

SAR Alabama

Volume 25, Number 1

March, 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Compatriots, prospective members and friends,

We had a great 122nd annual state convention in Montgomery. Thanks go to the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter and to the organizing committee for an effective meeting. A special thank you goes to the ladies for their hospitality. Read more about the convention in the accompanying article in this newsletter.

It is an honor to have been elected as your Society's President. I am indebted to the previous state presidents for their legacy. As a steward of that legacy, it is my responsibility to advance the State Society. My vision for advancing the Society focuses on leadership development. Details are presented in my installation remarks at <http://www.ALSSAR.org>.

I believe I am knowledgeable about the diversity of the chapters that comprise the Alabama Society and our Society's challenges and opportunities. I visited 13 of the 15 chapters. During the visits we discussed the chapter's best practices and plans for the future. I developed a survey questionnaire and sent it to the chapter presidents. The surveys provided good responses we can use to strengthen the chapters and State Society.

See MESSAGE, Page 2

Inside this issue:

Muscle Shoals area holds organizational meetings	2
Gen. Galvez chapter elects 2011 officers	7
Honor Flight volunteers recognized by chapters	8
Cheaha chapter sponsors state Boy Scout winner	9

David Billings installed as ALSSAR president for 2011



—Photo by Bob Glasscock

ALSSAR president Bruce Pickette, left, passes the gavel to incoming president C. David Billings at convention in Montgomery.

The 122nd state convention of the Alabama Society was held in Montgomery on Feb. 25-27 at the Wynlakes Golf and Country Club, highlighted by the induction of new officers.

Dr. C. David Billings of the Tennessee Valley chapter was installed as the ALSSAR president for 2011 at the Saturday banquet, culminating a day that included the annual business meeting and state youth awards.

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

See CONVENTION, Page 3

State compatriots attend conference

Thirteen ALSSAR compatriots were among those who made the trip to Louisville, Ky., to attend the Spring Leadership Conference of the National Society on March 10-12. Jim Alexander, Bruce Buehler, Larry Cornwell, Benny Harris, Rod Hildreth, Price Legg, Jim Maples, Bruce Pickette, Walter Stevenson, Bill Stone, Lee Swart, Bob Thomas and Mike Wells were among those who attended, with Buehler and Harris making their first trip.

At the Friday evening banquet, it was announced

See CONFERENCE, Page 3



—Photo by Rita Pickette

ALSSAR members, from left, Bruce Pickette, Walter Stevenson, Bruce Buehler, Bill Stone and Larry Cornwell in Louisville.

Organizational chapter meetings continue in Shoals area

Organizational meetings for a potential new chapter in the Muscle Shoals area were held on Jan. 9 and Feb. 13, with future meetings planned over the next three months.

Meetings will be held on April 10, May 15 and June 12, each at 2 p.m., in the Sheffield Public Library meeting room, 316 N. Montgomery Ave.

The Jan. 9 meeting had 21 ALSSAR members or prospective members. The February meeting had 18.

At the January meeting ALSSAR registrar Ron Bearden and senior vice president Dave Billings discussed the plan and goals for organizing a new chapter, schedule for meetings, meeting place, the process for past members and for new applicants to join the SAR, and some of the educational, historical and patriotic programs of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Billings gave a program on "Thomas Paine Published *Common Sense* on Jan. 9, 1774."

At the February meeting, a flag certificate was presented to the Exchange Club of Florence for its Field of Flags. Vance Pearsall received the certificate on behalf of the Exchange Club.

Bearden reported on the status of each interested person as an at-large member, pending application or prospective membership. Billings discussed future steps in advancing the chapter, including the selection of a nominating committee to nominate provisional officers, the selection of a by-laws committee to begin developing by-laws for the provisional chapter, and a program committee to assume responsibility for arraigning speakers and activities for the meetings.

ALSSAR past president James Maples

presented a program on "Flags of the Revolutionary Era" describing the history behind several flags.

The April program will be given by Ken Brown of the Cullman chapter in the uniform of his ancestor who was in the 9th Infantry Regiment of the continental line which captured and hung Major Andre of the Benedict Arnold treason.

The May program is "Captain Gerald P. Brent, Commanding Officer, Continental Frigate, 'Confederacy' on the Battle of Trenton as Relayed by General Washington" presented by the first vice president of the Mississippi Society.

