



# NEWS

Minnesota State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
[www.minnesotadar.net](http://www.minnesotadar.net)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (PHOTO)**

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## **Local DAR Members Honor Students, Elect New Officers at State Conference**

**St Cloud** - State Regent Faye Leach presided over four days of activities which included a business meeting, marker rededications, youth awards, a gala banquet, and an election of officers. The conference theme was “Be a Star with DAR” and were privileged to have Colorado State Regent Jeannie Dobbins; Florida State Regent Dawn Crumly Lemongello; Illinois State Regent Gloria Flathom, and Wisconsin State Regent Judy N. Mason to be our conference guests.

Thursday, May 16, The Minnesota Daughters began arriving and were greeted warmly by Sarah Steele Sibley Chapter. The evening concluded with an informal dinner, which allowed attendees to meet and greet our conference guests in a relaxed setting.

On Friday morning, the Daughters took part in a marker rededication of John L. Wilson (1820-1910) at the Stearns County Courthouse. Mr. Wilson welcomed immigrants of other faiths and language and secured the charter for St. John’s University. The marker initially was dedicated in 1949. The Daughters proceeded to the North Star cemetery for marker rededications and the laying of wreaths for Maude C. Schilplin, Organizing Regent (1871-1949), Lydia B. Lufkin, a Daughter of a Soldier of the Revolution (1810-1902), and **Jane Cole Freeman** (1817-1895), whose grave has a Real Daughter marker. The day progressed with workshops, including *Making Friends and Influencing People*, Chapter Websites, Metadata Searches, Mining e-Membership, as well as Libraries and Archives.

The conference continued Saturday morning with the presentation of the colors, a processional lineup of honorary state regents, guests, and state officers, and a greeting from Dave Kleis, Mayor of St. Cloud. During the business meeting, reports were heard from the state officers, state chairs, state committees, and chapter regents. Following the final reports, with a total registration of 188 members and guests an election of state officers for 2019-2021, was held, along with and other business that came before the assembly.

The new officers-elect are:

Dianne Plunkett Latham, State Regent, Monument Chapter; of Edina;  
Kathleen Huston, Vice Regent, Lake Minnetonka Chapter, of Wayzata;  
Carolyn Loeffler, Chaplain, Captain John Holmes Chapter, of Minneapolis;  
Connie Cundy, Recording Secretary, Keewaydin Chapter, of Minneapolis;  
Tracy MacAllister, Corresponding Secretary, Maria Sanford Chapter, of Minneapolis;  
Sarah Gladke, Organizing Secretary, Harriet G Walker Chapter, of Shoreview;  
Kimberly Elmer, Treasurer, Greysolon Daughters of Liberty Chapter of Duluth;  
Lois Mackin, Registrar, Lake Minnetonka Chapter, of Wayzata;  
Susan Jirele, Historian, Anthony Wayne Chapter, of Mankato;  
Dee Dee Edlund, Librarian, Maria Sanford Chapter, of Minneapolis;  
Jennifer Parker, Curator, Hale Chapter, of Saint Paul

Delegates from Minnesota's 22 DAR chapters elected the 11-member board. The newly elected board members were introduced to conference attendees.

The Youth Awards Luncheon followed the elections with recognition of American History essay contest winners, DAR Good Citizen, and Children of the American Revolution leaders. Bridget Wells, a Forestview Middle School sixth-grader of Brainerd is a winner of the nationwide National American History Essay contest. Wells will travel to Washington, D.C., in June to be honored for her efforts.

The Gala Banquet was held in the evening with the theme "Be a Star with DAR." Attendees welcomed Christine Podas-Larson of Saint Paul, special guest, and keynote speaker. Mrs. Podas-Larson is the retired founder and president of Public Art Saint Paul, a nonprofit agency that she started 30 years ago to foster art in St. Paul. She spoke about art projects that transformed civic parks, bridges, sidewalk poetry, and sculptors. All veterans present were recognized and thanked for their service.

A memorial service with the All-State Choir performing "Because He Lives" was held on Sunday morning to honor the memory of 22 Daughters from 16 chapters. Roundtable discussions were facilitated by Dianne Plunkett Latham, State Vice Regent, Kim Elmer, State Treasurer, and Sarah Gladke, State Registrar.

Minnesota has 22 active DAR chapters that will be holding monthly chapter meetings, hosting events, and implementing community service projects that will make a visible and meaningful impact throughout the state. MNDAR members come from a variety of backgrounds and interests, but all share a common bond of having an ancestor who helped contribute to securing the independence of the United States of America.

Keeping with tradition, the Daughters selected a conference service project. Chosen this year was The Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Centre. All members, statewide, contributed to the Eagle's Healing Nest wish list by collecting items such as bath towels and washcloths. Items collected will be used to meet the needs of our Minnesota veterans, service members, and their families.

Latham will be installed as state regent while attending the 128th Continental Congress which will convene at the Nation's Capitol in June, with MNSSDAR members looking on.

The National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. With more than 185,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters worldwide, DAR is one of the world's largest and most active service organizations. Encompassing an entire downtown city block in Washington, D.C., DAR National Headquarters houses one of the nation's premier genealogical libraries, one of the foremost collections of pre-industrial American decorative arts, Washington, D.C.'s largest concert hall, and an extensive collection of early American manuscripts and imprints. To learn more about the work of today's DAR, visit [www.dar.org/membership](http://www.dar.org/membership).

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**PHOTO CAPTION: DAR Rededicates Markers at State Conference**

Left to right: Chapter Regent Althea Heim, State Regent Faye Leach, and State Chaplain Susan Jirele.

