

# SAR Alabama

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Compatriots,  
Greetings and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR to all. I hope everyone experienced a wonderful holiday. As the end of my term of office rapidly approaches, I find myself reflecting on the past year and how fast that year has passed. It seems like just yesterday that we were in Dothan for last year's wonderful convention.

It truly has been a one of the greatest privileges of my life for me to serve as your president. During my tenure, I have had the opportunity to visit several of the chapters throughout the state. When I started out, it was my goal to visit each chapter at least once, but unfortunately that has not been possible.

Meeting many of you at different functions in the past year has been the most rewarding aspect of this position. The chartering banquet for the Cahaba Coosa chapter was a real highlight.

There are so many compatriots that I would like to thank for making my job easy. Jim Maples for his service as your society's Secretary, Jim Alexander for serving as Treasurer, Tim Gayle for taking on the difficult job of Editor of the ALSSAR newsletter, John Wallace, Rod Hildreth, Lee Swart, Price Legg, Hoyt Smith, Mike Wells, and Jerry Jones for their advice and counsel. Also, Walter

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## 2004 ALSSAR convention set for Tuscaloosa on Feb. 21-22

A new slate of officers and proposed changes to the ALSSAR Constitution and By-Laws are the highlights of the 2004 state convention hosted by the Black Warrior River chapter on the University of Alabama campus on Feb. 21-22.

The convention will be held at the Sheraton Four Points on Bryant Drive and will include featured tours of Tuscaloosa sites on Saturday before the convention honors its new officers on Saturday night.

The Black Warrior River chapter is planning a tour of the Paul W. Bryant Museum, located next door to the hotel, on Saturday afternoon as well as

a tour of the Alabama Museum of Natural History at the university's Smith Hall.

A tour of the Westervelt Warner Museum of Young America, nestled in a wooded knoll overlooking Lake Tuscaloosa near the picturesque North River Yacht Club, is also planned.

The facility is free to the public and features one of the most significant assemblages of American art to be found anywhere. Among the exhibits are hundreds of paintings, sculptures, artifacts and antiques by world-renowned artists.

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—Photo courtesy of Jim Alexander

Presenting the colors are Hoyt Smith (left), Jim Alexander (second from right) and Jim Maples (right) of the Tennessee Valley and Dan Henry (second from right) of the Cullman chapter.

## Revolutionary War patriot John Craig's grave marked in ceremony

Approximately 100 members, ancestors, friends and guests joined the John Wade Keyes chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in honoring and marking the grave of Revolutionary War patriot Private John Craig at the Old City

Cemetery in Athens on Sept. 28, 2003.

Craig was born in York County, Pennsylvania in 1780. When he was 10 years old, his family moved

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