



Illinois

DAR NEWS

VOL 66 ISSUE 1 JULY 2025



State Theme:

Education Rings the
Bell for Liberty

State Symbol:

Liberty Bell of the West

State Motto:

Educate, Celebrate,
America 250!

State Scriptures:

"Now the Lord is that
Spirit; and where the
Spirit of the Lord is,
there is liberty."

2 Corinthians 3:17 [KJV]

"For the entire law is
fulfilled in keeping this
one command: 'Love
your neighbor as
yourself.'"

Galatians 5:14 [NIV]

State Song:

"You're a Grand Old
Flag!"

State Regent's Message

Dear Illinois Daughters,

It is with great joy and dedication that I begin this administration alongside each of you. I am honored to serve as your Illinois State Regent and excited to work with you on building the Illinois DAR ***America 250!*** legacy project – **The Liberty Education Plaza**. This future addition to the Flag Day Monument in Batavia will provide a devoted space for reflection, discussion, and learning. Together, we will preserve history, educate minds, and inspire future generations.



It was truly meaningful to attend Continental Congress with so many Illinois Daughters! Our state shined brightly as we were honored with numerous national awards and made a strong and positive presence throughout the week. I was delighted to see such a wonderful attendance at the New State Officers Luncheon. The theme, ***In the Good Old Summertime***, set the tone for a joyful gathering, made even more memorable by the uplifting and spirited performance of the ***South of Normal*** barbershop quartet.

DAR Days are just around the corner, and I encourage all members to take part in this informational and exciting event! My new **Liberty Bell of the West** pins will be available, as well as a variety of new patriotic and practical merchandise designed to support our project and promote our DAR mission. The state Roster, *Biennial Proceedings*, the President General's beautiful pins and merchandise, Junior Shoppe, and much more will be available. Our state chairs will highlight the work of their committees through engaging and creatively designed displays. I hope to see many of you there!

In gratitude and friendship,

Marria

Marria Elliott Blinn
State Regent 2025-2027



State Regent's Itinerary:

AUGUST 2025

8-9: Cathedral of the Pines

23: Asa Cottrell Chapter

SEPTEMBER 2025

3-6: DAR Days

9: Ann Crooker St Clair

10: Belleville AM

10: Benjamin Mills PM

11: Whiteside Station AM

11: Looking Glass Prairie PM

12: Prairie State AM

12: Edwardsville PM

13: Ninian Edwards AM

13: Isaac Hull PM

14: Looking Glass Prairie anniv

15: Walter Burdick AM

15: James Halstead Sr MID

15: Toussaint du Bois PM

16: Silver Creek MID

16: Cahokia Mound PM

The State Regent continues to schedule appointments. If your chapter has not been contacted yet, please expect a call soon.



State Chaplain's Corner

Dear Illinois Daughters,

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is quoted: "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." I have applied this quote to many periods of uncertainty in my life. In these times I felt that God impressed on me, "Do whatever I put in front of you, just step in faith and I will not let you fail." This realization has brought me so much peace in life.

We are all on a journey in life, some paths being hard and others seemingly carefree. Many times, we have no way of knowing what kind of path we will be walking on until we take that first step. The one thing I am certain of, we will never move forward in life without taking that "first step." Just as Dr King reminds us, nothing starts without that first step of faith.

I have felt your support in my most recent "step of faith," being elected Chaplain for the state of Illinois and for this I am grateful. I feel pride in both our organization and our Illinois daughters!

May our loving Creator hold you and strengthen you with every step you take.

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we live by faith, not by sight."

In DAR Friendship and Unity,

Debby Katzman

Protocol Pointers

From our *DAR Handbook* we learn Protocol is ceremonial courtesies that are proper etiquette for recognizing Daughters in positions of leadership. These fundamental principles of protocol are ethical and relay to others your knowledge of good manners. Every state officer, state chair, and chapter regent needs this *Handbook*. It contains the Protocol Committee information for our National Society.

The President General is the highest ranking officer of the National Organization and the State Regent is the highest ranking officer in her state. It is customary for members to stand when these ladies enter a room or are presented.

All appointees inform your yearbook chair of your particular appointment so you can receive credit in your chapter yearbook.

This chair is happy to assist with your particular protocol situations.

Mary Jo Mordhorst

Mary Jo was very excited to serve as Protocol Chair. She loved sharing protocol information with everyone. This article was submitted prior to her passing.

