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 NSSAR Congress in Louisville in April 1890, the Constitution was changed to elect five at-large Vice Presidents General.

President General R. C. Ballard Thruston 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 (Main, 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 were 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 were 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.

14 year old Andrew Jackson receiving a sword cut for refusing to clean the boots of a British officer in 1781.
Vice President General
Bobby Joe Seales

Compatriots,

I am so thankful to the membership of the Alabama SAR for nominating me for this position and humbled that my Compatriots in Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee supported my nomination to serve as Southern District, NSSAR Vice President General.

Just as my predecessors have, I ask each of you to work towards educating those in your state of the fight, both on and off the battle field, that the Patriots we honor won. We are fortunate in the fact that the states that comprise our District have both Patriot graves and battle sites. What we don’t have is the common recognition of not only the average U.S. citizen but even the acknowledgment of our own state citizenry of that fact.

That is my request to you and the Compatriots of our District, to “educate.” Ensure that your friends, family and neighbors know of the American Revolution and its obvious heroes, but also of the history of “your” area and state in the struggle for American independence. Of course it is important that they know of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine and the many others who have biographies filling the local libraries, but tell them the story of your ancestors or of someone in your local area that helped secure our nation.

Remember not only the men who we recognize as Patriots; sure, they got all the glory, but as Abigail Adams said, “Remember the Ladies.” They, as well as their children, often played a role. Think of the wives and children that were in the many forts that came under attack. They are often harder to prove as Patriot Ancestors, but regardless of the recognition, their story should be told.

We in the Southern District take great pride in Andrew Jackson who had influence in each of our states at various times of his life. But we, as members of the Sons of the American Revolution, remember him as the “brave boy of the Waxhaws”. In 1781, at the age of 13, Andrew and his brother Robert served as couriers for the local militia. Both were captured and while in captivity contracted smallpox. Their mother, Elizabeth, secured Andrew in 1781 just weeks after Robert died of the illness. Elizabeth then served as a nurse until she died of cholera in November 1781. One story, three Patriots, one icon.

These are the stories that are not being told in our schools and indeed are purposefully being deleted from our town squares, our history books, and without our vigilance, our collective memories. It is our duty to ensure that these men, women and children are not forgotten.

I want to thank Colin D. Wakefield and all my predecessors for their hard work for the Southern District. It is because of their efforts that we have a strong and vibrant District. I pray that I am a worthy successor to their efforts.

I also wish to express sincere gratitude to Michael P. Schenk who has agreed to serve as our District Secretary, to Tony L. Vets as he continues to serve as our District Treasurer and to Julius S. Hite who has agreed to serve as our District Color Guard Commander.

I look forward to serving you now and in the future years.

Bobby Joe Seales
2019-2020 Southern District, NSSAR Vice President General

Call to Order by the Vice President General
Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States
Pledge to the S.A.R.
Reading of the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting
Reports of the State Presidents
Report of the Vice President General
Old Business
New Business
Report of the 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 of 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 vote 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, be not binding, on the Nominating Committee. The Committee may nominate someone from the same State Society which is next in the rotation other than the Member who has been endorsed, but is 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 at that point provide 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) day 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.

Bobby Joe Seales
2019-2020 Southern District, NSSAR Vice President General
CONSTITUTION OF THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT, NATIONAL SOCIETY
OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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 hereinto 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 meeting 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 in 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:

... Continued on Page 6 ...

Living Former Southern District
Vice Presidents General

Colin D. Wakefield  
VPG (2018-2019)  
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VPG (2017-2018)  
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John Overton Roy, Jr  
VPG (1971-1972)  
1819 Octavia Street  
New Orleans, LA 70115-5669  
504-895-6829  

Vice Presidents General from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee

1889-1890  Goldsmith Bernard West (1848- )  Alabama
1907-1908  Julian Wythe Whiting (1838-1917)  Alabama
1909-1910  Peter Francisco Pescud (1850-1926)  Louisiana
1914-1918  William Kellogg Boardman (1870-1947)  Tennessee
1918  Charles Robert Churchill (1868-1946)  Louisiana
1924-1926  Frederick William Millsapgh (1880-1942)  Tennessee
1926  Charles Robert Churchill (1886-1946)  Louisiana
1926-1927  Frederick William Millsapgh (1880-1942)  Tennessee
1927-1928  George Danforth Caldwell (1891-1976)  Kentucky
1928-1929  Norman Milner Couty (1864-1937)  Kentucky
1929-1931  Frederick William Millsapgh (1880-1942)  Tennessee
1931-1932  Leland Hume (1864-1937)  Tennessee
1932-1934  Ransom Hazleip Bassett (1893-1974)  Kentucky
1934-1936  Archibald Magill Smith (1877-1953)  Louisiana
1936-1938  Arthur Crownover, Jr (1907-1965)  Tennessee
1938-1940  Arthur Alexander de la Houssaye (1900-1977)  Louisiana
1940-1942  Augustus Lee Read (1896-1979)  Tennessee
1942-1944  Frank Waldo Ziegler (1898-1971)  Tennessee
1944-1946  Percy Lee Clifton (1878-1966)  Mississippi
1946-1949  Furman Barnes Pearce (1878-1950)  Louisiana
1949-1951  William Thomas Carpenter, Sr (1858-1962)  Alabama
1951-1953  Cyril Edward Cain (1883-1963)  Mississippi
1954-1956  Frederick Corning Graber (1886-1975)  Louisiana
1971-1972  John Overton Roy, Jr (b. 1932)  Louisiana
1984-1985  Franklin Pierce McCane (1917-1994)  Mississippi
1985-1986  Edward Overton Cailletteau (b. 1945)  Louisiana
1994-1995  Larry Duncan McClanahan (b. 1938)  Tennessee
1996-1997  Martin William McKinnon, II (b. 1934)  Alabama
1998-1999  William Douthit McKinnie (b. 1932)  Louisiana
1999-2000  Oura Lee Swart (b. 1936)  Alabama
2001-2002  Robert Charles Judice (b. 1932)  Louisiana
2002-2003  James Carson Hofstetter (b. 1949)  Tennessee
2003-2004  Phil Rosley Hildreth (b. 1939)  Mississippi
2004-2005  Andrew Melvin Jones (b. 1932)  Louisiana
2006-2007  Hunter McDonald, III (b. 1949)  Alabama
2007-2008  John Riley Wallace (b. 1944)  Mississippi
2008-2009  Andrew Melvin Jones (b. 1932)  Mississippi
2010-2011  Raymond A. Clapshad (b. 1945)  Tennessee

1 The 1917 Congress was cancelled due to World War I and all officers were held over until the 1918 Congress.
2 C. Robert Churchill was elected Vice President General of the Mississippi Valley West District, but declined to take office after he was elected. He was replaced by Frank Rawls of Arkansas by the Executive committee.
3 C. Robert Churchill was elected in June 1926 and resigned in August 1926. The Executive Committee appointed F.W. Millspaugh to complete his term.
4 The 1945 Congress was cancelled due to the World War II and all officers were held over until the 1946 Congress.

Southern District SAR Website
http://www.tnssar.org/sd-sar.htm

State Society Presidents

Alabama SAR President
Edmon H. McKinley
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Mississippi SAR President
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Mississippi SAR President
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Southern District Color Guard

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Mississippi Color Guard CDR
Julius S. Hite
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Tennessee Color Guard CDR
John Alan Clines
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Tennessee Color Guard CDR
Theodore H. “Ted” Brode III
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Southern District Meeting Calendar

SAR Fall Leadership  September 19-21, 2019  Louisville, Kentucky
Alabama SAR  February 21-22, 2020  Hoover, Alabama
Southern District Mtg.  February 22, 2020  Hoover, Alabama
SAR Spring Leadership  February 27-29, 2020  Louisville, Kentucky
Tennessee SAR  March 20-21, 2020  Kingsport, Tennessee
Mississippi SAR  March 27-28, 2020  Ridgeland, Mississippi
Louisiana SAR  April 17-18, 2020  New Orleans, Louisiana
130th NSSAR Congress  July 09-15, 2020  Richmond, VA