



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes February 24, 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:

Central Coast Conference

- Date/Location: May 1-3, 2026 - Stanton Center, Monterey, CA
- Topic: Seldom Heard History of the Civil War Era
- Website URL: <https://whtours.org/seldom-heard-history-2026.html>

Officer Reports

President

No Report

Vice President

Civil War Related Documentaries on PBS

- Frederick Douglas: 19th Century American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman; most important leader of the movement for African-American civil rights
- Elizabeth van Lew: Prominent Richmond, VA, abolitionist who operated one of the most successful Union spy rings during the Civil War.

Treasurer

- The closing balance on our SBCWRT Wells Fargo checking account per our latest statement as of 1/31/26 is \$2,466.87, an increase of \$117.25 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 Black Codes and Jim Crow?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 9 (9 in-person; 0 via ZOOM)

This Month in Civil War History: February

1861: The delegates at the Montgomery Convention appoint Jefferson Davis as provisional President of the Confederate States of America at Montgomery, Alabama, a position he will hold until elections can be arranged.

1862: Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina. A Confederate defeat, the battle resulted in US occupation of eastern North Carolina and control of Pamlico Sound, to be used as Northern base for further operations against the southern coast.

1863: Diplomatic Maneuvers: France offered to mediate an end to the war, but the United States rejected the offer shortly after.

1864: Escape from Libby Prison, Richmond. After weeks of digging, 109 United States officers made their escape from the notorious Libby Prison, the largest and most sensational escape of the war. Though 48 of the escapees were later captured and two drowned, 59 were able to make their way into US lines.

1865: Wilmington, NC, falls to Federal troops, closing the last important Southern port on the east coast. On this same day, Joseph E. Johnston is restored to command the nearly shattered Army of the Tennessee, vice John B. Hood, who resigned a month earlier.

Ship of the Month: USS Water Witch

To Be Rescheduled

Historian

No Report

Other Topics

High School Essay Contest

- Tonya McQuade published Essay Contest Outlook Article
- URL Link added to SBCWRT web site announcing Contest

- Date/Location: April 28, 2026; Saratoga Senior Center
 - Process to Review Essay Responses at March 31 SBCWRT Meeting
 - Select three to make a presentation to SBCWRT Membership

Agenda:

630pm-645pm

- Central Coast Conference Reminder
- Treasurer's Report
- General Discussion w/Refreshments as Contestants arrive

700pm-715pm

SBCWRT Overview

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

715pm-745pm

- High School Essay Contest
- Three contestants
- Each contestant will present their Essay
- Membership will then vote on who to award the \$500 prize to

745pm-800pm

- Special Quiz For Essay Contestants

February Presentation

Speaker: Kirstein Ta on "Ars Moriendi - The Good Death"

March Presentation

Speaker Ron Vaughan on "The Mexican War"

April Presentation

High School Essay Contest