State Nominating Committee

Congratulations to the delegates of the State Nominating Committee who were elected at their respective district meetings:

- District I: Valerie Horton [alternate Denise Scislowicz]
- District II: Dawn Wexell [alternate Cathy Carlton]
- District III: Julie Woller [alternate Jackie Gumm]
- District IV: Joyce Wright [alternate Karen Stiehr]
- District V: Nila Catron [alternate Diana Weyhenmeyer]
- District VI: Julie Barnes [alternate Christy McDougal]
- District VII: Karen Simmons [alternate Barb Easter]
- Advisor: Sharla Luken, Honorary State Regent

Positions for which nominations will be sought are Vice Regent, Corresponding Secretary, Organizing Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian. Please consider sharing your skills and talents with our Illinois Daughters by offering to serve on our state board.

Illuminate Our Legacy

Congratulations to newly installed President General Ginnie Sebastian Storage.

We look forward to hearing more in depth about her national goals and mission in the near future.



Daughters, please check out the national website for updated information on committees, projects, and programs. We are excited to support her cherry blossom trees legacy project, the library restoration project, and celebrating America 250!

We wish Mrs. Storage well during her illuminating administration.

District Directors 2025-2027

District I

Amy Balensiefen
Geneseo Chapter

District II

Laurie Perry
Rochelle Chapter

District III

Jane Faust
Stephen A Douglas Chapter

District IV

Mary Arvidson
Eli Skinner Chapter

District V

Lynda Kerstein
Springfield Chapter

District VI

Barb Buchanan
Whiteside Station Chapter

District VII

Jeanne Bierman
Beaucoup Creek Chapter



COMMITTEES CORNER

Constitution Week Committee

Susie Wurth, State Chair

Annually September 17-23

Constitution Week Goals:

- Emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution.
- Inform people that the Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage and the foundation for our way of life.
- Encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787.

How can we meet the goals?

- Constitution Minutes at meetings and in newsletters
- recite the Preamble at meetings
- distribute materials within the community
- ring bells at 3 p.m. CT on September 17

Visit the ILDAR website for poster contest instructions, sample proclamations, and ideas for activities.

AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE 2025-2026

SHARE WITH YOUR CHAPTER MEMBERS! GET CMR CREDIT!
SAVE AND SHARE STORIES THROUGH ARTS & CRAFTS!

CONTEST

From NBM Minutes - October 12, 2024:



- The 2025-2026 contest theme: "The Road to Independence – Acts of Rebellion and Treason. The American colonists participated in many acts of defiance against the British Crown. Some of these acts were illegal and could have landed them in jail or worse, gotten them hanged. But independence meant so much that they were willing to risk it all. Which action (or actions) taken by our Patriot ancestors stand out to you on the path of becoming a free and independent nation?"
- The 2025-2026 Historic Costume focus era: "1824-1825 Lafayette Farewell Tour." You are attending a ball in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette. What will you or your escort be wearing?"

7 main arts & crafts categories with more than 50 subcategories!

All submissions are made electronically and include a narrative.

Art and Sculpture•Crafts•Fiber Arts•Jewelry•Literature & Drama•Music•Photography

CONTEST SUBMISSION DEADLINES

anticipated:

Jan 2-Jan 15, 2026 Fiber Arts: submit entries electronically to the Illinois state committee chair. One entry will be forwarded to national chair.

Jan 2-Feb 15, 2026 All other categories: submit entries electronically directly to national chairs of their categories

Options and instructions will be updated after awards are made at Continental Congress. Currently via

<https://www.dar.org/members/committees/service-committees/american-heritage/committee-overview>

WOMEN IN THE ARTS RECOGNITION AWARD

— submit any time



Need ideas or help?

Lucinda Lawrence

LL.musicmom@gmail.com

c. (217) 722-4432

American History Committee

Diana Weyhenmeyer, State Chair

Be sure to check out the ILDAR website for complete instructions.

American History Essay Contest

2025 – 2026 Essay Title: “Lunch with a Signer”

Question: America will celebrate her 250th birthday on July 4, 2026! If you could go back in time and meet one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for lunch, who would you choose? How did their actions and service contribute to our Country becoming independent?

- Open to Grades 5–8
- Length 300-1,000 words (depending on grade level, please check forms)
- Chapters are encouraged to contact their schools, community libraries, church and youth organizations early.



Patriots of the American Revolution DAR High School Essay Contest



Select a figure from the era of the American Revolution (1773-1783). Discuss how he or she influenced the course of the American Revolution, who he or she was and his/her contribution to the founding of a new nation. Figures may be any person, whether a well-known figure or an everyday man, woman, or child who supported the American Revolution in ways large or small.

- Students are encouraged to use primary sources (i.e. immediate, first-hand accounts such as letters, diaries speeches, or newspaper reports) for their research.
- Lesser-known figures are acceptable, but subjects must have been actual participants, i.e. not fictional.
- First, second, and third place winners are selected.

2025 – 2026 Video

Title: “Lunch with a Signer”

Question: America will celebrate her 250th birthday on July 4, 2026! If you could go back in time and meet one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for lunch, who would you choose? How did their actions and service contribute to our Country becoming independent?

Open to Grades 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9-12

Chapters are encouraged to contact their schools, community libraries, church and youth organizations **early** about participating.

One video at each grade level is selected as the chapter winner.



Community Classroom Committee

Jennifer May, State Chair

Legacy Grant

The NSDAR is offering PreK-16 teachers and administrators "American Revolution Legacy Grants" that support educational initiatives or student programs (for young and old), enhance student academic performance, and reward creative approaches to support higher levels of student learning.

- Application Opens: MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025
- Due Date: SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026, AT 11:59 PM PST

GUIDELINES:

- Maximum grant amount: \$5,000 per application
- The programs/initiatives in the 2026 application must be executed during the 2026-27 school year.
- All grant requests should focus on a project, not a purchase.

DAR Good Citizens Committee

Linda Gray, State Chair

Dear Illinois Daughters: In order to ensure a successful DAR Good Citizens year, be sure to:

- Contact schools and deliver all DAR Good Citizens materials immediately.
- Familiarize yourself with the NSDAR website as all of the information you will need is right at your fingertips – instructions and overview of the scholarship contest, sample cover letter, student cover sheet, and judges' evaluation form. This information is found in the Members only section of the NSDAR website. Click on Committees, then click on DAR Good Citizens.
- Use only the current year information. The bottom of the page should show – 2025.



Be sure to deliver materials to the schools by September 15, 2025.

NSDAR Bylaws

Daughters at the 134th Continental Congress Vote to Amend National Bylaws

June 30, 2025

Voters at the 134th Continental Congress approved several important changes to the national bylaws.

Fees and Dues

- Annual national dues were raised to \$52 for members through a chapter and to \$72 for members-at-large. The increase was based, as prescribed in the bylaws, on the cumulative three-year increase in the Consumer Price Index.
- The life member fee was set at \$1,500 in light of the increase in annual dues.

This change is effective with the upcoming dues cycle. The latest version of the bylaws of the National Society will be available on the DAR Members' Website soon.

Continental Congress



Passing of
gavel, sash,
and ribbon



New State Officers Luncheon

Front row L-R:
Carolyn Borner, Registrar
Deborah Katzman, Chaplain
Marria Blinn, Regent
Kathryn Barnsley, Recording
Secretary
Paula Garrett, Historian



Thank you, Pages, for serving at the luncheon



2025 DAR DAYS MEETING INFORMATION

Mark your calendar now to attend the 2025 DAR Days. Below is the schedule:

REGISTRATION: 8:00 a.m. / MEETING: 9:00 a.m.

You are welcome to attend the meeting that is most convenient to your location even though you may be in a different district.

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**Thursday, September 4, 2025 / South [Districts VI & VII]**

DoubleTree by Hilton, 222 Potomac Blvd., Mount Vernon, IL 62864

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Friday, September 5, 2025 / Central [Districts I, III & V]

Northfield Inn, Suites, & Conference Center, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702

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**Saturday, September 6, 2025 / North [Districts II & IV]**

DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville, 3003 Corporate West Dr., Lisle, IL 60532

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Additional information and registration forms will be available soon.

REMINDER: 13 print copies of your chapter yearbooks & bylaws must be submitted at DAR Days. Electronic copies in PDF format must be submitted by September 1.

Questions? Contact Yearbook State Chair Paula Mattix-Wand at pjmw89@gmail.com

Illinois DAR News

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State Regent

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New State Officers Luncheon

