



South Atlantic District Sons of the American Revolution

Samuel C. Powell, Ph.D.
Vice President General

OUR GOALS:

Our number one goal is membership growth. I would like to see us make a special effort this year to have net positive growth by reducing the number of compatriots that drop and by increasing new member applications. Involvement is the key to retention. Retention is also helped by making sure that all compatriots are sent an invoice for membership dues. Sometimes, more than one invoice needs to be sent. New members are our lifeblood and active chapters the key to continuing to attract new members. A big advantage we have over other states is the number of battles we commemorate and the number of Patriot graves we have to mark. These activities, the student contests, and outreach education efforts are noticed by the public and help to build membership. I look forward to seeing our growth continue as it has over the past few years. Please also strive to increase your number of chapters.

National dues have increased from \$25 to \$30 and new member applications have increased from \$60 to \$80. These modest increases were voted on in Atlanta at the National Congress to allow for our society to continue to meet its obligations with a positive cash flow. The last increase in dues was in 2003, if I remember correctly. In the first few years, we achieved an operating surplus that has grown to over \$400,000. More recently, as costs have increased each year, the annual operating surplus has been reduced year by year, and the projections for 2010 were that we would suffer a loss of almost \$100,000 had nothing been done. With the new genealogical library opening next year, and the need for additional staff to keep up with processing new member applications, we were projecting additional costs. I hope your members will appreciate the desire to national to maintain a high level of service, the conservative nature of our society (aversion to running in the red) and our desire to be fiscally responsible.

Our number two goal is support for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. It is indeed exciting that this project is underway. The official kickoff in Louisville for renovation of the new genealogical library will be August 25, 2009. Construction should be complete by August 2010. Please make a special effort to remind our compatriots that this project will need their support. It will increase our national visibility and will take our society to the next level in facility support. A capital campaign causes everyone to think about who we are and what we want to be. With the completion of the Center, we will greatly enhance our program and our ability to conduct outreach education.

We have already raised over 5 million dollars towards our \$10 M campaign. We spent 1.9 M in purchasing the Fulton-Conway building and doing preliminary plans for construction. We have also invested in property adjacent to our existing headquarters site that can be sold. We have cash on hand of \$1.9 M and can use additional investments to complete the needed \$ 2,564,000

required for the initial library portion of the project. An additional \$5 M is needed to complete the second phase of the project (headquarters, museum galleries, and educational center). This will be raised over the next 5 years from our membership, corporate giving, grants from foundations, bequests and government support. If you have additional questions, please give me a call and I would be glad to fill you in with more specific numbers. Even better, let me know and I will be glad to come and give a presentation at chapter or state meetings as Chair of the CAAH Capital Campaign.

We have a national goal of reaching 20% of our members participating in the capital campaign at an average of \$250 per society member. With 28,000 members and \$250 per member, we would raise a total \$7 M. I believe that it is possible for most state societies to reach this goal over the next 5 years of the campaign. You should also be aware that a streamer has been approved for all state societies that give \$1,000, and for all chapters that give \$500. Individual donations should be sent directly to national for proper recognition. While I am aware that the economy is in the tank and it is a terrible time to ask for money, it is also important for us to keep in mind that all of us can give at some level. Some will do more, some will not give at all, but in the end we can get there. Please let your compatriots know that giving at any level is appreciated. A gift of \$50 per year for 5 years is achievable by almost all who believe in the mission of the SAR.

UPCOMING SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT MEETINGS:

I would like to follow the prior precedent of having a District meeting prior to King's Mountain and the Cowpens celebrations. A third District meeting will be held in conjunction with the NCSSAR annual meeting in Charlotte. Please be prepared to give a report from your state society or have a representative give your report:

October District Meeting: (Prior to Battle of King's Mountain Observance)

PG Ed Butler will be attending. We will have the district meeting following the 2:00 pm grave marking ceremony for Col. Frederick Hambright in King's Mountain. There will be a social hour starting at 5:00 pm with Dutch treat dinner to follow.

Time: 4:00-5:00 pm

Date: Friday, October 6, 2009

Place: Super 8 Motel, 100 Ellis Ferry Ave., Gaffney, SC

Exit I-85 at EXIT \$ 92, and go south on State Road 11 about ¼ mile

Reservations: (864) 489-1699

January District Meeting: (Prior to Battle of Cowpens Observance)

Time: 4:00-5:00 pm

Date: Friday, January 15, 2010

Place: Super 8 Motel, 100 Ellis Ferry Ave., Gaffney, SC

Exit I-85 at EXIT \$ 92, and go south on State Road 11 about ¼ mile

Reservations: (864) 489-1699

April District Meeting: (In conjunction with the NCSSAR Annual Meeting)

Time: 9:00 am

Date: Saturday, April 24, 2010

Place: Charlotte, NC (details to follow)