



Susannah Smith Elliott Chapter

Summer 2026 Newsletter



**A Message from
SSE Regent
Sandie Branan**

Dear Members
and Friends,

It is with deep
gratitude and
great enthusiasm
that I step into the
role of Regent for
our beloved chap-

ter. I am truly honored by the
trust you have placed in me, and I
look forward to serving alongside
each of you in the coming term.

The Daughters of the American
Revolution is more than a histori-
cal society—it is a living legacy of
patriotism, service, education
and preservation. Through our
work, we honor the courage and
sacrifice of our Patriot ancestors
while continuing to make mean-
ingful contributions in our com-
munities today.

I would like to extend heartfelt
appreciation to our outgoing Re-
gent and Executive Board of
Management for their dedica-
tion, leadership and countless
hours of service. Their hard work
has strengthened our chapter
and created a wonderful founda-
tion for the future. Beth has been
a tireless leader and a valued
friend and resource!

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UPCOMING EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

- ◆ June 13—11:00 AM, [Founding Mothers' Event](#), Ft. Motte, SC
- ◆ June 14—Flag Day
- ◆ June 19—Juneteenth National Independence Day
- ◆ June 23-28—135th Continental Congress, Washington, DC
- ◆ June 27 & 28—Carolina Day Celebration Events
- ◆ July 4—America's 250th Birthday
- ◆ July 18—10:00 AM, Remember the Ladies!, The Charleston Museum
- ◆ August 21-22—SCDAR Fall Forum, Columbia, SC
- ◆ September 19—1:00 PM, SSE Chapter Meeting, Bethany UMC

Carolina Day Celebration Set for June 27

Carolina Day is the annual commemoration of the Battle of Sullivan's Island that occurred on June 28, 1776. It was the first major victory for American forces against the British during the Revolutionary War. The anniversary of this victory was first celebrated a year later in 1777, and the celebration has continued ever since.



This year's Carolina Day events in Charleston will take place Sat., June 27.
10:00 AM - Church Service at St. Michael's Church
11:00 AM - Gather at Washington Park
11:30 AM - Parade from Washington Park to White Point Garden
11:45 AM - Two-time Pulitzer Prize Winner and historian, Rick Atkinson speaks at White Point Garden with wreath-laying to follow.

Following the parade, the Lowcountry DAR chapters will be hosting a reception to honor parade participants. **Our chapter needs one more volunteers to assist with the reception at The Old Exchange Building.** Duties include helping at the buffet tables, replenishing serving platters, and ensuring everything runs smoothly for our guests.

If you can volunteer for all or part of the day, please contact Sandie Branan as soon as possible. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated and will help make this event a success.

Thank you in advance for your support and willingness to serve!

REGENT'S MESSAGE

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As we begin this new chapter together, I hope to encourage an atmosphere of fellowship, inclusion and enthusiasm. Every member brings unique talents and perspectives that enrich our chapter, and I believe our greatest strength lies in working together with kindness, purpose and mutual support.

In the months ahead, I look forward to celebrating our shared heritage, supporting meaningful projects, welcoming new members, and creating opportunities for education and community involvement. Whether you are a longtime member or newly joined, your participation matters and is deeply valued.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Regent. I am excited for all we will accomplish together and for the friendships we will continue to build along the way.

In patriotism and service,

Sandie

“Remember the Ladies!”

Our chapter, along with Eliza Lucas Pinckney, Fort Sullivan and Rebecca Motte chapters, will celebrate and recognize the vital contributions of women during the American Revolution at

The Charleston Museum on Sat., July 18. At

this free event, you can learn about South Carolinian heroines, such as Eliza Lucas Pinckney, Rebecca Motte and Susannah Smith Elliott, who played an essential role in shaping US history.

This event begins at **10:00 AM** in the Museum’s Arthur M. Wilcox Auditorium with keynote speaker Margaret Pickett, author of *Rebecca Brewton Motte, American Patriot and Successful Rice Planter*.

Following the keynote, Pickett will be joined by Christina Butler (American College of the Building Arts) and Virginia Theerman (Curator of Historic Textiles, The Charleston Museum) for a discussion about the contributions of female patriots and their impact during the American Revolution, followed by a question and answer session.

Registration is encouraged and free for DAR members; \$10 suggested donation. Register [online](#) or call 843-722-2996.



New Chapter Officers Installed at May Meeting

Pictured, right to left: Regent, Sandie Branan; Vice Regent, Tiffany Baker (not pictured); Corresponding Secretary, April Cheesborough; Recording Secretary, Juli Garland (not pictured); Registrar, Miley Taylor; Treasurer, Sheila Streckert; Chaplain, Sissy Hunter; Historian, Sarah Ziaja; Librarian, Peggy Turpin

2026 Good Citizen Award Winners

Five local high school students were recognized by our chapter as Good Citizens based on their response to the essay prompt:

"Our nation will celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America on July 4, 2026. Describe how the characteristics of a good citizen help to renew and strengthen the democracy achieved by the Patriots of the American Revolution."

Pins and certificates were presented at the schools' award ceremonies in May.

Thanks to Sarah Kuhnell for presenting the award at Pinewood Prep.

Ashley Ridge High School - Kaitlyn Ryan

Fort Dorchester High School - De'Asia Curnell

Summerville High School - Patrick Lawrence

Pinewood Preparatory School - Charlotte Harter

Northwood Academy - Gabriella Bumba

— Joan Naugle, SSE Good Citizen Chair

JROTC CADETS RECOGNIZED

SSE's National Defense Chair Miley Taylor presented Bronze JROTC Medals and Certificates to:

Ashley Ridge High School Air Force Cadet, Mariah Stypula (graduating senior); Summerville High School Navy Cadet, Isabella Cajias; and R.B. Stall High School Air Force Cadet Keyonna Johnson (graduating senior) at their schools' award ceremonies in April and May .

Each cadet demonstrated excellence in academics, dependability, good character, adherence to military discipline and leadership as well as a good understanding of the importance of the Reserve Officers Training Corps.



Female cadets make up roughly 40% of the total JROTC cadet population.

SSE Members Bring Home Multiple Awards from Spring Conference



- Outstanding Performance for Specialty Research: Sandie Branan, Judy Burn, Melanie Franks, Linda Owens, Cynthia Putman
- Historic Preservation Recognition: Liz Noon
- State Franco-American Chair Award: Judy Burn, Nikki Gaskins Campbell, Marsha Humphreys, Susan Lee
- Outstanding Service for Volunteer Information Specialty: Nikki Gaskins Campbell, Janice Sharp, Sarah Ziaja
- Outstanding Service for Conservation: Sarah Ziaja. Sarah also received the National Conservation Medal.

Kudos, ladies!

DAR Motto
God, Home, and Country

New Member Welcome & DAR Orientation

August 29 • 1:00-4:00 PM
Ashley River Library

Please join us for a casual gathering designed to help new members become familiar with both the DAR and our chapter. This is an opportunity to ask questions, learn about chapter activities, and gain helpful information that will make your transition into DAR easy and enjoyable.

We look forward to sharing resources, answering questions, and helping you discover the many opportunities available through DAR membership. Additional information will be provided by email as the event date approaches.

Current members interested in serving as mentors to our newer members are also invited to attend. Your experience, guidance and friendship can make a meaningful difference as we welcome and support the next generation of Chapter members.

We hope you will join us for an informative and enjoyable afternoon with light refreshments.

State Society Events



Please mark your calendars for these important State Society events:

Fall Forum—August 21–22, DoubleTree Hotel, Columbia, SC

Spring Conference—March 18–20, 2027, Greenville, SC (Hotel information TBA.)

These annual events provide wonderful opportunities for fellowship, education and celebrating our shared commitment to the DAR. We hope you will make plans to attend and join members from across the state. Look for links to registration info in coming newsletters.

Looking Ahead: SSE Board Begins Planning for the Year

Your new Board of Management gathered on June 30 for an informal planning and fellowship meeting at the home of Sheila Streckert. Sheila graciously hosted the evening, and together we prepared dinner for the board. It was a wonderful opportunity to relax, visit and get to know one another better as we begin a new chapter year. Sarah Ziaja was the only board member unable to attend, as she was traveling in Texas.

Special thanks to Sheila's husband, Mike, for preparing delicious pulled pork, and to Sheila for introducing us to her outstanding Mexican Street Corn recipe, which was enjoyed by everyone.

Only a few time-sensitive business matters were addressed. The board's first official meeting will be held on July 25 at 10:30 AM at the Ashley River Library. Our primary focus will be developing the budget for the coming year.

Committee chairs continuing in their positions are asked to review their anticipated financial needs and notify Treasurer Sheila Streckert or me of any requested changes or additions to their budgets. New committee chairs are encouraged to consult with their predecessors to identify anticipated expenses and ensure a smooth transition.

Please send budget requests to Sheila at ssetreasurer@gmail.com and/or to me at branans@comcast.net.

I am looking forward to working with this talented group of officers and committee chairs as we plan another successful year for our chapter.

— Sandie Branans, Regent

Welcome, New Members!

Since the beginning of the year, 10 new members have joined our chapter. SSE welcomes...

Nancy Burkhart
Jaimie Boyle
Elizabeth Bullock
April Cheesborough
Vickie Flood
Patricia Hawthorne
Wanda Miente
Edna Paoletti
Anna Ponder
Patricia Ross

Members Course Workshop: July 11

Linda Owens is currently leading the DAR Member Course and has an enthusiastic group of participants enrolled. This class is open to all members who would like to gain a deeper understanding of the DAR, its history, mission, programs and opportunities for involvement.

The next session will be held on **July 11 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at the **Timrod Library**, 217 Central Ave, Summer-ville.

There is a **\$10 fee** to participate in the course. For additional information about the class and upcoming workshops, please contact **Linda Owens** by text at **843-737-2762** or by email at lowens0508@comcast.net.

Whether you are a new or long-time member looking to expand your knowledge, this course offers valuable insights into all aspects of DAR membership.



Member Birthdays

June 2	Patricia Meier
June 13	Sally Weise
June 15	Lisa Rahman
June 27	Joan MacDonald
July 9	Patricia Hunt
July 10	Judy Burn
July 13	Sheila Streckert
July 14	Barbara Habegger
July 23	Mary Byers
July 29	Nicole Zimmerman
August 3	Judith Yu
August 8	Janie Lee Banks
August 10	Margaret Bailey
August 12	Karyn Hopkins
August 12	Amy Rogers
August 14	Emilie Goldsberry
August 18	Cynthia Rice
August 19	Gail Masocco
August 23	Josephine Gowdy
August 25	Brenda Sutton
August 31	Mary Seyle



www.summervillescdar.org



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[Susannah Smith Elliott Chapter](#)

Susannah Smith Elliott Chapter, NSDAR

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