



# The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society  
Sons of the American Revolution—August/September 2011

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**Meeting Schedule****8 August 2011**

11:00am Regular Meeting  
Huntsville Public Library  
Main Meeting Room

**12 September 2011**

11:00am Regular Meeting  
Huntsville Public Library  
Main Meeting Room

**10 October 2011**

11:00am Regular Meeting  
Huntsville Public Library  
Main Meeting Room

***President's Message***

Greetings Compatriots! A lot has taken place since our last Chapter meeting on Jun 13th. First, some great news! Patricia and I are Grandparents again. Our Son Barry and wife Dina had a little boy--Rowan--on Jul 16th. This is great since our next oldest Grandchild is now 9.

Secondly, from Jul 8th through the 13th Jim Maples, Jim Alexander, David Billings and I attended the SAR National Congress in Winston-Salem, N.C. The Congress is well worth attending and I hope a number of you in our Chapter will be able to attend at least one Congress. There is truly a great deal of business transacted there, not just all fun and games. One of the greatest assets is meeting fellow Compatriots from all across the United States and discussing the similarities of our individual Chapters. It seems that any concern we have in the Tennessee Valley Chapter is virtually a concern in all Chapters; i.e., recruitment, meeting attendance, monies to fund the different programs, retaining members year to year, etc. We seem to be handling these challenges as well as or better than most Chapters with which I spoke.

A couple of the high points during the Congress dealt with our Youth Programs. The elimination rounds and the finals for the Rumbaugh Oration Contest were held and were great! Next we attended the Youth Awards Luncheon where the Youth Contest winners of all contests were presented their awards. You would have been very impressed with these young people. They were poised, articulate and clean-cut, just a great representation of the Youth of America. For me, this brought to mind the excellent job our own Tennessee Valley Chapter Committee Chairmen are doing to develop our Youth Programs. Thanks to Bob Anderson, Philip Graham, Darryl Adams and Jody Creekmore for their diligent work. Also thanks to Kim Keller for the Great Youth Quizzes that bring in the needed monies and Bob Hammond who has given us clear insight into what we can allocate to these programs. Each and every Officer, Committee Chairman and Compatriot who attends our meetings plays a huge part in our Community outreach. Without you our programs would be zilch, so thanks again! I hope that next year we will have a Tennessee Valley Chapter winner standing on that National stage.

As most of you probably already know, our own Jim Maples has been elected Vice-President General of the Southern District, Larry Cornwell of the Richard Montgomery Chapter in Montgomery was elected Genealogist General, and Mike Wells of the Birmingham Chapter was elected Librarian General. All of these Alabama Compatriots will make us proud. Speaking of making us proud, our own David Byers won the Liberty Medal for recruiting at least 10 new members. At the rate he is going, he'll get many more of these awards.

Next I wish to commend Ron Bledsoe. As we all knew he would, he hit the ground running as our coordinator for the 2012 State SAR Convention. He has held three meetings to help deal with the many aspects of hosting a Convention. He will be asking all of us to play a part, so be ready to say YES!

Finally, remember that on August 8th we have our regular monthly meeting and George Royer has a super program lined up on the "Music of the Revolution." Also, in August on the 13th, we will have our annual SAR "Summer Picnic." It will be held at my home at 111 Steele Street here in Huntsville. Patricia and I will furnish BBQ chicken and drinks and all attendees will bring a side dish. This should be a great get-together.

See all of you on the 8th.

*Connie Cook*

### *Upcoming Events*

**8 August 2011** - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

**13 August 2011** - Chapter picnic, 111 Steele St. Huntsville (home of Connie and Pat Cook)

**12 September 2011** - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

**21 September** - 1:30pm, Genealogy Class conducted by State Registrar Ron Bearden, and Chapter Registrar David Byers, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium.

### *Secretary's Report - June Meeting*

Call to Order – President Conrad Cook called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, the SAR Pledge, and the invocation. He then introduced the guests at the meeting. Some of the guests introduced have their papers in and are awaiting approval for membership into the SAR. There were 20 Chapter members and 14 guests attending the meeting. The Minutes from the May meeting were accepted without public reading.

Program: Vice President and Program Chair, George Royer introduced the program – Larry Cornwell and Leanne Cornwell from the Richard Montgomery Chapter of the SAR. He provided their biographies and introduced them where they portrayed the General and his wife, Janet Livingston Montgomery both in costume and describing their lives in the first person. A question and answer session followed. George Royer then presented them Certificates of Appreciation for their fine program.

George then previewed the August program which will be a bandsman from the Army Materiel Command Band who will talk about the music of the Revolution.

President Cook then introduced Kim Keller for the youth quiz about John Paul Jones. The tri-corn hat was passed for donations for the youth program.

Announcements: President Cook announced that Ron Bledsoe would be our Committee Chairman for the State Convention to be held here in February 2012. Ron will be assembling a committee to prepare for the convention. Connie urged each member to find an advertiser for the program. He reported that the NSSAR merchandise store is now back on line with improvements except in speed of shipments which are still slow. They now have a single log-in credential for entering the website.

