*America's 250th Anniversary—1776-Spring 2026*

# The Illinois Patriot

Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution
Illinois-sar.org

# Illinois Society President Message
## *A Bittersweet Farewell*

As I write this final message as President of the Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution, I do so with mixed emotions. It is truly bittersweet to conclude my term during the opening chapter of our nation's 250th anniversary. America 250 represents not just a historic milestone, but a renewed opportunity for SAR to educate, commemorate, and inspire. Serving as your president during this moment in our nation's story has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

I am deeply grateful to the many compatriots who offered guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support throughout my term. I extend special thanks to Past Illinois Society Presidents Toby Chamberlain and Gorden Bidner for their wisdom, counsel, and steady leadership. Their experience and commitment to ILSSAR have been invaluable, and I am thankful for their friendship and support.

I would also like to offer a heartfelt shout out to Drew Robinson and Jeff Case. Their energy, dedication, and vision for the future of our Society give me great confidence in what lies ahead. I look forward to seeing what both Jeff and Drew will accomplish as they continue to lead Illinois Society SAR forward during our 10-year America 250 celebration. The Illinois Society is in capable hands, and its future is bright.

Not surprisingly, the opening year of our 250th celebration has seen increased membership applications, youth award participation, and community engagement. I am very much looking forward to our Annual Meeting on May 1st and 2nd in Springfield, where we will honor the work of compatriots from across the state. We will also celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding young achievers at our Annual Youth Awards Luncheon.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. It has been an honor to work alongside so many dedicated compatriots who share a love of history, patriotism, and service to our communities.

Yours in Patriotism,
William M. Wheeler
President
Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution

***2026 Illinois Society Awards Weekend***
***Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2***
**Abraham Lincoln Hotel—Springfield**
*Join us Friday evening at 6 pm for Happy Hour followed by dinner and Annual Chapter Awards.*
*The Ladies Auxiliary will host their silent auction fundraiser for Cemetery Marking*
*Saturday Business and Officer Installation*
*followed by Youth Awards Presentations and Luncheon.*
Sign Up Here: https://forms.office.com/r/GpHjangwv0

***The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.***

**Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution Officers 2024-2026**

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# Registrar General Announcement: Reduced Membership Fees July 2026

In celebration of the **250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence,** the National Society Sons of the American Revolution will offer a **special reduced registration fee for New Member and Jr. Member applications** during the month of **July 2026**.

For applications **postmarked between July 1 and July 31, 2026,** the **National application fee for New Applications will be $76** in honor of the year **1776.**

This special fee applies **only to New Member and Jr. Member (New Lineage) Applications** submitted during the July 2026 window.

Please note the following exclusions:

· The special fee **does not apply to Family Plan Applications**

· The special fee **does not apply to Memorial Applications**

· The special fee **does not apply to Supplemental Applications**

To qualify for the reduced fee, **New Applications must be <u>postmarked</u> between July 1 and July 31, 2026.** .

We hope this commemorative initiative will encourage prospective members to join the SAR as we mark the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding and honor the patriot ancestors who secured American independence.

Additional details and reminders will be distributed as we approach July 2026.

Respectfully,

Keith A Weissinger, MD
Registrar General
National Society Sons of the American Revolution
kweiss47@gmail.com

*Reminder to Chapter Presidents & Registrars:*

Applications must be submitted to the State Registrar and sent to the State Secretary in order to be postmarked during the discount period. Interest is expected to be high to capture this discounted fee.

*The Illinois Patriot*
*is the official newsletter of the*
*Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*
*Published Quarterly (Jan/Apr/July/Oct)*
*Jason Butterick, Editor*

*Submissions, Photographs, Articles, and Chapter announcements/events can be submitted at the following e-mail address:*
*kybrd76@hotmail.com*

*Editor reserves right to edit submitted materials for space.*
*The Illinois Patriot Summer 2026 (July 2026)*
*Deadline for Submissions:* ***Saturday, June 20.***

# Illinois Society President-Elect Message

Illinois Compatriots, As your Incoming State President, I am deeply honored and humbled by your vote of confidence to lead the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution for the next two years as we celebrate the Semi-quincentennial—America 250—the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding.

2026 offers us a profound opportunity to honor our Revolutionary ancestors, reaffirm the timeless principles of liberty, self-governance, and equality, and inspire future generations. Through partnerships across SAR chapters, with local DAR and CAR chapters, and within our communities, we are actively shaping and supporting statewide commemorations throughout the Decade of the American Revolution (2023–2033). Be an active participant in this chapter of our great American story by joining in events this year.

**National Declaration Reading** — Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Illinois time: Join a synchronized nationwide reading of the Declaration of Independence, exactly 250 years after its first public reading in Philadelphia. Participate at capitals, city halls, parks, schools, or home gatherings. I challenge each Chapter to lead or support local July 8th Readings in your Chapter area. More details and registration at illinois-sar.org/America250

**Liberty Tree Dedications:** Several chapters dedicated Liberty Trees in 2025. Many others, such as the Long Knives Chapter, have dedications planned this year. These living symbols of Revolutionary-era freedom continue to inspire discussions about our founding principles across Illinois. Encourage your chapter members to come together and support the National Society SAR initiative to plant 250 Liberty Trees by July 4, 2026. As a Society, I challenge all our chapters to dedicate at least one Liberty Tree during the Decade of the American Revolution. It is not too late for your chapter to complete a dedication before July—or to dedicate multiple trees before the Decade concludes in September 2033.

**Patriot Grave Markings and Dedications:** Many chapters are planning to honor one of the over 800 Revolutionary War Patriots buried in Illinois this year. Some are installing and dedicating markers, others are planning wreath laying ceremonies. Please support your chapter's ceremony—or attend those hosted by other chapters—and make a point to join in as they add another meaningful page to the evolving history of our nation.

**Youth Education and Outreach:** Continue and grow your chapter's participation in youth contests (Knight Essay, Rumbaugh Oration, Americanism Poster, and Brochure), Eagle Scout recognitions, JROTC awards, and Outstanding Citizenship recognitions. These programs remain excellent vehicles for recognizing our future patriotic citizens while educating our communities about the SAR and its mission. State youth award timelines can be found at https://www.illinois-sar.org.

We understand that Chapters can't support every program at all times. Consider incremental and achievable increases—such as encouraging new schools in your area to participate in existing programs or adding additional programs to your chapter's youth engagement outreach. If your chapter already works with schools to present historical programs, consider adding more schools or partnering with adjacent chapters to help them get started. If your chapter has not conducted a historical presentation at a school yet, start small: find receptive schools, including homeschool networks and parochial/diocesan schools, to conduct presentations. Free resources for teachers, SAR member presenters, and planners are available at https://america250sar.org/.

**Color Guard and Public Ceremonies**: 2026 will present countless opportunities to join chapter members at parades, memorials, and other events. Growing your chapter's Color Guard participation is a laudable goal—the Color Guard draws automatic attention, sparks conversations, and creates openings to discuss the SAR mission. However, you do not need period clothing to participate in parades, memorials, or community

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# Welcome New Compatriots & In Memoriam

***American Bicentennial***
Dean Edward Lambertsen
Erik Vaughn Lambertsen

***Captain Zeally Moss***
Arlen Leroy Booth
Steven Ritchie Snyder

***Fort Armstrong***
Zachery Adam Morton

***Fort Dearborn***

***Fox Valley***
Mason Andrew Clark
Everett Herbert Felix
James Allen Gibbs, Jr.
Richard Robert Hoag
Jeff Adam Leavey
Scott R. Southard
Wayne Herbert Wagner

***General Joseph Bartholomew***
Robert Brian LaPorte

***Kishwaukee***
Robert William Boze

***Long Knives***
Gerald G. Prince

***Piankeshaw***
Brandon Matthew Gerber

***In Memoriam***

**Jay Densmore Bailey**
January 20, 2026
*Fort Dearborn*

**James C. Barton**
January 14, 2026
*Captain Zeally Moss*

**Daniel Sidney Condit**
January 2, 2026
*Fort Dearborn*

**Charles Dobias**
February 18, 2026
*General George Rogers Clark*

**Melvin Joel Weidinger**
July 27, 2025
*Springfield*

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events. Many options are available through the National SAR online store (store.sar.org), including branded apparel. Many chapters have also developed custom shirts that look fantastic when worn by members during parades and events.

**DAR and CAR Outreach:** Work to expand your partnerships with DAR and CAR chapters in your area. An updated SAR/DAR index with DAR chapter contact information was recently distributed to chapter presidents to support cross-society engagement and communication. Look for opportunities to collaborate on joint events, attend each other's meetings, and partner in community projects.

As we move through this historic decade, let's expand our efforts, strengthen partnerships, and ensure every Illinoisan connects to our founding story. Celebrating Illinois' Revolutionary ties, including the Illinois Country of the Virginia Territory, through local and national events. Get involved today: host a reading, dedicate a Liberty Tree, mark a patriot grave, support youth programs, or attend an event. Visit illinois-sar.org/America250, contact your local chapter, or email president@illinois-sar.org. Together, we honor the past, celebrate freedom, and inspire the future. Join us in America 250—everyone can participate!

*Cum pietate patriaque studio*
(With patriotic respect and enthusiasm)

Jeff Case
Incoming State President
Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution

# Chapter Capsules
## *News from Our Chapters*

### American Bicentennial

***Eagle Scout Award***

On January 17, 2026, the American Bicentennial Chapter attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony of Charlie Zbierski of Troop 159. The Chapter awarded Charlie Zbierski with the Outstanding Citizen lapel pin and certificate, the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate, and the SAR Eagle Scout patch and Certificate. The ceremony was held St. Simon's Episcopal Church in Arlington Heights. The awards were presented by Compatriot Jeremy Rogers, the Chapter's President.

***Annual Awards***

On February 1, 2026, the Chapter had its annual awards ceremony at Reps Place in Rolling Meadows. Membership awards were presented in the following categories: ***Five-year membership-*** William John Higgens III. Raymond Eugene Schraeder Jr.; ***Ten-year Membership-*** Kenneth Ross Alexander; ***Fifteen-year Membership-*** John Jay Abbott, Charles Michael Combs, Mark Andrew Cooper, Scott Michael Cooper, Roger Owen Willingham; ***Thirty-five Year Membership-*** Alexander W. Atkinson, Paul Carke Douglas, John Allen Horvath; ***Forty Year Membership-*** LaRoy Northrup Castor; and ***Sixty-five Year Membership-*** Robert E. Morgan.

The Chapter awarded the following metals: Chapter Distinguished Service Medal to Richard Leber, the Chapter Meritorious Service Medal to Jeremy Rogers, and the Martha Washington Medal to Liz Hohmeier of the Eli Skinner DAR Chapter and Aaron Miner C.A.R. Society.

***Knight Essay***

For the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, Aishwarya Pillai a junior at Marian Central Catholic High School won at the chapter level.

***Eagle Scout***

For the Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest- Zachary Rogers from Troop 159 in Arlington Heights won at both the Chapter and State level. Lucas Hoobler, from Troop 150 in Highland Park was runner up at the Chapter and State level. Both were presented with the Bronze SAR Eagle Scout medal.

***Children of the American Revolution***

I.S.C.A.R. State President Max Hohmeier gave a presentation on his state project, which is raising money for Veterans Path to Hope which provides various types of support to Veterans. The Chapter raised about $600 for his project, and co-sponsored the hospitality room with the Eli Skinner DAR Chapter for the I.S.C.A.R. State Conference which was in Bolingbrook.

The American Bicentennial Chapter also inducted Ryan Charles Willkomm as a new member.

The Chapter's next meeting will be May 31st at Reps Place in Rolling Meadows. Sarah Sullivan the Department Chair for Economics, Political Science, and History for McHenry County College will be our guest speaker presenting on the early states added to the union, aligning to our 250th Anniversary Theme. The Chapter is also going to be inducting three new members.

### General George Rogers Clark

***Knights Essay Award***

On Saturday, January 24, 2026, the chapter held their regular meeting at the Jerseyville Public Library, in Jerseyville, Illinois. Because of the weather — the beginning of the biggest snowstorm of the winter so far — the meeting attendance was very low. At this meeting, the 2026 Knight's Essay Award was presented to Brady Maxeiner, a student at Jersey Community High School. Brady's mother Crissy was in attendance to see her son honored. After receiving his certificate and check, Brady read his essay, *Enduring Patriotism*, to the attendees.

***Annual Awards***

On February 18, 2026, the Chapter held their Annual Awards Banquet at Diamond Mineral Springs near Highland, Illinois. The event was attended by approximately 30 members and guests. Special Guests in attendance were: the speaker for the evening, Tom Emery, author of "*Illinois in the Revolutionary War*;" Jeff Case, Vice President General Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; and Cindy Tischhauser, Regent of the Benjamin Mills Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and Illinois State Liaison DAR/SAR.

After a delicious dinner, Tom Emery related some of the very

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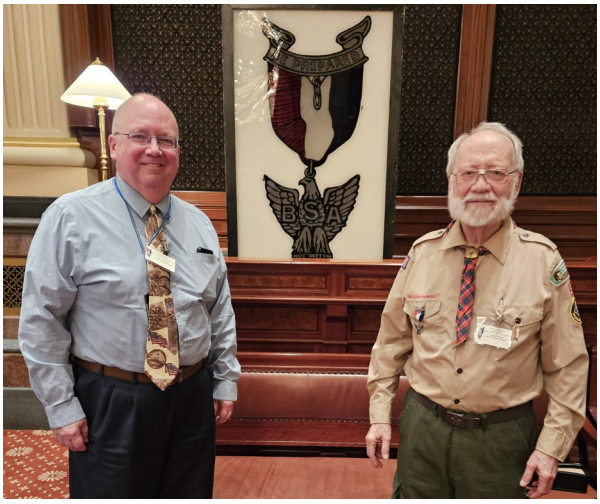
*Kishwaukee Compatriots Dave Steele, Ray Beets, and Jeff Case join Rockford250 community partners to kickoff the 250th celebration this year at Midway Village Museum, Rockford on February 26. Museum Staff, Winnebago County Board Chairman Joe Chiarelli, Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara also attended.*

*American Bicentennial Chapter Membership Awards were presented to Compatriots Charles Combs (15 year), Raymond Schrader, Jr. (5 year) by Chapter President Jeremy Rogers.*

*American Bicentennial Chapter President Jeremy Rogers presented the Chapter Eagle Scout Award to Zachery Rogers of BSA Troop 159 in Arlington Heights.*

*Illinois Society Children of the American Revolution President Max Hohmeier receives a $600 check from American Bicentennial Chapter President Jeremy Rogers for the Veterans Path to Hope State CAR Project.*

*Fort Armstrong Chapter of Rock Island recently inducted Zach Miller into the chapter. Pictured L to R: Tom Ashby, Chapter Registrar, Zach Miller, and Chapter President Jeff Wood.*



*Springfield Compatriots Brian Hendricks and George Tinkham attended the annual Abraham Lincoln Council Eagle Scout Recognition ceremony held at the Illinois Capitol House Chamber*

*General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter recently welcomed new compatriots at its March 12 meeting in St. Luke Union Church, Bloomington. L-R: Rick Milner, Membership Chair; Luke Pool, Bob LaPorte, Tom Hansen; Jay Cummins, President*

*General George Rogers Clark Chapter President Eric Reelitz (left), congratulates Brady Maxeiner (right), winner of the Knight Essay Contest.*

*General George Rogers Clark Chapter President Eric Reelitz presents Bronze Henry Knox Medals to Phillip Bailey and Dennis Lybarger for their work in presenting items and facts to area elementary and middle school classes and for America250th Committee*

# *Illinois Society Chancellor Advice: Is Incorporation Necessary?*

Since discussion was started at the Board of Managers meetings concerning the necessity of incorporating the Chapters, as a safety valve for the individual members, more questions have been raised as to the cost, any difficulties, and whether the national liability insurance is enough protection. The Ilinois Society SAR is not going to require any Chapter to incorporate, nor bear the costs. That decision is up to the Chapter leadership.

First, we look at the process and costs. The process consists of filling out a Secretary of State 2 page form, to set up the corporation. There is a one-time $50 fee. The Chancellor will provide a template of that form to work with. After that initial filing, there will be an annual report as to the leadership of the Chapter and a $10 annual fee. That's all the cost involved.

Once incorporated, a set of By-Laws needs to be created. The Chancellor will provide a template, and guidance. There is no cost. A new Federal Tax number will be required, consisting of a simple on-line application, with no cost.

But why go to all that trouble? Let's look at examples. If the Chapter is not incorporated, Illinois law considers it an unincorporated association. Similar to a partnership, all the members are potentially liable for damages relating to the act or omission of any member, as it relates to that organization. If Joe goes hunting with his buddies, and shoots out a car window by accident, there is no concern as it is not related to the Chapter's function or business.

But what if Joe accidentally, while participating in a color guard event, in colonial uniform, shoots out the windshield of that car? Insurance may cover, but if not, then the cost of the damage falls to the Chapter and its members. If, instead of a window, the shot maims or kills a bystander? The Chapter members may be individually liable, if no insurance, and if there is coverage, but not enough, the excess damages flow to the members. On the other hand, if the Chapter is a corporate entity, if the same accident happens, the Chapter's liability is limited to the amount of insurance, or the excess over the insurance coverage. The liability responsibility is limited to the assets of the corporation, and those assets are usually minimal. The individual members' assets have no responsibility, as they would if the Chapter is not a corporation.

Incorporation protects a compatriot's personal assets. The members have to decide if $50 plus $10 per year is to great a cost to protect their own property and assets.

# The Decade of the American Revolution 2023-2033

As we approach the milestone of the 250th Anniversary of the signing and approval of the Declaration of Independence this year, we are reminded that this is but one of many observances available to commemorate in the Decade of the American Revolution.

The rest of the decade series follows:

⇒ 2027 Battle of Saratoga
⇒ 2028 French Alliance
⇒ 2029 Siege of Vincennes/ Fort Sackville, Battle of Kettle Creek
⇒ 2030 Battle of Kings Mountain
⇒ 2031 Siege of Yorktown
⇒ 2032 Battle of Blue Licks
⇒ 2033 Treaty of Paris.

State Societies and local chapters are encouraged to coordinate and host observances for each of the highlighted national observances. Local chapters should connect with D.A.R. chapters, Boy Scout troops, and other partnerships and organizations to coordinate a public event or activity highlighting the historical milestone. As was spoken at the previous National Congress, "Just because the historical event did not happen in your area does not mean your area cannot have an event observing the historic anniversary."

The America 250th SAR Programs Committee has collected programs, materials, videos, and more to help your chapter organize and resource teachers, students, and the general public about the significance and impact of the Revolutionary War. You can review these resources at their website: [america250sar.org](america250sar.org)

*Join us Friday, May 1st for the Illinois Society Ladies Auxiliary Silent Auction. Proceeds will support their work and the Cemetery Marking Program.*

***As Abigail Adams said, "Remember the ladies"...***

**What would we do without them? The Illinois SAR Ladies Auxiliary has raised thousands of dollars to help the Society in carrying out its mission of inspiring patriotism and informing others of the contributions of our revolutionary ancestors.**

**Membership in the Auxiliary is open to the wives, mothers, daughters, stepdaughters, sisters, aunts, nieces and other women relatives of members of the SAR who are in good standing.**

**The current dues are $5 per year (which also makes a lady a member of the National Ladies Auxiliary).**

*(Continued from page 5)*

interesting facts he had discovered while doing the research for "*Illinois in the Revolutionary War*." Many people do not realize that, if not for the actions that took place in the Illinois Territory, the American Revolutionary War may have ended differently.

Vice President General Illinois Society SAR Jeff Case thanked the chapter for inviting him to the Awards Banquet and made a few brief remarks.

Chapter President, Eric Reelitz, introduced the chapter officers present: Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Ridenour; Registrar/ Genealogist, Stephen Hyatt; and Chaplain, Philip Bailey.

### Kishwaukee

### *AMERICA 250 Kick-off*

On February 6, 2026, Kishwaukee Chapter SAR members Dave Steele, Ray Beets, and Jeff Case joined the official kick-off of Rockford 250 at Midway Village Museum, Rockford, IL. The event launched year-long celebrations for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, with community partners creating inclusive events in history, education, youth, culture, and volunteerism. Among the attendees were Midway Village Museum staff, Winnebago County Board Chairman Joe Chiarelli, and Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara. Rockford 250 highlights local history and America's enduring spirit. Kishwaukee Chapter SAR proudly supports these efforts. Details: rockfordregion250.com

### Long Knives

The Long Knives Chapter has been busy all winter preparing for their Liberty Tree marking ceremonies that will be taking place starting at the end of March. The Chapter is currently setting the stone markers that were purchased during the winter at the base of all 15 trees planted in the counties in which the group covers. As we know, springtime weather can be tricky, but everything is on schedule. The marking ceremony programs will have a variety of participants ranging from students, school bands, buglers, American Legion, VFW Posts, area DAR Chapters, historical societies, local city and government officials and other SAR Chapters. The Chapter has been working on this monumental endeavor since 2024 along with keeping up with their annual and special events. The marking ceremonies should be completed by August. After a well-deserved brief rest, the chapter will start on their next adventure.

### 2026-2028 Officer Nominations

The following officers have been nominated and will be installed at the May 2 Meeting.
**President:** Jeff Case, *nominated by Tom Ashby, seconded by Mike Campagnolo*
**Sr Vice President:** Drew Robinson, *nominated by Tom Ashby, seconded by Jeff Case*
**Secretary:** Matt Clark, *nominated by David Clark, seconded by Jeff Case*
**Recording Secretary:** Mike Campagnolo
**Treasurer: NO NOMINATIONS**
**Registrar:** Greg Westfall, *nominated by Drew Robinson, seconded by Jeff Case*
**Genealogist:** Bob Ross, *nominated by Drew Robinson*
**Historian: NO NOMINATIONS**
**Chaplain:** Jason Butterick, *nominated by Drew Robinson, seconded by Tom Ashby*
**Chancellor:** Terry Benshoof, *nominated by Jeff Case, seconded by Marty Callahan*
**Sergeant of Arms:** Brett Mignin, *nominated by Marty Callahan, seconded by Jeff Case*
**Webmaster/Public Affairs:** Bill Wheeler
**National Trustee:** Mike Campagnolo
**National Alternate Trustee**: Tom Ashby

**Mike Campagnolo is still seeking a compatriot with accounting experience to serve as State Society Treasurer. Drew Robinson has served this position for several years and will help the new treasurer get started. Please contact Mike by e-mail: mscfoxvalleysar@att.net**

***Have You Checked Out the Revolutionary War Rarities Podcast?***

***It provides 8-10 minute videos telling the rarely known, rarely taught stories of the American Revolution.***

***Check It Out Here:***

***fastfunhistory.com***

***Your Chapter News Missing in the Illinois Patriot?***

**Submit Your News Here!**

**Attn: Illinois Patriot**

**kybrd76@hotmail.com**

# Operation Ancestor Search: Honoring Those Who Served

The men and women who wear the uniform of the United States Armed Forces carry the legacy of America's founding generation, even when they don't know it yet. That is the heart of Operation Ancestor Search (OAS), a free genealogy education and training program of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and one of the more meaningful ways our Society can serve those who have served us all.

## What Is Operation Ancestor Search?

OAS was born from a simple and powerful idea: that veterans and Wounded Warriors deserve the opportunity to explore their own family histories. This is an opportunity for veterans to discover the patriots, pioneers, and ordinary Americans who shaped who they are. The program originated through a local initiative at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where SAR volunteers began offering hands-on genealogy instruction to recovering service members. The response was extraordinary.

With the national backing of the National Society SAR and expanded support from Ancestry.com, what began as a grassroots effort has grown into a nationwide program, delivered through SAR State Societies and local chapters across the country. OAS provides participants with the skills, tools, and encouragement to begin tracing their roots at no cost to the veteran. Our volunteer members serve as guides, instructors, and research partners, meeting veterans where they are and walking alongside them in this deeply personal journey.

## Why It Matters

For many veterans, the act of connecting to family history is more than an intellectual exercise. It is healing. It is identity. It is discovering that the courage they carried into service was forged across generations. When a Wounded Warrior uncovers a Revolutionary War ancestor, or traces a family line through the great migrations that built this nation, something profound happens. They are no longer just individuals with a wound or a struggle. They are links in a long and honorable chain.

This is the work the Illinois Society is proud to support.

## OAS Quick Facts

- Completely free to all participating veterans and Wounded Warriors
- Originated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center
- Supported nationally by the National Society SAR and Ancestry.com
- Delivered by SAR State Societies and local chapter volunteers
- No genealogy experience required to volunteer

## The Illinois OAS Committee — > We Need You

Bringing OAS to life in Illinois requires committed compatriots willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work. We are actively forming the Illinois OAS Committee, and we are looking for members ready to make a tangible difference in the lives of veterans and Wounded Warriors across our state.

Committee members will play a critical role in:

*Identifying facilities* — VA medical centers, veteran service organizations, rehabilitation programs, and community sites where OAS can be delivered

*Establishing relationships* — building trusted partnerships with facility leadership, veteran service officers, and community stakeholders

*Connecting chapters* — linking local SAR chapters with nearby veterans' facilities so OAS instruction can happen at the community level

*Building programs* — developing structured, repeatable educational experiences that reflect the quality and mission of the National Society

*Strengthening outreach* — raising awareness of OAS among veterans, their families, and the broader community

This is meaningful, patriotic volunteer work. This is the kind of service our founding generation would recognize and respect.

## How to Get Involved

Whether you are a seasoned genealogist or simply passionate about serving veterans, there is a role for you in Illinois OAS. We need instructors, coordinators, relationship builders, and advocates. No prior genealogy experience is required. You just need a commitment to our compatriots in uniform and to the values our Society was founded to uphold.

If you are interested in joining the Illinois OAS Committee, volunteering in support of the program, or would like more information, please reach out directly:

Bill Wheeler

State President, Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution

bill.wheeler@illinois-sar.org

Our veterans gave everything in service to this nation. Let us help them discover the generations that made that service possible.

Illinois Society Sons Of
The American Revolution
999 N. Plaza
Schaumburg, IL 60173

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Illinois Society Awards & Youth Recognition Luncheon
Abraham Lincoln Hotel—Springfield
*Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2, 2026*

### SAR Foundation Annual Conference on the Revolution
Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center—Winston-Salem, North Carolina
*Friday, May 29—Sunday, May 31, 2026*

### 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence
Marriott Downtown—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
*Thursday, July 2—Monday, July 6, 2026*

**More Ways To Stay Informed**
*Here are even more ways to connect with SAR events & news*

**National Society**
sar.org

facebook.com/
sonsoftheamericanrevolution/

**Great Lakes District**
illinois-sar.org/gld.html

**Illinois Society**
illinois –sar.org

***The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.***