



## **South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes April 28, 2026**

**Meeting Location:** Saratoga Senior Center, 19655 Allendale Ave,  
Saratoga, CA 95070 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**

- Welcomed High School Contestants and Guests
- Provided Overview of South Bay Civil War Roundtable
  - Founded in 1990
  - Purpose: Continue to Study the Civil War, its causes, the war itself, and its effect on America
  - Monthly Meetings: Last Tuesday of each Month

#### **Vice President**

No Report

#### **Treasurer**

No Report

#### **Secretary**

- Civil War Quiz: What Do You Know About The American Civil War?
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 27 (279 in-person; 0 via ZOOM)

## Historian

No Report

## Other Topics

**New SBCWRT Member:** Sandy Schaab

### **SBCWRT High School Essay Contest**

- Date: April 28, 2026
- Location: Saratoga Senior Center
- Contestants:
  - **1st Place:** Emmett Spear, Junior, Branham High School:  
Essay Topic: “The Killer Angels and How Passion Keeps History Moving”

#### **Synopsis:**

The initial assignment to read “The Killer Angels” as part of an English Class Literature Circle project was viewed with disdain, especially the large number of pages. However, the illustrative writing style of author, Michael Shaara, converted what was viewed as a painful effort into a desire to develop an interest in the Civil War. The Essay contains the oft spoken statement that “...we must learn history so as to not repeat it ourselves.” However, the more impactful lesson learned from the story is that understanding the actions of those that came before us provides us with a tool to not only realize why we live how we live, but to come at it with a curious point of view. Those with true passion and wisdom may be the ones that can help preserve the stories of our past and the history of our future.

- **2nd Place:** Madelyn Leigh Holzhey: A Reflection on America’s Deadliest War

#### **Synopsis:**

The study of the Civil War in Elementary school history classes failed to teach the full expanse of the conflict, leaving out critical issues such as the enormous number of casualties and how its aftermath had a long and troubling impact on America. As a result, for many years, much of the South embraced the “*Lost Cause*” belief that the war was a just one

in support of slavery; that the war was really about Northern aggression. A desire to learn more about the Civil War led to discovering the “*Checkmate Lincolnites*”; a series that discussed many of the myths surrounding the Civil War, why it started, the generals under both nations, all of it. The Civil War is a crucial part of American history, both because of its cause being an unjust labor system the nation had profited off for years and because it forever changed America as a nation. To leave the people so uneducated on such a crucial topic is to abandon them.

### **April Presentation**

High School Essay Contest

### **May Presentation**

Mark Costin: Mexican-American War Battles: Battle of Cerro Gordo

### **June Presentation**

Kristin Patterson on “The Funding of the Gettysburg National Cemetery”