Fall 2025

The Illinois Patriot

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

Illinois Society President Message

As we enter the final quarter of 2025, I'm pleased to share exciting updates and upcoming events that reflect the strength and dedication of our Illinois Society and the broader Great Lakes District.

On October 24th–25th, the Great Lakes District Meeting will convene in Bloomington, Illinois, bringing together SAR and DAR leaders and members from across the region. This year's meeting will be led by Michael Campagnolo, our former Illinois State President and current Great Lakes District Vice President General. His leadership and commitment to SAR ideals continue to inspire us all.

A highlight of the weekend will be a Liberty Tree Ceremony hosted by the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter, honoring the enduring legacy of freedom and patriotism. We are honored that President General Michael Elston will be in attendance, further underscoring the importance of this gathering as we approach America 250.

In addition, the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter will celebrate its 50th anniversary on October 18th at the Bloomington Country Club. This milestone is a testament to the chapter's enduring service in preserving Revolutionary War history and promoting patriotic education in central Illinois.

Youth Awards Season Begins

As we prepare for the upcoming youth awards season, we are committed to academic integrity in all of our awards. To this end, beginning this year, essay submissions found to contain more than 10% AI-generated content will no longer be eligible for state-level awards consideration. This decision reflects our commitment to the spirit of original research and writing that these contests are meant to foster. While AI is here to stay and youth are encouraged to use AI for research purposes, the submission itself should be authored by the applicant.

We have formally notified National SAR of this new Illinois Society requirement. While National has not yet issued guidance on AI-generated content in submissions, we anticipate further discussion and possible action at the October leadership meeting.

We encourage all chapters to communicate this policy clearly to students, educators, and parents participating in the Knight Essay, Rumbaugh Oration, and other youth programs. Let's continue to uphold the high standards that define our Society and inspire the next generation of patriots.

These events and initiatives are just a few of the many opportunities for engagement and celebration this fall. I encourage all members to visit our Events Page on the https://www.illinois-sar.org for full details and registration information.

Let us continue to honor our ancestors by actively participating in these meaningful events and strengthening the bonds of fellowship across our chapters.

As we conclude this year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your membership on behalf of the Illinois Society. Wishing you and your family a joyful and prosperous holiday season.

Patriotically yours,

Bill Wheeler State President, Illinois Society SAR

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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Message from Schweitzer and Lawrence Chairman Tom Ashby

Compatriots,

I am the new Illinois Charles Schweitzer and National Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award Chairman for the Illinois Society SAR. Whoever you might be in our State, I encourage you to nominate to your Chapter's President or History Teacher Award Chairman individuals who you come across during presentations at Jr. High and High Schools in your area or otherwise have first hand or learned knowledge of their abilities as a teacher of American History, particularly the American Revolution era (1750 to 1800). Because, we would like to recognize them for their extraordinary teaching techniques or innovative projects utilized to teach the American Revolution.

Your Chapter winner should be selected by December 31st and reported to me by then as well. My committee and I will make a determination as to who will be the Illinois Society Charles Schweitzer winner(s) by January 15th and turn their name(s) into the National Tom & Betty Lawrence History Teacher Award Committee (through the SAR Director of Education) by February 10th.

Your Chapter might decide to present your winner a monetary award and/or certificate. ILSSAR will present its winner with $1000 Check and certificate. NSSAR will provide the National Winner with $3000 to pay for one of the following teacher seminars: the Freedoms Foundation Summer Teacher Graduate Workshop at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; the Colonial Williamsburg Summer Teacher Workshop in Williamsburg, Virginia; or the SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution. Plus travel expenses and a cash prize of $1000.

Please address any questions to me.

Best regards,
Tom Ashby

Cell/text 309-202-4067, email tdashby@me.com

Link: https://www.sar.org/dr-tom-betty-lawrence-american-history-teacher-award/

The Illinois Patriot
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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 Winter 2026 (January 2026)
Deadline for Submissions: ***Saturday, December 20.***

Hello Compatriots,

My name is Mike Campagnolo, and I serve as the SAR's Vice President General for the Great Lakes District. The Great Lakes District includes the states of Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan.

It is a pleasure and a honor to bring greetings on behalf of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, its 37,000 members, and our President General, Michael J. Elston.

I would like to cordially invite all members of the Illinois Society and Color Guard to join us for the Great Lakes District meeting in Bloomington, IL at the DoubleTree by Hilton on Friday October 24th for dinner. (Black Tie, Uniform or Business Suit). On Saturday October 25th, there will be a Liberty Tree marking hosted by the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter at 9:00am followed by the Great Lakes District meeting at 10:30am. The signup sheet for a room, dinner, and lunch is on the ILSSAR Web page. President General Michael J. Elston will be in attendance for the Saturday festivities. Lunch will be served after the Great Lakes District meeting. The ILSSAR meeting will follow lunch to discuss the 2026 Budget and the new slate of ILSSAR Officers along with upcoming events going forward for America 250.

Don't forget the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is less than a year away, and the SAR is focused on continuing its commemoration of the events that led to that important moment in history, and those that occurred afterward, until peace was made in 1783, or what we are calling "the Decade of the Revolution."

President General Michael J. Elson has asked us this year to highlight our existing partnerships and promote new relationships with community and civic organizations.

We need to partner with the DAR and C.A.R. It is so important that we combine our strengths to honor our country's history, and to educate and inspire future generations about the founding principles of the great country in which we all live. Together, we can continue to do great things for this community and the nation.

Best Regards,

Mike Campagnolo

VPG Great Lakes District

Sons of the American Revolution

Welcome New Compatriots & In Memoriam

Captain Zeally Moss
Daniel Richard Crum

Ewington
Wendell Wayne Stevens

Fort Dearborn
Kristofer Kirk Swanson

Fox Valley
Dennis Patrick Boyd
James Clark Boyd
John Patrick Boyd
Brian Scott Clark
Marcus L. Eder
Jerry Ray Waite

General Joseph Bartholomew
Micah James Cutter
Bradley Michael Dearing
Thomas Arthur Hansen
Mark Lee Reeves

Piankeshaw
Clayton William-Gilbert Nelsen

In Memoriam

Alymer "Mead" Gifford
August 4, 2025
Fort Dearborn

Thomas Charles John
August 19, 2025
American Bicentennial

Robert Edward Jones
August 26, 2025

Important Awards & Contest Information

Americanism Poster Contest
Eligibility: 3rd-5th Grades, public school, parochial, homeschool, Scouts, C.A.R. members
Theme: Revolutionary War Person or Persons
Chapter: prior to state
State: January 15, 2026
National: June 1, 2026
Contact: education@sar.org & National Council of Youth Programs Chair

Sgt. Moses Adams Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest
Eligibility: 6th-8th Grades, public, private, and homeschool. (No group entries accepted)
Theme: Nine Foundational Documents of the United States and/or The Battle of Princeton and Valley Forge
Chapter: prior to state
State: January 15, 2026
National: June 1, 2026
Contact: C. Louis Raborg

Arthur M & Berdena King Eagle Scout Contest
Eligibility: All active Eagle Scouts prior to 19th birthday
Chapter: December 31, 2025
State: January 15, 2026
National:
Contact: George Tinkham

George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest
Eligibility: 9th-12 Grades, pubic, private, and homeschool
Chapter: December 15, 2025
State: January 15, 2026
National: March 1, 2026
Contact: Eric Reelitz

Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Grant
Eligibility: All American History teachers at middle or high schools at recognized public, private, or parochial.
Chapter: December 31, 2025
State: January 15, 2026
National: February 10 2026
Contact: Tom Ashby

ROTC/JROTC & Other Cadet Recognition
Eligibility: Senior Military Instructor nomination of candidate, Junior year, high school
Chapter: December 31, 2025
State: January 15, 2026
Contact: Dennis Lybarger

Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest
Eligibility: 9th-12 Grades, public, private, and homeschool
Theme: event, person, or document pertaining to revolution, and 250th.
Chapter: prior to state
State: January 15, 2026
National: May 15, 2026
Contact: Darrin M. Schmidt

Youth Video Contest
Eligibility: 6th-12 Grades, public, private, and homeschool
Theme: 250th encouraged.
Chapter: December 31, 2025
State: January 15, 2026
National: February 15, 2026
Contact: Keith A. Weissinger, MD

Chapter Capsules
News from Our Chapters

Elijah Smith
Cemetery Marking

The Elijah Smith Chapter will be dedicating a Cemetery marking plaque on Sat. October 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. The event will be held at City Cemetery in Griggsville, Illinois, honoring Rev. War Patriot Abraham Scholl. He was born Dec. 15, 1765 in Rowan County, North Carolina and he died on Dec. 24, 1851 in Pike County, Illinois.

Fox Valley/Kishwaukee
Cantigny Museum Encampment

Members of the Fox Valley and Kishwaukee Chapters attended the Revolutionary War Reenactment and Encampment held at the Cantigny Museum and Gardens in Wheaton, IL. The day started with a meeting of the Fox Valley Chapter in which the new Chapter Officers were voted and will begin their 2026 -2028 terms at the annual luncheon to be held on Sunday, October 26, 2025 at the Batavia Overseas VFW Post 1197.

The Fox Valley Chapter has attended this annual Cantigny event for over a decade (non COVID years). The members of the Chapter setup an SAR membership table at which visitors could learn more about Revolutionary War history, talk about their own patriotic ancestry, and ask how to become a member of the SAR.

Compatriot 100th Celebration

The Fox Valley Chapter congratulates Compatriot member Donald Lloyd Shee on his 100th birthday!! Compatriot Shee joined the SAR and the Fox Valley Chapter in 2012. His Patriot is Bertles Shee. Mr. Shee was born on September 11, 1925. He celebrated the anniversary of his birth with family and friends at Ashton Place in Willowbrook, Illinois. Compatriot Ted Miller joined Donald at his celebration to extend birthday greetings and congratulations on behalf of the entire Fox Valley Chapter.

Fox Valley Compatriot Donald Lloyd Shee presented with SAR swag on his 100th birthday with Compatriot Ted Miller

Ted Miller made the special trip to his birthday celebration because it was Donald who first made Ted aware there was a SAR Chapter in the western suburbs. Ted met Donald on Honor Flight Chicago in 2014. Ted was his dad's guide on the flight and Donald was handing out small U.S. flags with a flyer for the Fox Valley Chapter. Both Donald and Ted's father, Robert Miller, also a member of the Fox Valley Chapter, served in World War II. As part of Honor Flight Chicago, they toured the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Remembrance Wall and the Lincoln Memorial on that very hot day, July 2, 2014. They returned to Chicago's Midway Airport to a heroes' welcome home.

Ted presented Donald with a collection of Fox Valley Chapter 'swag' including a 40th FVSAR Chapter anniversary challenge coin, patch, and pins for him to affix on his WWII hat to celebrate America 250. Donald arrived at his celebration in a 1926 Ford, and he was proud that he had just passed (again) his Illinois drivers license exam and test – HUZZAH!!

Happy birthday, Compatriot Donald Shee. We thank you for your service to our country and the SAR and godspeed.

General George Rogers Clark
Liberty Tree Dedication

On 4 July 2025 a California Redwood Tree was dedicated as a Liberty Tree to commemorate

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Ray Beets & Jeff Case of Kishwaukee Chapter, Jon Fixmer & Mike Campagnolo of American Bicentennial & Fox Valley Chapters, members of Illinois Society Color Guard, presented the colors at the first day of issue for the 2026 World Stamp Show in Schaumberg. Color Guard commander Jon Fixmer is holding a framed first day issue block of stamps.

General George Rogers Clark Compatriots gather at Carlinville for 250th Liberty Tree Dedication on July 4, 2025. Albert Oleson, Eric Reelitz GGRC Pres, standing behind - John (Drew) Whitler, Phil Bailey, and Richard Ruedin, Past ILSSAR President

John (Drew) Whitler speaks about his father, Albert Drew, who planted the California Redwood tree at Carlinville dedicated by General George Rogers Clark as a 250th Liberty Tree.

Springfield Chapter President Robert Butcher with John Alexander, proprietor of Books on the Square, Springfield, and guest speaker David Brady, August 29, 2025

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).

Constitution Day Observance in Bloomington with Letitia Stevenson DAR & General Joseph Bartholomew: Left to right: Steve Kern, Chairman, Public Service and Heroism, Acting Master Sergeant Ben Reichard, Master Sergeant Billy Quinn, Sheriff Matt Lane, Dispatcher Isabella Petrilli, Detective Kevin Raisbeck, Darren Wolf, Trooper Joseph Stewart, Jay Cummings, President, General Joseph Bartholomew SAR. Not pictured; Trooper Logan Wunder

the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776. An audience of about 40 people (young and old) listened to John Whitler recount his father, Al's, interest in redwood trees and his attempts/failures to grow a tree in Illinois. Success was achieved after 200 pounds of California soil and more seedlings were received. Al's efforts resulted in this majestic tree which is 70 years old and approximately 70 feet tall. Our Ancestors came to America not knowing what to expect and persevered to build a Great Nation, The United States of America, just as this California Redwood Tree was removed from its native California to a new environment in Illinois.

General Joseph Bartholomew

The General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter gathered on August 12 with 37 members and guests enjoying fellowship, a meal, and an evening full of updates and history.

Steve Kern was presented with a Liberty Bronze Medal for personally sponsoring over 10 members. Since becoming Registrar/Genealogist for the GJB chapter in 2023, Steve has processed 34 applications approved by NSSAR.

New members Randy Boyd, Ray Boyd, and Micah Cutter were officially welcomed and presented with certificates and lapel pins.

We were honored to hear from Dr. Matthijs Tieleman, Assistant Professor of Early American History at Illinois State University. His talk, "*The Patriot Atlantic: The Dawn of the Age of Revolution*," explored how the American Revolution was shaped by cross-Atlantic movements. He contrasted it with the French Revolution, noting America's success was rooted in inclusion and compromise.

Kevin Roberts shared photos and stories from his trip to Massachusetts for the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord—a great reminder of the living history we celebrate.

On Friday, September 19, the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held their annual meeting to commemorate, during Constitution Week, the adoption of the US Constitution on September 17, 1787.

Marilyn Nelson, Regent of the DAR Chapter, followed by Jay Cummins, Chapter president, welcomed the audience of approximately eighty attendees and gave their opening remarks. The program then commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance led by chapter Chaplain Ray Owens, next the SAR Pledge led by Rick Milner, chapter Secretary, and finally The American's Creed led by DAR First Vice Regent, Laura Baue. The Invocation was then given by Carolyn Jiles, DAR chapter Chaplain.

Judge Scott Kording of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Illinois was introduced as the keynote speaker by Marilyn Nelson, Chapter DAR Regent. Judge Kording's talk on the US Constitution was titled *"You be the Judge: The Enduring Relevance of Textualism in Defense of Constitutional Fidelity"*.

After Judge Kording's presentation Jay Cummins, chapter President, gave comments and welcomed Steve Kern, Chairman of Public Service and Heroism, to present SAR Certificates and Medals to those in public service who were nominated by their leadership. Law Enforcement Certificates and Medals were presented to: McLean County Sheriff Matt Lane, Bloomington Emergency Communication Manager Darren Wolf, Bloomington Police Detective Kevin Raisbeck, Trooper Joseph Steward and Trooper Logan Wunder both of Illinois State Police Troop #4. The Life Saving Certificate and Medal were awarded to Dispatcher Isabella Petrilli. Master Sergeant Billy Quinn and Acting Master Sergeant Ben Reichard of Illinois State Police Troop #5 were awarded Heroism Certificates and Medals.

Closing comments were made by Regent Marilyn Nelson and President Jay Cummins. The meeting ended with the SAR Recessional led by President Cummins.

Springfield
Edwards' Trace Presentation

On August 29, at Books on the Square in downtown Springfield, the chapter hosted with DAR and guests a presentation by David Brady on the history of Edwards' Trace.

Stephen Decatur
Moultrie County Meeting

The chapter recently met in Dewitt County at the Vespasian Warner Public Library to visit the DeWitt County Historical Society library and discuss projects with the Dewitt Clinton DAR chapter.

On October 30, the chapter will travel to Sullivan to visit the Moultrie County Historical Society Museum.

CAR at the Peoria Riverfront for a Summer Festival. Captain Zeally Moss Chapter President Doug Holmes is on the left and Tom Ashby on the right.

Compatriot Tom Ashby presents a Flag Award to the "Flags of Freedom I-80" group who fly 4 Garrison size flags (20' x 38') at the cloverleaf of I-80 at Exit 56 in Princeton, IL at a cost of $18000 a year.

Illinois SAR

Illinois Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Fees & Dues Schedule
Effective 9/1/2025

	National		Current State		Total
	Fee	Dues	Fee	Dues	
Regular Application:					
Regular Member - Age18 & Over	$150.00	$50.00	$30.00	$25.00	255
Disabled Veteran*	$150.00	$50.00	$0.00	$0.00	200
Youth Registrant converting to Regular member - Age 18-29	$0.00	$50.00	$30.00	$25.00	105
Junior Membership					
Establishing New Lineage	$150.00	$5.00	$30.00	$5.00	190
Using Established Lineage	$75.00	$5.00	$30.00	$5.00	115
C.A.R. member to Jr. Newborn -18	$0.00	$5.00	$30.00	$5.00	40
Youth Registrant converting to Junior Member - Age Newborn to Under 18	$0.00	$5.00	$30.00	$5.00	40
Family Membership when applying at the same time:					
Originating Application*	$150.00	$50.00	$30.00	$15.00	245
Each additional family app. Age 18+	$75.00	$50.00	$30.00	$25.00	180
Each additional family app. Age Newborn - 18	$75.00	$5.00	$30.00	$5.00	115
Related Persons (18-under 25) Established Lineage					
established by CAR, DAR, or SAR	$75.00	$50.00	$30.00	$25.00	180
Youth Registrant Transfer	$0.00	$5.00	$0.00	$25.00	30
CAR Transfers Age 18 to 22	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00	$25.00	75
Supplemental Lineage Application:					
Originating Application	$150.00	$0.00	$30.00	$0.00	180
Supplemental Additional Family Member App. With Primary App.	$75.00	$0.00	$30.00	$0.00	105
Memorial Membership					
Memorial Membership	$150.00	$50.00			200
Annual Dues					
Annual Dues - Age 18 +		**$50.00**		**$25.00**	
Annual Dues (Disabled Veterans)*		**$50.00**		**$0.00**	
Annual Dues - Age Newborn - 18		**$5.00**		**$5.00**	
Re-instatements					
Reinstatements Regular		**$50.00**	**$5.00**	**$25.00**	
Reinstatements (Disabled Vets.)*		**$50.00**	**$5.00**	**$0.00**	
Reinstatements Jr.		**$5.00**	**$5.00**	**$5.00**	
Fees					
Transfers (Transfer Only Not Dues)	$10.00				
NSSAR Record Copies/Certificates	$10.00		$0.00		

*** Disabled Veterans (50% or more) When sending in Aps. Please attach appropriat documentation)**

*** Chapter charges, if any, will be determined by the chapter.**

Pay annual dues invoices for Chapter, State, and National to Illinois SAR unless your chapter prefers to collect their own chapter dues. The payee on your check should be "ILSSAR".

Michael S. Campagnolo
Vice President General Great Lakes District
President William Wheeler
Senior Vice President Jeff Case
of the Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution
and
Chapter President Jay Cummings
of the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter

Cordially invite you to the
Annual Great Lakes District
Banquet and joint state meeting with the Illinois Society

Friday October 24 and Saturday October 25, 2025.

Event Registration Form

Liberty Tree Dedication at 9:00 am Saturday
followed by the District meeting at 10:30 am.
Lunch will be served at noon.
The Illinois Society meeting will follow lunch.

Lodging Arrangements
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington
10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington, Illinois, 61701, USA
1-309-664-6446 Check in at 4pm, Check out at 11am
$142.00 plus tax through October 6, 2025.
Reservations include free self-parking

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Joint Great Lakes District/Illinois Society Members Meeting
Doubletree by Hilton—Bloomington, IL
Friday, October 24 & Saturday, October 25

Wreaths Across America
Multiple Observances
Saturday, December 13, 2025

Illinois Society Members Meeting
VFW Post 10302—Springfield
Saturday, February 7, 2026

250th Anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek
Currie, North Carolina
Friday, February 27, 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

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