



WEST VIRGINIA DAR NEWS



Volume 49, Number 2

April 2026

National Theme: “Illuminate Our Legacy”
State Theme: “Bloom Where You Are Planted”



Hello Ladies,

I would like to start with a thank you to all the West Virginia Daughters for the dedication that you have shared over this past year within your community, your chapters and the State Society. Your commitment to our efforts of Education, Patriotism and Historic Preservation have been remarkable.

The **121st WV State Conference** “Bloom Where You Are Planted” was lovely. Our own **President General, Mrs. Virginia “Ginnie” Storage** was the keynote speaker on Friday evening sharing a beautiful message of “Illuminate Our Legacy – Telling Our Stories.” Saturday evening Mr. Clayton Burch, Superintendent for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind, shared an emotional message about the school and how his life’s journey brought him to be a part of the school in Romney. There were a number of delays and flight changes (due to the snow), but our conference guests all arrived safely: visiting State Regents from Tennessee, Carol Teeters; Vermont, Barbara Foote-Hennessey, and Wisconsin, Gena Selb; along with National Chair of Community Service Awards, Charlotte Reynolds.

The Southern District Ladies did an outstanding job of securing every detail down to the last item. Thank you to each of you and for any part that you shared in making this a success. Also thank you to Charla McNaboe, the General Conference Chair; Mary Shaw Van, Co-Chair Southern District; and Stella Moon, the Southern District Director. Your guidance and commitment to the planning of the conference was remarkable.

As we now start on the **122nd State Conference**, we appreciate your comments and feedback as we move forward with the planning for next year's event. This will be held in Huntington and will be hosted by the Western District Chapters. Looking forward to seeing each of you there.

Our National Convention is rapidly approaching. 135th **Continental Congress** will be held the last week of June (June 24 – 28) in Washington DC. Mary Johnson, State Vice Regent, has been working on the WV Breakfast that we hold each year at The Army and Navy Club. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to her for more details.

The Guidebooks for the Officers are moving forward with plans to have them completed by the end of June. Once completed, the plan is to share the Guidebook Template at the District Meetings for the Committee Chairs, so they can begin work for their respective positions.

Hope that you are enjoying the beginning of 2026. Please be sure to take in all that is available throughout the year as we celebrate **America 250!**

...and remember to always

Bloom where You Are Planted.

Sandra Isner-Johnson
WV State Regent 2025-2028

The flyer is set against a background of soft-focus pink flowers. At the top, the title "West Virginia Breakfast" is written in a large, elegant, dark green cursive font. Below it, the date "June 24, 2026" is displayed in a bold, dark green sans-serif font. The main body of text is in a dark green sans-serif font and asks if the reader is going to Continental Congress in 2026. It provides details about the event: June 24, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at the Army and Navy Club, 901 17th Street, NW, Washington DC. It also mentions the guest speaker, Marilla Cushman, LTC, USA Ret., and her role as Senior Advisor to the President of the Military Women's Memorial. The ticket price is listed as \$55. A URL for purchasing tickets is provided. At the bottom center, there is a small, square logo with a floral border containing the text "Bloom WHERE YOU ARE Planted." in a mix of fonts and colors.

West Virginia Breakfast

June 24, 2026

Are you going to **Continental Congress** in 2026?

If so, don't miss the West Virginia Breakfast on June 24, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at the Army and Navy Club, 901 17th Street, NW, Washington DC. The guest speaker will be **Marilla Cushman**, LTC, USA Ret., and Senior Advisor to the President of the **Military Women's Memorial**.

Tickets: \$55

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wv-breakfast-2026-tickets-1983821406229?aff=oddtcreator>



Out and About with Our Districts and Chapters

District Meetings 2026				
District	District Director	Meeting Date and Time	Location	Host Chapter
Southern	Stella Moon Matthew French smoon73@hotmail.com	July 11, 2025 10:00 a.m.-2:00 / 3:00 p.m.	Bozoo Christian Church, 4700 Bozoo Road, Peterstown	Peters Mountain
Central	Pat Goodwin Trans-Allegheny pmg48dar@gmail.com	July 18, 2026 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Days Inn & Suites by Wyndham, 350 Days Drive, Sutton	Elk River
Eastern	Judy Bowyer South Branch Valley rjbowyer@frontier.com	August 15, 2026 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Bavarian Inn, 164 Shepherd Grade Road, Shepherdstown	Pack Horse Ford
Western	Nickie Evenson Anne Bailey Wizzy99@aol.com	August 22, 2026 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Mason County Board of Education, 1 Education Lane, Point Pleasant	Col. Charles Lewis
Northern	Julia Hoffman James Wood hoffmanj@casternet.net	August 29, 2026 Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.	South Parkersburg Baptist Church, 1655 Blizzard Drive, Parkersburg	Blennerhassett
Check-in takes place before 10:00 a.m.				

Central District

Blackwater Chapter

Blackwater Chapter junior member, Evie Harper, is a mechanical and aerospace engineering senior in the WVU Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources who is pursuing her passion for space through hands-on satellite design, leadership, and student mentorship. Evie is a third-generation Blackwater Chapter member. Her mother is Stacey Harper and her grandmother is Honorary Regent and Chapter Librarian Cynthia Kolsun.

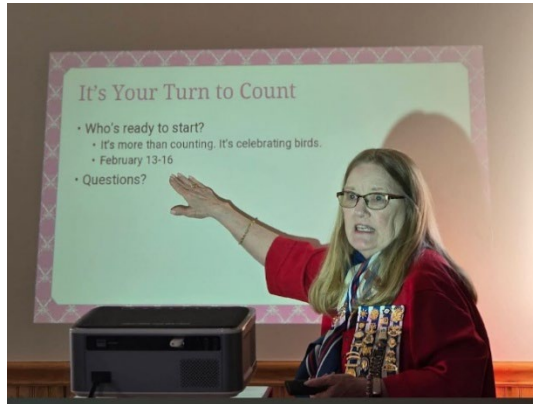


During their March meeting, Blackwater Chapter members presented their annual DAR “Women in American History Award” to Norva Balser Warner, the local author of *The Strength of Our People*. The book is a compilation of stories that were handed down through oral family tradition and recorded by early writers in the Kanawha Valley. It was learned that Mrs. Warner is a descendant of DAR Patriot John Young, for whom the WVDAR John Young Chapter is named. In the near future, she is planning to pursue her DAR membership through this ancestor. Family members who also celebrated her award that day were her husband, Mark, and daughter Susan.

Twenty Blackwater Chapter members collected over 200 packets of seeds which were sent to the DAR Hindman Settlement School in Hindman, KY. The Settlement's major work today includes education and service programs that address critical educational needs of the region's youth, promote cultural awareness, and address emerging issues of health and food insecurity through increased access to nutritious, locally grown food.

National DAR Conservation Chair, Jane Larke, gave a very informative presentation about bird counting at Blackwater Chapter's February meeting. During the bird count weekend of February 13-16, Blackwater members Jane, Cindy Kolsun, Terri Lawrence, and Cathy Hebb logged their bird counts through the Merlin Bird ID app, together logging a total of **75 birds** during that brief

time period. Jane, who logged her observations at her home in Timberline, by far logged the most birds!



Cheat River Chapter

Lunch with Veterans: The Weekly Special at Sabraton Station Restaurant

Where Camaraderie, Courage, and Laughter Are Always on the Menu

If you find yourself at Sabraton Station Restaurant in Morgantown around noon on Thursday, don't be surprised to hear bursts of laughter echoing above the kitchen clatter, and the murmur of conversation. That's when the veterans gather, transforming an ordinary lunch into a weekly celebration of camaraderie and courage—with a generous helping of humor on the side. Each week's main course is a hearty dose of connection. Veterans of all ages pull up chairs to reminisce and bond across generations. If you listen closely, you will notice that every bite comes with a well-timed punchline. With all the laughter there also is a silence that each one of them shares, "The silence of war."

Myself, I sit back and listen to all the Veterans in awe. I as a member of the DAR can only try to realize the trials and turmoil that each VET encountered in their military experiences. Their voices echo with wisdom and wit. I choose to pull up a chair each week to listen to a tapestry of stories, some believable and some not so believable.

This generation of Veterans are also pliable as I have engaged them in an arts and craft project. Our project was puzzling together 3D replicas of military equipment. The day was filled with laughter and frustration because the simple project was challenging. However, all took on the challenge, and the project was successful. One Veteran loved constructing the reproductions and single handedly completed 25 on his own.

The finished replicas were used as table decorations and favors for our Veteran Dinner on Veterans Day. It was a pleasure seeing Veterans, their wives and other family members join us in such a wonderful celebration. When dinner concluded each Veteran chose one or more of the puzzles to take home with them.

So next time you go by Sabraton Station stop in and say hello especially on Thursday afternoons, we look forward to seeing you and sharing more stories.

Barb Hildebrand
Cheat River Chapter DAR



Elizabeth Ludington Hagans-Col John Evans Chapter

Dedicates Patriot Marker

The Elizabeth Ludington Hagans-Col. John Evans Chapter NSDAR honored a Revolutionary War Patriot, Capell Holland, on Saturday, October 11 at the Goshen Baptist Church Cemetery by dedicating a Patriot Marker at his tombstone. Brenda Fisher, Chapter Regent, presided at the dedication ceremony. The Westover VFW provided a Color Guard for the event. Taps was performed by Thomas Goff, Retired Commander, 249th National Guard Band.

Capell Holland was born in Maryland in 1733 and died in Monongalia County, Virginia in 1823. He married Mary Wilson in 1765. He signed the Oath of Allegiance in Montgomery County, Maryland in 1778. One of his children, Rezin Holland, who married Joanna Hannah Wilson, owned the land where Goshen Baptist Church now stands. They were the founding members of the Goshen Baptist Church which dates to August 2, 1837.



Elizabeth Zane Chapter

For the Year Elizabeth Zane Chapter of the NSDAR awarded to Linda Shomo with a Community Service Award

Congratulations to **Linda P. Shomo** on this incredible achievement! Her dedication to bringing the **Rosie the Riveter** monument to **Elkins, West Virginia**, is a testament to her hard work and vision. Through her leadership with the **Emma Scott Garden Club** and a member of **Elizabeth Zane Chapter DAR** she has created a lasting legacy. From her travels to Utah to consult with the sculptors, to the meticulous engineering of the **six-foot-three-inch bronze statue** and its **black marble base**, of the statue's placement within the **Veterans Memorial** and future **Gold Star Marker Garden**, Linda has been the driving force behind every detail and the endless hours. Most importantly Linda ensured this was a community legacy, engraving the names of **Rosie from across West Virginia** directly onto the statue, forever preserving their place in history. Linda's leadership has given our community a cultural icon that represents the strength, labor and patriotism of the women who built our nation's defense. Because of her, their story is cast in bronze for generations to see. We are so proud of what you have accomplished.



Jonathan Sheppard Chapter

The Jonathan Sheppard Chapter had an interesting presentation at their January meeting from member Reberta Hall. Reberta brought the WWII banner that her mother-in-law displayed in the window during the war. Reberta explained that these banners were hung in the window to signify that loved ones were serving in the U.S. Army. There are four stars on the banner, one for each service member from the household that was serving in the military. Serving were her husband Robert Hall and his brothers Roscoe, Roy and Harold. All four made it home safely after the war.

Beginning in January, the chapter is sending biographies for each of their Patriots to the local newspaper. The paper is printing them each week, calling the series America 250 Patriot Spotlight. Chapter members have been researching their Patriots and contributing to these biographies, which are getting membership interest from the public as well as a complimentary letter to the editor.



At the March meeting, the chapter celebrated one year as a DAR Chapter with a tea party. We were honored to have Northern District Director Julia Hoffman and the State Chair for DAR Good Citizens, Jane Richards in attendance. At the meeting, Excellence in Historic Preservation certificates and medals were presented to four individuals who were instrumental in the restoration of the Ruble Church. The Ruble Church was built in 1835 with a dirt floor, kerosene lamps for light and muslin covering the windows. Renovations had been made over the years but the church had deteriorated badly and needed much work. These individuals spearheaded a group that took

the building down piece by piece and rebuilt it from the ground up, replacing damaged logs with logs of the same period to preserve the church's historic character. Two people receiving the certificates are chapter members Shirley McCoy and Carole Menefee, in addition to community members Chester Boggs and Dean Wine.



Chester Boggs, Carole Menefee, Dean Wine and Shirley McCoy

Eastern District

Highlands of the Potomac Chapter

Highlands of the Potomac Chapter Hosts Valentine's-Themed Event, Earns Cherry Blossom Recognition



KEYSER, W.Va. — On February 14, 2026, the Highlands of the Potomac Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution welcomed members and guests from the South Branch Valley Chapter and the newly formed Catherine Parker Forman Chapter for a festive “Cherries & Chocolate” event at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Keyser.

The Valentine’s Day gathering featured a variety of cherry- and chocolate-themed refreshments prepared by chapter members, including cherry crepes, cherry pie, brownies, fudge, and other baked goods. Attendees also enjoyed hot chocolate bombs crafted by Highlands of the Potomac member Tracy Gough of *Taylor’d Treats*, providing a warm seasonal treat.

In addition to refreshments, the program included a genealogy presentation by Bonnie Myers, Chapter Registrar and Eastern District Treasurer, who shared updates and insights on genealogical research. Guests also participated in trivia contests centered on Valentine’s Day during the Revolutionary War, as well as broader themes in Valentine’s and women’s history. Prizes were awarded to trivia winners, and additional door prizes were distributed throughout the event.

A total of 22 members representing the three chapters attended the gathering, which was well received. Visiting members expressed appreciation for the hospitality and engaging program.

The event also fulfilled one of the requirements for the chapter to achieve Cherry Blossom Chapter status. During the West Virginia State Conference at The Greenbrier Resort, Regent LeeAnne King was presented with the Cherry Blossom Chapter Certificate by DAR President General Ginnie Sebastian Storage and West Virginia State Regent Sandra Isner-Johnson.

As part of its ongoing efforts to meet Cherry Blossom Chapter criteria and foster member engagement, the Highlands of the Potomac Chapter is also developing a collaborative cookbook project. The initiative invites all members to contribute recipes, ensuring participation from those both active and unable to attend meetings in person.



Each contributing member will receive a printed copy of the completed cookbook, courtesy of the Regent, as an incentive to encourage widespread involvement. In addition to celebrating the shared traditions and personal histories of its members, the cookbook may also serve as a future fundraising opportunity for the chapter through the sale of additional copies.

Northern District

James Wood Chapter

Our Service to America Project was donating Dear America books to a Neale Elementary School 4th grade class.

This just happens to be our newest Daughter Chelsea Nutters' class! Dina Brainiff, Jane Richards,



Louise Wince, Betty Boot, Stephanie Detrio and Regent Susan Nutter joined her in presenting the entire series of 43 books (thanks to Dina's generous donation of the one costly book not purchased with Chapter funds)!

WTAP was there to cover the historical book donation.

WTAP Report

Daughters of the American Revolution donates historical books to Neale Elementary School

VIENNA, W.Va. (WTAP) - National Day of Service happens around October 11. It commemorates the foundation of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The James Wood chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution donated books to a fourth-grade classroom at Neale Elementary School Friday to honor National Day of Service.

"We want to honor [National Day of Service] by doing a project to promote education and patriotism," said Susan Nutter, Regent for the James Wood chapter. "These books are historically based and accurate. But, the stories are fiction. It gets the kids involved in what happened in that time period, what happened in the past, and how it affects the future," Nutter added.

The chapter has done other projects in the past to help our community as well.

“We donated a bench at city park this summer to honor patriots from our area. We try to recognize people that were involved in the American Revolution,” said Nutter. “Having a meal for first responders, donating to other agencies like the veterans, and things like that,” added Nutter.



James Wood Chapter NSDAR

On October 17, we were fortunate to participate in the American Heart Association Walk at the City Park in Parkersburg. This was a project personal to each of us who walked: Susan Nutter, Louise Wince, Betty Boot, Stephanie Detrio and our super pups Rocket and Holly were joined by Stephanie's brother Mike, super pup Penny and friend Justin.

Our team won a special award for our fundraising and Rocket won the Pup Walk Best Tail Wagger! This was a good cause and an important message for us all.

Heart disease is often silent until it is too late. We must be vigilant.

As a suggested idea by NSDAR, and with at least 3 Daughters participating, this qualified as a Chapter Service Project for the Celebrate Daughters Committee.



Today, we participated in a Valentine's Day event sponsored by WVU Medicine, Camden Clark Foundation. All in attendance enjoyed a healthy lunch, heart-smart tips from the WVU Heart & Vascular Institute regarding Diastolic Heart Failure and participated in just 2 minutes of exercises lead by Stacy Houser of Thrive, that can change our lives. We also received a take home pamphlet that featured a Senior Low-Impact Cardio Routine, along with tips to prevent Congestive Heart Failure.

This event covers all 3 pillars of this committee by concentrating on:

- Professional Development (getting together with other women from around the area is a great networking opportunity)
- Women's Health and Wellness (hearing from medical professionals about heart-smart tips)
- Celebrate Daughters (participating in women's events that focus on, and celebrate, women)

Ladies in attendance today were Betty Boot, Stephanie Detrio, Susan Nutter, Betsy Jefferson, Olga Thomas, Mary Smith, and Jane Richards.

We wore Red for Heart Month and for “Remember Everyone Deployed” Friday.

Southern District

Stella Moon, District Director

The Southern District hosted the 121st WVDAR State Conference at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, welcoming conference attendees to the rolling hills of Southern West Virginia. State Regent Sandra Isner-Johnson welcomed the NSDAR President General, Virginia “Ginnie” Sebastian Storage, and her distinguished guests: Carol Teeters, Tennessee State Regent; Barbara Foote-Hennessy, Vermont State Regent; Gena Selby, Wisconsin State Regent; and Charlotte Stout Reynolds, National Chair of Community Service Awards.

The State Regent’s theme, “Bloom Where You Are Planted,” was the integral message for the State Conference. The Cameo Club Luncheon, hosted by the Matthew French Chapter, focused on “Legacy, Sowing Family Seeds.” Captain James Allen Chapter hosted the Friday Banquet which emphasized that “WV’s Legacy Illuminates our Future.” State Regent Sandra Isner-Johnson introduced the President General, Virginia “Ginnie” Sebastian Storage, who addressed the DAR members at Friday evening’s Opening Session. The President General motivated the delegates to “Illuminate Our Legacy – Telling Our Stories.” National Chair of Community Service Awards, Charlotte Stout Reynolds, addressed the Regents’ Club Breakfast with ideas for “Illuminating and Blooming Our DAR.” The John Cooke Chapter hosted the breakfast. Captain James Allen Chapter hosted Saturday’s Awards Luncheon, “Blooming Our Students with Success,” that recognized our outstanding teachers, students and DAR members for their contributions. The conference’s grand finale, “Bloom Where You Are Planted and Grow Where You Go,” was hosted by the Matthew French and Peters Mountain Chapters. Guest Speaker Clayton Burch, Superintendent of the WV School for the Deaf and Blind, shared how the school serves students from birth through 23 with comprehensive academic, residential, and transition programs. Workshop sessions, “Tell Her Story,” presenter Cindy Kolsun, and “The Pledge of Allegiance Through Sign Language,” presenter Barby Frankenberry, highlighted two components of the State Regent’s Project. The Memorial Service, led by State Chaplain Mary Ellen Brown, remembered those daughters who passed in the previous year. Due to a medical emergency, the Memorial Service was interrupted and the Closing Session did not occur.

The DAR-lings Auction raised \$4,375.00 for the WVDAR. This year, a Silent Auction option was available for one-of-a-kind unique items, garnering \$865.00. Ticket sales were \$3,510.00. Attendees shopped at the Pop-up Insignia Store, President General’s, State Regent’s and Junior

Members tables, and the Conference Photographer. The Southern District saved money by utilizing the same decorations in a variety of ways throughout the conference. This savings translated into a \$600 donation to the State Regent's Project from the Southern District and its five chapters. There were 270 delegates, HODARS, pages, and guests in attendance, with approximately one-third of the delegates being first-time conference goers. All in all, everyone had a memorable 5-star experience at West Virginia's 5-Star Resort. The Western District will host the 122nd WVDAR State Conference from April 22-25, 2027.

General Andrew Lewis Chapter

The General Andrew Lewis Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) met February 19 at the Seasons to celebrate Sally Ford who has been a member of DAR



for 75 years. She told the members that her mother enrolled her while Sally was in college at WVU. She was a charter member of the Aracoma Chapter in Logan, WV. The members presented her with a lovely bouquet of silk roses. Sally chided us for not standing when we began to say the DAR Creed. We all stood as we were directed. At age 95 and having been Regent twice during her membership, she knew how to properly conduct the meeting.



Those members there to honor her were Karen Lee McClung, Doris Kasley, Regent Deborah Phillips, Judy Deegans, Jodie Nidey, Addie Goodrich, Carol Olsen, Ruth Sturgill, Suzanne Snyder and Suzanne Cronquist.

The speaker for the group was Mary Ceceilia Conte who is a graduate of Gallaudet University in Washington, DC which is the only university in the world which is specifically designed for deaf and hard of hearing students. Conte received her MS degree in teaching American Sign Language. She is employed by the Greenbrier County Board of Education. She patiently taught the members to sign the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the meeting, lovely refreshments were served by Suzanne Cronquist and Addie Goodrich.



Captain James Allen Chapter

Beckley, WV

Written By: Jocelyn Woods

Quilts of Valor Ceremony

On December 27, 2025, the Beckley Veterans Museum hosted a heartfelt Quilts of Valor ceremony, honoring six deserving veterans. Among the honorees was Army Vietnam veteran, Donnie Bragg, who, unfortunately, could not attend the event. To ensure he received the recognition he deserves, a private ceremony was held on January 7, 2026.



During the intimate gathering, members Amy Choate and Margaret Rusnak, from the Captain James Allen Chapter presented Mr. Bragg with his quilt, crafted with care and gratitude by the ladies of the chapter. The Captain James Allen Chapter is proud to honor those who served, celebrating their bravery and dedication. In a poignant moment, Mr. Bragg's will be bringing him home under hospice care, preparing his bed with the quilt. This heartfelt gesture serves as a symbol of love and gratitude, offering comfort to a veteran who has dedicated so much to our country.

Cards for Heroes: Local Chapter & Schools Support Honor Flight

Members of the Captain James Allen Chapter wrote and mailed heartfelt thank-you notes to veterans who will be participating in the next Honor Flight for North Central West Virginia. Chapter Regent Cecilia Chapman led by example, contributing 23 cards. Other chapter members included Cherri Farley (10), Nancy Farley (100), Velma Lilly (22), and Ginger Lilly (20). Chapter member Jocelyn Woods, a teacher in Raleigh County, and her class wrote an impressive 111 cards. In Greenbrier County, students from Ronceverte Elementary and Lewisburg schools contributed a combined total of 116 cards. Together, these volunteers sent a warm, collective message of gratitude to the veterans who will soon be honored on their trip. The Captain James Allen Chapter thanks every student and member who participated—your time and words made a meaningful difference to those who served.



Matthew French Chapter

The Matthew French Chapter was recognized as a Cherry Blossom Chapter at the 121st WVDAR State Conference.

One criterion was to have a party celebrating chapter members. We held a Cherry Blossom Chapter Celebration for local and out-of-the-area members and associate members prior to a chapter meeting. Those in-person enjoyed refreshments as we celebrated. In keeping with the cherry theme, the Cherry Blossom refreshments were Chocolate Covered Cherries, Cherry Cordial Chocolate Kisses, Cherry Pop Tarts, and Cherry Bubbly. Each member who attended in-person or via Zoom received a Cherry Blossom Bread in their Christmas bag from the chapter regent. She mailed bags to those who attended via Zoom.

Prior to determining who was the “pinkest of us all” or sharing information about ourselves, members sang “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree.” To acknowledge an associate member’s idea of celebration who lives in the St. Louis, MO area and attending via Zoom, the members joined her in singing “Celebration in Fly-Over Country” aka “Cardinal Nation.” Then, we introduced ourselves and told what we were grateful for in our personal lives and in DAR.

There was a contest to see who wore the most pink. JoAnna Fredeking won the contest by wearing fourteen pink items. JoAnna will receive four of the President General's cherry blossom tablets; everyone else will receive one.

This was a great opportunity for our Zoom and in-person attendees to interact and get to know each other better.

Western District

Colonel Charles Lewis Chapter

Missy Deem, Chapter Regent of the Colonel Charles Lewis Chapter, is pleased to announce that the Chapter will celebrate 125 years in June 2026.

Organized in March 1901 at the home of Organizing Regent, Livia Nye Simpson Poffenbarger, the Chapter was chartered by the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, on June 12, 1901.

The Chapter raised funds to erect an 82-foot high obelisk at Tu-Endie-Wei to commemorate the Battle of Point Pleasant in 1909. Through the efforts of Mrs. Poffenbarger, the log cabin built by Walter Newman in 1797 as a "ordinary" (tavern and inn) and family home was saved. Chapter members restored the building and rescued many artifacts and antiques which fill the building now known as the Mansion House. This cabin has served as the Chapter House for over 115 years.

During the past 125 years members have overseen the relocation of Dr. Jesse Bennett's grave to Pioneer Cemetery. Dr. Bennett performed the first Cesarean section west of the Alleghenies on his wife. They also facilitated the reburial of Chief Cornstalk to Tu-Endie-Wei when the courthouse was razed and a new one built in his place. They have erected a new marker on the grave of Ann Hennis Trotter Bailey, frontier scout, who is also buried at Tu-Endie-Wei. They identified and honored a First Daughter.

Over the decades they held Memorial Services each year to commemorate the Battle of Point Pleasant and the militia who fought there. They have acted as hostesses during Battle Days each year.

Daughters placed commemorative markers for World War I veterans from Mason County at the courthouse; on the Ohio River at the spot where the Silver Bridge once stood, honoring the lives lost during the collapse of that bridge; and, at the Mason County Library honoring Gold Star mothers.

More recently they honored the Organizing Regent, Livia Simpson Poffenbarger, by installing a DAR marker on her grave. The Chapter has worked diligently over the past few years to restore Pioneer Cemetery. Markers have been cleaned and restored; the wrought iron fence was removed, repaired and restored; and, a new sign has been installed. This year's project will be to repair and re-set broken headstones.

All of these many community projects were completed while maintaining their obligations to the State and National societies and contributing to the many missions of those societies.

The Chapter will commemorate their 125-year milestone with a catered luncheon at Trinity United Methodist Church, 615 Viand Street, on Saturday, June 13, 2026, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Parking is at the rear of the church, just off Main Street. All West Virginia Daughters are invited to attend. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Reservations should be made by sending a check payable to the Colonel Charles Lewis Chapter to Deborah Hickel, 2100 Mason Blvd., Point Pleasant, WV 25550, by May 30, 2026. Hats and gloves are encouraged but not required.

Old Hickory Chapter

The Old Hickory Chapter had two events on February 21. The first was a Supplemental Workshop held by our Chapter Volunteer Genealogist Chair and Chapter Registrar, Heather D. Harrison. She went over helpful information like what is recognized as service to become a patriot and what kinds of evidence are accepted for proof of lineage. She also provided research tools/links and tips on supplemental application preparation.

The second event of the day was the City of Ripley's 250th Celebration. Chapter attendees dressed in period attire and handed out America 250 birthday cards and US flags. At our March chapter meeting, two fellow SAR members attended to tell us about a new SAR chapter they would be forming. The new chapter would represent Jackson, Wirt, Roane, and Calhoun counties, and will be named "Gower Resolves."



Old Hickory had 14 chapter members attend the state conference at The Greenbrier Resort. Two local winners were awarded at the Education Luncheon. Audrey Scholl from Ripley High School was our chapter's first ever WVDAR Patriot of the American Revolution Essay Contest winner. Also from Ripley High School is our very own Adena Barnette-Miller, winning WV History Teacher of the Year. We also won First Place Chapter Scrapbook and Second Place Pressbook for large chapters.

Committee News and Info

Franco-American Memorial Committee



Eleven West Virginia chapters noted activities and events related to the Franco-American Memorial Committee (FAMC) on the 2025 Chapter Master Report (CMR). Chapters logged 89 hours volunteering and participating in FAMC events. The following activities and events were reported on the 2025 CMR.

East Central Division Chair, Suzanne Cronquist from the General Andrew Lewis Chapter, staffed the FAMC booth during Sparkle Night at the 2025 Continental Congress, and Suzanne represented FAMC at the Walter Hines Page Chapter's 100th Anniversary Celebration in London.

The Daniel Davisson Chapter and the General Andrew Lewis Chapter attended the FAMC Dashboard event in Williamsburg, VA. The Blennerhassett Chapter also attended a FAMC Dashboard event. The General Andrew Lewis Chapter attend a FAMC Calendar event.

The Wheeling Chapter assisted the Fort Henry Chapter, WVSSAR in sponsoring an event celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour in Wheeling, WV. The Pack Horse Ford Chapter located a new gravesite of a French Patriot buried in Shepherdstown, WV. A member of the Ohio Valley Chapter made a monetary donation toward the Lafayette plaque in Wheeling, WV.



The Blennerhassett Chapter represented WV during the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour in Gallipolis, OH. The Blennerhassett, Colonel Morgan Morgan, and Daniel Davisson Chapters represented WV in Marietta, OH, to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour. The Blennerhassett, Captain James Allen, Colonel

Morgan Morgan, Daniel Davisson, Ohio Valley, and Wheeling Chapters attended the 200th

Anniversary of Lafayette's Farewell Tour in Wheeling, WV. The Colonel Morgan Morgan Chapter attended a Lafayette Event at Friendship Hill, PA.

The Anne Bailey Chapter visited the French Gratitude Collection at the WV Archives and History in Charleston, WV. The Blennerhassett Chapter visited the Merci Train exhibit at Tu Endie State Park in Point Pleasant, WV, and this chapter visited the Our House Museum in Gallipolis, OH, where LaFayette's coat and portrait are on display. The Ohio Valley Chapter visited the Lafayette displays at the Campus Martius Museum in Marietta, OH. The Blennerhassett, Captain James Allen, Daniel Davisson, Colonel Morgan Morgan, Ohio Valley, and Wheeling Chapters visited the Farewell Tour of the Marquis de Lafayette Exhibit in Wheeling, WV.

The Daniel Davisson and General Andrew Lewis Chapters purchased Franco-American books. The Colonel Morgan Morgan Chapter created a Franco-American display that was placed in the Marion County Court House.

The Colonel Morgan Morgan, General Andrew Lewis, Wheeling, and William Henshaw Chapters had Franco-American programs at their chapter meetings. The Blennerhassett, Colonel Morgan Morgan, General Andrew Lewis, Matthew French, Ohio Valley, Old Hickory, and William Henshaw Chapters read Franco-American minutes at chapter meetings. The Blennerhassett, Old Hickory, Ohio Valley, Wheeling, and William Henshaw Chapters posted Franco-American information and events on social media. The Blennerhassett, Ohio Valley, and Wheeling Chapters had Franco-American articles in local newspapers and in their chapter's newsletters.

Mickie Richardson
WV FAMC State Chair



DAR Leadership Training Committee

West Virginia Daughters "bloomed where they were planted" as a record number of 48 members completed DAR Leadership Training Courses during the 2025-2026 year. This is seven more WV Daughters than completed courses last year. These training courses engage and encourage membership involvement in our Society.

Triple Crowns were in the air with ten Daughters reaching the trifecta in Leadership Training making a total of 49 Triple Crown winners in the West Virginia Society. Twenty-four members completed the Members Course – twelve more completions than last year. Another record number of fourteen members completed the Committee Leaders Course. Ten Daughters completed the New Horizons Course. Twelve members who completed Leadership Training courses are "new" DAR members. Years of WVDAR membership of course completers ranged from 4 months to 20+ years.

Eleven of our chapters qualified for National training awards; this represents 27% of our WV chapters. The Catherine Parker Forman Chapter earned the National Level 2 Enlightened Membership Award with at least 20% of their Daughters completing one or more training courses.

The following chapters earned the National Level 3 Enlightened Membership Award with at least 10% of their Daughters completing one or more training courses: Blennerhassett, Captain James Allen, Cheat River, Colonel Morgan Morgan, Elizabeth Zane, Jonathan Sheppard, Old Hickory, Tanner's Cross Roads, Westmoreland, and William Henshaw

Congratulations to our award recipients for these achievements!

Please contact Mickie Richardson at mirichar16@gmail.com to enroll in a DAR Leadership Training course.

Mickie Richardson
WV DAR Leadership Training State Chair

Literacy Promotion

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your generous donations of cash and gift cards collected during our recent efforts for the WVDAR state conference project. Together, we raised an impressive \$1,200, which will be sent directly to Logan Elementary School in Logan County.

On February 21, 2026, a devastating fire struck Logan Elementary School, severely damaging the building and displacing 12 classrooms. The blaze filled parts of the school with thick smoke and soot, destroying valuable classroom supplies and forcing teachers and students to transition to temporary locations to continue the school year.



As Daughters of the American Revolution, one of our core missions is to promote education. Your compassion and quick response have made a meaningful difference for this southern district West Virginia school, helping teachers purchase essential unbudgeted items to rebuild their classrooms and support their students.

Your kindness exemplifies the spirit of DAR—service, patriotism, and dedication to future generations. Thank you again for your outstanding generosity and for standing with Logan Elementary in their time of need.

Jane Larke, WVDAR Literacy Promotion Chair

DAR DNA Network

The DAR DNA Network is pleased to announce the **first approved DNA application to the WV State Society**. On April 5, 2026, the Wheeling Chapter welcomed Linda Nice Lambert who joined through her family's participation in the DAR DNA Network and our DNA Analysis submitted with her application. Welcome, Linda!

National has announced they will now be accepting autosomal DNA through the fifth generation on applications (new and supplemental). Please be part of this fast-growing project. **Preserve your ancestors' genetic history for future generations**. Please contact DAR DNA State Chair, Heather Harrison for detailed instructions on how to participate. Hdharrison73@gmail.com.

Stay informed with the most up-to-date information and news, join the DNA community on the Daughters Online Community (DOC).

Volunteer Information Specialist (VIS)

Thank you to the Chapters for your hard work and participation last year. The State VIS Chair reported thirty-five members to National for recognition for outstanding VIS effort. Certificates will be distributed after Continental Congress next year. They will also issue the awards for the 2025 Daughters Online Community (DOC) participation contest at this time.

There is a new contest from National for 2026. Please add four new chapter members to the VIS community of the Daughters Online Community (DOC) this year. There is also an additional requirement for twelve activities on the DOC by members in 2026. These can be as simple as recommending or following a post, creating a new thread, or replying to a sender. Please get involved today!

Chapter webpage revision/creation has begun in the Southern District. National requests that all chapters have a public webpage that is to be submitted for their badge of approval. In preparation of work in all districts this year, Chapter Regents, please appoint a VIS Chair if you do not currently have one. The Chapter VIS Chair and Regent will be responsible for providing information to be placed on the webpages, not constructing the webpages themselves. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact State VIS Chair, Heather Harrison, at vis@wvdar.org.

**Deadline for the July issue will be July 10 with
publication scheduled for July 15, 2026.**

**Please send articles for the newsletter to
statenewsletter@wvdar.org**

Open State Committee Chair Positions

The following State Committee Chair positions are vacant at this time and need to be filled. If you are interested in one of these, please reach out to the State Regent (at stateregent@wvdar.org) or the State Vice Regent (at stateviceregent@wvdar.org) for more details.

DAR Project Patriot

JAC – Junior American Citizens

WV Newsletter