



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

Message from the President



Compatriots,

Two years ago I was sworn in as your chapter president and I took the gavel from Ken Wilson. I can truly say I have learned a lot while in the position. In typical fashion, now that I am finally getting settled into the position, it is time to leave it. But two years are a

sufficiently long term, I believe, and it is time to let someone else take a turn.

When I took office, one of the main things I promised myself I would do is to find interesting speakers for our meetings. We can't have a speaker at every single meeting -- sometimes we have other lengthy business that dominates our agenda (such as the judging of the posters and brochures, typically at our March meeting). But I have looked far and wide to find people who might have something to offer us that we would enjoy hearing. Based on comments from you, you have been pleased with my efforts in this regard, and that is gratifying to me.

I have the greatest respect for history, and I have enjoyed genealogical research for almost fifty years. I am unashamedly proud to be a member of our chapter, since almost all of my roots are in Halifax and Warren Counties. But I have been a very unlikely president because I live so far away. It has sometimes been difficult for me to attend every function because of the distance. But when Ken Wilson asked me to consider serving a term as chapter president back in 2017, I felt that if I wanted to be a participating member of the chapter, I needed to step up and take a turn, even if the distance would sometimes make it inconvenient. I felt that I owed it to the chapter, and so I have persevered.

I say this not to pat myself on the back for being a safe driver and for dodging the deer as I drive home in the dark after meetings. After all, several of our members drive a distance for each meeting. I say it because if I can do it, anybody else can do it as well. And those who live closer to our meetings should be able to do it even more easily than I ever could hope for

myself.

Please consider doing more than just attending the meetings and going home afterwards. Please consider helping with some of our chapter tasks. And if the mood should strike, please consider serving as a chapter officer. We can go a short time without a vice-president, but we all know we need someone in that position for the future. You have made it very clear that you don't want the chapter to close, but its continued success will depend on participation from everyone. Please get involved!

As I finish my term, I would like to thank you all for your kind words to me along the way. They have meant a great deal, and I am grateful for all your support.

David

The next meeting of the Halifax Resolves Chapter will be held on Wednesday, September 13, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Halifax United Methodist Church in Halifax NC. On the agenda: (1) swear in a new chapter member; (2) present awards to some of our members; and (3) swear in our new slate of chapter officers. NCS SAR State President Jim Becker will be on hand to conduct the swearing in. Please wear a blazer (or suit) and tie for this occasion.

The ladies of the UMC always prepare us a delicious dinner, and to help them plan better they would like to have the head count no later than Friday afternoon before our meeting the following Wednesday. So, we will need to know if you are attending the meeting no later than noon on Friday, November 8. Please respect this deadline!

You may email President 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.

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President: Geoff Pittard
Vice-President: (vacant)
Secretary: Michael Cooper

Treasurer: Steve Avent
Chaplain: Rev. Duncan Jones
Registrar: Steve Avent

Highlights from the Minutes of September, 2019, Meeting

Minutes – September 11, 2019 Meeting
Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR

The Halifax Resolves Chapter of the NCSSAR met on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at the Halifax United Methodist Church in Halifax, NC. President David Gammon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Our Chaplain Rev. Duncan Jones gave the invocation. Compatriot Carl Witt led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and President Gammon led the SAR Pledge. The following guests were introduced: Dr. Sam Powell (former State President), Renny Taylor (NC History Teacher of the Year and National History Teacher of the Year) and his wife Leslie, and Andrew Duppstadt, guest speaker

After the meal, Andrew Duppstadt gave a presentation entitled “Richard Caswell: The First of Patriots and Best of Men.”

In the absence of Secretary/Treasurer Steve Avent, President Gammon briefly discussed the minutes from the previous meeting, which were approved with one correction. The Treasurer’s report indicated a total balance of \$2,262.51, of which the subcategories include the Youth Fund with a balance of \$890.00 and the General Fund with a balance of \$1,372.51. The Treasurer’s report was approved.

During the President’s Report, President Gammon mentioned that a number of chapter members had attended a DNA workshop in Rocky Mount in July, and thanked them for their interest in research.

Under old business, the following topics were discussed:

- Compatriot Michael Cooper reported there have been no new discoveries about the grave of Harrison Macon.
- Compatriot Ken Wilson reported there have been no new discoveries about possible markings of graves of patriots and compatriots.
- President Gammon went through the list of tasks formerly performed by Ken Wilson, and asked members to volunteer for those that interested them. A list is attached to these minutes.
- Compatriot Ken Wilson updated everyone on the status of the various Youth Programs and the awards associated with them. He noted a budget he had prepared, estimating the cost if we had participants in every category. If so, the cost per year to run these contests would be \$1370, but currently we only have \$890 in part of our budget designated for the Youth Fund. While we cannot predict which students and teachers might participate, we need to be ready for the largest participation. President Gammon reminded everyone that this fund is created entirely by donations, and encouraged members to donate to it.
- Compatriot Wilson reminded everyone that Renny Taylor has been a NC State History Teacher of the year for two times, and currently is the National History Teacher of the Year. Mr. Taylor mentioned the benefits of his participation.

Under new business, the following topics were discussed:

- Compatriot Ken Wilson announced that Wreaths Across America will be held December 14, and the local Veterans’ Day ceremony will be November 10.
- New member Bob Bittner was installed into the chapter and presented with his rosette. New Member Preston Fortin was also presented with his rosette.
- The slate of officers for 2020-2022 was introduced. They are: Geoff Pittard (President), Michael Cooper (Secretary), Steve Avent (Treasurer), and Duncan Jones (Chaplain). The office of Vice-President remains vacant. There were no nominations from the floor, and the slate was approved by the members.

President Gammon then led the members in the SAR Recessional, Rev. Duncan Jones gave the benediction, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50.



Top to bottom, l-r: President Gammon inducting new member Bob Bittner; presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Andrew Dupstadt; Roanoke Rapids Library Director Jeff Watson accepting the Flag Certificate on behalf of the Library, Northern Nash HS JROTC Instructor MSGT Greg Hopkins accepting the Flag Certificate; Ken presenting the winner's certificate to Renny Taylor of Nash Central HS, who was selected as the SAR HS History Teacher of the Year for 2108-19 (Mr. Taylor was sponsored by the Halifax Resolves Chapter); Ms Lindsey Goble and Ms Tina Davis accepting the Flag Certificate on behalf of the Clara Hearne Pre-K school; LTC Theodore Paige, AFJROTC Instructor accepting the Flag Certificate on behalf of Warren Co. HS; Ken presenting the SAR Lifesaving Medal to Halifax Co. Deputy Pignanello and Davie Volunteer FD member Michael Manning. (l-r) Sheriff Wes Tripp, LT Michael Manning, CPL Jacob Pignanello, Chief David Padgett, Ken Wilson; Ken speaking on the US Flag at the Tar River Academy;





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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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