fair contracts, signaling a shift towards Reconstruction

1865: Assault and capture of Fort Fisher, North Carolina. United States occupation of this fort at the mouth of the Cape Fear River closes access to Wilmington, the last Southern seaport on the east coast that was open to blockade runners and commercial shipping

Event of the Month:

Rescheduled to February Meeting

Historian

History of Decision Making

Note: Presentation to the Members of the Almaden Senior Center

Psychological Profiling

- General William T Sherman had staff conduct analysis of soldiers in his Army prior to the March to the Sea
- This was to determine the fitness of the soldiers to carry out their duties

Understanding the Causes of Insurrections

- Economic Distress and Fiscal Inequality (Taxation/Subsistence)
- Political Oppression, Lack of Representation, and Injustice
- Social Injustice, Racial Oppression, and Civil Rights Violations

Why Civil War Conscription Led to Violence

- Economic Inequality ("Rich Man's War")
- Violation of Liberty and States' Rights
- Racial and Social Tensions

Other Topics

High School Essay Contest

- Tonya McQuade will publish Essay Contest Outlook Article to various South Bay High Schools

- Process will be developed to review Essay responses to select three that will make a presentation to the SBCWRT Membership
- One Essay will be awarded a Prize of \$500
- A Location for event needs to be secured (e.g., Saratoga Senior Center)
- Event to be held on April 28, 2026

Agenda:

630pm-7pm

SBCWRT Overview

- Purpose of Organization
- Structure
- Officers
- Examples of Presentations

7:00pm-830pm

- High School Essay Contest
- Three contestants
- Each contestant will present their Essay
- Membership will then vote on who to award the prize to

January Presentation

Speaker: Alan Sissenwein on “The Checkered Civil War Career of Edwin Vose Sumner”

February Presentation

Speaker: Kirstein Ta on “Ars Moriendi - The Good Death”

March Presentation

Speaker Ron Vaughan on “The Mexican War”