

Message from the President



Compatriots,

One of the goals of the SAR is outreach. We accomplish this through the Youth programs, speaking engagements, and various events. This chapter's problem is participation of the membership. When the chapter sponsors an event, chapter members should be there to support the officers who are charged with successfully completing the event.

Now before everyone gets upset and starts pointing fingers and making excuses or accusations, let me say that age and health related problems are reasonable, understandable and excusable. So is the work schedule, you have to pay the bills. What we are talking about is the fact that full members, for the most part and excluding the officers, are not attending the meetings or the events. This is hard to explain to members of other chapters and state/national officers who are in attendance. I fully understand that our membership is scattered across half of the state and everyone can't attend every event. But why can't we support some of the events?

At the 2012 Halifax Resolves Celebration, to include the Flag Retirement and Owens House dedication, the chapter was represented by the four officers and two DUAL members. That is just not acceptable. We are one of the few chapters in the nation that sponsors a national event and we show some of the worst support imaginable by the members. Attendance at the remaining flag retirement ceremonies last year shows only the officers were in attendance. When the Frederick Shearin grave marking was held, only the officers and one dual member were in attendance. We had about 30 family members plus the SAR, DAR, and AMVETS who took time to attend and honor the memory of a Patriot, but our own members stayed home. That's disgraceful.

When I joined the chapter in May of 2007, I saw that the only way to grow the chapter was to become more involved and get the chapter known in the community. This was accomplished by starting the Knight Essay, the Americanism Poster contest, and the Outstanding JROTC contest. In addition we started awarding Flag Certificates, recognizing the Eagle Scouts at their Court of Honor and doing some speaking engagements. I did this on my own with the blessing of the chapter officers. It was my goal to show the chapter what a little work in the community could do for the growth of the chapter and in turn hoped that more members would become involved. Well, I'm about three fourths of the way there. We are now recognized in the community and on the state and national SAR levels.

(cont. on page 2)

The March meeting will be held on **Wed., March 13**, at the Halifax United Methodist Church on **152 S. King Street (Main Street) in Halifax at 6:30 pm**. The program will include a new member induction, presentation of three NSSAR Fire Safety Commendation medals and the judging of the Americanism Poster contest entries.

The cost of the meal will be \$10. **Reservations are required.** Please contact Ken Wilson or Steve Avent if you're coming.

In this Issue...

- 1 **Remarks from President Ken Wilson**
 - 2 **Highlights of January, 2013 meeting**
 - 3 **Recent Chapter Activities**
- Upcoming NCSSAR Events**

We have started getting some new members for which I am thankful. Where I have failed is getting the current members to participate. If anything, participation has decreased. For example, at our January meeting we had three officers, one member, one dual member, one guest and one new member with his wife. For a chapter our size that only meets every two months, that's disgusting

What concerns me more is the fact that we do not have a vice president in the chapter and haven't had one for over three years. If everyone is hoping that I will remain and continue to do what I've been doing, you need to rethink the situation. It is my understanding that I am being considered for a state office. Whether or not I am elected to that office in April, I will, in November of this year, step down as president of the chapter regardless of whether or not a replacement is named. If no one steps up and takes the time to learn what is currently being done and with whom, all the inroads made over the last five and a half years will be lost and possibly never regained. That would be disastrous to the chapter, but if this is what the chapter desires I would recommend that the chapter turn in its charter. You don't deserve to be in the SAR.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as the chapter's vice president and president. I have learned a lot, been places I would not have otherwise been, and made some life-long friends. But the extra weight of doing the job of two chapter officers, president and vice president, along with state and chapter committee chairs is taking its toll. This year I will not be attending Crossing of the Dan, Guilford Courthouse or the Spring Board of Managers (BOM) meeting. This will be the second BOM meeting I have missed out of in over three years. My schedule is being drastically reduced and I will not be looking for events to participate in, but trying to maintain the ones we already have in the local area. With the exception of the officers, no one has any idea how much time is taken planning events, lining up speakers and color guards, writing programs and doing press releases. Set-up and tear down at events adds even more time. That's on top of the youth contests, flag certificates, and Eagle Scout ceremonies, which are vital to the community outreach.

I want to thank the officers who have assisted me in every possible way to make the chapter successful. Their continuing support is the only thing that's kept me going at times. It is my hope that chapter members will become more involved and someone steps up to take the vice president's office before November. We are at the minimum time span needed to instruct a new officer in his duties. Learning this unassisted is not the best way to do things. If someone is interested in the job, please contact me or one of the other officers.

Fraternally,



Highlights of January, 2013 meeting

The main highlight of the January meeting was the induction of new member R.J. Myrick. The chapter then discussed the purchase of new flag poles and other equipment for the use of the Chapter Color Guard, and it was decided to postpone a decision on that subject until the March meeting (thanks to a \$200 donation from the Methodist Church Women those items have now been purchased). Ken Wilson then gave a most interesting and informative presentation entitled "**The Battle of Point Pleasant: a Colonial or Revolutionary War battle?**"

Ken inducting new member R.J. Myrick into the SAR and the Halifax Resolves Chapter.





(l & r) Ken Wilson giving presentation on the NC flag and the meaning of the dates inscribed on it at Chaloner Middle School in Roanoke Rapids, 1/31/2013.



Ken Wilson presenting SAR Flag Certificate to Halifax Academy, 2/2/2013. Pictured above are Headmaster Mr. Glen Wiggs, Ken Wilson and the Halifax Academy Color Guard.



Ken assisting in the February, 2013. Veteran of the Month ceremony at the Roanoke Valley Veterans Museum with American Legion Post 308 Past Commander Allen Burtchell.

Upcoming NCSSAR Events

March 16, 2013 - The 232nd Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, Greensboro, NC, 10:00am at the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park.

March 16, 2013 - The Spring NCSSAR Board of Managers meeting will be held immediately following the Battle of Guilford Courthouse Commemoration in Greensboro, NC, beginning around 12 noon at Captain Bill's Seafood in Greensboro.

April 6, 2013 - The 237th Anniversary Celebration of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves, Halifax, NC. Flag retirement ceremony at 10:00 am, wreath laying at 2:00 pm.

April 19-20, 2013 - NCSSAR Annual Convention & South Atlantic District meeting, Asheville, NC at the Crown Park Resort.

April 26-28, 2013 - The Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution (SCAR) is holding their annual symposium with the latest scholarship, opportunities for fellowship, and fun tours and field presentations to see where the heroes fought. This year, we are in the Greensboro, NC area with our topic of "Wedded to My Sword: The Life and Times of Lt. Col. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee.


May 4, 2013 - The Mecklenburg chapter is sponsoring two Grave Marking ceremonies beginning at 10:30am at Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Patriots Abraham and Hezekiah Alexander will be honored with an official SAR bronze grave marker. Both men are signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence dated May 20, 1775.



The Halifax Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR,
Steve Avent, Editor





The Halifax Dispatch
A publication of the
Halifax Resolves Chapter
of the
NC Sons of the American Revolution
Volume 11—Number 2
March, 2013

Steve Avent, Editor
202 Olde Colony Dr.
Edenton, NC 27932
(252) 482-1172
savent917@gmail.com



The Sons of the American Revolution is a **PATRIOTIC** organization formed in 1889 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1906, with more than 25,000 living members from all 50 states and 23 foreign countries. Throughout its 120-year history, the SAR has admitted more than 155,000 members. Among them are 16 **PRESDENTS** of the **UNITED STATES**, including George W. Bush and his father George H. W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry Truman and Theodore Roosevelt. The SAR also has had among its members Sir Winston Churchill and King Juan Carlos I of Spain, both of whom trace their ancestry to **REVOLUTIONARY WAR** patriots. Membership requires proof of descent from a person who aided in the **PATRIOT** cause. Some of the activities in which we engage are:

- * commemoration of Patriot graves and monuments
- * educational programs in the schools and elsewhere on the ideals of our Patriot ancestors and the American Revolution
- * recognition of outstanding law enforcement officers and JROTC cadets
- * sponsorship of Boy Scout troops

Chapter Officers

President: Ken Wilson

121 Northside Dr., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 537-5406, boxcar27870@embarqmail.com

Vice President: Acting VP: Steve Avent

Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Avent

202 Olde Colony Dr., Edenton, NC 27932
(252) 482-1172, savent917@gmail.com

Registrar: R. Allen Brahin, Waynesboro, VA
starline@ntelos.net

Chaplain: Rev. Duncan Jones

our website:

Go to: www.ncssar.com, "NC Chapters"
Click on our chapter name on the NC map.