

Message from the President



Compatriots,

We are starting the chapter's 20th year in existence and I hope this is our most successful year yet. I am also celebrating my 16th year as an SAR member. The chapter has come a long way since that April 12, 2002 charter ceremony. The chapter started 2022 with 30 members, gaining 4 new members, and then losing 1 for a total of 33 members. Our Registrar, Bill Riggan, is steadily adding more applicants to the roster.

I was notified before Christmas that NSSAR President-General C. Bruce Pickette will attend our Halifax Resolves Celebration on April 12th. I would encourage each and every member to plan now to be in attendance.

As some of you may know, last year we started celebrating George Washington's Birthday with a luncheon at Halifax UMC with the Elizabeth Montfort-Ashe DAR Chapter. This year we will again cohost the event with the DAR, but we will hold it at the Littleton Food and Spirits restaurant in Littleton. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Troy Kicker. Meals will be \$25.00/person paid in advance. We will not be collecting any monies at the door. (See enclosed RSVP.)

Plans are also being made to for the brochure and poster contest as well as some speaking

engagements at Bunn HS, Faith Christian School, and our local schools.

Anyone planning to attend the Winter Board of Managers meeting in Huntersville as well as the Cowan's Ford event the same day need to let me know. I will not be attending, but I will be happy to give someone my proxy to vote.

I made some lengthy comments at our November meeting concerning my future in the chapter. Most of those comments are located elsewhere in this newsletter. If you were not in attendance, I urge you to read those comments carefully.

Fraternally, *Ken*

The January meeting will be held Wed., January 11, at Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax at 6:30 pm.

On the agenda: This will be a business meeting, with a possible program if details can be worked out in time.

The cost of the meal will be \$15. Reservations are required and must be in by noon on Fri., January 6. Please contact Ken by email or telephone (252 537-5406) if you're coming.

The Halifax Resolves Chapter of the NCSSAR met on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at the Halifax United Methodist Church in Halifax, NC. President Ken Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the invocation was then given by Treasurer Steve Avent. President Wilson let those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and then Chapter Registrar Bill Riggan led all present in the SAR Pledge.

Guests were then introduced at their seats. The Secretary was unable to attend, so the Treasurer read the minutes of the September meeting, which were approved. He then presented the Treasurer's report, which stated that \$4,666.97 was in the chapter's checking account and \$1412.50 in the youth fund. The minutes and the Treasurer's report were then both approved by the members of the Chapter.

Under new business:

- a thank you note was read from Mrs. Doris Hawkins, thanking the Chapter for its participation in a recent ceremony honoring her late husband, Chapter member Dr. Cleveland Hawkins
- the following upcoming events are scheduled:
 - this Friday there will be a Veterans Day ceremony and luncheon sponsored by the Shaw—May American Legion Post 38
 - 11/14 there will be a ceremony honoring veterans in Roanoke Rapids
 - 11/19 there will be Chapter grave marking ceremonies in Roanoke Rapids and Littleton
 - 12/3 is the annual commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge, in Chesapeake, VA
 - 12/17 will be the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony, in Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids
- New member Will Yarborough was then called forward and inducted into the SAR by President Wilson, followed by a few brief words from Comp. Yarborough.
- Registrar Bill Riggan moved that the chapter investigate the purchase of several grave markers, in order to have them on hand for future ceremonies. He recommended that the Chapter not necessarily go with the cheapest option, and he offered to look into this and report back to the Chapter at the January, 2023 meeting. The motion passed after a voice vote.
- Linda Pressley, of the Methodist Church Women kitchen crew, was called forward, where she accepted a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chapter in recognition of the consistently delicious meals they have provided at our meetings for several years.
- Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Treasurer Steve Avent and Registrar Bill Riggan, and the Chapter Meritorious Service Medal was presented to Past Chapter President Geoff Pittard.
- President Wilson then made some remarks regarding the future of the Chapter (see pages 5 & 6).

The SAR Recessional was then led by President Wilson, and the benediction was given by Treasurer Steve Avent, and the meeting was adjourned by President Wilson at 8:30 pm.

Steve Avent

Chapter Treasurer, Secretary Pro Tem

• **Approved Applications**

William Henry Yarborough - Patriot, Nicholas Long

• **Submitted Applications**

Harry Albert, Jr. - Patriot, Jabez Henton

Robert Edward Bittner, Jr. - Patriot, Matthias Bittner

Preston Armand Fortin - Patriot, Simon Lane (Supplemental)

• **Applications in Progress**

Kenneth Askew - Patriot, Matthias Brickell

Kenneth Christison, Jr. - Patriot, Robert Lewis

James Tuck, Jr. - Patriot, Isaac Farmer

Doug Wright - Patriot, Reuben Wright Morgan

Dwight Neal - Patriot, William Perry

Zachery Myers - Patriot, John Riel/Reel

Tucker Nobles - Patriot, Nathaniel Nobles

Bill Riggan, Registrar

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for January, 2023 meeting

Ending Balance as of November, 2022 meeting: **\$4,666.97**
 Deposits: **\$965.00**
 Checks: **\$2,280.00**
 Current Checking Acct Balance: **\$3,351.97**

Youth fund balance: **\$1,492.50**
 General fund balance: **\$1,859.47**

12/13/22	CHECK # 2096	\$100.00	Knight Essay winner
12/08/22	CHECK # 2097	\$1,815.00	Annual NCSSAR dues
12/05/22	DEPOSIT	\$180.00	Dues payments and donations
11/25/22	CHECK # 2095	\$155.00	Application fee - Tuck
11/22/22	DEPOSIT	\$210.00	November meeting meal payments
11/22/22	DEPOSIT	\$495.00	Dues payments and donations
11/15/22	CHECK # 2094	\$210.00	November meeting meal
11/08/22	DEPOSIT	\$80.00	Dues payments and donations

Screenshot from bank account:

<u>Ending collected balance as of 12/30/22</u>	\$3,351.97
<u>Current posted balance</u>	\$3,351.97
Pending withdrawals/debits	\$0.00
Pending deposits/credits	\$0.00
Available balance	\$3,351.97



(top—bottom, l—r): 12/9/22: Ken presenting Flag Certificates to Nash Central HS NJROTC, Cadets Zeferino and Villa accepting; 12/10/22: Bill Riggan at marking of Patriot Solomon Wetherington’s grave, sponsored by New Bern SAR Chapter; 12/16/22: Ken presenting Flag Certificate to Chaloner MS Principal Angela Mallory and Ass’t Principal Heather Karns; 12/18/22: wreath presenters at Wreaths Across America ceremony at Cedarwood Cemetery, Roanoke Rapids; 12/20: Knight Essay contest winner Nicole Renner (Bunn HS); 12/20: KE contest Honorable Mention, Ashley Oskiera, Teacher, Certificate of Appreciation; 12/20: Kayla Lewis and Jon Ayden Horne, Honorable Mention, Renny Taylor, Teacher, Certificate of Appreciation; Linda Pressley, Bill Riggan and Geoff Pittard receiving Certificates of Appreciation at November chapter meeting;

To the membership: These comments were made by President Wilson at the close of the November 2022 meeting:

Compatriots,

Before we close tonight, I have a few comments to make relating to my time as a member of the chapter and the society. In my hands are two letters. One is my resignation as Chapter President and transfer to another chapter and the second is a letter to the chapter concerning the lack of help the membership gives to the chapter officers. I don't know as I stand here which of these I am going to read. The closing is essentially the difference in the two documents.

When I joined in 2007, we had 16 chapters and less than 800 members. Everyone pretty much knew everyone else and we worked well together when we decided to do something. We started gaining members and by the time I finished my term as state president in the spring of 2015 the society had grown to over 1000 members and more than 20 chapters. Today, we have over 1500 members and 28 chapters. As we became better known at national and participated in more national programs, the camaraderie and cooperation started to decrease if you did not stay involved. A by-product of this growth is that now we have a lot of protocol to follow if we want to accomplish events as outlined by the state and national societies. Advance planning is now a necessity, not an option. We cannot just do things on a whim or at the last moment. The one crucial item we need is the participation of all our members.

As far as our chapter is concerned, we have done fairly well on the state and national level over the years. It has been a lot of enjoyable work which has now, unfortunately, turned to drudgery at the chapter level. Everyone in this room knows that most of the work has been done by two or three members, even when others have supposedly volunteered to help and did not. This has been and is still a consistent problem and is very disheartening. In addition, chapter member attendance at our events is poor at best. I can only count on 1 or 2 to attend and help Geoff and I. That, in my humble opinion, is disgraceful.

When I first became chapter president in 2010, I set out to make the chapter the best small chapter in the state society with the philosophy of leading by example. Unfortunately, I feel that I led but few, if any, followed. The old saying of "it's a volunteer organization" has become, in my opinion, an excuse for being lazy. Most of the time I am doing over 80% of the work and that needs to change. For this chapter to be successful, we need to stay in the public eye. Just coming to a meeting and hearing a program after a meal does not keep us in the public's eye. How do we do this? Our events such as Halifax Day, grave markings, youth contests and co-sponsoring events with the DAR and C.A.R. Another aspect is the Public Service awards for the first responders, flag certificates and our Eagle Scout Awards. To make it all work, we need new individuals in the local area to step up and "learn the ropes". Geoff and I will not be able to carry the load indefinitely. We need local help to step up and start learning how we do things. It is time for someone to grow a backbone and step up. That is the only way we survive as a credible organization. The work load only gets heavier as we move toward the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. We will actually start on the 249th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves here in Halifax. That will be the kick-off event for the SAR in North Carolina. We need to start now. I have already been appointed to the Halifax County 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee so we, as a society, work with and not against plans made by the local groups.

As we move into 2023, as a chapter, we need to expand our outreach throughout the local area as well as our eight-county operating area. There needs to be equal emphasis in both areas. We need to continue with the grave markings, youth contests and all the afore-mentioned events to stay in the public eye. It takes time to train someone to take on some of these responsibilities. We need local help now. The duties and responsibilities have become too great for one person to handle. Three years ago, we had a lot of lip service about helping. That vanished before the next meeting, I am telling everyone in advance that I will be stepping down from the office of Chapter President at the November 2023 meeting. At this time, I do not see a situation where I will hold another chapter office. The decision to transfer my membership to another chapter is also still on the table. There are a lot of variables for me to consider and staying on as a member is one of them. I believe I have "paid my dues" as far as SAR service is concerned. Since I joined in April 2007, I have held the office of Chapter VP (2yrs), Chapter President (8 yrs.), Regional VP (1 yr.), State President (1yr.) and State Color Guard Com-

mander (1yr.). In addition, I have chaired or served on countless chapter and state committees with little or no assistance. We need a local person to step forward and take on some of the responsibilities. Geoff, should he decide to take president again, will need someone in the local area to assist him. You need to plan for me being out of the picture. One person locally cannot do this job the way it is supposed to be done, especially with the 250 th Anniversary events coming soon. We are essentially two years out from the 249th kick-off event. It cannot be put together in a week, much less overnight. It takes time and a long learning curve.

Fraternally,

Ken

C. Kenith Wilson



General George Washington Birthday Luncheon

Saturday, February 11th, 2023

11:30 am

Littleton Food and Spirits

235 North Mosby Avenue, Littleton, NC 27850

The guest speaker will be Dr. Troy Kickler, Founding Director of the North Carolina History Project and Editor of NorthCarolinaHistory.org

Hosted by the Elizabeth Montfort-Ashe Chapter NSDAR and the Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR

Requested dress is business – coat and tie or Colonial clothing/uniform

Please join us as we celebrate the life of one of our Founding Fathers

Meals will be \$25.00/person

There will be a choice of:

**#1—Hamburger Steak
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans**

**#2—Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans**

Dessert: Red Velvet Cake

Beverages will be: Sweet Tea, Unsweet Tea, Coffee and Water

**Reservation deadline is noon, February 6, 2023
Cancellations after that date will not be refunded**

Money for meals “Will Not” be collected at the door.

Checks should be made payable to: Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR

Please send RSVP with meal payment to:

**Ken Wilson
121 Northside Dr.
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870**

**Tel: 252-676-4630
boxcar27870@embarqmail.com**

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Office: _____

No. in party: _____

Meal Choice/Choices: #1 _____ **#2** _____

Amount enclosed: _____



247th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Halifax Resolves

Wednesday, April 12, 2022

10:30 am

Market Street

Historic Halifax, NC

A reception will be held Tuesday April 11th at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 74 Premier Blvd., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870, at 5:00 pm followed by a Dutch treat dinner at a local restaurant.

A block of rooms has been reserved for participants at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites at a cost of \$115.00/night + tax. Reservations may be made online with the reservation code of **SAR** or by calling the hotel direct at 252-535-3300. This block of rooms will be released on April 4, 2023.

Participant check-in will begin at 9:45. am.

Weapons check for Color Guard members will be 10:15 a. m. Late arriving members with weapons will not be allowed to carry weapons in the ceremony.

The guest speaker will be NSSAR President-General Bruce Pickett.

A post event luncheon will be held at the Halifax UMC, 152 S. King St., Halifax, NC. The meals will be \$15.00/person, RSVP required NLT Noon on Thursday, April 6, 2022.

RSVP's MUST arrive NLT Thursday, April 6th in order to be listed in the program and to be included in the meal reservations, if desired. RSVP's that arrive late will not be listed on the program and will not be recognized during the ceremony. Meal reservations that are cancelled after April 6th will not be refunded.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Color Guard: Yes ___ No ___ Will you present a wreath?: Yes ___ No: ___

Will you attend the luncheon at \$15.00/person: Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, how many in your party?: _____ Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSSAR . No money will be collected at the door.

Send RVSP by USPS or email to:

Ken Wilson
121 Northside Drive
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
boxcar27870@embarqmail.com

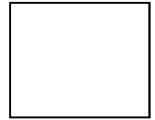
OR


Steve Avent
42 S. Fox Grape Lane
Southern Shores, NC 27949-3129
savent917@gmail.com



The Halifax Dispatch

*The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR,
Steve Avent, Editor*





The Halifax Dispatch
A publication of the
Halifax Resolves Chapter
of the
NC Sons of the American Revolution
Volume 22 —Number 1
January, 2023
Steve Avent, Editor
42 Fox Grape Ln.
Southern Shores, NC 27949
(252) 955-2103



Upcoming Activities

Jan 28: 242nd Commemoration of Battle of Cowan's Ford, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, 10500 Beatties Ford Road, Huntersville, NC

Winter Board of managers meeting, Hopewell Presbyterian Church, 10500 Beatties Ford Road, Huntersville, NC

Feb 11: Gen. George Washington Birthday Luncheon, Halifax Resolves Chapter, Littleton Food & Spirits, Littleton, NC

Feb 25: 2023 Battle of Moore's Creek Commemoration, Moore's Creek Battlefield, Currie, NC

Mar 15: 2023 Battle of Guilford Courthouse Commemoration, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, 2332 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC

Chapter Officers

President: Ken Wilson

121 Northside Dr., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 537-5406, boxcar27870@embarqmail.com

Vice President: Geoff Pittard

307 Jackson St., Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 532-0664, gespittard@gmail.com

Registrar: Bill Riggan

108 Loy Dr., Louisburg, NC 27549
(919) 495-0706, hrcregistrar@nc.rr.com

Secretary: Michael Cooper,

701 N. Main St., Louisburg, NC 27549
(919) 702-4055, michael.cooper.sar@gmail.com

Treasurer: Steve Avent

42 Fox Grape Ln, Southern Shores, NC 27949
(252) 955-2103, savent917@gmail.com

Chaplain Emeritus: Rev. Duncan Jones