The June program will be presented by Vice President General Ray Clapsadle and is entitled, "Bernardo de Gálvez, Count of Gálvez and the Revolutionary War in the 14th and 15th Colonies (East and West Florida) and on to the Mississippi."

Message

(Continued from Page 1)

My *Chapter Best Practices and Future Plans Report* provides detailed information from this study. I distributed it to chapter and state officers on Feb. 22. Read more about the *Report* in the accompanying article in this newsletter on page 9.

Based upon the information gleaned from my chapter visits and the *Report*, the Theme for 2011-12 is Leadership Development. Let us focus on existing chapter development through officer training and incorporating chapter best practices. Let us set the following four goals:

- 1)Leadership,
- 2)Recruitment,
- 3)Youth, and
- 4)Programs.

Let's Strengthen chapters by developing our chapter leadership; Improve chapters' ability to recruit, retain, reconnect, and reinstate members with a membership goal of 930 members by 2012 and 1,000 within three years (2014); Expand chapters' participation in youth programs, and Enhance chapter's interesting programs at meetings.

I hope each of you will support the efforts of the state officers you have elected and the efforts of the state committee chairmen and liaisons that I have appointed. I thank each of them for their willingness to serve and to volunteer.

I also have some plans for improving our internal operations and communications. Read about them in an accompanying article in this newsletter on page 7.

Everyone plan to attend the next Board of Managers meeting in Columbiana on May 14. Let's enjoy our service as we advance each chapter and the State Society this year!

In your service,

C. David Billings

COMING EVENTS

STATE

Patriots' Day! April 18, 2011
ALSSAR Board of Managers Meeting,
Columbiana, May 14, 2011

Revolutionary War Grave Marking of
Patriot John Griffin, outside Brundidge,
May 15, 2011, 2:30 pm (*Sponsored by
Wiregrass Chapter*)

Blue Star Salute Memorial Day,
American Village, Montevallo,
May 30, 2011

Flag Day! June 14, 2011

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Louisiana State Society Convention,
Mandeville, LA, April 8-9, 2011
Tennessee State Society Convention and
Southern District Meeting, Murfreesboro,
TN, April 15-16, 2011

NATIONAL

121th National SAR Congress,
Winston-Salem, NC, July 8-13, 2011

Convention

(Continued from Page 1)

Stephen Leishman, NSSAR Treasurer General, was the speaker for the annual George Washington breakfast and presented George Washington Endowment Fund pins and certificates to Billings, Buehler, Coker and Marvin Vickers. Later, during the annual meeting, Leishman presented a GWEF certificate and pin to compatriot Perry Vickers. Another certificate for compatriot John David Wallace was given to Vickers for later presentation. With the presentations, president Bruce Pickette noted there are now approximately 80 individuals from the Alabama Society who have contributed to the GWEF over the years.

At the annual business meeting, recommended changes to the Constitution and By-Laws were considered and voted on. All changes were approved with the exception of one constitutional change and three by-law changes that were amended by the membership.

Pickette presented National Society awards to Dr. Richard Price of the Cahaba-Coosa chapter (the Silver Color Guard Medal in recognition of his extended color guard service at the district and national levels) and to Benny Harris of the Gen. John A. Elmore chapter (the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award for dedication to the Scouting program).

At the evening banquet, youth contest award winners recognized included Eagle Scout winner Jacob Mask, sponsored by the Cheaha chapter, and Orations contest winner Benjamin Simon, sponsored by the



—Photo courtesy of Bruce Pickette

ALSSAR president Bruce Pickette, left, with 2011 officers, from left: David Billings, C.W. Posey, Marvin Vickers, Bruce Buehler, Bobby Joe Seales, Ron Bearden, Walter Stevenson, Roy Roberts and Stan Phillips.

Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter. Knight Essay contest winner Megan Roman was unable to attend the banquet.

Pickette also recognized the special guests at the banquet, which included Southern District Vice President General Ray Clapsadle and his wife Christina, Air Force Major General Robert Kane and his wife Katy, Leishman, Mississippi Society First Vice President Gerald Brent and his wife Sandy, Regent Rita Horton and Vice Regent Connie Grund of the Alabama Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Senior State President Ann Lewis Boone of the Children of the Ameri-

can Revolution (C.A.R.) and State President Daniel Courter of the C.A.R.

Kane, the featured speaker of the evening banquet, spoke on the Air Force's involvement in Iraq and was presented with the Silver Good Citizenship Medal.

