

# *The Starfish*

*A Publication of the Delaware State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Spring 2022 Edition*



Gloria Lester  
Delaware State Regent 2019 – 2022



## **STATE THEME**

*Renew, rise up, reach out and help. You  
can make a difference in the lives of  
others by serving America.*

## **STATE BIBLE VERSE**

*The King will reply, "Truly I tell you,  
whatever you did for one of the least of  
these brothers and sisters of mine, you  
did for me."*

*Matthew 25:40*

## **NATIONAL THEME**



## **NATIONAL BIBLE VERSE**

*Let your light shine before others  
that they may see your good deeds  
and glorify your father in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:16*

## **STATE REGENT'S MESSAGE**

Welcome to our Spring edition of the Starfish. I hope you were all able to enjoy the Holiday Season and were able to find ways to safely spend time with family during this last viral surge. I find it very difficult to believe my administration is coming to a close in four months. As I have said in the past, I have truly enjoyed serving as your State Regent. It is a demanding but very rewarding position. It has been a pleasure to work with the many Delaware Daughters that give their time and talents to serve the DAR and their community. Serving as State Regent has, also, been an opportunity to meet many wonderful DAR daughters across the country and overseas.

I am very proud of all the activities and accomplishments our members have achieved during this difficult time. We have a great team of State Officers, Chapter Regents, and State Committee Chairs leading our State Society. I am grateful to these leaders and to our Honorary State Regents for sharing all their wisdom and knowledge. But it is you the members that are truly the backbone of our organization.

At the beginning of my administration, I had set several goals I wanted to accomplish. First, I wanted to raise enough money to meet my obligation to National to contribute \$5,000 to refurbish the Delaware Box at Constitution Memorial Hall. This was part of the initiative to update Memorial Hall and was suggested by the Office of Development that I take this on as one of my State Regent's Projects. I admit, I was concerned, I would not be able to meet this commitment. Thanks to your generous donations and creative fundraising efforts led by my talented team I have met my obligation and the \$5,000 check has been sent to the Office of Development.

Second, I wanted to raise at least \$5,000 to donate to Casa San Francisco, a charitable social service organization in our own state. This agency supplies emergency shelter,



Christmas gifts for children. Although this agency is not specifically a service for veterans, it serves many veterans and links them to other supportive services. ***I will continue to raise money for this deserving agency until the end of my administration.*** I know your contributions will make a difference for many individuals in our community. Again, thank you for your generous support!



case management services, a food pantry and a senior food program for our community. Their case managers help clients develop and implement a plan that focuses on wellness and stabilizing client's finances and living situation. In addition, Casa distributes gift cards and

Another goal I set in 2019 when I became State Regent was to begin digitalizing our State Society Records. With the pandemic, it took a while to get this started. Claudia Onken, Jennifer Horsley, Patti Haas and myself have started this process using a cloud called Forever. This has been such fun looking at applications and records that date back to 1891. We spent several hours organizing all our paper records into folders or boxes by State DAR administrations. Now we are scanning these records into an external hard drive then into Forever. This is a long tedious process and will extend into the next administration. The original records will be retained as dictated by National but digitalized records will allow members easy access to our records via Forever through our website. I hope what we learn as we digitalize the State Society records can be passed on to the

chapters as they take on this task for chapter records.

Another goal I set was to be visible and accessible to all our Chapters. DAR requires one visit per chapter during the State Regents administration. At the end of my first year, I had made LIVE Chapter visits for all but one chapter. Once the pandemic started, my Chapter visits became virtual but still I was able to participate several times with many chapters. I, also, wanted to attend other State Society Meetings to develop stronger interstate relationships and to bring new ideas back to Delaware. Because of the pandemic, I was fortunate to be able to attend, as a guest, 11 virtual State DAR Meetings throughout our country.

Another goal was to strengthen our relationship with the State SAR and CAR organizations



by including them in our DAR State Meetings and attending many of their activities. I created an award and certificate for an SAR



member to be awarded yearly to recognize our working partnership. The first award was presented April 2021 to Harry Roberts, SAR State President.

I wanted to make sure Delaware helped meet National's goal of placing at least one 250 Patriotic commemorative plaque in each state to recognize the Patriots of the American Revolution by our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thanks to a lot of hard work by both Donna Josefowski and our 250! State Committee

Chair, Deborah Cannon, we will be placing a 24" by 24" bronze cap mounted plaque in Dover to raise awareness of the courage and sacrifices of the patriots who won American independence



As a member of a Gold Star Family, I feel strongly our Veterans should be recognized. My uncle, Marine Joseph Conte was wounded on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima and buried at sea. I strongly support the sponsorship and placement of wreaths for Wreaths Across America. Thanks to the leadership of Valarie Leary and the generosity of our members and solicited community organizations we were able to sponsor hundreds of wreaths over the last three years. Many of our daughters represented our organization at four Delaware sites and Arlington Cemetery to lay wreaths each December. Thank you, Ladies.



and Historic Interiors. Thank you to Patrick, the paint has been restored and all the artifacts are authentic to the period.

When I realized the Officer's Club for Delaware DAR had been dissolved, I set a goal to resurrect this Club. Denise Clemons, the past treasurer for the Club sent out an invitation to all eligible members and at our first meeting our officers were elected and Ginger Trader, our new president, is planning future meetings.

Unfortunately, some of our past State Administrations have not been as well documented as our chapters with scrapbooks, so I set a goal to make sure there was a scrap book to document the activities of the State Society during the Lester Administration. Frances O'Reilly has been working diligently to document the activities of the State Society.

Thank you, Delaware Daughters. None of these goals for our State Society could have been met without our members, Chapter Regents, State Committee Chairs and State Officers. It is all of you that have helped meet the goals of the Lester administration and made our State Society shine.

Dr Gloria Lester  
Delaware State Regent



While visiting the Delaware room at headquarters in 2019 with Jen and Kathy Guyer we realized much of the paint in the room was chipping and some of the artifacts were not authentic to the period. I wanted to make sure these problems were corrected before my administration was over. The three of us met with Patrick Sheary, the curator of Finishings





## STATE REGENTS PROJECT AND STATE PINS

The funds raised from the State Regent's project help support Casa San Francisco, a very worthy charitable social service organization in our own state. ***I will continue to raise funds for this organization until the end of my administration.***

Funds raised from the sale of the Starfish Pin also went towards the refurbishing of the Delaware Box. The commitment for the Delaware project was \$5,000.00 and has been achieved.

**You may order the Starfish pin with your Spring 2022 Conference registration form or by sending a check made out to the DSSNSDAR to**

**Dr. Gloria Lester, Delaware State Regent  
31685 Mill Creek Court, Lewes, Delaware  
19958.**



**We also have some of the Holly Pins left from the Beachell Administration. Both of these pins would make excellent gifts. The pins are being sold for**

**\$25 each and \$5 for shipping. These beautiful pieces of jewelry can be worn as either a pin or a necklace. Please help support Casa San Francisco by purchasing the State Regent's pins.**



**Please note we also have 3 Sunfish pins available for \$25 each and \$5 shipping that support the DAR Schools. These**

**pins can also be ordered by sending a check to the address above. Please include your mailing address. The unsold Sunfish pins must be returned to National by 2/28/2022, so if you want one, please call me ASAP at 302-542-6818.**

## DELAWARE STATE SPRING CONFERENCE

The Spring State Conference is April 23<sup>RD</sup> 2022 at the Maple Dale Country Club, unless the pandemic were to require that we go to a virtual platform again. The hostess Chapter is Mary Vining. The theme for this meeting is "Women in History". Our first speaker is Karen Jesse who will present "Bustles to Bras." Eric Mease will do a presentation entitled "Remember the Ladies, America's Founding Mothers." You won't want to miss either one of these exciting educational presentations.

Much planning has gone into this State Conference to make it a special event for all of our members. The Conference will start at 9:00 am but there will be time for socializing from 8:30 to 9:00 am. The morning will begin with the Opening Ceremonies and Rituals.





Following the morning Rituals, the Executive Board members, Chapter Regents and State Committee Chairs will present Reports. ***This will cover the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. If you are a State Office, Chapter Regent or State Committee Chair please email a copy of your Report to Janet Leishman ([olyveduke@msn.com](mailto:olyveduke@msn.com)) and Dr Gloria Lester ([glesteredd@aol.com](mailto:glesteredd@aol.com)) at least one week before the Conference.*** To make the reports more interesting, the reports will be accompanied by a picture slide show created by our talented Vice Regent, Barb Seningen. ***Please email 2 to 3 pictures to complement your report to Barb Seningen ([seningebe@aol.com](mailto:seningebe@aol.com)) for the slide show by March 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.***

Throughout the day, we will award prizes for playing Trivia. So, brush up on your history, especial women in history.



Karen Jesse will be our opening act for the afternoon. Karen combines history with humor to create historic presentations that are well researched, enlightening and fun. Her programs have won state and

national awards and have been performed for numerous groups, organizations and historic societies. Karen Jesse is a veteran teacher of English, theatre and writing. She was nominated twice for Teacher of the Year and was the winner of the NBC National Teacher Award. Karen is a contributing writer to several publications and has won awards for her articles and scripts from the Delaware Press Association and National Federation of Press

Women. Her trips to England to study fashion have inspired her programs. Her “Bustles to Bras” program follows 200 years of women’s history through clothing. ***Since our Conference focuses on the history of 200 years of women’s fashions, we invite you to dress in clothing of an era of your choice either as an individual or as a group or a chapter.***



Eric Mease will follow Karen. Eric is an American History buff with a specific interest in the Early American Period. He is a retired paralegal from the Dupont Company’s Intellectual Property. Eric graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor’s degree in Journalism and a Master’s degree in Arts and Liberal Studies from the University of Delaware. He is currently on the Board of Directors for the Historic Society of Cecil County and previously on the board of the Historic Elk Landing Foundation. He teaches a number of continuing history education courses at several Community Colleges. Eric’s presentation around America’s four First Ladies is a historic overview of their lives as they pertain to their social life, married life, life before, during, and after the American Revolution and how they react to the politics and government of their day. This lecture also examines women’s history from the perspective of these four ladies during a time of both great change and re-formation of institutions which would rule over them and their posterity.



#### REMEMBER THE LADIES

Eric’s presentation around America’s four First Ladies is a historic overview of their lives as they pertain to their social life, married life, life before, during, and after the American Revolution and how they react to the politics and government of their day. This lecture also examines women’s history from the perspective of these four ladies during a time of both great change and re-formation of institutions which would rule over them and their posterity.

The Conference will also include Election of State Officers for the next administration, Members Training Course Graduation, information on the new Committee Course, Good Citizen Awards and the Memorial Service.



***We are asking members to wear their hats during the memorial service to honor the daughters we lost in 2021.***

This should be an entertaining and educational State Meeting with something for everyone. We will be honored to have Vice President General and Maryland Honorary State Regent Maureen Tipton bring greetings from National and from the Maryland State Society.

Maureen Dougherty Tipton  
Vice president General Class of  
2024  
Honorary Maryland State Society  
Regent



Normally, the registration form would be included in this edition of the Starfish but because of the uncertainty of the pandemic, the registration form will be sent out in March so we can better determine if our platform can remain live or if we need to go to a virtual platform. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in April.

Dr Gloria Lester  
Delaware State Regent

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONIES

Dr. Gloria Lester, State Regent



On Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> Dr Gloria Lester had the honor of representing the Delaware State Society DAR, at the Dover ceremony for the Delaware General Assembly as it welcomed Wreaths Across America to Delaware. In attendance were Governor John Carney, Lieutenant Governor Beth Hall Long,

Representative Ruth Briggs-King, Senator David Sokodola, Senator Bruce Ennis (Veteran's Affairs), Major General Michael Berry (Delaware National Guard), Col. Mathew Huseman (DAB) and Joshua Mattics (Executive Director Veterans Services).





On December 18<sup>th</sup> the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Barratts Chapel was led by Honorary State Regent Claudia Onken and Margaret Dean, both of Col. John Haslet



Chapter. State Regent Dr. Gloria Lester had the honor of

leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, in attendance to place wreaths were Jennifer Horsley and Pattie Haas, both of Col. David Hall Chapter. Patti had the honor of placing the wreath for Space Force. Honorary State Regent, Ginger Trader (Mary Vining Chapter), Norma Jean Hudson (Major Nathaniel Mitchell Chapter), and Col. John Haslet Chapter Regent Donna Josefowski all placed wreaths at the Millsboro Veterans WAA Ceremony.



## Wreaths Across America Reblooms!

By Sarah O'Donnell

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Cooch's Bridge Chapter was overjoyed to be able to celebrate Wreaths Across America reminiscent of the pre-pandemic celebrations. The

Pencader Heritage Museum reopened under new leadership. This was the first Wreaths across America ceremony at the museum since 2019. Seven Cooch's Bridge daughters attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Pencader Heritage Museum. This ceremony was carefully designed to minimize unnecessary interaction! Members attending included Barb Seningen, Carol Halsey, Jill White, Becky Bennett, Cathy Scott and Sarah O'Donnell. The emotion we felt to return to Pencader was evident by the smiling eyes that peered over our masks!



At the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, Delaware, two Daughters represented our chapter at the

Wreaths Across America event. Janet Leishman and Dawn Clair each participated. Dawn's two daughters, Anneliese and Anastasia Clair, and HODAR also participated. Hence the Children of the American revolution (Blue Hen's Chicken Society) was represented.







We are fortunate that Clare Vosteen was present at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. on December 18<sup>th</sup> where she laid wreaths. I am so proud that our members were

able to participate and represent our chapter at three locations. Members of our chapter donated a total of 67 wreaths through the Wreaths Across America website.

## THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE NEXT 2022-2025 ADMINISTRATION

The following names have been brought forth from the Nominating Committee as a recommendation for the 2022-2025 slate for the Delaware State Society Executive Board. These candidates will be voted on at the April 23, 2022 State Conference. Based on our by-laws, nominations may be submitted from the floor for any position with prior approval from the eligible candidates.



Regent –  
Barbara Seningen

Vice Regent –  
Carolynn Foxwell



Chaplain –  
Carol Evans

Recording Secretary –  
Dawn Clair



Corresponding  
Secretary –  
Sarah O'Donnell

Organizing  
Secretary –  
Donna Josefowski



Treasurer –  
Kathleen Schrader

Registrar –  
Nancy Graybeal





Historian –  
Claudia Onken

Librarian –  
Valarie  
Leary



## CAESAR RODNEY CHAPTER

Cynthia Vander Laan, Chapter Regent

Our chapter began the year with a kick-off business meeting at a lovely, historical home of one of our members in September.

Throughout the fall, we worked on our annual Veterans donation project which culminated in the submission of 24 “needs bags” for men and women veterans transitioning to shelters.

Caesar Rodney enjoyed hosting the State Meeting in October.

In November, we attended the Veterans Bridge Ceremony on the 11th. Also, that month, we enjoyed the hospitality of the Hales Byrnes House which partners with Cooch’s Bridge at a lecture about James Armistead Lafayette by Syl Woolford.



A Christmas Party and Cookie Exchange at the Ulysses Gastropub in Wilmington was a fun way to enjoy the season with DAR friends.



Our members continue to volunteer at many

locations in New Castle County and give to other important causes like Wreaths Across America, and the USO.

We look forward to programs on the DAR Schools, Historical Preservation at the Claymont School, visiting the Iron Hill Museum and a conservation meeting this Spring.

## COOCH’S BRIDGE CHAPTER

Sarah O’Donnell, Regent

November gave us an opportunity to meet in-person in the Christiana Hilton. We were so please to be able to see each other and enjoy a wonderful speaker, Bright Dove (Denise Dunkley) who was accompanied by her daughter, Honor the Earth. Denise is an award-winning



Master Artisan and Educator of Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape culture. She is a member of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation of New Jersey who actively educates other members and the public on Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape culture; past and present. At our meeting, Denise spoke of the history of the Leni Lenape in the Northeast and the hardships of her



Indigenous people from colonial times through the present. Like us, she pointed out, she wants to learn about her ancestors. We were engrossed with her presentation and many gathered around her afterwards to continue the discussion. The photo shows a few dolls that my husband bought from her in the past.

At that same meeting, Dineen Beijer ran a silent auction for the benefit of the DAR Schools, an event we look forward to annually. \$544 was raised for their use!

In addition to our first regular meeting in November, we supported the Hale Byrnes House through its "This Place Matters" November event. And, two members of our chapter attended the Delaware Memorial



Bridge Veterans Memorial Park Veteran's Day Service on November 11<sup>th</sup>: Barb Seningen, State Vice Regent and Honorary Regent of our chapter and myself.

Lucky Barb got a hug from the energetic 100-year-old veteran, Ray Firmani, who is the subject of the book, *Against All Odds*!

## COL. DAVID HALL CHAPTER

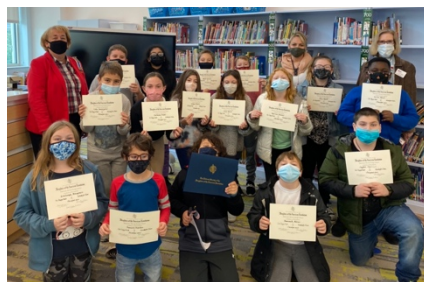
Kathy Lindemer, Regent

The Colonel David Hall Chapter strives to make a difference in our communities. We continue to provide a complete dinner monthly for male and female veterans at Home of the Brave, Milton



Delaware. We collect canned goods for Dover Air Force Base Food Pantry for families.

We are proud to announce the chapter winner of the American History Essay Contest is John Landolfi of Rehoboth Elementary



School. The topic for 2021 was "The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" which coincides with the 100th anniversary of

the Tomb. John was presented with a special certificate, a bronze medal and a "Our Patriots" DAR coloring book. The winning essay moves onto the State competition level. We also look forward to awarding a total of \$500 to our chapter's two good citizens from Cape Henlopen High and \$250 to an outstanding JROTC student there.

We have enjoyed some excellent speakers at our chapter meetings. One in particular hit home to the chapter. Red Moulinier spoke about the ongoing maintenance of the Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse. We thought caring for the Maull House was difficult and costly! He gave us much to think about and had some breathtaking slides.



*Mary Alice Kelly and Valarie Leary greeted our customers*

We held a bake sale which was a lot of fun and a big success thanks to our chapter's wonderful bakers and energetic sellers. We set an all-time new record for sales. Plus, we had enough cookies to package into a pretty box and take to Casa San Francisco in



Milton. The cookies were met at the door by the thrilled residents.

We are holding another bake sale and Open House Saturday April 16, 2022 during Tulip Week in Lewes at the Maull house to raise funds for a kitchen renovation there.



Members are researching clothing and furniture on display in the house. A few interesting discoveries have been made. A supposed pair of lady's bloomers were actually a man's undergarment with lace sewn on to create bloomers. A low rush seated chair that looks like 3 chairs pieced together is actually made out of one piece of wood and is European as evidenced by wormholes. An auction house incorrectly deemed it a nursing chair in the 1980's.



*Lana Browne, Leslie Donaldson, and Beth Bowersock research clothing in the Maull House*

If all goes as planned, we look forward to saying we cleaned all of the gravestones at St. George's AME Cemetery on Pilottown Road. Those graves are on the same road as our Maull house. We are finishing a job that we started on our Day of Service and helping to preserve the history of our community.

## COL JOHN HASLET CHAPTER

Dover, Delaware

Donna Wilkinson Josefowski, Regent

The last few months of 2021 were busy for the Colonel John Haslet Chapter. We began the month of November having a joint

DAR/SAR table at 18<sup>th</sup> Century Market Fair, answering questions about our organizations. The SAR also brought their patriot's chest which contained children's colonial clothing to try on. It was a success!



On Veterans Day, several of our members were



permitted to host a small pizza party for the veterans at Dover Place. It was great to see them again after such a long time! Sharon Burge presented handmade patriotic quilts to the two eldest veterans living there. It is



always an honor to spend time there. At our November chapter meeting, Charles Baldwin, Commander of the Delaware Military Academy and the Chair for The Delaware Commission of

Veterans Affairs spoke about ways to support our Veterans. Members also brought food items for the Dover Air Force Base USO such as coffee and snacks.



In December, our chapter participated in Wreaths Across America through donations, as well as active service placing the wreaths at this nationwide event. We had members present at both Delaware Veterans Cemeteries, a cemetery

in Maryland, and Barratt's Chapel in Kent County. The Barratt's Chapel event was organized by Haslet member, Claudia Onken.

At the end of December, we were very sad to hear of former Chapter Regent, Nancy Lewis' passing. She was a longtime active member, and she is certainly missed.



While we were disappointed to be back to Zoom in January, we enjoyed hearing an interesting presentation by State SAR President and former president of the Friends of Old Dover, Larry Josefowski who spoke on Prohibition in Delaware during the 1920s.

Our most exciting news is this year marks the Colonel Haslet's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Our chapter has many exciting activities planned such as the marking of the grave of organizing Chapter Regent, Elizabeth Anderson in Dover, selling commemorative 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary pins, holding a picnic on The Green, participation and displays during Dover Days, sprucing up the DAR Garden and holding a rededication ceremony of the DAR Garden, tributes from local dignitaries, and more!

We look forward to a having a fun-filled year celebrating the history of our chapter, one of the oldest DAR chapters in Delaware.

## MJR. NATHANIEL MITCHELL CHAPTER

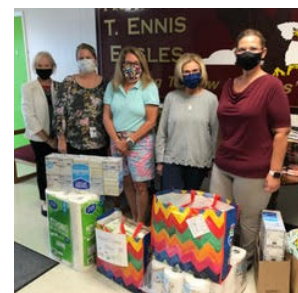
Carol Evans, Regent

Three new members were "Welcomed" to our chapter on September 11, 2021, Melissa Rust, Fay Rust, and Norma Frost.



Two new Officers were Installed, Norma Frost, as Registrar, and Lara Whitehead, as Historian.

Meanwhile our Community Classroom Committee was hard at work delivering pencils from our chapter to four Georgetown area schools, for each student to begin the school year. Needed supplies were donated to the Howard T. Ennis School.



Howard T. Ennis: Carol Evans, Kimberly Cooper, Karen Parker, Assistant Principals: Libby Tingle and Amanda Wroten



Our annual Constitution Day Ceremony, on the Circle in Georgetown is always a special time to honor our US Constitution with the Ringing of the Bells Across America. Our Sussex Central JROTC presented the



Colors. Proclamations and Amendments were read. The Town Crier did a great job starting off the ceremony. This year we took this opportunity to award our JROTC recipient.

The chapter Membership Committee set up a table at the Wings and Wheels Event at the Airport in Georgetown to sell baked goods and to pass out brochures promoting our chapter. We raffled off two gift baskets, one to support Canine Assisting Service Heroes. All left over bake goods was given to the Home of the Brave.



*Adrienne Donaway, Carol Evans, Judith Schlott*

Caines Assisting Service Heroes Program. These loving animals are happy to serve and we love having them at our meetings!



*Elizabeth Short, Cash, Ray Harris, Kelo, Joe Startt, President*

Our Delaware State Regent and several chapter members participated in our annual Lewes Caravan of Lights. This is always an enjoyable event.

Our Christmas Luncheon was kindly hosted by one of our members. This was a beautiful celebration with many members attending. We held a silent auction which was a lot of fun!



*Adrienne Donaway and Judith Schlott*



*Judith Schlott*

Sussex County Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1105 was honored at our October meeting with lapel pins, certificates, and a special cake.

Our Day of Service Project was to collect food and other needed items for the Shepard's Pantry in Georgetown.



*Vietnam Chapter 1105: John Evans, Rodger Rose, President; George Stone, Patrick Moonan, Carol Evans*

This is a place where the homeless can go for free food, clothing, other needed items, and spiritual guidance.



*Front Row: Norma Jean Fowler, Carol Evans, Adrienne Donaway, Judith Schlott; Back row: DAR Daughter and her husband from NJ.*

The chapter participated in Wreaths Across America and a wreath laying at Nathaniel Mitchell's gravesite.

## MARY VINING CHAPTER

Carolyn Foxwell, Chapter Regent

In November we were able to honor Kent County Vietnam Chapter 850 with a special cake, lapel pins, certificates, bumper stickers and a donation to their C.A.S.H. Program. They brought with them two dogs from their

With Covid still playing havoc on our meetings, the Mary Vining Chapter has been busy participating in activities outside. Ginger



Trader helped lay wreaths for Wreaths Across America. And Mary Vining Members, Carolyn Foxwell and Ginger Trader joined the Nanticoke Society Children of the American Revolution on a very chilly tour of Trap Pond via a wagon ride.

I would like to say Thank You to State Regent Gloria Lester for it has been a privilege serving under your term the last 3 years.

## DAR LEADERSHIP TRAINING



**Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a committee chair or want to learn how to be an outstanding one?**

***Sign up and take the Committee Leaders Course!***

Learn what it takes to be a more effective committee leader whether you were asked to be a chapter, state, division vice, national vice, or national chair. This course has you covered!

The Committee Leaders Course is a state-sponsored and NSDAR-supported activity and is designed to fit into anyone's busy schedule through online self-directed learning.

Upon the completion of the course, you may purchase a Committee Leaders bar to place under your DAR Member Training pin!

**To sign up with your State Coordinator**  
**Barb Seningen**  
[Seningenba@aol.com](mailto:Seningenba@aol.com)



## PRESIDENT GENERAL'S PROJECT

Carol Evans, State Chair



Each and every contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Your donation will help the National Society accomplish their goals and complete the ongoing commitment to restore DAR Constitution Hall.

- Individual donations may be made online, through the Sustaining Supporter monthly giving program. These donations are counted towards Heritage Club membership levels.
- Shopping for Rise and Shine for America themed merchandise is another way to support the President General's Project. You can visit the DAR Store in person or on-line to make a purchase for yourself or as a gift.
- Promotional items, such as the DAR wall calendar and address labels, benefit the President General's Project and are delivered directly to your mailbox. Please consider making a donation for these items to support the mission of the VanBuren Administration as we Rise and Shine for America.



## SERVICE TO AMERICA

State Chair Patricia Haas

Have you seen the beautiful new Service to America pin that can be purchased at the insignia Store? Anyone who has tallied service hours on National's website is eligible to purchase it! Check the official list, found on [dar.org](http://dar.org), for proper placement on your ribbon.

I am pleased to report that it looks like we may surpass 2021's amazing number of service hours!! Thank you for all the service

hours rendered to our veterans and communities! Delaware has certainly been shining brightly for America!

## CAMEO SOCIETY MEETS FOR LUNCH

What is the Cameo Society?



The Delaware Cameo Society is open to all Delaware Daughters who share a common ancestry with a close family member who is (or was) also a member of the NSDAR. Recently the Delaware Cameo Society had their first gathering in two years. They meet over lunch in Dover twice a year. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Cameo President Beth Beachell at [bbeach88@comcast.net](mailto:bbeach88@comcast.net).

## HONEY BLURB



With spring approaching, we are pleased to offer local honey for sale in support of the Regent's project. One and ½ pound jars of Delaware

honey are available for \$12. Know that every time you have a cup of honeyed tea you stand with your fellow daughters in support of State Regent Dr. Gloria Lester. Contact Debbie Cannon at [Deborah.cannon59@gmail.com](mailto:Deborah.cannon59@gmail.com). (This honey also makes a great gift!!)

## COLONEL JOHN HASLET CHAPTER BOOK STUDY GROUP

Debbie St. Jean

The Colonel John Haslet Chapter Book Study Group was formed in 2019 to read and

discuss well-researched historical fiction, historical non-fiction, and other literature relevant to the DAR mission. Open to all Delaware daughters, the group meets five to six times per year in both virtual and in-person formats depending upon COVID-19 restrictions.

The following books are scheduled for discussion via Zoom in 2022:

McCullough, David. *The Pioneers: The Historic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West*. Simon & Schuster, 2019. **(Discussion Date: April 2, 2022)**

Price, John. *John Haslet's World: An Ardent Patriot, the Delaware Blues, and the Spirit of 1776*. Knox Press, 2020. **(Discussion Date: May 7, 2022)**

Calloway, Colin G. *The Indian World of George Washington*. Oxford University Press, 2018. **(Summer 2022 – Discussion date to be determined)**

To receive information on upcoming reading selections or to join a meeting, please contact Debbie St. Jean at [debbie@tnias.org](mailto:debbie@tnias.org) or (302) 698-5356.

## NSDAR SPECIAL MEETING

Ginger Trader

Delaware Honorary State Regent



On December 8, 2021, daughters gathered from across the country in DAR Constitution Hall for a special vote of the society. This meeting was to consider modifying a motion adopted by the 127<sup>th</sup> Continental Congress

establishing the DAR Pathway of the Patriots project and two amendments to the National Standing Rules. Due to unforeseen circumstances, it was determined by the executive board for the best interest of the National Society to move the location of the Pathway and to enter a partnership effort with the American Battlefield Trust so the project could be completed elsewhere.

Delaware Honorary State Regents, Ginger Trader, Claudia Onken and State Corresponding Secretary, Valarie Leary were among the more than 850 members that attended this first ever Special Meeting of the Society. Not only did the vote pass unanimously, it was also a wonderful time to explore the newly renovated DAR Constitution Hall. Oh, the joy of being back in our House Beautiful once again with all our DAR friends.



The evening concluded with a presentation from our President General on her recent trip to the Netherlands. Members then gathered in the lobby for a complimentary wine and cheese reception.

It is our hope that each of you will be able to attend the 131<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress this summer to see for yourself the completed restoration of your beautiful hall and to learn more about the many good works of this society.

### ***Observations from the State Corresponding Secretary:***

The Delaware Box has the BEST stage view!!!

While I was there on my own, I never felt "alone." No matter where I walked or sat, Daughters from across the States were eager to introduce themselves and say hello! I was honored to sit in the Delaware Box with Claudia Onken and Ginger Trader.

As we know, exemplary leadership is a jewel. It was my "fangirl" honor to meet and briefly speak with President General



Denise Doring VanBuren. We chatted about the importance of PR and social media, and I thanked her for her leadership through this unprecedented administration. As with our own State Regent, Dr. Gloria Conte Lester, they have led with flexibility, patience, and grace.

Delaware is so close to DAR HQ. Carpooling and bus trips are doable and likely within budget range for many although I recognize not for all. You could spend hours in the DAR library doing research, viewing the rooms, the museum, etc. I am lucky enough to live 10 minutes from the Wilmington Train Station and it was \$17 one way to D.C.! I did pay more for my return trip but only because I procrastinated about the time I wanted to return and missed the \$17 return fare. I use Uber and Lyft to get to locations that are not within the easy walking range of a Metro Station.

If you want to spend a day or two at Congress in 2022, please consider making



your train reservations now to get the best deal!

## CONSERVATION NOTE: TAKING CARE OF THE BIRDS

Sarah O'Donnell

We are losing species today at a far faster rate than what our Patriots experienced. The mid-Atlantic forests and meadows were home to apex predators like gray wolves and mountain lions, trees like the American Chestnut, etc. Our abundant local and migrating birds would have been in balance; many more bird species would have been abundant, and Canada (not Canadian) Geese would not have been overpopulated.

One tool used to understand species that are threatened is citizen science. Citizen science encourages all of us to collect



*Black Vultures by Susan Murray/GBBC*

data, thus dramatically increasing the volume of data that can be collected and analyzed. For example, when invasive lady bug eggs were sold to unsuspecting gardeners, local ladybug species were dramatically reduced. Children and adults helped collect data, identifying native ladybugs by counting their (nine) spots. Thus, the plight of the nine-spotted ladybug was soon well known, and the influx of nonnative ladybug species was halted.



*Carolina Wren by Gary Mueller/GBBC*

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online citizen-science project to

collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. Each February, for four days, we are invited to spend time watching and counting birds. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.

This year, the Great Backyard Bird Count (<https://www.birdcount.org/participate/>) will take place February 18-21. Audubon asks us to watch and identify birds for 15 minutes each day and report them. I have a bird feeder, making it easy to watch and identify even in bad weather! But I also enjoy a good walk to sight more.

To identify a bird, you can use a bird identification book and report your findings on your computer (<https://www.birdcount.org/ebird-on-computer/>). OR you can download the Merlin bird ID app (<https://www.birdcount.org/merlin-bird-id-app/>) onto your smart phone.

Merlin is easy to use. Since you are using a smart phone, Merlin knows the location of your sighting! First, you would select the



*Cooch's Bridge Bird Watchers*

location and date. Then, you would select the size and color. Let's say you spotted a small sized buff/brown bird. Then, you would select the habitat, e.g., Eating at a feeder. Merlin would display pictures and descriptions of the small brown birds that eat at feeders at that time of year. You select the bird that best matches your bird. (My sighting was a Song Sparrow!) Merlin records your choice. During the Great Backyard Bird Count, Merlin will report your sightings for you to The Great Backyard Bird Count. Believe me, Merlin is the easiest way!

The data collected during the Great Backyard Bird Count will help scientists determine which species are threatened or endangered and the effects of environmental stresses including Climate Change, Habitat Loss, etc. If you would like help, feel free to email me ([sarahlareod@gmail.com](mailto:sarahlareod@gmail.com)) or call me (908) 285 0701!

## NSDAR PROTOCOL

As we prepare for our first in-person Delaware DAR State Conference since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it might be helpful to review some points on protocol.

At State Conference, all members should stand for the processional and applaud your State Regent when she enters the room. Those who are able should remain standing through the opening ritual. Each chapter delegation should rise briefly when their Chapter Regent is called upon for her report and again during the Memorial Service when the chapter is called.

The DAR insignia ribbon is worn from the top of the left shoulder. A flag pin is appropriate for the right lapel. The insignia may be worn with attire appropriate for DAR occasions, which include a pant suit or dress pants (not denim) with a nice blouse and coordinated jacket. Also, dresses and skirts and blouses and/or jackets are appropriate. It is not appropriate to wear the DAR sash with pantsuits. Even though DAR does not have a dress code, members should conform to the dignity of the NSDAR.

The sequence of pin placement on the official DAR ribbon has recently changed. You may find the detailed list on the website [DAR.org](http://DAR.org); listed below is a summary of categories in correct sequence:

- Service
- Volunteer Committees

- Continental Congress Committees
- President General's Project
- Contributions
- Social Clubs
- Commemorative
- Miscellaneous (this list includes Chapter, legacy and ancestor bars)
- DAR Official Insignia (spinning wheel)



1. To honor patriots the DAR now has a patriotic podcast available and a coloring book for all ages available at the DAR store.
2. Jennifer Horsley, is organizing a Dutch and Swedish Patriots Webinar with Delaware Historians. Stay tuned for further information.
3. Our courtesy block at the WILLARD INTERNATIONAL HOTEL is available for the 131<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress. These ten rooms are open for June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 3, 2022. The block will be released May 26<sup>th</sup>. So, the rooms not booked by May 26<sup>th</sup> will no longer be held for us. We have established a Conference Committee to make plans for the 131<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress. Please watch for information. The link for booking rooms at the Willard is [Delaware DAR Reservations](#).
  - Click on the link.
  - It will take you to our site that looks like the normal webpage
  - Wait until you see "book now" on the top of the page (click on that)



- Enter the dates of arrival and departure from the calendar above
- Click on Search
- You will then see your room type and group. (see below)
- Then reserve.
- (Dates MUST be over the contracted dates. Any date outside of the contracted dates would need to call reservation directly.)



4. Continental Congress credential forms will be available online by mid-February and must be postmarked by April 15th, 2022.
5. The Spring State Society Conference will be Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the Maple Dale Country Club, unless we are forced to go to a virtual platform. The hostess chapter will be Mary Vining.
6. Delaware DAR will be participating in a ceremony to place a marker in the state to mark the Lafayette Trail. Stay tuned for more information from Jennifer Horsley.

The 2021 Delaware State Society Wreaths Across America initiative resulted in 333 sponsored wreaths that were placed by many of us on December 18, 2021.

**Congratulations to the Col. David Hall Chapter with 158 sponsored wreaths!**

They will be presented with a \$100 gift certificate to the DAR Store at the Spring Meeting.

Many thanks to our business sponsors for 126 of the 333 wreaths!

Funds raised from this initiative will go towards Casa San Francisco which is the State Regent's Project.



**REMEMBER. HONOR. TEACH.**

Wreaths Across America and the Delaware State Society Daughter of the American Revolution would like to thank the following for their very generous sponsorship



**Chris Cashman and the Patterson Schwartz Foundation**

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