



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society

Sons of the American Revolution

September/October 2026



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Meeting Schedule

8 September 2026

11:00am Regular Meeting

Huntsville Public Library

1st Floor Meeting Room

5 October 2026

11:00am Regular Meeting

Huntsville Public Library

1st Floor Meeting Room

Greetings Compatriots,

I hope everyone had a great summer. I hope you were able to go on a vacation trip, or if not interested in traveling, I hope you were able to relax at home. Our chapter had an enormous schedule throughout the spring and early summer. There were a good many America 250 celebrations.

There were even more during August. ALSSAR Color Guard Adjutant Randal Jennings was very busy coordinating state wide appearances for the color guard and honor guard. Some various types of activities in August were a WWII Wreath Laying ceremony in Montevallo, a Monument Dedication in Baldwin County, and two events on the same day on Aug 29. One was a Liberty Tree Dedication in Pelham and another Liberty Tree Dedication in Chelsea.

Our chapter hosted a great Summer Social on Aug 15th at Holmes Street Methodist Church. We had 39 in attendance. The Chapter furnished the BBQ, drinks and accessories. Members brought an array of side dishes and desserts. I tried to sample everything but ended up a little short.

Membership renewal is due in September. Committee Chairman Bob Cheney will be working hard on membership retention. We are now at 267 chapter members. This year we successfully inducted 20 new members. However, we often lose members due to deaths, drops and non-renewals. During the induction ceremony, each new compatriot receives a new member packet which explains a lot about our society. It also has a list of activities that might be interesting to a new member. Hopefully the new member will select an activity. Opportunities include door greeter at monthly meetings, assist in decorating parade float, assist with judging posters, trifolds and essays for the youth awards program, assist with awarding SAR medals to local ROTC/JROTC units, recommend speakers for chapter meetings, and assist in clearing and cleaning Patriots grave sites. I would like to ask the general membership to look over this list and volunteer your time for one of these activities.

Our chapter is always working on historical preservation. Benny Hannah will be announcing upcoming grave markings during the fall months. Most of these are at old family cemeteries of the farm sites where the Revolutionary War soldier died in the 1800's. This is a good excuse for taking a drive in the country. Hope you will attend.

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Concerning educational outreach, Bob Anderson has been doing a tremendous job with the youth education program for many years. Some examples were mentioned such as judging posters, trifold and essays. There is a lot of prework to be done to get the schools involved. Bob would like to step down, but would like the person who replaces him to shadow him for a year to get the full scope of this coordination with the schools. If someone would come forward, this would be a good time to start.

Members who might interface with minors must take a course online called the Youth Protection program. When we are in the position of being in contact with minors, we owe it to them, their families and our organization to uphold the highest standard of child safety.

If you have been at any of the meetings this year, you heard from Benny Hannah and Steve Brouse about transitioning from the Americanism program to the SMART system. This is a SAR national data base to log our activities. It is very important to account for as many of your SAR associated activities as possible. Please report all of your service to Steve Brouse.

I would like to make special recognition to Dave Poehlein and Keith Albyn for completing a large number of SAR University online courses. Courses include almost everything to do with SAR. Some of them are Compatriot Training, Registrar Training, Blue Data Base Training as well as the above-mentioned Youth Protection Training. You can log on to the SAR site and take the courses at your convenience. Completion of courses are counted and recognized in our SMART system.

Hope to see you at the upcoming meetings and activities.

Lawrence Hillis
President



At the left Kay Anderson was our August speaker on the evolution of men's clothing.

Above, Bob Baccus and Terry Cornett were our July speakers on music of the American Revolution.

Scott Owen received a certificate at the August meeting recognizing that he has qualified for the NSSAR America 250 Gold Medal. Scott is the first member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter Color Guard to qualify for this medal. Congratulation Scott!



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 8 September 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room. Speaker, Mark Hubbs "Uniforms of the American Revolution" **NOTE: SECOND TUESDAY**

Monday, 5 October 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room. **NOTE: FIRST MONDAY**

Monday, 9 November 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Monday, 14 December 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Monday, 11 January 2027 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Tuesday, 9 February 2027 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room. **NOTE: SECOND TUESDAY**

Youth Awards Chairman Bob Anderson with Piper England who won 3rd Place at National in the Middle School Brochure Contest. Piper was our Chapter winner and she went on to become the State winner. Congratulations Piper!



We have a Publicity Chairman! New member David Poehlein has stepped up and volunteered to be our Publicity Chairman. With the size of our Chapter and the number of Chapter activities, this is a much needed and critical position. If you need to contact David his email is: david.poehlein@gmail.com.

David has created an online form for members to submit activities and pictures. Use the following link to open the form:

<https://form.jotform.com/261617790688068>

Scan the QR code at the right to open FastFunHistory.com, the website of Revolutionary War Rarities. You can find our podcast on YouTube, Apple, iHeart Radio, Spotify and others. The website has links to all locations where we can be seen or heard.

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Click on the link below for the latest episode entitled:

"Season 5 Episode 5, "The "Flushing Remonstrance"

<https://youtu.be/XXBaakQ2g7Q>



Welcome New Members!



Above are the three new members installed at the the August meeting. From left to right Steve Mann, James Watson and Brian Craig.

At the left, Bob Baccus and Terry Cornett, our July speakers, played some music of the American Revolution.



Above left President Hillis is with our current Chaplain Larry Layne and past Chaplain James Henderson.

Above right, the Chapter designated James Henderson as our Chaplain Emeritus for his outstanding service as our Chaplain for many years. Congratulations James!



Above and at the left are pictures of our float from the July 4th parade in downtown Huntsville.

Congratulations to everyone who worked on creating this outstanding float!