



**Illinois State Organization
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Marria Elliott Blinn, State Regent**



Nancy Gillfillan, State Chair American Indians 2025-2027
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The American Indians Committee is dedicated to illuminating the path of empowerment for the American Indian, Native Alaskan, and First Nations' communities. Your chapter can participate in this committee by sharing American Indian Minutes at chapter meetings, getting proclamations for your local government, and hosting programs about American Indian, Native Alaskan and First Nations' communities.

Did you know that the NSDAR American Indian Committee Grant is available for your chapter to sponsor a tribal entity in support of their efforts in Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism in their communities? If you are interested in this grant up to \$10,000, contact this state chair. It is due by January 15, 2026. NSDAR also offers two scholarships for American Indian students and a third that is administered by the College of William & Mary. Information is on the NSDAR website.

Especially note that November is Native American Heritage Recognition Month. It is a designated time for DAR chapters and others from across the country to recognize and honor the heritage of the American Indians and First Nations. Chapters are urged to have a proclamation signed, submit articles and announcements to the media, or perhaps host a program for the chapter or/and the public. Consider presenting a minute, report or even a special program on a tribe, history or some other facet of Native American lore. Hold a book club discussion on a Native American related book. Please note that the new Illinois Poet Laureate, Mark Turcotte, is Native American.

Donating to the American Indians Fund or the Friends of the American Indians Scholarship through the Office of Development is a great way to support this committee.

Finally, there have been many questions about no longer supporting Bacone and Chemawa especially since Bacone has closed. Bacone College, Chemawa Indian School, and the Indian Youth of America Summer Camps have each experienced challenges that make ongoing financial support from NSDAR not viable at this time. States and chapters with projects at these schools or camps should send monetary donations directly to those entities, rather than through the National Society.

For questions and further information, contact this chair.

