



Susannah Smith Elliott Chapter, NSDAR

Winter 2025-2026



**A Message from
SSE Regent
Beth Pantone**

Dear Ladies,

I hope you all enjoyed your families this Thanksgiving season. There is so much to be thankful for in our lives. I've been enjoying early morning walks and am especially grateful for the natural beauty I see. The other morning the sky was on fire with orange color for about 15 minutes and I saw a piliated woodpecker!

Did you watch Ken Burns' American Revolution documentary? I was wishing we had all planned to watch the first one together. I thoroughly enjoyed them but fell asleep by the end of a couple, so will need to rewatch a few!

My family and I spent Thanksgiving in Raliegh with my husband Mike's sister, Teresa. I have a tradition of making a scrapbook of family get-togethers for all the cousins when they graduate high school. I asked Teresa for some pictures of her son who will be graduating this year. While reminiscing, we pulled out the scrapbook I'd made for her daughter. On the front page, I had included this quote (author unknown): "A family is what you make it. It is made strong, not by the number of heads counted at the dinner table, but by the rituals you help family members create; by the memories you share; by the commitment of time, caring and love you show to one another; and by the hopes for the future you have as individuals and as a unit."

I think this sentiment could apply to our DAR family as well. I wish all of you a happy holiday season, filled with love and peace.

For God, Home and Country,

Beth



WINTER EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

January 19—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February—American History Month

February 16—Presidents' Day

**February 27—General Francis Marion
Memorial Day**

Chapter Meeting Preview

- ◆ On January 17, we'll meet our chapter's namesake with a Susannah Smith Elliott reenactment by Peggy Pickett.
- ◆ February 21 features a presentation by Kimberly Mason, SCDAR American Indians Committee Chair.
- ◆ In March, Corinne Hoch, SCDAR Chair for Project Patriot, will fill us in on ways to support active duty military.
- ◆ SSE Associate Member Janine Whiteman and her husband will present "Fashions of the Era" in April.
- ◆ Our last meeting of the year will be a Chapter Celebration, so whatever you do, don't miss the May meeting!

FALL EVENTS ROUND-UP

MANY JOBS WELL DONE!

- ◇ We raised more than \$1,000 for chapter projects through our Pecan Fundraiser. Many thanks to Marsha Humphries and her team of Judy Burn and Joan Naugle, the best nuts around!
- ◇ Seventy people attended our Francis Marion Day event in October: 32 children and 38 adults. Thank-you to Nikki Gaskins-Campbell for her publicity efforts and the article in the *Summerville Journal Scene*.
- ◇ Our chapter donated 42 books to our America 250! Book Nook at the Ashley River Library.
- ◇ Our Oakbrook America 250! Trail brochures are now available at all four Dorchester County libraries, Joint Base Charleston Family Center, Dorchester Heritage Center and Middleton Place.
- ◇ We made 14 baskets of snacks and goodies for first responders and delivered them to departments in three counties.
- ◇ 25 of us have already participated in the Let's Walk, By George! Challenge. In addition to paid online registrations, we sent \$435 to the project, and we can be proud of the impact we have had for the National Guard in South Carolina.
- ◇ Liz Noon was a featured author at the 2nd SCDAR Literary Luncheon in October. She did a fantastic job sharing her new book, When the Earth Trembled.
- ◇ Susan Park and Joan Naugle assisted with the Patriot Art Foundation event. (Read more on page 4.)
- ◇ *Celebrate Susannah Night* was a lot of fun for the 40 attendees, including ladies from the three Charleston DAR chapters. It was a real joy to share Susannah's story.
- ◇ 25 of us enjoyed our Christmas get-together at Camilla Manor in Holly Hill.



In November, SSE Member Renee Schneck and her daughter Diana joined five other chapter members to prepare a meal for families staying at Charleston Fisher House at the Ralph Johnson VA Medical Center. Thanks to Sheryl McAlister for grocery shopping and to all who came to help.



At our November meeting, SSE Associate Member Debi Bacon presented four of her handmade Quilts of Valor to husbands of chapter members (l to r): Michael Streckert (Sheila), USNG Commander; James Cheesborough (April), USAF Master Sergeant; Stephen Weise (Sally), USN Captain; and Way Putman (Cynthia), USAF Major.

Thank you, ladies, for all you have done! We are having an impact in our community. — Beth

SCDAR Spring Conference 2026 Volunteers Needed

The **SCDAR Spring Conference** will be held in Columbia, March 19–21. District IV is hosting this year, and each chapter is helping with key duties such as hospitality, registration and meal service.

Our chapter's primary role is staffing the registration tables all three days, beginning Thursday morning. We also have Thursday dinner clean-up, so we'll need many hands. Once the Call to Conference is released, you'll receive hotel details and volunteer sign-up options. Shifts will be shared so everyone can both volunteer and enjoy the conference. Day trips are an option as well.

Last June, our Board designated this as our chapter's major Spring 2026 commitment, allowing us to finish our 2025 community projects and give the next slate of officers a smooth start—while still making room for America 250! events we can attend together.

Hosting the State Conference during the 250th year is truly an honor. It promises excellent attendance, inspiring speakers, and chances to meet wonderful Daughters from across South Carolina. If you've never been to a state conference, this is the perfect one to start with!

Please consider joining us for the weekend. We plan to sit together for meals, offer a chapter vendor table, and cheer on those participating in the *Let's Walk, By George!* walk. Your presence and service will help make this a standout weekend for our chapter—and a celebration of our DAR community.



Community Classroom Activities Truly Are Service to America

It is truly rewarding to support a local school or help a grandchild or neighbor with school-work—and many of these activities count toward **Service to America**. Examples include:

- Helping a student catch up with school work after an illness
- Working a school book fair
- Donating teacher wish-list items or homemade treats (include your shopping or prep time)
- Serving as a guest reader or tutor
- Donating books to a neighborhood library box
- Assisting with a school's Veterans Day program

Please review your calendar for anything you've done **January–December 2025**. Every contribution that supports children matters and is deeply appreciated.

— Melanie Franks,
SSE Community Classrooms Chair

MEMBERS COURSE WORKSHOP SET FOR JANUARY 24

If you're interested in learning more about DAR and how to become an active and engaged participant, consider joining our first Members Course Workshop of 2026. We'll get together on Saturday, January 24, from 12:30-4:00 pm at BUMC in Summerville.

Although the course is designed for mostly online self-directed learning, a workshop is a fun way to jumpstart your coursework and learn from others who are on the same path.

Please email me if you are interested in learning more about the course and the workshop (lowens0508@comcast.net).

—Linda Owens,
SSE Leadership Training Committee Chair

Watercolor Workshop Honors and Inspires Veterans

On November 8, SSE members Susan Park and Joan Naugle assisted with Art of Valor on the USS Yorktown aircraft carrier in Charleston Harbor.



This annual event, run by the Patriot Art Foundation, teaches veterans how to paint with watercolors. Painting often helps veterans express feelings and emotions about their war experiences that they cannot put into words. The veterans work in small groups with each group learning from a professional artist. Following their two-hour painting experience, they are served lunch and then have the opportunity to watch nationally-known artist Mary Whyte demonstrate her painting techniques.

This is the fourth year for the event, and veterans who have participated often join online classes to continue their painting practice, gaining more knowledge along the way. Learn more at patrioartfoundation.org.

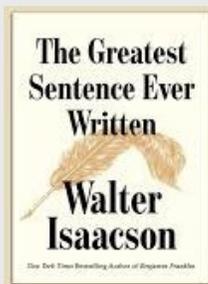
FLAG FACTS ...

The U.S. Flag was officially adopted on June 14, 1777, but it wasn't until 1818 that Congress passed a law fixing the number of stripes at 13. Before that, the number of stripes changed along with the number of stars. If the original practice had continued, the flag, today, would have 50 stars and 50 stripes!



SSE BOOK NOOK

Naming the greatest book ever written has been the subject of much debate. So what would you consider the greatest *sentence* ever written?



Walter Isaacson, *New York Times* bestselling author in his new book, The Greatest Sentence Ever Written, takes readers on a journey into the creation of one of history's most powerful sentences: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." A review in *The Wall Street Journal* stated, "Isaacson's skillfully teases fresh pith and resonance out of these familiar words."

This book is available wherever books are sold and may fit perfectly in a history lover's Christmas stocking!

— Cathy Akers, SSE Librarian

CELEBRATE DAUGHTERS

Highlighting the Collaboration of the DAR and the Military Women's Memorial

A major, longtime supporter and partner of the [Military Women's Memorial](#), the NSDAR has contributed over \$1 million to its mission of honoring all U.S. service-women. The Memorial, located at Arlington National Cemetery, serves as the only national tribute and repository for military women's history, from the Revolution to today, with interactive exhibits and a register for veteran stories. Recent funds provided by the DAR support a new gallery focused on early American military women's service.

Well done, Daughters, for contributing to this worthwhile project!

— Cathy Caldwell,
SSE Women's Issues Chair

NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Cynthia Putman, SSE American History Award Chair, needs nominations for our chapter's Women in American History Award.

Take into consideration women who have made a contribution or a difference in their communities. She could be a historical figure or currently alive and worthy of recognition. Look for women who are, or have been, intellectual, educational, social, religious, political, scientific or cultural innovators. The woman or women being honored may be DAR members, prospective DAR members or non-members.

Please email nominations before December 16 to Cynthia at cmputman55@gmail.com.

Highlight on Hospitality

Thank you to everyone who has provided refreshments at our fall meetings. You ladies certainly outdid yourselves! If you have not signed up to provide refreshments (or donated money for refreshments), please consider helping at our the March, April or May meeting. Email me at franksmelanie05@gmail.com if you can provide a dessert, something savory, a fruit or veggie tray or drinks for one of these months.

— Melanie Franks, SSE Hospitality Chair

REASONS TO CELEBRATE ...

- ◆ Cathy Akers and her husband Forrest will celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary on December 11. In other good news from the Akers, their granddaughter, Savannah Hope Akers, has been accepted into the College of Charleston.
- ◆ At the November chapter meeting, Liz Noon was presented with a certificate for her work with the DAR Franco-American Memorial Committee.
- ◆ SSE Registrar Tiffany Baker reports that Wanda Miente and Katherine Ponder were recently approved as members, and Judy Yu, a former SSE member, has been reinstated. There are 36 perspective members, and seven applications being reviewed at National.



DECEMBER

12/1	Amanda Mole
12/4	Brenda Staley
12/8	Susan Worthy
12/11	Cathy Akers
12/11	Tiffany Baker
12/12	Nikki Gaskins Campbell
12/16	Catherine Fontanetta
12/17	Julia Freeman
12/18	Karin Murphy
12/18	Elizabeth Peterson
12/19	Carolyn Sweat
12/21	Barbara Dobbs
12/24	Erica Sipsas
12/25	Laurie Stullenbarger

JANUARY

1/3	Margie Kruger
1/8	Mary Lou Weller
1/10	Mimi Kackley
1/15	Stacy Pearsall
1/15	Barbara Simmon
1/16	Sheryl McAlister
1/20	Maria Bare
1/21	JuliAnn Garland
1/22	Betty Smith
1/23	Betty Jho Adams
1/29	Elizabeth Hogue
1/20	Emily Vick

FEBRUARY

2/10	Locke Kackley
2/14	Darcy Brown
2/19	Cheryl Oliver
2/21	Libby Billham



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Send questions and suggestions for future newsletters to summervillescdar@gmail.com and please write "NEWSLETTER" in the subject line.