

Minutes of the Sons of the American Revolution, Norfolk Chapter
Membership Meeting
March 27, 2021

President Gary Pridgen called the meeting to order at 11:00 am at the Princess Anne Country Club.

Chaplain Wayne Boone gave the Invocation, Mark Jumper led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Bob Bruce led the SAR Pledge.

President Pridgen then introduced guests that included Cameron Ballinger, our winner of the Knight Essay contest, his parents, and his grandparents.

President Pridgen continued by saying that we are disappointed that Catie Wasenko, President of the Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution (V.S.C.A.R.), was unable to be with us to speak about her project, as her ride had become ill.

Compatriot Tom Whetstone then spoke briefly about the Great Bridge Foundation. Docents can now give tours at the site. Future projects may include reconstruction of the wooden British fort and the colonists' breastworks.

President Pridgen then spoke about our streamers on our chapter flag, and that we have quite a number, due partly to the fact that we are the second oldest chapter in Virginia. In 2020 we were able to hold four of our six meetings, which was good in comparison to other chapters that were not able to have meetings. Hopefully, as covid recedes, more members will be able to attend.

Members and guests were then treated to a nice meal before the business meeting started after lunch.

In reopening the meeting, President Pridgen introduced our speaker, Cameron Ballinger, who was the winner of our Knight Essay contest. He is the grandson of our member, Dean Burgess. Cameron is an Eagle Scout and member of the Order of the Arrow. He is also a cross-country runner on his high school team, and is headed to Roanoke College where he plans to study Kinesiology.

Cameron gave his presentation, "007 of the Revolution," about James Armistead, an enslaved person who was a double agent for the Marquis de Lafayette. He was able to give critical information on the British plans at Yorktown. After the war he gained his freedom and took the last name of Lafayette.

President Pridgen presented Cameron as our Chapters' Knight Essay Contest winner with a Certificate, Essay Medal and Monetary Award.

The minutes from our November meeting were approved as amended by Tom Whetstone.

Treasurer Report: Mike O'Shea was not able to be present, but President Pridgen stated that our balance was \$1710.10.

Unfinished business:

- We still have certificates to present to thirty Eagle Scouts and the Good Citizen Certificate to a Sea Scout.
- Bruce Meyer, VASSAR First Vice President is looking for assistance for the State website.
- Ken Hawkins is working on several grave markings later in the year.
- President Pridgen is working on the 240th anniversary of the Battle of the Capes.
- At this year's Annual Meeting of VASSAR we were given the following Chapter Awards: (Streamers)
 1. Flag Recognition Program
 2. Chapter Excellence award
 3. Participation in three NASSAR Historical Events: Battle of Great Bridge, Yorktown, and Crossing of the Dan
 4. A Streamer Star for Graves Registration
- Mike O'Shea received the Patriot Grave Marking Medal for participating in fifteen grave markings.

There being no further business the meeting concluded with William Davis leading the SAR Recessional and Chaplain Wayne Boone gave the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Robert E. Bruce, Historian