

ILLINOIS STATE ORGANIZATION
NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
DISTRICT VI NEWSLETTER

Saluting Our Daughters!



Left-Right: Chapter Regent Susann Shanks, Sue Nestleroad, Orva Sinclair, Vona Sinclair (Orva's daughter), Carolyn Dotson, State Regent Marria Blinn

Sue Nestleroad

**Walter Burdick Chapter
28 years of service**

Mrs. Sue Nestleroad has been a DAR member since December 6, 1997. Mrs. Nestleroad is a second-generation NSDAR member. Her mother, Martha Crow Evans, was a member of the James Halstead Chapter in Crawford County, Illinois, and her three aunts, Irene Cline, Lenore Prust and Margaret Miller were members of the Walter Burdick chapter. Mrs. Nestleroad is a past Walter Burdick regent, serving from 2003-2005.

Carolyn Dotson

**Walter Burdick Chapter
26 years of service**

Mrs. Carolyn Dotson has been a DAR member since December 4, 1999. Mrs. Dotson remembers the amount of research, details, and the perseverance necessary to prove her lineage to become a DAR member. There are now three generations of DAR members in the family. Since becoming an NSDAR member, she has enjoyed meetings and luncheons each summer when she is in Clark County, Illinois. Mrs. Dotson's daughter is a member of the Walter Burdick chapter as well.

Orva Sinclair

**Walter Burdick Chapter
81 years of service**

Mrs. Orva Sinclair has been a DAR member since October 19, 1944. Mrs. Sinclair's great-aunt, Laura Corbin, became an NSDAR member in 1928 in Los Angeles, California. Her patriot, General Samuel Safford, was instrumental in making Vermont a state, separate from New York. General Safford's final resting place is in Bennington, Vermont, which is just steps away from the poet, Robert Frost. Mrs. Sinclair's three daughters and one granddaughter are members of the Walter Burdick chapter as well.



Gloria June Haynes Zenk

Whiteside Station Chapter

34 years of DAR Service

Gloria Zenk joined DAR in October of 1991. She celebrated her 103rd birthday on October 3, 2025. Gloria can claim Direct Paternal Linage, meaning she was able to trace her lineage through her father's side, and both she and her Patriot Ancestor share the same surname (Haynes) through an unbroken male line. In 2017, Gloria was presented with the DAR Community Service Award recognizing her 50 years of volunteer service with Notre Dame Catholic High School in St. Louis, Missouri.



Edith Elizabeth Kaufman

Silver Creek Chapter

30 years of DAR Service

Edith Elizabeth Kaufman joined DAR in June of 1995. Edith passed away September 9, 2025, at the age of 103. After her husband died, she researched the early history of our area. Edith discovered that her Great Grandfather donated the land to build the Giger School and for the Giger Cemetery. Edith continued researching her family's history, traveling to Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia with her sister and niece. Late in her life she discovered that a Revolutionary War Soldier had owned the property where her family lived.



Caroline "Carol" Bettencourt Souza

Looking Glass Prairie Chapter

49½ years of DAR Service

Caroline "Carol" Bettencourt Souza was a member of the Belleville Chapter until 2010, after which she became a founding member of the Looking Glass Prairie Chapter. She passed away on June 17, 2025, at the age of 96. Carol's Patriot was Hendrick Onderdonk, a public servant from New York. The Onderdonk Paper Mill was part of a system that passed secret war messages to American forces during the American Revolution. After becoming President, George Washington visited that paper mill to thank the Onderdonks.

Celebrating America 250!



The Whiteside Station Chapter's entry for this year's Waterloo Lamp Post Decorating Contest featured America 250! ornaments with both Betsy Ross and current U.S. flags.

At 12:01 am on January 1, the Whiteside Station Chapter will RING IN the new year and kick off the Monroe County America 250! Celebration at Waterloo, Hecker, Maeystown, Columbia, and Valmeyer city halls.



Members of the Prairie State Chapter purchased Bennington flags for the courthouse square. Members could sponsor a flag and have it personalized with the name of their Patriot embroidered on the side.



In recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the Navy, Isaac Hull entered this "Battleship" float in keeping with the Little Egypt parade theme- Board Games.

The Toussaint Du Bois Chapter received grant money to clean their collection of Kimcraft dolls for their America 250! Project. Their collection of US Presidents and First Lady dolls is one of only a few complete sets of Kimcraft dolls made between 1940 and the 1960s.



The Ninian Edwards Chapter created America 250! ornaments decked out with ribbons naming each branch of the service. The ornaments were distributed



to veterans at a local assisted living facility, with each veteran receiving an ornament featuring his service branch.



The Looking Glass Prairie chapter provided lunch for the veterans and donated kitchen supplies to the Joseph Center in East St. Louis, Illinois



At the Ann Crooker St. Clair November Patriot Memorial Service, the chapter presented two Quilts of Valor to area veterans.



The Ann Crooker St. Clair Chapter purchased 55 Patriot Coloring books and placed America 250! stickers in them. They were handed out at the Enduring Freedom Locker Blessings in December.

The James Halstead Sr. chapter cleaned DAR plaques placed to "the honor and glory of those soldiers of the American Revolution who for freedom and independence, endured hardship and battle and who now lay buried in Crawford County, Illinois."



The Benjamin Mills Chapter cleaned the plaque recognizing Revolutionary War Patriots buried in Bond County.



The Edwardsville Chapter filled craft bags for Santa to hand out at the Yanda Log Cabin in Glen Carbon.

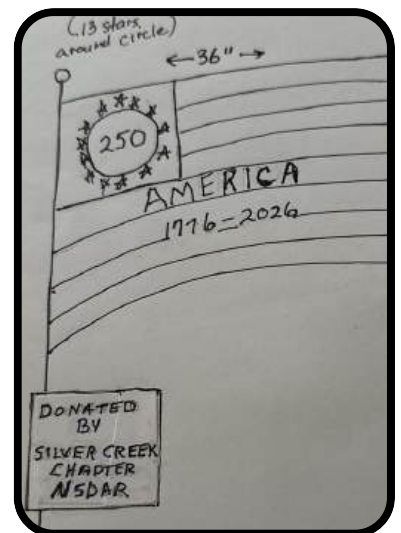


The Cahokia Mound Chapter organized a colonial potluck based on recipes from Colonial Williamsburg Cookbooks.



The Belleville Chapter, accompanied by students from the Legacy Christian Academy, rang bells to celebrate Constitution Day.

In recognition of America's 250th Birthday, the Silver Creek Chapter plans to have a metal garden flag produced and placed at the Latzer Memorial Library in Highland.



**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR
THE DAR MEMBERS COURSE
USING THE FAST TRACK METHOD**

Peggy Wilken, Members Course Coordinator, will host the first in a series of Zoom Members Course sessions designed to help members complete the course by the middle of March. If you have always wanted to take a course but had trouble getting started, this class is for you. Members who complete the course will be awarded a certificate and a Members Course cord at State Conference.

Fast Track Members Course!

Email Peggy at Peggy@siu.edu and register now to join the class!

Zoom classes held on the following Sundays at 6:00 pm:
January 4, January 18, February 1, February 15, March 1, and March 8.

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE 130th ILLINOIS DAR STATE CONFERENCE
April 23- 26, 2026**

You can register and select your meals online:

- Visit the Illinois State DAR website at ildar.org/members
- Click on the State Conference Link on the blue ribbon

Chapter Regents: Use the CREDENTIALS fillable form to register your chapter delegates and alternates.

FOLLOWED BY

**135th CONTINENTAL CONGRESS
June 24 – 28, 2026 in Washington DC**

Chapter delegates must be elected by their chapter no later than March 31, 2026, in order to be eligible to vote at Continental Congress. An email link to online processing of chapter credentials will be sent to all Chapter Regents and Chapter Treasurers and must be submitted to NSDAR before April 15, 2026, for chapter representatives to be eligible to vote at Continental Congress.