In an effort to expand our membership, we sent letters to all "at large" compatriots in our North Alabama area inviting them to attend our Chapter meetings. We hope to get some new affiliations.

President Cook then asked for recommendations of individuals who have made outstanding sacrifices to assist others. SAR would like to recognize them with a medal at upcoming

meetings. Recommendations include sacrifices such as: Medal for Heroism, Law Enforcement Commendation Medal, Fire Safety Commendation Medal, Emergency Medical Service Commendation Medal or the Bronze and Silver Good Citizenship Medals.

The chapter presented a Memorial book to the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library in the name of Compatriot Carl Jerry Whelchel.

Compatriots James Maples and Bob Hammond are working together to up-date our membership database. If any compatriot's address, phone number, or e-mail address has recently changed, he is urged to let them know of any errors or updates. We especially need this for upcoming dues statements.

Based upon the recent Officer's meeting, Connie announced that recommendations for monetary donations to any function, organization or individual should be presented to any officer for a financial review first prior to bringing it before the membership. Finally, Connie expressed his appreciation for the continued service to the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the SAR by Larry and Susan Crabtree.

Committee reports:

Secretary – No Report

Treasurer – Bob Hammond reported that as of our last bank statement, we have \$2007.43 in savings and \$3008.22 in checking. Our income in the previous month was \$145.00 from Youth Program, contributions and member reinstatement dues. Our monthly expenses were \$235.23, mainly from payment of reinstated member's state and national dues, a memorial donation to the library for our member, Carl Jerry Whelchel, and officer supplies and postage. Our Youth Program contributions so far this chapter year total \$421.42.

As of today, our chapter membership stands at 100 with 2 more reinstatements in the system. The past month has been significant for membership increase. Seven new member applications were approved, one transfer was completed and four reinstatements were finalized. Membership renewal/dues collection for 2012 will begin later in the summer. We are asking that all members whose mailing addresses may have changed in the past year to let the Treasurer, Bob Hammond, know so that the renewal/membership cards are not returned as undeliverable. His e-mail address is on the chapter website. Our latest financial report is attached.

Registrar – David Byers explained the process of membership approvals. Seven have been approved this past month. Four applications are pending now at National.

Historian – Bob Adams reported that he had no report.

Old business: President Cook announced that the next meeting of the Chapter would be at the Library on August 8. The Chapter picnic will be on August 13.

Jim Maples announced that the play *1776* would be held at Lee High School at the end of June. He highly recommended the play and requested people contact him for information.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned with the Recessional and benediction at 12:30 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report**

June, 2011 (bank data current as of May 18, 2011)

Savings	Prior month	\$2007.43
	Monthly activity	none
	Current month	\$2007.43
Checking	Prior month	\$3098.45
Income	Youth programs	\$ 85.00
	Member dues (reinstat.)	60.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 145.00</b>
Expense	Banquet meal refund	\$ 35.00
	Library room fee (Jun)	10.00
	Member reinstatements	90.00
Supplies & postage		50.23
Memorial donation		50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 235.23</b>
Current month		\$3008.22

Monthly Highlights-

- A) Youth program contributions this chapter year total \$421.42.
- B) A memorial donation was made to the Huntsville-Madison County Library Heritage Room in honor of our member, Carl Jerry Whelchel.
- C) As of June 1, 2011, official chapter membership totals 94, including 2 dual members. One transfer from the General Richard Montgomery chapter is still waiting processing at National. There is 1 member reinstatement currently in the system. We have 4 new member applications, with approved genealogies, waiting final processing by National and assignment of membership numbers.
- D) Four reinstatements were recently finalized at National. Leon George Kircher, Wesley B. Allen, Daniel Leo Coberly and Francis Raymond Lewis are now regular chapter members.
- E) Our membership renewal/dues collection for 2012 will likely begin in August or September. If any member has moved since the dues time last year, he should contact the Treasurer (rmh12@aol.com), or any other officer, to ensure addresses are correct in our chapter records so that dues cards can be successfully delivered.



General and Mrs. Richard Montgomery (aka Larry and Leanne Cornwell) were our guest speakers for our June meeting. Vice-President George Royer presented them with Certificates of Appreciation.



National Officers for 2011-2012 from left to right:  
 Librarian General Mike Wells of the Birmingham Chapter  
 Genealogist General Larry Cornwell of the General Richard Montgomery Chapter  
 Vice-President General of the Southern District Jim Maples of the Tennessee Valley Chapter



The Tennessee Valley Chapter provided "greeters" for the musical 1776 held at Lee High School. Above Bob Baccus opens the door for attendees. At the right, Jim Maples, Bob Hammond, Bob Anderson, and David Byers man the information table.



*National Congress 2011—Winston-Salem, NC*



Jim Maples  
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TO: