

# Sons of the American Revolution

## Tennessee Valley Chapter

August 10, 2020

### August Chapter Meeting

**Location:** Zoom Meeting Conducted on Internet

Huntsville, AL

**Attendees:** Ray Livingston, Jim Griffith, Bob Anderson, Jim Maples, Jess Brown, Richard Tingle, Benny Hannah, Bill Sommers, Richard Blanton, Dudley Burwell, Bob Baccus, Ray Cassell, Charles Thomas, Anders Kinney, Jim Carver, Don Wolfe, Nathan White, Roger Whitesides, Topper Birney, Randal Jennings, Chip Pharr, James Henderson, Bob Rice, C. Billings, Raymond Livingston, Dan Whitt, Dan Spielberg, Mark Hubbs (30)

Unidentified: Vaughn, 256 233 5278 (2)

NSSAR & State Officers: Gary Green, SAR Chairman, Patriot Records Committee, and David Jones, ALSSAR President (2)

Total 34

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

James Henderson, Chaplain, gave the invocation. President Ray led the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge.

President Ray welcomed David Jones, ALSSAR President.

### Greetings

President Ray Livingston welcomed everyone to the meeting. This meeting is being recorded for the benefit of the Recording Secretary. Our speaker, Gary Green, SAR Chairman, Patriot Records Committee and David Jones, ALSSAR President were guests at the meeting.

### Near Term Plans

We will continue to meet using Zoom Pro until further notice. The Huntsville Library has cancelled all meeting for the next few months.

COVID-19 restrictions are back enforced. President Ray expressed his concerns about group meetings. He pointed out that Group meetings can cause COVID-19 to spread rapidly. The age of many of our members causes concern.

We will use Chapter standard meeting agenda and format as much as possible.

Board of Officers Meeting will be on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day) at 11:00 AM.

Chapter Meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, September 14th at 11:00 AM.

## ZOOM PRO

We have had no problems with ZOOM PRO. Some people in Huntsville have had meeting “Bombed”. We have had no problems. If you have concerns contact Ray Livingston, Jim Maples or Randal Jennings.

## PROGRAM

Our speaker was Gary Green, Lt Col, USAF (Ret). He is current SAR Chairman, Patriot Records Committee. He spoke on the SAR Patriot Research System. He was introduced by Benny Hannah, Vice President TVCSAR.

The goal is to help recruit new members by making it easy to find their Patriot. The PRS will provide the data and make it easy. We want the PRS to make it easy to match the Recruit to the Patriot.

The three things we are trying to provide are the Patriot lineage plus grave location and a biography.

DAR started over 30 years ago to create a system to make it easy for interested persons to find a Patriot. Their system is the standard we are trying to meet. Their system has Patriot lineage information. Our system adds the grave location and the bio.

Alabama Statistics as of August 1, 2020

Biographies entered	17
Total Applications	4141
Members linked to patriots	3005
Lineages entered	978
Volunteers in Alabama	9
Chapters in Alabama in PRS	24

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### Biographies from Alabama Society

AL	AL11	Black Warrior River	3
AL	AL15	Gen Galvez	1
AL	AL19	Gen John Archer Elmore	2
AL	AL5	Little River	2
AL	AL12	Richard Henry Lee	1
AL	AL8	Tennessee Valley	8
		SUBTOTAL	17

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## State of Alabama

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Total Apps	Record Copies Avail	Patriot Linked	% Linked	Complete Linage	% Done
4161	4039	2539	62.8%	123	3%

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## Tennessee Valley Chapter

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Total Apps	Record Copies Avail	Patriot Linked	% Linked	Complete Linage	% Done
670	645	620	96.1	510	79.1

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## National Recognition of Volunteers

You can get a Lafayette Medal for 40 hours of your service.

If you do the enter data in the Patriot Research System you can get the medal.

- 30 minutes to enter each lineage (80 lineages)
- 15 minutes to update each patriot record (160 patriot records)
- 15 minutes to enter a biography (160 biographies)
- 15 minutes to enter a cemetery (160 cemeteries)

Start entering data for SAR and get a Lafayette Medal for your Service!

Please go to <https://sarpatriots.sar.org> and check on your patriot. For our Chapter Contact Ray Cassell, Benny Hannah, or Ray Livingston to participate.

Mark Hubbs has used the PRS to get a record copy. He said he got great service. He accessed PRS and within the hour had the information he needed. Mark volunteered to help with the PRS program.

David Jones asked for a copy of Gary Green's presentation. Benny Hannah has a copy of the Power Point Presentation. He will send David a copy.

David then asked about the System. His father, nephew and brother have joined SAR. Will they be automatically linked to David's data. Gary said no. Someone will have to link the data. It is not automatic at present. Benny Hannah can connect these people for David.

Nathan White complimented Gary on the PRS program. President Ray thanked Gary for his presentation and his work.

## Old Business

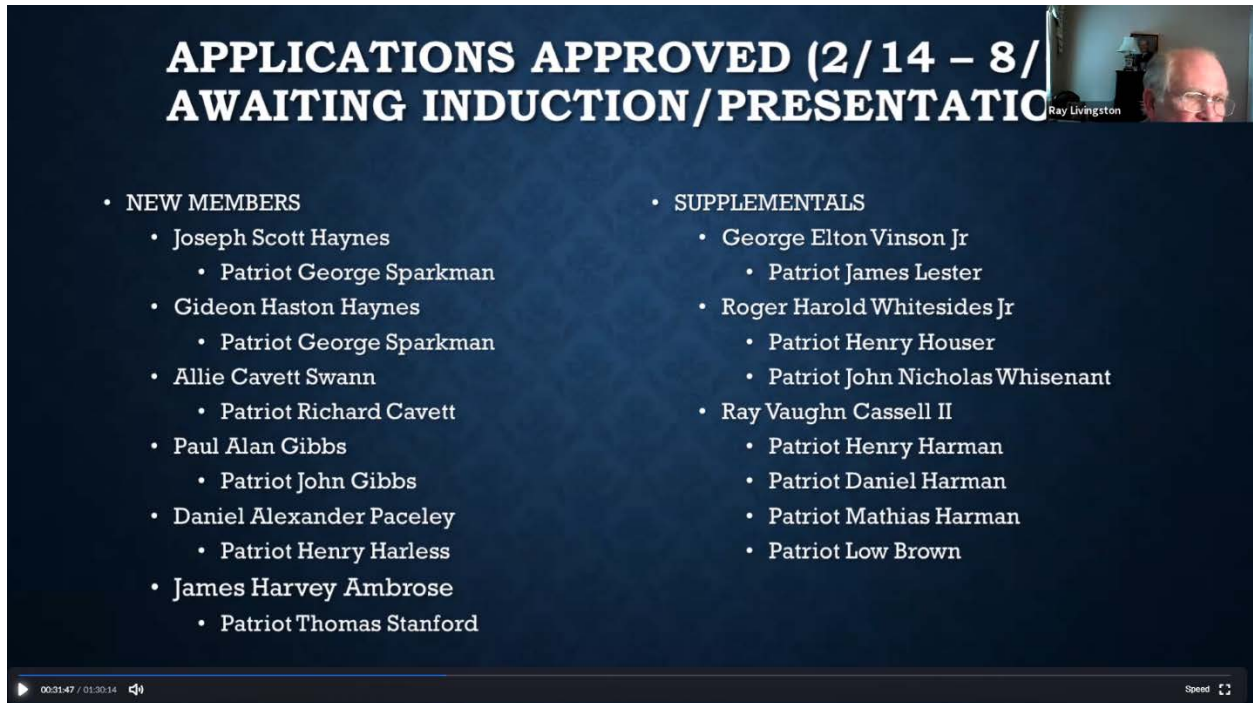
The minutes from our meeting on 7/13/2020 have been posted for two weeks. There were no comments or questions about the minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

We still need SOP's for Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs. Please complete the SOP's if you have not done so.

President Ray has been in contact with the Huntsville Library about the Memorial Donation. He will continue to work to handle this action.

A screenshot below shows the new members and Supplementals that need to be awarded. No new members attended the Zoom meeting.

II



**APPLICATIONS APPROVED (2/14 - 8/)**  
**AWAITING INDUCTION/PRESENTATION**

- NEW MEMBERS
  - Joseph Scott Haynes
    - Patriot George Sparkman
  - Gideon Haston Haynes
    - Patriot George Sparkman
  - Allie Cavett Swann
    - Patriot Richard Cavett
  - Paul Alan Gibbs
    - Patriot John Gibbs
  - Daniel Alexander Pacey
    - Patriot Henry Harless
  - James Harvey Ambrose
    - Patriot Thomas Stanford
- SUPPLEMENTALS
  - George Elton Vinson Jr
    - Patriot James Lester
  - Roger Harold Whitesides Jr
    - Patriot Henry Houser
    - Patriot John Nicholas Whisenant
  - Ray Vaughn Cassell II
    - Patriot Henry Harman
    - Patriot Daniel Harman
    - Patriot Mathias Harman
    - Patriot Low Brown

00:31:47 / 01:30:14

Supplementals were awarded to Roger Whitesides Jr and Ray Vaughn Cassell II. Both discussed their Patriots listed above.

### Presidents Report

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> official TVCSAR meeting which includes both BOO and Chapter meetings held using Zoom. COVID has changed our way we hold meetings. Zoom allows us to continue to function.

We have many presentations that are being scheduled but because of the COVID public health rules, we have not been able to make presentations. We are working to schedule an award presentation to the General Manager of WLRH and to Lamar Advertising. A small group of officers will be used to make these award presentations.

Thanks to all officers, committee chairs and each volunteer for their service in keeping our SAR Chapter functioning and moving towards reaching our organizational objectives for this year.

All members are encouraged to work to achieve Awards. The President's Volunteer Service Award is given for hours of service. The Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal requirements was described by Gary Green earlier. Normally the Color Guard members contribute many hours of service in practice as well as in presentation. This year all events are currently cancelled.

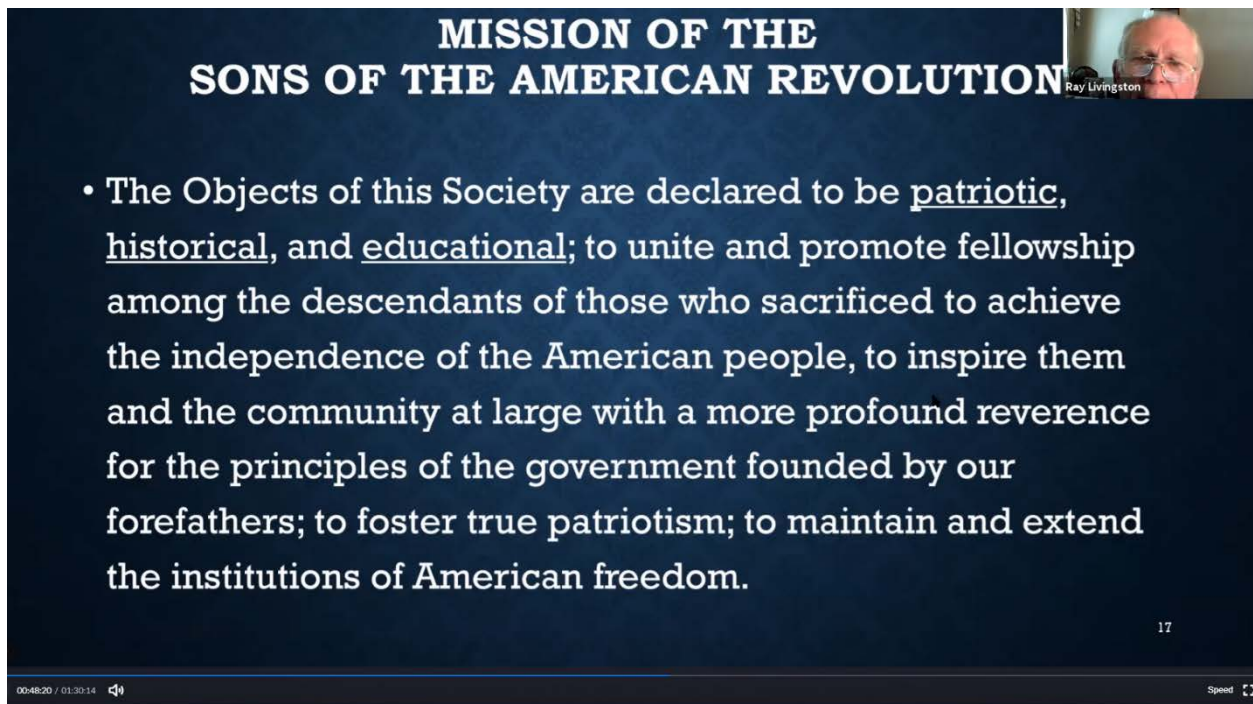
Creating TVCSAR Videos is a new project for our chapter. Since entering Schools is currently not allowed, Videos will provide a new way for us to continue our service projects related to schools. Jim Griffith is researching equipment needed to create videos. He has software and camera equipment currently. He proposed that we make a “proof of concept video” to determine what equipment is needed. Sound is the issue of concern. He asked if anyone had videos of SAR events made in the past. Randal Jennings (Leader of the Color Guard) said he did not think he had any videos. He will check.

Jim Maples said there was a video of the WW II Victory Day Celebration on the ALSSAR site. He will try to get a copy in 2015.

Jess Brown said that slide shows may be the best path forward since there many pictures available.

The videos will be used on our website, schools, and YouTube. All activities will be videoed and used for PR.

President Ray showed the Mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. This screen print is shown below:





The image is a screenshot of a presentation slide. The title is "MISSION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION" in white, bold, serif font on a dark blue background. Below the title is a bulleted list of objectives in white text. In the top right corner, there is a small video inset showing a man with glasses, identified as "Ray Livingston". At the bottom of the slide, there is a video player interface with a progress bar, a volume icon, and a "Speed" control.

**MISSION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

- The Objects of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational; to unite and promote fellowship among the descendants of those who sacrificed to achieve the independence of the American people, to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom.

17

00:48:20 / 01:30:14  Speed 

It is important that we record and archive information about the American Revolution. Both Ray Cassell and Roger Whitesides told about stories about their Patriots being lost to their families. Our work on keeping our history alive is important.

### **Officer Reports**

**Vice President** – Benny Hannah

Benny said that he will be pushing for more online presentations. He wants Mark Hubbs to give his presentation online. Still moving along on the Heroism Committee. Is working to get all of the contacts

with police, fire and medical in the three-county area. These groups will propose people for the SAR Heroism awards.

He is concerned that our work towards the Americanism Award will take a real hit this year because so many events have been cancelled. We got a good start at the beginning of year.

**Corresponding Secretary** – Jim Maples

No Report

**Recording Secretary**- Dudley Burwell

I have completed 8 bios on my Patriots. Want to talk with you about three American Revolutionary War Soldier's gravesite markings.

**Registrar** – Ray Cassell



National SAR is good a good job approving applications. We have six (6) approved applications. Five were inducted at our last meeting. Six Supplemental applications have been mailed to ALSSAR. Ten supplemental applications are at NSSAR for review. Seven have been approved and we have not given any Certificates since the last meeting. Today we awarded six supplementals.

NSSAR is approving applications at a blistering pace. The last approved application arrived in Louisville on July 15<sup>th</sup> and was approved before this meeting. Ray Cassell has a family group of four applications that are about ready to be submitted to the State Registrar.

While TVCSAR has eight (8) approved bios which is more than any other chapter in Alabama, we have many more to do.

Information on the Patriot Research System was provided in Gary Green's presentation. Volunteers are needed. You can work at your own pace. There is an opportunity for the Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal.

**Treasurer** – Randal Jennings

We have \$9475 in the checking account and \$9350 in the money market. The Board authorized the purchase of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flag. The flag is a work in progress and is not available yet.

A \$50 donation to TVCSAR in honor of Bob Doherty was made by friends of the Doherty's.

**Historian Report** – Jim Alexander

Jim was not present. No report.

**Chancellor Report** – Richard Tingle

No Report

**Genealogist Report** – Bill Sommers

No Report.

**Chaplain Report** – James Henderson

No Report.

**NSSAR/ALSSAR COMMENTS** – David Jones

The Alabama Color Guard Committee will meet later this week to finalize the Color Guard Manual. Hopes to have the new Color Guard Manual out by the end of the week.

**Chairman Poster Committee** – Bob Anderson

Fall Leadership meeting is cancelled. If you had reservation at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, be sure to cancel the reservations.

**Public Relations Committee** Jess Brown

No Report.

**Other Comments**

Randal Jennings reported that the Veterans Museum is creating a veteran's data base.

Randal also said the Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll has been cancelled. He has also cancelled all Color Guard Events until the Chapter starts meeting face to face.

Bob Baccus thanked Bob Anderson for his help in getting Morgan County Schools to consider the SAR Essay Contest this year.

David Jones encouraged everyone to continue to try to work with Schools. You may have to drop off information at schools to get any participation.

Bob Anderson said he is planning to work with teachers and suggest that posters and brochures for the contest be prepared at home. Posters can then be dropped off at the school. Bob would then pickup the posters and brochures. Still talking to teachers at the High Schools about essays and orations.

The first nine weeks of virtual school is going to be a nightmare. Teachers and students will have problems.

Chip Pharr is trying to work with teachers at Monrovia School. Bob said the problem will be getting into Monrovia to talk to the teachers. Rules to the Posters and other contest are on the website. This means both National and TVCSAR websites. The theme is people this year.

Topper Birney is concerned about reaching all of the schools in our area. Wants a letter describing the SAR programs. Bob will provide the information requested. Bob has Morgan County covered. Topper to work with other school systems.

### **New Business**

Future meetings will be Zoom Pro for now. When public health rules permit, we will start meeting face to face.

**CLOSING COMMENTS**

- Thank you for your support, participation and understanding.
- We appreciate participation by our visitors.
- Provide feedback on this type venue or any other issue.
- Thanks to Gary Green for our program on the SAR Patriot Research System.
- Next Chapter BOO meeting is on September 7th.
- Next Chapter membership meeting is on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Do not forget the SAR Mission. Our Heritage and our history is important.
- Other final comments?

**VOTE on August 25th**  
**BE SAFE AND HEALTHY**

Ray Livingston

01:00:00 / 01:00:04

**Remember our BOO meeting is on Labor Day!**

### **Closing Comments**

Nathan White told us about work being done on a new SAR logo. Nathan described our current SAR logo and the need to change because of confusion because of its appearance. The “A” is not always visible. Some people think we are “Sons of the Revolution” rather than “Sons of the American Revolution”.

The Executive Committee has conducted a competition for a new logo. Several hundred logos were submitted. They selected ten (10) logos. From the ten, the executive committee reduced it to four (4). The trustees will vote on a new logo from the four that made it to final selection.

Bob Anderson and Nathan White are members of the Leadership Committee (both are members of TVCSAR) and will have a vote. Bob Anderson was asked to get a copy of the four proposed logos and have them on the TVCSAR website.

Bob was unsure if the final vote would be by the Trustees or Leadership Committee. There will be a vote in the near future on a new logo.



Jim Maples agreed to post the logos. He does not have the logos. Bob Anderson will send him copies of the logos.

David Jones said that a member of the Black Warrior Chapter competed in the logo contest.

### **Action Points**

1. Mark Hubbs to follow-up with Benny Hannah and Ray Cassell on PRS data entry as volunteer.
2. President Ray Livingston to work with Russ Brown on Awards for WLRH and Lamar Advertising to present awards.
3. Jim Griffith to evaluate Equipment needed to make Videos for distribution to schools and to be used on Website and You Tube.
4. Jim Griffith proposed "proof of concept" videos to verify more equipment is needed.
5. Please volunteer for data entry for PRS system.
6. Please compete patriot bio for your American Revolution Soldier or Patriot.
7. Bob Anderson to send letter to Topper Birney to use with various school systems describing the SAR essay contest, Oration contest, poster and brochure contest.
8. Bob Anderson to provide copies of proposed new logos to Jim Maples to post on website.

### **BENEDICTION**

Chaplain James Henderson gave he benediction.

### **RECESSIONAL**

President Ray Livingston gave the Recessional.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Dudley Burwell, Recording Secretary

Tennessee Valley Chapter, SAR

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