

2014 & 2016 winner – 1st Place Nationally (single sheet)—Carl F. Bessent Newsletter Award

Message from the President



Compatriots,

I admit that I have quite a laundry list of shortcomings. Fortunately, common sense and a lack of space will prevent me from describing all of them here. But I freely confess that sometimes I sell myself short, without a

good reason.

I've had a number of successful people tell me that part of their success came from their concentration on goals. They did what they needed to do to achieve a goal, but the emphasis was on meeting the goal rather than the persons involved. They didn't worry about the small stuff. They were not in it for the glamour or glorification, but for the satisfaction of achieving something they set out to do. I need to remember that.

And as compatriots of the Sons of the American Revolution, we also need to remember this. I fear that as a whole, we are sometimes guilty of selling ourselves short as well. I suppose it is human nature to become complacent with time – we enjoy our regular meetings, we enjoy seeing each other, we (hopefully) get something from the presentations each time, and then we smile, wave, and go home. Until the next time, when we do it all over again.

We enjoy all these things, but we tend to keep the enjoyment to ourselves, perhaps thinking that other people would not be terribly interested in a group that concerns itself with a war of long ago. After all, those other people probably think we all dress up in colonial attire! (Some of us do, but not everyone.) Those other people probably think you can't join the SAR unless you have a military background! (Some of us do, but it's not a requirement for membership.) And those other people presume they don't have an ancestor who would qualify them

for membership. (You would be surprised how many of us have multiple ancestors who would qualify us!)

And so we sit back and don't spread the word, and we sell ourselves short and we sell short our organization. Shame on our reluctance, and shame on our short-sightedness! We really can't know what those other people think about our organization unless we tell them about us. A few enthusiastic words from a member can go a long way – they could be the beginning of an education and orientation for a prospective member. All of us know what a wonderful group we have, but others can't know it until we show them. So let's talk it up! I often encourage you to invite a friend to our meetings. That might be all the impetus someone needs to start the journey to membership. I would much rather a friend say about me "David certainly seems to love being in the SAR, and it shows" rather than "I wonder what those fellows do in the SAR? David never talks about it. They must be some sort of secret organization."

(cont. on next page)

The March meeting will be held on Wed., 3/13/19, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Halifax United Methodist Church in Halifax NC.

The winners of our Knight Essay and JROTC contests will be on hand to read their essays to us, and their parents will be accompanying them. We will also be judging the entries in our poster and brochure contests.

As always, the ladies of Methodist Church will be preparing us a delicious dinner, and we appreciate all their efforts. To help them plan better, they would like to have the head count no later than Friday afternoon before our meeting the following Wednesday.

Because of this, we will need to know if you are attending the meeting no later than noon on Friday, March 8. You may email Pres. Gammon at thepinnacle@ec.rr.com, or call him at 252-732-6476. You only need to contact him if you plan to attend.

The cost of the dinner will be \$10 per person.

And don't forget we are a small chapter, so we are always in search of new members for all the obvious reasons. Let's think about our goal of adding members, and not dwell on the tiny steps we might have to take to get there. Being enthusiastic and spreading the word will carry us well on this journey.

It's like the first time I had to play the piano for Sunday School. (You knew I would eventually weave in a personal story, didn't you?) I was probably twelve years old. The way my mother acted about the entire episode, you would have thought I had been asked to play at Carnegie Hall. Come to think of it, I could not have been any more scared if I really were going to play at Carnegie Hall. Over and over I practiced that old hymn "Wonderful Words of Life." My parents never complained, but I bet they wanted to scream and run, and they probably secretly wished I had taken up a quieter hobby, like sign language perhaps.

And so with Sunday fast approaching, I asked my father, "What do I do if I make a mistake?" And he very wisely said "What are you there to do?" And so I replied that I was there to play the hymn. So he said "Then play the hymn, because that's your goal. And if along the way you make a mistake, make a loud one and keep going. And finish it!"

In other words, don't worry about the steps along the way, but instead, concentrate on the goal. There's another childhood lesson that it has taken me more than fifty years to comprehend! Let's concentrate on our goal, and let's not shortchange ourselves and our efforts along the way. Let's spread a positive word about the SAR.

David

Highlights from the Minutes of Jan., 2019, Meeting

President David Gammon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Rev. Duncan Jones gave an invocation. Compatriot Ken Odom led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and President Gammon led the SAR Pledge. The following guests were introduced: Rear Admiral Jay Deloach and his wife Jodi, John Christian Prang (grandson of Duncan Jones), and a special welcome to Dr. Sam Powell. Rear Admiral Jay Deloach (of the New Bern Chapter) gave a presentation on "Admiral David Farragut: The NC and Spanish Family Connections." Afterwards he received a certificate of appreciation from the chapter.

The Treasurer's report indicated a total balance of \$4,321.86, of which the subcategories include the Youth Fund with a balance of \$1190.00 and the General Fund with a balance of \$3,131.86. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Under old business, the following topics were discussed:

Compatriot Ken Wilson gave an update on the Roanoke Rapids Christmas Parade, in which several of our members marched, along with members from other chapters. He noted that this would be the last time we would march in the parade, due to the aging of our members and the difficulty of the march.

Under new business, the following topics were discussed:

- President Gammon reminded everyone of the upcoming State Convention (April 5 and 6), and Halifax Day (April 12).
- President Gammon reminded everyone that for our March meeting, we will be inviting the students who won the Knight Essay Contest and the JROTC Medal, along with their parents and teachers. The students will read their essays. Afterwards, we will judge the brochures and posters submitted by local students.
- President Gammon informed everyone that Compatriot Ken Wilson has stepped down as State Color Guard Commander and Chairman of Wreaths Across America, effective January 1. He thanked Compatriot Wilson for his efforts into these causes.
- President Gammon and Compatriot Wilson spoke briefly about the future needs of the chapter, specifically the need for new officers to fill the upcoming slate. President Gammon's term will end in November. Attendance is still a challenge for Steve Avent, our Secretary/Treasurer/Registrar, as he lives in Southern Shores. President Gammon urged everyone to consider "taking a turn" at holding an office, and encouraged members to contact him with their thoughts about not only officers, but the future of the chapter in general.



Michael Cooper

He was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and grew up in Southern Louisiana. He loved the outdoors, and spent as much time as possible in the water (swimming pools, beaches, swamps, lakes, ditches, etc.). He was in JROTC in high school, a youth volunteer at (Catholic) Church, and was a member of ‘Greyt Therapy’ in Greensboro, NC where owners of Greyhounds visited various hospitals, assisted and senior living facilities.

While a Senior in high school, he enlisted in the United States Air Force (post 9-11) and graduated from Basic Training at Lackland Air Force base in the Spring of 2002.

He completed one tour in the Middle East where he served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In the Fall of 2004 he was set to return for his second tour to the Middle East when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor that required immediate/emergency surgery, and he underwent the first of a total of nine brain surgeries in September 2004.

Due to the severity of the surgery and time for recovery, he was allowed to go home with his family (in Louisiana) where he was to convalesce for three months, then return back to duty at Scott AFB. Unfortunately, complications arose along with trauma to the brain during a surgical procedure that rendered him disabled. For more than three years, he was confined to a wheel chair and was tube fed. Damage to his brain stem left him unable to walk without a cane and he was left legally blind with double vision/upbeat nystagmus. He was being treated at Tulane’s Medical Center in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck in August of 2005. The medical center’s first three floors were underwater, which required the building’s closure. His family was then forced to make the move to a medical facility that could better treat his symptoms and the ongoing treatment of being a brain tumor patient, thus his move to NC. He has been a patient of Duke’s Brain Tumor Center since May 2006.

Since his move to Louisburg, NC, in June 2006, he has earned an Associate’s Degree in Business Science from Louisburg College and has earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology: Military Resilience from Liberty University. He is currently enrolled in Liberty University’s online School of Law where he is working on his J.M. (Juris Masters).



Leonhardt Weeks Anderson, IV is recently retired after 32 years of law enforcement in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as a United States Air Force veteran. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Bluefield College. Leonhardt is married to the former Susan L. McLeod, who is a DAR member. He has two daughters, Sarah and Lindsey. Leonhardt is the great-grandson of Susie Brickell Anderson, who did extensive genealogy research in the Halifax area. His hobbies include history, genealogy, visiting historical sites, hunting, fishing, farming, and metal-working.

Compatriots Cooper and Anderson—Welcome to the Halifax Resolves Chapter!




(l-r) 1/12/19: President Gammon spoke to members of the New Bern Chapter on proving ancestral lines for the SAR; 1/18/19: Ken Wilson spoke to 5th and 8th grade students at Halifax Academy on the SAR Poster and Brochure contests; 1/30/19: Ken spoke to 4th and 5th grade students at Manning Elementary School on the SAR Poster contest.



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Steve Avent, Editor*





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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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Go to: www.ncssar.org, click "Chapters"