



The Halifax Dispatch

*The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter,
North Carolina Sons of the American Revolution*

Volume XX, Number 3 - May 1, 2021

2014 & 2016 winner Carl S. Bissent Newsletter Award

The Halifax Resolves Chapter meets at 6:30 pm the second Wednesday night of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Fellowship Hall of the Halifax United Methodist Church, 150 S. King St., Halifax, NC. The ladies of the UMC prepare a delicious meal prior to the meeting at the cost of \$10.00/person.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 12th in person. In order for the ladies to properly plan the meal we need to know how many are attending. If you plan to attend, it is imperative that you contact Chapter President Pittard NLT noon on Friday, May 7th with the number of individuals in your party. Compatriot Pittard can be contacted at: 252-532-0664 or geospittard@gmail.com.

From the Founding President

This is Steve Avent, Founding President of the Halifax Resolves Chapter. We're at a critical stage now, and unless we can find members willing to step forward and take on leadership roles the Chapter truly may not survive past this year.

I'd like to share with you a little bit about how the Halifax Resolves Chapter began. I was a new SAR member, living in Richmond, and had never been very active in the group. I would show up at most of the meetings and some of the chapter activities, and was satisfied with that level of involvement. My employer relocated me to NE NC in 2002, and I changed my membership to NC at that time, though I wasn't looking to get very active. The State President at that time was Joe Harris, who, unbeknownst to me, had long believed that Halifax had never gotten the recognition it deserved for its role in the Revolution, and really wanted to start a SAR chapter there.

Joe got word that a new SAR member had moved to NE NC and gave me a call, and asked me if I would be the ramrod for the formation of a new chapter in Halifax. I turned him down as I felt I was just too busy at my new position. Joe's a retired Army LTC, and a very persuasive guy, and he stayed in touch and kept working on me, and he also put me in touch with Steve Pittard (father of our current President Geoff Pittard), who was, I think, the State VP at that time. Steve's another very persuasive guy, and they promised to help and support me every step of the way, so I finally agreed.

Long story short, with Joe and Steve's help and sup-

port, the chapter was chartered and got off the ground, and has become one of the most active and accomplished small chapters in the state and at the national level. Joe and Steve's pushing me into becoming an active member turned out to be one of the best things that ever happened to me. Everyone's heard the old saying that you only get out of membership what you put in, but it's true. I became active not only at the chapter level but also the state level, and in the process made a lot of great friends, had a lot of great experiences and got a real feeling that I was a part of a group that was doing some worthwhile and important things, and making a difference.

Our chapter has been carried for many years by just a few members, but I think we've reached a point where that will have to change if the chapter is to survive. Geoff will likely not be able to serve again as President after his current term due to job and family demands, Ken can't due to health issues, and I can't as I live in the Outer Banks now and am just too far away. Even though I never had much desire to become more active in the SAR, once I did it turned out to be a great experience, and I'm sure if someone reading this decides to step forward and give it a try, he'll be glad he did.

So, what we need is this: someone who would be willing to step forward and serve as VP starting at our May or July meeting, and then agreeing to be nominated for President at our September meeting and then (if it's the will of the chapter) voted in as President in November, taking office as President in January.

The office is really not that demanding. The President needs to run the meetings and find the speaker, and Ken, Geoff and I would be happy to help out with this as much as possible. The President also needs to attend
(cont'd Founding President, page 7)

The programs for the May, July and September meetings will pertain to various SAR programs, leadership roles and protocol for events. All members are urged to attend.

RRFD Firemen Recognized at City Council Meeting



L-R: RRFD Engineer Jared O. Lynch, Compatriot Ken Wilson and Lt. Ramah L. Long

Roanoke Rapids Fire Department Lt. Ramah L. Long and Engineer Jared O. Lynch were assigned to first responder duty on November 29, 2020 when they were dispatched to 14th street at roughly 0100 hours in reference to a subject not breathing. Upon their arrival they were able to continue CPR and provide Automatic Defibrillation until EMS arrived. Once EMS arrived and were able to start administering medications by IV, it was found that the patient had regained a pulse. With the patient regaining a pulse, Fire and EMS personnel placed the patient on the stretcher and transported them to Vidant North. The patient when arriving at Vidant still had a pulse and care was transferred to emergency room staff.

Lt. Long received an oak leaf cluster for his Life Saving Medal signifying a second award and Engineer Lynch received the Life Saving Medal. The presentations were made by Halifax Resolves Chapter Compatriot Ken Wilson and Compatriot/City Council member E. C. Bobbitt.

Officer Receives Law Enforcement Commendation



L-R: Officer Curry D. Roberts II and Compatriot Ken Wilson

On January 18, 2021, Officer Curry D. Roberts conducted a traffic stop for a vehicle speeding in the area of HWY 158 and Georgia Ave. This stop led to the discovery of Trevon Fields lifeless body in the trunk of this vehicle. The pro-activeness of Officer Curry Roberts helped the Halifax County Sheriff's Office potentially solve a murder they would not have been aware of. Officer Roberts instincts and professionalism ultimately help capture four subjects that potentially had involvement in the death of Trevon Fields. This traffic stop also yielded four handguns that would have remained on the streets illegally.



Lowes Employee Awarded SAR Life Saving Medal

On December 16, 2020 at approximately 2015 hours Mr. William Jones, Jr., was working at Lowe's Home Improvements and discovered a fellow employee unconscious, unresponsive and turning blue. Mr. Jones immediately began CPR until relieved by first responders at approximately 2030 hours. He is credited with sustaining his fellow employee's life until the arrival of first responders. The employee was transported to Vidant North Hospital with a pulse and turned over to ER doctors. The award was presented by Past President Ken Wilson.

First Responders Recognized at City Council Meeting



L-R: RRFD Firemen Benjamin C. Clements, Austin C. Jarrett, RRPD Officer Nichole M. Powell, Officer Elijah W. Ellington, Master Officer Jeremy C. Horne. Not shown, RRPD Sgt. Daniel J. Hundley.

On December 16, 2020 at approximately 2024 Hours members of the Roanoke Rapids Police Department "D-Squad" and members of the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department were dispatched with Halifax County EMS to Lowes Home Improvements in reference to an employee that was unresponsive and turning blue. Officers Ellington, Powell and Master Officer Horne arrived in scene at 2027 hours (just 3 minutes after dispatch) and Sergeant Hundley arrived just a minute later. Sergeant Hundley responded with a department issued automated external defibrillator (AED). Fire Fighters Clements and Jarrett arrived at 2029 hours as Sergeant Hundley was hooking up the victim to the AED. Master Officer Horne and Officer Ellington were performing CPR and rescue breaths with a bag valve mask. Fire Fighters Clements and Jarrett immediately began to assist our officers in conducting "pit crew style" CPR by rotating in and out to keep from tiring one person out.

EMS had a very extended time of arrival because both of the Roanoke Rapids trucks were busy and the closest EMS crew was in Halifax. The officers and firefighters performed CPR for nearly 20 minutes before EMS arrived. Once EMS arrived, they began to administer lifesaving medicine through IV and also used their AED twice. The victim regained a pulse and was transported to Vidant North alive.

The members of the RRPD involved in this incident received the Life Saving medal. Fire Fighters Clements and Jarrett received an oak leaf cluster signifying a second award of the Life Saving Medal. Officer Ellington accepted Sgt. Hundley's award on his behalf. The presentations were made by Halifax Resolves Chapter Compatriot Ken Wilson and Compatriot/City Council member E. C. Bobbitt.

Halifax Resolves Chapter, NC SAR
Minutes – March 13, 2021 Meeting

The March, 2021 meeting of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NC SAR, was held on Sat., March 13, 2021 at the United Methodist Church in Halifax, NC. President Geoff Pittard called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. An invocation was given by Carlton Garner, and then all present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag. President Pittard led the members in the SAR Pledge. Visitors and guests were introduced at their seat.

As the Secretary could not be present due to illness, the Treasurer read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved. He then gave the Treasurer's report, reporting that the Chapter had \$3,555.42 in the checking account (\$2,495.74 – general fund, \$1,462.50 – Youth Fund). President Pittard then spoke about the upcoming celebration of the adoption of the Halifax Resolves and gave a brief history of the Resolves. He then inducted the following new members:

-Jim and Jamie Rook
-Bill and Ben Riggan
-Renny Taylor

Past Chapter President Ken Wilson was the first line endorser and pinned each new member with the SAR rosette. All inductees expressed their thanks to Ken for his help during the application process. Renny Taylor also thanked the Chapter for sponsoring him for the SAR Teacher of the Year Award.

Ken reported that he has volunteered to serve as mentor to the new members and reported that the next three chapter meetings will include training sessions, and added that the chapter is in very great need of a VP. He reported that the chapter will be participating in the dedication of a Charters of Freedom in Roanoke Rapids on 4/10/2021.

He announced that there are nine SAR compatriots buried in Louisburg and he moved that the chapter mark their graves with the appropriate SAR medallion and ceremony. He recommended that we mark five graves in the morning and four in the afternoon, and would like to do this in October or November of this year. The motion was then approved by the members.

There being no more business, Don Malcolm then led the members in the SAR Recessional, Carlton Garner gave the benediction, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Geoff Pittard

Chapter President

Steve Avent

Acting Chapter Secretary

“I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.” *Thomas Jefferson*

“When the people fear their government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is liberty.” *Thomas Jefferson*



Chapter Officers

President: Geoff Pittard
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Vice President: currently vacant

Secretary: Michael Cooper
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Chapter Website

Go to: www.nessar.org,
click on "Chapters"

Treasurer's Report
Halifax Resolves Chapter, NC SAR

Ending Balance as of March, 2021 meeting: \$3,555.42

Deposits: \$0.00

Checks: \$100.00

Current Checking Acct Balance: \$3,455.42

Youth fund balance: \$1,362.50

General fund balance: \$2,092.92

4/9/2021 CHECK # 2166 \$100.00 Contest
winner Aaron Boone

Steve Avent

Chapter Treasurer

Notice to Members

A quick reminder that nominations for the new officer slate will be made at the July Meeting. The term for each office is two years. The vote will take place at the September meeting and the installation of new officers will be at the November meeting. Please contact one of the chapter officers if you would like to know more about a certain office or if you would like to be nominated for a particular office.

Welcome New Members



L-R: Ben Riggan, Bill Riggan, Jamie Rook, Jim Rook and Rennie Taylor



Halifax County and Foundation Forward Recognize SAR Members

(L-R) Halifax County Manager Tony Brown, Ken Wilson, J. Rives Manning and David Streater

During the time capsule dedication for the Halifax County Charters of Freedom display in Halifax, NC two members of the Halifax Resolves Chapter were recognized for their efforts in bringing the project to a successful completion. Compatriots Ken Wilson and J. Rives Manning were presented Certificates of Appreciation and glass paperweights engraved with the county seal from Halifax County Manager Tony Brown and Foundation Forward Education Director.

NC SAR Color Guard Participates in Charters of Freedom Dedication and Video of Halifax Resolves Celebration Posting and Retrieval of the Colors



(L-R) Compatriots Ken Wilson, Dr. Samuel C. Powell, George Strunk, Ron Bonham, Steve Avent, Bob Sigmon and Tom Davis

The Combined NC SAR Color Guard, under the command of SMSgt. George K. Strunk, USAF (ret.), presented and retrieved the Colors for the Charters of Freedom time capsule dedication and following that event proceeded to the Colonial Courthouse site to video the presentation and retrieval of the Colors for the 245th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves. The Halifax Resolves event was held April 12th. The Halifax Resolves chapter members participating in the color guard were Compatriots Ken Wilson and Steve Avent; representing the Alamance Battle-ground Chapter, Dr. Samuel C. Powell; representing the General George Washington Chapter, George K. Strunk and Ron Bonham; representing the Raleigh Chapter, Bob Sigmon and Tom Davis.

Halifax Resolves Chapter President Geoff Pittard served as the videographer for both events.

(Founding President from page 1)

the twice-yearly Board of Managers meetings. These are being held virtually now, through Zoom, though once the regular meetings resume they are usually held in the Raleigh or Charlotte area. These are a great way to see how things work at the State level, and also to get to know SAR members from around the state. It's good if the President can attend some of the other SAR events round the state – Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, or Moore's Creek near Wilmington, or Alamance Battleground near Burlington. These are also a great way to meet other SAR members, and the events themselves are very enjoyable, with a large color guard, and speakers and sometimes reenactors, and so on. Both the Board of Managers meetings and statewide SAR events are normally held on weekends. The President also has to take a leading role in the planning of our annual commemoration of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves, held every April 12. If the President is computer literate, or at least comfortable using email, that is very helpful. Of course, if someone wanted to be more active and involved, there are many

other activities a Chapter President can take part in, but participation in the things I listed above would be enough to keep the chapter going.

If you're a brand new SAR member, no problem – that's basically what I was when we first formed the Chapter. If the members of the Halifax Resolves Chapter want the chapter to survive someone will need to step forward, and soon. Otherwise, since there are no other chapters nearby, we will all become basically at-large members, and the Chapter will be no more, which I would hate to see. We're one of the few chapters in the state that sponsors a National SAR event, which is a big deal as we often have National SAR officers, including the President General, participating. If anyone just has some questions, feel free to contact Geoff, Ken or myself.

Fraternally,

Steve Avent

Founding President

Chapter Poster Winner



Compatriot Ken Wilson and Chapter Poster Contest winner Aaron Boone



Compatriot Ken Wilson and 5th grade teacher Ms. Lauren Harris

The chapter poster contest participation suffered from the effects of the pandemic this year in terms of quantity, but not quality. The 28 students of the Halifax Academy 5th grade produced some really great posters about a person or persons in the Revolutionary War. The winner was Aaron Boone who produced a great poster about George Washington. Aaron received a Chapter-Level winners certificate and a check for \$100.00. His poster will now advance to the state contest to be conducted on May 16th at Alamance Battleground.

Aaron's teacher, Ms. Lauren Harris, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a check for \$50.00.

Wyatt Crew was the poster Honorable Mention.



Upcoming Events

16 May - 250th Patriots Day - Alamance Battleground - Alamance Battleground Chap.

20 May - 246th Mecklenburg Declaration - Mecklenburg Chap.

30 May - Memorial Day - Cedarwood Cemetery - Roanoke Rapids - AmVets Post 101

12 June - Battle of Ramsour's Mill - Catawba Valley Chap.

19 Jun - Liberty Point Resolves - le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter

4 July - Independence Day

14 July - Chapter Meeting

9-15 July - National Congress - Renton, Washington

For further information/updates

please visit the NC SAR Calendar at www.ncssar.org

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