

# SAN DIEGO MEMORIAL SOCIETY

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To Fellow Members of the San Diego Memorial Society:

I am writing to introduce myself and inform you of some changes at the San Diego Memorial Society.

My name is John Nugent, and at the most recent (May 2017) San Diego Memorial Society Board meeting I was elected to the Board and then elected to serve as the volunteer President of the San Diego Memorial Society.

I may have met some of you at our April membership meeting. At the April 2017 Annual Membership meeting I expressed my desire to join the SDMS Board after reading about the “call” for new Board members in the Spring SDMS newsletter. Previously, I had been a Board member of a Memorial Society in the State of Washington.

I am retired, after having been an Executive in the Health Care field for over 40 years. During my career I worked for and served on a number of non-profit Boards of Directors.

I have lived in San Diego (Mission Valley) since 2011 and since living here, with my wife of close to 45 years, have served on the Board's of our local HOA, Walkabout International and the Mission Valley Planning Group.

While I don't know Barbara Thompson well (our newly retired/former Executive Director), I want to express my great and deep appreciation for her ten years of service to the SDMS mission. Barbara's compassion with our members and her organizational skills with the SDMS administrative duties have kept our mission to the SDMS members alive and strong. As members of SDMS we should be deeply grateful of the time and energy that Barbara gave to our mission. Thank you Barbara!

I have immersed myself in San Diego Memorial Society documents and am learning about the great history of our mission, and the members who have served, and serve, in various leadership positions since 1958.

The SDMS Board has approved a new position description for a SDMS office coordinator staff member and we are actively recruiting/interviewing for the position. In the meantime Caroline Flanders is serving as our interim Executive. We are very grateful for Caroline stepping in to serve our mission in this capacity.

While I have heard some of the community rumors and urban myths about the future of the San Diego Memorial Society, I want to assure you that SDMS will continue in operation, your memberships are safe and our partnering mortuaries will continue to provide you the membership services you were promised, hopefully you won't need them in the near future.

I am grateful for the Society members, and SDMS Board members, who expressed confidence in me by sending warm greetings and encouragement as I take on these mission responsibilities. I look forward to meeting many of you at future SDMS annual membership meetings.

However, I, and the Board, can only do so much. We need your help to recruit new members, to recommend and encourage volunteers (or yourself) to serve the SDMS and on the SDMS Board, and to think of the SDMS as you support your community through monetary donations.

I am also looking for opportunities to meet members, speak to groups and organizations about the San Diego Memorial Society mission and update the community about our future.

If you have any questions, concerns, problems or praise about the San Diego Memorial Society please contact me at: [President@sdmsonline.com](mailto:President@sdmsonline.com)

My number one goal is the furtherance of the San Diego Memorial Society mission and the satisfaction of SDMS members.

Thank you for your support for the mission of the San Diego Memorial Society.

Sincerely

John W. Nugent, President of the SDMS Board of Directors

P.S. Our mailing address, phone numbers and website URL (address) remain the same. They are listed at the top of this letter.

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