

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is a proud organization of about 25,000 active male descendants of those patriots who, during the American Revolution, rendered unwavering loyal service to the cause of winning our freedom from England.

Founded on April 30, 1889, the National Society was incorporated by an act of Congress June 9, 1906, as a **non-profit, non-secret, non-political** organization. It still is.

Today the SAR consists of 50 State Societies, with more than 500 local or regional SAR Chapters.

From inception, the SAR has been dedicated to **patriotic, historical and educational** objectives. These are reflected in every SAR activity - all designed and conducted to help perpetuate **understanding of, reverence for and preservation of** those institutions of American Freedom delineated in the Preamble of our Constitution and in the injunctions of George Washington in his farewell address to the citizens of the Republic he led in war and in peace.



An important part of membership includes receiving four issues a year of *The SAR Magazine*. Editorial content is designed to report activities at the local, state and national levels, as well as offer member-prepared feature articles on a wide variety of patriotic, historical and educational subjects. Subscriptions are paid for from dues.

Why You Should Be a Member

You can become a member of an active organization of patriotic men brought together by their heritage and welded into an organization dedicated to the preservation of the Constitutional freedoms established by the founders of our Nation.

As a member of the SAR, you will be able to take an active part in assuring your children of the same freedoms you have enjoyed.

The local Chapters of the Society afford an opportunity to become acquainted with men in your own community with whom you have many common interests.

Joining the SAR will afford you opportunities to serve your community - to whatever degree your time permits - in furthering patriotic education and in generating and preserving understanding and appreciation of the principles of Government which our forefathers established.

SAR will guide you in researching your family lineage to establish your right to membership and once you become a member, will **record** and **preserve** this information, making it **forever available** to your descendants.

Our Genealogical Research Library

The SAR Genealogical Library on the second floor of the Headquarters at Louisville, KY contains a reference (non-circulating) collection of more than 50,000 volumes concerning genealogy, the American Revolution, and local county, state and regional histories. This priceless collection, catalogued and classified by the Library of Congress classification system, is available for on-premises study at no cost to SAR, C.A.R., DAR, SR members, Friends of the SAR Library members and to the public at a nominal charge.

Our Library contains 9,000 family genealogies, and a like number of local, county and state histories; and over 3,000 volumes of published genealogical /



historical journals, 1,200 volumes about George Washington, and 250 indexes to U.S. Censuses for 1790 to 1880. The Library is adding books, manuscripts, etc., at the rate of many hundreds annually. To access the Libraries Card Catalog on-line, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.sar.org>

National Headquarters provides the permanent repository of the original applications and supporting documents proving Revolutionary War ancestry of the nearly 153,000 members of SAR who have proven eligibility since the Society's founding. This material will be available in perpetuity for future family research.

Our Historical Museum

Under development over the years has been the SAR Historical Museum at Headquarters. A continuing program of acquisitions for display range from objects related to the history of the United States as it emerged as a new nation (1763-1815) to artifacts of the Revolutionary War and early American decorative arts.



Qualifications for Membership

Any man shall be eligible for membership in this Society who, being of the age of eighteen years or over and a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unflinching in loyalty to, and rendered active service in, the cause of American independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman or minute man, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress, or of any one of the several Colonies or States; or as a Signer of the Declaration of Independence; or as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence; or as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature; or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain.

Application for membership is made on standard forms furnished by the State Societies. These forms call for the place and date of birth and death of the Patriot ancestor and the names and dates of birth, of marriage and of death of ancestors in intervening generations.

There are no "at-large" members of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Applicants become members of the Society only through affiliation with a State SAR Society or with a Society in the District of Columbia, or in Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom or other Societies which may be established outside of the United States.

If you believe that you may be eligible for SAR membership, ask the person from whom you received this pamphlet or officers of the SAR Chapter name below for a membership application. In addition to receiving guidance in completing your application, you will be informed of fees, dues, and other pertinent information.

In the event you cannot locate SAR members in your home area, call or write National SAR Headquarters or visit the SAR web page at <http://www.sar.org>

National Headquarters SAR
1000 South Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203-3292
(502)-589-1776

Form 0911, Revised Sept 1999

Patriotism in Action

The multifaceted activities of the SAR give practical meaning to the objectives expressed in the SAR Constitution - Patriotic, Historical, Educational.

Whatever your special interests, or your vocational or professional background, you are welcome to participate in an activity in which you will find opportunities to make meaningful contributions supportive of the purposes of the Society.

National Committees - which have their counterparts at State and at Chapter levels - are dedicated to acquiring and preserving service records of individual Patriots of the Revolutionary War era; to identifying landmarks, and marking the scenes of historical events with appropriate memorials; to celebrating anniversaries of significant events and battles; to distributing to schools and displaying in many public places facsimiles of the Declaration of Independence and other Documents of Democracy; to encouraging public and governmental observance of important dates - Flag Day, Constitution Week, July 4th, and others; to awarding of Good Citizenship, Senior and Junior ROTC, Law Enforcement and other medals or certificates of recognition, including recognition of civil servants for superior performance of duties; to locating and marking grave of Revolutionary Patriots; to conducting historical oration and essay contests providing substantial scholarship awards; to providing both leadership and awards to Scouting; and, to providing assistance of many types to patients in Veterans Administration hospitals. The foregoing is only a partial review of SAR activities.

Our Organizational Structure

Elected at each National Annual Congress, by delegates representing each State Society on the basis of one for each fifty members, are: President General*; Secretary General*; Treasurer General*; Registrar General; Historian General; Chancellor General*; Surgeon General; Chaplain General; Genealogist General and Librarian General. (Those marked with asterisk are ex-officio members of the National Executive Committee, along with five members appointed by the incoming President General, constituting his advisory/consulting group)

Fifteen Vice-Presidents General are elected at each Congress to a one-year term to represent their respective Districts of from two to six states. Their leadership duties are within their District.

Each State Society every year sends a Trustee and an Alternate to the National Board of trustees, which meets four times a year. It receives reports of officers and committees; considers financial, operating and other Society business; reviews resolutions or proposals for changes in Bylaws or in Society conduct. It subsequently reports its judgments to the National Congress for acceptance or rejection.

The Society's organizational structure is a model of **representative** government - providing a pattern which is duplicated at State Society and Chapter levels.

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



To Help Preserve a Precious Heritage

The objects of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical and educational; to unite and promote fellowship among the descendants of those who sacrificed to achieve the independence of the American people, to inspire them and the community-at-large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom.