



**A Brief History of the
Southern District, National Society
of the Sons of the American Revolution**

At the organizing meeting of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held on April 30, 1889, at Fraunces Tavern in New York City, a Vice President General was elected from each State Society. Alabama and Tennessee were the only two current Southern District Societies represented at that meeting. At the first NS SAR Congress in Louisville in April 1890, the Constitution was changed to elect five at-large Vice Presidents General.

President General R. C. Ballard Thurston first proposed creating Districts for the Vice Presidents at the Syracuse Congress in May 1914. The proposal was presented as a Constitutional amendment by the Connecticut Society at the Newark Congress in May 1916, but was not acted upon until the Rochester Congress in May 1918. The Districts created by this amendment were the New England District (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut), Middle and Coast District (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida), Mississippi Valley East District (Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee), Mississippi Valley West District (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas), and the Mountain and Pacific District (Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, California, Hawaii, and the Philippines).

At the Salt Lake City Congress in July 1924, the number of Districts increased from five to seven and the Southern District was created. The Southern District was originally composed of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. At the Philadelphia Congress in June 1926, the number of Districts increased from seven to eleven and the South Atlantic District was created from the Southern District. Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky remained part of the Southern District. Kentucky became part of the Central District in 1939.

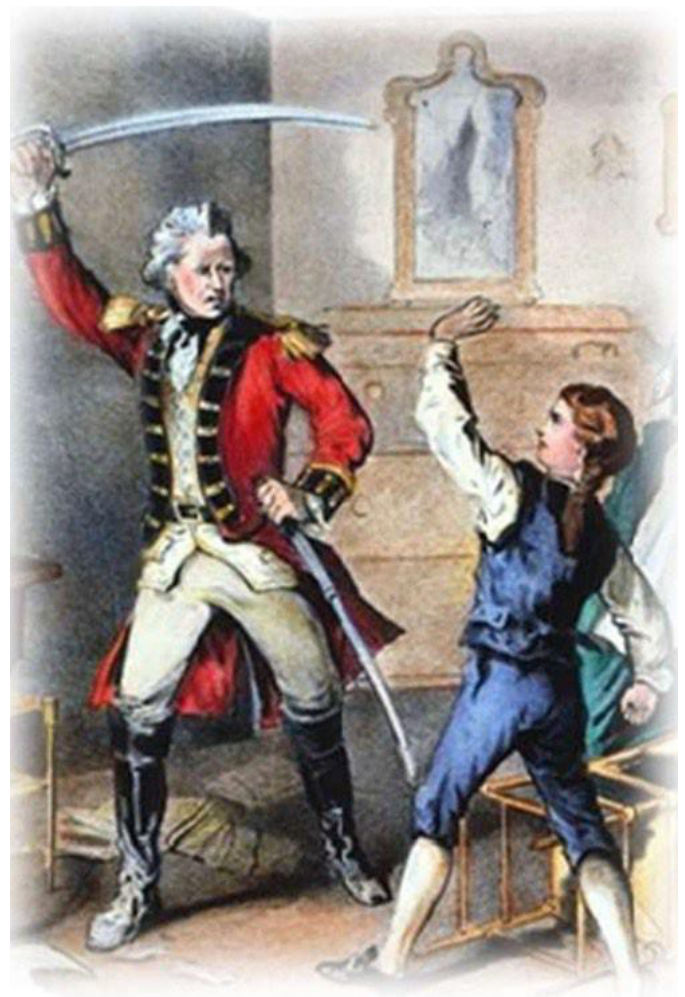
Southern District SAR

Alabama

Mississippi

Louisiana

Tennessee



14-year-old Andrew Jackson receiving a sword cut for refusing to clean the boots of a British officer in 1781.

Directory 2024-2025



Vice President General's Message C. David Billings, Ph. D.

Compatriots,

The Pennsylvania Society hosted the 134th Annual Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania July 10-16, 2024. State Societies selected delegates based upon each State Society's membership, but every compatriot was welcome to attend. Spouses and family members were also welcome. The 2024 Congress was a great success.

In addition to the Congress' business meetings, the experience included several interesting events and educational tours: Thursday, July 11 a tour of Historic Colonial York, PA, the colonial wartime capital for the Second Continental Congress during the British occupation of Philadelphia. Thursday, July 11 a tour of the Continental Army's Valley Forge winter encampment; Monday July 15 a guided tour of Pennsylvania Dutch country. Tuesday, July 16 a long tour of sites of the 1777 Philadelphia Campaign; Tuesday, July 16 a long tour to visit historic sites of Colonial Philadelphia.

Elections were held for General Officers and the Foundation Board for 2024-2025 with the following results:

President General	Dr. Darryl S. Addington (NC)
Secretary General	Michael J. Elston, Esq. (VA)
Treasurer General	William Allen Greenly (DE)
Chancellor General	Edmon H. McKinley, Esq. (AL)
Genealogist General	Gary O. Green (NC)
Registrar General	T. Brooks Lyles, Jr. (NC)
Historian General	Jeffery D. Thomas (VA)
Librarian General	Dr. Keith A. Weissinger (WA)
Surgeon General	John A. Turley (WV)
Chaplain General	John Vernon Welkner (KS)
Foundation Board	James W. Klinger (CA) and Samuel C. Powell (NC)

During 2024 I participated in all four of our Southern District state conferences as well as the Southern District meeting. Each state conference was well attended and reported robust activities in support of National Society priorities. I want to thank the State Society Presidents whose terms ended in 2024 Jim Griffith (AL), Rev. Tommy Thompson (MS), Randall Domingue (LA) and Dr. David Chaffin (TN) and their administrations for their dedicated leadership in their State Societies.

I congratulate each of the State Society Presidents whose terms began in 2024 David Michael Martin (AL), John S. McBride (MS), Frederick R. (Russ) Godwin, Jr. (LA) and Joel Davenport (TN) and their administrations. Thank you for accepting the responsibilities of your office. May your term of office be one of deep satisfaction and provide you with the knowledge of a job well done. I look forward to working with you during my term.

Upcoming NSSAR Congress 2027 137th Congress in New Orleans hosted by the Southern District, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The Southern District Congress Committee reported that each State Society is doing a great job with fundraising and the 2027 137th Congress is well on its way. The hotel is Marriott New Orleans, 555 Canal Street and the contract with the hotel is complete. The 137th Congress Oliver Pollock lapel pin and the 137th Congress medal sets are raising funds for Congress. The Committee is working on long and short tours at Congress, additional fundraising, and a process to present awards to volunteers in recognition of their contribution to the success of the 137th Congress. I offer my appreciation to the members of the Southern District Congress Committee for their good work. I encourage each compatriot who can volunteer to sign up to work during the 137th Congress.

My gratitude goes out to the men who have agreed to serve as Southern District officers: Dr. John F. Fulwider (MS) as District Secretary, Tony Vets (LA) as District Treasurer, David M. Jones (AL) as District Color Guard Commander, and James Maples as District Webmaster.

At Congress President General Darryl Addington spoke on our need for an increased focus on membership by emphasizing the 3RS: Recruitment, Retention and Reinstatement. He charged the district and state officers to take a leadership role implementing the 3RS and reporting their progress before Fall Leadership. The National SAR Membership Committee published *Recruitment, Retention and Reinstatement*, A Reference Guide February 1, 2023. The Guide is available at <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/3RS-Final-013123.pdf>. Our 2025 Southern District SAR Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Alabama Society Annual Meeting in Hoover, Alabama, February 2025. I look forward to serving you as your Southern District Vice President General in 2024-2025.

C. David Billings, Ph. D.

Call to Order by the Vice President General
Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the U.S.
Pledge to the SAR

Reading of the minutes: Last Annual Meeting
Reports of the State Presidents
Report of the Vice President General
Old Business
New Business
Report: District Nominating Committee
Invitation to the next Annual Meeting
Adjournment

Section 2. Special Meeting of the District may be called by the Vice President General or on the application of three of the four Presidents of the State Societies. Any actions taken at a special meeting are subject to ratification by the next Annual Meeting of the District.

Section 3. All members of the District, as described in Article III hereof, shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote on any questions coming before a District meeting except the question of the nomination of a Vice President General.

Article VI – District Nominating Committee

Section 1. There shall be a District Nominating Committee composed of the incumbent Presidents of the State Societies of the District or the representative of an absent President who has been designated as such in writing by his President to the Vice President General. The Vice President General shall serve as Chairman of the Committee and, in the event of a tie vote on the question of the nomination of a Vice President General, shall have the right to break the tie.

Section 2. The Vice President General shall, in advance of the Annual Meeting, solicit the name of a candidate for the office of Vice President General endorsed by the State Society next in the rotation described in Article IV, Section 2 hereof and shall lay the endorsement so obtained before the District Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the District Nominating Committee shall meet and shall nominate a candidate of the office of Vice President General for the coming term. The endorsement of one's State Society shall be persuasive, but not binding, on the Nomination Committee. The Committee may nominate someone from the same State Society who is next in the rotation other than the Member who has been endorsed, but it should do so only for manifestly obvious reasons and for the good of the District. A majority of the Committee shall be necessary to nominate and, as provided herein, the Vice President General shall have the right to break a tie. The Committee shall report its nomination to the Annual Meeting of the District provided therefore in the Order of Business. The selection of the District Nominating Committee shall be the nomination of the District and shall not be subject to a vote of the Annual Meeting of the District. The Vice President General shall communicate the nomination of the District promptly to the Secretary General of the National Society.

Article VII – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the District in all cases of which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and any special rules of order the District may adopt.

Article VIII – Amendments

Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Vice President General at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Vice President General shall transmit proposed amendments to the Presidents of the State Societies at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Proposed amendments which have been advertised as herein provided shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present and voting at the Annual Meeting for approval.

Southern District SAR Medal Set
\$40.00 if picked up at Leadership, or
\$45.00 if Mailed to you.

Place orders through SD Treasurer,
Tony Vets
tonyvets@bellsouth.net



Constitution of the Southern District, NSSAR

As Amended Through March 27, 1999

Article I – Name and Status

The name of this organization shall be “Southern District, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.” The organization shall be composed of the State Societies of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Article II – Objects

The objects of this organization shall be those of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution as they appear in Article II of the Constitution of said Society.

Article III – Membership

Any member in good standing in any one of the State Societies in the District shall be a member of the District.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1. The Officers of the District shall be a Vice President General and such other Officers as he shall appoint in conformity with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Society.

Section 2. The Vice President General shall be nominated at the Annual Meeting of the District immediately preceding his election and installation at the Annual Congress of the National Society. The Office shall rotate among the State Societies of the District in the order: Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Alabama. If a Member of the State Society next in rotation is not proposed for nomination at the Annual Meeting of the District, the rotation shall pass to the next State Society in the rotation described here into above. The incumbent Vice President General shall not succeed himself.

Section 3. The District shall have one, and only one, candidate of the National Society Nominating Committee in the Council of State Presidents. Said candidates shall be the President of the State Society from which the incumbent Vice President General is serving provided, however, that if the aforementioned State Society President is not eligible for election to the National Society Nominating Committee from the Council of State Presidents in accordance with the Bylaws of the National Society, the members of the District in attendance at the Annual Meeting of the District shall select a candidate for the National Society Nominating Committee in the Council of State Presidents.

Section 4. The duties of the Vice President General, in addition to those prescribed by the National Society, shall be to:

- A. preside over District meetings.
- B. promote the activities and interests of the National Society.
- C. disseminate information to every State Society regarding meetings of the District.
- D. represent the State Societies of the District and report on their activities at meetings of the National Trustees.
- E. visit State Societies and local Chapters and encourage the formation of new Chapters within the District.
- F. attend the Annual Meeting of every State Society in the District during his term of Office and perform such other duties as may be delegated or assigned to him by the President General.

Article V – District Meetings

Section 1. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the District prior to the Annual Congress of the National Society. The Annual Meeting shall, whenever possible, be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, or Spring meeting, of one of the State Societies in the District. The order of Business shall be, but not limited to, the following: ...

Living Former Vice Presidents General

John Overton Roy, Jr. VPG (1971-1972) 1819 Octavia Street New Orleans, LA 70115-5669 (504) 895-6829 SylviaRoy@att.net	Richard (Rick) D. Hollis VPG (2014-2015) P. O. Box H Charlotte, TN 37036-0478 (615) 812-2648 Hollis1812@gmail.com
Robert C. Judice VPG 2001-2002 P.O. Drawer 58 Darrow, LA 70725-0058 (504)8918493 sgeneralzar@gmail.com	Gerald P. Brent VPG (2016-2017) 9580 Plantation Road Olive Branch, MS 38654 (662) 812-9209 Bgo586@comcast.net
James C. Hofstetter VPG (2002-2003) 175 Woodmont Blvd. Nashville, TN 37205-2239 (615) 2697005 jameshofstetter@comcast.net	Tony L. Vets VPG (2017-2018) 504 Oak Street Colfax, LA 71417 (318) 481-8441 tonyvets@bellsouth.net
P. Rod Hildreth VPG (2003-2004) P.O. Box 17 Mentone, AL 35984-0017 (256) 997-9939 pinetree@farmerstel.com	Colin D. Wakefield VPG (2018-2019) 47 Wakefield Lane Fayetteville, TN 37334 (931) 703-6674 Colin.d.wakefield@gmail.com
Hunter McDonald III VPG (2006-2007) 7036 Wild Iris Drive Nashville, TN 37221-5102 (615) 662-3732 FrenchRDC@aol.com	Bobby Joe Seales VPG (2019-Jan 2020) P.O. Box 89 Alabaster, AL 35007 (205) 902-6383 bjseales@bellsouth.net
John R. Wallace VPG (2007-2008) 200 E. Silver Oak Dr. Enterprise, AL 36330-1572 (334) 347-0661 jrwtsar@gmail.com	Michael P. Schenk VPG (Jan. 2020-2022) 108 Trace Cove Drive Madison, MS 39110-9265 (601)856-9895 mpschenk@gmail.com
Thomas E. Jacks VPG (2009-2010) 327 Devon Drive Mandeville, LA 70448-3316 (985) 626-3894 Tejacks1970@aol.com	Maj. Bradley T. Hayes, Esq. VPG (2022-2023) 122 College Drive Hammond, LA 70401 (601) 870-9220 byhayesesq@gmail.com
James H. Maples VPG (2011-2012) 1501 Elmwood Drive Huntsville, AL 35801 (256) 534-2315 jhmaples@gmail.com	Steve Gaines VPG (2023-2024) 115 Marseille Drive Hendersonville, TN 37075 (615) 585-3241 SteveTNSSAR@gmail.com
John R. Taylor, Jr. VPG (2012-2013) 2509 SCR 83 Mize, MS 39116 (601) 733-9475 Taylorj1947@yahoo.com	
Dr. James A. Morock, SR. VPG (2013-2014) 3915 Maywood Street Alexandria, LA 71302-2526 (318) 442-5776 jamkma@aol.com	



Continued Page 6 ...

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICERS 2024-2025



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District Secretary
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District Treasurer
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District CG Cmdr.
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djones36@aol.com



STATE SOCIETY PRESIDENTS

Alabama SAR President

Michael Martin
Michael.Martin@cahabacoosasar.org

Mississippi SAR President

John McBride
John.Mcbride3812@gmail.com

Louisiana SAR President

Russ Godwin
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Tennessee SAR President

PZ Horton
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Southern District Color Guard

District Color Guard CDR

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Mississippi Color Guard CDR

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mtcreeklodge@aol.com

Tennessee Color Guard CDR

Cliff Kent
dogwoodlodge@epbfi.com

Southern District Meeting Calendar

SAR Fall Leadership	Oct 3-5, 2024,	Louisville, KY
Alabama SAR	Feb 21-22, 2025,	Hoover, AL
Spring Leadership	Feb 27-Mar 1, 2025,	Louisville, KY
Mississippi SAR	Mar 28-29, 2025,	Natchez, MS

A Southern District 250th Event

Tennessee SAR	Mar 21-22, 2025,	Alcoa, TN
Southern District Meeting	Feb 22, 2025,	Hoover, AL
Louisiana SAR	April 12-14, 2025,	Alexandria, LA
135 TH NSSAR Congress	July 12-18, 2025,	Uncasville, CT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT 250TH EVENT

Help us recreate and reenact a beautiful piece of American history.

FOLLOW THE FRENCHMAN, NATCHEZ, MS

MARCH 28-29, 2024

MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW



NSSAR 137TH CONGRESS

HOSTED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT
TENNESSEE-ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI-LOUISIANA
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA July 2027

137th Southern District Congress Medal
Sets \$45 each.

Oliver Pollock Congress Lapel Pin \$25

The Medal Sets will be sold at
Leadership Conferences, NS SAR
Congress's and online at the

Southern District SAR Website

<https://alssar.org/southerndistrict>

If ordering on-line there is a \$5 mailing fee



137th NS SAR Congress
New Orleans Marriott Hotel
Canal Street, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Friday July 9 – Thursday July 15, 2027
<https://www.2027congress.com>