



# Lafayette Society Newsletter



SPECIAL EDITION

The Lafayette Society Annual meeting and Banquet was a success!

If you missed it, this special edition of the newsletter will give you the highlights of the event and we definitely will be waiting for you next year! If you were there with us, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, it was a great pleasure to share this meal with you.

The meeting started in good spirits as we were enjoying a good North Carolina weather, I hope it was a nice welcome to our northern guest speaker, Charles Schwam, Treasurer, Newsletter and National Event Coordinator for the American Friends of Lafayette from Philadelphia. New faces and long time friends chit chatted and greeted each other: from the buzz of the room it was clear that everybody had a great time. The crowd settled little by little to listen to the address of our President, Dr. Hank Parfitt.

Following this official greeting, the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry Company kept the tradition and posted the Colors with brio to the tempo of *Scotland the Brave* played on the bagpipes. And they did great as always (The Scots would say: "Braw!" = good, excellent!)

A French class from Terry Sanford, their teacher Nicole Rumley, and several French exchange students took part in our celebration by singing the French Marseillaise with the rest of the Francophile crowd led by Captain Daniel Toven, Commander of the Army Ground Force Band (If you haven't done it yet, check out the last newsletter to learn some details about the French National Anthem). Everybody then joined to sing the Star Spangled





Bill Hurley, former Mayor of Fayetteville, gave the invocation and the buffet began. Later, he told us about the Lafayette Society's exciting plans to build a plaza around the Lafayette Statue in Cross Creek Park.



While everybody enjoyed a wonderful luncheon, the Thiriot Family delighted us with a quintet of violins and a bass clarinet. The youngest player, Jacob was only 5 and Madalyn turned 8 the day of the Banquet. The crowd was impressed by such a great talented family band! Monica, Darrin, Kaitlyn, James, Madalyn and Jacob: thank you for sharing your musical gift with us!

After the reports of the Board of Directors, Charles Schwam gave a very enthusiastic speech on how he discovered Lafayette and how this man changed his life. His numerous adventures abroad thrilled the crowd and hopefully we will see him again in Philadelphia for the next meeting of the American Friends of Lafayette in June. To learn more about this organization and how to become a member, visit [www.friendsoflafayette.org](http://www.friendsoflafayette.org).



The retirement of the colors followed, we said goodbye and went back home, replete, happy to see how Lafayette brings people together in this common effort to follow his spirit of patriotism and generosity. Thank you again to each one of you who contributed to this success!

Vive Lafayette!

Sylvaine, Special correspondent, Lafayette Society

