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

2014 winner – 1st Place Nationally (single sheet)—Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award

## Message from the President



To my Compatriots and friends,

Well it's that time again! It is time for food and fellowship, good conversation and good friends. I do hope you will join me and others of our brethren come Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Here is where I usually try and share some words or wisdom. However, This time I find myself seriously lacking. Your officers are still plugging away at various tasks and events statewide. We would ask for some of you to help out by attending any events which you can. It has come to my attention (my sources shall remain unnamed) that there is another chapter which is competing with us to be considered the most active and points valued small chapter in the state and nation. My hat's off to them on this endeavor because anything which encourages our chapters to become more active is a good thing. This includes a little friendly competition. On the other hand... I don't plan on making it easy on them! Ever the joker, RJ gave Guy our capitulation speech at the Board of Managers meeting. Guy was very wise in not accepting it at face value though and it probably didn't help that I grinned like the Cheshire Cat from across the table. As I say, we have another group who are motivated to take our 1<sup>st</sup> place position from us. While they may indeed do just that I invite you all to help us make them work for it!

There are several prospective applicants to our chapter which Steve Avent and myself are trying to dot the "I"s and cross the "T"s with in order to increase our roster. The application process has become somewhat stricter in accepted documentation of each place in the genealogical line. This has caused some headache on the part of our applicants as well as our busy Mr. Avent. Some attempt to speed the process was addressed at the Board of Managers meeting.

If anyone has not attended a BOM (Board of Managers) meeting and would like to see just how the decisions are made for the state level, anyone may attend. Not everyone has

voting power but all are invited to come and hear and be heard. As I sit and watch the proceedings, it is with another eye that I see our founders standing there discussing and sometimes arguing in order to come to a consensus about each proposal brought before the assembly. There are a lot of "A" personalities in there and many varied opinions. If you love a lively debate (which I do) then it's the place to be.

I'm sure there is more I could say. We recently got word that our chapter's poster contestant won at the national level. Isn't that amazing? Our little chapter and area made waves at the national level. Sort of ironic... and a bit like history repeating itself.

RSVP me concerning your attendance at the next meeting preferably by the afternoon of Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. My number is 252-532-0664. Please include the number of people in your party. Our guest speaker will be our illustrious State President and former Chapter President Ken Wilson. 2014.

Thank you all for your support of our society and chapter.

The September meeting will be held on **Wed., Sept. 10**, at the Halifax Baptist Church on **131 Prussia Street in Halifax at 6:30 pm.**

On the agenda: NCSSAR State President Ken Wilson will give a most interesting and informative presentation.

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

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The Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR met at the Halifax United Methodist Church on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30 pm.

President Geoff Pittard called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by guest Rives Manning. The Sec/Treas read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved. He then gave the Treasurer's report, reporting that the Chapter had \$1062.03 in the checking account.

President Geoff Pittard then gave his report:

- the Chapter sponsored a flag retirement ceremony on 6/7 in which 98 flags were retired with full ceremony
- he presented the SAR Outstanding Cadet Medal to a cadet at S. Granville High School
- Chapter VP RJ Myrick will be participating in the 234th Anniversary of the Battle of Colson's Mill to be held July 12 in Norwood, NC, sponsored by the Colson's Mill Chapter

State NCSSAR President Ken Wilson then gave his report:

- he represented the NCSSAR at the recent William Patterson grave marking sponsored by the Battle of Kings Mountain Chapter and held near Grover, NC on 6/14
- he presented the JROTC Outstanding Cadet Medal at the SW Edgecombe High School
- in the Americanism contest the Chapter has accumulated 4104 points in the National contest, 14350 in the NC contest and 5800 in the President General's award contest
- He will be attending the National SAR congress 7/18-23
- the Chapter color guard will be participating in the Roanoke Rapids Veteran's Day parade on 11/9 and the Christmas parade
- planning is underway for the Chapter to sponsor a grave marking in the Shearin family cemetery in September or October

Former NCSSAR President and current Chapter member Steve Pittard then gave a most interesting and informative talk on NC patriot Cornelius Harnett. Comp. Pittard made the point that Harnett has never gotten the recognition he deserved, given his important role during the Revolution in NC.

Harnett was a prominent Wilmington merchant who in 1765 became the chairman of the Sons of Liberty, and was a leader in the resistance to the Stamp Act. In 1775-1776, he served as the first president of the North Carolina Provincial Council, or Council of Safety, essentially the chief executive of the revolutionary state, although with limited powers. He was a member of the Continental Congress for 1777-1779 and died April 28, 1781, shortly after being released on parole.

There being no further business, the benediction was given by guest Rives Manning and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

*Highlights of Recent Chapter Activities*



Above (l-r): NCSSAR President Ken Wilson at the William Patterson grave marking on 6/14; Ken at the Boys and Girls Club on 7/23; Bill Lenz of Lake Gaston was presented the SAR Flag Certificate on 7/26



Above (l-r, top-bottom): On 7/26 VP RJ Myrick presented a Flag Certificate to VFW Post 4906 of Norlina. Post Commander Bobby Jones accepted the award on behalf of the Post; On 8/30 VP RJ Myrick presented the Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate to Eagle Scouts Doss Dahlem and Triston Arwood at their Court of Honor; Ken Wilson and Steve Avent at the Board of Managers meeting held in Raleigh on 8/23; President Geoff Pittard (2nd from left) accepting an award on behalf of the Chapter at the Board of Managers meeting.

*Upcoming SAR Activities*

September 2014

**September 13, 2014** - The Silas McDowell and Blue Ridge Mountain (GASSAR) chapters are sponsoring the dedication of Patriot Samuel Reed's Grave in Murphy, NC

**September 13, 2014** - The Blue Ridge Mountain (GASSAR) and Silas McDowell chapters are sponsoring the dedication of Compatriot Fred Smith's Grave in Blairsville, GA.

**September 20, 2014** - The Mecklenburg and Catawba Valley chapters are sponsoring a dual Patriot grave marking ceremony for Gen. Joseph Graham and Capt. Alexander Brevard in Iron Station, NC.

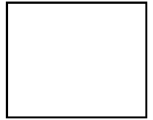
**September 20, 2014** - The Mecklenburg chapter will be marking the grave of Patriot Jacob Plonk II and dedicating the Plonk Family Cemetery highway marker in Lincolnton, NC

(see the NCSSAR website at [www.ncssar.org](http://www.ncssar.org) for details and many more events)



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Steve Avent, Editor



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NC Sons of the American Revolution

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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**

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our website:

Go to: [www.ncssar.org](http://www.ncssar.org), "NC Chapters"

Click on our chapter name on the NC map.