



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—October/November 2008

**President**

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

Vice-President

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

Secretary

Ken Carpenter
256-851-9243
KDandMBama@aol.com

Treasurer

Jim Alexander
256-837-7418
jgalexander@knology.net

Registrar

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

Chaplain

Fr. Les McAbee
256-426-2799
padreles@yahoo.com

Historian

Bob Adams
256-539-4049
edarea@bellsouth.net

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.

12 October 2008
2:00pm 50th Anniversary
Celebration of the Tennessee
Valley Chapter

10 November 2008
11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

President's Message

The Chapter's 50th Year Anniversary Celebration Committee have had their second meeting. Most all of the invitations have been mailed. The food that will be served has been selected. Exhibits of photos of the Chapter's past have been assembled. The date is, of course, Sunday October 12, 2008 at 2pm at the Main Branch at the Huntsville Library.

Please keep in mind, that this Celebration will serve as our October meeting; there will not be a meeting on Columbus Day (Monday October 13). We will return to our 2nd Monday, 11:00 AM meetings at the Holiday Inn on November 10 (the day before Veterans Day).

There are two corrections to my previous message concerning the celebration. Firstly, we will not award any veterans certificates at the celebration. We will do that during our regularly scheduled December 8 meeting. Secondly, I omitted Past State and Chapter President and the Chapter's Awards Chairman Hoyt Smith's name as a member of the Celebration Planning Committee. So the Committee members I wish to thank are Past State and Chapter President and Mrs. Jim Maples (Linda), Past State and Chapter President and Mrs. Jim Alexander (Abby), Past State and Chapter President Hoyt Smith, Chapter Historian Robert "Bob" Adams, Mrs. Raneer Pruitt, and my wife, Glenda.

The State's SAR Board of Managers meeting will occur on 25 October in Montgomery, which I and other Chapter officers will attend.

The dues cards have been mailed. If you have not received yours, you need to contact our Chapter Treasurer Compatriot Jim Alexander.

The November meeting will feature the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest. This will be conducted by Compatriot Jim Alexander.

I look forward to meeting everyone at the celebration!



Photo by Jim Maples

Diane Blocker, instructor of Early American History and Contemporary World Issues at Huntsville High School, was our speaker at our September meeting.



Photo by Jim Maples

COL Rodney Johnson, Senior JROTC instructor at Grissom High School, gave a very interesting talk at our August Meeting on the JROTC program at Grissom.

Secretary's Report - August Meeting

Opening; President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Comp. Bob Adams led the membership in the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Smallwood recognized the guests in attendance: Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Lavonne Conner, Mrs. Abbey Alexander, Ms. Kim Alexander, Mr. Tom Hennigh, Mr. Richard Blanton, and Mr. James Phillips. Sixteen members were in attendance.

Announcements; Historian Comp. Robert Adams, President of the Huntsville/Madison County Historical Society, related notes from the May ALSSAR BOM meeting held in Montgomery.

The Twickenham Chapter, DAR will conduct a Constitution Day program at Huntsville's Constitution Village on 17 Sept. at 4:00 pm

The chapter handbook for 2008-2009 was distributed to members in attendance

The October chapter meeting will be held on Sunday the 12th at 2:00 pm. This meeting will be a commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Chapter. The meeting will be held in the Huntsville Madison County Library.

The program for the chapter September meeting will address the teaching of the American Revolution in the 5-12 curriculum

Officer and Committee Reports

Secretary: Minutes of July meeting are posted in the chapter newsletter

Treasurer: Past President Compatriot Jim Alexander reported that the checking account has a balance of \$5,133.68. The savings account balance is \$1,967.28.

Registrar: Registrar Compatriot Morgan; President Smallwood reported the approval of SAR application for David Byers. Richard Blanton's application has been forwarded to the National Society for review.

Historian: Historian Compatriot Bob Adams: The chapter is seeking chapter archives, particularly meeting minutes, for compilation. Members are requested to review personal or chapter materials relevant to this project, and submit such materials (or copies) to the historian.

Oration and Essay Contest Committees: Past President Alexander announced that contacts with area schools regarding these contests will be made in September.

Tennessee Valley Chapter Anniversary Steering Committee: Jim Alexander, Bob Adams, Richard Smallwood, Jim Maples, Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Abbey Alexander, Mrs. Glenda Smallwood, and Mrs. Rane Pruitt.

Events: October anniversary meeting. See announcements

Program: Vice President Billings introduced program speaker COL Rodney Johnson, Sen. JROTC instructor, Grissom High School

COL Johnson served 26 years on active duty with the US Army, attached primarily with the military police. Having been assigned as a brigade commander of ROTC programs in the Southeast, his familiarity with ROTC and consequent contact with JROTC programs, led him to the high school program after retirement. He has led the Grissom High School JROTC as the senior instructor for three years.

COL Johnson expressed his appreciation to the chapter for its support of the JROTC awards program. He stated the mission of the JROTC program was to motivate students towards better citizenship. Two Grissom High produced films of cadet activities were shown.

COL Johnson discussed the outstanding cadet led programs such as the drill team, military skills team, rifle team, and "civil war" howitzer field cannon crew which he developed. The color guard participates in forty community activity per year. The male and female military skills teams have won national competitions. He noted the cadet curriculum included military history, civics, leadership training, social skills, and financial planning.

Secretary's Report - September Meeting

Opening: President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Comp. Hoyt Smith led the membership in the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Smallwood recognized the guests in attendance: Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Hoyt Smith, Mrs. Rane Pruitt, Mrs. Nancy Billings, Mrs. Christine Smith, and Mrs. Yvonne Conner. Prospective members, Tom Hennigh, Bob Hammond, and Brian House, were also in attendance. 18 members were in attendance.

Motions and Resolutions: Past President Jim Alexander made a motion (which was seconded) that the chapter provide \$350.00 for expenses of the chapter's fiftieth anniversary program of October of this year.

Compatriot V.P. Billings made a motion (which was seconded) that the chapter secure a half interest in a projector screen. The chapter will fund \$30.00 on three occasions for this project.

Compatriot V.P. Billings made a motion (which was seconded) that the chapter provide \$50.00 for the purchase of an appropriate book, to be donated to the Huntsville-Madison Co. Library in memory of deceased Tennessee Valley Chapter members. Such a donation will be made in memory of three chapter members who passed away this year.

Announcements: Minute notes for the Sept. chapter meeting were taken by Historian Bob Adams in the job related absence of the secretary. The secretary and chapter membership are grateful for his service in this matter

The SAR membership of Compatriots Henry Turner, and Richard Blanton was announced to and welcomed by the

Secretary's Report continued on page 3

Upcoming Events

12 October 2008 (Sunday) - 2:00pm, 50th Anniversary Celebration, Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, Auditorium on the First Floor

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

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

50th Anniversary Celebration

Don't forget our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the chartering of the Tennessee Valley Chapter on Sunday, October 12, at 2:00 pm at the Huntsville Madison County Library. Guests are welcome!



Above, President Richard Smallwood presents a membership certificate to new member, David Byers. Chapter Registrar Derald Morgan is on the right.



Compatriot Jim Conner talks to former Senator Bob Dole at the World War II Memorial. Jim is a World War II veteran and was part of approximately 125 World War II veterans who participated in the September Honor Flight.

Minutes of September Meeting Continued from page 2

chapter. Chapter, state, and national membership dues notices are to be mailed the second week of September.

President Smallwood is seeking a member to accept responsibility for maintaining the chapter flags; as well as a volunteer to manage the Revolutionary War quiz portion of the chapter meetings. Proceeds from the quiz fund benefit the chapter's youth programs.

The Twickenham Chapter, DAR will conduct a Constitution Day program at Huntsville's Constitution Village on 17 Sept. at 4:00 pm. Invitations for this event will be sent to members and non-members alike.

The October chapter meeting will be held on Sunday the 12th at 2:00 pm. This meeting will be a commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Chapter. The meeting will be held in the Huntsville Madison County Library.

Officer and Committee Reports ;

Secretary: Minutes of Aug. meeting are posted in the chapter newsletter

Treasurer: Past President Compatriot Jim Alexander reported that the checking account has a balance of \$5,173.18. The savings account balance is \$1,967.27.

Registrar: Registrar Compatriot Morgan reported that two new members were approved. A problem regarding another application is being addressed.

Historian: Historian Compatriot Bob Adams and Librarian Mrs. Ranee Pruitt are seeking chapter archives, particularly meeting minutes, for compilation. Members are requested to review personal or chapter materials relevant to this project and submit such materials (or copies) to the historian. Chapter archives will be housed in the Huntsville-Madison Co. Library.

Events The October anniversary meeting. See announcements.

Program: Vice President Billings introduced program speaker Mrs. Diane Blocker, instructor of Early American History and Contemporary World Issues at Huntsville High School. Mrs. Blocker is a seventeen year veteran teacher of English and History, teaching in Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia. She was a 2007 participant in the Madison Co. "Teaching American History" grant program, studying the American Revolution at Northwestern University. In July 2008 she studied the US Constitution at the National Constitution Center and at the Annenberg Foundation at the Ronald Reagan Library in California. Mrs. Blocker was Huntsville High School's "Teacher of the Year", the Huntsville Council of PTA's 2008 Secondary Teacher of the Year, and was recently named "Alabama Teacher of the Year".

The title of her address was "The Road to Revolution, 1779-1776". This address traced the chronology of events leading to the Revolution; identifying causes of the same; noting important provisions of the Declaration of Independence; and describing major provisions of the Treaty of Paris ending the war.

Tennessee Valley Compatriots in the News



Photo Courtesy of the Redstone Rocket

Compatriot Bill Pittman and Compatriot John Rison Jones, Jr. were both in the news recently. At left, Bill is shown in a picture that appeared on the front page of the August 13, 2008 *Redstone Rocket*. The article on Bill outlines his 50-plus-years work at Redstone Arsenal. I have posted the full article to the website at www.sar1776.com and encourage everyone to read it.



Photo Courtesy of the Huntsville Museum of Art

At right, Dr. Jones is pictured at the Huntsville Museum of Art. From an article in the Fall 2008 *Art Views* we learn that the Huntsville Museum of Art Board of Directors has named the Collections Center in honor of Dr. Jones for his nearly 40 years of dedication to establish and build the Museum's permanent collection.

Congratulations to both of these fine gentlemen! It is an honor to have both of them as members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter.



Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: