

SAR Alabama

Volume 26, Number 1

March, 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Compatriots,

A little over a year ago, past president Dave Billings and I were invited into the home of Bruce and Rita Pickette to discuss the path forward for the Alabama Society. Bruce, during his presidency, had begun a program of education for the purpose of informing compatriots of the programs available and how to contribute to their success.

During that all-day conversation and several follow-up conversations, the three of us agreed that the program needed to be expanded and carried forward for at least the next two years of our offices.

I made the commitment at that time to do what I could to keep the program alive. President Billings has made numerous talks and presentations on education throughout the past year. The theme has been furthering the education of compatriots no matter how long they have been members of the Society. His efforts have been rewarding and I commend him on his beneficial work.

Our theme for 2011-12 was "Leadership Development" and will continue to be the focus for the coming year, concentrating on developing existing chapters through officer training and incorporating educational best practices. The intended result is to advance each chapter by working together on four goals: Leadership, Recruitment, Youth, and Programs.

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Posey installed as ALSSAR president at annual convention



—Photo by Kim Keller

Outgoing ALSSAR president Dave Billings, right, puts president's ribbon on C.W. Posey Jr.

The 123rd state convention of the Alabama Society was held in Huntsville on Feb. 24 -25 at the Marriott at Tranquility Base. The highlight was the induction of new officers.

Curtis W. Posey Jr., of the Cahaba Coosa chapter was installed as the ALSSAR president for 2012 at the Saturday evening banquet. The installation of officers culminated two days of activities. On Friday the activities included the SAR application genealogical workshop and the welcoming reception. On Saturday the activities included the George Washington

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Revolutionary brochure presented at convention

A mockup of the brochure "Alabama: A Revolutionary State" was presented at the annual convention business meeting in February.

The front of the brochure had been previously approved at the October Board of Managers meeting.

The front panel of the brochure contains the image of President George Washington. The poster side contains the map of Alabama with a short biography on a revolutionary patriot for which the county is named.

A quote for the cost production of the brochure was presented.

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Message

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The purpose of this training is to:

Strengthen chapters by developing best practices for our chapter leadership;
Improve chapters' ability to recruit, retain, reconnect, and reinstate members;

Expand chapters' participation in Youth programs, and

Enhance chapter's programs at meetings.

To the Society membership I pledge to continue the program throughout 2012 and into 2013. My theme will be:

"Honor our Forefathers who Gave us our Freedom and Teach our Children the Values and Cost of Freedom."

As I traveled throughout the state visiting as many chapters as I could last year, I heard a recurring question, "What can I do?" At first I thought that I could not contribute to some of those who have been members much longer than I. I also struggled with how I could help our newest members answer that question.

As so often happens, while I was driving to a Society meeting this thought occurred to me, "How did our ancestors deal with this question?" What if they thought they could not make a difference, where would we be today? If our patriot ancestors had any hesitation and decided that he or she could not have made a difference, we would most likely not be enjoying this time or our freedom together.

So, what can I do? I can have the same attitude that our forefathers had. I can make a difference in many ways. I can be most effective if I offer my individual talents to be a productive member of my chapter and the Society.

Our forefathers were outnumbered; out manned; out gunned; but apparently had the determination to overcome these odds. They could have easily said, "We can't win." They could have easily said, "Let someone else do it." They could have said, "I can't make a difference." They could have abandoned the cause because of fear. They did not let any of these things stand in the way of fighting for freedom.

One of the missions of the Society is to keep this attitude alive to preserve our freedom. We need to educate ourselves and our children about what it took to gain freedom and what it means and what it will take to maintain it.

The people who established the free United States of America were volunteers much like us. We volunteer our time to advance the cause of freedom through our great Society. Our goal this year is to develop leaders who have the passion and zeal to further the principles of our Society.

By following the lead of the founders of this country and all those who followed them up to our generation we will realize the importance of telling our children who their ancestors were and how they influenced their lives and ours. It is true that we collectively can be better informed and equipped to teach our children but it must start with our desire and willingness as individuals to do so. We also need to instill in them the importance in preserving their history for future generations. It should be all about the children and developing the desire to pass along their heritage.

I am honored to be elected as your president. I will do everything within my power to fulfill the obligations of this office and be available to serve you.

I thank those who have helped me prepare for this office. They are too many to mention but I am deeply grateful for their guidance. I congratulate the newly installed officers and look forward to serving with you in the coming year.

We owe a special thanks to the ladies auxiliary. They have enabled us to complete our Board of Managers meetings by providing food and support. They have made generous donations to the Society's youth programs and to the national ladies auxiliary. We thank you for your service and look forward to another great year working beside you.

Respectfully in your service,

C. W. Posey, Jr.

Taylor nominated for 2013 VPG at Southern District breakfast

The annual meeting of the Southern District was held in conjunction with the George Washington Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 25. The main business of the annual meeting was the Vice-President General reporting on the Southern District and the introduction of the Southern District nominee for VPG for the year 2012-2013.

The Mississippi Society is next in the rotation for VPG. Mississippi had nominated past state president John Taylor in late 2011. The four state presidents plus the VPG as chairman constituted the nominating committee.

A vote was held (also in late 2011) and Taylor was elected unanimously. John was introduced at the breakfast and gave his acceptance remarks. John's name will be submitted to the National Society as the 2012-2013 nominee for VPG of the Southern District. He will be installed at the Congress this summer in Phoenix, Ariz.

—Jim Maples

SAR holds awards workshop

On Saturday, Feb. 25, during the state convention, approximately 25 ALSSAR members and guests attended a workshop on SAR medals and awards.

The workshop covered most medals that are available for presentation at the chapter and state levels and some that are awarded at the national level only. An explanation was given on which level (chapter, state or national) may present each medal, who may receive each one and how many times a person may receive a particular medal. The workshop identified medals that are awarded for service to the SAR; medals given for community service, and medals that are presented to ladies and youth. Also covered in the workshop were uses of the oak leaf cluster, as well as the order of importance and precedence of all SAR medals.

The intent of this workshop is to train chapter officers, state officers, and medals and awards committee members in the selection of medals and their recipients so that SAR medals are awarded appropriately, and so that the person being selected for an award is qualified to receive it. Also, the workshop emphasizes that awarding medals and awards should always be given very careful and serious consideration to insure that the recipient is deserving, and the occasion for the presentation is appropriate. Also, it is strongly recommended that the award of medals and awards should not be treated lightly.

This workshop is available to ALSSAR chapters by contacting Jim Alexander, medals and awards chairman, at 256-837-7418, or Bruce Buehler, cadre training committee chairman, at 334-467-6646.

—Jim Alexander

Brochure

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The consensus of the Managers was to review the content and suggestions were made during the meeting. The State Department of Tourism was to be contacted to see what they require and if they will help with the production or distribution of the brochure. Also, it was agreed that recognition of Gen. Galvez (including the monument commissioned by the Baldwin County's Gen. Galvez chapter) was to be a major feature of the brochure. It will include such sites as Fort Charlotte (Ft. Conde) and the Battle of Mobile, and note the route traveled by the Marquis de Lafayette in 1826 when he came to Alabama.

After this review is complete the brochure will be presented to ALSAR president C.W. Posey for his consideration and approval to proceed.

—Fred Olive



—Photo courtesy of Dave Billings

Ladies Auxiliary officers inducted

The officers for 2012 are, from left: Linda Graham, Elizabeth Wells, Nancy Billings, Hazel Phillips, Rita Pickette and past president Abby Alexander.

Auxiliary elects 2012 officers

The ladies auxiliary met on Saturday morning during the state convention and voted to increase their annual donations to the SAR, then elected new officers for 2012.

The members agreed to increase donations to the ALSSAR from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and to the National Ladies Auxiliary from \$250 to \$500.

Hilda Posey announced that the May 5 Board of Managers meeting would be at American Village.

Leanne Cornwell reported for the nominating committee, offering the following slate of officers for 2012-2013: Linda Graham, president; Elizabeth Wells, vice president; Rita Pickette, treasurer; and Hazel Phillips, historian. No one was nominated for the position of secretary but Nancy Billings offered to fill the position for one year. Officers will serve for two years in future. The new officers were installed during the banquet on Saturday evening.

Members of the auxiliary and the SAR chapters they worked with supplied 26 baskets filled with various items including books, wine, footballs, etc., for the silent auction. The baskets were on display Friday evening and all day Saturday for bidders to view and make their bids. At closing, the total raised \$1,496.

Convention

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breakfast, the Southern District meeting, the Society's memorial service, the Society's annual business meeting, the Rumbaugh Historical Oration contest, a workshop on SAR awards and medals, state youth awards, state service awards and the annual banquet and installation of officers.

Other officers installed included Rev. Marvin K. Vickers, senior vice president; Bruce A. Buehler, secretary; Wayne Sirmon, recording secretary; Bobby Joe Seales, treasurer; Ronald Bearden, registrar; Dr. Walter Stevenson Jr., genealogist; Roy Roberts, chancellor; Dr. J. Fred Olive III, historian; Rev. Jefferson Coker, III, chaplain; and Stan Phillips, sergeant-at-arms.

With 158 individuals registered, the convention was the largest compatriots could remember in recent years. Visiting SAR officers and compatriots participated from Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. Four national society officers participated in the convention, including Vice President General James Maples, Genealogist General Larry Cornwell, Librarian General Mike Wells and National Trustee Bruce Pickett.

At the evening banquet outgoing ALSSAR president David Billings recognized special guests which included Dr. Lawrence Ron Greenwood and his wife Carol, Southern District Vice President General Raymond Clapsadle and his wife Christina, Alabama Society Ladies Auxiliary President Linda Graham and her husband John, Mississippi Society First Vice President Gerald Brent and his wife Sandy, Southern District Secretary John Taylor of the Mississippi Society and his wife Jill, Regent of the Alabama Society Daughters of the American Revolution Rita Horton and her husband Dr. Charles Horton, Vice Regent of the Alabama Society Daughters of the American Revolution Connie Grund, Senior State President Children of the American Revolution Ann Lewis Boone, State President Children of the American Revolution Catherine Duffee and her parents David and Carla Duffee.

Dr. Greenwood, the featured speaker of the evening banquet, spoke on leadership development. An acknowledged expert in and practitioner of leadership development, he is a chair with Vistage International, the world's leading chief executive organization. Dr. Greenwood provided insights about leadership development, leadership development during the American Revolutionary era and about leadership development within the Alabama Society of the SAR. He emphasized the responsibility of senior leaders to identify, train and develop leaders with organization specific knowledge, skills and abilities. His final point was the importance of leaders having an internal moral compass, a code of ethical behavior. After the banquet compatriots spoke of Dr. Greenwood's excellent speech.

In Memory...

The Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter recently lost one of its compatriots when **DR. WILLIS ALEXANDER MICHAELS JR.**, passed away on March 14 at the age of 85.

Michaels, a veteran of World War II who served in the Army Air Corps, was a longtime member as well as deacon of First Baptist Church.

He studied at the University of Alabama and graduated from Emory University Dental School, beginning his career in dentistry in Talladega. He returned to Emory for an Orthodontic Fellowship and then practiced in Montgomery for many years.

An active member of the community, he served as president of the Capital City Kiwanis Club, Alabama Retail Jewelers Association and Second District Dental Society. He also

Dr. Willis Alexander Michaels Jr.

served as Commander of the Montgomery Power Squadron. He was a board member of South East YMCA and was active in Indian Guides with his boys.

He had many interests and loved spending time with his family. He enjoyed private piloting, boating, ham radio, wood working and restoring his Model A Ford.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Jane; his children, Amy Michaels, of Montgomery, Alex Michaels of Birmingham, Fred Michaels of Birmingham, Cindy Weaver of Birmingham and Ken Michaels of Birmingham; grandchildren, Jay Morris, Kendall Michaels, Carter Michaels, Alden Michaels and Corbin Weaver.

Services were held on March 17 at First Baptist Church.

Memorial Service held for 19 compatriots at convention

On Saturday morning, Feb. 25, at the state convention, a memorial service was conducted for 19 compatriots from 10 of our 16 chapters.

Selected scripture was read from Isaiah 25, followed by a memorial litany. As the memorial roll was read, a candle on the memorial table was lit by compatriot Bruce Buehler for each departed compatriot.

Following the reading of the memorial roll, it was pointed out that each of the compatriots was different and unique like the candlesticks on the memorial table. Each was a bright light in his respective chapter with the light of equality, justice, freedom and patriotism. Just as all these candles together made a great light, all of the living compatriots throughout the Alabama Society can make a difference with their light.

Those who were remembered were James Robert Chalker, Raymond Wayne Cobb, John Bennett Duncan, Heath Leigh, McMeans Jr., and Jimmy Wayne Traylor of the Birmingham chapter; Luther Garland Horton Jr., of the Chaba-Coosa chapter; David Underwood Bryant of the Cheaha chapter; John J. Humphries of the Cullman chapter; Otest Owen Collier and Robert Hilburn Wise of the Gen. Galvez chapter; Thomas Fontaine Currie, Emory McCord Folmar and John McNeil Trotman Jr., of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter; Billy Ray Land and Billy Max Wilson of the Little River chapter; John William Johnson Jr., of the Richard Henry Lee chapter; Darryl G. Adams and Carl J. Welchel of the Tennessee Valley chapter and Alfred William Tate of the Wiregrass chapter.

These compatriots will be missed but not soon forgotten.

— Rev. R. Jefferson Coker III



—Photo courtesy of Dave Billings

ALSSAR president Dave Billings, Rumbaugh winner Rachel Thompson and committee chairman John Killian.

Fort Payne senior wins Rumbaugh award

As the morning session of the state convention, participants heard three excellent speakers who competed in the annual Rumbaugh Oration contest.

Emma Rene'e Marie Armstrong, sponsored by the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter, spoke on *Patriotism During the Revolutionary War*. Rachel Thompson, sponsored by the Little River chapter, spoke on *Espionage in American History*. Victoria Williams, sponsored by the Birmingham chapter, spoke on *United*.

Judges included Rev. Marvin Vickers of the Wiregrass chapter, Wayne Sirman of the Gen. Galvez chapter and George Royer of the Tennessee Valley chapter. The chairman sought to find capable and qualified judges from chapters who had no representative in the contest.

After a time of evaluating the speeches, the judges announced the three winners. Thompson, a senior at Fort Payne High, won first place, followed by Williams, a senior at Mountain View Baptist, and Armstrong.

—John Killian

Prattville fifth grader wins elementary poster contest

The Alabama Society Elementary Poster Contest was held at the annual convention. The poster theme was the "Battle of Guilford Courthouse" fought in North Carolina on March 15, 1781. State judges were compatriots Larry Crabtree, John H. Graham, John Walker, Fred Olive and Charles Dammann with compatriot Richard Erickson overseeing the judging process. Special thanks are extended to all of these compatriots for their participation and help at the convention.

Our state winner for 2012 was Nikolas Espinoza, a fifth grader at Autauga Academy in Prattville, sponsored by the Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter. The Espinoza poster will be sent to the National Congress in Phoenix, Ariz., for national competition in July. The second place winner was Bradley C. Westhauser, a fifth grader



—Photo by Bill Stone

Fifth grader Nikolas Espinoza won the poster contest with this entry.

at Holy Cross Episcopal School of Montgomery, sponsored by the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter. The third place

winner was Layla Shaney Felt, a fourth grader at Lanett City School of Lanett, sponsored by the Richard Henry Lee chapter.

Prizes awarded this year were certificates of appreciation and cash prizes given by the Alabama Society for the three finishers ranging from \$50 to \$100.

The Alabama Society Elementary Poster Contest is a wonderful youth program for our chapters and our state society. The program encourages our elementary school children to learn some of the basic history behind the American Revolution. There is nothing prouder than a young elementary school child receiving a certificate in front of his classmates!

Our children and grandchildren are our legacy and the future of our nation!

—Bill Stone

Pingali wins essay contest

At the state convention banquet in Huntsville, the 2012 George and Stella Knight Essay Contest Award winners were announced. In attendance was first place winner Hema Pingali and her parents. Hema's essay was on "James Madison: Father of the Constitution." It was submitted through the Tennessee Valley chapter. She was awarded a medal, certificate, \$300 and her essay was forwarded to the National Society for entry into the national contest. She is a junior at Randolph School in Huntsville and is considering a medical career.

Mary Stone, sponsored by the Birmingham chapter, took second place, earning her a certificate and \$200, for her essay, "Alexander Hamilton: A Founder of the New American Government." Madison Champion, sponsored by the Cheaha chapter, earned third place, a certificate and \$150, for his essay, "Henry Knox: Life and Legacy in the American Revolution."

Judges for the essays were compatriots Larry Cornwell, Justin Rojek and William Stone.

The Knight Essay Contest is approved by the National Association of Secondary School principals and is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors (as well as equivalent grade home schoolers). Essays of 800 to 1200 words must address an event, person, philosophy or idea associated with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence or the framing of the United States Constitution.

—Dick Erickson

Shoals sponsors Eagle Scout winner

The Alabama Society concluded the 2011 Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout scholarship contest with the selection of its scholarship winner, Joshua Nathaniel Newton of Sheffield, at the state convention. Newton's application was submitted by the Shoals Area chapter.

The Alabama Society's Eagle Scout scholarship committee boarded three applications -- two submitted by the Shoals Area chapter and one submitted by the Tennessee Valley chapter. To protect the integrity of the selection process, the board was comprised of three judges, all being U.S. Army officers and former Eagle Scouts, none of which were affiliated with the NSSAR.



—Photo courtesy of David Billings

Eagle Scout winner Josh Newton with associate chairman Robert Thomas.

The board graded the applications on three major areas: the application itself, the essay that was submitted with the application and the genealogy chart that was submitted with the application.

The selection of Newton's application was unanimous among the three judges.

—Joseph P. Creekmore Jr.



—Photo courtesy of Bob Anderson

Life and Times of Gen. Daniel Morgan

Compatriot Bob Anderson of the Tennessee Valley chapter presented "The Life and Times of Gen. Daniel Morgan, Frontier Rifleman" to history students at Priceville High School in November, describing the dress and weapons of the frontier as well as the life of Gen. Morgan, for whom Morgan County is named. He has made the presentation to six history classes and nine groups in all, ranging from a 40-minute classroom demo to a two hour presentation by he and his wife on the Revolutionary War and colonial home life.



—Photo courtesy of Dan Henry

Cullman flag certificate presentation

Cullman chapter president Dan Henry, left, presents a flag certificate to Cullman mayor Max Townsend for the city's display of state flags and the U.S. flag at Depot Park.



—Photo by Kim Keller

Ron Bearden, left, receives the President's Special Award for his help in organizing the Shoals Area chapter in 2011.

ALSSAR recognizes special contributions

At the 102nd state conference, the Alabama Society recognized those who have made significant contributions during the past year to the society's goals and objectives.

Chapter presidents and state committee chairmen were presented certificates of appreciation and state officers were awarded distinguished service certificates. Men and women who served on the state convention committee were recognized for their hard work with certificates of appreciation.

The following people were rewarded for their significant contributions to the Alabama Society: Nancy Billings, Patricia Cook and ASDAR state regent Rita Horton with the Martha Washington medal; Linda Maples with the medal of appreciation; Susan Crabtree and CAR state president Catherine Duffee with the Bronze Good Citizenship medal; and Ann Boone with the CAR-SAR medal of appreciation. Hoyt Smith was presented the Silver Good Citizenship medal.

Meritorious service medals were awarded to Conrad Cook, Brian House, Ronald Bledsoe, Roy Robertson, Rev. Marvin Vickers and Bruce Buehler. Bruce Pickette was awarded the State Distinguished Service medal and the Patriot medal, the highest metal the Alabama Society can present.

The state president's special award was given to Ronald Bearden for his hard work and dedication in organizing the recently chartered Shoals Area SAR Chapter. Special thanks go to the Alabama Society Ladies Auxiliary for a \$1500 contribution to the ALS-SAR youth programs.

State compatriots need to donate to CAAH campaign

We have now completed construction of our new Genealogical Research Library on West Main Street in Louisville, Ky. The Center for Advancing America's Heritage will soon be expanded to house our new interactive Museum Galleries, the Drinkard Education Center and National Headquarters.

We are already some four years into our program to advance our educational mission of civic literacy, patriotism and the history about our ancestors' struggles and sufferings during the Revolutionary War time period. Our intent is to provide a variety of materials to supplement what students are getting in the classroom to include electronic games and interactive videos.

The CAAH Capital Campaign is in the process of raising the funds needed to complete our Center and advance our educational mission of civic literacy, patriotism and history. Completing our Center will enable us to provide solid educational programs for use by members throughout the country.

The campaign's goals are 20 percent of each state society's members participating at an average of \$250 or more per society member. The name of the qualifying societies will be prominently displayed in the new Center for Advancing American Heritage when completed. Nine states have now qualified. Alabama is not one of them.

As of Dec. 31, the Alabama Society ranked 45th with a participation rate at 12 percent and an average donation of \$85. The nine state societies with more members than us have higher participation rates than we do. With 940 members, Alabama needs 188 donors. We had 116 donors. We need 72 more compatriots to become donors.

Join your compatriots' efforts to increase civic literacy and pride in our country and heritage. Fill out the CAAH Pledge Commitment at < <http://www.sar.org/library/giving.pdf>> and mail it to the address at the bottom of the form.



—Photo by Bob Gardner

NSSAR President General Larry Magerkurth, left, receives 20 ALSSAR compatriots' donations from ALSSAR president David Billings at NSSAR spring leadership conference on March 3.

Shoals chapter needs help with grave marking

The Shoals Area chapter is looking for assistance with a grave stone placement the third Sunday in May.

One of the chapter's members had a grave marker commissioned a year ago for Stephen Duboise (1758-1842). Originally, before there was a Shoals Area chapter, the ceremony was scheduled for May 2011. Then April 27 came and like many scheduled events, the placing of the marker was necessarily postponed.

Stephen Duboise served under Gen. Francis Marion (The Swamp Fox). In 1830, he moved to Franklin County, Alabama. Compatriot Dale Garrison asked if the newly formed Shoals Area chapter would be interested and able to help with commemorating this marker placement. It was discussed at some length, but in the end, our new chapter has no members with period dress, making the appropriate Color Guard an impossible undertaking.

Shoals Area chapter president David Ellis discussed the possibility of "recruiting" some experienced and uniformed assistance during the state convention and did receive an offer from Mississippi State Society VP Gerry Brent. This event will bring recognition to the Shoals Area chapter and the SAR in general.

Some patriots have sent reference material via e-mail and that has been of some help. President Ellis is grateful for that and admits that being very new to the workings of such matters, any information is helpful. The biggest problem remains the matter of getting people with period dress to commit to showing up.

More help from others, especially those with period dress, is requested to support this significant event. The chapter meets the second Sunday of the month (2 p.m.) at the library in downtown Sheffield. All are welcome to join them and particularly if you have help to offer. If you are able to provide any assistance, you should contact Shoals Area chapter president David Ellis at tewkusa@yahoo.com, or by telephone at (256) 275-3209.

Gen. Galvez chapter inducts new officers for 2012

The annual installation banquet of the Gen. Galvez chapter was held on Jan. 14 at Heron Lakes Country Club in Mobile, with ALSSAR president C. David Billings installing the new officers for 2012.

Chapter president Wayne Sirmon called on Larry David Johnson and David Warren Myers to present them the War Service Medal with the Vietnam War service bar and certificate. This medal is presented to an SAR member who served in the armed forces of the United States and fought against a common enemy of the United States in a war or action for which a campaign medal and ribbon are authorized.

Both Johnson and Myers served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

Billings inducted the new officers, which included Mack Ollie Matthews, president; Dr. John Robert Shell, vice president; Leroy McGaughy, secretary-treasurer; and Art Dillman & Troy Smith (who was not present) as elected members of the Board of Managers.

Matthews accepted the presidency and addressed the chapter. His first act was to present the Meritorious Service Medal to



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

ALSSAR president Dave Billings (far right) inducted, from left, secretary-treasurer Leroy McGaughy, vice president John Robert Shell and president Matt Matthews with help from past president Wayne Sirmon.

Harold Wells for his long, faithful and meritorious service to the chapter as chairman of the Veterans Committee. Harold also assisted in registration and facilitation

for both ALSSAR state conventions held in Mobile when local members of our chapter held the ALSSAR presidency.

—Mike Glass

Gen. Galvez lends hand to veterans in Ride2Recovery



—Photo by Suzanne McGaughy

Gen. Galvez president Mack Matthews, second from left, Leroy McGaughy and Richard Britton, far right, join Ride2Recovery participants at a stop in Mobile.

Representatives from the Gen. Galvez chapter joined with Mobile city leaders in welcoming Ride2Recovery participants as they traveled through the city recently.

Ride2Recovery has the goal of bringing healing and hope to injured veterans with disabilities by riding bicycles to get their lives back on track and to give them a feeling of accomplishment.

The bikers were participating in the Gulf Coast Challenge, a six-day trip from New Orleans to Tallahassee, Fla., and the SAR representatives took pleasure in talking with veterans from Missouri, Florida, and even one from

Puerto Rico (who now plans to move to Alabama).

Galvez members met with the veterans at the Mobile Government Plaza (city-county administration building) where they had stopped to meet the public.

The vets were really motivated to overcome their disabilities in again learning to ride. The blind vets are placed in the front and guided by sighted vets using a special attachment that allow them to direct the blind vet's three-wheel bike. One blind vet said he never dreamed he would again feel wind in his face when he biked.

—Leroy McGaughy

Smith elected president of Montgomery chapter for 2012

The Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter held its annual winter banquet on Dec. 6 at the Montgomery Country Club. Again this year, the Montgomery chapter invited the Gen. John Archer Elmore to join in a joint banquet.

The featured speaker was ALSSAR president C. David Billings, who spoke on "Leadership Tomorrow."

The highlight of the banquet was the installation of new officers for 2012: George Thomas Smith III, president; Clark Dorsey, vice president; Walter Stevenson, secretary; Kenneth Mahan, treasurer; Brad Sanders, registrar; Larry Cornwell, genealogist; Justin Rojek, chaplain; and Brian Head, sergeant-at-arms.

Officers for the Gen. Elmore chapter were installed as well.

Chapter president Walter Stevenson

inducted two new members into the SAR, Thornton Dudley Perry and Thornton Dudley Perry Jr.

Stevenson presented the SAR Meritorious Medal to J. Hartwell Lane; the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to George Thomas "Tom" Smith III, for his volunteer service assisting tornado victims of April 2011; and the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to Ronald Pershing Davis for his extensive volunteer efforts in serving our Nations Veterans.

Although not attending, recognition was given to compatriot George Gayle, who had served as chapter treasurer for the past 15 years and attended 169 consecutive chapter meetings.

After installation of the officers, Smith presented Stevenson with the SAR Past President Pin, a Meritorious Service Medal and a Liberty Bell.



—Photo courtesy of Richard Montgomery chapter

Officers are, front from left: Tom Smith, Clark Dorsey, Walter Stevenson, Kenneth Mahan, Brad Sanders, Larry Cornwell, Justin Rojek and Brian Head.



—Photos courtesy of William Rozier

Cheaha chapter speakers

Yvonne Crumpler, above left, former genealogist and head of the Southern history department of the Birmingham Public Library, presented her well acclaimed program on "Women in the Revolution" at the Feb. 8 chapter meeting. The March 14 meeting featured Christopher McIntyre, above right, the assistant city attorney and prosecutor for the city of Jacksonville and a candidate in the Republican primary for Calhoun County district court judge. McIntyre spoke on "George Washington the Planter."

Tennessee Valley learns of treaties, music

Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter compatriot Bill Stone was the featured speaker at the Feb. 13 meeting of the Tennessee Valley chapter attended by 27 members and 25 guests.

Stone spoke on the 1790 peace treaty between the federal government and the five civilized Native American tribes of what is now considered the Southeast United States. This treaty was formalized in New York City but was not made known to the general public. Two years later leaders of the five tribes elected to withdraw from the conditions of the treaty. Following a question and answer session, a certificate of appreciation was presented to the speaker by compatriot George Royer.

The chapter also inducted Warren Adams and his son Chris, Darrell Dixon, Don Dunstone and Charles McMurry as new members.

Immediate past president Larry Crabtree reported the nominating committee recommendations for 2012-2013 chapter officers as follows: George Royer, president; Bob Anderson, vice president; Frank Vinz, secretary; Bob Hammond, treasurer; David Byers, registrar; Hoyt Smith, chaplain; Kim Keller, historian; and Jim Maples, newsletter editor. The chapter will vote on the recommendation at the chapter's annual banquet on March 9.

At the chapter's Nov. 14 meeting, Richard Markwalter, Roland Markwalter, Charles L. Smith III and Federal Judge Lynwood Smith were inducted as new chapter members.

Royer introduced program speakers Terry Cornett and SAR member Bob Baccus who were representatives of "The Old Time Brass." Their program was on Revolutionary War military music and signals. Drums, fifes, and bugles were demonstrated although we were told that bugles were not used in the US military until the War of 1812.

The program was well received and the speakers were presented certificates of appreciation by Royer.

—Frank Vinz

ALABAMA SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR

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Please submit your chapter's news and events

If you're submitting material for the next newsletter, please take note of the new e-mail address (timgaylesar@gmail.com) or send information about your chapter's activities or upcoming events by June 10 to Tim Gayle at 3104 Cabot Street, Montgomery, AL 36110.

New Alabama Society medal available to compatriots

ALSSAR compatriots Bill Stone and Dr. Walter Stevenson presented a proposal for the Alabama Society Membership Medal to the medals and awards committee on March 2 in Louisville, Ky. The proposal approved by the committee allows for the production and sale of the very first membership medal to be struck by the Alabama Society since its inception in 1889.

The design of both the large and small Alabama Society Membership Medal included in each set features a quality ribbon drape of white and red of the colors of our Alabama State Flag representing "purity and courage". The surface of the bronze medal features raised lettering, 13 stars and the figure of the patriotic minuteman and plow with the background shape of the State of Alabama recessed into the surface of the Medal. The black enameled background of the outer ring of the medal allows for the greatest contrast of the raised lettering "Sons of the American Revolution" and "Alabama Society." The founding date of the Alabama Society in 1889 is featured just below the recessed

shape of the State of Alabama.

The Alabama Society Membership Medal was approved by the Board of Managers in October with two goals in



mind:

First, to allow each current member of our Society to purchase his own set of membership medals which can be worn at SAR chapter meetings and other functions at the chapter, state and national levels identifying membership in the Alabama Society and to further celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2014.

Secondly, to strike a new medal as the very "first chapter state-wide fundraising event" held within the Alabama Society which would "provide a monetary rebate to the chapters."

The pre-sell of the Alabama Society Membership Medal will begin with pre-purchases at the chapter level in the very near future. An informational package will be sent via e-mail to each chapter president. Details and instructions will be included for sale and collection of money.

Our goal is to pre-sell a minimum of 300 medal sets which will include a large and small medal with ribbon drape in a plastic case for a total cost of \$30 per set.

—Walter Stevenson