

Volume VIII
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September, 2010

The Halifax Dispatch

*The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NC Society
Sons of the American Revolution*

2010 winner – Honorable Mention—Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award

Message from the President



Compatriots,

It's hard to believe that September is here already. During the last couple of months we have not been very active, but looks as though that's about to change.

Our meeting on September 8 will feature Jeff Dickens as our guest speaker. He will be updating us on his research in Halifax County.

On September 11 we will be co-sponsoring a Flag Retirement ceremony with Boy Scout Troop 16 in Red Oak, NC. The event will be held in honor of those who perished on September 11, 2001. This will begin at 10:00 on the morning of 9-11, at the Troop 16 Scout hut in Red Oak. The hut is behind the Griffin's convenience store on Highway 43 (8353 Red Oak Blvd, Red Oak, NC 27868). As of this writing, we have over 100 flags to retire.

The Knight Essay, the Enhanced JROTC and Eagle Scout competitions are under way thanks to your generous donations. We exceeded the goal and are assured of sufficient funds to conduct the youth programs.

One problem we still have and as yet are still unable to overcome is the vacant office of Vice President. Everyone needs to remember that the VP is a President in training. At this point we have lost 9 months of training. Some might suggest that we start over or recycle past officers. While this may be convenient, it hurts the chapter in the long run by recycling the same ideas. The VP should be someone who has not previously held this chapter office and has new, fresh ideas on how to move the chapter forward. Recycling officers is the death knell for a chapter. If you can't or don't want to serve go out and recruit new members who want to serve. Be mindful that it takes a year minimum to prepare an individual to take on the office of President and not be totally overwhelmed. I hope each of you will seriously consider what I have just explained and decide what you want for the chapter. Do you want stagnation or progress?

Finally, the Fall Board of Managers Meeting will be held October 23 in Chapel Hill. The deadline for the chapter reports is fast approaching. If you have any information you would like to have included in the chapter report, i.e. speaking engagements, events you have attended on behalf of the chapter, etc., please get it to Steve Avent or I NLT October 1.

Future events that are being planned or considered are: The monthly Veteran's Ceremonies, the Veteran's Day Parade and Ceremony with AMVETS Post 101, a Flag Retirement for the week of Veteran's Day, The Roanoke Rapids Christmas Parade and the Wreaths Across America ceremony. I hope all of you will be in attendance on September 8.

Fraternally,

Ken Wilson

President, Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR

The September chapter meeting will be held on **Wed., September 8**, at the Halifax United Methodist Church on **152 S. King Street (Main Street) in Halifax at 6:30 pm** and the women of the church will provide the meal. The cost will be \$10. **Reservations are required.** Please contact Ken Wilson or Steve Avent if you're coming (contact info on last page of newsletter). On the agenda: Jeff Dickens will present a program on a topic relating to the history of Halifax County.

In this Issue...

- 1 **Remarks from President Ken Wilson**
 - 2 **Highlights of July, 2010 meeting**
 - 3 **Recent Chapter Activities**
- Upcoming NCSSAR Events**

President Wilson reported on the following chapter activities since our May meeting:

- awarded an Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate to Austin Beeman, Troop 16, Red Oak
- awarded an Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate to Riley Spence of Troop 146, Roanoke Rapids
- Registrar Allen Brahin participated as a color guard member for NSSAR President General Ed Butler when a wreath was laid on the grave of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Chapter member Lee Scouten was also in attendance.
- a Flag Retirement Ceremony was held in Roanoke Rapids co-sponsored with the Halifax Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. There were 4 SAR members present along with 5 CAP Members and 5 spectators. 89 U.S. Flags and 12 NC State and various organizational flags were retired.
- our chapter newsletter placed 2nd at the National Congress, receiving an “Honorable Mention” in the Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award.
- a Flag Certificate was awarded to Roanoke Nursery.
- Compatriot Ron Jones presented a program on the Jefferson-Hemings controversy to the Kinston Ram Neuse Camp of the SCV July 13.
- he and chapter Secretary Steve Avent participated in the May 15 Alamance Battleground Patriot’s Day ceremony, sponsored by the Alamance Battleground Chapter
- he participated in a Memorial Day ceremony held at Cedarwood cemetery in Roanoke Rapids

(left) Ken Wilson participating in the 8/2/2010 Veteran’s ceremony at the Dallas Jones Roanoke Valley Veteran’s Center
(center) on 8/16/2010 Ken presented the SAR Flag Certificate to the Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Roanoke Rapids
(right) on 8/17/2010 he awarded the Flag Certificate to the Quality Inn in Roanoke Rapids



Message from NCSSAR President John Thornhill

Re: the Center for Advancing America’s Heritage

Gentlemen,

As all of you know, the NSSAR has been raising funds for the new building. The goal is for each State to have 20 percent of the membership donate an average of \$250. The NCSSAR has been growing and is now over 800 members. Twenty percent of the members would be 162 men. At present, 144 individuals have made donations. That makes a difference of 18 men. Then, we are growing so would need additional people to maintain the 20 percent. At your meetings, I hope that you will discuss the CAAH and the importance of having some place where people can study and learn about the American Revolution. I think that we can make the goal with a little effort.

Also, talk to your Chapters about making a Chapter donation of \$500. I know this is a lot of money for some Chapters but unless we try, we will never know what can be accomplished. To date, only the Lower Cape Fear Chapter has made a Chapter donation. We have 22 Chapters. I would challenge the other 21 Chapters to match the Lower Cape Fear Chapter.

John O. Thornhill
President, NCSSAR

(Note from Chapter President Ken Wilson: I feel that a \$500 chapter donation would place an excessive strain on our limited chapter resources, but I would urge all chapter members to consider making a personal donation to this extremely worthy project.)

New NCSSAR Chapter Chartered



The North Carolina Society, Sons of the American Revolution, welcomes the Captain George Dickey Chapter during Induction ceremonies in Forest City, NC on August 10, 2010. A total of 14 new Chapter members officially signed the Petition to Charter a New Chapter during the ceremonies. (Left to Right in Photo - Tim Berly, President, Mecklenburg Chapter; G. Steven Pittard, Sr. Vice President, NCSSAR; Jim Wood, Vice President, Mecklenburg Chapter; Jim Brewer, President, Capt. George Dickey Chapter; Paul Callanan, Piedmont District Vice President, NCSSAR; John Thornhill, President, NCSSAR; and, Dr. Samuel L. Powell, PhD, National Trustee, NCSSAR.

Upcoming NCSSAR Events

- ◆ 9/4/2010: 229th Anniversary of the Battle of Eutaw Springs, Eutawville, SC
- ◆ 9/11/2010: Flag Retirement ceremony, Halifax Resolves Chapter and Troop 16, BSA, Red Oak, NC 10:00 am
- ◆ 9/11/2010: Annual Misenheimer SAR Grave Marking & Reunion, St. John's Lutheran Church, Concord, NC, 3:30pm
- ◆ 9/17-18/2010: 230th Gathering at Sycamore Shoals (Tennessee) and the 265th Birthday of Col. John Sevier, Tennessee's first Governor, Knoxville, TN
- ◆ 9/23-25/2010: National Fall Leadership Meeting (Trustees) & NSSAR Library Grand Opening, Louisville, KY
- ◆ 9/25/2010: Compatriot Nathan Xanthos Grave Marking in the Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, NC, 10:00am, sponsored by the Lower Cape Fear Chapter
- ◆ 10/06/2010: South Atlantic District Meeting, Super 8 Motel, Gaffney, SC, tentatively at 4:00pm with reception following
- ◆ 10/07/2010: 230th Anniversary of the Battle of King's Mountain, Kings Mountain, NC, Ceremonies begin at 11:00am
- ◆ 10/ 09/ 2010: The Yadkin Valley Chapter Celebrates the Battle of Shallow Ford at the Battleground in Huntsville, NC, 10am

2011

- ◆ 4/15 - 17/2011: NCSSAR Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC
- ◆ 7/09 - 13/2011: 121st SAR National Congress in Winston-Salem, NC





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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

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Vice President: office vacant

Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Avent

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Chaplain: Rev. Duncan Jones

our website:

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