



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—April/May 2008



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Newsletter Editor

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Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at 11:00 am
at the downtown Holiday Inn
unless otherwise noted.

14 April 2008
Regular Meeting

12 May 2008
Regular Meeting

9 June 2008
Regular Meeting

President's Message

This being my first President's Message I wish to thank you all for electing me to this position in the year of the Chapter's 50th Anniversary. I know that I speak, not only for myself, but for the Chapter's new and past officers in all our appreciation for the large turn out at the installation Banquet this past Saturday. The arrangement committee (the Maples and the Alexanders) really knocked themselves out preparing for a great evening and a smooth transition for the changing of Chapter officers. A special thanks goes out to Mr. Henry Oldham for again providing background music for yet another SAR function. I have also been informed that the Ladies Auxiliary raised \$40.00 in their raffle for a "goodie" basket, so it appears that it was a good night for them too.

The Chapter appreciates the efforts of the ALSSAR's Senior Vice President John Killian for the Banquet's keynote presentation on the impact of the Scotch-Irish/Scots-Irish/Ulster Scots's role in starting, fighting and successfully finishing the American Revolution. It was definitely an attention grabbing speech, showing much care in research and presentation.

The new Chapter officers will, in the next few weeks, be planning our methods and means by which to continue presenting programs combining our Society's unique mix of history, genealogy, patriotism and public service. We will be updating the Chapter's year book. The last time this was done was in membership year 2005-2006. Compatriot Jim Maples will bring a draft copy to our Chapter meetings so you can review your contact information and update it, as needed. In addition to the contact information we already have, we would also like to know if you served in any armed conflict. We will also be planning an event in celebration of the Chapter's 50 years



Essay winner Megan Wright reads her winning essay at the February meeting

of existence. More of this later. We will be appointing Committee Chairmen in the near future. If you have a preference, please let me know.

Lastly, on 4 May 2008, at 4:30 p.m., in Maple Hill Cemetery, as the last event of the Cemetery Stroll, there will be an erection of a memorial stone celebrating, George Taylor, the Revolutionary War ancestor of Compatriot Bill Pitman. We look forward to this ceremony as being a big ending to a big occasion. If any compatriots have Revolutionary War ancestors whose graves are not marked as such, please contact any of the new officers, and we will see what we can do to expedite the recognition of their service.



Outgoing President Brian Alexander places the neck ribbon on our new Chapter President, Richard Smallwood.

Secretary's Report February Meeting

President **Brian Alexander** opened the meeting and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and the pledge to SAR. Compatriot **Les McAbee** gave the invocation. President **Brian Alexander** recognized the guests in attendance: **Chet and Ruth Wright, Megan Wright, Nelda Newell, Kaity Brown, Jim and Kristen Armitage, Abby Alexander, Susan Crabtree, Jeff Murphy, Olivia Motley, Tyler Goldbach, Jodi Johnson, and Brian House.**

State President **Jim Alexander** presented certificates to the winners of the chapter's essay contest:

Third Place (tie)—**Tyler Goldbach** and **Kaity Brown**

Second Place---**Olivia Motley**

First Place-- **Megan Wright**

First Place winner, Megan Wright read her winning essay to the chapter.

Compatriot **Ernie Ritch** quizzed the compatriots on the colonial period. Compatriot **Dave Billings** presented the treasurer's report with an adjusted balance of savings and checking of \$12,850.38. He noted that some of the revenues were related to the state convention. He reported that there were 76 paid members. He reminded members that dues for 2008 were \$52 and that they should see Compatriot **Jim Maples** if they would like to register for the state convention.

Compatriot **Les McAbee** extended the condolences from the chapter to Compatriot **Hoyt Smith** on the recent death of his brother. State President **Jim Alexander** reported that **Megan Wright's** essay has been sent to the state competition. Three other chapters will have entries in the state contest: Mobile, Birmingham, and Montgomery.

State President **Jim Alexander** announced that the chapter banquet would be held on Saturday, March 29th, at the Valley Hill Country Club. Compatriot **Jim Maples** encouraged chapter members to participate in the state convention which will be held February 29-March 1st.

President **Brian Alexander** requested volunteers to assist in the transporting of flags for the state convention banquet from the Heritage Room to the Crystal Ballroom.

State President **Jim Alexander** and Compatriot **Jim Maples** discussed the upcoming convention and mentioned some of the dignitaries who would be in attendance:

David Appleby (Secretary General and Special Guest)

Nathan White (Past President General)

David Sympson (Historian General)

Charles Bragg (Genealogist General)

Steve Lieschman (National Executive Committee)

Larry Guzy (National Congress Planning Committee Chairman)

State President **Jim Alexander** reported the nominating committee's recommendations for chapter officers for the coming year:

President—**Richard Smallwood**

Vice-President—**Dave Billings**

Secretary—**Chip Manning**

Treasurer—**Jim Alexander**

Registrar—**Derald Morgan**

Chaplain—**Father Les McAbee**

Historian—**Bob Adams**

The chapter voted to accept the recommended slate of officers.

President **Brian Alexander** reminded the membership that there would be no March meeting due to the banquet. Other upcoming dates to remember were presented:

February 15th—CAR State Convention in Montgomery

February 21st and 22nd—National Trustee and

Leadership Meeting

March 8th—Mississippi State Convention in Jackson, Mississippi

March 29th—Chapter Banquet

President **Brian Alexander** led the recessional. Compatriot **Les McAbee** gave the benediction. Vice-President **Richard Smallwood** adjourned the meeting.



ALSSAR Senior Vice-President John Killian gave a presentation on the history of the Scots-Irish at the Tennessee Valley Chapter's Annual Banquet held on Saturday, March 31st at Valley Hill Country Club.

"Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom."

John Adams

Upcoming Events

14 April 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

12 May 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

9 June 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

Revolutionary Questions

1. What was the last major battle fought in the South? Hint: MG Nathanael Greene vs British LtCol Alexander Stewart.
2. What was the name of the largest engagement of the Revolutionary War? Hint: Took place in Virginia.
3. Who was the leader of the Crown forces in this engagement?
4. Which city did General Washington try to procure as the new nation's 14th colony? Hint: Washington's two flanks of troops were led by Colonel Arnold and General Richard Montgomery.
5. Who was the German hero of the Battle of Camden? Hint: Alabama has a county named for him.



ALSSAR Senior Vice-President John Killian installs the 2008 - 2009 Tennessee Valley Chapter Officers at the recent Tennessee Valley Chapter's Annual Banquet. See page 2 for a list of the new officers.

There are several members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter who have not paid their dues for 2008. If you are one of those Com-patriots, send your check for \$52.00 made payable to "Tennessee Valley Chapter, SAR" to:

Jim Alexander
271 Rainbow Dr.
Madison, AL 35758-8776



At the left, State Eagle Scout Chairman, Derald Morgan, presents a certificate and check to our state Eagle Scout of the Year, Davis Faulkner, as National Trustee, Larry Cornwell looks on. In the picture above, Davis is shown presenting his award check to Joe Fitzgerald, President of Tennessee Valley Honor Flight, for use by the organization. Joe was at the Annual Banquet to receive the Silver Good Citizenship Medal, and Davis decided to donate his award to the Honor Flight after hearing Joe talk about what Honor Flight does for WWII Veterans.

Alabama Society 2008 Convention



Secretary General David Appleby presents Jim Wardlaw with the State President's medal. Secretary General Appleby is assisted by Genealogist General Chuck Bragg.



Secretary General David Appleby addresses the State Convention Banquet



Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: