

Message from the NC State President

(Below are some excerpts from the “President’s Dispatch” for August, from State President Steve Van Pelt):

The NCSSAR currently has 28 chapters and 1522 members! We continue to grow. This growth took a team effort from every member. If we are to continue to grow, then everyone must work within their chapter by stepping up and doing their part. There are numerous opportunities within every chapter to do so. Please encourage everyone to participate in meetings and chapter activities. Please read on to learn what is happening and will be happening around the state during the coming months.

Earlier this month several NCSSAR members attended the National Congress in Orlando. This was my first congress, and I am pleased to say that it was a very good experience. I urge you to consider attending a SAR Congress especially the one scheduled for Greensboro in 2026. You will make new friends with whom you can share ideas and perhaps even find a new cousin as I did this year. Add it to your 2026 calendar. Also, we will be needing volunteers for our Congress so attend next year’s 2024 Congress in Pennsylvania or the 2025 Congress in Connecticut to gain some experience!

The NCSSAR received numerous recognitions at the Monday evening Recognition Program during congress. Congratulations to all North Carolina compatriots and chapters who were recognized.

- NC took home over 61 awards, streamers, medals, and other recognition. A more comprehensive list will be provided next month.
- NC was #1 among large societies in the USS Stark Memorial Award for service to Veterans but in a Honorable Mention status because we cannot receive the award two years in a row. We also won the State Veterans Service Award for the largest percentage of

Chapters submitting USS Stark Memorial reports.

- NC was 1st place in two DAR/SAR Membership awards - number of DAR Finders Forms and percentage - with two cash awards for the DAR.
- Second year in a row, the Old North State Newsletter won the Grahame T. Smallwood, Jr. Award for best news publication for large state societies.
- Second year in a row, the Webster family in New Bern won the Thomas J. Bond Photography Award.
- The Raleigh Chapter won the President General Robert B. Vance Award for the best Chapter website.
- NC received the Admiral William R. Furlong Award and also the U.S. Flag Retirement Award for 50% of the Chapters presenting flag certificates and flag retirement certificates, respectively.
- 21 NC Chapters were awarded the Education Outreach Streamer - most among all state societies.
- NC was awarded the Walther G. Sterling Award for enrolling the largest number of C.A.R. members.

The September meeting will be held Wed., September 13, at Halifax United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 150 S. King St. in Halifax, at 6:30 pm.

On the agenda: Nomination of officers for 2024-2025.

The cost of the meal will be \$15. Reservations are required and must be in by noon on Fri., Sept. 8. Please contact Steve Avent by email at this address or telephone or text me at (252) 955-2103 if you’re coming.

The July chapter meeting was held July 12, 2023 and was held at the Halifax United Methodist Church in Halifax, NC, starting at 6:30 pm. President Geoff Pittard opened the meeting by welcoming all members and guests, Treasurer Steve Avent gave the invocation and Registrar Bill Riggan led all present in the SAR Pledge. Guest Tucker Nobles was introduced at his seat, and the meeting paused for the meal. After the meal, the minutes were approved and Treasurer Avent reported that the chapter bank account contained \$2,066.22, a Youth fund balance of \$1,492.50, leaving a balance in the General fund of \$573.72.

President Pittard next reported on the following:

- * his participation in the recent Patriot’s Day ceremony at Alamance Battleground
- * results of the Brochure Contest
- * we have a grave marking scheduled for October, with another grave to be marked after that
- * he appointed VP/Registrar Bill Riggan and Mark Pace to a committee to review the chapter bylaws, and make recommendation to the chapter for updates. He then asked Bill Riggan to give a status report.

VP Riggan reported that as the current bylaws were over 20 years old, they were due for review. He explained that he and Mark had as their goal keeping the revised bylaws as simple and straightforward as possible and hoped to present their updated bylaws at the chapter’s September meeting. He then presented the Registrar’s report, and announced that he received two new applications this week and is currently working on 5 or 6 more. President Pittard reported on the following new business:

- * we need several volunteers to serve as a chapter Speaker’s Bureau, willing to give speeches on SAR-related subjects in the area.
- * planning is underway on the 2024 Halifax Resolves ceremony
- * new member Doug Wright was inducted, and presented with the SAR new member handbook and his new member packet. Bill Riggan pinned the SAR rosette on his jacket, and Comp. Wright then gave a brief talk about his Revolutionary War ancestor, and then thanked Bill for all of his hard work and help during the application process.

President Pittard then gave the presentation for the evening, which was a most interesting and informative video entitled “Rarities of the Revolutionary War: David Bushnell and the submarine “Turtle””. President Pittard then led the members in the SAR Recessional, Steve Avent gave a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Steve Avent, Secretary Pro. Tem.

Treasurer’s Report for September, 2023

Ending Balance as of July 2023 meeting: **\$2,066.22**
 Deposits: **\$360.00**
 Checks: **\$1,050.63**
 Current Checking Acct Balance: **\$2,027.77**

Youth fund balance: **\$1,492.50**
 General fund balance: **\$535.27**

08/07/23	CHECK #2116	\$20.85	Fee to re-file 2021 1099-N
08/01/23	DEPOSIT	\$155.00	July meeting meal payments
07/14/23	CHECK #2115	\$160.00	July meeting meals

- **APPROVED APPLICATIONS**

Preston Armand Fortin - Supplemental; Patriot, Simon Lane

- **SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS**

Tucker Nobles - Patriot, Nathaniel Nobles

- **APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS**

Kenneth Christison - Patriot, Robert Lewis

Kenneth Askew - Patriot, Wyatt Warrick

Zack Myers - Patriot, John Reel

Dwight Neal - Patriot, William Perry

Bobby Cooper - Patriot, Thomas Woodward

Willis Richardson - Patriot, Benjamin Richardson

John Powell - Patriot, David Crawley

Bill Riggan, Registrar

Recent Activities

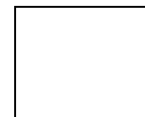
We had the pleasure of inducting a new member at our July meeting—Doug Wright, who is the Director of Theatre, Technical Director, for the Colonial Center for the Performing Arts in South Hill, VA. Pictured below at left is Registrar Bill Riggan pinning the SAR rosette on his lapel. On the right, Comp. Mark Pace (center, holding plaque) was the keynote speaker at a ceremony sponsored by the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration on September 9th, in Stovall, NC, marking the grave of Susanna Penn, wife of Signer John Penn. Mark gave a most interesting presentation in the character of John Penn, and Geoff Pittard, Steve Avent and Mark provided the Color Guard. On either side of Mark are some direct descendants of John Penn.






The Halifax Dispatch

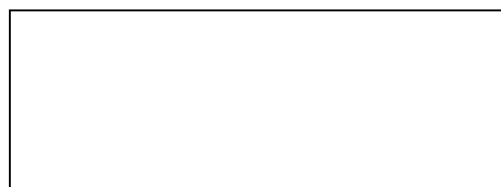
*The Newsletter of the Halifax Resolves Chapter, NCSSAR,
Steve Avent, Editor*





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Upcoming Activities

September 9, 2 pm: Plaque dedication ceremony at grave of Susanna Lyne Penn, wife of Declaration of Independence Signer John Penn, sponsored by the National Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Stovall Branch Library, Granville Co., NC.

Constitution Day, Sept 17

The Crossing Commemoration (Morganton, NC), Oct 1

Battle of Kings Mountain, Oct 7

243rd Battle of Shallow Ford Commemoration, Oct 14

Battle of Great Bridge, Dec 2

North Carolina Hosts the NSSAR Congress, Greensboro, Jul 2026

Chapter Officers

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