

August 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Sons of the American Revolution

Tennessee Valley Chapter

The August 12th, 2019 Chapter meeting was called to order by **Vice-President Ray Livingston** at 11:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. Ray explained that our President Jim Griffith is on his way back from London and would be back for our September meeting. Ray began the meeting by asking everyone to please silence their cell phones. **Chaplain James Henderson** was asked to open the meeting with prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ray Livingston. followed by the SAR Pledge.

Thirty eight (38) members and Twenty one (21) guests were present for today's meeting.

This is a lunch time meeting, so feel free to enjoy the sandwiches and refreshments that are available against the wall to your right.

Vice President Ray Livingston indicated that he would like to recognize our first time guests or visitors that may be in attendance. Please stand and introduce yourself.

James R. Watson, Jr. David McLealan (Early Works), and Ken Lightfoot all stood and were introduced. Ray also introduced our special guests from other chapters (Fred Olive, Bob Ingles, Joel Myers and Bob England.)

Ray next talked about our Summer Social. We have a sign- up sheet. It is being passed around now. Please sign up and attend. We will pick up the sheets after the meeting.

When: Friday, August 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

Entertainment : "Eight Feet Wide", a Barbershop Quartet

Location: Whitesburg Baptist Church Recreation Center

7300 Whitesburg Dr.

Huntsville, AL 35802

"THE SAME PLACE AS LAST YEAR"

NOTE: If you are interested in attending and did not sign up at the last meeting, please sign up on the sheets being passed around now. Please plan on bringing a side dish or a dessert.

Vice President Ray Livingston asked James Maples to come up and introduce today's speaker:

We are so fortunate to have such a special speaker today. Mr. Tom Walker is a leader in his field and such an inspiration to all who have an opportunity to hear him.

Tom Walker is the Founder and President of the American Village Citizenship Trust, chartered in 1995.

Walker conceived the idea of the American Village in the late 1980s as an American history and civics educational campus to inspire and prepare young people for their roles as good citizens and leaders. He led efforts to build the 188-acre campus just south of Birmingham, AL in Montevallo, and to design and implement its widely-acclaimed and engaging history and civics programs. The campus consists of almost twenty historically-inspired buildings. Over 650,000 students from throughout the Southeastern states have participated in immersive experiences since the Village opened, in addition to thousands of public visitors each year as well.

For that work, Walker received the American Bar Association's highest national award for excellence in K-12 law-related education. He has received numerous state, regional and national awards and a few years ago he was named "Birmingham Citizen of the Year" by The Women's Committee of Birmingham.

Tom Walker is one of only sixteen citizens appointed by Congressional leaders to serve on the United States Semiquincentennial Commission. The Commission is responsible for leading the Nation's 250th anniversary celebration and commemoration of American Independence in 2026.

Tom earned his B.A. with Honors in History and Political Science at the University of Montevallo and his M.A. in Political Science at Mississippi State University. He is a former city manager and local government specialist. Prior to founding the American Village, he served as Special Assistant to the President at the University of Montevallo. Later he served as vice chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Montevallo and chair of its finance committee. He was the founding chair of the Alabama Higher Education Partnership, a consortium of Alabama's public colleges and universities.

Speaker Notes:

Tom began his presentation by thanking several members of the SAR. Tom complimented each of us for doing our part in honoring the legacy of our ancestors. Tom brought along several brochures for The American Village to distribute to our group.

Mission : The American Village serves the Nation as an educational institution whose mission is to strengthen and renew the foundations of American liberty and self-government by engaging and inspiring citizens and leaders, with a special emphasis on programs for young people.

The Five Goals of the organization is:

1) Teach Youth the Vital Lessons of Liberty

Our young people cannot safeguard what they do not cherish. And they cannot cherish what they do not know.

2) Remember the Price of Liberty and Honor Those Who Have Paid It

The timeless lesson of liberty is that freedom is not free. We remember, honor and thank those in every generation who have served and sacrificed for America and for liberty.

3) Promote Public Regard for the Constitution and America's Charters of Freedom

Our country faces growing national amnesia of the constitutional foundations of our freedom and self-government.

4) Engage Citizens and Leaders in the Stewardship of Liberty

Our country faces growing national amnesia of the constitutional foundations of our freedom and self-government.

5) Foster renewal of the American spirit of E Pluribus Unum (from many, one)

In the name American we find our national identity, memory, and unity. George Washington, father of our country, spoke candidly:

Citizens by birth or choice of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. – The name of AMERICAN, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism...

Tom shared several statistics with us on how today's educational system has let us down,

The American experiment has been tested throughout American history, in times of poverty and prosperity, war and peace, division and unity. It is tried and tested anew in each generation. Circumstances of the present time now offer new challenges that test whether the experiment will remain successful.

We must be good stewards of the liberty our founding generation secured for us. To each generation falls the task to choose to form a more perfect union and to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity. Through example and education, the American Village encourages citizens and leaders in the stewardship of our American liberty.

The Village was founded for this purpose, to fight a growing "amnesia" of the founding of our country. Survey after survey has shown some sobering statistics. We are not doing a good enough job of passing on this great heritage of history to the younger generation.

National assessment test, held at 4th, 8th and 12th grade levels show that nearly 1/4th of the students do not have even a basic knowledge of our story of American. Another test given and administered by Yale to 200 colleges asked graduating seniors 34 questions. The questions were at a high school level about American History and Government. 81% of these college seniors scored a "D" or an "F" on the test, and only one in three could identify George Washington at Yorktown.

Out of 1100 colleges in America, 82% of their graduates can graduate without taking a single course in American History or government. In the 25 elite colleges in America, You can graduate with a history major and not have a single course in American History.

We have just celebrated a major anniversary of D-Day. The major theme was: "We must not forget". How dare we forget the sacrifices that saved Western Civilization from the darkness of tyranny and Fascism. But how can we not forget if colleges are not teaching American History. Who prepares the teachers? If American History is not taught to the students who are going to be the teachers of K thru 12, how in the world can they pass it on? This is the Fragile Nature of American History.

What is even worse today is this statistic in the 18 to 30 year old age range: Nearly 55% have a favorable view of Socialism. 41% feel it is better to band hateful speech, than to allow free speech. This is the heart of who we are, the idea that we can disagree with other, but we can still hear other voices.

The Fact that Love of Country and Patriotism are not passed on to us thru our DNA or blood stream. **Young people cannot protect what they do not cherish and cannot cherish what they do not know.** This is the great cause and great opportunity of what America's 250th birthday in 2026 offers us. It's not just an opportunity, it is an imperative. We must provide in the conscience of the American people the importance of the founding. I have referred to an "amnesia" about American History and Civics, but that would infer that it would be a benign condition. Truthfully, today there are those who discredit the founders and the founding. They tell us that since the founders were flawed then the founding must be flawed and we need to abandon it. That is no more evident than as the attacks grow, even Washington and Lee spent a year discussing if they should drop Washington's name because he owned slaves. Our Founders, no one said they were perfect, but they did not live in our time. It's not like they said were living in the past, they were living in their present and since we do not understand all the dynamics they were faced with in their time.

This Anniversary, the NSSSR, the DAR, and other organizations like these must be the leading force in this 250 year anniversary. We proudly celebrate July 4, 2026 in the 250 years of the greatest document ever produced, The Declaration of Independence. Because of the work of our Founding Fathers, We had Independence; we had declared truth, not opinions, not results, not gallop polls, but we held these truths to be self evident that our creator had vested with in each of human being –Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness that no person can take away. And that government develops its authority by the consent of the people. It was revolutionary in the world then, and when you look around at the countries in the world today, it is still revolutionary. We must reacquaint our fellow Americans with that great Legacy.

The SAR is well positioned to help lead an organized effort. American Village will put out a guide of ideas on how to make an impact on your community. Just fill out the form and we will send it to you for free. This is also a great opportunity to recruit young people for the cause. What we have discovered at American Village, close to 750,000 students have been served, students can have a lot of fun. They can get engaged because they are discovering their own story. They are discovering what it is to understand what they possess.

I hope you all keep in mind that painting of the presentation of the Declaration of Independence to the Continental Congress. Keep it as one of your most treasured possessions for it tells the story of how blessed we are. I encourage you to encourage students to visit us at the Village. Our upcoming 250 year anniversary is our best opportunity in our generation to try to remind Americans what George Washington said: "The name America is given to you in your National capacity must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism". That is a great possession and today there is so much division in our country that exist, we need to remind everyone of all the ties that bind us together and they go back to our Declaration of Independence, and to the American Revolutionary War and to our Ancestors- Against the mightiest country on earth, what a remarkable achievement. I think that Washington credited Providential Care at so many junctures in the founding that he believed that our nation benefited from Providential Care.

Tom closed with a quote of Mordecai's words to Ester (4th chapter, 14th verse): "**Yet who knoweth whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this**" We have been blessed by freedom and the men and women in every generation and Veterans who has defended us. Today our country's foundation are challenged in ways that most of us would never had imagined. My question for you is have we come to such a time as this? And ought we do the best to go the extra mile to Patriotic Service for our country- in remembrance of our patriot ancestors who secured our independence in Liberty and by grace and Provincial Care of he who is the author of our lives and our liberty .

May we answer the call while we are on our watch in this place, at this time such as this? Thank You and God Bless.

Tom answered several questions before he was presented with a certificate and an Eagle Head for his desk at the Village by VP Ray Livingston. Pictures were taken by Jim Maples.

Induction Ceremony

Vice President Livingston asked our two new chapter inductees to come up front. Daniel Lambert Spiegelberg, and David Wayne Cole were then asked to take the SAR Pledge. Ray then presented each with their certificate and asked Registrar Charles McMurry to come up front and present each new member with their SAR Rosettes. Pictures were taken by Jim Maples

Daniel Lambert Spiegelberg: Patriot Ancestor was Moses Colton (1724-1777). He was the 5th GGF of Daniel on his Mother's side. Was a private in a company from Wilbraham, Mass. His company started their two day march during the alarm of April 19, 1775. By the time they arrived, the battle was over. Moses spent 10 days of total service and received seven shillings. He married Hannah Hitchcock and settled in Springfield, about 60 miles from Lexington and Concord. Moses died of Smallpox in 1777.

David Wayne Cole: Patriot Ancestor was William Baskin Sr. (1734-1804). William was born in Lancaster, Pa. on Feb 14, 1737. He married Nancy Ann Reed in Abbeville, SC. They had 12 children. His military began in 1777 when he was appointed Captain of the 3rd company under Andrew Livingston. David provided details of the three battles that his patriot was involved in: Carr's Fort, Cherokee Ford and Kettle Creek. David also noted that he is the 1st in his family to be involved in the SAR.

Next, Ray announced that David Billings was just back from the last National Conference in San Diego, Ca. He asked David to come up and make some remarks for us and special presentations from the 129th congress.

David expressed his greetings from Orange County Ca. , 129th Congress. The Congress was well attended and this chapter was well recognized twice. We were awarded the President General Educational Outreach Streamer for surpassing the required number of new Colonial Era Historical or Educational Programs presented annually for this year's 2018/2019 Award. David noted that it was his pleasure to present to the Tennessee Valley Chapter and Randal Jennings accepted the certificate and streamer to go on our flag.

The society has several goals like the one just talked about on Historical and Educational programs. Another is the Public Service and Heroism Accommodations which was summarized in a booklet presented to the Congress. It lists all the Chapters in the US that present Public Service or Heroism Awards. One section of the book is for special recognition. This award is for the chapter that has one or

more awards presented in each of five categories. These categories include 1) Fire Safety, 2) Law Enforcement, 3) EMT, 4) Life Saving and 5) Heroism. First on the list is Tennessee Valley Chapter from the State of Alabama. David expressed his honor in presenting the certificate and streamer to Randal for our chapter. In addition, Randal was presented a \$50 dollar personal check from last year's President General, Warren Alter for the chapter.

Before departing, Randal noted that this award should be credited to Mac Moon. He has been an excellent chairman; we want to make sure he is recognized.

OLD BUSINESS

Reading of last month's meeting Notes (Last one prior to new by-Laws starting with the Sept. meeting.)

Vice President Livingston asked for the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion was made by James Henderson to suspend with the reading of the minutes, the motion was seconded by Bob Baccus. A voice vote was called for and the motion was passed to accept the minutes as written by unanimous vote.

Officers Report:

President-Jim Griffith (Discussed by Ray Livingston in Jim;s absence)

- August 23rd at 6:00 p.m. – Summer Social at Whitesburg Baptist Church Event Center with entertainment from “Eight Feet Wide”, a barbershop quartet. Same location as last year.
- September 18th – 11:00 A.M. Athens State University Constitution Week Celebration
- Next Meeting will be on September 9th at Constitution Hall Historic Park and Museum in Downtown Huntsville. Facility tours will be provided, free of charge, to any member in attendance. NOTE: You will want to get there early to grab a close parking spot. There is parking available on the streets around the museum. Also, note that you will need to bring money for the parking meters.
- NOTE: Lunch will NOT be provided at this meeting.
- Regular meetings will resume at the Huntsville Public Library in October.
- Speaker's Bureau is now active! We are looking for others to join the Speaker's Bureau
- Americanism Award – We need to document all of your participation and volunteer work. Please update Benny Hannah on all of your activities
- George Washington Endowment Fund – Please consider becoming a GW Fellow. Talk with Jim Maples or Mac Moon.
- Public Relations Committee now exists. Jess Browne – Chair, Jim Maples, Cliff Lanham, and need two others. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please let me know.
- Membership Roster Booklet – Currently planned for distribution at the September meeting. Membership Roster Booklet is being updated by Benny Hannah. Please send any updates to Benny at benny.harris.hannah@gmail.com. Contact info is also on the website.

Next, Ray identified a very important part of today's meeting:

(Approval of Constitution and By-Laws changes) –Sequence of events follows:

- Committee formed, led by Vice President Ray Livingston with additional members (Corresponding Secretary - Jim Maples, Treasurer - Randal Jennings, and Chancellor – Richard Tingle)
- Effort was to update the Constitution and By-Laws
- Changes are all minor and have minimum impact on TVCSAR, but bring the documents up to date with the operation of TVCSAR.
- Copies of the changes were provided to all members via email for two weeks prior to today's meeting. (July 28th).
- The BOO has unanimously approved the changes.
- Last, we are now seeking your approval on these changes.

Since the e-mail went out on July 28th, we identified four minor changes that we will go over with you today. Note: there are no changes to the Constitution itself. Changes are to the by-laws. **First;** wording change to reflect that the receipt of the annual dues card will now be the responsibility of the Treasurer. **Second;** A wording change in the March meeting which is normally our yearly Banquet-change the wording: ladies to guest. **Third;** Approval of meeting minutes. Minutes will now be posted on our website two weeks prior to the next meeting. Providing officer will ask if there are any changes to the meeting minutes, if not, minutes will stand as written. **Fourth;** During BOO Meetings-President will only vote in case of a tie.

We have discussed the process leading to the TVCSAR Board of Officers-approved revisions to the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws as posted on our website on July 28th. And we have discussed that there are four modifications to those proposed revisions received from chapter members during the last two weeks, and presented today. Vice President Ray Livingston asked if we have a motion.

Benny Hannah provided the motion: "I move that the membership approve the TVCSAR Board of Officers-recommended revision to the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws as modified in today's meeting on August 12, 2019".

The motion was then seconded by James Henderson. VP Livingston then asked all of those who vote to approve, please raise your hand, all of those opposed, please raise your hand. The motion to approve was unanimous.

Vice President-Ray Livingston

Next month's meeting will be at Constitution Hall, our speaker will be Julian Butler.

Chaplain –James Henderson

Nothing new to report.

Treasurer-Randal Jennings

A graph was displayed on the overhead showing our checking account and our money market account totals.

Randal reminded everyone that we will start collecting dues in the next couple of months for 2020.

No other news to report.

Registrar-Charles McMurry

The TVCSAR Registrar's Report as of August 2, 2019

Summary as of 02 Aug 2019:

1. SAR COMPATRIOTS REGISTERED AWAITING INDUCTION—6
2. SAR APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AT NSSAR AWAITING REVIEW — 1
3. SAR APPLICATIONS MAILED NOT RECEIVED AT NSSAR—4
4. SAR APPLICATIONS STARTED, NOT FINALIZED —23
5. SAR PROSPECTS: AWAITING PROSPECT'S FAMILY DATA INPUT – 55
6. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS APPROVED, CERT NOT AWARDED--1
7. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPS RECEIVED AT NSSAR AWAITING REVIEW—2
8. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPS MAILED NOT RECEIVED AT NSSAR—0
9. NEW SAR MEMBERS INDUCTED AT LAST REGULAR MEETING 11 June 2019 -2

Recording Secretary-Benny Hannah

- Americanism Award data for 2019 is being collected and input into an official active SAR spread sheet. Need all members to please send e-mails of any Chapter activities outside our regular meetings to Benny Hannah. Please include any documentation or pictures. Include any presentations, awards or donations that may apply. If you are not sure it applies, send it to me anyway and I will sort it out. Send to Benny at benny.harris.hannah@gmail.com

- I have a need for updated information from members to update our Chapter Handbook. We would like to get it back out to the members in September. We will keep the same format as before, except we will be adding the names of the spouses. I have three copies of the roster on the back table. I have updated it with the latest information available. Please review your address, phone number, e-mail and mark up one of the three copies in the back of the room with any corrections.

Corresponding Secretary-**Jim Maples**

Jim Maples encouraged everyone to please consider joining the George Washington Endowment Fund (GWEF). The cost is a onetime \$1000 dollar payment or a \$200 payment with a \$200 dollar payment each year for the next four years. Jim noted that the original investment is never spent while 80% of the revenues is handed out each year in the form of grants. You do not have to be a member to join or donate. Once your name goes on the list , it will remain forever. Our Chapter has been the beneficiary of two grants over the past couple of years. This included a \$6000 grant for our flag pole project. Jim Maples provided us with a new standing poster and we have brochures on the back table. You can contact either Jim Maples or Mac Moon for information or help in GWEF Fellow.

Our chapter is now over 225 members again.

If you need a nameplate, make sure you have your name on the list in the back, Make sure that you put your name down as you would like to be called.

Historian –**Cliff Lanham**

Nothing new to report.

Genealogist-**Warren Adams**

Not here today.

Committee Report:

(No new committee reports)

Randal Jennings updated the chapter on the current Color Guard activities:

Randal began by showing a list of activities for the Color Guard. (See Below)

Next, Randal displayed our new Color Guard Banner to the group. The Banner was donated to us to help advertise our Color Guard. Randal thanked Bob Anderson for all he has done for the Color Guard and also a special thanks to Bob for the donation of the Banner.

Another thing that we just started at Early Works and at American Village was not only present the Flags, but we now talk about the flags.

The Color Guard is still looking for new members. One of our challenges this year is to increase our numbers. Ray Castel has already joined the group and Don Wolfe already has his uniform. Please contact Randal for information if you are interested.

Upcoming Color Guard Activities:

Aug 21st- Event in Birmingham has been cancelled.

Sept. 7th- NASA Banquet at local Church of Christ.

Sept 18th-Athens State University for constitution day. The date is good but the details are pending.

Oct. 5th- DAR Grave Marking. (Conflict with BOM at American Village) Randal believes that he has enough to cover both events.

Flag Committee- If you know of anyone who is properly displaying our Flag please let Randal know, so we can recognize them with a flag certificate.

Vice President Livingston made the following closing comments:

- Thank you to our Speaker, Mr. Tom Walker and for all that you do for the American Village, our Country, and for Sons of the American Revolution
- Thank you greeters (Larry Crabtree and Ed Carr)
- Thank you Ladies Auxiliary for your undying support and for feeding us at every meeting! Your efforts are appreciated more than you know!
- **We look forward to seeing everyone on August 23rd at the Summer Social! It should be a fun packed evening with your fellow Compatriots! Don't forget to sign up!**
- The Tennessee Valley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution is a growing, dynamic organization that is active in our community. We are happy that you are here today! If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to ask a member or an officer.

Vice President Ray Livingston asked the group to stand for the dismissal prayer by Chaplain Henderson. Ray then led the group in the SAR Recessional.

Vice-President Livingston adjourned the meeting at 12:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Benny Hannah, Recording Secretary
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