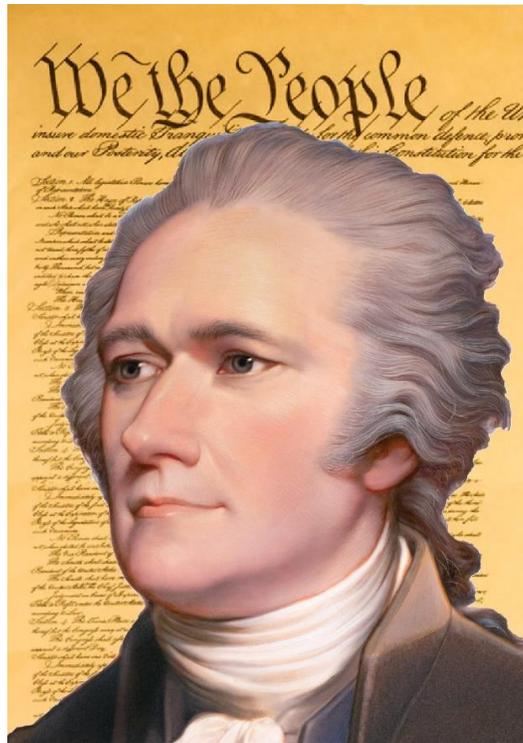


The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Washington State Society



Alexander Hamilton Chapter New Member Handbook



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Purpose of this Handbook

This handbook is designed to provide new members with basic information on the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), the Washington Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (WASSAR), and the Alexander Hamilton Chapter (AH Chapter). Its goal is to help new members to assimilate more quickly and more easily into the Sons of the American Revolution.

If you have corrections or suggestions for improvement please contact one of the Alexander Hamilton Chapter officers. *This handbook was last updated in March 2021.*

Welcome to New Members

Welcome to the Alexander Hamilton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution! We are delighted that you, like us, recognize the importance of our Patriot Ancestors in the establishment of the United States of America and wish to honor them.

The mission of our Chapter is to promote the historical, educational and patriotic ideals of the founders of our County and the supporters of the American Revolution throughout our local communities. All our SAR programs and awards are in place to advance this mission.

Our chapter is very active and participates in many community outreach programs. For example, we regularly give living history programs to area schools to educate the youth on patriotism and the Revolution. Our color guard, dressed in Revolutionary War uniforms, frequently march in parades and present the national colors at many ceremonial and civic events throughout the year. We present medals to cadets in the ROTC and JROTC programs to encourage patriotism, leadership, military bearing and scholarship. We are developing a program to assist Wounded Warriors in discovering their family history. And these are only some of the activities of our chapter. In a typical year we participate in these events:

- February - SAR/DAR Presidents Day at the George Washington statue at the University of Washington.
- March - SAR National Leadership Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. April - SAR Pacific District (Washington, Oregon and Alaska) Conference. May - Armed Forces Day Parade in Bremerton
- July - National SAR Congress
- September - United States Citizenship Celebration in Tacoma
- October - Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis
- November - Veterans Day Parade in Auburn
- December - Wreaths Across America

Now that your lineage to a Patriot Ancestor has been documented and recognized by the Sons of the American Revolution, you have to decide how much you wish to be involved in the SAR. Some members merely hang their framed membership certificate on a wall and rarely attend chapter meetings. Other members spend almost full-time in SAR activities. Most of us fall somewhere between these two extremes. Articles V and VIII of our Chapter Bylaws (included in this booklet) list most of the elected officers and appointed chairmen with short descriptions of their duties.

As you attend the chapter meetings you will meet more members and become more comfortable. You will see that we are a very friendly group. Please ask questions if you wonder about anything. As you see what sort of activities the SAR is involved in, hopefully you will find something that particularly interests you. *Participants and volunteers are most appreciated.*

Also remember that our chapter is part of a much larger organization. Later you may wish to become active at state, district, or even national level.

National Society Handbook

The National Society has a three-volume handbook that goes well beyond what is included here. If you require more advanced or more detailed information you may find it in this handbook.

You can view all SAR handbooks or download them from the NSSAR web site at

www.sar.org/SAR_Handbook. *Note:* You must be logged on to the National site for access.

Origins of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

In 1876 there were many celebrations to commemorate the centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. As part of this patriotic fervor, a group of men in the San Francisco, California, area who were descendants of patriots involved in the American Revolution, formed an organization called the Sons of Revolutionary Sires. Their objective was to have a fraternal and civic society to salute those men and women who pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the battle for independence from Great Britain. They desired to keep alive their ancestors' story of patriotism and courage in the belief that it is a universal one of man's struggle against tyranny – a story which would inspire and sustain succeeding generations when they would have to defend and extend our freedoms.

Out of the Sires grew the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, which was organized on April 30, 1889 – the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as our nation's first President. We have used the

acronym SAR to identify ourselves for over 100 years. The SAR was conceived as a fraternal and civic society composed of lineal descendants of the men who wintered at Valley Forge, signed the Declaration of Independence, fought in the battles of the American Revolution, served in the Continental Congress, or otherwise supported the cause of American Independence. The National Society was chartered by an Act of the United States Congress on June 9, 1906. The charter was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a member of the SAR. The charter authorizes the granting of charters to societies of the various states and territories and authorizes the state societies to charter chapters within their borders.

Origins of the Washington State SAR Society (WASSAR)

In 1891 a Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, known as the Oregon and Washington Society, was organized and in a few years the membership from the State of Washington was large enough to justify the organization of a State Society, and on June 17, 1895 the members of the Oregon and Washington Society living in the State of Washington met in Seattle and organized the Washington State Society with 59 charter members. The Society was organized mainly through the efforts of Colonel Thomas M. Anderson then stationed at Vancouver Barracks.

A seal for the Society was adopted at this meeting. The seal is described as: A representation of General George Washington crossing the Delaware, above which are thirteen stars and the motto of the Society, *Libertas et Patria* (Liberty and Country). Below the motto is inscribed: *Organized June 17, 1895*. Around the outer circle is the name, *Washington State Society Sons of the American Revolution*.

The first President of the Society was Colonel S. W. Scott, and a date for the annual meeting of the Society was fixed as February 22, 1896 in the parlors of the Rainier-Grand Hotel. The custom of the Society has been to hold the business meeting in the afternoon of 22 February and this is followed in the evening by an annual banquet at which patriotic toasts are offered and responses made. On motion it was decided that whenever a member of this Society shall hear the national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, played or sung, he will stand uncovered, time and place fitting. This custom was observed and followed.

Organizational Structure

The SAR is a big organization with about 27,000 members. It is organized in four levels:

1. National Society SAR (1)
2. Districts (15)
3. State Societies (50 – One/State)
4. Chapters (10 in Washington State)

The 10 chapters in Washington State are:

- 1 Alexander Hamilton Chapter..... Tacoma Area
- 2 Cascade Centennial Chapter..... Bellevue Area
- 3 Fort Vancouver Chapter Vancouver Area
- 4 George Rogers Clark Chapter Olympia Area
- 5 George Washington Chapter Mount Vernon Area
- 6 John Paul Jones Chapter..... Bremerton Area
- 7 Mid-Columbia Chapter Richland Area
- 8 Ranger Chapter..... Snohomish Co. Area
- 9 Seattle Chapter Seattle Area
- 10 Spokane Chapter #1 Spokane Area

Washington State SAR (WASSAR) Elected Officers and Chairmen:

President	Treasurer	Historian
Vice President	Registrar	National Trustee
Secretary	Chaplain	Alternate National Trustee

State Standing Committee Chairmen:

Budget	Pacific District
Color Guard	Rules

Presidential Appointees:

Audit Committee	Newsletter Editor	DAR Eastern Liaison Chairman
Awards Archivist	Color Guard Commander	CAR Liaison Chairman
Endowment Fund Director	Color Guard Deputy Commander	State Webmaster
Nominating Committee	Color Guard Vice Commander	
Veterans	DAR Western Liaison Chairman	

State Volunteer Coordinators:

Eagle Scout

Assistant Eagle Scout

Flag Certificates

Knight Essay Contest

ROTC/JROTC

Wreaths Across America

WASSAR Membership Roster:

The latest roster of all WASSAR members is available on the “Member Access” page of the WASSAR web site at www.wassar.net/Home/member-access.

Membership:

There are three classes of SAR members:

1. Regular Member is a member age eighteen years and over.
2. Junior Member is a male under the age of eighteen years who has met the membership requirements of the Sons of the American Revolution. A Junior Member gets a national number and a certificate of membership. When he reaches eighteen, he can join an SAR chapter with nothing else needed since he already has a national number. Junior Members do not vote or hold office in the SAR and do not receive *The SAR Magazine*. The initial filing cost is just \$35. WASSAR does not charge fees or dues for Junior Members. The annual NSSAR dues are just \$5. (The filing and annual dues shown are current as of 2013.)
3. Memorial Membership is for a deceased male of the same family as a current member, whose application has been submitted and approved in accordance with the Bylaws of the National Society.

Ladies and the National Ladies Auxiliary SAR:

Membership in the National Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of the American Revolution is open to women related by marriage or bloodline to members in good standing or members deceased while in good standing of the NSSAR. More information can be had at their web site: www.nlasar.org.

The Alexander Hamilton Chapter welcomes members’ wives, daughters and other ladies to our monthly meetings and we always have a number of ladies in attendance. The ladies do *not* have to be members of the National Ladies Auxiliary. If a lady is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) she should feel it appropriate to wear her DAR membership badge if she chooses.

Alexander Hamilton Chapter Meetings:

The Alexander Hamilton Chapter meets on the Third Saturday of each month, except June, July and August. In December the Chapter has a Christmas party instead of a regular daytime meeting. The meetings are breakfast meetings and are held at 9:00 a.m. **The location is to be determined after the Covid situation has been resolved.**

Pledges at Meetings:

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Pledge to the Sons of the American Revolution

“We the 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 American’s Creed

“I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.”
(By William Tyler Page. Accepted by the US House of Representatives April 3, 1918)

Recessional:

“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.”

Newsletters and Magazines:

Members of the Alexander Hamilton Chapter receive two newsletters and one magazine:

The Cannon Ball, it is the Alexander Hamilton Chapter newsletter. It is published each month. Back issues are available on the Chapter web Site.

The Washington Trail, is the WASSAR newsletter published four times a year - Spring, Summer, Fall and

Winter and is made available on line.

The SAR Magazine, it is published by the National SAR four times a year - Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter and is mailed to each regular member.

Web Sites:

The National Society (NSSAR), State Society (WASSAR), and the Alexander Hamilton chapter all have own web site. The Alexander Hamilton Chapter also has its own page within the WASSAR web site. It is strongly recommended that all members familiarize themselves with what is available on all these web sites.

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR). This web site contains a great deal of useful information on all aspects of the SAR.

Link to the National Site: <https://www.sar.org/>

Washington State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (WASSAR). This web site covers Washington State Society information, to include activities and programs. It has links to the various state chapters, including the Alexander Hamilton Chapter.

Link to the State Site: <https://www.washingtonsar.org/>

Alexander Hamilton Chapter. This web site covers the Chapter information, to include activities and programs. It has links to past newsletters, member directory, and other documents of interest.

Link to the Chapter site: <https://wasar-ah.org/>

SAR Members' Insignia:

SAR Badge.

The SAR badge is an eight-point Maltese cross in white enamel with a gold ball at each point. The center of the cross features a gold medallion whose obverse bears a profile of George Washington surrounded by the motto, "Libertas et Patria" (Liberty and Country) on blue enamel.

The reverse of the medallion has a figure of a minuteman surrounded by the legend, "Sons of the American Revolution". The arms of the cross are supported by a laurel wreath and surmounted by a gold eagle, which is suspended from a ribbon by a golden ring.

The design of this badge was approved in December 1889 and is based on the badges of the Military Order of Saint Louis, founded by King Louis XIV in 1693 to honor faithful military service, and the Legion of Honor, founded by Napoleon in 1803 to reward civil and military service. The SAR Badge is available in both full and miniature sizes.

SAR Chest and Neck Ribbons.

Members may wear the SAR Badge described above on the left breast of a jacket from a chest ribbon, while current or former General Officers, National Trustees, and State Society or Chapter Presidents may wear the SAR Badge suspended from a neck ribbon. The chest and neck ribbons are of the SAR colors, with a deep blue center flanked by buff and white stripes.

When the SAR Badge is suspended from the chest ribbon, it is worn on the left breast of the dinner jacket, business suit coat, or blazer with the top of the ribbon clasp four inches below the midpoint of the shoulder seam of the coat. Supplemental stars (see below) are the only authorized insignia to be worn on the chest ribbon. When the SAR Badge is suspended from a neck ribbon, the only authorized insignia to be worn on the neck ribbon are supplemental stars and approved NSSAR officer emblems.

The SAR badge suspended from the neck ribbon is intended for wear with a coat and tie. It should be worn over the tie and under the turned over collar and drawn up to within one inch below the bow or four-in hand tie in business or formal attire.

The full-sized SAR Badge should only be worn at functions of the National Society, State Society or Chapter or when representing the SAR. It may also be worn during the funeral of an SAR member or at the dedication of a grave marker for a deceased SAR member.

The Rosette.

The rosette is a small tightly folded circle of ribbon of the Society's colors not exceeding 7/16th of an inch in diameter. It may be worn by all members, at their discretion, on the left lapel of the jacket, daily if desired, during business or social hours. It is only worn on a coat lapel, or tropical shirt collar, but not on an overcoat. A rosette is presented to a new member at the time of his induction into the society.

Except in France, the rosette is informal and therefore is not appropriate for formal wear. A fraternal or other organization badge may be worn with the rosette, but is strongly discouraged. The rosette should never be worn when wearing the SAR Badge.

Supplemental Star.

The supplemental star is a gold, one-quarter inch diameter, five-pointed star used to denote additional or supplemental Revolutionary War ancestors that have been approved by the National Society. Supplemental stars may be displayed on the SAR chest or neck ribbon. Placement of a star on the neck ribbon should alternate back and forth on the arms of the neck ribbon starting on the wearer's left and above any emblems the wearer is authorized to display.

A larger supplemental star is available to denote five approved supplemental ancestors. This star is gold, one-half inch in diameter, with a flat area with the numeral 5 and may be worn in lieu of five regular supplemental stars.

Purchase of Members' Insignia:

A new member of the Alexander Hamilton Chapter is presented a rosette when he is inducted into the SAR. If he wishes to purchase a SAR Badge with chest ribbon (full-size, miniature or both) or an additional rosette he may do so at the NSSAR Store through the NSSAR web site (www.sar.org).

Gold Bullion Blazer Patch:

The NSSAR Store sells a gold bullion blazer patch which is pinned to the pocket of a blazer. While it is not a member's insignia like the rosette and badge, it is a particularly attractive insignia a member may wish to wear.

Blue Blazers:

When you attend the chapter meetings you may note that a number of the members wear blue blazers. The blue blazer is thought of as being "kind of" the SAR uniform, but you should know that there is no official SAR jacket or uniform and there is no obligation to wear a blazer or even a tie.

SAR Awards and Medals:

The SAR has a variety of awards and medals. Volume V of the SAR Handbooks explains what these awards are for, describes them and gives their eligibility requirements.

Vol V is available for viewing & downloaded from the chapter web site at [THIS LINK](#).

Here are examples of just a few of the awards:

Veteran Recognition

The Alexander Hamilton Chapter endeavors to recognize its members who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The SAR has two medals for this purpose:

- **Military Service Medal.**

The Military Service Medal may be awarded to members who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States, including the Coast Guard, or in the armed forces of an ally, such as Canada or the United Kingdom.

- **War Service Medal.**

The War Service medal is authorized for members who have served in a war theater during war time and have been awarded a campaign medal. SAR members may *not* wear *both* the Military Service Medal and the War Service Medal.

NSSAR requires that members wishing to obtain either of these medals must present their DD- 214 or other document, such as a discharge or official orders to prove their service to their SAR chapter. The individual who handles this for the chapter is the Veterans Coordinator. Once that is done the AH Chapter awards the individual the appropriate medal certificate. Then the individual may, if he wishes, purchase the actual medal from the SAR store.

Flag Certificate:

The SAR recognizes individuals—members and others—who *properly* display the American flag at their homes or places of business with a Flag Certificate. Members who wish to present this certificate to their neighbors or others need only to ask the Chapter Flag Chairman for a certificate. He will need the recipient's name or names so they may be printed on the certificate. The member does the actual presentation.

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SAR Supplemental Applications:

After a member has become a member of the SAR, he may at any time submit one or more Supplemental Applications for other of his patriot ancestors. The standards of documentation and processing are the same for Supplemental Applications as for the initial Membership Application.

When a Supplemental Application is approved by the NSSAR, the member will receive a Supplemental Ancestor Certificate which is suitable for framing. If he wishes he may add a Supplemental Star to his SAR badge ribbon. Questions on Supplemental Applications should be directed to the Alexander Hamilton Chapter Registrar.

After submitting a supplemental SAR application many members wonder what happens next and how long it will take for NSSAR to approve the application. The Supplemental application must go through the same process as a new member application. (see the New Member Process at [THIS LINK](#))

Alexander Hamilton Chapter Bylaws:

The chapter bylaws are available at [THIS LINK](#).

Glossary of Definitions and Acronyms

C.A.R. Children of the American Revolution. This is the nation's oldest, largest patriotic youth organization for children under the age of 2, lineally descended from someone who rendered material aid to the cause of American Independence as a soldier, sailor, civil officer, or recognized patriot in one of the several Colonies or States, or of the United States. The C.A.R. serves as a "feeder" organization for both the SAR and DAR.

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

DAR. Daughters of the American Revolution.

NSSAR. National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Patriot Ancestor. An ancestor who supported the cause of American Independence during the years 1774-1783.

WASSAR. Washington [state] Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.