

The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—December 2009



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Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at 11:00 am
at the Ryan's on University Dr.
unless otherwise noted

14 December 2009
11:00am Regular Meeting
Ryan's

11 January 2009
11:00am Regular Meeting
Ryan's

President's Message

Our members are our Chapter. We want each member to participate in the Chapter's activities to the extent of his interest. If you are interested in being more involved in the Chapter's activities, let me know. We have received the Membership Certificates for six new members: Robert Hammond, William Lawrence Johnson, Marc Byers, David Edward Byers, Clinton Byers, and David Scott Sanders. Please welcome them into the Chapter. Talk with them about their interests and how they would like to be involved in chapter activities. Let Larry Crabtree and me know of their interests.

David Byers, our Registrar, reports we have 11 initial applications pending at national, 5 supplementals approved and 4 supplementals under review. Jim Alexander, our Treasurer, reports we have 87 full members and 2 dual members. We have 5 prospective members working on their initial applications and additional prospects preparing to do so. We have 103 full and prospective members. Our goal for the end of December 2009 is 100. Congratulations! Now we need to help our prospective members file their applications. Continue to encourage new prospective members to come to our meetings and ask for our assistance with their applications.

If you haven't been to the new website for the National Society of the SAR, I encourage you to visit it. In addition to a new look, it also has new features. One of these features is the SAR Online Member Database System. This system allows you to verify and update your contact information. Updating your information online will help the Chapter, State and National Society maintain accurate membership information about you and your compatriots. So, login and check out your information. Update your contact information, mailing address, telephone number, or email address.

The Alabama Society of the SAR State Convention will be February 26-27, 2010 at the Hilton Birmingham Perimeter Park, 8 Perimeter Park South off of Highway 280. A reception will be held Friday evening from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. so attendees may meet and greet each other. A George Washington Breakfast will be held Saturday morning at 7 a.m. The Business Meeting will follow at 9 a.m. followed by the Oration Contest. Saturday afternoon is for your enjoyment. At 7 p.m. the Saturday night banquet will begin. The Hotel reservation deadline is February 5th. You must call the Hilton to make reservations for one of the Alabama Sons of the American Revolution Convention block of rooms at a special rate of \$99 per night (plus tax which is currently 14%) parking included. Registration for SAR members is \$30 before February 5th and \$40 after February 5th. The George

Washington Breakfast and the Saturday Night Banquet are in addition to the registration fee. For the registration form and more information go to <http://www.alsar.org> and click on the "State Convention Registration Forms."



Awards Chairman, Hoyt Smith, presents a Silver Good Citizenship Medal to COL Jody Creekmore. Jody was our October speaker and he gave us an interesting update on the war in Iraq.

Secretary's Report - October Meeting

Opening: Comp. Jim Alexander opened the meeting, Comp. Jody Creekmore led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and the pledge to the SAR. The following guests were recognized: Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Abby Alexander, and Mr. Henry Oldham.

Members in Attendance: 18 Members (J. Maples, J. Alexander, D. Adams, B. Hammond, H. Smith, O. Vaughn, D. Adams, L. McAbee, C. Cook, B. Adams, D. Byers, R. Smallwood, R. Troth, K. Carpenter, J. Creekmore, D. Sanders, P. Hubbard, R. Blanton Jr.)

Motions and Resolutions: A motion was made by Comp. J. Creekmore, seconded by Comp. P. Hubbard, and passed to purchase a \$250.00 flag pole for use at the National Cemetery at Alabama's American Village.

Announcements: Historian Adams announced the passing of Mrs. Spike Fields.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Jim Alexander: Checking account balance: \$5,295.42; Savings account balance: \$1,992.20. We have collected approximately \$700 for our Youth Fund.

Secretary: Sec. Carpenter notes his appreciation of Comp. R. Smallwood for taking meeting notes in his work related absence.

Registrar: Registrar Comp. David Byers reported that twenty-seven applications in development. Three membership applications and six supplemental line applications have been sent to the National Society for approval.

Historian: None

Eagle Scout Committee: Comp. Creekmore sent scholarship information to forty Eagle Scouts.

Student Essay and Oration Committee: Comp. Alexander sent oration contest information to twenty-seven area schools.

Color Guard: None

JROTC/ROTC Awards: Comp **Flag Committee:** None

Veteran's Affairs: None

Meeting Activities: Comp. Conrad Cook led the Youth Program Quiz, "Who Am I", followed by \$70.00 in contributions to the Youth Program by several members present. The subject of the quiz was James Madison.

Awards and Presentations: Comp. Jody Creekmore was awarded the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal for his military service and leadership.

Program: Comp. Col. Jody Creekmore presented his program "Response Withdrawal In Iraq"

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment: Comp. Smallwood led the recessional. Rev. Comp. McAbee gave the benediction. Comp. J. Alexander adjourned the meeting.

Secretary's Report - November Meeting

Opening: Vice President Larry Crabtree opened the meeting. Comp. Daryl Adams led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the pledge to the SAR. Comp. Rev Les McAbee

gave the invocation. The following guests were recognized: Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Susan Crabtree, Mrs. Lavonne Conner, Mrs. Nelda Newell, Mr. Thomas Kim Keller, Mr. Brian House, Mr. Alexander Avery, Mr. Neil Boyd. Prospective members present were: Dr. Jorge Aunon, and Mr. Jan Williams.

