

# Sons of the American Revolution

## Tennessee Valley Chapter

June 8, 2020

### June Chapter Meeting

**Location:** Zoom Meeting Conducted on Internet  
Huntsville, AL

**Attendees:** Topper Birney, Ray Livingston, Jim Griffith, Bob Anderson, Kim Keller, Jim Maples, Jess Brown, Harold Whitesides, Randal Jennings, Eddie Winkles, Richard Tingle, Jim Alexander, Charles Thompson, Benny Hannah, Gene Bryson, James Henderson, Chip Pharr, Bill Sommers, Richard Blanton, Nathan White, Dudley Burwell, Allie Swann, Bob Baccus, Ray Cassell, David Bailey Cassell, William Edward Cassell, Zack Magnusson, Jim Carver, (28)

**Guest:** Bruce Pickette (Treasurer General, NSSAR), William Stone (Historian General, NSSAR), David Jones, (ALSSAR President) (3)

Unidentified: James, Kim, Larry, Charles, Lawrence's iPhone, dspberg, Don's phone, Rlivi, Jamey (9)

Total 40

**Meeting Opened at 11:00 PM.** President Ray Livingston said that all microphones will be muted. If you want to speak, unmute your microphone.

James Henderson, Chaplain gave George Washington's prayer for his country in addition to the invocation. President Ray led the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge.

President Ray welcomed NSSAR and ALSSAR officers and asked for Comments from the visiting officers. Bruce Pickette (Treasurer General NSSAR), William Stone (Historian General, NSSAR) and Dave Jones (ALSSAR President) introduced themselves. He announced that the meeting was being recorded on Zoom. He also explained that the recording would be used by the Recording Secretary.

Announced that the Huntsville Library has cancelled all meetings for several months. President Ray has asked if our meeting can be held at Constitution Hall. He does not have a response at present.

We will continue to use the standard SAR agenda with constraints of that is part of Zoom.

### **PROGRAM**

Benny Hannah, Vice President introduced our Speaker Past President Jim Griffith. Jim spoke on the George Washington Endowment Fund. The key points from the presentation are listed below.

The GWEF provides:

- A permanently restricted fund providing annual funding of NSSAR unfunded /underfunded committees and special projects.
- GWEF is a permanently restricted endowment.
- The GWEF grows annually through GW Fellows and Investments.
- The Corpus of the fund is never touched.

“Leave a Patriotic Legacy for Life”

The GWEF marks Patriot graves, Grants (example videos on the “Southern Campaign” in the American Revolutionary War) and many other worthwhile projects.

To become a George Washington Fellow requires a donation of \$1,000. Payment options are available. You are encouraged to join.

### **NEW MEMBERS AND SUPPLEMENTALS**

The following New Member Applications have been approved by ALSSAR and NSSAR.

Joseph Scott Haynes

Gideon Haston Haynes

Allie Cavett Swann

James Robert Watson, Jr

David Bailey Cassell

William Edward Cassell

Paul Alan Gibbs

Lewis Robison Pacey

Peter Johnson Pacey

Daniel Alexander Pacey

Three of these new members were induced in our Zoom meeting. James Robert Watson, Jr; David Bailey Cassell and William Edward Cassell are now new members of the TVCSAR Chapter.

The following members have received Supplementals:

Roger Harold Whitesides, Jr. (Two acknowledged on June 8<sup>th</sup>; certificates to be presented)

George Elton Vinson, Jr. (Acknowledged on April 13<sup>th</sup>, certificates to be presented.)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The minutes of the May 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting were approved.

Officers were asked to provide SOP's for their positions. The SOP is a list of tasks that the officer will perform. These tasks are usually that same from one term to another.

Officers were asked to provide an Officer/Committee Action plan. An action plan explains how the officer will or committee will implement actions need to accomplish the goals of the Officer or Committee. If you have any questions, please contact President Ray Livingston.

After the SOP's and Action plans are approved by President Ray Livingston, they are sent to the Historian, Jim Alexander.

The Library Memorial Donation is on hold until the Library fully opens. The Memorial Donation will be made at that time.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – RAY LIVINGSTON**

As we are all aware, the COVID 19 health problem is preventing face to face meetings. This is our sixth official TVCSAR meeting (3-BOO and 3-Chapter) using Zoom. This is the best way to keep our Chapter functioning. We are unsure how School health plans will impact our JROTC service projects. Our next meeting in July is expected to be a Zoom meeting.

Officers and Committee Chairmen are volunteers that perform task needed for our Chapter to operating and reach our organization objectives for the year. Thank you for you service.

Randal Jennings asked David Jones about what he knew about JROTC programs plans for the fall. David answered that each school systems or district controls how the JROTC functions at their Schools. He stated that Cadet Command (Army) has created an online training program. Cadet Command has the program but each school system or district will decide whether to use this online program. David said JROTC is a hands-on program. COVID 19 protections at present depends on social distancing. Distancing and hand-on creates many questions about what will be decided in the fall.

President Ray has visited Whitesburg Baptist Church and looked at their Fellowship hall and outside pavilion. Both options are suitable. No decision has been made by the Church on our use of their facilities in August. Other options are being considered.

The NSSAR National Congress scheduled for July 10-16 in Richmond; VA has been cancelled. An Article on our flag training for Constitution Hall in April has been submitted to SAR Magazine.

Our future meetings will be guided by public health and safety guidelines, government restrictions and library requirements. We will follow the requirements. While we all miss face to face events, Zoom meetings provide a low risk way of continuing to function.

## OFFICER'S REPORTS

### VICE PRESIDENT REPORT – BENNY HANNAH

Mark Hubbs is still scheduled to give a presentation when we start face to face meetings again. A timely 15-minute presentation will be schedule with another presenter for our next Zoom meeting.

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT – JIM MAPLES

NSSAR shows that TVCSAR now has 208 members. The ALSSAR website that videos on the “Southern Campaign” that Jim Alexander show a clip of in his presentation. This presentation is list under Educational Outreach.

### RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT – DUDLEY BURWELL

The minutes from the BOO meeting have been completed and sent to the officer. I have nothing else to report.

### REGISTRAR'S REPORT: JUNE 2020 – RAY CASSELL

#### NEW SAR APPLICATIONS

AWAITING FAMILY DATA	APPLICATIONS OPEN	MAILED TO ALSSAR	IN REVIEW AT NSSAR	APPROVED	INDUCTED
58	28	1	2	10	0

---

#### SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS

MAILED TO ALSSAR	IN REVIEW AT NSSAR	APPROVED AT NSSAR	CERT GIVEN AT LAST MEETING
11	5	3	0

---

Ray reported that of the 58 people awaiting family data, 30% (about 18) reported that they were working on pulling the data together and were still interested. Other were still interested. He thinks there will be many new applications shortly. NSSAR is working to get new members through the system.

David Jones was happy to hear that Ray was keeping the pipeline supplied with new member applications.

### **PATRIOT RESEARCH SYSTEM – RAY CASSELL**

Ray is a new volunteer for the Patriot Research System. The system takes applications from existing members and connects their applications with the Patriot. Volunteers are needed to enter data and make these connections easier for new members and registrars.

If you volunteer, you have the opportunity to qualify for the Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal and the President's Volunteer Service award. David Jones ALSSAR President will help you get either of these awards if you are willing to help on this project.

### **PATRIOT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES – RAY CASSELL**

The biographical sketches go beyond birth, marriage, death, kids, and service. The information includes additional information and references. The data is added to the SAR's database via the NSSAR Patriot Grave Biography Report. The form is found at

[https://sarpatriots.sar.org/pdfs/{atriotGravesAndBioReport\\_2019vl.pdf](https://sarpatriots.sar.org/pdfs/{atriotGravesAndBioReport_2019vl.pdf)

Include the name of the submitter, his SAR Member National Number, and the chapter and state-level society.

Include reference citations.

Completed forms related to only a biographical submission should be sent

### **TREASURER REPORT – RANDAL JENNINGS**

Checking Account balance - \$9,474.46

Money Market Account - \$9,347.78

Not a lot activity at present. In the fall, there will activity.

### **HISTORIAN REPORT – JIM ALEXANDER**

Jim is receiving reports from officers. These reports are cataloged and become part of the Chapter's history.

### **CHANCELLOR REPORT – RICHARD TINGLE**

Nothing to report.

### **GENEALOGIST REPORT – BILL SOMMERS**

He is helping Ray Cassel handle new applications. Helped a Boy Scout get his Genealogy Merit Badge.

## **CHAPLAIN REPORT – JAMES HENDERSON**

Will be on the Madison Radio station talking about the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is creating sport advertisements for TVCSAR on the radio. They will be run randomly. Will send to Ray. Will be sending cards to deceased members of this Chapter.

## **NSSAR/ALSSAR COMMENTS**

Bruce Pickette (Treasurer General, NSSAR) – You have a great format.

David Jones, (ALSSAR President) You are doing an excellent job. Thank you for your work.

Randal Jennings question to Bruce. Are other chapters across the country using Zoom to have meeting. Bruce answered: Yes, other Chapters are using Zoom. We should get ideas from you and others to create the best way to run a Zoom meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PUBLIC SERVICE AND HEROISM – BENNY HANNAH**

Waiting for responses from Morgan and Limestone County. Needs Department Chiefs from Morgan and Limestone. Information was sent to Sheriffs.

Has received Information for Madison.

Holly Holman is Adm Assistant to the Mayor of Athens. She was the person we contacted last year. She provided assistance to Mac Moon.

### **POSTERS AND BROCHURES – BOB ANDERSON**

Posters and brochures will be judged using photographs. Our posters and brochures have already been sent in for judging.

### **ORATIONS - JIM ALEXANDER**

Judging for orations is done by creating a video and sending it by drop box. Trying to get Church to use stage in Gym. Two flags are all that are allowed as part of back drop.

### **COLOR GUARD – RANDAL JENNINGS**

We had a second practice session with the trainers for the Color Guard. We are planning a third practice session with the musicians. Then in July to have session with the Chapter Color. Looking for an indoor practice area that is cool.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS – JESS BROWN**

1. Words of appreciation were extended to Chaplain Henderson for his efforts to promote the TVCSAR on five community radio stations.
2. Two articles were sent to national SAR Magazine. The first was published in the Spring issue. It was about the 23-star flag project at Constitution Hall Park. The second may appear in the Summer issue. It is about the planting of the legacy trees at the American Village in Montevallo.
3. Two entries were also to Mr. Gayle for the next Alabama state newsletter. One article is about the use of Zoom and TVCSAR's virtual meetings during the pandemic. Also submitted was a photo of Jim Maples with weekend anchors at Channel 48 with lengthy descriptor. Jim Maples appeared on WAFF in Washington staff uniform to discuss SAR and Presidents' Day.
4. Retrieval of the James Madison trees (tulip poplars) from the Landmark Forest at Montpelier has again been delayed because of pandemic. Montpelier, Madison's home, has been closed since mid-March and remains closed. The gardens reopened in the last few days. Jess Brown and his wife will try to get the trees when Montpelier fully reopens. A new date for retrieval of the trees has been requested from the Director of Horticulture at Montpelier.
5. A billboard for possible use by Lamar Advertising has been designed. It is hoped that TVCSAR will get a pro bono PSA on their 28 large electronic billboards. The billboard design was approved by President Livingston and PR Committee. Much credit for creative and attractive design belongs to Jim Griffith's daughter, Elizabeth. The board was submitted to the staff at Lamar Advertising on June 4. The board is designed to be shown around July 4th, but could be used at other patriotic holidays, such as Veterans Day.
6. Jim Griffith of TVCSAR and Brett Tannahill at WLRH should be recording *Moments in History* segments for both Flag Day and Independence Day sometime before June 14. We will finish with the seven-part series for that program by mid-September with a *Moment in History* segment about Constitution Day. It is hoped that this program will recycle next year. With this program TVCSAR is referenced three times during morning drive time and three times during afternoon drive time for each of seven patriotic holidays. This equates to 42 references per year at good times on the region's public radio outlet.
7. Use of the TVCSAR color guard for a Trash Panda game on the weekend of July 3rd remains uncertain. Some are beginning to question whether the minor leagues will play at all; at the Trash Panda website they still hope to play some games and run the season later into the Fall. Efforts are still being made to get color guard scheduled for the game with Birmingham Barons originally scheduled for July 3rd. Big crowd was expected with fireworks. Expectations for the game being played are starting to be low.
8. Other PR-related items are in early planning stages. Among them is a joint venture with the Alabama Veterans Museum in Athens. That museum is about to experience a dramatic increase in its activities and capabilities. They have a new location with 20,000 square feet and 1.2 million dollars in state money for renovation of the building. Jess Brown will be discussing this issue with TVCSAR liaison for veterans.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Future meetings will Zoom Pro meetings. Considering meeting at other physical locations. Constitution Hall is a good place but is closed like many other locations because of health and safety issues.

We continue to track what the 20 JROTC programs in our area plan to do in the 2020-21 school year. This will impact our major service project.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS – PRESIDENT RAY LIVINGSTON**

Thank you for your support, participation and understanding.

Jim Griffith thank you for your program on the George Washington Endowment Foundation.

We appreciate the participation of our visitors.

Provide feedback on possible venues for meetings and other issues.

Next Chapter BOO meeting is July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Next Chapter meeting is on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **Action Points**

1. Look for new face to face meeting place. Constitution Hall is a possibility.
2. Officers that have not submitted an SOP's should discuss questions with President Ray Livingston.
3. Because of questions related to JROTC programs, early contact with the 20 schools we work with is needed.
4. Volunteers needed for Patriot Research Program. Contact Ray Cassell.
5. Bio's needed for your Patriot. Enter data online or contact Ray Cassell.

## **BENEDICTION**

Chaplain James Henderson gave the Benediction.

## **RECESSIONAL**

President Ray Livingston gave the Recessional.

The meeting ended at 12: 37 PM.

Dudley Burwell  
Recording Secretary  
Tennessee Valley Chapter, SAR

Doc# 2020-06-08-RS-009A