

## July 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

# Sons of the American Revolution

## Tennessee Valley Chapter

The July 8th, 2019 Chapter meeting was called to order by **President Jim Griffith** at 11:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. Jim 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 **Vice-President Ray Livingston**, followed by the SAR Pledge.

Thirty six (36) members and Twenty one (21) guests were present for today's meeting.

Please turn cell phones off or to silent. This is a lunch time meeting, so feel free to enjoy the sandwiches and refreshments that are available against the wall to your right.

Thank you for joining us today! This organization has more than 250 members locally and over 38,000 nationally. If you are interested in joining our group, please talk with a member or one of our officers. We are happy you are here!

President Griffith indicated that he would like to recognize our first time guests or visitors that may be in attendance. Please stand and introduce yourself. Kathy McLean and Roger McLean stood and introduced themselves. Conley Ownby also stood and introduced himself.

President Griffith reminded everyone that on July 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating fifty years since we landed a man on the moon. Jim then asked all the members who worked at NASA or were contractors there to please stand and be recognized. We have many members who are history. Jim followed up by reciting many statistics that were accomplished by NASA. He says that he loves History and these guys are History. What a great honor.

Jim next talked about our Summer Social. We have a sign- up sheet. It is being passed around now. Please sign up and attend. The social will be Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Whitesburg Baptist Church Recreation Center starting at 6 pm. Entertainment by "Eight Feet Wide", a Barbershop Quartet.

Our first person to recognize today is Julia Coberly, volunteer coordinator for Early Works. She is accompanied today by one of her assistants, Jacob Ginn. Jim stated that our September meeting will be held at Constitution Hall Park. The meeting will be held in the same location where the State of Alabama was created. Early Works will be offering free tours of the renovated facilities after our meeting.

Julie came up and spoke to us about Early Works and volunteering. She indicated that they have had several thousand visitors since they opened in early June. Saturday night is family night and this past Saturday had over 200 guests.

ALABAMA 200 is about more than commemorating 200 years of a government. The State of Alabama exists as a place of unparalleled natural beauty, and it is the home of a diverse and distinct people who share a history with unique perspectives and values. It is a sense of shared culture and story. You only turn 200 once, and honoring the history that changed the world takes time.

Starting June 1st, 2019 the Alabama Constitution Hall Park will be offering guided tours. This 90-minute tour takes our guests through our historic buildings that display Huntsville during the constitutional convention of 1819. Learn how Alabama became a state, stories of the community, and see demonstrations of how people survived without our modern conveniences. Make sure that you see the blacksmith shop and the cabinet shop.

We invite you to join us and discover anew the best of what Alabama has to offer! See the Early Works family of Museums. Julie said that she would be around after the meeting to answer any questions.

Jim thanked Julie for her presentation and help with our September Meeting. Julie will also provide our speaker for the September meeting. Building relationships with organizations of kindred spirits.

Next, Jim announced that our Chapter now has a speaker's bureau. Bob Baccus has just volunteered to add his name to the speakers list. We are still looking for additional speakers. The information is on our Chapter website.

Vice President Ray Livingston asked our Teacher's program leader, Bob Anderson to come up and introduce today's speaker. Bob said that we are in for a treat today. We have the National winner of the Dr. Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award. Jonathan Bragwell has been teaching now for 24-years. He teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade social studies at Hartselle school where he was their previous Teacher of the year winner. Bob also raved about Jonathan's u-tube video where he rapped the "Bill of Rights".

Jonathan prepared a great slide presentation for us on his week at the Colonial Williamsburg Institute. He also had an opportunity to visit one of his favorite colleges, William and Mary. Jonathan noted that the group of teachers was from all parts of the country. They were housed at the Woodlands, which is next to the visitor's center. He also toured Jamestown and Jamestown Island. He took pictures of the statues and landmarks as he gathered all the Historical information which he shared with us. He is planning on putting a presentation together for his new students this year. He shared some of the teaching tools that he uses in his classroom. Jonathan answered questions from the group after his presentation. The key question to Jonathan was-What do you think is the greatest obstacle to teaching kids today? Jonathan answered two things, 1<sup>st</sup> is entitled students and 2<sup>nd</sup> is home life issues. These issues have to be addressed before you can teach the students.

Jonathan was presented a certificate of appreciation from President Griffith, and then Vice President Ray Livingston presented Jonathan an Eagle Head Memento for his desk. Pictures were taken by Jim Maples for the website and newsletter.

President Griffith asked our two new chapter inductees to come up front. Robert Thomas Vaughan Sr. and Eddie Howard Winkles were then asked to take the SAR Pledge .Jim then presented each with their certificate and asked Registrar Charles McMurry to come up front and present each new member with their SAR Rosettes. Robert and Eddie both gave brief information on their patriots and their challenge to get the documentation verified and approved.

President Griffith then asked George Eldon Vincent Jr. to come up front. George was presented with a supplemental ancestor certificate for his patriot Peter Mercer. George was asked to stay on stage while Mac Moon came up to do a second presentation. Mac first did his special commercial for the George Washington Foundation before presenting George with his Certificate and Gold Pin for being Tennessee Valley Chapters newest George Washington Fellow. Mac encouraged everyone to please consider joining the G W Foundation. The cost is a onetime \$1000 dollar payment or a \$200 payment with a \$200 dollar payment each year for the next four years. Mac noted that the original investment is never spent while 80% of the revenues is handed out each year in the form of grants. 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.

President Griffith asked Flag Chairman Randal Jennings to make the next presentation. Randal asked Jim Maples to come up and accept the certificate for his citizenship and proper display of the American Flag. Jim told us that he would be displaying his Betsy Ross Flag soon.

Vice president Livingston came up and made our last presentation for the day. He asked Lexie Lynn Helms to please come up and accept a certificate and the Military Service Pin for his service in the US Navy.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Reading of last month's meeting Notes

President Griffith asked for the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion was made by Bob Anderson to suspend with the reading of the minutes, the motion was seconded by Chip Phar. A motion was made by Chaplain Henderson to accept the minutes as written and 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**

Schedule of upcoming events:

- July 11th at 5:00 p.m. –This Thursday, TVCSAR visit to the Huntsville Botanical Garden to see “Making Alabama, A Travelling Bicentennial Exhibit”. Jim Maples brought in brochures and left them on the back table.

- August 10<sup>th</sup> – (Rescheduled) Grave Marking for DAR Daughter has been moved to October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Summer Social at Whitesburg Baptist Church Event Center with entertainment from “Eight Feet Wide”, a barbershop quartet. (Free of Charge) A Sign up sheet is being passed around.
- Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – Athens State University Constitution Day Celebrations. (Details later)

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.

Public Relations Committee now exists. Dr. Jesse Brown – Chair, Jim Maples, Cliff Lanham, and we still need two others. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please let me know.

Membership Roster Booklet is being updated by Benny Hannah. Please send any updates to Benny at [benny.harris.hannah@gmail.com](mailto:benny.harris.hannah@gmail.com). Contact info is also on the website.

Next Meeting will be on August 12<sup>th</sup> and I will not be here. Ray Livingston will handle the meeting.

September meeting will be at Constitution Village Park in downtown with free tours of the park and buildings after the meeting. Lunch will not be provided at that meeting. (Water will be available)

Vice President-**Ray Livingston**

Next month’s speaker will be Tom Walker, founder of American Village. Tom is passionate about history and our constitution. Please plan to attend, it will be a great presentation.

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.

No other news to report.

### Registrar-Charles McMurry

The TVCSAR Registrar's Report as of 2019 June 28 is summarized below: Several new prospects were added since last month or recently. There are two new prospects since the June 6 Registrar's Report labeled and highlighted (Paul Richard Armbruster and Conley Ownby). There are two new registrations (Daniel Lambert Spiegeberg and David Wayne Cole). One supplemental was approved on June 14<sup>th</sup> for George Vinson. Charles also commented that we have one new applicant who signed today.

#### Summary as of 28 June 2019:

1. SAR COMPATRIOTS REGISTERED AWAITING INDUCTION—4
2. SAR APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AT NSSAR AWAITING REVIEW — 4
3. SAR APPLICATIONS MAILED NOT RECEIVED AT NSSAR—1
4. SAR APPLICATIONS STARTED, NOT FINALIZED —24
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—0
8. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPS MAILED NOT RECEIVED AT NSSAR—0
9. NEW SAR MEMBERS INDUCTED AT LAST REGULAR MEETING 11 June 2019 - 0

### Recording Secretary-Benny Hannah

- 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.
- 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. Send to Benny at [benny.harris.hannah@gmail.com](mailto:benny.harris.hannah@gmail.com)
- New website called Patriot Path has a lot of good patriot info. I will post on facebook for members to go in and see if this would be of interest to them.

### Corresponding Secretary-Jim Maples

Our chapter is now over 220 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.

Jim noted that he is a dual member with the Joseph Greer society in Tennessee. Joseph was known as the Kings Mountain Messenger. He was sent by horseback to notify the Continental Congress that we had won the Battle of Kings Mountain.

## Historian –Cliff Lanham

Cliff informed the group that we have a historical record area on the second floor of the library. His message is primarily for former officers and committee chairmen who need to get rid of their old SAR files. He is ready to lighten their load by taking their old hard copy and electronic files.

## Genealogist-Warren Adams

Nothing new to report.

## **Committee Report:**

(No new committee reports)

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

### Recent activities included:

Color Guard\_ June 21<sup>st</sup> Flag Pole dedication at American Village.  
Color Guard – July 4th participation at The American Village.

### Upcoming Activities:

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>- Early Works ‘End of the Summer Activities’ 3-Hour event.  
Aug.10<sup>th</sup>-Grave Marking Has been rescheduled to October 5<sup>th</sup> which is the same day as our next BOM.  
(Randal is out of town and will not be available for either event) He will need someone to cover for him.

Sept 17<sup>th</sup>-Athens State University for constitution day. The date is good but the details are pending.

The Color Guard is still looking for new members. One of our challenges this year is to increase our numbers. If anyone is interested we have some extra uniforms. Please contact Randal for information.

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

President Griffith made the following closing comments:

- Thank you greeters **Frank Scalfano** and **Lynn Helms** Both of these individuals are recent inductees and are already active participants in our Chapter. Make sure and thank them for joining us and playing an active role!
- Thank you Ladies Auxiliary for your undying support and for feeding us at every meeting! Your efforts are appreciated more than you know!
- 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.
- And don't forget, our next meeting will be: August 12th at 11 am here at the library.

President Jim Griffith asked the group to stand for the dismissal prayer by Chaplain Henderson. Jim then led the group in the SAR Recessional.

President Griffith adjourned the meeting at 12:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benny Hannah, Recording Secretary  
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