Members in Attendance: 21 Members (L. Crabtree, J. Conner, J. Maples, J. Alexander, M. Alexander, S. Field, D. Wheatly, L. McAbee, C. Robinson, T. Jenness, D. Adams, B. Hammond, O. Vaughn, L. McAbee, C. Cook, B. Adams, D. Byers, R. Smallwood, R. Troth, K. Carpenter, D. Sanders, R. Blanton Jr.)

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Jim Alexander : Checking balance: \$6,219.10, Savings balance: \$1,993.30.

Secretary: Sec. Carpenter notes his appreciation of Comp. B. Adams for taking meeting notes in his work related absence.

Registrar: Registrar Comp. David Byers reported thirty-one applications in development, and six membership applications, and several supplemental line applications have been sent to the National Society for approval.

Historian: None

Eagle Scout Committee: None

Student Essay and Oration Committee: None

Color Guard: None

JROTC/ROTC Awards: None

Flag Committee: None

Veteran's Affairs: None

Meeting Activities: Comp. Conrad Cook led the Youth Program Quiz

Awards and Presentations: Comp. David Scott Sanders was welcomed into the Tennessee Valley Chapter, and the NSSAR.. Comp. Robert McDowell Hammond received his first supplemental line recognition.

Program: SAR Oration Contest: Bob Jones High School student, Alex Avery, presented his oration: "It' About Time", concerning the American early-submarine craft "The Turtle" in its action against the British Navy during the American Revolution.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment: Comp. J. Maples led the recessional. Rev. Comp. McAbee gave the benediction. Vice President Crabtree adjourned the meeting.

The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 by John Trumbull

The original version of this historic painting and other paintings by John Trumbull form the heart of an exhibition of 230 masterpieces at the Birmingham Museum of Art through January 10, 2010. The Museum explains that "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: American Art from the Yale University Art Gallery" tells America's story through paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, furniture, silver and ceramics. The collection includes silver by Paul Revere.

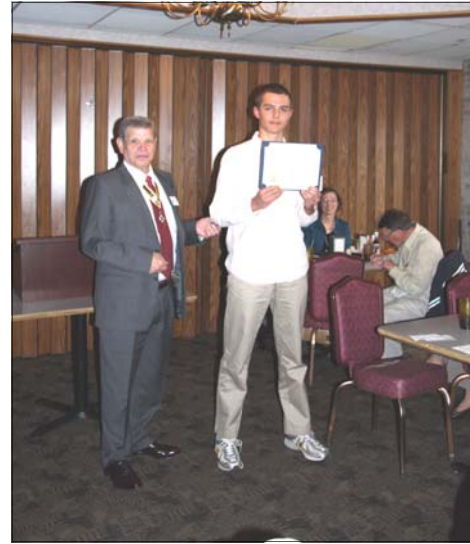
Upcoming Events

- 14 December 2009** - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Ryan's on University Dr.
11 January 2010 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Ryan's on University Dr.
8 February 2010 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Ryan's on University Dr.
26 - 27 February 2010 - ALSSAR State Convention, Birmingham

December and January Events of the Revolution

We often think about the military campaigns during spring, summer and fall. Did anything significant happen during December and January?

- December 23, 1775** King George III issued a royal proclamation closing American colonies to all commerce effective March 1776.
- January 9, 1776** Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* was published in Philadelphia.
- December 25-26, 1776** Washington recrosses the Delaware River with 2,400 men and takes Trenton, NJ from the Hessians.
- January 3, 1777** Washington defeats the British at Princeton
- February 6, 1778** American and French representatives sign two treaties in Paris: the Treaty of Amity and Commerce and the Treaty of Alliance. France recognizes the US and will become the major supplier of military supplies. Both countries pledge to fight for American independence. This action expands the American independence into a world war. Britain fights France, Spain and Holland in the Mediterranean, Africa, India, the West Indies, and on the high seas.
- December 29, 1778** British begin their Southern Campaign with the capture of Savannah and in January Augusta.
- January 17, 1781** General Daniel Morgan defeats British General Tarleton at Cowpens, SC.
- December 23, 1783** In Annapolis General George Washington appears before Congress and voluntarily resigns his commission, an event unprecedented in history. This action was significant in establishing civilian rather than military rule and democracy rather than dictatorship.



Orations Chairman, Jim Alexander, is shown at our November with our Orations Contest winner, Alex Avery from Bob Jones High School.

Revolutionary Answers (From the last newsletter)

1. Which battle in 1781 has frequently been compared to Hannibal's victory over the Romans at Cannae? Cowpens
2. Who was the American general who led the militia and the Continentals in the above battle which has been described as "one of the most brilliant tactical operations ever fought on American soil?" Daniel Morgan
3. Who was the defeated British officer? Banestre Tarleton
4. Who led the cavalry in the above battle? William Washington
5. Which two generals, one American and one British, were in what was later called "the race to the Dan?"
Nathanael Greene and Charles Cornwallis



Your Newsletter Editor and his wife, Linda, placed flags on the graves of several Revolutionary War Soldiers in Madison County on Veteran's Day. These flags are at the grave of John Drake who is buried in Jones Valley.



At our November meeting Vice-President Larry Crabtree presented a new member certificate to our newest member, Scott Sanders (on the left) and a Supplemental Certificate to Bob Hammond. Welcome Scott and keep up the good work Bob!

Orations Chairman, Jim Alexander, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Nelda Newell of Bob Jones High School for her support of the Orations Contest.



Jim Maples
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TO: