Titus County - District Clerk

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Carin Carroll
District Clerk
Titus County, Texas

44639

Carin N Carroll

Cause No. _____

Martha Laird Chapter NSDAR,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	
	§	OF TITUS COUNTY, TEXAS
National Society of the Daughters	§	
of the American Revolution and	§	
Texas Society Daughters of the	§	
American Revolution, Inc.,	§	
Defendants.	§	____TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY INJUNCTION, AND REQUEST FOR DECLARATORY AND PERMANENT INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

To the Honorable Judge of Said Court:

Plaintiff Martha Laird Chapter NSDAR ("Martha Laird Chapter" or the "Chapter"), by and through undersigned counsel, files this Original Petition and Application for Temporary Restraining Order, Application for Temporary Injunction, and Request for Declaratory and Permanent Injunctive Relief against National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution ("NSDAR" or the "National Society") and Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Inc. ("TXDAR") and respectfully shows as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. For eighty-four years, the Martha Laird Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has served its community in Mount Pleasant, Texas, preserving American history, promoting patriotism, and honoring the principles upon which this nation was founded. Generations of women have devoted their time, resources, and talents to that mission. Now, after taking a leading role in advocating that the Daughters of the American Revolution remain a women's organization, the Chapter has been disbanded by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and ordered to turn over its property.

2. At the center of this controversy is a fundamental disagreement over the future of one of America's oldest women's organizations. NSDAR maintains that biological men who identify as women are eligible for membership. Members of the Martha Laird Chapter believe that an organization founded by women and for women should remain an organization for women. As the Martha Laird Chapter learned of this NSDAR membership policy, the Chapter did not abandon DAR or seek to establish a competing society. Rather, its members sought to preserve the orga-

nization they loved by persuading their fellow Daughters to maintain its historic identity. They pursued that objective through DAR's own governing procedures, encouraging other chapters to adopt resolutions and participate in the process of determining the future of their organization.

3. The Martha Laird Chapter became a leader in that effort. Despite opposition from NSDAR leadership, being subject to constant online bullying, and more than two years of NSDAR rejecting its bylaw amendment proposals, members of the Martha Laird Chapter received the support of 68 DAR chapters across 27 states to call for a special meeting to adopt a resolution to ensure that the organization remains a women's organization. Under Article VIII, Section 7 of the National Bylaws, the President General "shall" call a special meeting upon the written request of just 30 chapters in at least 10 states. NSDAR's leadership refused, instead tacking the issue onto another meeting held in D.C. and only placing the issue on the agenda after the deadline for the credentialing of voting delegates had passed. Since that refusal to hold the required meeting, almost 200 more DAR chapters have called for the special meeting to be held. NSDAR leadership continues to refuse.

4. On October 10, 2026, after the Chapter had helped lead this nationwide effort and its members had challenged national leadership's handling of the special-meeting request, NSDAR's National Board of Management voted to disband the Martha Laird Chapter. The Martha Laird Chapter contends that it was punished for its leadership in opposing the admission of biological males to DAR and for insisting that national leadership comply with its own bylaws. NSDAR denies that the disbandment was based on the Chapter's position on membership eligibility and instead now claims that the disbandment was because "chapter officers had used the chapter's name, leadership positions, communications, and governance processes to further the goals of a separate advocacy organization" and that this "constituted conduct discrediting the National Society." NSDAR only provided this explanation after disbanding the Martha Laird Chapter and never provided the Chapter with an opportunity to respond to these—or any—specific allegations. Regardless, the Chapter disputes NSDAR's explanation and maintains that its actions were permitted under DAR's governing rules.

5. Following the disbandment, national and state DAR leadership subsequently instructed the Chapter to wind up its affairs and surrender its bank-account funds and other property to the Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution. But the Martha Laird Chapter is also a separately incorporated Texas nonprofit corporation. It maintains that NSDAR's decision to revoke its recognition as a DAR chapter does not authorize either Defendant to dissolve that corporation or seize its property. The women who have preserved the Chapter's history and stewarded its charitable resources for decades now face the loss of both their organizational home and the property entrusted to their care.

6. This lawsuit does not ask the Court to decide who should be eligible for membership in

the Daughters of the American Revolution. Rather, it concerns whether a national organization may punish a chapter for advocating a position opposed by its leadership without affording it fair treatment under its governing rules, and whether national leadership may then use that decision to dismantle a separate Texas corporation and claim its assets. The Martha Laird Chapter sought to preserve the organization to which its members had devoted their lives. It should not lose its place in that organization, or the property entrusted to it, merely because its members sought to preserve what they believed DAR was founded to be. Plaintiff asks this Court to invalidate the disbandment, restore its chapter status, and protect its corporate existence and property under Texas law.

DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN AND RELIEF REQUESTED

7. Plaintiff intends that discovery be conducted under Level 2 of Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 190.3.

8. Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 47(c)(2), Plaintiff seeks monetary relief of $325,000 or less and non-monetary relief. Plaintiff presently seeks no compensatory damages. Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive relief and, to the extent permitted by law, reasonable attorney's fees and court costs. The amount sought is within the jurisdictional limits of this Court.

PARTIES

9. Plaintiff Martha Laird Chapter NSDAR is a Texas nonprofit corporation, Texas Secretary of State file number 805766318, formed effective November 1, 2024. Its principal office and operations are in Mount Pleasant, Titus County, Texas. Its Certificate of Formation vests management solely in its members. A true and correct copy of the Certificate of Formation is submitted as Exhibit A.

10. Defendant National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is a federally chartered private corporation with headquarters at 1776 D Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. It may be served through URS Agents, Inc., 1100 H Street NW, Ste. 840, Washington, D.C. 20005.

11. Defendant Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Inc., is a Texas nonprofit corporation, Texas Secretary of State File Number 11717201. Its principal office is located in Oakwood, Leon County, Texas. It may be served through its registered agent, Registered Agents Inc., 5900 Balcones Drive, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78731, USA.

12. Plaintiff requests issuance of citation for service upon each Defendant at the addresses identified above.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

13. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction under Article V, Section 8 of the Texas Constitution and Texas Government Code §§ 24.007–.008 because this is a civil action concerning corporate governance and property rights valued at more than $500, exclusive of interest, and seeking declaratory and equitable relief.

14. This Court has personal jurisdiction over TXDAR because it is a Texas corporation.

15. This Court has specific personal jurisdiction over NSDAR under the Texas long-arm statute because NSDAR purposefully established and maintained an ongoing governance and affiliation relationship with Plaintiff in Titus County, Texas; derived benefits from that relationship; and deliberately exercised supervisory authority over Plaintiff's affairs in Texas. Through its national officers and National Board of Management, NSDAR investigated Plaintiff's activities in Texas, directed investigative demands to Plaintiff's Texas officers, imposed the challenged disciplinary sanction upon the Texas chapter, and expressly instructed Plaintiff's officers to wind up the separately incorporated Texas nonprofit corporation and transfer its Texas-held assets to Defendant TXDAR. NSDAR thus affirmatively asserted rights over a Texas corporation and its property and sought to compel the transfer of that property to another Texas corporation. These contacts arise from NSDAR's own deliberate exercise of authority in Texas, rather than the unilateral activities of its Texas members or affiliates. Plaintiff's claims arise directly from and relate to those purposeful Texas contacts. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code §§ 17.041–.045; *Moncrief Oil Int'l, Inc. v. OAO Gazprom*, 414 S.W.3d 142, 149–52, 154–55 (Tex. 2013); *Cornerstone Healthcare Grp. Holding, Inc. v. Nautic Mgmt. VI, L.P.*, 493 S.W.3d 65, 71–74 (Tex. 2016); *Retamco Operating, Inc. v. Republic Drilling Co.*, 278 S.W.3d 333, 338–40 (Tex. 2009).

16. Venue is proper in Titus County under Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 15.002(a)(1) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to this action occurred in this county, and Plaintiff, its records, its property, the disputed assets, and many of its members are located here.

FACTS

History and Structure of Daughters of the American Revolution

17. NSDAR was founded in 1890 after the Sons of the American Revolution declined to admit women. From its founding, NSDAR has been a lineage society of women, open to any adult woman who can document biological descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Today it reports more than 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters.

18. Under NSDAR's Bylaws, attached as Exhibit B, Members of NSDAR are organized into chapters. Chapters are "independent legal entities from the National Society, and solely responsi-

ble in all instances, for their debts, legal obligations, liabilities, expenditures, claims made against them and any actions taken by them." Exh. B Art. XIII § 1.

19. Chapters are entitled to representation at NSDAR's annual meeting, called the Continental Congress, by a number of delegates apportioned according to chapter size. Exh. B Art. XIII § 8. NSDAR members who are not members of a chapter ("members-at-large") are not entitled to representation. Only delegates who appear in person at Continental Congress are entitled to vote.

20. A chapter must have at least 12 members, and any chapter whose membership falls below 12 is subject to disbandment if it is not able to increase its membership within a year, subject to extension. Exh. B Art. XIII §§ 2, 18. Members may transfer chapter once per year, subject to the chapter's acceptance. Exh. B Art. XIV § 2(b).

21. The chapters of a state may form a state DAR organization, which exists as an independent legal entity both from the local chapters and from the National Society. State organizations may hold annual state meetings, to which local chapters in good standing may send delegates. State organizations are entitled to representation at NSDAR national meetings. Exh. B Art. XV § 1. TXDAR is such a state organization.

History and Structure of the Martha Laird Chapter NSDAR

22. The Martha Laird Chapter was organized in Mount Pleasant, Texas, in 1942. For approximately eighty-four years it pursued historical preservation, education, patriotic programs, and other activities consistent with the purposes of Daughters of the American Revolution. It has approximately 100 members.

23. The Martha Laird Chapter is a local chapter of NSDAR with a separate legal existence from both NSDAR and TXDAR. It is incorporated as a Texas member-managed nonprofit corporation with the purpose to:

> perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence by the acquisition and protection of historical spots and the erection of monuments, by the encouragement of historical research in relation to the American Revolution and publication of its results, by the preservation of documents and relics, and the records of the individual services of the Revolutionary soldiers and patriots, and by the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries. To cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for all mankind all blessings of liberty.

24. Plaintiff's Certificate of Formation, *see* Exh. A, does not require permanent affiliation with NSDAR, grant either defendant power to dissolve Plaintiff's corporate existence or supersede the members' management, confer on either defendant authority respecting corporate amendments or governance, or identify loss of NSDAR recognition as an event requiring or triggering corporate dissolution and wind up.

25. The Chapter bylaws contemplate local governance by elected officers and corporate members. They state that its duration is "perpetual" and, in Article XIII, address the distribution of assets "[u]pon the dissolution of the chapter." A copy of the Chapter bylaws, as reproduced in the 2026–2027 chapter yearbook, is submitted as Exhibit C. They do not provide that a vote of the NSDAR National Board to disband the chapter constitutes the automatic legal winding up or termination of the separately formed Texas corporation.

26. Plaintiff maintains charitable and historical assets, accounts, and records associated with the local chapter and its members. Its financial assets are estimated at approximately $16,000, and include funds that may be affected by donor restrictions.

Bylaw Amendment Controversy and the Martha Laird Chapter's Advocacy

27. In 2023, Chapter members became aware that NSDAR was engaged in a practice of admitting biologically male applicants, despite NSDAR eligibility requirements limiting membership to women. This eligibility requirement dates back to NSDAR's founding and is, ostensibly, still in effect.

28. NSDAR indicated that it accepts as sufficient evidence of eligibility the amended birth certificate of a biological man who identifies as a woman. However, NSDAR does not consider an amended birth certificate sufficient evidence of eligibility for a female applicant who has been adopted by parents who descend from a patriot. An adopted daughter must submit her original birth certificate listing her biological parents to demonstrate that she is the biological descendant of a patriot and, if unable, supplement her amended birth certificate with a DNA test, statement from a biological parent, or other evidence of her biological ancestry. See DAR Public Relations, "Membership Eligibility of Adopted Children," https://www.dar.org/system/files/members/darnet/forms/PR-0013.pdf (attached as Exhibit D); DAR Geneological Guidelines, Part Two: Completing the Application and Proving Lineage, at 8–9 (attached as Exhibit E).

29. Between September 2023 and June 2024, Martha Laird Chapter officer Laura McDonald inquired with TXDAR's regent regarding the practice of allowing biological men to join NSDAR and the process for proposing amendments to the NSDAR bylaws. After the initial conversation, TXDAR repeatedly declined any discussion and expressed hostility to Ms. McDonald's inquiries.

30. In July 2024, Ms. McDonald, using her mother's Facebook account but posting un-

der her own name, posted on the private TXDAR Facebook page regarding the procedure for NSDAR bylaw amendments but did not mention any substantive amendment proposal. Ms. McDonald's mother, Martha Laird Chapter Regent Lani Hightower, was subsequently removed and blocked from the TXDAR Facebook page. TXDAR Regent Susan Johnston agreed to reinstate them on the condition that they post no information about the bylaw amendment process.

31. NSDAR Bylaws allow a chapter to propose bylaw amendments. Nine other chapters must endorse the proposed amendment, and the ten chapters must be located in at least five different states. Exh. B Art. XXI § 1.

32. The Martha Laird Chapter spearheaded a grassroots effort among chapters throughout the country to seek change through NSDAR's governing process to ensure that NSDAR's longstanding eligibility requirement that members be women is applied faithfully according to its original meaning of biological female. NSDAR and state-level DAR organizations, including TXDAR, responded with a systematic effort to prevent such a change from obtaining passage.

33. In September 2024, the Martha Laird Chapter submitted a bylaw amendment proposal (the "Amendment"). The proposal carried twelve chapter endorsements from eight states. In February 2025, the NSDAR National Board of Management rejected the proposed amendment.

34. In February 2025, the Chapter renewed the proposal for a bylaw amendment, this time endorsed by forty-four chapters in twenty-three states. In September 2025, the proposal was submitted to the National Board of Management, which rejected it in February 2026.

35. As the Martha Laird Chapter gained support for the Amendment, state-level DAR organizations (including TXDAR) discouraged local chapters from considering, adopting, or advocating for the Amendment by intimidation and deplatforming, including threats of refusal to refer or transfer members to the chapter, refusal to provide assistance to those chapters, and other discipline. Martha Laird Chapter members and other proponents were told their advocacy violated NSDAR bylaws by causing "disharmony."

36. Facing repeated obstructionism from the NSDAR National Board of Management, the Martha Laird Chapter requested the President General to call a special meeting to consider a resolution interpreting "woman" to mean a biological woman pursuant to NSDAR Bylaw Article VIII § 7 (the "Resolution").

37. Article VIII § 7 provides that special meetings "shall be called by the President General upon the written request of thirty or more chapters in at least ten states." Only the business specified in the call may be transacted.

38. During this time, Ms. McDonald began a Facebook group called Daughters Advocating for Restoration to provide a forum where DAR members could discuss the Resolution and Amendment effort freely. As an increasing number of DAR members reached out to the Martha Laird Chapter to support its efforts, a single member of the Martha Laird Chapter incorporated Daughters Advocating for Restoration ("Restoration") as a Texas nonprofit corporation to simplify administration and coordination and to provide a platform for Resolution and Amendment proponents who were denied access to DAR fora.

39. Although Restoration's leadership includes two members of the Martha Laird Chapter and Restoration has supported the Martha Laird Chapter's efforts to call for a special meeting and advocate for the adoption of the Amendment, the organizations are separate entities. The Chapter is independent of Restoration, and Restoration plays no role in the Chapter's operations, internal governance, or any other function.

40. Individual members advocating for the Resolution, including members of the Martha Laird Chapter, faced individual disciplinary grievances related to their advocacy. These disciplinary proceedings are still pending.

41. While Resolute Chapters (*i.e.*, chapters that adopted the Resolution) and Resolution proponents faced deplatforming and threats of discipline, NSDAR members opposing the Resolution faced no threat of disciplinary action and were allowed to operate Facebook groups, such as "Remove Resolute Chapters" and "Daughters for Inclusivity," where they advocated against the Resolution and some engaged in vitriolic discourse regarding Resolution proponents without facing investigation, reprimand, or discipline.

42. By late January 2026, thirty chapters in ten states endorsed the Resolution. The President General ignored the request, did not issue a call for a special meeting, and did not respond to proponents' inquiries.

43. By April 2026, sixty-eight chapters endorsed the Resolution.

44. Rather than call the required special meeting, NSDAR substituted a special order of business at the 135th Continental Congress to vote on the Resolution. NSDAR did not provide notice of the special order of business until after the registration deadline for delegates passed. Notice was provided only to Continental Congress delegates.

45. Because Continental Congress occurs in Washington, D.C., and delegates must bear their own expense to attend, chapters distant from Washington, D.C., are often unrepresented or underrepresented. The chapters advocating for the Resolution are disproportionately located distant from Washington, D.C.

46. The substitution of a special order of business for which notice was provided after the registration deadline had passed materially impaired the ability of the chapters advocating for the Resolution to instruct delegates to vote for its adoption and to ensure their attendance.

47. At the 135th Continental Congress, NSDAR leadership structured the timing and presentation of the vote on the Resolution to minimize the votes of proponents, manipulate debate, and confuse delegates regarding the Resolution's substance and effect. For example, NSDAR leadership presented an opinion letter from an outside attorney opining that the Resolution would potentially subject NSDAR to liability under the D.C. public accommodations law, while prohibiting Resolution proponents from offering any contrary legal analysis. Departing from customary practice, NSDAR declined to read the Resolution before the vote and instead provided a negatively-biased summary. The vote's occurrence during Continental Congress also resulted in some delegates missing the vote to attend other functions, such as an expensive, pre-ticketed NSDAR luncheon. As a result of these efforts, the Resolution failed.

48. In direct response to the Martha Laird Chapter's effort to call a special meeting, NSDAR's National Board of Management proposed a bylaw amendment that would have substantially increased the threshold of chapters necessary to request a special meeting. The amendment did not pass.

49. After the 135th Continental Congress, the Martha Laird Chapter continued its efforts to call for a special meeting. By October 2026, approximately 250 chapters requested a special meeting to vote on the Resolution to define the term "woman" to mean one biologically.

50. On August 6, 2026, the President General sent an email to all members announcing that the additional calls for a special meeting will be rejected because a vote on the Resolution was had at the Continental Congress.

51. Following that email, in August 2026, NSDAR members from chapters across the country, including members of the Martha Laird Chapter, submitted grievances pursuant to Article XIX § 6 regarding the President General's failure to call a special meeting.

Investigation, Disbandment, and Internal Appeal

52. In late August 2026, instead of calling a special meeting, NSDAR began a pretextual investigation of the Martha Laird Chapter.

53. On August 21, 2026, NSDAR sent a letter to Martha Laird Chapter Regent Hightower demanding it provide information and two years' worth of documents relating to the Chapter's advocacy in favor of the Amendment and Resolution and its relationship to Restoration. The let-

ter, attached as Exhibit F, demanded a response within three weeks and did not accuse the Chapter of violating a specific NSDAR bylaw or policy. NSDAR copied TXDAR on the letter.

54. The Martha Laird Chapter responded on August 27, 2026. Its letter, attached as Exhibit G, explained that it could not complete a reasonable and accurate response to NSDAR's request for twenty-three months of records over six subject areas and written answers to extensive questions by September 14, 2026. The Chapter requested an extension to respond until October 30, 2026. It also requested clarification on the nature of the records sought, the basis of NSDAR's authority for the requests for information, and the charges alleged against it.

55. On August 31, 2026, NSDAR denied the Chapter's request for an extension until October 30, 2026, and directed that it provide written answers by September 14th, 2026, and responsive documents on a rolling basis from September 14th, 2026 to September 30th, 2026. It did not identify particular charges alleged against the Chapter. NSDAR's August 31, 2026, letter is attached as Exhibit H.

56. On September 9, 2026, the Chapter responded by clarifying that all Chapter actions occurred at duly noticed membership meetings and providing its minutes from the requested time-period. It objected to the scope of NSDAR's inquiry but provided written responses in an effort to show good faith. It also objected to judgment of the Chapter's activities as in violation of a policy or standards adopted *ex post facto,* given NSDAR's August 2026 issuance of a "Statement Concerning Chapter Identity and Members Acting in Multiple Capacities." The Chapter's September 9, 2026, response is attached as Exhibit I.

57. On September 15, 2026, NSDAR responded to the Chapter and directed it to supplement its response. NSDAR continued to decline to identify any specific alleged policy violation. NSDAR's September 15, 2026, letter is attached as Exhibit J.

58. On September 17, 2026, the Chapter supplemented its response and reiterated its request that NSDAR identify the alleged violation of a bylaw or policy. The Chapter's September 17, 2026, letter is attached as Exhibit K. The Chapter received no answer to its September 17th letter.

59. On October 10th, 2026, NSDAR's National Board of Management voted to disband the Martha Laird Chapter. The same day, NSDAR's Organizing Secretary General sent a letter (attached as Exhibit L) to Martha Laird Chapter Regent Hightower informing the Chapter of the disbandment vote, directing the Chapter to dissolve, and providing instructions regarding corporate wind-up. It explained that Martha Laird Chapter members will be tranfsered to Members-at-large and allowed until November 9, 2026, to request transfer to another NSDAR chapter. The letter provided no explanation of the specific conduct or policy the Chapter was found guilty of

violating, stating simply, "The actions of the Chapter have been found in violation of Article XIX, Section 4 of the Bylaws of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution."

