

In October 2023, President General's Message included the following:

"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."

From July 2023 – October 2025 there were over 7,000 resignations. In 2025 there was only a net gain of 110 members in DAR.

There is a grassroots effort to force a vote on allowing men into DAR. To join this effort, a chapter must vote to call for a Special Meeting on October 11, 2026. The proposed action is to define the term "woman" for the society.

"anywhere the term "woman" appears in the rules of DAR it shall be understood to have the same clear meaning as set forth in the first resolved clause of this resolution, and the application of any rule shall be in accordance with this understanding of the meaning of the word "woman."

To be clear, this resolution is about restoring DAR to the original principles on which it was founded. This is not about bullying or single anyone out. It is about the integrity of the organization that we all volunteer to serve.

One of the most interesting aspects of this situation is that by allowing transgender men into the organization, leadership actually brought politics front and center. Politics is the very thing that could bring DAR down.

The very definition and identity of DAR is described on the DAR website as follows:

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to promote Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism across the United States. Since the Society's founding, more than one million women have found purpose and passion in DAR membership.

DAR 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. 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 to join.

Restoration begins with compelling National to engage in a full, open, and transparent discussion that reflects the will of the membership. Meaningful reform cannot occur without honest dialogue and accountability. The guide that follows is intended for chapters that are prepared to take principled action and stand firmly in support of DAR's founding values and member-led governance.

Below is the guide for introducing the resolution. We would be the 4th chapter in LA to present and hopefully pass the resolution.

Step-by-step guide for a chapter to introduce the resolution compelling National to call a special meeting on October 7, 2026:

1. At a chapter meeting the following motion should be read (ensure you have a second for the motion):
"Madam Regent, I move that the _____ Chapter adopt a resolution to compel the President General to call a Special Meeting according to Article VIII, Section 7 of our National Bylaws. The resolution reads..."

2. State the resolution exactly as written below:

RESOLUTION

Whereas, there is an inherent need for the will of the membership to be reflected accurately in the application of the Bylaws of The Society;

Whereas, it is the duty of the membership to ensure that the true meaning of the Bylaws is properly understood and that the rules are properly applied consistently throughout The Society;

Whereas, the ultimate authority to determine the proper meaning and interpretation of the Bylaws is vested solely in the membership of The Society, as assembled in a membership meeting;

Whereas, the meaning and application of the Bylaws of The Society cannot be changed without the consent of the membership;

Whereas, the holding of a Special Meeting is the appropriate course of action to allow the membership to determine the true meaning and intent of its own Bylaws and to express its will through orderly debate and a free and fair vote inside a meeting; and

Whereas, the Bylaws of DAR specifically authorize the chapters to compel a Special Meeting; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That, in accordance with Article VIII, Section 7 of the Bylaws, a Special Meeting of the National Society is hereby requested in writing to be held on October 11, 2026, at Constitution Hall 1776 D Street NW, Washington D.C., at 2:00 P.M Eastern, for the purpose of considering and adopting the following Resolution:

Whereas, *Robert's Rules of Order*, the adopted parliamentary authority of DAR, prescribes that the interpretation of a bylaw provision "should be in accordance with the intention of the society at the time the bylaw was adopted;"

Whereas, *Roberts Rules of Order* provides that, in the case of interpreting a bylaw provision, "a majority vote is all that is required to decide the question;"

Whereas, *Roberts Rules of Order* provides that "When the meaning is clear, however, the society, even by a unanimous vote, cannot change that meaning except by amending its bylaws;"

Whereas, the eligibility requirement that a member of DAR must be a woman was established in the Constitution and Bylaws of DAR, adopted in 1890;

Whereas, DAR was incorporated by the Fifty-fourth Congress of the United States of America on February 20, 1896; and

Whereas, *Robert's Rules of Order* provides that "... the society's assembly can give the board instructions which it must carry out ..." and "... no action of the board can alter or conflict with any decision made by the assembly of the society;" now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That in Article III, Section 1 of the Bylaws, the term "woman" shall be understood to clearly mean a woman who was born female, and therefore, individuals who were born male shall not be eligible for membership; transgender women shall not be eligible for membership; and men who have their birth certificates changed from male to female shall not be eligible for membership;

Resolved, That the National Board of Management, the Executive Committee, the Officers, and all other individuals and bodies acting on behalf of DAR shall immediately adhere to this understanding of the Bylaws in regard to the meaning of the word "woman" and in regard to the application of the Bylaws;

Resolved, That the National Board of Management, the Executive Committee, the Officers, and all other individuals and bodies acting on behalf of DAR shall be prohibited from applying any different meaning to the word “woman” in regard to applying the rules set forth in the Bylaws; and

Resolved, That anywhere the term “woman” appears in the rules of DAR it shall be understood to have the same clear meaning as set forth in the first resolved clause of this resolution, and the application of any rule shall be in accordance with this understanding of the meaning of the word “woman.”

3. Have another chapter member second the motion.
4. Document the motion and vote in the chapter minutes.
5. If it passes, email the sample letter as instructed below. Be sure to include a read receipt on the emails.
6. When electing delegates for Continental Congress 2026, elect as many delegates and alternates as allowed. It is important that these daughters agree to vote as the chapter has voted. It is important that the delegates understand they will need to travel for the special meeting.