Ready or not, here they come...
the holidays, that is! And all that goes with them!

DAR is moving forward in service to America through DAR chapters across the country and around the world. We INVITE you to tell us about your chapter’s successes and to INQUIRE about concerns you have, and hope that we can INSPIRE you with great ideas from other chapters and states.

We are thrilled that almost all state societies are participating in the New Members and New Horizons Courses. We are receiving good reviews from many members who are taking the courses – some of their comments are included in this newsletter. We would love to hear from more of you about your experience in working the courses, especially any suggestions you have for making them even better.

There are some proposed improvements in the works for the Prospective Member Database (PMD), so keep monitoring your chapter’s list. That report can be a very useful way to keep up with where each of your prospects is in her application process. We look forward to the PMD becoming an increasingly efficient tool for chapters to use, so let us know if you have ideas about that.

Someone once said “imitation is the sincerest form of flattery” and in DAR there is a similarity to that when a chapter hears about a great idea implemented by another chapter. Sharing your successful projects can help other chapters grow and thrive, so don’t be shy about tooting your own horn. Please send us your questions, ideas and success stories, along with photos of your members involved in activities and events where your chapter is showing its vitality and fulfilling the mission of DAR in service to your communities!

As we gear up for our end-of-the-year activities, let’s make sure we pause to remember our Patriot ancestors and the gift of freedom they gave to us! I consider my DAR membership a blessing and privilege. I am thankful for our Founders who created a Society that promotes the memory and spirit of those who established our American way of life. I am grateful for those who lead us today in activities and programs that continue to recognize the sacrifice and service of our active-duty military and veterans. I remember with gratitude the work of DAR members yesterday and today which faithfully preserves the mission of our Society through historic preservation, education and patriotism. In this season of Thanksgiving, I hope that all Daughters will gather our hearts and minds together to give thanks for these and all our blessings.

Go TEAM DAR!!!
Chapter Regents make the DAR world go round! They are the directors and organizers of the National Society at the community level. They amass a wealth of experience, contacts and understanding of the DAR way of serving God, Home and Country. What opportunities for service and personal growth does your chapter give them after the completion of their term of service?

One suggestion is for Past and Honorary Chapter Regents to make connections with new or newly involved members. How about asking them to conduct a pre-meeting DAR 101 or Q&A session? Some possible topics to cover are state and national meetings, pins, DAR resources and chapter happenings and history. Another suggestion is for the Past and Honorary Chapter Regents to be part of the welcoming committee at chapter meetings. Think of the rewards of establishing a connection between these groups. Everyone will benefit!

Past and Honorary Chapter Regents can also be a terrific asset and resource for chapter leadership. How about the current chapter regent hosting a casual get together at the start of her administration where the Past and Honorary Chapter Regents are given an overview of plans and objectives and their support is sought? What a great way to thank them for their service and assure them that their continued involvement in the chapter is welcome and valued.

Many thanks to Alice Braud-Jones and Debbie Carlson for their contributions to this article.

_Pamela Marshall, Vice Chair
Member Involvement and Retention_
Life Membership for Members-At-Large

Effective June 30, 2013, the cost of life membership was $1,000. Life membership is available to all members age 65 and above. For the rest of her life, the $1,000 life membership fee paid by a Member-at-Large invested in a permanent DAR Life Membership Fund, pays her annual national dues. Members-at-Large do not pay the President General’s Project dues, nor do they pay State nor chapter dues.

If a Member-At-Large decides to join a chapter, she retains her Life Membership status, and must notify National so that her Life Membership dues distribution can be changed to allow for dues to be accrued to the state and chapter of her new membership status.

Members less than 65 years of age may elect to become a Life Member Pending by making a one-time payment of $1,000 or four non-refundable increments of $250 a year for a period of four years. A Life Member Pending must continue to pay national, dues until the age of 65, at which time she shall become a Life Member.

For more information, contact the Office of the Organizing Secretary General or this Vice Chair.

Marion “Mur” Gardiner Hiltenbrand
Vice Chair, Members-At-Large

NEW HORIZONS TESTIMONIAL

As an active 28-year member most of my DAR friends seemed honestly puzzled as to why I would want to take the New Horizons course. However, what I’ve discovered is the course does much more than provide the participant with exposure to the various workings of our wonderful Society. The course gave me a greater sense of pride in the work of the Society and our many accomplishments. After working many years on specific committees this course brought to light that I had fallen into the trap of tunnel vision. I was so focused on a few committees that I’d lost sight of the endless possibilities other committees provide. The course renewed my passion for DAR by instilling a new sense of purpose and opening up my thoughts to embrace the many possibilities to further support the Society’s mission of Historic Preservation, Education and Patriotism.

In Faith, Hope and Love,
Susan Tillman, TX
Are You Smarter Than a New Member?

Can you answer the following questions?

A New Members Course graduate can!

Fill in the Blank:
1. What was the first project for which the Daughters raised money? ___________________________
2. Where did the inspiration come from for the white façade of Memorial Continental Hall? _________
3. Does your state have a Period Room? ____ What is your state’s room modeled after? ____________
4. Using the Historic Sites and Properties Map, list one of the historic sites or properties listed in the database for your state and give a brief description. ______________________________________
5. What three questions should you ask of yourself to determine if your service is “Meaningful Community Service” and may be counted for Service to America hours? ____________________________

True/False:
____ The Americana Room has a complete collection of all of the signatures of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.
____ It is appropriate to wear your insignia with jeans when attending a DAR meeting.
____ It is never appropriate to sell items or raise funds on a Facebook page, even if it is closed or secret.
____ A member’s service history listed in e-Membership can serve as acceptable proof for some categories for the Outstanding Junior Contest.
____ Chapter members should rise briefly when at a DAR Memorial Service and their chapter is called.

For the answers to these and other New Members Course questions, you will have to wait for our winter issue of The Silver Arrow newsletter. If you can’t wait, sign-up for the New Members Course today by contacting your State Membership Chair or email Janet McFarland (janetmcfarland76@gmail.com) for your state’s New Members State Coordinator contact information!
The New Horizons Course – Top 3 Fundamental Lessons

The New Horizons course is designed to encourage and educate Daughters so they have the knowledge and confidence to be a DAR leader. To be a leader, you must have a solid foundation. The New Horizons Course guides participants through a self-directed study to prepare them to step-up into a leadership role within their chapter or state by giving them that foundation.

**Carrying the DAR Mission forward**
What does it mean to be a Daughter? A question with many answers, but at the root of it, we are all united through our mission of Historic Preservation, Education and Patriotism. Our founders knew this, and participants will learn about our founders as well as our history at the national, state, and chapter levels. Most importantly, participants will develop an even greater appreciation of the DAR mission and how they can carry it forward as a DAR leader.

**Understanding DAR Structure**
Understanding how one’s chapter fits into the rich history of tradition of our National Society and one’s State Society is key to being a successful leader within DAR. Participants will learn about the different national reporting requirements, such as the CMR, along with their state’s requirements. They will learn how to navigate and use the available resources to solve problems and answer questions.

**What it means to be an effective volunteer leader and the keys to success.**
The New Horizons participant will explore what it means to be an effective leader. Questions such as “Describe your past experience on a DAR team that did not function well and what you believe it needed to be a good team,” challenge the participant to examine the components of good leadership and team building. Other modules and webinars will challenge the participant’s understanding of generational differences and constructive conflict resolution techniques. The participant will then put this knowledge to use as she leads a team of Daughters in completing a Capstone Project.

With these fundamentals under her belt, the New Horizons graduate will be equipped to step up and engage as a leader of Daughters. Interested, or do you know someone you would like to encourage to take the course? Contact your State Membership Chair or email Janet McFarland at janetmcfarland76@gmail.com for your state’s New Horizons State Coordinator contact information.

*Janet McFarland*
*Vice Chair Member Training*
Chapter members have the privilege of introducing prospective members (PMs) to the Chapter and to the DAR. This is a responsibility that we each should consider with great care. Chapter hospitality should be sincere and welcoming. Here are a few ideas your chapter can use to put the PM at ease from the very first visit:

* Chapter meetings should have at least 1 hostess who welcomes all meeting participants when they arrive, giving a special welcome to PMs.

* Prepare a unique nametag and give to each PM as soon as she arrives.

* Be sure someone escorts the PM to a seat and introduces her to those she will be sitting with.

* The Regent should always make a concerted effort to speak to every PM at every meeting.

PMs do not always have a close friend at the chapter meeting. When members make them feel welcomed, it will give them a favorable opinion of your chapter, your chapter members and the DAR.

Lori Cook, Vice Chair
Membership Recruitment
Let’s Doodle!

These are pictures of our Sacramento Daughters modeling our DAR Doodle Bags at Northern Council.

The bags were made by our Chapter Membership Chair, Carolyn Heijn.

She made 78 brazenly bright and bold bags for starts for our members to wear as we participate in chapter service activities or for individual members to wear while shopping at her local grocery store, attending genealogy seminars, or walking at her local park.

The bags are convenient for a water bottle, ID, and car keys AND they are a great conversation starter!

Our Regent, Pat Foulk, had 1000 business cards printed so our members can freely pass them out to interested persons. Each card has our chapter contact information and the "DAR 30 second elevator speech."

Carolyn Peth
Sacramento Chapter, CA

Does your chapter have a creative way to engage prospective and new members? Do you have an innovative way to keep your seasoned and core members active? Tell us what you are doing that is new and different!

Share what’s working! We’re stronger working together!

Look for the guidelines later in this newsletter!
The Puzzle of the Preamble

For Constitution Week, the Pack Horse Ford Chapter NSDAR in Shepherdstown had a puzzle to solve. The puzzle of the Preamble of the Constitution challenged members and guests to come together with cooperation, friendship, and fun.

Regent Kathy Sholl told members and prospective members that she had written the Preamble of the Constitution on 3x5 cards to read to the Chapter, but she accidentally dropped her notes. Her cards were out of order and she needed the group to put the words of the Preamble in the proper sequence. As the cards were distributed, Kathy asked the ladies to hold up their cards so that all could see and to arrange themselves around the room in order of the Preamble.

The Chapter had five minutes to solve the puzzle. Each card contained only one to three words, to make the challenge a little more difficult. Ladies who didn’t have a card needed to find a partner and talk among themselves to solve the puzzle of the Preamble. Much discussion and laughter floated about the room. One member noticed she held a card with a period at the end of her word, and she knew she was the last one in the line!

At the end of the five minutes, everyone thought they were in the correct order. As Kathy read the Preamble, there was a little shuffling, but in the end, we all worked together and read the Preamble as it was originally written.

Kathy Sholl
Pack Horse Ford Chapter, WV
On July 23rd the Santa Clara Chapter hosted a summer BBQ titled "DAR 101" or "Everything You Wanted to Know About The DAR But Were Afraid to Ask". Members and Prospectives were invited to come learn more about their DAR chapter and their fellow members.

We started with a fun ice breaker - everyone who RSVP'd had to submit a "tidbit" about themselves that either nobody knew, or would surprise people. Each guest was handed a card with a tidbit, and had to talk to people to find out which guest "owned" that tidbit! We learned some very interesting things about our chapter members and soon-to-be members. We had a good laugh over some of them!

It was a potluck, and there was NO shortage of food! (In other words...nobody went home hungry!) After lunch we addressed the "anonymous" questions that were submitted. Our panel of experts (long term members and past Regents) did an amazing job of addressing issues and answering questions.

We ended with our Conservation Chair, Susan Klear explaining our State Regent's Monarch Butterfly program. Each prospective member was given a milkweed plant of their own with a tag that read "Just as today's chrysalis becomes tomorrow's monarch, so the Prospective becomes tomorrow's DAR Daughter."

The BBQ we hosted was such a success, we were asked to host another event! February 11th our chapter will be hosting a Tea for members and prospectives. Attendees are encouraged to “adopt a table” which entails providing the tea set, table cloths and napkins. We are calling this event the “Great American Cookie Bake-Off”. Members will be bringing their very best AMERICAN cookie recipe. Judges (consisting of both members and prospectives) will judge and award prizes to the 3 best cookies. Attendees will be adding to the celebration by bringing an appropriate hors d’oeuvre.

Hats and gloves optional!

Robin Herwitz
Santa Clara Chapter, CA
A CHAPTER’S QUEST FOR A SILVER BOWL

There have been many inspiring articles written on how to increase a chapter’s membership. It can, if you let it, keep you awake at night wondering “how can we……”

Our chapter is unique in the state, in that one of our chapter members, in 1998, introduced the idea of our State’s having an award given to the chapter with the greatest percentage increase in membership during the year. The award was named for Rebecca Pickens Bacon, South Carolina’s First State Regent. Our chapter had never been able to win this prestigious award. What to do what to do . . .

Our members had a goal and we pulled out all the stops! In addition to the usual sources, we found a unique area, at least for us, and that was C.A.R. Usually a child joins C.A.R because one of the parents or grandparents is a member of DAR or SAR. In one case, we had children who were members of C.A.R first and then pushed for their mothers to join DAR. In another, the child wanted to become a C.A.R and was the “lighting rod” for the mother joining DAR.

To attract interested ladies, we had a membership tea, a genealogy workshop, and invited potentials to meetings so they could understand what DAR is all about. One attendee at the workshop was not interested in joining DAR until she saw one of the books I had written on my family, with copies of the actual documents used to prove my patriots.

Another important part of attracting members was to let them know who and what we are. Our PR specialist did a wonderful job in getting our name in front of the public by publicizing our programs and activities in our local newspaper. You never know what will “spark” that desire to join.

Our hard work paid off! For the year 2015, the Trenton chapter won the South Carolina Membership Bowl, by an increase of 36%!

Judy “Judi” Dudley Romeo
Trenton Chapter, SC
NEW MEMBER BRUNCH

Gold Trail Chapter, Roseville, California, has always enjoyed a steady growth pattern over the years. However, there have been times when we felt some of the new members hadn’t received the proper personal attention required to engage and retain these valuable new members.

Gold Trail started off this new term with an invitation to new members to a New Member Brunch. We defined “new” as those inducted in the past two years.

Experienced members entertained the new ones with food, fun and tales of DAR and Gold Trail. Emphasis was placed on the importance of experiencing DAR to the fullest through volunteering for committees, participating in service activities, and attendance at District Meetings, Council Meetings, State Conferences and Continental Congress.

The aim was to mentor each of these women with individual attention and share many of the tools national and state provides for their understanding of DAR. As they comprehend how their service supports the goals of the society, DAR becomes an important part of their lives. They become assimilated into the chapter with like-minded women who make a difference in their communities. It appears we succeeded, as each of these new members has selected a committee in which to participate - a few even as committee chairs mentored by an outgoing committee chair.

With our first meeting held September 20th, these new members already feel they are an integral part of the group -- not outside observers -- as we continue together ‘soaring to new heights’.

Susan Holder
Susan Brooking
Gold Trail Chapter, CA
Anne Loucks Chapter Continues to Grow!

Increasing membership is important to our chapter and we reach out to prospective members and new members in several ways.

When notified of a prospective new member, she is immediately contacted by our membership chair and invited to our next New Member Orientation. These are held once a month so that when someone attends her first meeting or event - hopefully the next one scheduled - she already sees a few familiar faces and has some idea of what to expect, thus making her feel more comfortable.

At the New Member Orientation, we first watch the video, “Today’s DAR” together. Next, we gather around a large table and each one attending is presented with a New Member Orientation packet which gives some specific information, both about the DAR and its policies, as well as our particular chapter. Each packet also contains a copy of American Spirit magazine, a paper on flag etiquette, addresses and contact information for all our current officers, plus a compilation of sites and addresses to help in finding supporting documentation.

The membership chair leads the discussion and answers any questions that might arise. The meeting is positive and lively. We want the prospective members to get a glimpse of how much we enjoy our organization and how good it is to feel useful to our community and our country. We make a special effort to show how many committees and projects there are—something to involve and interest everyone!

Leslie Soughers
Anne Loucks Chapter, CA

In celebration of Constitution Week, besides placing posters in libraries and schools, Chatsworth daughters competed for an extra subscription to American Spirit by doing a bit of research to answer the question "Who was the youngest delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and what was his age?" This was such a popular "event" at our first meeting of the year that we decided to continue this "Constitutional Quiz" at each subsequent meeting. The question is included in the monthly newsletter two weeks before the meeting. Roughly half the membership turned out for this meeting!

Thanks to the suggestions set forth by the new national Community Classroom Committee, Chatsworth Chapter has adopted Chatsworth Park Elementary school and has already delivered needed supplies for their use. The principal has requested classroom aides and we are preparing to help them in the next few months.

Susan MacLaurin
Chatsworth Chapter, CA
Part of the requirements of the New Horizons Course is to watch and answer questions about webinars and other online programs relevant to DAR projects and committees. One of the required programs is a YouTube video on the Madonnas of the Trail, and the participants are asked to write an article about these statues that could be included in their chapter or state newsletter. The Texas State Coordinator, Susan Tillman, was impressed by the way some of her members approached this assignment. The Betty Martin Chapter, with three members in the course, decided to write a series of articles about the Madonnas, featuring some significant information in each article, and closing with a statement advertising the New Horizons Course and what they learned in it. Another member chose a different twist on the topic and we are including her interesting article—enjoy!

The Texas Madonna of the Trail

Many of us have seen the Madonnas of the Trail as we have traveled along I-40. They are beautiful statues with a mother and children honoring the strength of the women who moved west with their families.

Alas, Texas did not have a Madonna, but that did not stop us. We would have a Madonna! And it might even be bigger than all the others!

In 1935, the Board of Regents at Texas Woman’s University allocated $30,000 to erect a statue to the Pioneer Women of Texas as part of the Texas Centenary celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of Texas Independence from Mexico. It was decided that a competition would be held and 80 leading American sculptors were asked to submit photos of models of the proposed statue.

It is not known how many models were submitted, but a “jury of professionals” unanimously chose William Zorach’s submission, a beautiful statue with not just a pioneer woman, but father and two children. Understand that Zorach was from New York, and just like salsa, Texans don’t cotton to New York art, especially if the figures are nude. Well, the frenzy began with phone calls and letters reporting that nudity was unacceptable for a Texas Pioneer Woman, and she wasn’t even wearing a wedding ring (gasp!) A chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas declared it “the greatest insult that could be offered to these women who believed and practiced the virtue of modesty.”

Zorach went so far as to clothe the figures, but too may smelling salts had been sniffs, and the damage was done. The commission quietly gave the job to Leo Friedlander, who had not even entered the competition. His beautiful statue (fully clothed) stands on the Denton campus of Texas Woman’s University for all to honor the Texas pioneer women who endured the hardships and heartaches of the hard road west.

Marilyn Funderburk
Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter, TX
One of the things new members mention most frequently is the need to fit in. No one wants to go to a chapter meeting and stand all alone. By making an extra effort to have a chapter meeting be a friendly, welcoming place for new and prospective members, we have had a very successful level of involvement of our recent new members: many are committee chairs or board members! At each meeting, our membership committee sets up a tri-fold display on a table where we show pictures of past activities for new members to learn about, and we offer calendars of upcoming events, flyers, and signup sheets for all members to find ways to participate. Our Membership Chair, Linda Brown, will ask new members to assist with the tri-fold board. This is a great icebreaker for all involved, as the pictures are a fun thing to talk about and Linda can introduce the new member at her side to members who come by.

We recently had a coffee for new and prospective members called "Meet the Board." We sent out invitations to all board members, several committee chairs, prospective members, and members who had been approved within the last two years. What we found was that many new members were attending as committee chairs or board members as well! We had such a good response and so many positive emails sent to us afterward from the attendees, that we have decided to do it every six months.

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**Girl Scouts and DAR…**

Although at first glance, this may not seem to fit in the "recruiting membership" category and although done inadvertently, the end result was a possible avenue to explore recruiting membership at a later date. The Commodore Sloat Chapter invited Girl Scouts to talk about and demonstrate flag etiquette with the original intent to reach out to the community. At the conclusion of the chapter meeting, one of the Girl Scouts told her mother that she was going to start researching her family history so that when she reached the age of 18 years old, she could join DAR!!

A thank you note written by one of the parents who attended the meeting, expressed how impressed she was to learn about all that DAR did.

*Isabelle Long*  
*Commodore Sloat Chapter, CA*

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**Membership Matters in De Anza Chapter!**

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**Linda Unrue**  
*De Anza Chapter, CA*
LEADING BY EXAMPLE

In the Bee Line Chapter, state of West Virginia, our registrar’s approach to growth features one-on-one communication that models DAR’s values and commitment to service. It persuades by example, and it works. When our registrar assumed her position in 2013, we had 43 members. Despite normal attrition, we now have 66 members and the average age of our membership is getting younger. Further, we have 20 prospective and pending members working their way forward.

Our registrar has a gift for walking into gatherings of strangers and coming away with prospective members. For instance, at the annual picnic for the local historical society, she took advantage of mutual interests to initiate conversations about DAR. From that one event, she has already completed and mailed three applications, with more to come.

Lessons learned from this pro-active approach can be summed-up as follows:

- **Assume there is interest.** Using situational cues, talk with busy women and encourage them to see DAR as having value.
- **Personalize your appeal.** Redefine DAR to suit each prospective member. For some, lineage is enough. For others, the values of service and diversity win the day.
- **Get the prospective member started.** Gather details about the near-in generations and help begin making the connections that lead to membership.
- **Offer guidance.** Provide suggestions, assistance, and encouragement for overcoming roadblocks.
- **Be patiently persistent.** Be a presence that keeps prospective members motivated and interested.
- **Get prospective members involved early.** Trust prospective members with meaningful tasks even before their applications are submitted.
- **Encourage other members to follow suit.** Be a resource to other chapter members, offering assistance and guidance as needed and requested.

Using these techniques, our registrar has wheedled and cajoled our chapter into growth. Her record of success is undeniable. Leading by example, she has made a quantifiable difference.

*Darla Treat Courtney*
*Bee Line Chapter, WV*
**My New Horizons Testimonial**  
*Carolyn Hobbs Miller, SC*

I am just now finishing up with the New Horizons Course during a very busy time as a new Regent, State Chair Volunteer Genealogist and a multitude of other responsibilities. However, the time was well spent as so many of the modules relate directly to different components of my responsibilities as a "New" Regent.

Our Librarian had submitted the form for approval of a new book to be placed in our DAR Library and it had just come back disapproved, leaving our Librarian in a quandary as to what to present next. No problem, as our New Horizons Course shows us exactly how to find what the library is looking for, how to purchase online, (no approval necessary) and the bonus is we don't have to pay postage to ship the book to the library. The whole process is done, and a receipt is at hand immediately. Learned in our New Horizons Course Modules...

This is only one small factor for the excitement of the new courses as they reach out to anyone wishing to learn all about DAR and saving others from time-consuming instruction as well as allowing the member to pace themselves as fast or as slow as they want to go.

The Course is geared to teach any potential member who aspires to leadership the ins and outs of all aspects from committees to budgets, to forms required by IRS to maintain our 501C status.

I hear all the time that members came to DAR to be able to be patriotic and to acknowledge God, Home and Country, but I also hear that DAR never gets boring. You can reach out and continually learn and aspire to whatever heights your mind allows you to climb. We are only limited by our own time constraints and DAR is there with a welcoming hand to teach and welcome you in and up....
Testimonial-New Horizons & New Members Courses

Donna Leveille Morgan, WI

Every organization needs to continually develop its future leaders. DAR is no exception to the rule. The two new courses are designed to seek out and develop future leaders for our organization. I have completed both new courses and continue to believe, “knowledge is power.” The new courses are designed to provide a foundation of knowledge regarding our organization. So, do you feel like you’re going through your DAR activities but you don’t see a pathway to DAR leadership – and you can’t find many DAR colleagues to advise you? Along the way do you find yourself saying, “I wish I had someone with whom I can talk through this problem?” The new courses may be just right for you…to add to your knowledge of what it means to be DAR.

Are you frustrated because you feel alone in your chapter or committee and there is nobody to guide you, and help clearly shape and define your pathway? The answer to this problem is simple: mentorship. Simple, but not obvious.

These two courses may be your answer. When you have a strong mentor, someone to talk to about your plans and aspirations, you are more likely to feel happier and achieve greater success in your chapter or state organization.

I recommend these two courses to all Daughters to help you take charge of your pathway to success in DAR and allow you to fully realize your potential and gain the tangible skills to be more confident, engaged and equipped to be the successful DAR leader.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!!

We want to hear from YOU!

Send us your ideas, success stories, struggles and how you overcame them — this is the place for all things membership!

Send your articles of no more than 300 words to www.silverarroweditor@nsdar.org

Every article must have: the author’s name, chapter, and state

Articles with photographs will be given precedence.