



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—April/May 2014



President's Message

Compatriots, I thank you for the honor you have given me to serve as President of this outstanding chapter. Our recent banquet was an evening to remember. Valley Hill Country Club provided us with delicious food, there was ample time for fellowship and Johnny Curry told us of the American Village's newest program to honor our veterans of all wars. I hope all of you will participate in this program by registering your family's veterans all the way back to the Revolution. It doesn't cost anything and is very easy to accomplish. It was also a time to recognize accomplishments. Lydia Darragh medals were presented to Janie Byers, Kay Anderson, Susan Crabtree, Abby Alexander, Pat Cook, and Linda Maples. Martha Washington medals were presented to Kay Anderson and Susan Crabtree received an Oak Leaf cluster. SAR Medals of Appreciation were presented to Sue Royer and Linda Maples received an Oak Leaf cluster. Meritorious Service medals were presented to Hal Thornton and Frank Vinz. Chapter Distinguished Service Medals were presented to Hoyt Smith, Jim Maples, Jim Alexander, George Royer, and Brian House. Congratulations to all of you. Well deserved.

Our recent State Convention was well attended by the Tennessee Valley Chapter members, and we received several awards. The Chapter received Certificates of Appreciation for the largest number of new members and for the largest percentage of new members for a chapter over 100 members. Individual awards included Thomas Jefferson Medals and Certificates to both Jim and Linda Maples, a Silver Color Guard Medal to Jim Maples and Lamplighter awards for Frank Vinz, Elmer Field, Herbert Norton and Millard Moon. Bob Anderson, Jim Maples, Larry Crabtree and Connie Cook also received certificates of appreciation. Again, well deserved.

The Chapter's youth programs had the most successful year ever in state competition. Kylie Ledesma, our orations entrant, placed third; Mary Beth Gentle, poster contest entrant, placed first; Hannah Hembree, brochure entrant, placed first; and Sarah Rose Strough, the JROTC entrant, placed first. Each of the winners received cash awards, and the first place winners are entered in the national competition to be held 18 July, 2014 in Greenville, South Carolina. Let's hope they all win!

Past President Bob Anderson, the past chapter officers and past committee chairmen have placed the bar very high. I ask all of you to help us keep it high. Attend the monthly meetings. Bring in new members. Participate in our youth programs. Listen and enjoy the informative presentations. Enjoy the food brought in by the ladies. Most of all let's learn a little history and have fun doing it.

Bob Doherty



Our February speaker was Robert Davis from Wallace State. Mr. Davis topic was "The Battle of Kettle Creek"

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Meeting Schedule

14 April 2014
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

12 May 2014
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

Secretary's Report - February Meeting

At 11:00 a.m. President Bob Anderson called the meeting to order in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge, Chaplain Connie Cook gave the Prayer of Invocation. Thirty-one members signed the attendance roster and 13 visitors signed the guest log. Guests were recognized and introduced. Reading of the minutes of the January meeting of the chapter was dispensed with by a vote of acclamation of the chapter members.

Charles Westbrook (cwestbrookjr@aol.com) was inducted into membership by President Anderson and given the SAR lapel rosette by Registrar Bob Baccus.

President Anderson announced the following status of winners of the chapter youth programs:

- Junior ROTC 1st Lt Sarah Rose Strough, outstanding cadet, was selected by ALSSAR to compete at the national level
- Chapter winners of the 5th grade poster contest (Mary Beth Gentle-Hartselle Intermediate School), the middle school tri-fold brochure contest (Hannah Hembree-Academy of Arts and Academics), and the oration contest (Kylie Ledesma-Grissom High School) are all to be entered in the state competition

The chapter nomination committee consisting of George Royer, Jim Maples and Connie Cook selected the following nominees for 2014 chapter officers: Bob Doherty as president, Hal Thornton as vice president, Brian House as treasurer, Kim Keller as secretary, and Ron Bledsoe as historian. There were no additional nominations and this slate of officers was elected by acclamation.

Vice President Bob Doherty introduced Robert S. Davis of Wallace State Community College as program speaker. He authored over 1,000 American history articles and several books. His subject for the program was the Battle of Kettle Creek, Georgia. The battle occurred on February 14, 1779 in Wilkes County the first of eight original counties created by the colony of Georgia. The battle occurred when an estimated 700 Loyalist militia led by British Col. James Boyd were camped near Kettle Creek and were surprised by 400 American militia led by Col. Andrew Pickens. The battle lasted two hours and ended when Loyalist fled after seeing their commander shot from his horse and mortally wounded. Only 9 American militiamen were killed but Loyalists lost 70 killed and lost over 500 horses and supplies located in nearby Carr's Fort. Although this victory was a morale booster for the American cause, later the British, in retaliation for their losses at Kettle Creek, burned settlements in Wilkes County

to the ground.

Participants of the Ladies Auxiliary were thanked for providing refreshments for the meeting.

Compatriot Connie Cook provided the History Quiz that was based on the March 15, 1781 Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina. Connie read a description of the battle that was injected with historical errors that chapter members were challenged to detect. These errors and correction included the following:

- The battle location included a courthouse building whereas in truth the location was only a hamlet.
- The American commander ordered a copy the battle tactic employed in the Battle of Cowpens to defeat the British forces there led by Col. Banastre Carleton. The British commander's name was actually Banastre Tarleton.
- The American battle tactic was to have three lines of troops whereas the Battle of Cowpens consisted of two lines of troops.
- Major General Nathanael Greene ordered the first line of American forces to load and fire three times and then retreat behind the second line of soldiers. The actual tactic was for the American forces to fire two times and then retreat.
- Even though the British suffered heavy losses in their victory at Guilford Courthouse, British statesman Charles James Fox was quoted as saying "Another such victory would ruin the American Army." The true quote was that another such victory would ruin the British Army.

Treasurer Brian House reported that only three Alabama State SAR medals remain and cautioned that anyone desiring one should act soon because no more will be available.

President Bob Anderson clarified that there will be no regular chapter meeting next month but it will be replaced by the annual banquet to be held on March 7 at Valley Hill Country Club.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. following the SAR Recessional led by Bob Doherty and the Benediction given by Connie Cook.

Frank Vinz, Secretary

Upcoming Events

14 April 2014 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Huntsville Public Library.

26 April 2014 - Board of Managers Meeting 10:00am, Columbia

12 May 2014 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Huntsville Public Library.

New Members - February/March *Welcome new members!*



Joe Jones



Charles Westbrook



Alan Jones



Storm Hill

Chapter Banquet - 2014



Our speaker for our 2014 Chapter Banquet was Compatriot Johnny Curry (left) from The American Villiage. Chapter President Bob Anderson addresses the Banquet. We had over 60 in attendance at this year's banquet.



Treasurer's Report

January-February 2014

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Income | |
| Annual Banquet Income | 1,435.00 |
| Corp Contributions - Youth Programs | 105.00 |
| Individual Youth Prog Contributions | 0 |
| Interest-Savings, Short-term CD | 4.06 |
| Annual Dues | 72.00 |
| New Member Application Fee | 50.00 |
| SAR AL State Medal | <u>120.00</u> |
| Total Income | 1,786.06 |
| Expense | |
| Awards and Grants | |
| Brochure Contest | 200.00 |
| Eagle Scout Award | 200.00 |
| JROTC Cash Award | 250.00 |
| Orations | 300.00 |
| Poster Contest | 325.00 |
| Accounting Fees | 76.11 |
| Facilities (Summer Social/Other) | 0 |
| Medals and Awards | 283.75 |
| Operations | |
| Postage | 95.00 |
| Supplies/Printing | 98.00 |
| Other Expenses | |
| Library Memorial Expense | 0 |
| Membership and Dues | 0 |
| Travel and Meetings | |
| Conference, Convention, Meeting | 0 |
| Travel | <u>0</u> |
| Total Expense | 2,428.46 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -642.40 |
| Net Income | -642.40 |

ASSETS

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| Endeavor Money Market | 10,039.97 |
| RFCU Business Checking Account | <u>2,192.35</u> |
| Total Checking/Savings | 12,232.32 |
| Accounts Receivable | <u>0</u> |
| Total Current Assets | 12,232.32 |

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Liabilities (National/State Dues Payable) | 195.00 |
| Equity | |
| Opening Balance Equity | 15,005.00 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | -2,325.28 |
| Net Income | <u>-642.40</u> |
| Total Equity | 12,037.32 |

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 12,232.32

Brian House, Treasurer



State Brochure Contest Winner Hannah Hembree, sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Chapter, is presented her award by Bill Stone



Kylie Ledesma, sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Chapter, is presented her 3rd place check in the Orations Contest by State President Marvin Vickers



Alabama State Convention 2014

Top right - 1st Lt Sarah Rose Strough receives her award from Bob Anderson.

Top left - Color Guard (left to right) - Tom Smith (State Color Guard Commander), Rick Wells, Jim Maples, and James Smith.

Middle left - Bill Stone holds the State 1st Place Poster by Mary Beth Gentle submitted by the Tennessee Valley Chapter.

Middle right - State Officers for 2014-2015, Congratulations to TVC members Brian House (Treasurer), Larry Crabtree (Historian) and George Royer (Chancellor - not in picture).

Bottom left - Ladies Auxiliary President Nancy Billings presents a check for \$3000 to the Alabama Society to be used for Youth Programs.



Our Color Guard participated in a presentation by Bill Stone on the Articles of Association. Seated from left to right are Bob Anderson, Jim Maples, Bob Baccus, and Hal Thornton. This presentation was held in Hartselle.



Jim Maples
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TO: