



Text Size:

President General's Message

President General's Message - October 2023

October 6, 2023

Dear Daughters,

Please join me on October 11 in celebrating the founding of the National Society by giving back to your local communities through our National DAR Day of Service. What a perfect time to reflect on and demonstrate together how much our organization has accomplished during the past 133 years! The National Society has welcomed more than 1,045,000 women into membership since our founding in 1890. Each has had her own unique background, beliefs and life experiences while sharing the common bond of lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution.

Chapters are now returning to their regular meetings after the busy days of summer and updating their bylaws to reflect the National Bylaws amendments that were adopted on the vote of a resounding majority of the delegates to the 132nd Continental Congress. The amendments foster more involvement and engagement in our organization by updating the chapter credentials process; by allowing committee meetings to be called by either the chair or at the request of a majority of the membership and to be held virtually; and by clarifying that neither the National Society nor our chapters may deny membership to eligible applicants in a manner that could be considered unlawful discrimination.

Chapters retain the ability to vote on prospective members for their chapter, if it is stipulated in the chapter bylaws. The amendment did, however, remove the provision that a prospective member be “personally acceptable to the chapter” in order to eliminate the implication that national DAR membership could be denied for any reason determined by the chapter. In its place, the amendment improved language on non-discrimination. The bylaw now includes the language: “NSDAR and its chapters may not discriminate against an eligible applicant based on race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.” Updating this bylaw was important to reinforce our stance on non-discrimination. As an organization, we are committed not only to complying with all applicable laws, but we are also committed to being welcoming and compassionate.

DAR continues to work hard to overcome regrettable instances of discrimination in our past by demonstrating a steadfast commitment to non-discrimination in all aspects of our organization. The amended bylaw explicitly provides that neither the National Society nor its chapters will engage in unlawful discrimination. This is not a change in policy; it is a statement of who we are as a Society.

Our fundamental membership eligibility policy was also left unchanged. Any woman no less than 18 years of age who can document lineal descent from a man or woman who rendered service for the cause of independence during the American Revolution is eligible for membership. A government-issued birth certificate continues to serve as acceptable proof of eligibility.

President General's Message

- [February 2024](#)
- [January 2024](#)
- [December 2023](#)
- [November 2023](#)
- [October 2023](#)
- [September 2023](#)
- [August 2023](#)
- [July 2023](#)
- [June 2023](#)
- [May 2023](#)
- [April 2023](#)
- [March 2023](#)

Frequently Visited

- [The DAR Insignia Store](#)
- [President General's Message](#)
- [National Defender](#)
- [e-Membership](#)
- [Chapter Master Report](#)
- [DAR Handbook & Bylaws](#)
- [DAR Logos & Branding](#)
- [Donate Online Now](#)

Service to America

DAR Members have volunteered

hours this year.

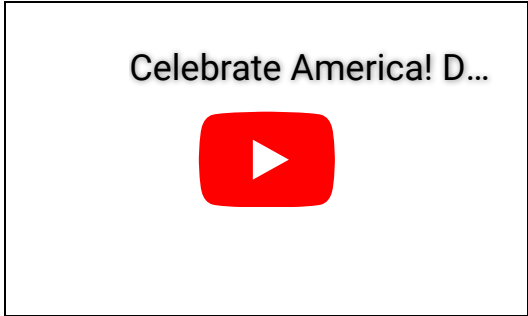
Some have asked if this means a transgender woman can join DAR or if this means that DAR chapters have previously welcomed transgender women? The answer to both questions is, yes. The bylaw amendment does not change that fact, and we will continue to welcome them into our Society in the future.

We respect the different religious and political beliefs of our members, but we do not base organizational decisions upon them. As Daughters have done for 133 years, we hope you will continue to find common ground and support one another in our commitment to historic preservation, education and patriotism.

It warms my heart to witness the support that our members show to ensure that DAR is welcoming and inclusive to every woman who descends from a Revolutionary War Patriot. This is the organization I have been proud to be a member of for more than 35 years and of which I am honored to serve as your President General. The National Board of Management is committed to making the organization a purposeful and enjoyable experience for all women, setting up the National Society for growth and success in the future.

Thank you for your many efforts to promote the important mission of the National Society! Together, let's Rejoice in Our DAR Ties of Service and Friendship!

Pamela Rouse Wright
President General



Use the [Service to America Online Tally](#) to report your community service hours

Learn more about the [Service to America Committee](#)

-
- Committee Information
- National Defender
- DAR Webinars
-

National Society Constitution Hall Museum Library
Archives Giving

Sitemap

Contact

Calendar

Visitors

Members

Join

Research

Donate

© 1890 - 2023, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) | All Rights Reserved.

