

NATIONAL SOCIETY
OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY

Saratoga Battle Chapter
**New Member Orientation
Manual**



2024 - 2025

Edited by Jerry Martin

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Welcome, Compatriot!

As a new member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, you have joined the largest male lineal society in the United States dedicated to furthering understanding of the American Revolution and its significance past, present, and future. SAR is chartered by the United States Congress, signed into law by Compatriot President Teddy Roosevelt. You are encouraged to actively participate in the brotherhood and patriotic service of the society.

Mission Statement

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.

When someone asks you about SAR

The Sons of the American Revolution promotes patriotism, serves the community, and inspires and educates the public about the history of the American Revolution.

Brief History of SAR

The first effort to organize descendants of the Revolutionary War occurred in San Francisco in 1875. This was in anticipation of the centennial of the Revolutionary War. The first official meeting was on June 29, 1876. The group attracted about 80 men, and the group named themselves "Sons of the Revolutionary Sires." They marched in the July 4, 1876, parade in San Francisco. The organization fell in numbers over the years.

In 1883, the New York Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized by John Austin. This could be traced to the founding of the Sons of the American Revolution.

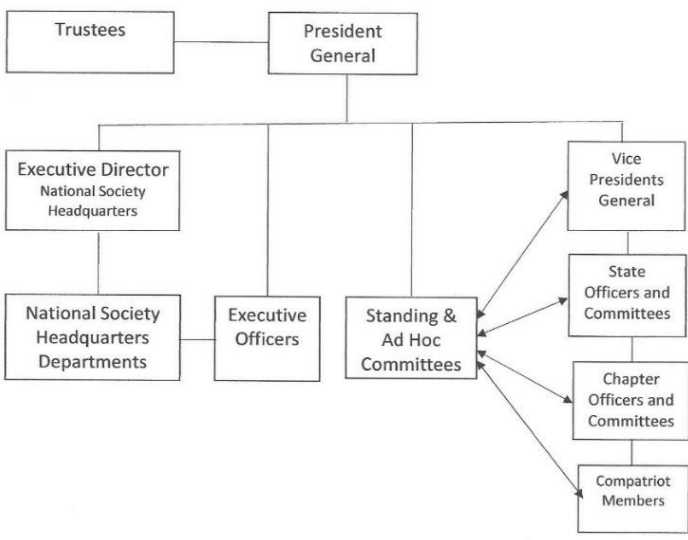
William Osborn McDowell, Josiah Pumpelly, and William Stryker, all of whom were members of the New York Society, organized the New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in 1889. They refused to accept being subordinate to the New York Society. After approaching other states to organize societies, the Sons of the American Revolution was organized at the Fraunces Tavern in New York on April 30, 1889, the centennial of George Washington's inauguration.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was incorporated on January 17, 1890, in Connecticut, with the first National Congress on April 30, 1890, in Louisville, Kentucky. On June 9, 1906, a congressional charter was granted and signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, a member of the SAR.

Brief Summary of Organizational Structure

The National Society is organized into State Societies. Membership in the National Society Sons of the American is through a State Society. There are no National at-large memberships in SAR! State Societies are organized into Chapters, which is the level through which membership is attained. State Societies receive their charters from the National Society, which is chartered by an act of the

United States Congress (36 U.S.C. Chap. 1533). State Societies and Chapters chartered by State Societies must comply with all National Society policies outlined in the multivolume SAR Handbook. The National Society further organizes state Societies into Districts for cooperation and mutual support of the National Society's mission. All members are required to pay annual Chapter, State, and National dues to retain membership.



Common Terms Defined

Compatriot is the official designation of a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Membership categories are **Regular Member** or Regular Life Member for ages 18 years and older, **Junior Member** under the age of 18 years, and **Memorial Membership** for a deceased male of the same family as current members.

SAR (always pronounced as letters, never as a one-syllable term) is the acronym for the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

SAR Member Badge is worn by a compatriot at SAR functions and when representing the SAR. It is a Maltese cross of four arms and eight points with a bust of George Washington at its center and available from the SAR Store at:



<https://store.sar.org/sar-members-badge-p3.aspx>

SAR Rosette is worn by a compatriot, at his discretion, on the left lapel of his jacket, but is not worn simultaneously with the SAR Member Badge. It may be purchased from the SAR Store at:



<https://store.sar.org/product/member-rosette> .

Annual Congress, sometimes simply called "Congress," is the yearly convention of the National Society hosted by a State Society. State Societies select delegates based upon their membership, but every compatriot is welcome to attend; spouses and family members are also welcome.

General Officer is the term given to the National Society officers elected at the Annual Congress to one-year terms.

The President General is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Society, followed in descending rank by Secretary General, Treasurer General, Chancellor General, Genealogist General, Registrar General, Historian General, Librarian General, Surgeon General and Chaplain General. A Vice President General is nominated by each District (see below) and elected at Congress.

Trustee is the member nominated by his State Society to serve a one-year term and is elected at the Annual Congress to serve on the Board of Trustees; General Officers, Executive Committee Members, and former Presidents General are also elected to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees manages the business and affairs of the National Society and is the custodian of all National Society property; each State Society is represented by one Trustee.

State Society is chartered by the National Society in any State or Territory, including any foreign country, in which a Society does not exist.

Chapter is the local organization chartered by a State Society to promote growth in membership and interest in the National Society objectives.

District is a group of State Societies served by a Vice President General to strengthen the constituent State Societies. States may also have Districts established within the State, with each having a district leader or chairman. California, Hawaii, and Nevada make up the Western District

Leadership Meeting is each fall and spring in Louisville, KY, at which National committees meet to make recommendations, and the Board of Trustees manages the business and affairs of the National Society.

SAR Education Center and Museum is at 809 West Main, Louisville, KY. SAR is active in education and raising funds to complete the SAR Education Center and Museum.

SAR Color Guard is the compatriots who attend SAR meetings and events properly uniformed as either Continental Soldiers or Militiamen or attired as Revolutionary-era clergymen.

Ladies' Auxiliary provides assistance to SAR at Chapter, State Society, and National Society levels. Membership is open to ladies who are related by marriage or bloodline to SAR Members in good standing.

Personalized Name Badge (Name Tag) can be purchased from the SAR store at:

<https://store.sar.org/personalized-name-badge-name-tag--p305.aspx>



Basic Protocol

Attire: Each chapter varies in typical attire at meetings, influenced by their meeting location and/or climate. Period attire (Continental Army, Militia, and period civilian clothing) is always acceptable, including formal events. The essential dress for State and National meetings is a coat (normally navy blazer), shirt, and tie. State and National meetings often include formal banquets, which should indicate Black Tie or White Tie on the schedule.

Medals and Awards: Medals are presented by the National, District, State, or Chapter level according to criteria published in The SAR Handbook, Volume V. They may be worn at a SAR event/meeting or when representing the SAR at a public event. When the compatriot has earned three or more, mounting medals are recommended according to the criteria in The SAR Handbook, Volume IV.

Pledge and Recessional. The NSSAR Pledge should be recited, *without modification*, as follows:

“We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.”

The NSSAR Recessional should be recited, without modification, as follows:

“Until we meet again. Let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of Free Men.”

Opportunities

At the national level, members can attend the Annual Congress, and the leadership meetings held twice a year in Louisville, Kentucky. Delegates for Congress are appointed from each state, enabling a member to vote for new officers, bylaws, and financial requests. There are also events for the ladies, tours of historical points of interest, banquets, and the chance to meet compatriots from other states and countries.

Leadership meetings enable members to attend committee meetings and join committees. Trustees are elected from each state society and vote for SAR business matters. Committees are the working basis of SAR. Some of these committees are Education, Color Guard, Americanism, Veterans, Historic Sites, and Youth Programs. A complete list of committees and their goals can be found on the SAR website.

Resources

The best source of information is the SAR web site: www.sar.org. You need to register an account with your private login to access the member-only resources.

SAR Handbook, Volumes I-VIII (available on national website)

Volume I, Governing Documents

Volume II, Organization

Volume III, Membership, Compliance, & Other Policies

Volume IV, Insignia, Protocol, Ceremonies, & Rituals

Volume V, Individual Medals, and Awards

Volume VI, Youth Programs, State Society & Chapter Awards

Volume VII, Summary History of the Sons of the American Revolution

Volume VIII, Historical Roster of SAR General Officers

SAR Magazine

www.sar.org/compatriots/sar-magazine

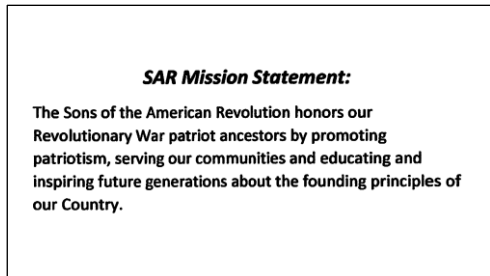
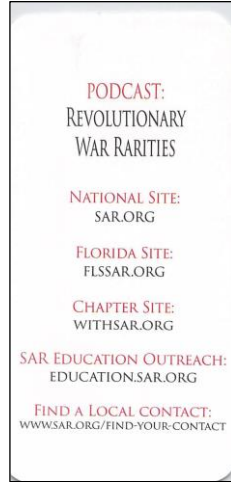
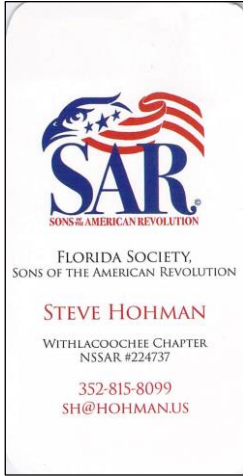
Where to find SAR Paraphernalia

National Insignia Clothing – National Webpage -
Store

State/Chapter Insignia Clothing – State Webpage –
Select Patriotic tab – Clothing – Clothing and
Accessories for State T-shirts, hats, bags,

Colonial Clothing – Uniforms, Militia and Civilian –
State Webpage – Select Patriotic tab – Sutlers,
Quartermasters, and Outfitters

New Style - Business Card Example



Traditional Style – Business Card Example

EMPIRE STATE SAR

On April 10th, 1889 a call was issued inviting delegates from every existing society from all states and territories to meet at Fraunce's Tavern in New York to organize a National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Shortly after, February 11th, 1890, the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized. Over a hundred and twenty years since its founding, the Empire State Society now has nineteen active chapters in four regions of the state. Come join and be a part of history!

Our Chapter

The Saratoga Battle Chapter is one of the larger chapters within the Empire State Society, and is chartered by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Many of our members reside in, or have a connection to, the Capital District/Saratoga region of New York State, which our chapter covers geographically.

We are extremely proud to represent our Society in an area so rich in Revolutionary War history. The eventual American victory in the second battle that was fought here, and the resulting British surrender at Saratoga, (now Schuylerville), are considered to be the Turning Point of the American Revolution

We are a society of gentlemen who enjoy the fellowship of a common interest and who want to preserve the memory of our Patriot Ancestors and keep the freedoms that they won for us with their service and sacrifices.

Our activities may include grave markings of patriot ancestors, displaying our flag, remembering American holidays such as Washington's Birthday, July 4th, Flag Day, Constitution Day and Patriots Day, laying wreaths, sponsoring youth contests and programs that relate to the Revolutionary War history, recognizing members of the community, government and our uniformed services for exceptional or patriotic service and encouraging the preservation of Revolutionary War history.

Chapter Officers 2024-2025

President: Edward Munger Jr.
Vice President: Michael R. Skelly
2nd Vice President: Michael S. Companion
Secretary: Hon. Brian R. Haak
Treasurer: David L. Flint
Registrar: Maj. Michael P. Golden
Assistant Registrar: Vacant
Chaplain: Charles W. Wheeler, Jr.
Genealogist: Duane P. Booth
Historian: Karl Dannel

See officers on Chapter website:

<https://www.saratogabattle-sar.org/>

Getting Involved

How will you choose to serve?

You joined to honor your Patriot ancestor who helped create our country. Stay for the fellowship and join us in patriotic service to your community.

At National, District, State, and Chapter levels, there are numerous activities to support. Color Guard presents an excellent opportunity for the SAR to be visible to the public. The Color Guard marches in parades such as July 4, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day. They participate in Grave Marking for Patriots and other events such as History Day in some states. Points are awarded for events, and Color Guardsmen can earn medals.

Whether you are in Color Guard or not, you can participate in the National Program “Wreaths Across America”, which is a valuable and heartwarming experience.

Empire State Society

<https://www.ess-sar.org/>

Saratoga Battle Chapter

<https://www.ess-sar.org/>

Saratoga Battle Chapter on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SaratogaBattleSAR>

Committees

There is an abundance of committees that the chapter is involved with. Besides committees involved in the operation of the chapter, SAR is very involved with Youth Programs and Programs for Adults.

Chapter Committees

Awards/Recognition

Scouting

Events

250th Anniversary

Nominating/Elections

JROTC

Youth Programs

C.A.R. Liaison

Eagle Scout

JROTC

Knight Essay

Brochure Contest

Poster Contest

Adult Programs

History Teacher

Public Service

Veterans

Color Guard

Flag Certificates

Commander