

Message from the President



Compatriots,

March may have been calm, but April is always a busy month for our chapter and its officers. We usually have our annual state convention and Halifax Day within a week or so of each other, and this year was no exception.

Ken Wilson and I attended our annual state convention, which met in Hickory from Friday, April 6 through Sunday, April 8. Approximately sixty SAR members from across the state were in attendance, and most of our state chapters were represented. The first day there was a brief meeting of the South Atlantic District, followed by a very nice reception for members and spouses.

Saturday was a day full of meetings. In the morning there were training sessions dealing with the reconciliation report and the on-line application. That afternoon was a business meeting. A number of awards were presented. Our chapter won the following awards:

- Hard Copy of Scrapbook – First Place
- Electronic Scrapbook – Honorable Mention Small Chapter
- Americanism – First Place
- Nat Clark Outstanding Small Chapter – 1st Place
- Streamer for 95% retention of membership
- Streamer for Flag Certificates Awarded (For 10 or more Flag Certificates awarded)

The day finished with a wonderful banquet. Our keynote speaker was Compatriot Joe Sam Queen (also

our state Historian), who spoke on the Revolutionary campaign in western North Carolina.

The following Wednesday we cranked up again to celebrate the 242nd anniversary of the adoption of the Halifax Resolves. There was a reception at the Hilton Garden Inn to welcome our out-of-town guests, followed by dinner at Ralph's Barbecue in Weldon. Thursday morning, amid bright skies and periodic ferocious gusts of wind, we met in Halifax for our ceremony. I estimate there were more than 100 people present, including the fifth grade students from Halifax Academy, who all rendered honors by attaching miniature American flags to our chapter's two wreaths. (Among them was Avery Boone, our chapter winner for the poster contest.) We had representatives from many organizations, including National Society of the SAR, the North Carolina Children of the American Revolution, the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution, the South Atlantic District of the SAR, Historic Halifax, the Halifax County Board of Commissioners, and Halifax County Government.

The guest speaker was Larry Guzy, President General of the National Society of the SAR. His topic was "Because We Remember." A wonderful lunch -- complete with fried chicken, ham, and all the trimmings -- followed at the Methodist Church, prepared by our favorite chefs -- the wonderful ladies of the church.

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I would like to offer special thanks to the following people:

- Ken Wilson – for more preparation than can be imagined, plus his command of the State Color Guard
- Jan Wilson – for her preparation, photography, and attention to many details
- Geoff Pittard – for his assistance with the tent and chairs, and participation in the Color Guard
- Steve Avent – for collecting the RSVP data and handling all the treasurer’s duties at the church
- Duncan Jones – for offering prayers at the service
- Rives Manning – for leading the SAR Pledge and Recessional
- Donald Oakes – for attending the reception

But there is more to come. Don’t forget the upcoming grave markings for two deceased SAR compatriots, scheduled for June 16. That morning we will mark the grave of James Carlos Harris at his family cemetery near Inez. That afternoon we will mark the grave of Nicholas Bunn Boddie at Rose Hill plantation near Nashville. Please try to attend one or both ceremonies.

We are always anxious to locate and mark the graves of SAR patriots. If you know of any such graves in our area, please let me or Ken Wilson know. Planning such a ceremony takes research and time, so we want to give it our best effort. Meanwhile, never forget to talk up the SAR to your friends. And don’t hesitate to invite friends and family to our meetings! I hope to see you at the May meeting.

Fraternally,
David

The May meeting will be Wed., May 9, at Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax at 6:30 pm. On the agenda: a presentation from Comp. Don Malcolm: “The American Longrifle (aka the Pennsylvania/Kentucky Rifle): an American Art Form”. The cost of the meal will be \$10. **Reservations are required.** Please contact David or Steve **by Friday, 5/4/18** by email or telephone if you’re coming (contact info on back page).

Minutes of January, 2018, Meeting

The Treasurer’s report indicated a total balance of \$2484.54, of which the subcategories include the Youth Fund with a balance of \$840.00 and the General Fund with a balance of \$1644.54. The Treasurer’s report was approved. Under old business, the following topics were discussed:

- Compatriot Wilson reminded everyone of two upcoming compatriot grave markings. The grave of Compatriot James Carlos Harris will be marked on June 16 at 10AM, at the Harris family cemetery near Inez. That afternoon at 2PM, the grave of Compatriot Nicholas Bunn Boddie will be marked at Rose Hill Plantation near Nashville.
- The group discussed and approved the proposed grave marking procedures as presented at the January and March meetings by President Gammon.

Under new business, the following topics were discussed:

- President Gammon reminded everyone of the upcoming Halifax Day, scheduled for April 12, 2018. He invited everyone to come out for the event and to lend a hand with some of the duties.
- Compatriot Wilson announced that the Halifax Co. Commissioners have passed a resolution regarding Halifax Day 2018.
- On April 17, Compatriot Wilson will conduct a flag retirement.
- Concerns about the dwindling amount of money in the Youth Fund were discussed. No solutions were offered.

After the discussion of new business, Compatriot Wilson presented the entries in the poster and brochure contests. The group viewed the entries, selecting one winner in each of the two categories and several honorable mentions from each school represented.



Top-bottom, 1-r: (3/26) (l-r) Brochure contest winner Madison Elias with her teachers: Barbara Wyatt, J. Evan Spicer, Madison B. Elias, Mr. Jamie Rook; Ken at Halifax Academy demonstrating proper folding of the US Flag; 3/31: Ken giving a history presentation at Gates HS; 4/14: Ken presented a Flag Certificate to the RR Chic-Fil-A, Mgr Ceci Garrett and crew accepting; 5/3: Nash Central HS NJROTC Cated DonnaVon Petway receiving the JROTC Outstanding Cadet medal, and Ken presenting the Flag Certificate to the school, Cadet Petway accepting; 3/26: Chaloner Middle School Principal Jeff White receiving the SAR Flag Certificate on behalf of the school; 4/18: Ken presented the Flag Certificate to the Rocky Mount Bojangles, Mgr Pauline Williams accepting; Poster contest winner Avery Boone of Halifax Academy receiving the award. (l-r) Ken, teacher Lindy Rogerson, Avery Boone and his mother Sarah Bridgers; 4/12: Chapter member Scott Kennedy receiving the Color Guard Medal at the Halifax Resolves ceremony, and the participants in the 4/12 ceremony;




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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 PRESIDENTS 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*

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