



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—April/May 2007



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Meeting Schedule

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

9 April 2007

Regular Meeting
11:00 am Holiday Inn

14 May 2007

Regular Meeting
11:00 am Holiday Inn

Chapter web site

www.SAR1776.com

State web site

www.alssar.org

State President's Message

On February 17, I was installed as the 57th president of the Alabama Society. I follow several recent outstanding state presidents from the Tennessee Valley Chapter: Jim Maples, Hoyt Smith, Rev. Henry Tuttle, Bill Pittman and Alan Raffalovich.

This is certainly an honor, and I appreciate the society's confidence and trust in me. I look forward to working with the state officers, members, and particularly, each of you in the Tennessee Valley Chapter. Also, I solicit your help for our new chapter president and for me as state president as we face the challenges in the coming year.

Our local chapter is in good shape financially, however, our membership has declined during the past few years. We have lost **too** many members for non-payment of dues. If you know of a member who has not renewed his membership, please contact him and encourage him to become active again. Everyone's attendance, participation, and support are greatly needed.

I commend each of you for your loyal support of the Tennessee Valley Chapter and I look forward to another successful year in the SAR.

See you at the April 9 meeting

Congratulations go to Abby Alexander, the Vice-President of the newly formed Alabama Ladies Auxiliary of the SAR!



Brian Alexander presents a gift to our Chapter Banquet speaker, Margaret Anne Goldsmith.



State President Jim Alexander places the neck ribbon around his son Brian after installing the Tennessee Valley Chapter Officers for 2007 - 2008. Newly installed Vice-President Richard Smallwood looks on.

Secretary's Report February

President **Derald Morgan** opened the meeting. Compatriot **Ernie Ritch** led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot **Fred Holland** led the pledge to the SAR. **Father Les McAbee** gave the invocation. President **Morgan** recognized the guests in attendance. They were **Russell Jenness, Ralph McKinney, Ben Odendahl**, and the essay contest winners and their parents and sponsors.

Essay Contest Chairman **Jim Alexander** recognized the winners of the essay contest. The winners were: 1st place winner, **Regan Humphrey** of Randolph School, 2nd place winner, **Anna Worth** of Randolph School, 3rd place runner-up, **Savanah Long** of Huntsville High School, and 4th place runner-up, **Michael Elhadj** of Bob Jones High School. The winners read their essay for the group. Chairman **Alexander** presented each winner with a certificate and a monetary award. He also presented the high school sponsors, **Mrs. Diane Blocker, Mrs. Nelda Newell** and **Mrs. Jeff Murphy**, with certificates of appreciation. Oration contest winner, **Ben Odendahl**, presented his speech to the group.

Compatriot **Ernie Ritch** quizzed the compatriots on the colonial period. President **Morgan** stated that Treasurer **Ritch** reported 70 members had paid dues.

Secretary **Jim Alexander** made 3 motions for consideration of the chapter. They were:

1. That the chapter pays the dues of any member that is on active duty and assigned overseas. **The motion was voted on and approved.**
2. That the chapter assists the oration contest candidate with expenses to the state contest. The financial assistance will be one night's lodging at the hotel where the contest is being held and 25 cents per mile from Huntsville to the location of the state contest. **The motion was voted on and approved.**
3. That the chapter initiate an American History Teacher program to parallel the same program started by the National Society, and that this program take the place of the present chapter Teacher of the Month program. **The motion to start the American History Teacher program was voted on and approved.** In the discussion of the Teacher of the Month award, it was decided that this award continue but be based on merit and qualifications, rather than by simple nomination, and that requests for teacher applications be sent to all high schools in the Huntsville area.

Nominating Committee member **Jim Alexander** gave the nominating committee report. The nominees were: President – **Brian Alexander**, Vice President – **Richard Smallwood**, Secretary – **Larry Crabtree**, Treasurer – **David Billings**, Registrar – **Steve Pearce**, Chaplain – **Father Les McAbee**, and Historian – **Gary Markham**. **These nominees were voted on and approved** by the chapter and will be installed as the chapter officers for 2007-2008. Their installation will take place during the March banquet at the Valley Hill Country Club.

President **Morgan** reminded everyone about the state convention at Montgomery on the 16th and 17th of February and the chapter banquet at the Valley Hill Country Club on March 3. Compatriot **Brian Alexander** led the recessional, and **Father Les McAbee** gave the benediction. President **Morgan** adjourned the meeting.

Revolutionary Answers

1. George Washington was the first president of "this society" made up of American and French veteran officers of the Revolution.

Society of the Cincinnati

2. This "badge", designed in 1782 and created in 1783, was awarded in 1783 to three non-commissioned officers in recognition of their meritorious action, unusual gallantry, extraordinary fidelity, and essential service. This honor badge is now known as the "Purple Heart."

Badge of Military Merit

3. Which President of the U.S. re-appointed George Washington as Commander-in-Chief in 1798?

John Adams

4. Which President began the observation of our November holiday by proclaiming a "day of Thanksgiving?"

George Washington



Chapter Essay Contest winner, **Regan Humphrey**, is presented her certificate at the February meeting.

"No taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant."

George Washington

Upcoming Events

- 9 April** - 11:00 am, Regular Meeting, Holiday Inn downtown.
- 5 May** - 10:00am, Board of Manager's Meeting, The American Village.
- 12 May** - 12:00 noon, Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge grave marking for Lewellen Jones - UAH Campus
- 14 May** - 11:00am, Regular Meeting, Holiday Inn downtown.
- 7 July - 11 July** - National Congress, Williamsburg, VA

(This information was received from Glenn Nivens)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US...

FRIDAY, 27 April 2007, 3:00PM...Alabama State Capitol, Montgomery

GOVERNOR BOB RILEY will sign the 2007 Blue Star Salute Proclamation at a Press Conference in the State Capitol, and this will designate Memorial Day (Monday) 28 May as BLUE STAR SALUTE DAY THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

Maximum numbers of uniformed Colonial/Militia Sons of the American Revolution are requested to "stand behind the Governor" during the signing.

Thus, please share this note with other Color Guard members. If members of GA, FL, MS (and other states) are able to participate, please bring those State Flags.

Off-street parking is ONLY available in the Crampton Bowl parking area which is east of Jackson Street. We will assemble in the Alabama American Legion HQ, 120 North Jackson Street, Montgomery 36104, about 2:00pm to allow walking the two blocks to the Capitol Building before the 3:00PM ceremony.



President General Nathan White points to the name of his patriot ancestor, John Drake, listed on the wall just outside the "Patriot Doors" entrance to the Chapel at The American Village. Looking on are former VPG, Southern District, Rod Hildreth and First Lady, Wanda White.

Revolutionary Questions

1. On September 22, 1777, Washington and his American troops were bitterly defeated by Cornwallis and Howe at this Pennsylvania creek.
2. John Paul Jones famous response, "I have not yet begun to fight", was in answer to the captain of which British frigate?
3. On the night of April 18, 1775, which of the three riders on their way to warn the Minutemen of Lexington and Concord actually eluded the British and gave the alarm to Concord?
4. What happened to the other two riders?
5. In 1781, which general from Rhode Island led the Colonists against a deployment of British troops at Eutaw Springs, South Carolina, the last major battle the American would fight in the war for independence?



President General Nathan White places the State President neck ribbon on Compatriot Jim Alexander at the Alabama Society Annual Meeting.

The Distinguished Patriot Leadership Award



President General Nathan White presented Tom Walker "The Distinguished Patriot Leadership Award" for his work with The American Village. Tom is the founder and Executive Director of The American Village.

Jim Maples
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TO:

