



# Illinois

## DAR NEWS

VOL 66 ISSUE 2 SEPTEMBER 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-

DAR Days was a wonderful success! Many state officers and state chairs traveled by bus from northern to southern Illinois, sharing information and friendship along the way. Each stop welcomed record attendance, and it was a joy to see friends across the state. Thank you to our state officers and chairs for presenting committee updates, and to our members for taking time to attend. We were delighted that so many of our Honorary State Regents joined us to learn about our committees and reconnect with friends. I'd like to extend special thanks to those who helped set up and run the State Regent's Project sales table, and to the hostess chapters who checked in everyone at the door and provided table decorations and favors.

If you missed this event, committee information is available on the Illinois DAR members' webpage at <https://www.ildar.org/members/sip.html> under SIP (State Information Packet letters).

As Illinois prepares to commemorate America's 250th birthday, we have embraced a legacy project that reflects our mission of historic preservation, education, and patriotism. The **Liberty Education Plaza** will complete the original vision for the Flag Day Monument in Batavia. Named for the Liberty Bell of the West in Kaskaskia, the plaza will feature circular tiered seating, a pergola for shade, writing spaces, and a podium for programs and ceremonies.

I am grateful for the enthusiasm of our members in supporting this lasting tribute. Together, we will ensure that Illinois DAR proudly honors **America 250!** with a permanent legacy inscribed on the plaza's donor wall:

"Liberty Education Plaza – Illinois State Organization, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution."

As I travel throughout the state to visit all of our wonderful chapters, I am impressed by the outstanding dedication that our members have to this organization. Thank you for joining me as we Educate, Celebrate **America 250!**

In gratitude and friendship,

*Marria*

Marria Elliott Blinn

State Regent 2025-2027





### **State Regent's Itinerary:**

#### 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

#### OCTOBER 2025

1-3: Kate Duncan Smith School  
6: Governor Thomas Ford  
7-11: National Board of  
Management, DC  
14: Mount Carroll AM  
14: Wabash PM  
15: Michael Hillegas AM  
15: Fort Massac PM  
16: Daniel Chapman AM  
16: Daniel H. Brush PM  
17: Jesse Gordon AM  
17: Liberty Bell of the West  
PM

## **State Chaplain's Corner**

Dear Illinois Daughters,

As the State chaplain, I was thrilled to be on the bus tour to Mt Vernon, Springfield, and on to Lisle for DAR Days. I felt the energy that all of you brought with you at each stop. I was delighted to be able to meet with Illinois' daughters! I was reminded of the quote from Confucius that translates to "Is it not pleasure to meet with friends from afar?" My answer is YES, IT IS!

At DAR Days, I was inspired by the chair of each committee, who brought us the opportunity to engage in meaningful service. DAR Day of Service is October 11<sup>th</sup>, and the DAR Day of Prayer is October 12<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to take some time to pray in your faith on this day. Please pause with grateful hearts for the many blessings we have as Americans, the freedoms we share, and for those who made those freedoms possible.

I am genuinely grateful for our shared DAR friendships and the service we do!

Psalms 107:1-3

Blessings,

*Debby Katzman*

## **Protocol Pointers**

When a guest is invited to speak, there are certain courtesies which should be extended. A guest speaker may be the State Regent, the District Director, outside speaker, or chapter member. One courtesy is when the State Regent makes her official visit, she is the speaker. An honorarium should be made to her state regent's project and sent to the state treasurer. When the district director makes her official visit, she is the speaker. An honorarium should be made and she should be asked ahead of time to where she wishes to direct the honorarium.

Another courtesy is to have a member be assigned to help greet the speaker outside the meeting space. The greeter will assist with questions such as where to set up, place personal items or "freshen up". Remember, if the communication between speaker and greeter is by text message, start the text message with your first and last name and your chapter name.

*Patricia Cork*

State Chair, Protocol Committee



## Constitution Week Committee

Susie Wurth, State Chair

### Constitution Day – September 17th

September 17th marks a special day in our nation's history: Constitution Day. It's the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the U.S. Constitution, a document that has shaped our country and protected our liberties for over two centuries.

The Constitution is more than just a historical text; it's a living document that continues to define our rights and responsibilities as citizens. It outlines the framework of our government and ensures a system of checks and balances that protects the people.

On this Constitution Day, we encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the principles that unite us. To remember with pride, the initiative our ancestors and patriots took to ensure we would live with a democracy in this new land. Go to our [ildar.org/members](http://ildar.org/members) webpage and check out the *Constitution Week supplement* for ideas on chapter projects for memorable observations with members, schools, and community. Encourage those you know to participate in the **Constitution Week Poster Contest**. Bags of 10 bells each were sold at **DAR Days** for \$5, with the collected funds going to the **State Regent's Project**. *DAR Constitution Week posters* are available for purchase from this chair.

*You are especially encouraged to participate on September 17th in "Bells Across America" at 3:00 p.m. CST. Be a part of our national celebration with one minute of simultaneous bell ringing across the land, followed by reciting the Preamble to the Constitution.*

Let's celebrate our shared heritage and renew our commitment to the values that make our country strong. Happy Constitution Day!

### State Regent's Itinerary [continued]:

#### OCTOBER 2025

18: Beaucoup Creek AM  
18: Old Goshen Trail PM  
24: SAR Great Lakes District Meeting

#### NOVEMBER 2025

1: Chicago Chapter  
2: Apple Creek Prairie  
3: Sergeant Caleb Hopkins  
5: Stephen A. Douglas  
7: Abraham Lincoln AM  
8: Dr. Silas Hamilton AM  
8: Springfield PM  
9: Nancy Ross 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary MID  
9: Dorothy Quincy PM  
14: ISO Board Meeting  
15: State Conference Planning Committee

## Historic Preservation Committee

Audra Gray, State Chair

The Historic Preservation Committee is encouraging chapters and states to Illuminate Our Legacy by actively participating in ways to preserve the past, recognize those who are presently working in volunteer preservation, and working to catalogue these efforts to invest in the future.



This can be done by starting in your own community and grants are available (August-October 1<sup>st</sup>). While everyone tends to think of buildings as worthy projects for preservation, there are many smaller projects as well. Perhaps there is an old cemetery nearby that needs clean-up and restoration. Is there an old, forgotten monument that needs some help? Does your library or local historical society have documents or pictures that need cataloging? Has your community discovered a past that hasn't been honored? These are just a few suggestions of how you and your chapter can get involved in historic preservation. There's even a DAR contest for your chapter's efforts.

## Junior American Citizens Committee

Laura Kwak, State Chair



**2025-2026 Theme:**

**Celebrating 250 years of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness: Happy Birthday, America! 1776-2026.**

**CONTEST DEADLINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:** All chapters and states should adhere to the national deadlines. Please do not set earlier deadlines.

- By January 1: Chapter chair sends first place winning entries to the state chair. Chapter chair will retain original entries and forward a copy to the state chair.
- By January 15: State chair sends first place winning entries to the division vice chair.
- By February 1: Division vice chairs send first place winning entries to the national vice chairs.
- By February 15: National vice chair sends first, second, third, and possibly honorable mention winning entries to the national chair.
- By March 1: National chair announces winners. Certificates will be mailed in a timely manner.

## Literacy Promotion Committee

Tatiana Funkhouser, State Chair

### NATIONAL CONTEST INFORMATION

The Literacy Promotion Committee National Contest recognizes outstanding service by DAR members, chapters and states in the promotion of literacy. Contest winners demonstrate outstanding activity in at least one of three areas of emphasis: **Honor our Spirit of Partnership, Focus on Future Readers or Illuminate the DAR's Commitment to Literacy Promotion.**



Application and documentation are required. There is one application form for all submissions. Entry form can be found below. Entries due to state chair by **January 5.**



# 2026 Continental Congress Bus Trip

## Alice Fry Uphouse, State Transportation Chair

Greetings, everyone! Are you ready for an exciting trip to Continental Congress 2026?

We leave Sunday June 21 at 7:00 AM from the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington, next stop Holiday Inn Express Bolingbrook. We stop every two hours for a brief break, arriving in Fremont, Ohio at the President Rutherford B. Hayes Museum. The hotel in Fremont is the Comfort Inn. We leave bright and early 7:00 AM, stopping in Breezewood, Pennsylvania for lunch. We arrive at the Washington Plaza, 10 Thomas Circle, DC, for our 6 night stay.



Tuesday we attend the Flag raising ceremony, register, some surprises, and then our wonderful Illinois Supper, It's our night to shine. Wednesday is opening night; we cheer when our Illinois Flag comes down the aisle. We greet our new President General Ginnie Sebastian Storage; and when the American flag is unfurled from the ceiling, it will take your breath away. Meetings and lunches throughout the week. (Check the conference web site when it's available for information on events).



Saturday we vote and support Honorary State Regent Debra Ross Coe for Vice President General.

Sunday we will attend the Memorial Service (remember to bring your white gloves) and the installation of our new Illinois State Vice Regent.

Immediately after, we board the bus and enjoy a delicious box lunch while we travel to the Holiday Inn Express in Akron, Ohio for our overnight, Monday morning we will travel to Canton, Ohio where we'll lay a wreath at President William McKinley's grave. Then it's homeward bound, remembering a trip filled with laughter, new friends, and special memories of the amazing Illinois Daughters. HODARS are most welcome.

\$200.00 deposit due by December 31, 2025. Final Payment due April, 1, 2026, No refunds after May 1 2026. Single room occupancy is \$2,875.00. Double room occupancy is \$1,815.00.

Illinois Supper included in the cost

Questions: just call 815.847.0575 or email [aliceandralph@comcast.net](mailto:aliceandralph@comcast.net).

## Insignia

### Cathy Carlton, State Chair

*Illuminating Insignia - Women's Suffrage (#PM0055)*



The design of the pin is rich with meaning. Shaped as a cockade, it connects us to both the Revolutionary War and the suffrage movement. In the 18th century, cockades—rosettes or knots of ribbon—were worn to distinguish soldiers and officers in the Continental Army, which had no standard uniforms. Later, suffragists adopted cockades to declare their support. In a time when women's voices were often silenced, these visual symbols of protest offered solidarity, subtle resistance, and sisterhood. The colors used in the pin, purple and white, were made famous by the National Woman's Party, led by Alice Paul. Purple stood for loyalty and dignity. White stood for purity and moral strength, a strategic message to combat stereotypes that suffragists were radical or

"unwomanly." At the heart of this pin is a radiant gold sunflower, a symbol first embraced by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton during the 1867 Kansas campaign. The sunflower represented hope, growth, and brightness—a future illuminated by equality.

Together, women can do remarkable things! One shining example is that proceeds from the DAR Insignia Store have allowed DAR to donate \$1,000,000 to the upcoming National Women's Suffrage Monument in Washington, D.C.!

Illuminate Our Legacy.

## Chief Senachwine Chapter

The Chief Senachwine Chapter NSDAR and the city of Henry held a ceremony on August 23 to unveil a commemorative marker honoring Abraham Lincoln's 1858 visit during his U.S. Senate campaign. Approximately 75 people attended, including students, city officials, local residents, and DAR members. The American Legion featured a flag presentation. Lincoln campaign music, speakers retelling the exciting visit and parade to the speaker's stand by the 2500 attendees in 1858, and remarks by Mayor Jeff Bergfeld highlighted the ceremony. Emcee and chapter registrar Sharon Bittner and co-chair and chapter regent Jean Galetti noted the marker, which was funded in part by a DAR grant, was placed in Henry's Central Park.



## State Nominating Committee

During DAR Days, the 2025 Illinois State Nominating Committee announced the following slate of candidates for Board of Management positions for the 2026 term. The election will take place at the April 2026 State Conference.

State Vice Regent: Carol Castellon, Alliance Chapter, District III

State Corresponding Secretary: Bobbie Today, Louis Joliet Chapter, District IV

State Organizing Secretary: Nikki Swafford Bravman, Culper Ring Agent 355 Chapter, District IV

State Treasurer: Judy Janovyak, Founders Crossing Chapter, District IV

State Librarian: Doris Trout, Old Goshen Trail Chapter, District VII

## Did you know?

### *National Information Packet*

The 2025 National Information Packet (NIP) is now available for download on the Member's Section of the DAR Website here: [2025 National Information Packet](#).

Links to individual NIP forms are also located throughout the Members' Section and on the appropriate Executive Office and Committee forms pages.

### *CMR/Chapter Master Report*

The 2025 CMR instructions and survey have now been posted in emembership.

### *Future Continental Congress Dates*

- June 24 - June 28, 2026
- June 23 - June 27, 2027
- June 28 - July 2, 2028
- June 27 - July 1, 2029
- June 26 - June 30, 2030



## DAR Days



Packet Packing on Wednesday evening

← The gatherers: rather like musical chairs, around and around and around we go.

↓ The packers who tried diligently to keep up with the gatherers.



Bus riders at the women veterans memorial in front of the C.E. Brehm Library in Mount Vernon, Illinois.

In June 2011, this statue was dedicated to honor all women veterans. The statue depicts two women: Molly Pitcher, the woman who fought beside her husband during the Revolutionary War, and Major Tammy Duckworth, an Army helicopter pilot whose

aircraft was struck by enemy fire, resulting in the loss of her legs. The statue is located on the grounds of the Brehm Memorial Library in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, where the Illinois DAR houses its extensive genealogy library. This was a project of Honorary State Regent Luanne Bruckner.



It was a full house in Springfield



Friends from District IV



President General Sales



Passing the Torch



Alice Uphouse, Congress Bus Trip

## *Memorials, Honoraria, and Gifts*

### *Memorials*

To DAR Good Citizens for Deanne Louise Williams by Swallow Cliff Chapter  
To Illinois Genealogical Records Binding for Linda Osterdock by Kay Theobald, Whiteside Station  
To Illinois DAR Genealogical Library for Linda Osterdock by Peggy Meinberg, Whiteside Station and by Florence Mulligan, Whiteside Station  
To DAR Service for Veterans for Charles Allen Williams by Swallow Cliff  
To DAR Service for Veterans for Ann Carlson by Swallow Cliff  
To American History Essay/Trecher Awards for Jane Theresa Brieser Lampkin by Lois Brieser Peterson, Princeton-Illinois  
To Monument & Marker Maintenance for Lawrence Bruckner by District II  
To State Regent's Project for Mary Jo Mordhorst by Barb Buchanan, Whiteside Station  
To KDS Fund for Mary Jo Mordhorst by Sharon Bittner, Chief Senachwine  
To ILDAR Scholarship for Mary Jo Mordhorst by Mary Gustafson, Geneseo

### *Honoraria*

To State Regent's Project for Christina Bannon by State Officers Club and State Chairman's Club; by District I and District VI; by Alida C. Bliss, Alliance, Asa Cottrell, Beaucoup Creek, Cahokia, Carroll Jo Daviess, Christiana Tillson, DeWitt Clinton, Fox River Valley, General Macomb, James Halstead Sr., Kaskaskia, Midewin Prairie, Pierre Menard, Walter Burdick  
To State Regent's Project for Christina Bannon & State Officers attending meeting by Cameo Society  
To State Regent's Project for Christina Bannon/District III Director Viki Powell by District III  
To State Regent's Project for District II Director Catherine Carlton by Princeton-Illinois  
To State Regent's Project for Marria Blinn by District I Director/General Macomb; District II Regents Club; District III; Asa Cottrell; Sarah Dore/Swallow Cliff; Sue & Bill Maglin/Washington-Lewis (Virginia)

### *Gifts*

To DAR Good Citizens for Skokie Valley 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from Darlene Schoepski, Asa Cottrell  
To DAR Service for Veterans for Rochelle 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from Darlene Schoepski, Asa Cottrell  
To C.A.R. from Midewin Prairie

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Chapter Treasurers, it is your responsibility to complete the Illinois DAR News Money Donation form and send it with the donations to the State Treasurer, who verifies the donations and forwards them to be printed in the newsletter. A separate form should be used for each fund to which the chapter or member is making a donation.

Donations to the DAR Schools and American Indian Schools should be sent directly to those entities.

Donations to NSDAR funds should be sent directly to NSDAR.

We are happy to continue recognizing donations to Illinois DAR funds in the Illinois DAR News.







## New Members

### **DISTRICT I**

#### **Kewanee**

Rosemary Humphrey  
Sharon Shaner  
Tamara Weir

#### **Mary Little Deere-Ft. Armstrong**

Linda Carnithan

#### **Peoria**

Linda Harmon

#### **Shadrach Bond**

Jennifer Herriman

#### **Spoon River**

Nina Dean  
Heather Woods

### **DISTRICT II**

#### **Asa Cottrell**

Amy Brown  
Lisa Garza  
Sophia Garza

#### **Carroll Jo Daviess**

Danielle Gorbach  
Cathy Hastings

#### **Fort du Rocher**

Sandra Davis  
Susan Florschuetz

#### **Kishwaukee Trail**

Patricia Babischkin

#### **Princeton-Illinois**

Katherine Beavers  
Carol Dietz  
Debra Harrison  
Jenny Wheat

#### **Rochelle**

Sandra Draper

#### **Rockford**

Toni Seagren

### **DISTRICT III**

#### **Alliance**

Cheryl Gerber

#### **Governor Bradford**

Margaret Zillman

#### **Letitia Green Stevenson**

Stephanie Boyd  
Nicole Wilcox

### **DISTRICT IV**

#### **Anan Harmon**

Patricia Dietzler

#### **Ansel Brainerd Cook**

Elizabeth Coyne

#### **Aurora**

Julie Duffin  
Taylor Krantz  
Susan Loberg  
Alana Olson  
Jo Ellen Ruggiero  
Shelia Westerfield

#### **Chicago**

Amelia Bauer  
Bridget Curtis  
Denise Flores  
Ella Flores  
Kathryn Johnson  
Sarah MacGregor  
Stefanie McCormack

#### **Culper Ring Agent 355**

Cecilia Bernardoni  
Chelsea Coatney  
Joyce Huggins  
Devin Munger  
Allyson Wetz

#### **Downers Grove**

Kristen Edgar  
Christina Konieczka  
Charlotte Porcaro

#### **Eli Skinner**

Valerie Parham

#### **Elias Kent Kane**

Wanda Sonnenberg

#### **Fort Dearborn**

Elizabeth Ogard

#### **Fort Payne**

Hilary Devries  
Ingrid Kanady

#### **Founders Crossing**

Kathryn Mongelli

#### **George Rogers Clark**

Heather Guido

#### **Isle a la Cache**

Rachel Nichols

#### **LaGrange-LePortage**

April Knowles

#### **Martha Ibbetson**

Nancy Anetsberger

#### **Midewan Prairie**

Janet Nagajew  
Carrie Wick

#### **North Shore**

Tracy Barrett  
Carolyn Dun  
Lindsay Dun  
Danielle Mayer  
Ann Walters  
Jean Weigle

#### **Perrin-Wheaton**

Elizabeth Bleed  
Jane Bleed  
Susan Bulfin  
Linda Clemens  
Sandra Hanson  
Kathleen Sarpy

#### **Sauk Trail**

Katherine Atkins

#### **Signal Hill**

Julia Fenstermacher  
Elizabeth Teague

#### **Skokie Valley**

Susan Clark  
Kristin Lordahl

#### **Swallow Cliff**

Chloe Remson

### **DISTRICT V**

#### **Pierre Menard**

Lauren Harrison  
Megan Smith

### **DISTRICT VI**

#### **Ann Crooker St. Clair**

Erica Brumleve  
Racheal Fritts  
Pauline Frohning  
Sharon Higgs  
Cynthia Schnell  
Cathy Smith  
Karen Wakefield

#### **Belleville**

Sheryl LaCroix

#### **Benjamin Mills**

Carolyn Ball

#### **Edwardsville**

Pamela Payne

#### **Looking Glass Prairie**

Jennifer Hughs

#### **Ninian Edwards**

Audrey Bargiel  
Elouise Bargiel  
Irma Holmes

#### **Prairie State**

Christie Cistola  
Leslie Nitz  
Marcia Pearce

#### **Toussaint du Bois**

Amy Davis

#### **Walter Burdick**

Dorothy Farnham

### **DISTRICT VII**

#### **Beaucoup Creek**

Fahran Robb  
Myrna Robb

#### **Daniel Chapman**

Dawna Miller

#### **Daniel H. Brush**

Lydia Johnson

#### **Mount Carmel**

Claudia Dant

#### **Old Goshen Trail**

Amy Downey-Bybee  
Amy Goad



**HONORARY MEMBER:**

Mary Jo Paisley Mordhorst

**PAST STATE OFFICER:**

Grace Chloe Couch Hoaglin

**DISTRICT II**

**Kishwaukee Trail**

Irene Lois Prouty Horvath  
37 year member

**Rock River**

Jo Jane Birely Heller

**Rockford**

Georgann Allen Johnson  
54 year member

**DISTRICT III**

**Alliance**

Muriel Cozad Nygren  
65 year member

**Governor Thomas Ford**

Sandra Johnson Archer  
30 year member

**DISTRICT IV**

**Chicago**

Louise Howe  
38 year member

**Downers Grove**

Kimberley Main Ogdon

**North Shore**

Patricia Joan Patton Young  
22 year member  
Sally Ann Quigg Peterson  
35 year member

**DISTRICT V**

**Christiana Tillson**

Laura Jayne Cerven

**Nancy Ross**

Elizabeth L Lacy  
70 year member; Past Regent  
Mary Lou Harpole Chamberlain  
39 year member

**Peter Meyer**

Betty Matthew Schnapp  
51 year member

**DISTRICT VI**

**Looking Glass Prairie**

Caroline Bettencourt Souza  
50 year member

**Toussaint du Bois**

Jill Anne Wilson Deckard

**DISTRICT VII**

**Daniel Chapman**

Anita Maxine Crews Burdick

**Old Goshen Trail**

Barbara Darlene DeJournett Wilson

**Wabash**

Shirley Lee Logan Lane

*Please contact Illinois State Chaplain  
Debby Katzman with any additions  
or corrections.*

**Illinois DAR News**

Published Quarterly

**State Regent**

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Rockford, IL 61108-3752

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**Submission deadline for next issue:  
November 10, 2025**

## State Regent's First Chapter Visit



On Saturday, August 23, State Regent Marria Blinn hit the road and traveled to visit Asa Cottrell Chapter in Belvidere. Attendees gave her a warm welcome, and they enjoyed her presence, program, and sales table. Seated holding the signs are Vice Regent Dory Curnayn, State Regent Marria Blinn, and Regent Kathy Hughes.