Included among the awards presented to compatriots at the banquet were the Medal of Distinguished Service (the highest medal awarded by a state society president) to Billings and the Patriot Award (the highest award given for service at the state and chapter level) to Rev. John Killian of the Birmingham chapter and Ron Bearden of the Little River chapter.

Conference

(Continued from Page 1)

that Cornwell and Wells received the National nomination for Genealogist General and Librarian General respectively. Election for the National officer positions will be at the Congress in Winston-Salem, N.C., in July. Alabama Society delegate selection for those who can vote at the Congress will occur at the Board of Managers meeting in May in Columbiana.

Saturday events began with the "SAR 1000/George Washington Fellows/Eagle Scout Donors Recognition" Breakfast. At the breakfast the Alabama Society was recognized for its \$1000 donation to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage (CAAH) with the award of a streamer. The Tennessee Valley chapter was awarded a streamer for its donation to the CAAH as well.

Recent donors to the CAAH recognized on the breakfast program included Bob Glasscock of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter and Linda Maples, wife of compatriot Jim Maples. The eight Alabama Society contributors to the George Washington Endowment Fund for the period of April 1, 2010 through March

1, 2011 were also listed on the breakfast program — David Billings, Buehler, Jeff Coker, Malon Murphy, Stevenson, Marvin Vickers, Perry Vickers and John David Wallace.

It was noted that the state is currently leading for award of the "Buck" Meek Award, presented annually to the state society with the largest numerical increase in new GW Fellows.

At the Saturday meeting of the trustees, Pickette, an alternate trustee, represented the state society at the meeting. During the presentation of gifts at the trustee meeting, Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter president Walter Stevenson presented a check for \$500 for the CAAH from the chapter.

Most members of the state were able to visit the newly opened NSSAR Genealogical Research Library during the course of the weekend. Notable news of others who travelled to Louisville included Bill Stone, who was elected vice president of the Germany Society, and Leanne Cornwell, who was selected as secretary of the National Ladies Auxiliary.

—Bruce Pickette

In Memory...

Jessie Royal Lewis Edgar C. Yancey Col. Paul Frederick

The Sons of the American Revolution lost three compatriots over the holidays that will be greatly missed for their contributions to the organization.

JESSIE ROYAL LEWIS, a member of the Birmingham chapter, passed away on Dec. 20, 2010. He was 92.

J.R., as he was known, was born in Cleveland, Ga., on Sept. 7, 1918 but had been a resident of the Birmingham area for more than 85 years.

His family moved to McDonald Chapel in 1924 where he attended McDonald Chapel elementary and Minor High School. J.R. was employed by Tennessee Coal and Iron at Docena Mines before joining the Civilian Conservation Corps at Diamond Lake, Oregon in 1937.

He served eight years in the United States Naval Reserve, based in Birmingham, with 4-1/2 years active duty during World War II. As a member of the commissioning crew for the aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Long Island, he earned the rank of Chief Electrician's Mate and logged more than 365,000 sea miles during service in both the Atlantic and Pacific campaigns.

Proud to have served his country, he remained active in veteran's organizations including the American Legion and Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) as well as serving as historian for the U.S.S. Long Island Reunion Association for more than 15 years. J.R. was also a proud member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Lewis was an electrician by trade for more than 50 years, following his military service, he worked for U.S. Steel - Fairfield and the Concord Washer, and as a part-time employee for Howard Electric Company for more than 35 years. He retired in 1985.

Lewis was married to Pernia Jetty Wade from 1941 until her death in 1989 and is survived by his four children — James P. Lewis of Bessemer, Marilyn J. Bower of Russellville, Nancy A. Moore of Hoover and Royall G. Lewis of Indian Trail, N.C. — as well as six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were held on Dec. 23 at Bell Funeral Home in Forestdale. Burial was at Midway Cemetery in Adamsville with Dr. John H. Killian, Maytown Baptist Church, officiating.

EDGAR C. YANCEY passed away on Jan. 3 at a Huntsville hospital. He was 84.

Ed, a member of the Little River chapter, was part of the pioneer Yancey family of Big Wills Valley. For many years, Ed was a broadcast engineer having worked for several radio stations in Alabama and Tennessee. For 50 years, he was a ham radio operator with the call letters WB4BEH.

Prior to Ed's retirement in 1989, he was employed with Chrysler Corp.

Ed was a member of the Etowah Historical Society and the American Legion. During World War II, he was a nose gunner on

a B-24 Liberator Bomber.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Elizabeth Snider Yancey; one daughter, Sherry Yancey Garren; two grandsons, William Yancey Martin and Jeffery David Martin; one sister, Frances Yancey Ramey; and many cousins.

Services were held Jan. 6 at Berryhill Funeral Home of Huntsville with Dr. Max Croft and Harold Snider officiating. Burial followed in the Bristow Cemetery on Duck Springs Road in Etowah County.

COL. PAUL ALPHONSE FREDERICK III, a member of the Gen. Galvez chapter, passed away on Jan. 5. He was 89.

Frederick, born March 4, 1921 in Fairhope, was a graduate of the 1939 class at Organic School. His great aunt, Marrietta Johnson, was the school's founder.

On Feb. 14, 1943, he married his kindergarten sweetheart, Maxine Jowers.

Flying was always his passion, so naturally he joined the Army Air Corps. It was a perfect fit. A veteran of World War II, the Berlin Airlift, Korea and Vietnam, he amassed over 10,000 hours flying time in 23 different aircraft types and four glider types.

During his 30 year career, he became known as a "Logistics troubleshooter," which meant he and his family moved frequently to where ever he was needed. He wrote the Operations Manual for the C124 Globemaster and invented a miniature headset for the pilot's radio. In 1972, he retired from the US Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

After retiring, he was an avid supporter of the local Fairhope community. He loved to travel and was a member of the Travelers Century Club, visiting more than 130 countries, always as an ambassador of Fairhope and Alabama. He was past president of the Gen. Galvez chapter, past president of the Board of Managers at the Organic School, 35-year member of Organic School Board, a lifetime member of Theater 98, and the Eastern Shore Art Association, and a Century Heritage Member of the Fairhope Yacht Club (second generation member).

He was also a lifetime member of the VFW Post 5660 and the American Legion Post 199.

Professional organizations kept him in touch. He was a lifetime member of the Order of Daedians, a national fraternity of Commissioned Military Pilots; the Military Officers Associations of America; the Berlin Airlift Veterans Association; the USAF Air Mobility Command Museum-Dover (Del.) AFB; and the Air Force Association.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Maxine "Macky" Jowers Frederick. Survivors include a daughter, Jan Frederick Reddy; granddaughter, Samantha Reddy Lankford of Ft. Mill, S.C.; and two great-granddaughters, Arielle and Kiersten.

Services were held Jan. 11 at Memory Gardens of Fairhope.

In Memory...

Horace McCurry Jr. John W. Johnson Jr.

The Richard Henry Lee chapter of the Sons of American Revolution recently lost two compatriots who had provided invaluable service to both the chapter and the west Alabama communities in which they lived.

HORACE HOLDEN McCURRY JR., a former World War II veteran and member of the Richard Henry Lee chapter of the Sons of American Revolution, passed away on Jan. 8. He was 84.

McCurry was born March 20, 1926 in Opelika and was a lifelong resident of the area, graduating from Clift High in 1944.

From 1944-46, he served in the U.S. Navy, including 18 months aboard the U.S.S. Prince William CVE 31 in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of war.

In 1949, he graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn) with a degree in business administration. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

He was employed from 1949-89 at West Point Pepperell as manager of the cotton buying department. In 1980, he served as chairman of the Georgia Textile Manufacturing Association Fiber Division. He was a past member of the National Cotton Council.

McCurry attended First United Methodist Church in Opelika his entire life. He served as chairman of the Commission on Education, chairman of the Board of Stewards, General Education Superintendent and as advisor with the MYF program.

He was a past member of the Opelika Kiwanis Club and the Auburn-Opelika Men's Camellia Club as well as a member of the Cress Lake Outing Club where he served as president for 25 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Jane Frazer McCurry. He is survived by three children, Fran McCurry of Gulf Shores, Marion Steindorff of Pike Road and Holden McCurry of Asheville, N.C., as well as five grandchildren.

Services were held on Jan. 13 at First United Methodist Church of Opelika. Burial was held at Garden Hill Cemetery.

JOHN W. "BUBBER" JOHNSON JR., another member of the Richard Henry Lee chapter, passed away on Feb. 24. He was 90.

"Bubber," as he was called by all who knew him, was born on July 19, 1920. He attended Langdale School and Marion Military Institute, where he excelled in the classroom and starred as a lineman for the Langdale Thundering Herd and the Marion Cadets.

He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1942 and

the University of Alabama School of Law in 1947. During his time at the Capstone, he served in the Student Government Association and was the only person to ever serve two different terms as president of the SAE fraternity.

Johnson also served in the university's ROTC program and when World War II broke out, he left law school and joined the Army, serving in both the European and Pacific theaters. His duties in the Army ranged from platoon leader to defense attorney, prosecutor and commandant of a prisoner camp. After his discharge, he returned to law school in 1946.

He became the first attorney to open an office in Lanett, founding the firm now known as Johnson, Caldwell and McCoy.

From the time he started in practice in 1947 until his retirement from the firm in 1990, he tried landmark cases, including expanding the rights of property owners in condemnation cases, and set and broke his own record multiple times for the largest jury verdicts in Chambers County.

Elected to the Alabama Senate in 1950, he sponsored a variety of successful legislation, halting the practice of paying certain elected officials based on fees and fines collected, increasing the funding for African-American children attending schools and the creation of the Chambers County Lake.

Johnson founded CharterBank, then First Federal Savings and Loan Association, in 1954 and Citizens National Bank in 1963. Today, CharterBank is the 12th largest bank in Georgia with offices stretching from Atlanta to Auburn. In 1994, he was instrumental in establishing The Charter Foundation, a private foundation that makes grants in the market areas served by CharterBank.

In addition to help establish the George H. Lanier Memorial Hospital, the first hospital in the country funded under the Bill-Burton Act, and the Chambers County Bradshaw Library, he served as an attorney for the city of Valley; the East Alabama Water, Sewer and Fire Protection District; the Lee-Chambers Water District; and Home Federal Savings and Loan Association.

A longtime supporter of the University of Alabama, Auburn University, the University of Georgia, LaGrange College and Stetson University, a scholarship at Alabama bears his name.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elsie B. Johnson, three sons, John W. Johnson III, Robert L. Johnson and Curt M. Johnson and nine grandchildren.

Services were held on Feb. 26 at Langdale United Methodist Church, where he was a lifelong member and supporter.



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

Wreaths for Veterans

Tennessee Valley members Bob Hammond, Hoyt Smith, George Royer, Jim Maples and chapter president Larry Crabtree placed Christmas wreaths at the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers Albert Russel, John Ward, John Drake (pictured), Jacob Sivley and Lewellen Jones.



—Photo courtesy of Dick Erickson

Master Sergeant Johnson, center, other members of Honor Guard accept certificate from chapter.

Maxwell Honor Guard recognized by Richard Montgomery chapter

The Maxwell Honor Guard members and a bugler) who are on call with 350 funeral homes. They accomplish nearly 600 funerals a year and cover 48,000 square miles in Alabama and Georgia. The certificate was accepted by Master Sergeant Johnson and three other Honor Guard members not otherwise deployed (they were doing three funerals that day).

The Maxwell Honor Guard consists of four flights of 10 military members each (six pall bearers, three rifle salute



—Photo courtesy of Dan Henry

Cullman meeting

Cullman members gather for November meeting to listen to ALSSAR president Bruce Pickette.



—Photos courtesy of John Wallace

Wiregrass honors past member, Scouts Left, former Wiregrass president John R. Fuller presents a chapter wreath at the gravesite of former chapter historian T. Wilson Luck while color guard members Andy Spann and Joe Graves hold the colors. Right, junior members Luke A. White and Jonathan Gwinn of Troop 116 of Dothan, recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout. The two have assisted the chapter in grave marking ceremonies.



ALSSAR Officer Training Programs offered

To advance our Leadership Development goal, we will be offering officer training programs in conjunction with the May and October meetings of the Board of Managers, the annual convention in February and upon request at chapter meetings.

To provide additional "how to" guidance to state and chapter officers and committee chairs, I've asked National Trustee Alternate Bruce Pickett and Senior Vice President C. W. Posey to produce a "State Society Handbook." When it is complete it will be available on our website <http://www.ALSSAR.org>.

Our webmaster, Ron Diamond of the Richard Montgomery chapter, professionally designs Web sites. We owe Ron a debt

of gratitude for creating, maintaining and enhancing our high quality Web site. It has enhanced communications within the ALS-SAR and provided us with an important recruiting tool.

I'm asking chapter presidents to post contact information regarding chapter officers and committee chairmen on the chapter's Web site and to keep it current.

Instructions on how to keep the chapter's website current are posted on <http://www.alssar.org/websiteupdate.htm>.

Remember to send updates of chapter officers and committee chairs and their contact information to the ALSSAR Secretary, Marvin Vickers, at marvinvickers35@yahoo.com, the web-

master, Ron Diamond, at magediamond@mac.com, and State President (David.Billings@UAH.edu).

I'm asking state committee chairmen to communicate directly with their chapter counterpart.

If the chapter president has not identified the chairman of a particular committee or not reported the chairman's contact information, the chapter president will be the point of contact for that committee.

Each chapter needs to carefully match their service programs and activities with their member resource base and interests; thereby, not over committing the chapter.

—C. David Billings

Gen. Galvez selects new 2011 officers

ALSSAR vice-president David Billings and his wife Nancy were special guests at the February meeting of the Galvez chapter.

Twenty-nine members attended the meeting as Kirk Barrett was inducted into the chapter. Chapter president Wayne Sirmon initiated a memorial service for Col. Paul A. Frederick, a past president of the chapter who passed away on Jan. 5. Frederick was the ROTC chairman for the chapter and personally kept this activity going, at his own cost, between the time the chapter was disbanded and rechartered.

Sirmon reminded the members of the \$100 contribution made to the flagpole fund for the National Cemetery at the American Village. The chapter has been offered a page in the visitor's center welcome book for the contribution. A motion was made by Dr. J. R. Shell and seconded by Stan Virden to honor all members of chapter who served in World War II on the chapter page.

The guest speaker was compatriot William J. "Jack" Edwards III, who served as U.S. Representative from District 1 from 1965-



—Photo courtesy of Mike Glass

ALSSAR president Bruce Pickett, second from left, with secretary-treasurer Leroy McGaughy, president Wayne Sirmon and vice-president Mack Matthews.

85. Edwards began by noting the previous Sunday would have been President Ronald Reagan's 100th birthday. He had chosen to share with us his remembrances of his friend President Reagan since he served during the first half of Reagan's term. Jack said he had not planned to seek reelection in 1983 but was personally asked by Reagan to continue one more term due to his influential position on the Defense Subcommittee for Appropriations. Jack shared many personal memories of his contacts with Reagan and they were enjoyed by all present.

In the November meeting,

compatriots voted to approve the recommendation for officers for 2011. Those included Wayne Sirmon, president; Mack Matthews, vice-president; Leroy McGaughy, secretary-treasurer; and Howard Schramm and Price Legg, members of the Board of Managers.

Those officers were installed at the Jan. 22 banquet at Heron Lakes Country Club.

Legg also presented the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Medal to Robert Ware. The NSSAR medal is presented to a maximum of two compatriots per state per year.

Cahaba-Coosa considers hike in chapter dues

The Cahaba-Coosa chapter held its monthly meeting on March 20 to discuss a possible raise in chapter dues and to honor an Eagle Scout.

Compatriot Bob Thomas presented Dalton Sparks with the S.A.R. Eagle Scout Award as recognition of his Eagle Scout project in restoring a Helena cemetery.

Chapter president Don Glover noted that it has been suggested that the chapter raise their dues to \$20 from the present \$15. The matter will be discussed at the next chapter meeting.

Compatriot Bobby Joe Seales discussed the idea of bringing Gov. Bentley into the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter under the fact that they have the same ancestor. Due to the new state ethics laws, Bentley declined the chapter's offer to fund his membership but may pay himself at a later date.

Vice president Rick Booth presented the guest speaker, Plato Papajohn. Papajohn is a local author who was born in Greece and is a naturalized American citizen. Papajohn served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and spoke on his life as a survivor of the Nazi invasion of Greece and the subsequent civil war.

Montgomery, Elmore chapters elect officers for 2011

The Gen. Richard Montgomery and Gen. John Archer Elmore chapters joined together for their annual winter banquet on Dec. 7 and elected officers for 2011.

Walter Stevenson was elected president of the Gen. Richard Montgomery chapter, while Benny Harris was selected as the 2011 president for the John A. Elmore chapter.

Other Montgomery officers included Jack Reed, vice president; Alan Davis, secretary; George Gayle, treasurer; Kenneth Mahan, genealogist; Larry Cornwell, registrar; Brad Sanders, chaplain; and J. Hartwell Lane, sergeant-at-arms.

Other Elmore officers included Bruce Buehler, vice president; Prentiss Booth, secretary; Bill Stone, treasurer; Alfred Booth, chaplain; Larry Cornwell, registrar; Billy Wayne Spears, sergeant-at-arms; and John Brown, historian.

The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was presented to retired Major Michael Foster, the director of the Civil Air Patrol School

at Maxwell, as well as Honor Flight organizers Joe Mathis, Ed Mullins and Roscoe Williams.

Eagle Scout awards were presented to Richmond Baker Austin Gunter II and Brandon Kyle Pugh.

Meritorious Service medals were presented to compatriots Leon Malcom Clark, David Tyrone Crowley, Stevenson, Stone and Justin Rojek.

Cornwell received the Certificate of Distinguished Service.

Compatriots Jimmy Frank Meacham and Edgar Leslie Smith III each received a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.

The featured speaker was ALSSAR president Bruce Pickette,

Pickette spoke on the society's expansion in certain areas and praised the involvement of the two chapters.

"I think the society can be proud of those things it has begun," he said. "If we are not involved, or progressing, or adapting, we are on the road to being irrelevant and perhaps ceasing to exist."



—Photo courtesy of Tyrone Crowley

Honor Flight volunteers, from left, Joe Mathis, Ed Mullins and Roscoe Williams were honored at banquet.

Honor Flight volunteers praised

Retired Col. Joseph Mathis, Dr. Edwin Mullins and Roscoe Williams were presented the S.A.R. Bronze Good Citizenship medal and certificate at the winter banquet of the Richard Montgomery and John A. Elmore chapters for their outstanding patriotic service in making the Honors Flights a reality, thereby freely transporting the state's

World War II veterans to the World War II Memorial in Washington.

The trio were instrumental in organizing several flights to Washington, D.C., over the past four years to give all the veterans in the central Alabama area an opportunity to visit the memorial, which was officially opened to the public in April, 2004.



—Photo courtesy of Tyrone Crowley

Honoring our first president

Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter compatriot Dick Wells took the opportunity on President's Day to read a story about the life of George Washington and talk to Tressa Roten's first-grade class at Daniel Pratt Elementary School in Prattville on the life of our first president.



—Photo courtesy of Tyrone Crowley

Clanton officials honored

Gen. John Archer Elmore chapter officers Bill Stone, left, and Bruce Buehler, right, present the Mayor's Public Service Award to, from left, medical rescue technician Timothy Harmon, Police Chief Brian Stilwell and 46-year veteran Donald Driver for their service to the Clanton community at Jan. 11 meeting.

President visits chapters, offers plan for future

President's Note: I visited 13 of the 15 ALSSAR chapters to meet the members and to listen and learn about each chapter. Each chapter shared with me what the chapter considered to be its effective practices. I learned about each chapter's strengths, areas for improvement and efforts at retention, reinstatement and recruitment of members as well as goals and plans for 2011.

After visiting the chapters, I decided to collect the information in a more structured manner and share it with the chapters. I developed a survey questionnaire on chapter best practices and plans for 2011. I distributed it to the chapter presidents and received completed questionnaires from 12 of the 15 chapter presidents for an 80 percent response rate.

The surveys provided good responses on best practices to strengthen the chapters and State Society. I grouped similar responses together and paraphrased them. The report summarizes the responses.

Effective Practices: I asked each chapter to list one to three effective practices which are inherent to the success of the chapter's operations. The chapters reported 34 effective practices. Some practices were reported by more than one

chapter, but 12 practices were reported by only one chapter.

The best practice reported by the largest number of chapters (8) was offering interesting and appropriate (relevant) programs at chapter meetings.

Chapter Strengths: I asked each chapter to summarize their strengths in the achievement of specific chapter objectives. The chapters reported 27 strengths. Some strengths were reported by more than one chapter, but five strengths were reported by only one chapter.

The strength reported by the largest number of chapters (8) was having a strong group of energetic and dedicated officers, committee chairs and volunteers that create ideas and opportunities.

Chapter Areas for Improvement: I asked each chapter to summarize areas for improvement in the achievement of specific chapter objectives. Most chapters reported multiple areas for improvement though two chapters did not report any areas for improvement. The chapters reported 29 areas for improvement. Some areas were reported by more than one chapter, but seven areas were reported by only one chapter.

The area for improvement reported by

the largest number of chapters (six) was recruitment of new members.

Chapter Plans for 2011: I asked each chapter to summarize their plans for next year. The chapters reported 44 specific plans for 2011. Some plans were reported by more than one chapter, but 17 plans were reported by only one chapter.

Three plans tied for first place: (1) expanding participation in youth programs, (2) providing interesting programs at meetings and (3) increasing membership.

Chapter Membership Activities and Forecast: I asked each chapter six questions about membership activities.

Our chapters plan to grow in 2011. The chapters forecasted a net growth rate of 9 percent. That growth rate forecasts an end-of-year membership of 930.

What should our membership goal be? Consider a benchmark; The Alabama Society DAR has 4,091 members. Surely the Sons can recruit and retain one-fourth the members of the Daughters --- or 1,000 members.

Furthermore, the Alabama Society is the 10th largest state society. As such, we have a responsibility to provide leadership within the national society.

—C. David Billings

Cheaha compatriot wins state Boy Scout award

Compatriot Benny Harris was the featured speaker at the February meeting of the Cheaha chapter, which honored one of its members for winning the state Boy Scout award.

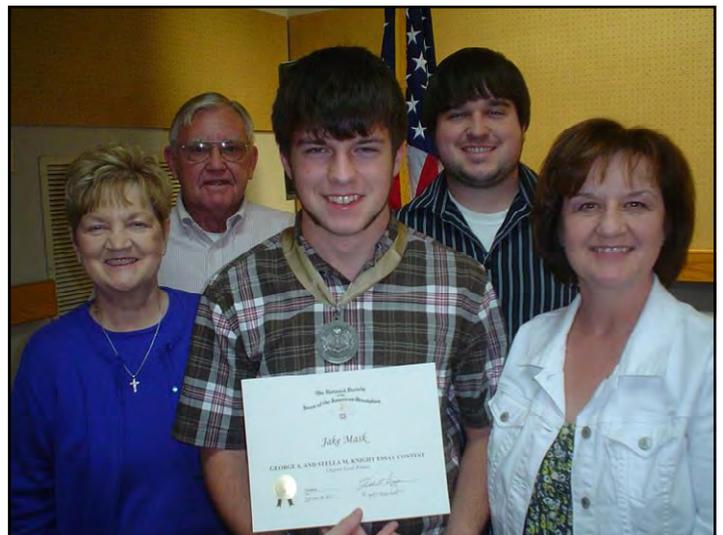
Harris, chairman of the ALSSAR's Liberty Tree Memorial Project, spoke on the merits of the program to the 11 members and their guests at the Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library.

Mask, who led the Pledge of Allegiance in the meeting, was recognized for winning the ALSSAR's scholarship award and read his chapter-winning Knight Essay on "The Price of Freedom."

In other business, chapter vice-president Jeff Coker presented a motion to amend No. 7 of the chapter by-laws as follows:

General Meetings of the Cheaha Chapter shall be scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month, September through November and January through May, for a total of eight meetings throughout the year. To be effective, beginning September 2011. The motion was presented at the chapter's next meeting on March 9.

—William Rozier



—Photo courtesy of Bill Rozier

Jake Mask and his family with his ALSSAR Boy Scout Scholarship Award.

**ALABAMA SOCIETY, SONS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 77
Montgomery, AL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALSSAR

3104 Cabot Street Phone: 334-328-4580
Montgomery, AL 36110 E-mail: timgayle@gmail.com



Visit the ALSSAR Web site at www.alssar.org

Please send in your chapter's news for next newsletter

Please submit any information about your chapter's activities or upcoming events concerning your chapter by June 10 to Tim Gayle at 3104 Cabot Street, Montgomery, AL 36110, or you can send photos or stories via e-mail to timgayle@gmail.com.

Tennessee Valley remembers veterans over the holidays

The Tennessee Valley chapter provided more than 150 signed Christmas cards for veterans over the holidays, enlisting the support of chapter members to support the veterans living at the Tut Fann Veteran's Home in Huntsville.

Tennessee Valley members signed and wrote sentiments in the cards during their chapter meetings in October and November.

Chapter president Larry Crabtree and several other members took the cards to the veteran's home and made the presentation in December.

Among the veterans overwhelmed by the generosity of the SAR members was World War II veteran James Glisson. Glisson was a 40mm gunner on the U.S.S. Hornet during World War II and was involved in 52 battles.

—Jim Maples



—Photo courtesy of Jim Maples

Chapter president Larry Crabtree presents cards to James Glisson as Jim Maples, Linda Bates and Schevonna Anderson look on.