



Martha Ibbetson Chapter

Jackie Bussert
Chapter Regent 2025-2027
bussertj@aol.com

Martha Ibbetson Chapter Fact Sheet

The Martha Ibbetson Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, is a nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization dedicated to preserving American History, securing America's future through better education, and promoting patriotism.

About the Chapter

- The Martha Ibbetson Chapter was organized with 12 members on January 26, 1933, in Elmhurst, Illinois, as part of the NSDAR, which was founded in 1890. Going into 2026, the year of America 250, 495 women have been members of the Martha Ibbetson Chapter since its founding.
- The chapter is named in honor of a proven DAR patriot, Martha Ibbetson Gray, whose home was in Philadelphia, the largest colonial city at 40,000 people when the Revolutionary War started. She devoted her time and personal fortune to feeding, tending the wounded, and advocating for the American "rebels" held by the British at the Walnut Street prison during their occupation of the city. In doing so she earned the prisoners' devotion and their captors' respect.
- There is no "typical" DAR member. Our chapter spans all ages and life stages, from 18 to 99, and includes singles, marrieds, widows, college students, career professionals, new moms, college-age moms, and of course those who are newly retired – which often proves to be our most active group because they now have the time. No matter what stage you're in, there is some facet of DAR's mission to fit your interests and current ability (or shortage of it) to be involved. Service to America is encouraged, whether through DAR or other community groups--with opportunity to track hours.
- Our chapter count on January 1, 2025, was 63, and 7 new members were added during 2025. We join about 190,000 other DAR members in the U.S. and in a half dozen units overseas. Our membership primarily comes from eastern DuPage and western Cook counties, but we have members at greater distances, and some even live out of state.
- The chapter meets the second Thursday between March and November, 6:30-8:30 p.m., either at the Elmhurst Public Library or in member homes. Service opportunities fill our summer and fall on different days and times. Nobody is expected to do everything, but we urge members to find at least one thing that inspires them that they can do to pay honor to their ancestral Patriot.
- Eligibility is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution, whether as a soldier or in patriotic or civic service to the new nation. For more information contact Chapter Registrar Patricia Debs at pdebs@att.net

Ancestry brings us together – Service keeps us together

Chapter Activities and Service in 2024

- Started a Book & Lunch Club to explore experiences of women at various eras in history, and experiencing period desserts from each book's historical era
- Made a donation, and chapter members attended the dedication of the new 911 first responders memorial sculpture at Fire House #2 in Elmhurst
- Distributed nearly 1,000 American flags to children at the Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade and led the American's Creed at the Service of Remembrance that followed
- Volunteered at the American Indian Veterans National Gathering held at Cantigny Park in Wheaton
- Celebrated Centennial of the American Indian Citizenship Act, enacted in June 1924
- Continued our partnership with the Vietnam 50th Commemoration Commission distributing appreciation pins to veterans of that conflict, 1955-1975
- Honored Veterans and the fallen from Addison at the new Veterans Circle Memorial for Wreaths Across America.
- Continued "recycling with purpose" submitting plastic bread tabs that get recycled to provide wheelchairs for children, aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities, and prescription pill bottles for medical missions
- Supported VA's Chicago Stand Downs with our *Knit Your Bit* scarves, women's toiletries and backpacks, and socks.
- Gave memorials to the Elmhurst History Museum in memory of the chapter's two centenarians who died
- Celebrated 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party and took home samples of the same tea cast into the harbor
- Collected prescription pill bottles, coordinating with Signal Hill Chapter in Barrington for their delivery to medical missions overseas
- Two members of Signal Hill Chapter in Barrington joined our chapter as associate members and were welcomed at meetings in April and June
- Committed our Day of Service project to thanking the Elmhurst firemen, EMTs, and policemen with treat bags for every employee at four Elmhurst station houses
- Continued our chapter's outstanding communication efforts with a monthly newsletter and weekly Facebook posts
- Gave our annual donation of a children's history book on the American Revolution to Bensenville Public Library in honor of Constitution Week
- Held September Constitution Week display and student activities at Bensenville Public Library
- Held a Welcome to the USA celebration for a chapter member's husband who was naturalized in 2024
- Co-hosted Veterans Tribute Concert at Elmhurst University with American Legion Post 187 and Elmhurst University Wind Symphony
- Honored the chapters members over age 90 (including two over 100!) with "service in seconds" birthday cards
- Enjoyed an informative program on Taps from a female veteran who is with a team of volunteers available to sound taps at various ceremonies and funerals
- Made a chapter donation to Chemawa Indian School in the Northwest.
- Enjoyed a quiz show by member Crystal Forbes on the framing of the U.S. Constitution
- Presented two historical preservation certificates, and one Flag of the USA certificate
- Welcomed 7 new members in 2024; 6 of them as junior members meaning between the ages of 18 and 35
- Several members attended the annual tea party fundraiser at Signal Hill Chapter in Barrington to support local nonprofits.

***If your American ancestors go back to the Revolutionary War,
you might be eligible for DAR. Contact us today. Email pdebs@att.net***