



# The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society  
Sons of the American Revolution—February/March 2015



### President

Bob Doherty  
256-350-9077  
bobba2@charter.net

### Vice-President

Hal Thornton  
256-655-8786  
halbjt@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Kim Keller  
256-532-3977  
cookieandkim@comcast.net

### Treasurer

Brian House  
256-327-9444  
Brian\_E\_House@msn.com

### Registrar

Bob Baccus  
256-534-4857  
bob@otrass.com

### Chaplain

Connie Cook  
256-539-2236  
cciv358@gmail.com

### Historian

Ron Bledsoe  
256-881-4663  
ronbledsoe@aol.com

### Newsletter Editor

Jim Maples  
256-534-2315  
SAR1776@SAR1776.com

### Meeting Schedule

9 February 2015  
11:00am Regular Meeting  
Huntsville Public Library  
Main Meeting Room

20 March 2015  
6:00pm  
Annual Chapter Banquet  
Valley Hill County Club

### *President's Message*

In my first President's Message I thanked you for electing me President of this outstanding chapter. In this, my last President's Message I again thank you for letting me serve as the President of this outstanding chapter. It has been an honor. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with the officers and Program Chairmen this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching this chapter grow month after month and it continues to grow.

Our Color Guard continues to be outstanding representatives for the chapter. This year they have represented us at grave markings, DAR activities, Veterans Day parades, ceremonies honoring purple heart recipients and presenting the Colors at our meetings. They have represented us outside of our area and outside of our state. They have represented us as a group and as single individuals. And they have represented us well. Thank you. Job well done.

The chapter expanded the program honoring first responders. This year we presented five certificates and medals to these heroes. The recipients represented Huntsville, Madison County, and Falkville, AL. SAR state President Bobby Joe Seales assisted us in the presentations.

Our Youth Programs continue to be outstanding. We had well over a hundred posters entered in the poster contest. Our outstanding JROTC cadet should represent us well in the state competition as should our Eagle Scout Scholarship Contestant. Good luck to them.

The chapter has also done a good job honoring our veterans. We awarded more War Service and Military Service medals than ever before. We have encouraged our veterans to apply for the Certificate of Patriotism awarded by the NSSAR. We continue to place wreaths on veterans graves and take Christmas Cards to the veterans at the "Tut" Fann veterans home.

My heartfelt thanks to all of the Tennessee Valley Compatriots who made our accomplishments possible for their dedicated service and hard work. I know that the year 2015-16 will be equally as successful.

*Bob Doherty*



At our December meeting we were honored to have our State President, Bobby Joe Seales, and his wife Diane as our special guests. Bobby Joe presented awards to our Fire Safety, Emergency Medical Services, and Law Enforcement Award recipients.

### *Secretary's Report - December Meeting*

The December chapter meeting began at 11:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library with the presentation of the Colors by the SAR Color Guard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Bob Doherty, and the Pledge to the SAR led by George Royer. The Prayer of Invocation was given by Chaplain Connie Cook. Forty-two members signed the attendance roster and 34 guests were present. President Doherty introduced the SAR State President Bobby Joe Seales and his wife, Diane.

New members: Two new members were introduced and inducted into the chapter: Scott Hill and Storm Hill.

A wounded warrior certificate and coin were awarded to compatriot Harold McMillan for his Army service in World War II. Compatriot Bill Howard was recognized for his service in the Navy in World War II.

Certificates and Awards: SAR State President Bobby Seales, and Vice President Hal Thornton presented awards to the following:

EMS – Chief Chris S. Free, Falkville, AL police chief

Firefighter - Lt. Stephen Parker, Falkville, AL Volunteer Fire Department

Firefighter - Jimmy Sharpe, Moore's Mill Fire Department, Madison County, AL

Law Enforcement - Officer Taylor Stegall, Huntsville, AL Police Department

Law Enforcement - Deputy Sheriff Peter Roth, Madison County, AL Sheriff's Department

Reading of the minutes from the November chapter meeting was dispensed with by voice vote.

Treasurer's report: Brian House asked members to renew their SAR membership by paying their dues. He indicated that a number of members have not paid their dues, and the due date is December 15.

Committee Reports – An appeal was made for judges for the Youth Awards, which will be given out at the January SAR meeting.

History Quiz: Compatriot Connie Cook conducted an educational quiz regarding things that took place in the month of December during the American Revolution.

The greeters for today, David Byers and Bob Adams, were recognized by President Doherty. President Bob recognized and thanked the ladies who helped prepare the lunch today: Sue Royer, Kay Anderson, Abby Alexander, Linda Maples, Wilma Stone, Susan Crabtree, Beverly Thornton, and Linda Doherty. Members and guests were reminded to sign the attendance sheets on the tables in the back of the room.

Announcements: Diane Seales, wife of State President Bobby Seales, gave an appeal for participation in the ladies auxiliary of SAR, and State President Seales announced the annual Alabama SAR Convention that will be held February 20-21 in

Birmingham. The annual Chapter Banquet will be held at the Valley Hill Country Club on the 20th of March.

Officers Report: President Doherty announced the Nominating Committee for next year's officers: George Royer, Chairman, with members Jim Maples and Connie Cook.

President Doherty recognized the members of the Color Guard that participated in today's meeting: Bob Anderson, Jim Maples, Colin Wakefield, Randel Phillips, Ken Brown, and Bob Baccus.

Jim Maples announced that he had a good response to the appeal for Christmas Cards for the Tut Fann Home, and asked for volunteers to assist him in giving out the cards at the home following the meeting.

President Bob Doherty closed the meeting with his "Little Known Facts of the Revolution" – The last blow of the war was struck by a woman when she struck a British General in the nose with a broom when he attempted to take her flag that was flying over her establishment.

President Doherty thanked the members and guests for attending, and wished them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The meeting concluded at 12:10 p.m. with the retrieval of the Colors by the Color Guard, followed by Larry Crabtree leading the SAR Recessional and Chaplain Connie Cook giving the Benediction.

*Kim Keller, Secretary*

### *Secretary's Report - January Meeting*

The January chapter meeting began at 11:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library with the Call to Order by the President, Bob Doherty, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Doherty, and the Pledge to the SAR led by Bob Anderson. The Prayer of Invocation was given by Chaplain Connie Cook. Forty members signed the attendance roster and 24 guests were present.

Supplementals: Two Supplemental Certificates were presented to William Stephen Pearce and two for his son, Luke Pearce.

Certificates and Awards:

Veterans Corps – NSSAR Certificate of Patriotism was given to Alexander Black for his WWII service.

Eagle Scout – Certificate, medal and patches were given to the chapter's Eagle Scout Scholarship winner. He will now be entered in the State contest.

Poster Contest – Hal Thornton and Topper Burney presented certificates and checks to the three winners, as well as their teacher. The winning entry will be entered in the State contest.

JROTC – Bob Anderson and Tom Jones presented the certificate and medal to the Outstanding JROTC Cadet. The winner will be entered in the State contest.

Flag Certificates – Charles McMurray presented certificates to representatives of Whitesburg Christian Academy, Madison

County Veterans Memorial, US Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville – Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the National Children’s Advocacy Center. Intergraph was recognized, but no representative was present.

Reading of the minutes from the December chapter meeting was dispensed with by voice vote. The greeters for today, Bob Hammond and Henry Oldham, were recognized by President Doherty.

President Bob recognized and thanked the ladies who helped prepare the lunch today: Linda Maples, Linda Doherty, Beverly Thornton, Sue Royer, Margie Bledsoe, Wilma Stone, Linda Baccus, Cookie Keller, Kay Anderson, and Susan Crabtree. Members and guests were reminded to sign the attendance sheets on the tables in the back of the room.

Program: Hal Thornton introduced our speaker, Compatriot Connie Cook. Connie was dressed as Thomas Paine, and told the story of his life. Thomas Paine had a hard early life, but survived to come to America following a meeting with Benjamin Franklin when he was in France. Paine was the author of “Common Sense”. Published in 1776, Common Sense challenged the authority of the British government and the royal monarchy. The plain language that Paine used spoke to the common people of America and was the first work to openly ask for independence from Great Britain.

Announcements: President Doherty reminded the attendees of the annual Alabama SAR Convention that will be held February 20-21 in Birmingham.

The annual Chapter Banquet will be held at the Valley Hill Country Club on the 20th of March at a price of \$35 per person. There will be no regular meeting for March.

A Memorial Grave Dedication Program will be held by the Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution in conjunction with the Wiregrass Chapter for Jim Capers, the first known black Revolutionary War Soldier buried in Alabama. The service will be held at the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, in Orion, Pike County, Al on February 1, 2015.

President Bob Doherty closed the meeting with his “Little Known Facts of the Revolution” – One of George Washington’s guards, Thomas Hinkey, was tried for attempting to capture Washington and deliver him to Sir William Howe and was the first soldier executed in the history of the American Army. President Doherty thanked the members and guests for attending.

The meeting concluded at 12:27 p.m., with Kim Keller leading the SAR Recessional and Chaplain Connie Cook giving the Benediction.

*Kim Keller, Secretary*

### *Chapter Youth Winners*

We announced our Chapters winners for JROTC, Poster Contest, and Eagle Scout at the January meeting. You won’t see the names or pictures until the next newsletter since they will all be competing at the State level.

### *Upcoming Events*

**9 February 2015** - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Huntsville Public Library.

**20-21 February** - ALSSAR State Convention - Birmingham

**20 March 2015** - Chapter Banquet, 6:00pm Whitesburg Center

**13 April 2015** - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Huntsville Public Library.



**Our January speaker was Thomas Paine (aka Connie Cook). Connie gave an outstanding first person account of the life of Thomas Paine.**

### *Chapter Banquet*

Our annual chapter banquet will be held on Friday, March 20th, 6:00pm at Valley Hill Country Club. A registration form will be available at the next meeting and is available at our website at [www.SAR1776.com](http://www.SAR1776.com). Our speaker is Compatriot Bill Stone, current State Vice-President. This serves as our March meeting.

### *Alabama Society Annual Convention*

The Alabama Society will hold it’s 125th Annual Convention on February 20-21, 2015 at the Birmingham Marriott, 3590 Grandview Parkway. For a registration form, go to the ALSSAR website at [ALSSAR.org](http://ALSSAR.org).

**Treasurer's Report**  
January-December 2014

Income	
Annual Banquet Income	1,960.00
Corp Contributions- Youth Programs	540.00
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	23.88
Annual Dues	3,326.30
New Member Application Fee	625.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	55.00
SAR AL State Medal	<u>120.00</u>
Total Income	6,650.18
Expense	
Awards and Grants	
Brochure Contest	200.00
Eagle Scout Award	200.00
JROTC Cash Award	250.00
Orations	300.00
Poster Contest	644.16
Accounting/Bank Fees	148.66
Medals and Awards	1,679.75
Operations	
Postage	450.50
Supplies/Printing	301.00
Other Expenses	38.49
Color Guard Expense	580.47
Travel and Meetings	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	1985.19
Travel	<u>582.60</u>
Total Expense	7,360.82
Net Ordinary Income	-710.64
Net Income	-710.64



Above, State President Bobby Joe Seales presents a Fire Safety Award to Stephen Parker. Below, a representative of the Moores Mill Fire Department accepts a Fire Safety Award for Jimmy Sharpe. On page 5, from left to right, President Seales presents Law Enforcement Awards to Peter Roth and Taylor Stegall. At the far right, President Seales presents an Emergency Medical Services Award to Chris Free.

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Endeavor Money Market	9,627.79
RFCU Business Checking Account	<u>2,371.29</u>
Total Checking/Savings	11,999.08
Accounts Receivable	363.00
Undeposited Funds	<u>-68.00</u>
Total Current Assets	12,294.08
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities (National/State Dues Payable)	325.00
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	15,005.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	-2,325.28
Net Income	<u>-710.64</u>
Total Equity	11,969.08
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>12,294.08</u>

*Brian House, Treasurer*





Jim Maples, President Bob Doherty, VP Hal Thornton, and ALSSAR Historian Larry Crabtree presented Christmas cards to residents of the "Tut Fann" Veterans home. Accepting from the left are Mr. Thearon McCluskey (Vietnam), Ms. Brandi Sims (Activities Director), and Ms. Merle Engleberg (WWII)



Compatriot Bob Baccus plays *Taps* at the Wreaths for Veterans Ceremony at Maple Hill Cemetery on December 13th.

Flag Certificates Presented at January Meeting



*Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau*



*National Childrens Advocacy Center*



*Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial*



*U.S. Space and Rocket Center*



*Whitesburg Christian Academy*

At our January meeting, Flag Chairman Charles McMurry presented Flag Certificates to the Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the National Childrens Advocacy Center, the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial, Whitesburg Christian Academy, and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.



*Scott Hill*

*Storm Hill*

President Bob Doherty presented new member certificates to Scott Hill and his son Storm Hill. At the right is past State President Hoyt Smith who is Storm's grandfather and Scott's father-in-law.



At our January meeting, President Doherty presented Alex Black with a Certificate of Patriotism for his service in World War II.



President Doherty presents additional Supplemental Applications to Compatriot Steve Pearce and Steve's son Luke. That makes 20 proven ancestors for Luke and 19 for Steve.



At our December meeting, President Doherty presented Harold McMillan with a Wounded Warrior Coin and Certificate. Harold was wounded during World War II.



Our Color Guard presented the Colors at our December Meeting. Participating with us were Ken Brown from the Cullman Chapter and Past Tennessee State President Colin Wakefield (Colin is a dual member with our Chapter).



Jim Maples  
1501 Elmwood Dr.  
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: