

Minutes of the Sons of the American Revolution, Norfolk Chapter  
Membership Meeting  
May 22, 2021

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

The Invocation was given by Wayne Boone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Bruce.

The Pledge of the SAR was led by Henry Almond.

President Gary Pridgen introduced our guest, Ross Schwalm, President of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, USMC (Retired) Artillery Officer and member of the American Legion Post #364 in Woodbridge who will also be our speaker.

The meeting then broke for lunch.

After lunch President Gary Pridgen introduced our speaker. Ross Schwalm has a B.A. in Political Science, a B.A. in History, and M.S. in Education. In addition to his SAR activities, he also has been a docent at the Anderson House for the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati in Washington, D.C., is the President of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, Inc. which does history publication and genealogical research, and is a descendant from both sides in the American Revolution, a Continental Militiaman (John Lebo) and Hessian soldier (Johannes Schwalm). His topic today was "Hessians in Dumfries, Virginia 1777."

After the talk President Gary Pridgen called for the minutes of the March 27, 2021 be approved. A motioned was made, seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Mike O'Shea gave his report and stated that we had \$1,423.23 for month ending April 30, 2021. He also stated that we were approved for tax exempt status, and do not pay State taxes.

President Gary Pridgen continued with VASSAR and Chapter Old/Unfinished or New Business:

- Jeffery Thomas, VASSAR President on a Zoom call meeting discussed the formation of a four Region Structure to better coordinate the three areas of VASSAR focus:
  - Youth Activities
  - Membership
  - Community Affairs

- Each member should let the President know when they participate in SAR activities. This information is needed for Chapter awards and/or recognition.
- We have 37 Eagle Scouts to recognize with congratulatory letters and SAR Eagle Scout certificates. Ken Hawkins is looking to pass the Eagle Scout torch, having processed over 1000, to someone to take over the responsibilities of Eagle Scout Chairman.
- Tim Ahlgrim has the Norfolk Chapter ROTC and J/ROTC awards to finalize. Tim continues to present awards with a few schools still working out details due to the pandemic.
- We have some membership applications still in the pipeline.
- A reminder was put out that elections are coming in the Fall, and those interested should step forward.
- The Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story Installation Support Request Form has been submitted and approved. The Battle of the Virginia Capes Commemoration will be on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. Current Base instructions require that someone assigned to the Base, with proper contact information, must be the Chapter's Military Sponsor.
- Ken Hawkins has located in Cedar Grove Cemetery seven Patriot's Graves. The Chapter will have a grave marking ceremony in September in conjunction with the Society of the War of 1812's twenty Patriot Graves.
- The Norfolk Chapter has presented and attended wreath laying ceremonies at Historic Tuckahoe, Richmond, VA, Ebenezer Church, Bluemont, VA, and this afternoon at Shockoe Hill Cemetery, Richmond, VA. On May 28<sup>th</sup> for Patrick Henry's Birthday in Red Hill, Brookneal, VA and May 31<sup>st</sup> at West Point Cemetery in Norfolk.
- Mike O'Shea and Wayne Boone were given Certificates of Appreciation by the Chapter President and to Robert Bruce in absentia.

There being no further business, the Recessional of the SAR was led by Richard Walker and the Benediction was given by Wayne Boone.

Respectfully submitted for approval,

Robert E. Bruce, Historian