

Mississippi Compatriot

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Mississippi Society

Sons of the American Revolution



MSSSAR Website:
www.sar.org/mssar

NSSAR Web Site:
www.sar.org

August 19, 2019

MSSSAR Officers:

President:

Dr. John F. Fulwider

1st Vice President:

Dr. Bryant Boswell

2nd Vice President:

Jak Smith, Esq.

Secretary:

Julius S. Hite

Treasurer/Registrar:

Stewart L. Herron

Genealogist:

Larry Hellums

Historian:

Dr. Andrew M. Jones

National Trustee:

Michael P. Schenk

Alt. National Trustee:

Dr. John Fulwider

Chancellor:

George M. Henry, Esq

Chaplain:

Glenn D. Shows

Sgt-at-Arms:

Robert Cox

Color Guard Commander

Julius Hite

Event Schedule:

MSSSAR ExCom Meet-

ing:
Sept. 7, 2019 - Ridgeland

MSSSAR State Conven-

tion:
March 27-28, 2020 -
Ridgeland

**NSSAR 129th Trustee
and Leadership Mtg.**

Sept. 19-21 2019, Louis-
ville, KY

MSSSAR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution is and has been very active this year and has provided my wife and I reasons to be grateful for all of the wonderful people we continue to meet at the

many events SAR puts on. Friendships are formed and constant communications with our other Southern District States Compatriots from Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana keep us pretty busy. My wife Pam and I attended the Tennessee Convention in Murfreesboro, TN March 21 through to March 24, 2019, where we also attended the NSSAR Grave Marking of Patriot Captain William Lytle. We then turned right around and attended the Louisiana Convention April 5 through 7th, 2019 in Monroe, LA. All events were fun filled, and meaningful. Afterwards MS SAR honored a Revolutionary War Patriot Captain Samuel Peden with a SAR Color Guard Grave Marking ceremony on April 28th, 2019 at the Smyrna Cemetery in Kemper County. 2019 has been a wonderful year so far. On May 12th Pam and I flew to Edinburgh, (con't in next column)



Scotland to participate with the National SAR group going to honor SAR Patriots and Supporters there. The Scotland trip with National President General Warren Alter was fantastic. A first class event that will live on in our memories as President General Warren Alter spared no expense in ensuring everyone was well treated and fed the best food in the best locations. We are so glad we went, and paid tribute to our SAR patriots in Scotland. June 21st we attended the Flag Pole dedication ceremony sponsored by the Alabama SAR at Montevallo, AL. This was a National Event attended by President General Warren Alter at The American Village, Alabama. The American Village is a great place to visit and see the history of American Patriots. A destination for sure, located just a few minutes drive from Birmingham, AL and Columbiana, Alabama. Fast forward to July 2019 and we found ourselves attending the National Congress in Costa Mesa, CA from July 4th to checking out of the hotel on July 11th. The featured speaker at the Congress was Navy F-4 pilot Lt. J. Charlie Plumb, who was shot down over North Viet Nam in 1967 and the author of *I'm No Hero*. A book about his 6 years as a POW. My wife and I drove to California, and she of course wanted to stop and see all the great sites in California. We went to the Mexican Border (Bonita, CA), and up the coast north of San Francisco to the Napa Valley. A wonderful trip and a great amount of time spent together in our car driving. Something we love to do is "ROAD TRIP" around and take in the beautiful sites of our wonderful country. The last thing we have gone to prior (con't on p 7)



President's Letter to the MSSSAR Chapter Presidents

A Letter from the President, MS SAR
To
2019-2020 Chapter Presidents

As I look back on my days as a Chapter President I recall honoring many of my chapter compatriots with medals they deserved. I also honored Law Enforcement, (Monroe County Sheriff), and a Tupelo Fire Captain with an exceptional career.

The local Boy Scouts of America, Yocona Council Assistant Director was also honored with a medal for his work with the youth in his council. I honored our Chapter Ladies Auxiliary with commendations and awards for their constant work and fund raising efforts that enhanced the chapter's mission. There were of course Youth Awards and competitions. I mention this, and keep sending out emails and medal info to the Chapters as I have been told that some chapters have not given out recognition medals for years. Some of this I am sure is due to the cost incurred by the purchase of the medal and printing of the certificates. We are cheating ourselves, and those who faithfully serve our SAR chapters by not formally recognizing them in front of their fellow compatriots. There are ways to do the awards and medals that are less expensive than you think. I am available to talk to you about those cost saving methods.

The pride exhibited on the face of the recipient is priceless.

I have been researching our National Membership Data Base and have found almost none of the awards and medals given out by Chapters have been recorded. I will ask that Chapter Presidents/Secretaries keep our newly assigned District Directors informed of all awards and medals given out. List them in your emailed Chapter Reports. The Directors are assigned to one of three areas of Mississippi. They will be contacting you for a visit, and introduction to you, your officers and members. They are and will be a valuable resource to your chapter, providing an enhanced voice to the state society where your needs will be met and acted upon.

Always in your service, Dr. John Fulwider, 662-315-7585, drjff@aol.com.

North District = Desoto, McKie, WmGray, D. Murphy, Hillhouse

Central District = Green, Kosciusko, Warren, Boggan, Central

South = S. Central, Horger, Carter, Lynam, Wheat

MS SAR AREA DIRECTORS 2019-2020

SOUTH MS

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President's Letter to the MSSSAR Chapter Presidents—continued

UPCOMING CHAPTER AND STATE DATES TO REMEMBER

As of July 24, 2019

CHAPTER EVENTS

Central Mississippi Chapter- Meets September 19, 2019. Call Ben Block Jones II at 601-927-8479 for location and time information. The Chapter meets every quarter.

William Gray Chapter- Meets every month except June, July and August at the Tupelo Country Club 9508 Winged Foot Road, @ 6:30 PM. A full plated Dinner Meeting with a Speaker/Program. Cost is @\$20 per person. Call President Jack Hamilton for dates at 662-369-2467.

Captain William Hillhouse Chapter- Meets quarterly, and at the State Convention March 27-28, 2020. Call John Fulwider, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer 662-315-7585.

Daniel McKie Chapter – Meets 2nd Thursday 6-7 PM, Oxford, MS at the Library, Call President Max Davis Hipp 662-832-4651.

David Murphree Chapter – Meets 3rd Tuesday 6:30 pm at the Los Encinos Mexican Rest. 124 N. Tyson Rd. Bruce, MS, 662-800-2014, call President Clarence O. Milstead Jr. 662-513-5214.

Desoto Patriots Chapter – Meets at the M.R. Dye Library 7PM in Horn Lake on Goodman Rd. Refreshments are served. Call President Tommy Lynn Thompson 901-461-1222 for dates.

Dr. Joseph Warren Chapter – Meets at Goldie's BBQ 2430 S Frontage Road, Vicksburg. 6pm 1st Thurs in October, January, April, and a Luncheon in July. Call President Edward Campbell 601-405-0719 for times and program information.

Jacob Horger Chapter – Meets 3rd Saturday April, June, September 21, November 16, and has a Christmas Party in December. Call President Bob Cox 601-344-8495.

James Vernon Lynam Sr. Chapter – Meets 11:30 am 2nd Thursday at the Panda Palace Buffet Restaurant, 15200 Crossroads Parkway in Gulfport, MS. Call President David Hart Robinson 228-623-6198.

Nathaniel Green Chapter – Call President Dr. Andrew M. Jones 662-843-9088.

South Central Chapter – Call President Michael Allan Nolley Sr. 228-424-8216.

STATE EVENTS

September 7, 2019 Saturday. MS SAR Excom and Ladies Auxiliary meeting at 10am, Sombra Mexican Kitchen, 140 Township Ave. Suite 100, Ridgeland, MS 39157. www.sombramexicankitchen.com. Arrive 10 am, order lunch upon arrival. Meeting 10:30 to noon. Lunch delivered at 11:30 am. Exit 107, go West on Colony Park Blvd., go left at light onto Highland Colony Park Blvd., go left at light onto Highland Colony Pkwy, and then Right onto Township Ave. 601-707-7950

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President's Letter to the MSSSAR Chapter Presidents—continued

If you or anyone you know of that would like to get involved at the State Society level, please let me know. We always have Committee openings, and this coming January we will need to identify who will be nominated for 2nd Vice President. Call or Text me to give your recommendations (662-315-7585).

UPCOMING NATIONAL SAR DATES TO REMEMBER

Updated August 5 2019

September 19 through 21, 2019.

National Fall SAR Leadership Conference in Louisville, KY at the Brown Hotel. Pam and I have attended all of them for the past five years, and we love meeting the many SAR friends we have made. We always go a couple of days early and volunteer to work in the different parts of the NSSAR headquarters.

February 21-22 (@), 2020

Southern District Meeting. Will be at the Alabama SAR Convention, Hoover, AL.

February 27 through 29th, 2020

National Spring SAR Leadership Conference in Louisville, KY at the Brown Hotel.

May 13-18-2020

President General Jack Manning's trip to honor the 245th Anniversary of the Bermuda Gunpowder Plot. Trip is to Bermuda. SAR@magicglobal.com.

July 9-15, 2020

National 130th SAR Congress, Richmond, Virginia. Richmond Marriott

September 24-26, 2020

National Fall SAR Leadership Conference Louisville, KY at the Brown Hotel.

National Congress future locations:

2021 Seattle, Washington 9-15 July Lake Washington Hyatt
2022 Savanna, Georgia 8-15 July Savanna Hyatt on Riverwalk
2023 Orlando, Florida 8-12 July Embassy Suites
2024 Pennsylvania, more info TBA

There will be National SAR events starting March 5, 2020 celebrating our 250th Anniversary and ending in 2026. Dates, times and locations will be announced. If you have ideas of how MS SAR during this period can celebrate contact Dr. Fulwider. The Boston Massacre occurred March 5, 1770.

- Chapter News -

- Daniel McKie Chapter -

President Hipp reports that the chapter has 35 members and 2 applications pending. At their last meeting there were ten members and one guest present. Recent speakers at the meetings were: T. J. Tilly, Sr. spoke on Battle of Cowpens, and the 400 Anniversary of Jamestown was presented by T. Pryor. During the month of May, there were 4 awards presented: The Outstanding Citizenship Awards were presented to Marcus Whitmore and Broaderick Cook; Cadet Jake W. Nicholas was presented the Silver ROTC Medal and Cadet Eryn Manucy was presented with the Bronze JROTC Medal. The next chapter meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., September 12, 2019. The chapter regularly meets each at the Lafayette County Library. All SAR members and guests are welcome.

- Central Mississippi Chapter -

Central Mississippi Chapter has had a busy quarter. Through a private donor, the chapter financially sponsored 18 JROTC medals to Northwest Rankin HS; Germantown HS; Madison Central HS; Pelahatchie/Puckett HS; Florence HS; Provine HS; Brandon HS; McLaurin HS; Jim Hill HS; Murrah HS; and Calloway HS, and personally presented eight in the Jackson Metro area. Past President Michael Schenk and President Jones attended two naturalization ceremonies in March and May in Jackson. Members also participated in the monument dedication in French Camp in May as Honor Guards dressed as 1812 soldiers and one as designee for placing the MSSAR wreath stand. Following a chicken picnic dinner, Chapter had an excellent presentation on "Using DNA to Augment Your Family Research" from Ron Humphrey in May. A new member, Compatriot John McBride, was initiated and a new Chapter yearbook was distributed. Finally, the Chapter's Facebook Page has 43 new followers with each of its bi-weekly posts reaching an average of 35 users. Through the page, we have forwarded two membership inquiries and received two chapter prospects. The Chapter's next meeting will be held September 19, 2019. The chapter's normal meets at the Madison Community Center the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Guests and prospective members are always welcome.

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- Desoto Patriots Chapter -

Members of the Desoto Patriots Chapter have been very busy in recent weeks. Members and the Color Guard participated in the Memorial Day Observance at Olive Branch, MS. The Color Guard traveled to Memphis to join in the "Pops in the Park" at the Overton Park Shell. Also, the Color Guard led the Fourth of July Parade and members rode the Cannon Float in Hernando, MS, a number of members joined the Annual Tribute to Veterans Program at the DeSoto County Museum, and several members and the Color Guard traveled to East Tennessee to participate in the Patriotic Service activity at White's Fort. In addition to the above activities, Norman Chester Vaiden was honored with the War Service Medal (Vietnam), and Julius Hite was presented with the Chapter Distinguish Service Medal. Three high school cadets were awarded the JROTC Medal: 1st Lt Isiah Seldon of Olive Branch High School; Sgt Arieon Bennett of Lake Cormorant High School; and 2nd Lt Nicholas Holtzelaw of Horn Lake High School. The Chapter added two new members to its roster. Congratulations go to new members James Luther Nabors III, and Michael Dewey Griffis. There are 3 membership applications pending approval by NSSAR. Attendance at the meetings has been very good with an average of 20-30 members and 4-8 guests present at the meetings. Recent speakers were: Krissie Hauer spoke on "My Ancestor—Nicholas Prince; Rancy Hailey gave a very informative talk on "Revolutionary War Trivia"; and "The Battle of Bunker Hill was presented by Gerald Brent. The Chapter meets at the M. R. Dye Public Library in Horn Lake the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

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- Chapter News Continued -

- William Hillhouse Chapter -

January 2, 2019 President Carlton Polk represented the Chapter at a DAR grave marking. Members of the Andrew Carruthers Chapter of the Texas Society of the DAR came to Starkville to mark the grave of one of their Chapter's Founders - Mrs. Asenath Wallace Carothers. President Polk cleaned the tombstones before the grave marking.

Chapter President Carlton Polk attended the 2019 MSSAR Convention in Columbus, Mississippi. President Polk attended the DAR Continental Congress in Washington, DC June 23 through 29, 2019, where his Wife Hellen Hicks Polk was installed as the State Regent of the MSDAR.

The Hillhouse Chapter presently has 14 members. They meet quarterly. Call President Polk.

Guest and perspective members are welcome to our meetings.

- William Gray Chapter -



Bill Lyle is disabled and was unable to come to the MS SAR Convention in March to receive the Patriot Medal. The medal was presented to him at his home in Shannon, MS on April 11, 2019 by MSSAR President Dr. John (Con't in next column)

Fulwider. President Fulwider also presented the Patriot Medal to Judge James Lamar Roberts Jr., past president MS SAR and MS Supreme Court Justice on April 11th, 2019 at his Hospital/Care Facility in Tupelo. Judge Roberts is recuperating from a very serious illness that has him temporarily off the Judicial Bench while he recovers.

On Saturday, 18 May 2019, two Patriotic organizations, the William Gray Chapter of the Mississippi Sons of the American Revolution and the Tombigbee Chapter of the Mississippi Daughters of the American Revolution joined together to repair and rededicate two grave markers of Revolutionary War descendants. The two graves are located in the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery, Aberdeen, Ms. The first grave marker is that of Mary Elizabeth Casey Hamilton (Mrs. Charles Granville), who was a descendant of the Revolutionary Soldier, LTCol (later General) Levi Casey, who served in South Carolina.

The second grave marker is that of Catherine Sykes Hall Evans (Mrs. Julian T.) who descended from Private William Sykes, who served in the Virginia Militia during



Mrs. Sykes Grave: George Crawford, Acting Chaplain and Past President of the William Hillhouse Chapter, Jack Hamilton, President, William Gray Chapter, placed an American Flag; and Polly Grimes Incoming Regent, Tombigbee Chapter DAR, placed flowers.

the Revolutionary War.

Additionally, on 25 May, the Saturday prior to Memorial Day ceremonies, Over 30 Aberdeen Volunteers assisted the Tombigbee Chapter DAR, the William Gray Chapter SAR, and Aberdeen Boy Scouts placed 350 American Flags at Oddfellows Rest in Aberdeen, MS, honoring the veterans who served our nation in all wars and peace keeping encounters from the American Revol-

Chapter News Continued

- William Gray Chapter - continued -

ution to the present conflicts in the Middle East. The 350 American Flags were donated by the William Gray Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. "Unfortunately, we ran out of flags! It is amazing to see how many Veterans have been laid to rest here at Oddfellows, they all need to be honored and remembered." stated William Gray SAR Chapter President Jack Hamilton. 500 flags have already been ordered for next year. Respectfully submitted, Jack Hamilton.



(President's Message Continued)

to the writing of this message, was the Mississippi DAR State Regents Reception in Starkville, MS for MSDAR State Regent Helen Hicks Polk on July 26, 2019. Her husband is Carlton Polk, President of the Captain William Hillhouse Chapter, Starkville, MS. The event was well attended by MS SAR State Officers, DAR members and Hillhouse Chapter Officers.

Next on our agenda is the MS Executive Committee Meeting September 7th, in Ridgeland, MS. Every compatriot that is interested in becoming involved in the MSSAR's various committees is invited to attend. Our Nominations Committee is currently researching our membership for the 2020 office of 2nd Vice President. Are you the leader to speak up and let me know you are interested (call me 662-315-7585)?

Our next road trip planned is into Tennessee. The Tennessee King Mountain Chapter is hosting a ceremony for 5 Patriots, and grave markings. This is a National SAR Event at Piney Flats, TN. The grave markings will occur Friday September 13, and the gathering at Sycamore Shoals Park, Elizabethton, TN will be on Saturday September 14. (more info at choirboy44@live.com) .No rest for the weary, as on September 18th we drive to Louisville, KY for the Fall NSSAR Leadership Conference and back home September 22nd. Most MS SAR Chapters will begin to have scheduled meetings from September 1, 2019 through May 2020. I plan to attend as many, if not all of them, as I can. So as I said, "ROAD TRIP" in our family means "Adventure" and "Fun".

So, my fellow compatriots, and your families, take care, stay healthy and hopefully I will be seeing "Y'all" very soon. God Bless. Yours in Service, Dr. John Fulwider

Grave Rededication

CAPTAIN SAMUEL PEDEN MONUMENT DEDICATION CEREMONY Smyrna Cemetery, Kemper County, MS April 28, 2019

The family of Captain Samuel Peden by their request to formally perform a Grave Marking Ceremony with Color Guard at the Smyrna Cemetery on April 28, 2019 honored the Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution. Samuel Peden was born in Antrim County, Northern Ireland 1754. His death was 26 December 1835 at the age of 81. His service as a Captain in the Revolutionary War included Command positions in the battles of Musgrove Mill August 18, 1780 and Blackstock's November 20, 1780. His known Regiments as a Captain were 1st Spartan Regiment, 1780-1781, and Roebucks Battalion of Spartan Regiment 1781.

In 1834 Samuel Peden bought and settled on land in Kemper County, MS. He founded Smyrna Presbyterian Church and was the first to Rest in the church's graveyard. Samuel and Katie White Peden have many descendants now living in MS, Ark, and Texas. Samuel's sister, Jane Peden Morton Morrow was a Revolutionary War Heroine.

Captain Peden has a large group of descendants who have formed a Peden Reunion Association and published a book chronology of the family's history. Ms. Caroline Sherman a Past President of the Peden Association delivered the Invocation at the ceremony after the Presentation of Colors by the MS SAR Color Guard Commanded by Julius Hite. The Color Guard consisted of Dr. Bryant Boswell and Rev. Preston Irving bearing arms, with Julius Hite and Erik Norman bearing colors.

President of MS SAR Dr. John Fulwider led the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag, and made the Presentation of the MS SAR Wreath. His address to the attending audience was on the Purpose of the SAR.

Ms. Cheryl Sparkman, Kemper County Historical Association, gave welcome and opening statements. The life and involvement of Patriot Samuel Peden was told by Ms. Ruby Smith, a direct descendent of Samuel Peden. Mark Paden (Peden) the Historian of the Peden Reunion, South Carolina delivered a word from the reunion committee. The Benediction was delivered by James Hodge, a direct descendent of Samuel Peden.

A reception and refreshments for the large turnout on a sunny Mississippi Day followed ceremony.. (Article submitted by Dr. John Fulwider).



Dr. Bryant Boswell, Color Guard Commander Julius Hite, Erik Norman and Buddy Irving practicing their route.



The MSSSAR Color Guard is making final preparations before presenting the colors at the marking ceremony. From left: Buddy Irving, Erik Norman, Julius Hite and Bryant Boswell.

Southern District Attendees at the 2019 NSSAR Congress Costa Mesa, California

The NSSAR Southern District, which is composed of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, had a good turnout at the 2019 NSSAR Congress in Costa Mesa, California. Eighteen members and thirteen ladies attended the annual event.



Seated, left to right: Mary Addington, Rita Pickette, Frances Stone, Sarah Hayes, Pam Fulwider Nan Wakefield Diane Seales, Karen Vets, Mary Buehler.

Standing, left to right: : Charles Dammann (TN), Darryl Addington (TN), Bruce Pickette (AL), Bill Stone (AL) Michael Schenk (MS,) Bradley Hayes (LA), John Fulwider – (MS), Edmon McKinley (AL), Colin Wakefield (TN), Bobby Joe Seales (AL), Tony Vets (LA), Fred Olive (AL), Gred Underdown (TN), Bruce Buehler (AL).

Not Pictured: Eric & Karen Alford (AL), Joseph & Katherine Barker (AL), David & Nancy Billings (AL), Donald Robinson (AL), Laura Schenk (MS).

- 129th SAR National Congress Report -

Hilton Orange County, Costa Mesa, California - The annual national congress of the SAR was held from Friday, July 5 to Thursday, July 11, 2019. The weather was extremely pleasant the entire time, making it difficult to return to hot and humid Mississippi. A number of tours were offered during the week, including a "Huntington Library and Gardens" tour, a "Lyons Air Museum and Richard Nixon Presidential Library" tour, a "San Juan Capistrano Mission" tour, and a "Ronald Reagan Presidential Library" tour. The host society reception was a beautiful four-hour dinner cruise in New
(con't on p 10)

129th SAR National Congress Report (continued)

port Beach on the Hornblower ship "Endless Dreams." Attendees heard outstanding speeches by high school students during the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations contest. At the youth awards luncheon, the winning essay was read, and the top posters and brochures were displayed. A unique opportunity at this year's conference were four excellent sessions hosted by the William L. Clements Library from the University of Michigan. The Clements library has one of the best collections of primary source materials for the American Revolution in the country and is proud to be collaborating with the SAR.

Mississippi sent two delegates to the Congress: Mississippi Society President John Fulwider, and myself, Mississippi National Trustee.

There was no activity by the trustees to report.

Some of the business items voted on included (motions passed):

1. Two additional classes of membership already in the bylaws were added to the constitution: national life membership and emeritus membership.
2. The memorial membership in the bylaws was changed to allow membership of deceased children and to ensure that a new patriot ancestor is not used on the application.
3. "Independent Audit Committee" was changed to "Audit Committee" in the bylaws, and the number of committee members was increased from five to seven.
4. The bylaws were updated to clarify that life members who let their state society membership lapse do not need to pay national dues upon reinstatement to a state society.
5. Incorrect information about membership requirements for the Ladies' Auxiliary were removed from the bylaws.
6. Motions to amend three (3) bylaws (they were defeated):
 - a. NSSAR Constitutional Article IV. Officers and Trustees, Section 1. striking "one year" and inserting "two years except for Vice-Presidents General who will continue to hold office for one year".
 - b. NSSAR Bylaw No. 20, Section 1, by redefining the composition of the Nominating Committee, (fewer past PG's and more State Presidents).
 - c. NSSAR Bylaw No. 20, Section 1, by striking "shall vote to choose one nominee for each office" and the last two sentences of the section and inserting "shall choose those nominees that are qualified for each office based on the job description in the Constitution and Bylaws.

During the congress, Bobby Joe Seales was installed as Vice President General of the Southern District, and Michael P. Schenk and John Fulwider were elected National Trustee and Alternate Trustee for Mississippi, respectively. Next year's congress will be in Richmond, Virginia. Submitted by Michael P. Schenk

- Letter to the Editor -

Why Belong to the Sons of the American Revolution?

Dr. Azalia Smith Moore



There are many adult men in Mississippi and other states who are eligible to become members of the Sons of the American Revolution. Those who are members and who are descendants of other members find many great benefits from their membership in this worthy historic organization. This writer not long ago responded to the question, "Why should I join the SAR?" As a part of the response to this question, the author was challenged to document the value of membership in both the SAR and in other similar historic societies. The response can be divided into seven basic categories: fraternity, family, fellowship, fidelity, friendship, fun, and faith.

Basic to the needs of most human beings is the need for fraternity. One psychologist identified the need to belong to a group as one of the basic needs of most human beings. Not only does the SAR offer fraternity with other men in the organization, but the sense
(con't on p 11)

- Letter to the Editor (continued) -

Why Belong to the Sons of the American Revolution?

Dr. Azalia Smith Moore

of belonging to history and to the sacrifices of the men and women who paved the foundation of freedom and democracy enables each applicant to better comprehend the his link to other people with similar backgrounds. In many instances, the member first becomes aware of the history of his ancestors.

As noted, there is much value in the knowledge of the history of one's family. While physical characteristics are readily discernible to the applicant, often there are attributes and talents that one discovers as he researches the military service and/ or contributions of each generation in his history. There are both delightful and challenging factors in the history of most individuals. This writer has had many applicants say, "I don't want to know about the horse thieves." However, knowledge about the preachers, the teachers, the skilled craftsmen, and the sacrifices made in military and public service create pride and affiliation. Doing the necessary research for an SAR application affords the applicant with documents that convey skills, talents, crafts, beliefs, and challenges met and conquered by ancestors of the SAR applicant.

The SAR meetings provide valuable opportunities for fellowship with a group of individuals who enjoy the programs related to the history of this country. SAR chapters include both the members and their spouses in the meetings. Programs are usually related to the history of the Revolutionary War Era. For example, one meeting included a display of the canteens carried by soldiers from the Revolutionary War period. The presenter encouraged each attendee to actually hold canteens that were more than 200 years ago. Another program contained music that could have been sung around the camp fires of the soldiers and staff during the war. While a third program focused on historic markers along the highways in Mississippi allowing those who attended to better appreciate the powerful role of this state in history.

Friendship is also a benefit of being a member of the SAR. As monthly gatherings occur, many long term friendships evolve. Projects such as cleaning historic cemeteries and helping high school students comprehend history through essay contests and other competitions supported by the members of the SAR who work cooperatively on the projects. One Mississippi SAR group recently cleaned an old cemetery in Monroe County and the SAR members were joined by individuals of all ages who shared the desire to honor those who had been early inhabitants of their county. There is much "sweat equity" available to cement friendship among SAR members.

Faith is another benefit of being a member of the SAR. Each chapter has a Chaplain, an opening ritual that includes the pledge to the US Flag, salutes to the state flag, and prayer. While no sectarian position is held or postulated, the nature of the founding of the United States and the desire for the freedom from government dictated religious worship have long been identified as a factor in the Revolutionary War.

In conclusion, the question, "Why belong to the SAR?" can be answered with an affirmation of the seven basic values regularly enjoyed by those who are members. While one member might answer with different terms, others share the seven benefits once each month as they gather together in local chapters with others who are dedicated to honoring their Revolutionary Patriots and supporters. History becomes reality.



- Membership Renewal -



It's that time of the year to pay our dues and renew our membership. Within the next couple of months each one of us will receive a dues notice. President Fulwider and all the state officers strongly encouraged all of our members to submit your dues to Treasurer Lynn Herron and retain your membership. This year the National Society will award \$1000,00 to the state society that has the highest % of member retention. This award could go a long way toward funding our youth programs or any of the other programs that need support. So, again, when you receive the dues notice drop a check in the mail to Treasurer Herron. Help the Mississippi Society win that \$1000.00

- Mississippi Society Leadership Profiles -

- Dr. Andrew Jones -



During the fall of 1986 I was recruited as a possible candidate for membership in SAR by Judge Willard McIlwain in Greenville and to complete the application in time to be a charter member of the General Nathaniel Greene Chapter that he was forming. My membership was approved as a part of the group on January 4, 1987. The name was a patron ancestor of the judge.

A meeting was held at my lake house and was attended by President General Clovis Barksdale. He recommended that I should be awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship metal. It was my first medal and was awarded at the next state convention.

Since then I have served on most of the chapter committees at one time or another and held positions at each of the officer levels. Most of the committee work at the state level has been for jobs where an individual was elected to the chairmanship but did not function and I was appointed to complete the year. Col. Douglas Harper was Secretary and chairman of the JROTC committee. When he moved to Kentucky I was elected Secretary and a member from Meridian wanted the JROTC slot but became very upset because there was not someone provided to do all of the addressing of envelopes etc. for him. He resigned his membership and his mother resigned from DAR. I have handled the ROTC duties since. The secretary tenure lasted for five years before someone was willing to take the job and handle the work.

I have served as Vice President and President for two years each and later served as Vice President General of the Southern District on two separate occasions. It was expected that I

attend the planning sessions and the national congress each year and that was done. At the national level I served on the Oratorical Contest and History Teacher Committees for several years.

I have been rewarded greatly with medals and honors for my services. In addition to the regular medals, plaques like "Life Time Achievement Award," "President's Special Award," more than thirty certificates of appreciation have been received, however, the greatest reward has come from working with people like Dexter Nettles, Buck Meek, Martis Ramage, Webster Cleveland, Thomas Wallis, Douglas Harper, John Taylor, Ike Edwards, Charles Garrison, Lynn Herrer, Gerald Brent, Tom Lawrence, Tom Sasser, Russell Terrell, Rod Hildreth, John Wallace and many others. I am a lucky guy.