

Sons of the American Revolution
Tennessee Valley Chapter
August 9, 2021
Regular Meeting

LOCATION: First Baptist Church Huntsville, AL Fellowship Hall.

ATTENDEES:

Bob Anderson, Bob Baccus, David Billings, Jean Blanchard, Richard Blanton, Jess Brown, Dudley Burwell, David Byers, Ray Cassell, Jerald Condor, Emory Ferguson, Clint Graham, Jim Griffith, Benny Hannah, Randal Jennings, Jim Maples, George McCanless, Larry McFall, Charles McMurry, Victor Michel, Owen Pharr, Dan Sorrells, Daniel Spiegelberg, Allie Swann, Charles Thomas, Otha Vaughn, George Vinson, Thomas Watson, Roger Whitesides, Donis Wolfe (30)

ATTENDEES ON ZOOM:

Janet Acosta, Stephen Brouse, Larry Crabtree, Mary Griffith, Lawrence Hills, Alan Isom, Charles Oiling, Richard Tingle, Otha Vaughn, Roger Whitesides (256) 428-1359, Bill (12)

GUESTS:

Iris Hannah, Kay Anderson, Linda Baccus, David Jones, Aphia Burwell, Jonita Hayes, Jim Hayes, Shannan Hembree, Layla Shurdan, Jann Shurdan, Hope Shurdan, Darla Evans, Janie Byers, Linda Maples, Patrick Patterson (15)

OPENING:

President Benny Hannah opened the meeting at 11:05 AM and asked Bob Baccus to pray the invocation.

Vice President Dudley Burwell led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge.

GREETINGS:

President Hannah welcomed everyone (live and Zoom) and guests to the meeting.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

- Past State President David Jones presented the Presidential Gold Voluntary Service Award to Vice President Dudley Burwell.
- Bob Anderson presented a certificate to Layla Shurdan, the National second place winner of the Poster Contest.

PROGRAM:

Vice President Burwell introduced Bob Baccus, who made a presentation about his book entitled "Blood Feud in Marion County".

President Hannah introduced Jim Maples, who reported on the events of the 2021 National Congress held in Renton, Washington July 10 - 14.

- Tennessee Valley Chapter received the following awards:
 - President General's Education Outreach Streamer
 - President General's Chapter Activities Competition Awards (by size).
 - The Ohanesian History Presentations Award (by size).
 - President General's Cup (by size).
- TVC National Committee Members for 2021 - 2022 are:
 - Jim Alexander - Americanism, Orations, Flag (C), GWEF Distribution, Merchandise, Patriotic Outreach
 - Bob Anderson - Americanism, ROTC / JROTC, Education, Compatriot Training
 - Dave Billings - Investment, Strategic Planning
 - Jim Griffith - GWEF Fundraising, Library & Archives, Magazine, Officer Training
 - Jim Maples - GWEF Fundraising (C), GWEF Board, Library & Archives (C), Merchandise (VC), Public Service & Heroism, Patriot Records

President Hannah congratulated Jim for being selected as a Minuteman for 2021 and noted that our chapter now has two Minuteman awardees (David Billings and Jim Maples).

President Hannah introduced Jim Griffith, who showed a video of the many accomplishments of the TVCSAR during 2020.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Minutes from the 12 July 2021 meeting were approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Crawford-Ryan Cemetery: Asked for volunteers to help clean-up Crawford-Ryan Cemetery, Apple Grove, AL in Morgan County where Revolutionary War Patriot William Evans Ryan is buried. The cemetery is in bad condition and will require lots of work.
- New cemeteries have been added to the list. Dudley will discuss later.
- Summer Social - We are planning a summer social probably in September.
- Flag Retirement Ceremony: Set for late October with the local CAR group. Please bring in any old worn flags for proper disposal to our next meeting. Check with your neighbors.

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND SUPPLEMENTALS:

The following new members were inducted by President Hannah:

- Dan Sorrells
- Clint Graham
- Jerald Condor

Ray Cassell pinned SAR Rosettes on the new members.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: Benny Hannah

- Public Relations Initiative: Legacy Trees from the Landmark Forest of James Madison's Montpelier. Jess Brown was asked to discuss this initiative. He reported that eleven Tulip Popular Trees legacy trees have been received from the Landmark Forest of James Madison's Montpelier. They have been given to the Huntsville Botanical Gardens for safe keeping and nurturing. They tell us that they will be ready to plant in the spring and fall of 2022.
- Grave Markings: Three to Five year program for Grave Markings in Madison, Morgan and Limestone Counties.
- Amazon Smiles: Please sign up and set TVCSAR as your charity and Amazon will give back .5% of all purchases to our chapter.
- Youth Training: All of our officers and committee chair's have been trained.
- Color Guard: Continues to be a very active part of our Chapter. Please consider volunteering. Contact Randal Jennings our CG Commander.
 - Aug 13 Rev War Patriots Historic Marker Dedication at American Village
 - Aug 21 Wright Grave Marking in Gurley, AL
 - Sep 17 Constitution Week Luncheon in Opelika, AL
 - Sep 20 Constitution Day at Athens State University
 - Oct 23 Grave Marking at Mt. Paran
 - Oct 30 Garden Dedication at Kate Duncan Smith DAR School in Grant, AL

Vice President: Dudley Burwell

- Grave Markings: Vice President Burwell presented an update on the Grave Markings Project. There are approximately 100 Patriot graves in Madison, Morgan and Limestone Counties. He has updated the list of nine graves identified to be marked. Goal is to mark the nine graves either during remainder of this year or first few months of next year. The graves identified and cemetery locations are:

- William Evan Ryan - Crawford Ryan Cemetery in Morgan County.
- Fleming Jordan - Shiloh Methodist Church Cemetery.
- Richard Cavett - Cavett Cemetery.
- Richard Holmes - Moore-Holmes Cemetery.
- Samuel Davis - Mt. Paran Cemetery
- Peyton Powell - Eldridge Cemetery in Meridianville
- Daniel Wright - McCrary Cemetery in Madison County
- John Wade Keyes - Athens City Cemetery
- John Menefee - Menefee Family Cemetery in Decatur

Recording Secretary: George Vinson

No Report

Corresponding Secretary: Jim Maples .
No Report

Treasurer: Randal Jennings:
Checking Account Balance is \$10,204.12
Money Market Balance is \$9,368.05.
We are establishing a Pay Pal account so that members can pay their dues using Pay Pal. This should be available next month.

Registrar: Ray Cassell
Reported that we have thirteen approved applications that have not been inducted and eighteen Supplementals applications pending approval at this time.
Patriot Research System: The TVCSAR and ALSSAR are both at 99.7% complete for members linked to the patriot and 99.6 for patriot lineage entered.

Historian: Jim Alexander
No Report

Chaplain: James Henderson
Not Present


Genealogist: Bill Sommers
No Report

Chancellor: Richard Tingle
No report

CLOSING COMMENTS:
President Hannah thanked all of the visitors and members for being with us today and again congratulated Jim Maples for being selected as a Minuteman for 2021.

Next Meeting will be on September 13, 2021.

BENEDICTION, RECESSIONAL and ADJOURNMENT:
Bob Baccus gave the benediction.
Vice President Dudley Burwell led us in the recessional.
President Benny Hannah adjourned the mention at 12:31 PM


George E. Vinson, Recording Secretary
Tennessee Valley Chapter, SAR
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