



District IV News

Illinois State Organization
Educate, Celebrate, *America 250!*
February 2026



From Your District Director

And off we go into our second District meeting of the 2025-2026 program year. We will be meeting next Friday, March 6th (yes, we have already reached March!) and it is one of my favorite meetings of the year. We will be celebrating and honoring our District youth award winners and hearing their winning essays. There's something hopeful about hearing from these fine young people. There are several opportunities for us to help others at this

meeting. Besides the normal collection of bread tabs, we will also be collecting for the USO facilities at O'Hare and Midway airport and gathering items for the Illinois State Conference 2026 Page Baskets. See the articles below for more information. Of course, we are also in our State and National Meeting season. The Illinois 130th State Conference will be held from April 23rd to April 26th in Bloomington, IL and the 135th Continental Congress will be held at National Headquarters in Washington, DC from June 24th to June 28th. Registration for State is still open and Continental Congress registration will open April 15th. You should really do your best to attend one or both of them. They are fascinating and interesting meetings and an exceptional way to meet more Daughters and get more ideas.

Page Baskets for the 131st Illinois State Conference

The term hard-working page is redundant. By definition, DAR pages are a critical part of State and National functions and work extremely hard to ensure that everyone is taken care of. They are young volunteers who serve at conferences and events throughout the year. You've probably seen them at one time or another, they are the young ladies dressed in white who are helping by carrying flags at events, making sure that VIPs have everything they need, serving as hostesses, running errands, and helping to ensure that events run smoothly. These young women sacrifice a lot of time and expense to perform their duties and each year at the Illinois State Conference the Districts provide themed baskets for which voices are sold and they are raffled away. The proceeds go to defray the costs of our busy pages. This year District IV will be providing two baskets (because we're the biggest District in the State). They will have the following themes:

- ◆ **Home-Made Americana** (home-made items are preferred with an Americana focus)
- ◆ **Let Freedom Ring** (use your imagination-it can relate to a bell, have a circle like jewelry, or more, be creative!)

Each chapter is asked to bring at least one contribution to these baskets.



Page Treats

One of the problems the pages have, especially at State Conference, is that they are so busy they don't get a chance to eat. If you are able, please bring some individual wrapped treats (cookies, trail mix, candy, etc.) to the District meeting to be given to the pages for the State Conference.

USO Collection at District Meeting

We have an exceptional opportunity as the Regional USO office will be coming to our District Meeting on March 6th to pick up items for the USO Lounges at O'Hare and Midway airports. These locations provide exceptional care to military personnel who are transiting through the airports. Chicago is unique as it is the home of the only recruit training facility for the US Navy. The fact that many



connecting flights go through Chicago also increases the importance of these locations. I can tell you from experience that USO Lounges are such a welcome place to relax while waiting for a flight, especially when you've been away from home for a while. They treat our military like members of their own families. This time of year is one where they don't get as many donations as during the holiday or summer seasons so anything you can do help would be greatly appreciated. This is the list of items they are looking for:

Food - Individual Size

- crackers
- chips
- trail mix
- cookies
- fruit snacks
- popped popcorn
- beef jerky
- flavored pretzels
- fruit bars/protein bars
- breakfast bars
- rice crispy treat bars

Hygiene - Travel Size

- mouthwash
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- deodorant
- sunscreen
- hand lotion
- shampoo/conditioner

Stay busy items

- brain teaser books (crosswords, trivia, word find...)
- Sudoku
- playing cards/Uno sets

The CMR has been put to bed!!!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to get the Chapter Master Reports completed on time. Your efforts have been noticed. Now it's time for all of us to start keeping track of our Service Hours for the next Chapter Master Report...it's so much easier to start now than wait until the end of the year 😊

131st Illinois State Conference and 135th Continental Congress

The 131st Illinois State Conference will be held on April 23rd to April 26th , 2026 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington, IL. Information on the Conference and registration can be found on the Illinois DAR Members website (www.ildar.org/members). The registration and meal sign up deadline is March 20, 2026. Remember that you are not required to attend the entire conference. If you can only make a day or so, that's alright. If you will be attending the conference, please let your Chapter know so you can be designated as a Delegate.



You can also register for the 135th Continental Conference which will be held from June 24th to June 28th , 2026 in Washington, DC at DAR National Headquarters starting in April. This is an opportunity to join more than 3,500 Daughters from across the country and overseas as we meet in our nation's capital. Continental Congress isn't only for those in officer or leadership positions. Every DAR Daughter can find something interesting, exciting and/or captivating about attending Continental Congress. Pre-Registration for Continental Congress will open about April 15th and continue to June 1st. There is also on-site registration during the week of Continental Congress but the fees are higher. Find information on registration and the Continental Congress itself on the DAR Member's website (www.dar.org/members) under Committees and Continental Congress.

Oh, What Fun We Have Had!



The George Rogers Clark Chapter created baskets for Veterans.



While the Elias Kent Kane Chapter made Valentine's Day cards for Veterans



The Martha Ibbetson Chapter Raised an America 250! Flag at the Elmhurst History Museum



The Eli Skinner Chapter presented a donation to the restoration of the Elk Grove Cemetery along with donations from the Aaron Miner Society, C.A.R. and American Bicentennial Chapter SAR.

What is a “DOC”?

The Daughter’s Online Community (DOC) is an active information source which is restricted to Daughters only and presents a safe location to exchange information and ideas. It can be found at <https://community.dar.org> . If you don’t have an active eMembership account the first time you go to the site you will need to click on the password reset prompt to establish a password. After that you will find yourselves in a wonderland of exciting information where questions can be asked, answered and an incredible amount of knowledge can be accessed. It has everything from communities for each of the committees to a lively community on America 250! with amazing ideas and information. There’s even a community called “Red, White and Glue” which showcases “your crafty superpowers outside of contest entries.” There is literally, something there for everyone. Come give it a visit!

America 250!

It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity! Never again will we see the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. What is your Chapter planning on for the anniversary? Find a parade to march in, a place to make a presentation, a worthy location for an America 250! flag, a craft event you can share with the community or any of a ton of other things you can do to celebrate this incredible event! You may even learn how to say “semiquincentennial”.