

Complaint Regarding Public Comments and Actions by President General Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright

Overview

We respectfully submit this complaint pursuant to Article XIX, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

We contend that President General Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright's recent public statements regarding DAR membership, particularly her suggestion that individuals presenting altered birth certificates could be eligible, pose a serious threat to the Society's historic mission, genealogical integrity, and legal standing.

Grounds for Complaint

This complaint is respectfully based on the following:

- **Article XIX, Section 1** of the DAR Bylaws, which states:

"Any member conducting herself in a way calculated to disturb the harmony of the National Society or to injure its good name or to hamper it in its work may, upon charges filed, be reprimanded, suspended or expelled by the National Board of Management."

- **Article VII, Section 2** of the DAR Bylaws, which outlines the President General's authority:

*"The President General shall **a)** be the chief executive officer and the official spokesman of the National Society."*

However, this authority must be exercised within the boundaries of DAR's Constitution, Bylaws, membership, and its historic mission. By overstepping the limits of her privileged position, President General Wright has jeopardized the harmony of the National Society, tarnished its reputation, and obstructed its ability to carry out its core mission effectively.

Facts Supporting Complaint

1. **Public Misrepresentation of DAR Membership Policy** President General Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright has made public statements implying that DAR is legally required

to alter its historic, gender-based membership criteria to admit individuals who are not biological women. These remarks have appeared in DAR Today communications and official newsletters issued during the 2024–2025 administration.

2. **Contrary to Legal Reality**

Any assertion by the President General that federal law or IRS regulations require a change in DAR's membership policies is both factually inaccurate and constitutes an unauthorized misrepresentation.

Since its founding in 1890, the DAR has excluded men from membership. The term "female descendants" in the historical context of 1890 explicitly referred to biological women, particularly in light of the historical exclusion of women from the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

There is no IRS regulation or federal law that compels private, single-sex organizations like the DAR to admit biological males in order to retain their 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

Under the First Amendment, private organizations are granted Freedom of Association and are permitted to maintain gender-based membership criteria, provided that such criteria do not result in unlawful discrimination based on race or religion.

These legal positions are further supported by the CAL January 15, 2025 letter to the DAR Board of Management.

The bylaws are the governing document for eligibility, and any substantive change must be made by member vote at Continental Congress-not by unilateral leadership interpretation by Ms. Wright.

3. **Threat to Genealogical Integrity** President General Wright's suggestion that altered birth certificates may be accepted as proof of eligibility undermines the foundational principle of DAR: authentic, verifiable descent from patriots of the American Revolution. Allowing admission based on modified or non-biological documents would destroy the credibility of DAR's lineage verification process and threaten the very purpose for which the Society was founded.
4. **Disturbance of Harmony and Injury to the Good Name of DAR** The public dissemination of these false assertions has caused significant confusion, distress, and division among the membership.

Many members have expressed grave concerns that DAR's historic mission is being politicized and that its lineage standards are being abandoned without formal member consent through the proper Bylaws amendment procedures to change eligibility criteria.

These developments have disturbed the harmony of the Society, injured its good name, and hampered its work, thus meeting the disciplinary standard set forth in Article XIX, Section 1.

5. Several news stories directly attribute controversy and concerns to public statements made by President General Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright regarding the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) membership policies. These statements have sparked significant debate and criticism among members and the public.

Sample of Key Articles Highlighting Concerns

1. *The Times (UK) – March 14, 2024*
This article discusses the backlash against DAR's decision to accept transgender women, leading to hundreds of resignations and criticism from political figures. President Wright affirmed the organization's commitment to diversity, stating their policy includes accepting amended birth certificates as proof of gender. Some members felt this policy change was introduced without proper consultation, leading to disagreements and resignations.
2. *The Daily Signal – July 26, 2023*
Many members expressed concerns that this change was an excuse to push a political agenda.
3. *Washington Examiner – May 30, 2024*
This article reports that over 500 current and former members have complaints.
4. *The Federalist – March 11, 2024*
This article discusses the impact of DAR's decision on membership, noting that several members decided to leave the society by either resigning or refusing to pay dues. The Nevada Sagebrush Chapter alone lost at least nine women, including its former Secretary Brenda Becker. Becker estimates a 15 to 18 percent resignation increase across the United States since the policy change.

These articles highlight the direct negative impact of President Wright's public statements and decisions on the organization's membership and public perception.

Key Indicators of Reputation Impact

Indicator	Evidence/Estimate
Member resignations	200+ immediately after policy change
Additional resignations/complaints	500+ members/former members, 3,000+ messages
Chapter-level losses	At least 9 in one chapter; 15–18% increase estimated
Public/media criticism	Multiple national articles, advocacy campaigns

Indicator	Evidence/Estimate
Ongoing internal dissent	Repeated bylaw amendment attempts, continued backlash

Conclusion

There is substantial, well-documented evidence that President General Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright's policy statements and legal fact misrepresentation regarding transgender membership have resulted in significant and measurable harm to the DAR's reputation. Objective third-party news coverage over the past year has been predominantly negative or contentious, consistently highlighting internal dissent, member resignations, and public disputes over the organization's values, with little evidence of positive national coverage or improved public perception.

This reputational harm is evidenced by:

- Hundreds of member resignations and nearly 3,000 messages of discontent sent to leadership since the policy announcement.
- Public criticism from both current and former members, many of whom feel misled or deceived by the rationale for the policy, particularly regarding the claim that it is necessary for maintaining tax-exempt status.
- National and local media coverage that overwhelmingly focuses on controversy, member backlash, and questions about the organization's commitment to its historic mission and genealogical standards, rather than on positive achievements or unity.

The widespread reaction from both members and the broader public supports a clear, fact-based inference that these actions have caused considerable reputational harm to the good name of DAR.

Requested Relief

We respectfully request:

- That the Executive Committee immediately investigate this matter pursuant to Article XIX, Section 2 of the DAR Bylaws.
- That, if appropriate, the Committee recommend disciplinary action of this member to the National Board of Management to restore harmony, protect DAR's genealogical integrity, and uphold the Society's founding mission and repair DAR's reputation.
- That clear and accurate information regarding DAR's legal standing and membership criteria be communicated to all members to correct the public record.

Should these issues remain unaddressed, this controversy could escalate into the most significant scandal in DAR's 135-year history.

Citations

- DAR Bylaws
- Public comments by President General Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright, including DAR Today communications (2024–2025) and official newsletters [specific examples to be attached as exhibits].
- CAL January 15, 2025 letter to DAR Board of Management

Respectfully submitted,

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.

Name:
Office:
Chapter:
State:
Daughters of the American Revolution
National No.