

The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—February/March 2008



President's Message

Compatriots, I'm proud to say that for the past few months our attendance at chapter meetings has been on the upswing and very good. Let's keep the ball rolling by inviting to the next meeting those members who do not attend regularly .

We had twenty-seven entries in our chapter essay contest. All entries were outstanding and the judging was extremely difficult. However, three winners have been selected. The winners will be recognized during our February meeting.

We will have our annual banquet and change of officers in March at the Valley Hill Country Club. The date has not yet been determined; however, everyone keep this event in mind and join us for a good time. Anyone interested in being a chapter officer please contact one of the nominating committee: Hoyt Smith, Jim Maples or Jim Alexander.

Our dues time has come and gone. Unfortunately, eighteen of our members did not continue their membership by paying their dues. If you know a compatriot who hasn't paid his dues, let him know that it's not too late to reinstate his membership.

President
Brian Alexander
256-880-0236
brian.alexander7@us.army.mil

Vice-President
Richard Smallwood
256-536-0491
smally@knology.net

Secretary
Larry Crabtree
256-883-8624
larrycrabtree@worldnet.att.net

Treasurer
Dave Billings
256-883-6229
billind@uah.edu

Registrar
Derald Morgan
256-464-7860
deraldm@knology.net

Chaplain
Fr. Les McAbee
256-426-2799
padres@yahoo.com

Historian
Gary Markham
256-882-3299
markham@msic.dia.mil

Newsletter Editor
Jim Maples
256-534-2315
SAR1776@knology.net

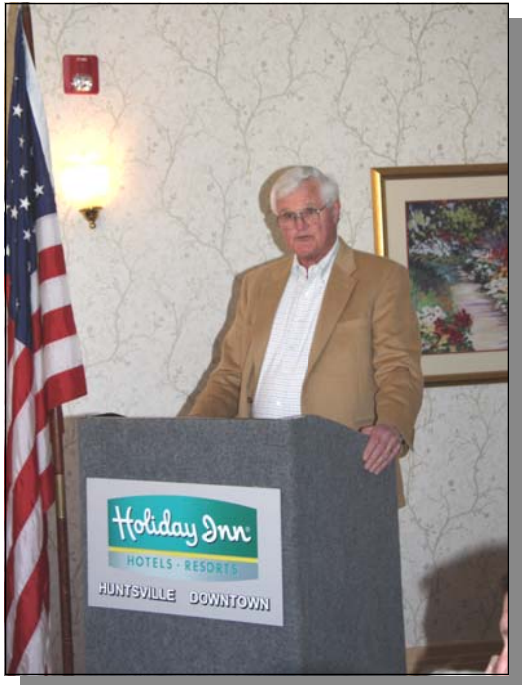
Meeting Schedule
All meetings are held at 11:00 am
at the downtown Holiday Inn
unless otherwise noted.

11 February 2008
Regular Meeting

March 2008
Chapter Banquet
Details to be announced

14 April 2008
Regular Meeting

Our speaker for December was Susan Purves, Family History Center Director of the LDS Church on Sparkman Drive. She gave a presentation on the resources of the Family History Centers and the Family Search website and how SAR members could use these in conducting their research.



Our speaker for January was the Honorable Hartwell Lutz, a retired Madison County (AL) District Court Judge and a former Alabama State Representative. Judge Lutz addressed the differences between the U.S. and Alabama Constitutions and the need for Alabama Constitutional reform.

Secretary's Report December Meeting

Vice-President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting. Compatriot Hoyt Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Ernie Ritch led the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Les McAbee gave the invocation. Vice-President Richard Smallwood recognized the guests in attendance. They were: Raneé Pruitt, Vi Van Orden, Rhonda Larkin, Linda Maples, Susan Purves, and Susan Crabtree.

Compatriot Ernie Ritch quizzed the compatriots on the colonial period. State President Jim Alexander, Vice-President Richard Smallwood, and Jim Maples participated in the presentation of certificates to current members Lawrence Moore and Larry Crabtree (supplemental ancestor certificate). Vice-President Richard Smallwood assisted by Jim Maples installed Conrad Cook as a new member.

Vice-President Richard Smallwood introduced this month's speaker Susan Purves, who is the Family History Center Director of the LDS Church on Sparkman Drive. She gave a presentation on the resources of the Family History Centers and the Family Search website and how SAR members could use these in conducting their research.

Treasurer Dave Billings gave the treasurer's report:

Balance in Savings Account: \$1944.47
 Balance in Checking Account: \$6,336.76
 Membership Dues Paid: 69
 Membership Dues Not Yet Paid: 27
 Youth Fund (Before Today's Quiz): \$193.55
 State Convention Revenues: \$467

Registrar Derald Morgan stated that four applications for membership were approved on December 3rd. State President Jim Alexander reminded members that the state convention would be held in Huntsville February 29th-March 1st. He also announced that the National Leadership and Trustee Meeting would be held in Louisville the week before our state convention. State President Jim Alexander announced that 26 essays had been submitted for the Youth Essay Contest. Compatriot Derald Morgan announced that there was only one applicant for the SAR Boy Scout Award on the state level.

Compatriot Jim Maples reported that the Hunt Springs Chapter of the DAR would be having a flag presentation at 2:00 P.M. on December 18th at the flagpole in front of the Huntsville Madison Library in honor of Alabama Day.

Compatriot Derald Morgan recommended that the SAR and the DAR work together in trying to persuade the Veterans' Park planning committee to list on the memorial the names of the Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Madison County.

Compatriot Jim Maples reported on the Wreaths for Veterans Program, sponsored by the Redstone Arsenal Wives Club. Jim Alexander, Linda Maples, and Jim Maples

participated in the wreath laying. The Tennessee Valley Chapter donated \$75 for this program. Vice President Richard Smallwood announced that the color guard would be participating in a program at Westminster Christian Academy on December 13th.

Compatriot Jim Maples led the recessional. Compatriot Les McAbee gave the benediction. Vice-President Richard Smallwood adjourned the meeting.

January Meeting

Vice-President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting in the absence of President Brian Alexander. Compatriot Skeet Vaughn led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Jim Alexander led the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Les McAbee gave the invocation.

Vice-President Richard Smallwood recognized the guests in attendance. They were: Jeanne Henry, Margaret Driskill, Kimberly Alexander, Linda Maples, Abby Alexander and Judge Hartwell Lutz.

Compatriot Ernie Ritch quizzed the compatriots on the colonial period.

Vice-President Richard Smallwood introduced this month's speaker The Honorable Hartwell Lutz, a retired Madison County (AL) District Court Judge and a former Alabama State Representative. Judge Lutz addressed the differences between the U.S. and Alabama Constitutions and the need for Alabama Constitutional reform.

Treasurer Dave Billings gave the treasurer's report:

Balance in Savings Account: \$1944.47
 Balance in Checking Account: \$5,632.90
 Membership Dues Paid: 71
 Youth Fund (Before Today's Quiz): \$174.14
 State Convention Revenues: \$382.97

Registrar Derald Morgan stated that two applications for supplementals from the chapter have been sent forward to the state for approval. Compatriot Jim Maples stated that he has an additional application for a supplemental ready for forwarding to the state. Registrar Derald Morgan also reported that six applications statewide have been received for the state Eagle Scout award. He, Dr. David Billings, and State President Jim Alexander were the judges for the state contest and selected an applicant from Birmingham as the winner.

Vice-President Richard Smallwood announced that CAR (Children of the American Revolution) is trying to obtain a webpage on the Battle of Yorktown. If anyone has an interest in being involved in this effort, he may attend the CAR meeting held at 2:00pm on the second Sunday of each month at the St. Charles Anglican Church.

State President Jim Alexander reminded the members of the State Convention of the Alabama SAR being hosted in Huntsville by the Tennessee Valley Chapter the latter part of February. He stated that only 20 members were in attendance at the last state convention held in Huntsville while 40 Montgomery

Chapter members were present at the 2007 convention held in Montgomery. He challenged the TVC members to have better attendance at the February Convention.

State President Jim Alexander stated that Vice-President Richard Smallwood had sponsored four new members. He further stated that a national award, the Kendall Award, was given each year to the person sponsoring the most new members. This year it was awarded to Larry Cornwell who had sponsored 59 new members. President Alexander reported that the chapter youth essay contest had 27 entries. Abby Alexander coordinated the essay contest. The top three candidates were picked and ranked, resulting in a tie for third place. President Alexander presented a motion, which received a second and was passed, to award each of the two third place winners \$75.

Vice-President Smallwood reported that the 2008 nominating committee has been named; its members are: Compatriots Hoyt Smith, Jim Alexander, and Jim Maples. Members who are interested in holding an office for 2008 are encouraged to contact the committee. Vice-President Smallwood stated that he had received a newsletter from Ray Whitt, who is presently in a rest home in Georgia. Anyone interested in reading the newsletter may contact Vice-President Smallwood.

Compatriot Jim Maples read a note from the Redstone Arsenal Wives Club, sponsors of the Wreaths for Veterans Program, thanking the Tennessee Valley Chapter for its contribution to the effort. The Tennessee Valley Chapter collected \$75 for the project in addition to participating in the wreath lying at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Vice-President Smallwood stated that the March meeting would be a night meeting, during which new officers would be installed. He further added that the February program would be the reading of the winning essays from the chapter essay contest.

Compatriot Bob Adams led the recessional. Compatriot Les McAbee gave the benediction. Vice-President Richard Smallwood adjourned the meeting.

Upcoming Events

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

21 - 23 February 2008 - Leadership Meeting, Louisville

29 February - 1 March 2008 - ALSSAR State Convention, downtown Holiday Inn, Huntsville

March 2008 - (Final date to be announced) Valley Hill Country Club, Annual Chapter Banquet.

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

Revolutionary Answers

1. This General's surrender at Yorktown is historically considered the British Army's greatest defeat until Dunkirk in World War II.

Cornwallis

2. What strategy did Generals Gage, Clinton, and, later, Arnold favor to win the war?

"The Line of the Hudson" strategy. This strategy was to control the Hudson River to cut the Northeast off from the rest of the colonies.

3. Did Benedict Arnold die in Canada, England, or the West Indies?

England

4. To what did the "Kingbirds" refer?

British officers

5. What were grenadiers?

British soldiers who were large and strong enough to throw "hand bombs" (grenades)

6. Who were "Shirtmen"?

Virginia riflemen

Membership Dues

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

Dr. Dave Billings
706 Corlett Dr
Huntsville, AL 35802-1906



Vice-President Richard Smallwood inducts our newest member, Conrad Cook, IV



Wreaths for Veterans

State President Jim Alexander presents a check for \$75 to co-chairwoman, Joy Parker for the "Wreaths for Veterans" program sponsored by the Redstone Arsenal Officers and Civilian Wives Garden Club. Over 700 wreaths were placed on the gravesites of Madison County Veterans.

This wreath is shown at the grave site of Albert Russel, one of two Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Maple Hill Cemetery.



Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: