



# The BAR Tab

## New Castle, Delaware

### April 2024

Organized October 15, 2022



#### CALENDAR

**May 5-10, 2024:** Teacher Appreciation Week

**May 18, 2024:** ADIONC table/volunteer opportunity

**June 26 – 30, 2024:** Continental Congress Washington, D.C.

**July and August -** No meetings; may arrange social event

**September 17 – 23, 2024 –** Constitution Week; need for new display

**September 21, 2024 –** Chapter Meeting, TBD

**October 6, 2024:** Lafayette in Delaware

- 4:30 Wine and Cheese reception at Amstel House (free event)
- Pre-fixe dinner at Jessop's Tavern - Charlie Zahn

**October 10, 2024:** Day of Service

Dear Daughters,

April showers bring May flowers! Plants and trees are blossoming and tulips and daffodils are blooming...<achoo> For those with allergies, I am right there with you...lol.

You will find that April was a busy month for the BAR Chapter: the Christina River Clean Up, the Serviam Girls Academy Gala, Library Appreciation Week, our chapter meeting and the State Conference. Descriptions and photos on the following pages.

We will not have a regularly scheduled meeting on May 18 as it coincides with A Day in Old New Castle. In lieu of the chapter meeting I am asking all members to sign up for a volunteer shift [here](#). Remember that volunteers receive a free ticket.

Also, the BAR Chapter will have a pop-up table on The Green and table hostesses are needed, as well as 2-3 people to coordinate what is on the table. Please sign up [here](#). If you can help coordinate the table, please email me.

Be sure to enter your volunteer hours at [Service to America](#) on DAR.org. You will need your national number.

Our next chapter meeting is **Saturday, June 15, 2024, 10:30 a.m. and will take place at the New Castle Court House Museum**. This is the DAR "end of year" meeting. We have two important awards, we will induct at least 3 (possibly 4 or 5) new members among other items, so please don't miss it!

The new chapter pin has arrived! Look for them at the next event or meeting. \$15 each.

Yours in DAR Friendship,

Valarie Leary, Regent



## 2024 Christina River Watershed Cleanup

Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024



It was that time of year again for the Christina River Watershed Cleanup! How does so much trash end up in the oceans? Much of it travels along the path of fresh water downhill and into the oceans by way of rivers.

The Christina River Watershed Cleanup's mission has always been the removal of man-made debris from within this beautiful watershed, while raising public awareness for pollution prevention. Since the Cleanup began in 1992, more than 360 tons of tires, appliances, household items, and other trash have been cleared from within the watershed.

Kudos to Rebecca and all who participated from Cooch's Bridge Chapter!



The Christina River Watershed includes beautiful rolling hills, farms and forests, and large and small towns. But litter, dropped or dumped by anyone, can travel the Brandywine, White Clay, and Red Clay Creeks, and Christina River before continuing into the Delaware River. **This watershed provides more than 75% of the water supply for residents and businesses in New Castle County, Delaware.**

## Library Appreciation Week



On Wednesday, April 10, on behalf of the BAR Chapter, Janet Rossiter and I presented a \$300 donation, together with the "goodie books" for the staff in celebration and appreciation of the New Castle Library during Library Appreciation Week. Julie and the staff were so happy about the donation and the gifts!

## SERVIAM GIRLS ACADEMY “EVENING UNDER THE STARS”



It was a fun and festive evening in support of the Serviam Girls Academy. A New Castle themed gift basket was sponsored by our chapter as part of the silent auction.

*Dear Battell and Read Chapter of NSDAR,*

*On behalf of New Castle Public Library, I want to thank you for the recognition for National Library Week and for the donation to the library. The individual tokens of appreciation were unexpected and the staff were delighted with the “books” of candy. The donation will go back into the community in the way of programming support for supplies and presenters.*

*Again, thank you,*

*Julie*

*Julie Kirk*

Executive Director  
New Castle Public Library  
424 Delaware St.  
New Castle DE 19720  
302-328-1995  
[Newcastlelibrary.lib.de.us](http://Newcastlelibrary.lib.de.us)



Janet, Rebecca, Tracy  
and Denise,  
Beautiful ladies!



## JROTC AWARD

### **CADET ANDREA SANABRIA** **WILLIAM PENN HIGH SCHOOL**

- Cadet Sanabria has been involved in JROTC for two years and intends to continue her participation for the next two years as well.
- Within JROTC, she holds a leadership position as a Flight Commander and has also contributed to various other roles.
- She was a member of the AFJROTC Step Team, which achieved an impressive second place overall.
- Cadet Sanabria participates in the JROTC recruitment team, which visits different middle schools to discuss JROTC and the range of programs we offer.
- In addition to her involvement in JROTC, she is a member of both the school basketball and soccer teams and has also served as a manager for the football team.
- Overall, she is an exceptional cadet who actively engages in both school and JROTC activities.



Cadet Sanabria was presented with a certificate, medal and \$250 honorarium.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**CADET SANABRIA!**

## DELAWARE STATE CONFERENCE

The conference was held at the Smyrna Fire Company on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

BAR members in attendance included:

Deb Shetzler, Janet Leishman, Janet Rossiter, Denise Dyson, Tracy Walsh, Rebecca DeVore, Sandra Clay, Lori Porter, and myself.



This conference is where Chapter Regents give their annual report to the state. Yours truly, and that would be me, left my report(s) at home, on my desk, ready to go. Except they didn't go anywhere. I had to "wing it" and I didn't do a very good job.

So interspersed throughout these photos is the **Battell and Read Chapter 2023 Report**.

The Battell and Read Chapter completed their first full year with an amazing # of accomplishments. They include:

- We were proud to sponsor the Serviam Academy in Wilmington for one of the first Legacy Grants for \$2,500; and a junior classroom grant for \$500 to Pleasantville Elementary School.
- 10 small move out kits were presented to the Hope Center for homeless veterans who have now found stable housing.

- Starting with zero dollars, it was necessary to think out of the box and as a result the Historic Bourbon Tasting in partnership with Jessop's tavern and Prestige LeDroit distributing and the creation and sale of DAR wristlets earned nearly \$3,000 with wristlets going as far as Guam.



- In October a joint meeting was held with the USD 1812 where we shared a speaker and adjourned for separate business meetings.
- DAR after Dark that has been very successful for working on projects or just to have to some fun.
- Over 500 holiday cards were signed for our active-duty military that were used in
-

- the Stockings for Soldiers project where we spent two evenings volunteering our time sorting supplies and stuffing the personalized stockings for soldiers that were then shipped around the world.



- In December we cheered the end of the year with a Holiday Tea where we were honored to host our State Regent Barbara Senigen.
- Today's daughters embrace technology and as a result we tried Quickbooks for Nonprofits but found it didn't really meet our needs and moved to WAVE. We use Paypal and Springly, both for nonprofits for dues, ticket sales and donations with minimal to no loss to fees; we use Survey Monkey occasionally to vote on items that

cannot wait until the next meeting and Signup Genius to keep track of who is volunteering for what, when and where.

Madame State Regent, it is a pleasure serving under your administration and the Battell and Read chapter are already in the midst of another great year.



Photo collages courtesy of Jennifer Horsley, Vice Regent, Col. David Hall Chapter

**Congratulations to Tracy, Sandra, Janet R., Denise Dyson and Deb Shetzler for completing the "Members Course"!!!!**

## RAYMOND FIRMANI, THE 102-YEAR-OLD B-17 PILOT AND WWII VETERAN

Denise Dyson – Chapter Historian

Rebecca, MaryEllen, and I originally wanted to interview him as a war hero as part of a project we are doing for the veterans and the Library of Congress. But as we found out, he already told his story, which is in the Library of Congress. We were then told there was also



a book about his story, whose title is “Against All Odds: The Ray Firmani Story,” written by Mitchell M. Topal. I highly recommend buying the book, as stated on the cover: “A True Story of Combat, Heroism, and Love in World War II.” I find the book an enjoyable, easy read.



Since we could not interview Ray, it was suggested to us by his good friend George Widger

that we consider having lunch with Ray instead. Since we wanted to interview Ray, meeting him was just as good as interviewing him. George made us promise no interviewing. We all said yes, we would love to meet him for lunch, and we promised no interviewing. Ray wanted to go to his favorite restaurant, Mission BBQ. He told George that they knew him and that his meal would probably be free. The time came, and in walks, yes, I said walk! Ray and George. We were surprised there was no wheelchair or cane, and he only held on to George occasionally to get his balance from

sitting to standing. We all were happy and had a great time. A few people from other tables excused themselves



as they asked if they could say thank you to Ray for his service.

MaryEllen, Rebecca, George, and I beamed from ear to ear just to witness him saying hi and shaking hands. Even a 13-year-old boy



came over to shake his hand and thank him. It felt like being with a celebrity. As I reflected on

the moment we were with a celebrity, after all, how many people get to meet a man who is 102 years old, has a book written about his life, has flown 25 missions into Germany, earned the

Distinguished Flyer Cross, and is in the Delaware Aviation Hall of



Fame? But most of all, he left this country as a young boy, not knowing what tomorrow would bring, to fight and defend it so we could be safe. I say that he is a real celebrity, and we were proud to be sitting and having lunch with him.



Cindy Snyder, our Recording Secretary, is the Chair of “A Day in Old New Castle” (ADIONC) which will take place on Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **She is in need of a variety of volunteers.** You can volunteer all day or just a couple of hours. Please contact Cindy at [Cynthiarobinsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:Cynthiarobinsnyder@gmail.com) or call her at 302-304-5179.

**REGISTRAR REPORT**

**April 2024**

Deb Shetzler, Registrar  
Sherrye Eaton, Asst. Registrar

- # Members: 39
- Regular Members..... 27
- Associate Member.....12
- (Friends of BAR (FOBAR). ..... 2)
  
- Prospective Members: 11
- Pending (in review by National)...4
  - Elaine Newcomb
  - Laura Mackelcan
  - Sandra Rossiter-Lastowka
  - Mary Lastowka
  
- Complete:..... 1
  - Sara Merkle (will submit in June 2024)
  
- In Process:..... 5
  - Debbie Smith
  - Lisa Johnson
  - Lori “Allie” Mathews
  - Serah Pesce
  
- On Hold: ..... 2
  - Catherine Woodfield – application complete, on hold at PM request

- Cindy Savelli – placed on hold until she retires and moves back to New Castle in 2024-2025

Friends of BAR (FoBAR)..... 2

- Shiela Arnold
- Joy Hansen

Potential Future Prospective Members: 0

**April Birthdays:**

Susan Brook  
Jan Henion

**May Birthdays:**

Mary Lastowka  
Lois Racine  
Darlene Frederick  
Susan Stonesifer

Thanks to Deb and Sherrye!!!



website where Daughters may interact with one another and share resources and ideas—similar to the way we have interacted in national committee Facebook groups in the past. Since the launch of the Daughters Online Community in February 2023, national committee Facebook groups have transitioned to this private online community, making it possible to be an engaged DAR member without having a Facebook profile.

When you log in to the [Daughters Online Community](#), you will see a news feed featuring the latest content from the “communities” you have chosen to join. These might be national committee communities, communities related to specific chapter officer roles or communities around specific interest areas. You may add your photograph to your member profile, as well as list your DAR interests and other details. The amazing resources you may struggle to find on Facebook because of the



constantly changing algorithm are organized in an easily accessible resource library. The community features a responsive design, meaning it functions well on your computer, your tablet or your smartphone. And you can choose to receive specific communities' posts via email in either a digest format or in real-time, allowing you to keep up with the action right from your email inbox.

## **BEFORE YOU SIT DOWN WITH YOUR DATE BOOK/LAPTOP/IPHONE AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**



Do you have a project or service you want to lead?

A class you would like to teach? A presentation? All of our life experiences are different and we each have gifts, big or small...what can you bring to the table? Do not be afraid...our small group is perfect for test runs.

**May 5-10, 2024:** Teacher Appreciation Week  
Rebecca DeVore organizing

**May 18, 2024:** ADIONC table/volunteer opportunity

**May 27, 2024:** Memorial Day

**June 8, 2024** – Separation Day  
Walk in the parade or table in the park

**June 18, 2024:** Chapter meeting - Wilmington, Delaware; Antoinette to arrange tour of historical buildings downtown.

**June 26 – 30, 2024:** Continental Congress  
Washington, D.C.

**July and August** - No meetings; may arrange social event

**September 17 – 23, 2024** – Constitution Week; need for new display

**September 21, 2024** – Chapter Meeting, TBD

**October 6, 2024:** Lafayette in Delaware

- 4:30 Wine and Cheese reception at Amstel House (free event)
- Pre-fixe dinner at Jessop's Tavern - Charlie Zahn

**October 10, 2024:** Day of Service

**October 12, 2024** – Chapter Meeting and Card Signing for Active-Duty Military

**October 19, 2024** – State Fall Meeting;  
Odessa Fire Hall

**November - Stockings for Soldiers**

**November 7, 2024:** Naturalization Ceremony at the New Castle Court House Museum

**November 11, 2024:** Veterans Day

**November 17, 2024** – Chapter Meeting

**December 7, 2024** – Holiday Tea

**December 14** - Spirit of Christmas

## Post Scriptum

As of May 3, 2024, 324 are logged and I have over 200 to add! Our chapter goal is 750 hours which I know we will exceed.

Log your **Service to America** hours [here](#)

### **DID YOU KNOW that the below activities ALL count as Service to America hours:**

- Volunteering at local historical societies or associations
- Volunteering in schools, hospitals, and churches
- Volunteering with other lineage societies outside of DAR
- Transporting or sitting with those facing medical issues (non-family members)
- Service as a DAR chapter / C.A.R. senior society, state or national officer; committee chairman, vice chairman, co-chairman, committee member, etc. This includes all planning, communication, board meetings, and committee meetings.

**If you need help logging hours, or are unsure if your hours count, please contact Valarie.**

*\*That is 30 hours per member for the year and is also based on the # of members on January 1, 2024. The goal for this year, with 25 members (so far), the hours will be 750.*

### **What's a QUORUM? And why should you care**

Our by-laws state that a quorum is 50% + 1 of our membership. *We have 27 members as of May 3,, 2024 and our quorum is 14.*

**A quorum is the minimum number of members that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid.** A meeting quorum is required at our chapter meetings for the purpose of conducting and voting on new chapter business. Without it we can't make motions, change bylaws, initiate group projects, purchase items, donate money, and so forth.

*Please plan to attend as many meetings as possible so we can meet the quorum needed to achieve our chapter goals.*



### **OPERATION PAPERBACK**

[Operation Paperback](#) is a national, non-profit organization, whose volunteers collect gently-used books and send them to American troops overseas, as well as veterans and military families here at home. Since 1999, we have shipped over 2.9 million books to countries all over the world (shown in orange on the adjacent map).

#### Step 1 – Collect

The following genres are most frequently requested: action, bestsellers, biographies and memoirs, fantasy, history, horror, mysteries, science-fiction, true crime. Do NOT send romance novels unless specifically requested by the individual!

Our troops have received a disproportionate amount of this genre and they aren't very happy about it.

## Step 2 - Sort

Weed out any books that do not meet the standards of our program. Do NOT send:

- Ripped, stained, molding, damaged materials
- Religious material unless specifically requested (pamphlets and bookmarks included)
- Out of date items (ex. your uncle's map collection)

Remember that your package is a gift meant to entertain our troops and veterans! Take pride in what you send and don't be shy about pitching unsuitable materials into your recycling bin.

Then sort your books by genre. Also sort by hardcover/paperback. Overseas addresses receive paperbacks only. Domestic addresses can receive both hardcovers and paperbacks.

**"SPELLING DUSN'T COWNT"**

**1** Back in the day folks couldn't spell and many could barely write, so how a name sounds is more



important than how it's spelled. Use wild card or Soundex searches to help find variant spellings of names.

**ASSUME NOTHING**

**2** Check all your facts, don't assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify. For instance, don't assume that:

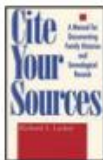
- your ancestors were married
- census information is accurate
- vital (or other) records were correct
- your ancestor's life events were recorded
- ancestors had the same name as their enslaver

**USE DISCRETION**

**3** **Never lie** in your genealogy reports, but use discretion when reporting family information, especially when it involves living relatives.

**ALWAYS DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER**

**4** Over time, you will compile more data and those once seemingly contradictory pieces of evidence may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. Be consistent as you cite your sources. There are standard citation formats, but



even if you just make up your own format for listing your sources, be consistent with it. You want your descendants to be able to retrace your steps, so you always cite your sources.

**MOST DATES ARE APPROXIMATE**

**5** It's okay to state that someone was born "abt. 1845," or died "May 1915" if you don't have an exact date or where various documents have different dates. Which date is "correct?" They all are.

**IF UNSURE, SAY SO**

**6** Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you "suspect" such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts. Ever.

**YOU CANNOT DO IT ALL ONLINE**

**7** Yes, we love doing research online and there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with relatives. For genealogists, the internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives, and historical societies. Do as much as you can online, then turn off your computer and hit the bricks!

**JUST BECAUSE IT'S ONLINE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TRUE**

**8** The internet is a wonderful thing but it's filled with oodles of bad information. Don't make the mistake of believing anything you find online at face value. Verify against other sources, even if you paid for the information you found online. Consult the original source whenever possible.

**PASS ALONG YOUR RESEARCH**

No matter how many decades you spend researching your family, your research will never be done. Plan on passing along your research to the next generation's



researchers. Leave excellent notes, cite all your sources, explain your shorthand ... in essence, leave your research the way you'd have liked to have found it.

**DON'T DIE WITH YOUR STORIES STILL IN YOU**

**10** Giving credit to Dr. Wayne Dyer for his "Don't die with your music still in you," we want to remind you to tell the stories as completely and as accurately as possible. Genealogy isn't about just doing research. Genealogy is about telling the stories and ensuring that your ancestor's legacies live on for generations to come. Without the stories, the research won't do anyone much good. The legacy of your ancestors rests in your capable hands. Doing the research is fine, but always remember that you have been chosen to **tell their stories**.

**DNA IS NOT A TRUMP CARD**

**11** DNA is just one of **many** possible sources of information you can use to verify or deny a relationship. Human error occurs when the results are transcribed, thereby providing false information. DNA results should **always** be used in concert with other sources.

**ANYTHING YOU POST ONLINE WILL BE "BORROWED"**

**12** You need to accept the fact that any family information you post online will be "borrowed" or outright stolen, and you will probably not get credit for all your hard work. This is the nature of the beast... the internet. Get over it.

**SPREAD THE WORD**

You have our permission to use/publish these *Golden Rules* as much as you like. Just give us credit for them, okay?

GotGenealogy.com  
PO Box 10805  
Oakland, CA 94610-0805  
(510) 333-6933