



# Illinois

## DAR NEWS

VOL 66 ISSUE 4 MARCH 2026



**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-

There is much good news to share! As a result of generous donations, honoraria, and memorials, from September 2025 – December 2025, we raised \$39,500 and this amount funds Phase I of the Liberty Education Plaza! Our architect assembled and submitted a package to the city of Batavia to apply for the building permit. As soon as the permit is received, we will order the two-tiered benches, podium, and donor wall. We are on target for installation to begin the end of April (weather and ground permitting) and for the dedication of Phase I of the project on July 4, 2026. See the ad in this newsletter for more information. Thank You for all your support for the Illinois DAR America 250! legacy project, the Liberty Education Plaza! We could not have achieved these phenomenal results with your enthusiastic support!



To date, I have visited 51 chapters. Your warm welcomes and generosity have touched my heart. It’s amazing to see the wide variety of creative ideas and service that are taking place in our state. Illinois is certainly alive and doing well and making a difference in the lives of Illinois residents and beyond! Please remember to always treat one another with kindness and respect, as we are all volunteers and the work we do comes from the heart. If you have not scheduled your State Regent’s visit yet, please contact the State Regent ASAP to secure a date on the calendar.

As we look forward to spring and our 130<sup>th</sup> State Conference at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington, I encourage you to finalize your plans to attend. State Conference Chair Barbara Buchanan has been busy with the plans and we have an outstanding line up of speakers and events. You will want to read the bios and articles in this newsletter to learn more details and special opportunities. The firm deadline for the State Conference Credentials form is March 20. Hope to see you there!



## State Regent's Itinerary:

### March

- 6: District IV Meeting
- 7: Louis Joliet PM
- 9: Mt. Vernon Library
- 12-14: Massachusetts State Conference
- 15: ISO Board Meeting
- 18-21: South Carolina State Conference
- 25-27: Rosalie Mansion, MS

### April

- 4: Illini & Princeton 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 9: Martha Ibbetson PM
- 23: ISO Board Meeting AM
- 23: Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century Luncheon PM
- 24-26: Illinois State Conference
- 30: Kansas State Conference

### May

- 1-2: Kansas State Conference
- 8-9: U of I Graduation
- 11: Alida C. Bliss AM
- 16: Fort Payne PM
- 23: Fort Dearborn PM
- 26: Mini Tour District III
- 27: Mini Tour District VI
- 28: Mini Tour District VII
- 29: Mini Tour District V

### June

- 1: Abraham Lincoln AM
- 2: General Macomb PM
- 2: Shadrach Bond PM
- 3: Mini Tour District I
- 4: Mini Tour District II
- 5: Mini Tour District IV

## State Regent's Message [continued]

We are in need of Pages for our state conference. If you are between the ages of 18-40ish and like to have fun, please consider providing a helping hand at state conference. Please contact Tatiana Funhouser [tasotoma@gmail.com](mailto:tasotoma@gmail.com) or Lauren Loeffler at [laurenloeffler28@gmail.com](mailto:laurenloeffler28@gmail.com) if you are able to join us.

Mini Tour will be held at the end of May and the beginning of June. Please see the "State Regent's Itinerary" section of this newsletter for the schedule. Plan to attend to prepare for the new chapter year and meet the new officers.

State Vice Regent Tricia Hopkins-Price is finalizing plans for our Illinois Supper at Continental Congress. It will be a spectacular event and it is especially important for you to attend Continental Congress this year as Honorary State Regent Debra Ross Coe is a candidate for Vice President General. The firm deadline for the NSDAR Credentials form is April 15. To vote at Continental Congress the form **must** be signed and received by that date.

A lovely luncheon honoring the newly elected state officers is scheduled for July 18, 2026, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington. Details will be forthcoming.

I am looking forward to seeing you at State Conference, spring district meetings, and chapter visits!

In Gratitude and Friendship,

*Marria*

Marria Elliott Blinn  
State Regent 2025-2027

Educate, Celebrate, *America 250!*



## State Chaplain's Corner

Dear Daughters,

I recently read a story by Anthony de Mello and wanted to share it with you.

*"True philosopher that he was, Socrates believed that the wise person would instinctively lead a frugal life. He himself would not even wear shoes; yet he fell under the spell of the marketplace and would go there often to look at all the wares on display. When one of his friends asked why, Socrates said: "I love to go there and discover how many things I am perfectly happy without."*

In life, I have met people who were very wealthy and those who were impoverished. My parents taught me "you never judge people by what they have or do not have, but by how they are intrinsically". I have found that happiness is NOT determined in what a person has but in whom they share their lives with and the health they enjoy. Happiness comes from what is treasured in life, those they love, and the health they have.

It reminds me of the scriptures teaching in *Phil 4:12-13*

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

Joy and happiness are a choice; May faith and perspective guide us toward gratitude, peace, and lasting joy.

God Bless You.

**Debby Katzman**

## Parliamentary Pointer

Let us review some of our proper etiquette and procedures for State Conference.

The State Regent is the highest-ranking officer in our Illinois State Organization. Out of respect for the office, members should always stand when the State Regent is introduced and presented. Members should also stand at the entrance of a processional and remain standing until the State Regent reaches the podium.

The proper attire for the business sessions of State Conference is dresses, suits, nice pants and jackets, no jeans or jean jackets please. Wearing your DAR pins is encouraged. For the formal evenings, you may choose to wear you finest dressy dress or formal. White gloves are appropriate for the receiving line, but gloves are no longer required for the day-time business sessions. When gloves are worn, the right glove should be removed when saying the Pledge of Allegiance To the Flag of the United States of America.

When addressing the Chair, please say, "Madam State Regent". Chapter members may stand briefly when their chapter regent or state officer gives her report. Members of districts should also stand briefly when their District Director gives her report. During the Memorial Service, chapter members should stand while the names of their deceased members are read. You may also stand for a deceased friend in another chapter.

As a courtesy at State Conference, please turn off cell phones before any sessions or events begin.

**Patricia Cork**

State Protocol Chair



# 130<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS STATE CONFERENCE

April 23 - 26, 2026

DoubleTree Hotel • Bloomington, IL

*Education Rings the Bell for Liberty*

## *Meet Our DAR Guests*

### MICHELLE WALTERS-THORNTON: ALASKA STATE REGENT

Michelle joined the DAR in 1996 after her mother discovered their Patriot ancestor and told her the local chapter was expecting her at that Saturday's meeting. Although she never expected to be active, her perspective changed after her first meeting—especially once she was given a "job." She began as a page, forming lifelong friendships. Three decades later, Michelle's contributions span every level of the organization.

Michelle's extensive DAR experience includes Chapter Regent, State Outstanding Junior, State Officer, Division Vice Chair, and National Chair. She has served at every level of the organization and will enthusiastically tell you that serving as National Chair of Guest Hospitality was her all-time favorite assignment.

Today, Michelle serves as Alaska State Regent and honored Chief Snowflake, pursuing her patriotic passion as Northwest Division Vice Chair for the National Defense Committee. Beyond DAR, she is a past Curator General of the U.S. Daughters of the War of 1812 and currently serves as Utah State Chair for the National Defense Committee.



Originally from Ohio, Michelle joined the U.S. Coast Guard as a ship's navigator, sailing across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic Oceans. She earned a degree in Marine Biology from the University of Alaska-Kodiak and an MBA from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Today, she serves as Search & Rescue Program Manager for the U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, combining her love of the outdoors, service to others, and problem-solving skills in a 20-year career.

Michelle and husband, David, live in Mexico Beach, Florida, with their Jack Russell Terriers, Jager and Loki—who keep life lively and full of adventures.

### ELAINE SHOLTY: INDIANA STATE REGENT

Elaine Sholty is a life member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in the Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter in Indianapolis, currently serving as Indiana DAR State Regent.

Elaine has served as National Chair of State Regent Events, President of the State Vice Regent's Club, National Division Vice Chair of America 250!, Public Relations and Media, Historic Preservation, and Celebrate America. She is a member of many DAR national clubs, serves on the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School Board, and is a 10-year Senior leader in the Children of the American Revolution.

With 35 years of active volunteering for the Boy Scouts of America, she was recognized by BSA as one of the Top 100 Scout Leaders in 100 years in Indiana and has received the BSA national award for Service to Youth.



Elaine enjoys portraying women significant in American history, including suffragists Grace Julian Clarke, Susan B. Anthony, and First Ladies Martha Washington and Caroline Scott Harrison. She has received both the NSDAR Historic Preservation Medal and the DAR Historic Preservation Recognition Award for over 30 years of work in first person historic presentations.

## DAWN BRADY: MICHIGAN STATE REGENT

Dawn Brady serves as State Regent for the DAR of Michigan. Her administration's theme, "For the Love of DAR," is inspired by 1 Corinthians 16:14: "Let all that you do be done in love."



Mrs. Brady has served as State Vice Regent, State Meeting Committee Chair, State Chair CDC, State Recording Secretary, and State Conservation Chair. She is a two-term Chapter Regent and was named Michigan's Outstanding Chapter Regent in 2017. She has completed GEP Levels 1–5, 7, and 8. She also completed the National Society's Triple Crown.

During her administration, she has collaborated with Michigan Daughters on important projects supporting each area of the DAR mission, which include:

Mrs. Brady earned a B.A. in English from Albion College and a Master of Arts in Teaching in Learning and Behavior Disorders from Saginaw Valley State University. DAR is a valued family tradition she shares with several relatives, including her mother, sister, daughter Moria, and future daughter-in-law Mary. Her husband, Sean, and son, Madden, are members of the Sons of the American Revolution, and both children served as State President of the M.S.C.A.R. Now retired from teaching high school, she enjoys reading, traveling, visiting with loved ones, and writing notes.

## ALICE LAMB CASKEY: SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REGENT

Alice was born in Florida, and after growing up in the state, moved to Macon, Georgia, for college. She earned an BA in English, and Psychology, from Mercer University, and minors in History and Christianity, and a teaching certificate. Married to her college sweetheart, an Army Desert Storm Veteran, she has lived in Augusta, GA, San Antonio, TX, Philadelphia, PA, and now Columbia, SC.



A life member of DAR, she joined in 2006. Serving as State Regent of South Carolina, 2024-2027 her theme is "Let's Celebrate, By George!" She completed the triple crown for DAR courses and had the pleasure of serving as Vice President/Chaplain of the State Vice Regents Club and is the Chaplain of the State Regents Club. She is the Organizing and Senior Society President of The CARolina Swamp Fox Society C.A.R.

A member of First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, Alice has served as Circle Chair, Circle Leader, and President of the Women of the Church, President of her P.E.O. Chapter U and State Membership Chair, President of the SC Philharmonic Symphony League, and President of the Columbia Medical Auxiliary. Currently, she is a member of the University of SC Board of Dance, Sustainer in the Jr. League of Columbia, American Friends of Lafayette, and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Her greatest joy comes from her faith, her friends, and her family, husband John, of 48 years, their 3 married children, and 3 grandchildren. If there is any spare time, she loves to needlepoint.

## Important Deadlines

### March

Election of delegates to Continental Congress **must** occur no later than March 20 – State Credentials form due – firm deadline

### April

15 – NSDAR Credentials deadline – Necessary to vote at Continental Congress  
23 – 26 Illinois 130<sup>th</sup> State Conference

### June

24 – 28 NSDAR 135<sup>th</sup> Continental Congress

# Meet Our National Defense Speaker

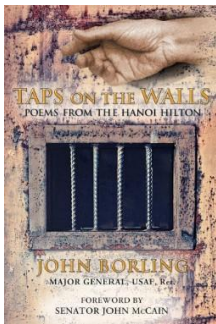
## GENERAL JOHN BORLING

**John L. Borling** is a retired Major General in the United States Air Force, decorated combat veteran, author, and business leader. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, his distinguished military career spanned 37 years and included service as an F-15 fighter pilot and commander of the famed "Hat in the Ring" squadron.

During the Vietnam War, Borling was shot down by ground fire, seriously injured, and captured while attempting to evade. He endured six and a half years as a prisoner of war in Hanoi. During his captivity, he composed poetry that was secretly memorized and shared among fellow prisoners, later published in his acclaimed book, *Taps on the Walls: Poems from the Hanoi Hilton*.



Throughout his career, General Borling held numerous senior leadership positions. He commanded an Air Division at Minot Air Force Base and served as Head of Operations for Strategic Air Command (SAC), directing SAC support during the first Gulf War and operations in Panama. At the Pentagon, he led CHECKMATE, a highly classified war-fighting think tank, and served as Director of Air Force Operational Requirements, helping initiate a new family of guided weapons. He also commanded the largest U.S. fighter base overseas in Germany and later served at NATO's Supreme Headquarters in Belgium, playing a central role in the creation of HQ North in Norway.



A highly decorated officer, Borling's honors include the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with "V" for Valor, and two Purple Hearts.

Following his military service, General Borling became President and CEO of United Way of Chicago, where he led a major resurgence in community engagement and fundraising success. He later founded SOS America (Service Over Self), advocating for national service among young Americans.

A sought-after motivational speaker on leadership, service, and resilience, General Borling continues to inspire audiences nationwide through his powerful life story and unwavering commitment to country and community. He and his wife Myrna reside in northern Illinois.

General Borling has graciously agreed to provide autographed copies of his book, "Taps on the Wall" for \$25.00. Chapters may use this book for a chapter book club discussion which may be counted as part of their America 250! Celebration.



## Meet Our Guest Speakers

### JANET MCFARLAND: AMERICA 250! NATIONAL VICE CHAIR FRIDAY AMERICA 250! LUNCHEON & SATURDAY BANQUET

Driven by a passion for service and mentorship, Janet has served DAR at every level, from Chapter Regent to Corresponding Secretary General during the Wright Administration. Currently, as National Vice Chair for the America 250! Committee, she is dedicated to empowering Daughters to illuminate the legacy of our Patriot ancestors and celebrate our nation's semiquincentennial within their own communities.

A member of DAR since 1988, Janet began her journey as a Junior. Inspired by the friendships and adventures unique to the DAR, she grew into a dedicated leader, serving the District of Columbia State Society as State Treasurer, State Vice Regent, and ultimately, State Regent. As State Regent, her project focused on supporting homeless veterans in Washington, D.C., a commitment that continues today.

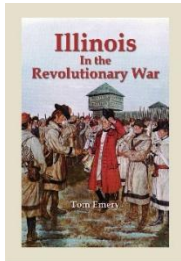
With a heart for mentoring, Janet created the New Member Course for the District of Columbia State Society in 2012 while serving as state Chapter Development and Revitalization Commission Chair. This success led to the opportunity to take the program national under the Dillon Administration. Subsequently, as National Chair for DAR Leadership Training under the VanBuren Administration, she developed the Committee Leaders Course, reflecting her commitment to educating and equipping the next generation of Daughters.

In her leisure time, she enjoys traveling and taking road trips with her husband, Steve.



### TOM EMERY: AMERICA 250! LUNCHEON

Author and historian Tom Emery has written 45 books and booklet titles, earned sixteen awards from the Illinois State Historical Society and appeared at more than 260 speaking engagements. His most recent work, *Illinois in the Revolution*, offers a compelling narrative of the dominant figure



in the war in Illinois, George Rogers Clark, and his daring capture of Kaskaskia. Clark's march to the stronghold of Vincennes, which was sometimes through frigid, chest-deep water, is covered in vivid detail. Join us for the America 250! Luncheon on Friday, April 24, 2026, to experience this remarkable story firsthand and discover why Illinois played a decisive role in winning America's independence. Following the luncheon, Mr. Emery will have 100 copies of his book available for purchase for \$20 each. To make the purchase process quick and convenient, cash is appreciated.



### MARTIN CALLAHAN: SATURDAY BANQUET

Martin Callahan serves as President of the Fox Valley Chapter of the Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, leading with a strong commitment to historical education, civic engagement, and patriotic service. Over the past five years, he has held key leadership roles—including Chapter Vice President and Flag Award Committee Chairman—and has advanced initiatives that honor America's founding ideals.

A former Alderman on the Batavia City Council, Mr. Callahan brings a record of public service and community stewardship to his civic work. He is the designated point of contact for the Illinois America250 committee on behalf of the City of Batavia, the Fox Valley Patriotic Organization, and the Fox Valley Chapter of the SAR, helping coordinate regional efforts to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary.

As a founding Board Member of the Fox Valley Patriotic Organization, he helped construct the Flag Day Monument in Batavia and authored its educational content. He co-chairs the city's annual Flag Day celebrations and works closely with veterans groups and Scouting organizations to promote intergenerational civic pride. He also presents widely on the history and etiquette of the United States Flag and is a member of the North American Vexillological Association.

His service includes supporting veteran living-history projects, assisting with resource fairs, and contributing to community remembrance. Beyond his historical work, he has served as a Director for the Batavia United Way and supported local entrepreneurship through the Boardwalk Shops small-business incubator program.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Join us on July 4, 2026, for the dedication of **Phase I of the Liberty Education Plaza** at the Flag Day Monument located at 121 North Island Avenue, Batavia, IL. This exciting project is **Illinois DAR's America 250! legacy project**, created to celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and inspire future generations. The start time will be announced closer to the event.

*If you would like to make a donation to the Liberty Education Plaza, the Illinois DAR America 250! Project, please scan here*



Illinois State Organization DAR

# Pages Needed

Members ages 18-40 can serve as pages at State Conference and Continental Congress!

State Conference April 23-26, 2026

Continental Congress June 24-28, 2026

**We Need Help With**

- ✓ Assisting attendees
- ✓ Carrying flags in processions
- ✓ Personal pages for visiting regents
- ✓ Selling voices

**SIGN UP TODAY**

Send the form below to Tatiana Funkhouser and Lauren Loeffler, Page Co-Chairs  
<https://adobe.ly/3LXgMAy>

**Illinois DAR News**  
Published Quarterly

**State Regent**  
Marria Blinn

**Editor / Kathy Hughes**  
1237 Widergren Dr.  
Rockford, IL 61108-3752

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4184 Westridge Dr.  
Winnebago, IL 61108-8037  
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**Submission deadline for next issue:**  
May 10, 2026

## Meet Our Candidates

### CAROL CASTELLON – CANDIDATE FOR STATE VICE REGENT

Carol Castellon is a 52-year member and honorary regent of Alliance Chapter. She was the first person on her family line to become a member of NSDAR - her mother, sister, niece, and cousins joined from her membership. She is a past State Treasurer, Assistant State Treasurer, District III Director, Head Marshal and currently co-chair of the DAR Museum Outreach Committee. She is an active correspondent docent for the DAR Museum, having given 135 Museum programs. She has been a North Central Division Vice Chair for American Indians, Flag of the USA Committee, and American History Committee.



She has a passion for historical flags and helped Alliance Chapter obtain 64 historical flags which are displayed often. She has given over 200 flag presentations.

More recently, she co-wrote two skits that were performed at state events: "It's Tea Time" and "The Great Suffrage Parade of 1918."

Carol taught math for 37 years in Bradley-Bourbonnais HS, St. Joseph-Ogden HS, Unity HS, University Lab HS, Parkland College, and University of IL Math Department. She is all-but-dissertation for a PhD in Statistics. She authored many grants while working for the University including one for Web-Access Virtual Education and authored two online statistics courses for the University.

She has served as secretary of the Corvette Club of Illinois. She manages two different condo associations in Savoy. In the past, she was choir director and organist for her church.

She has 3 sons, August (Allison), Michael (Lauren), and Mark (Silvia). Her youngest son married an immigrant from El Salvador and Carol got an instant large family including 7 "grandchildren." She lives in Savoy where she plants a large pollinator flower garden every year.

Carol is looking forward to serving the Illinois State Organization as Vice Regent.

### BOBBIE ANDERSON TODAY – CANDIDATE FOR STATE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Bobbie was admitted to the Louis Joliet Chapter on May 5, 2019. She is a Legacy Member and Associate Member in Leticia Green Stevenson, Maria Jefferson (St. Augustine, Florida), and six Units Overseas chapters. Bobbie completed DAR Leadership Training - Members, Committee Leaders, and New Horizons courses and GEP VIII.



Nationally, she serves the Storage Administration as VIS Website Assessment Assistant (2025-2028), Continental Congress Registration Line (2024-2025), Illinois Supper Hostess (2023, 2024), and as a delegate from 2023-2025.

Elected Honorary Chapter Regent on June 7, 2025, Bobbie served as chapter Recording Secretary, 2nd Vice Regent, Regent, and current Librarian, Webmaster, and Social Media Coordinator, chairing DAR Project Honor Flight, Project Patriot, VIS, and America 250! Committees. For District IV, she chaired DAR Project Honor Flight and American History.

Bobbie's Illinois State service includes current Chair of Units Overseas and State Regent's Project; Co-Chair of VIS and DAR Project Honor Flight; Members Course Coordinator; and State Conference Delegate since 2020. She is a Sustaining Supporter, member of Heritage Club, State Officers Club, State Chairman's Club, and Cameo Club.

Professionally, Bobbie has been a Registered Nurse since 1992, with 25 years as a practice manager before retiring in 2022. Her volunteerism includes Operation HerStory as Medical Guardian on the inaugural flight, Honor Flight Chicago, and Silverliners International Flight Attendant Organization as Chicago Chapter President (2020-2024) and HUGS Fund Charity Chair (2021-2025).

Bobbie holds a B.S. in Healthcare Leadership from National Louis University, ADN in Nursing from Kaskaskia College, and studied Psychology and Journalism at Eastern Illinois University. She has certifications in Operating Room, Ambulatory Surgery, and Interventional Pain Management Nursing, and is a Life Member of ASIPP.

Married for 31 years to HODAR David, a retired firefighter and City of Naperville Supervisor, they have one daughter and son-in-law.

## NIKKI BRAVMAN – CANDIDATE FOR STATE ORGANIZING SECRETARY



Nikki joined Chicago Chapter NSDAR 5 February 2017 and transferred to Culper Ring Agent 355 Chapter. She is a 5th generation, legacy, and pending life member, and associate member of 14 chapters. She completed the New Members, New Horizons, Committee Leaders, and GEP I-V Courses.

Nikki has served as National Vice-Chair for American Indians Committee Grants, Division Vice-Chair for DAR Museum Outreach, and 4-year Continental Congress page.

In Illinois, Nikki has served as Chair for Community Service Awards, President General's Project, and DAR School; President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer of State Chairman's Club; and Treasurer of Junior Club. She paged State Conference 6 years (2 as State Chaplain's Personal Page). She served as District Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and American Indians Chair.

Nikki is an Honorary Chapter Regent and past Chapter Outstanding Junior. She served as Chapter Regent, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, and chaired multiple committees. She was founding Senior Registrar for Agent Elizabeth Burgin Society C.A.R.

Nikki is active in the Junior League of Chicago and volunteers at her local food pantry. She has held various leadership roles in Kiwanis, including state coordinator of the EliMiNaTe Project, President/Founder of North Central College Circle K Club, and VP of Wilmot High School Key Club. She served on the Parish Council at St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church, Aldermanic Elder Outreach Team, and National Gathering of American Indian Veterans committee at Trickster Cultural Center.

Professionally, Nikki has served 17 years at the Social Security Administration, currently as the OIG Congressional Affairs Specialist. She is an Executive Scholar in Leadership (Northwestern University) and holds an MBA in Economics and Accounting (Roosevelt University), a B.S. in International Business, and a B.A. in Spanish (North Central College).

Nikki is married to Danny, a community manager for a 55-story condominium in Chicago.

## JUDY JANOVYAK – CANDIDATE FOR STATE TREASURER



On August 5, 2022, Judy Janovyak joined the DAR and is an active member of the Founders Crossing Chapter. She is currently serving at the state level as *State Co-Chair of Public Relations & Media* and as *State Conference Tech Support (RegFox)*. She served at the 2025 State Conference on the State Regent Hospitality Committee and as a voting delegate. At the district level she is serving as *District IV Corresponding Secretary*. At the chapter level she is serving on the board as *Treasurer* and is *DAR Magazine Chair*, *Veteran's Committee Chair*, and *State Regent's Gift Committee Chair*. She is also the chapter liaison with the American Legion. She has served on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee and twice on the

Nominating Committee.

For other volunteer activities, she currently serves as *Finance Chair* at the Lemont United Methodist Church and has previously held other positions at the church including *Staff/Parish Relations Committee Co-Chair* and *Sunday School Co-Chair*. She has also served as *Treasurer* for the District 92 Foundation for Educational Excellence and as *Treasurer* for Gym-Kinetics Girls Team Booster Club.

She has an MBA from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL and is a Registered CPA in the State of Illinois.

Her professional career spanned over 40 years in accounting and finance including positions as a finance and budgeting manager, controller, financial analyst, auditor, accounts receivable and accounts payable accountant, and payroll tax accountant. She retired in July 2025 from her position as Financial Business Partner at Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, IL.

Judy has been married to her husband Al for over 42 years. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren. Her interests include spending time with her family, her pets, traveling, gardening, writing, painting and crafts, and is always eager to try something new.

## DORIS FAY SHELTON TROUTT – CANDIDATE STATE LIBRARIAN



Becoming a member of the Old Goshen Trail Chapter, NSDAR, on March 5, 2014 led Doris down an adventurous path. The friendships made, the programs, but most importantly the ancestors who came to life were most rewarding for her. Doris' passion for history encompasses not only the American Revolution, but those who served along this path in the Civil War, the War of 1812, and colonial ancestors who lived in Jamestowne or landed on the Mayflower.

Doris has joined nearly twenty societies and has held positions at the chapter, state, and national levels. Doris currently serves as her chapter's Junior American Citizens Committee Chair, and in her first year she saw her chapter earn the national 1<sup>st</sup> place award. When serving as chapter DAR Service for Veterans Chair, she and her chapter planned and prepared "military birthday" events at a local nursing home, plus awarded Quilts of Valor to veterans from each military branch. Doris and her sister made and presented lap quilts to residents of a nursing home as well as preparing gift bags for Veterans in Marion, IL.

On a personal note, Doris is the widow of Michael Dean Troutt, Esq., mother of two and grandmother of three. She always considered herself a "career student" because every time there was extra time in her schedule, she attended college – first at Rend Lake College and then Southern Illinois University-Carbondale – earning an Associate of Arts, Bachelor's degree in Workforce Education & Development, and a certification in Business. She also served as a Trustee at Rend Lake College 1989-1991. In her church life she has served as secretary, treasurer, minister of music and pianist, and currently participates in the PieceMakers, which makes quilts for people in need. In the past 10 years Doris has donated Quilts of Valor, quilts to the annual Marine Corps Ball, as well as the Heartland Young Marines.

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## DEBRA ROSS COE – CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL

Honorary State Regent Debra Ross Coe is a candidate for Vice President General, and will participate in the election at Continental Congress 2026.

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## STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 23: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, April 24: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. AND 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 25: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Chapter Regents and voting Delegates MUST be registered by 8 p.m. on Friday to vote on Saturday morning.**

Voting will be electronic using the Simply Voting platform.

Saturday voting hours: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Conference attendees may register at any time during the conference, but voters **MUST** observe the above deadline.



<b>130<sup>th</sup> ILLINOIS DAR STATE CONFERENCE</b>		
Hilton DoubleTree, Bloomington, IL April 23 -26, 2026		
<b>TENTATIVE SCHEDULE</b> <b>(times are subject to change)</b>		
Forms can be found at: <a href="http://ildar.org/members">ildar.org/members</a> > State Conference		
<b>THURSDAY, April 23, 2026</b>		
12:00 noon	Colonial Daughters of the 17 <sup>th</sup> Century Luncheon	Brickyard IV
1:00-5:00 p.m.	Registration open	Pre-Function area
1:30-5:00 p.m.	Exhibit Room Setup open	Brickyard I
6:00 p.m.	State Officers Club Receiving Line	Brickyard V & VI
6:30 p.m.	State Officers Club Dinner	Brickyard V & VI
<b>FRIDAY- April 24, 2026</b>		
7:00 a.m.	Illinois Cameo Society Meeting & Breakfast	Brickyard VI
7:30 a.m.	Daughters of Colonial Wars, Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, and the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company Meeting & Breakfast	Brickyard V
8:00 – 5:00 p.m. and 7:00-8:00 p.m.	Registration open <b>In order to vote on Sat., you must register before 8:00 p.m. on Friday.</b>	Pre-Function area
8:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibit Room open	Brickyard I
9:00 a.m.	General Session	Brickyard II & III
12:00 p.m.	America 250! Luncheon	Brickyard IV, V, & VI
2:00-4:00 p.m.	General Session	Brickyard II & III
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Hospitality open	Pre-Function area
5:00-7:00 p.m.	Friendship Dinner	Brickyard IV, V, & VI
5:00-7:00 p.m.	Executive Dinner	Brookridge
7:30 p.m.	Concert: 144 <sup>th</sup> IL Army National Guard Band	Brickyard II & III
8:00 p.m.	National Defense Night	Brickyard II & III
Following session	Junior Club Meeting	
<b>SATURDAY, April 25, 2026</b>		
7:00 a.m.	State Chairman's Annual Meeting & Breakfast	Brickyard VI
8:00-10:00 a.m.	Voting Hours	Foxcreek A & B
8:00- 12:00 noon	Registration open	Pre-Function area
8:00-3:00 p.m.	Exhibit Room open	Brickyard I
9:00-11:30	General Session	Brickyard II & III
12:00 p.m.	Youth Day Awards Luncheon	Brickyard IV, V, & VI
2:00-3:00 p.m.	General Session/Workshops	Brickyard II & III
2:30-4:00 p.m.	Hospitality open	Pre-Function area
4:00-4:30 p.m.	Choir Practice	Brickyard IV
4:30-5:30 p.m.	Group Photography sessions	Pre-Function area
6:00 p.m.	State Banquet	Brickyard III, IV, V, & VI
Following Banquet	Receiving Line/Hospitality	Pre-Function area
<b>SUNDAY, April 26, 2026</b>		
9:00 a.m.	Memorial Worship Service	Brickyard II & III
10:00 a.m.	Awards Brunch	Brickyard IV, V, & VI

## *Memorials, Honoraria, and Gifts*

*State Regent Marria Blinn would like to express her gratitude for the outpouring of generosity in the form of Honoraria, Memorials and Gifts. Thank you for your support and commitment to Illinois DAR's America 250! legacy project - the Liberty Education Plaza.*

### *Memorials*

To State Regent's Project for Marie Smitt by Whiteside Station  
To American Indian Fund for Ruth Emily Moss Park by Ramona Ivaschenko, Eli Skinner  
To C.A.R. for Ruth Byrne by Peoria; for Kary Gnehm by Peoria; for Judy Miller by Peoria  
To Good Citizens for Sybil Garver by Swallow Cliff

### *Honoraria*

To State Regent's Project for Marria Blinn by Karla Anderson, Perrin-Wheaton; Aurora; Beaucoup Creek; Jeanne Bierman, District VII Director, Beaucoup Creek; Carol Byrd, Chief Senachwine; Capt. William Penny; Beulah Chaplin, Rochelle; Eli Skinner; Leigh Flatt, Springfield; Founders Crossing; Dr. Silas Hamilton; Loleta Knight, Ann Crooker St. Clair; Letitia Green Stevenson; Martha Guarin, Aurora; Little Fort; Christina Meyer, Springfield; Mt. Carmel; Old Goshen Trail; Renee Petersen, Ansel Brainerd Cook; Diane Peterson, Springfield; Pierre Menard; Mary Pritchard, General John Stark; Sauk Trail; Nancy Schultz, Fort Dearborn; Signal Hill; Skokie Valley; Toussaint du Bois; Joyce Wright, Signal Hill; Anonymous  
To State Regent's Project for Linda Mizell by Mt Carmel Chapter  
To State Regent's Project for Jeanne Bierman by Old Goshen Trail  
To State Regent's Project for Lynda Kerstein by Captain William Penny  
To State Regent's Project for Mary Arvidson, District IV Director, by Downers Grove  
To State Regent's Project for Laurie Perry, District II Director, by Fox River Valley  
To State Regent's Project for Mary Arvidson by Kankakee

### *Gifts*

To State Regent's Project by Eli Skinner, Fort Payne; Holly Petersen, Marcia Thayer, Eli Skinner; Fort Payne; Loleta Knight, Sauk Trail  
To State Regent's Project for Mary Arvidson by Eli Skinner  
To Illinois General Fund by Suzanne Blohm, Eli Skinner  
To American Indian, Conservation, & DAR Service for Veterans by Corrine Peterson, Eli Skinner  
To DAR Service for Veterans by Sharon Leonard, Rita Kruse, Eli Skinner  
To KDS DAR School by Old Goshen Trail; Signal Hill  
To Monuments & Markers, KDS, Essay, Good Citizens by Amy Williams, Eli Skinner  
To C.A.R., DAR Service for Veterans, KDS School by Gail Jay, Eli Skinner  
To American Indian Fund by Michelle Wisnieki, Eli Skinner & Markers by Laurie Turpin, Eli Skinner

### **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

#### **Black Partridge**

Ruth Koonce

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

#### **Armstrong**

Ronda Storm

### DISTRICT II

#### **Asa Cottrell**

Louisa Bowe

#### **Carroll Jo Daviess**

Hannah Foster

#### **Fox River Valley**

Virginia Driscoll

Wendi Riecke

#### **General John Stark**

Deborah Kern

#### **Kishwaukee Trail**

Gail Arnold

Mary Carr

Sarah Carr

Kathleen Selmarten

#### **Rock River**

Karla Anderson

### DISTRICT III

#### **Alliance**

Amanda Davis

#### **Chief Pontiac**

Payton Semmens

#### **Governor Bradford**

Taryn Randles

#### **Governor Edward Coles-**

#### **Sally Lincoln**

Leslie Schupbach

#### **Letitia Green Stevenson**

Cameo Currie

Wendy Noel

Marsha Tower

Tanya Underhill

Carol Williamson

#### **Stephen A. Douglas**

Melinda Carleton

### DISTRICT IV

#### **Anan Harmon**

Deanna Clark

Jennifer Fornaro

Cassandra Vollmann

#### **Ansel Brainerd Cook**

Vicki Boring

#### **Aurora**

Emily Cortez

Jamie Kaisershot

#### **Chicago**

Amanda Anselmo

Katherine Heffron

Elizabeth Henesey

Julia Hochstatter

Sheila Leary

Laurie Morrissy

Catherine Yoakum

#### **Eli Skinner**

Lisa Benjamin

#### **Elias Kent Kane**

Donna Detrick

Suzanne Taddeucci

#### **Fort Payne**

Lilah Houeye

Carrie Mak

#### **Founders Crossing**

Phyllis Gidlund

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

Amelia Boomker

#### **Kaskaskia**

Lindsey Fay

#### **LaGrange-LePortage**

Kristina Bryndal

#### **Little Fort**

Sarah Frye

Teresa Hatten

#### **Midwin Prairie**

Jennifer Boyle

#### **North Shore**

Kathryn Gentry

Elsa King

Jean Quinn

Catherine Swarthout

#### **Perrin-Wheaton**

Dorian McDonald

Marcia Opal

Sheri Sadler

#### **Signal Hill**

Dorothy Ferrer

Grace Katsekes

Katherine Katsekes

Dawn Lee

Vicki Rundquist

#### **Skokie Valley**

Julia Atkin

Dianne Bader

Grace Mangel

Kathryn Mangel

Kristin Pilant Linda

Skinner

#### **Swallow Cliff**

Rebecca Dickson

Jennifer Smith

#### **Twenty-first Star**

Ellen Alde

### DISTRICT V

#### **Dr. Silas Hamilton**

Ashlyn Brown

#### **Nancy Ross**

Rose Blackburn

Nichola Carter

#### **Rev. James Caldwell**

Mary Davenport

Georgeanne Osmer

Debrah Wheeler

### DISTRICT VI

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

Jeri Goes

#### **Belleville**

Riley Keltner

Barbara McKinley

Kathryn Metcalf

Denise Wondolowski

#### **Benjamin Mills**

Rebecca Clausen

Jane Hopkins

#### **Edwardsville**

Vici McMahon

#### **Looking Glass Prairie**

Juliana Pettis

#### **Ninian Edwards**

Caroline Joyce

Neysa Threlkeld

#### **Toussaint du Bois**

Julia Randall

#### **Whiteside Station**

Diana Bollman

### DISTRICT VII

#### **Daniel Chapman**

Carrie Alsip

#### **Fort Massac**

Rebecca Brooks

Melanie LeTourneau

#### **Jesse Gordon**

Wanda Bell

#### **Wabash**

Paula Smith

Ashley Wakefield



**DISTRICT I**

**Black Partridge**

Janis Marie Rowe Watson

**Peoria**

Nancee Church Vespa

42-year member

Mary Lou Shields Crick

Jo Anne Fields Richardson

47-year member

E. Colleen Moore Pitzer

48-year member

Katy Gnehm

**Spoon River**

Phyllis J Jones Johnson

34-year member

**DISTRICT II**

**Illini**

Barbara Eldridge George

59-year member

**Princeton-Illinois**

Lesley Ann Plumley Gonigam

**DISTRICT III**

**Chief Pontiac**

Ruth Carol Semmens Schlosser

**Governor Bradford**

Laura Fausett Harris

67-year member

**Governor Edward Coles-Sally  
Lincoln**

Mary Ellen Turner Turner

**Governor Thomas Ford**

Patty June Taylor DeHeer

Vonna Rhea Shul Robbins

Heustis

**Perrin-Wheaton**

Randa Isa Nasr Duncan

**Princess Wach-E-Kee**

Phyllis Kotek Davis 56 yr

Charlene Kay Timothy 39 yr

**DISTRICT IV**

**Anan Harmon**

Virginia Lynn Paddock

**Ansel Brainerd Cook**

Elaine Margaretha Beegle

Tredinnick

**Eli Skinner**

Jane Irene Mayfield Haskin

**Fort Payne**

Katy Sears Klepper

54-year member

**Kankakee**

Kathleen E. Haas

30-year member

past regent

**Kaskaskia**

Nancy Garner-Smith Myers

67-year member

**Sauk Trail**

Diane lee Patton Sherman

52-year member

**Signal Hill**

Nanci Anne Zatt Bjorling

**Swallow Cliff**

Sybil Marie Daughtry Garver

**Twenty-First Star**

Sharon Loughlin Bollinger

**DISTRICT V**

**Abraham Lincoln**

Lois Wilson Leesman

49-year member

Vera Amelia June Tisdale

Gathman

**Peter Meyer**

Helen Joan Crawford Graham

**Sergeant Caleb Hopkins**

Carol Virginia Williams Hanrahan

**Springfield**

Virginia Lee Sumpter McDonald

**DISTRICT VI**

**Ann Crooker St. Clair**

Dorothy McCandlish Cutright

49-year member

**Belleville**

Ruth Ann Witter May

54-year member

State Librarian 2002-2004

District VI Director 2001-2002

Honorary Chapter Regent-

Cahokia Mound June 2009

Chapter Regent Cahokia

Mound 2007-2009

Chapter Regent Trails Crossing

1976-1979

Organizing Chapter Regent

Trails Crossing 1976

**Edwardsville**

Karen Jean Shisler Patty-Graham

**Ninian Edwards**

Barbara Ann Luken Hinson

**Whiteside Station**

Eunice Marie Comstock Smitt