60. Article XIX § 4 provides:

> Any chapter guilty of violation of the rules of the National Society, or of action discrediting the organization, may be reprimanded, suspended or disbanded and the right to use its name and that of the Society revoked by the National Board of Management.

61. The same day, TXDAR contacted the Chapter and directed it to refund members' 2027 dues and mail a check payable to TXDAR for the balance of the funds in the Chapter's checking account. The email is attached as Exhibit M.

62. On October 12, 2026, the NSDAR President General sent a letter addressed to the members of the Martha Laird Chapter. The letter, attached as Exhibit N, stated that the NSDAR National Board of Management "found that chapter officers had used the chapter's name, leadership positions, communications, and governance processes to further the goals of a separate advocacy organization" and that this "constituted conduct discrediting the National Society under Article XIX, Section 4." It alluded to the existence of, but did not identify, the specific factual record NSDAR considered.

63. On October 19, 2026, the Chapter submitted a grievance letter, in accordance with NSDAR Bylaws Article XIX § 6, appealing the Chapter's disbandment and requesting reinstatement. The appeal letter, attached as Exhibit O, requested reconsideration and an opportunity to defend itself against specific charges of misconduct. The Chapter also requested that NSDAR provide the factual record on which it relied, which was unknown to the Chapter.

64. On October 27, 2026, NSDAR denied the Chapter's appeal and declared that the NSDAR disbandment decision was final and would not be reconsidered. It directed the Chapter to dissolve and to transfer its assets to TXDAR by November 9, 2026. The NSDAR's appeal denial letter is attached as Exhibit P.

65. The Martha Laird Chapter's disbandment effectively disenfranchises its members, regardless of whether they become members-at-large or transfer to another chapter. Members-at-large have no representation within NSDAR, and only chapter members who have been members of the chapter for at least a year can represent the chapter at NSDAR national or state meetings. *See* Exh. B Art. VIII § 3, XV § 2. *See* Exh. M.

COUNT 1: INVALID DISBANDMENT AND VIOLATION OF GOVERNING OBLIGATIONS

(Against NSDAR)

66. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

67. NSDAR's National Bylaws and the applicable chapter governing instruments establish enforceable obligations governing the relationship between NSDAR and the Martha Laird Chapter, including the Chapter's participation in national governance and the exercise of NSDAR's disciplinary powers. Those powers are limited by the governing instruments and the common-law requirements of fundamental fairness. *Lundine v. McKinney*, 183 S.W.2d 265, 273 (Tex. Civ. App.—Eastland 1944, no writ).

68. Although Texas courts ordinarily refrain from interfering with the internal affairs of voluntary associations, judicial intervention is proper when an association's actions threaten substantial property rights, violate fundamental procedural protections, or exceed the authority conferred by its governing instruments. *Lundine*, 183 S.W.2d at 273; *Frey v. DeCordova Bend Estates Owners Ass'n*, 632 S.W.2d 877, 880 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth 1982), *aff'd on other grounds*, 647 S.W.2d 246 (Tex. 1983); *Masonic Grand Chapter of Order of E. Star v. Sweatt*, 329 S.W.2d 334, 336–38 (Tex. Civ. App.—Fort Worth 1959, writ ref'd n.r.e.); *Collins v. Kappa Sigma Fraternity*, No. 02-14-00294-CV, 2017 Tex. App. LEXIS 474 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth Jan. 19, 2017, pet. denied) (mem. op.).

69. These principles apply to disciplinary actions taken by a superior association against a subordinate organization. In *United Bhd. of Carpenters & Joiners of America v. Carpenters Local Union No. 14*, 178 S.W.2d 558, 569–70 (Tex. Civ. App.—San Antonio 1943, writ ref'd w.o.m.) (op. on reh'g), the court invalidated a national association's suspension of a subordinate local chapter because the national association failed to provide charges, notice, and a hearing, notwithstanding the national organization's authority to discipline subordinate bodies. Likewise, *Pait v. Int'l Bhd. of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers, AFL-CIO*, 322 S.W.2d 340, 345–47 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston 1959, writ ref'd n.r.e.), held that notice and an opportunity to be heard are required even when the governing instruments contain no hearing provision. As the court explained, "The requirement will be supplied by implication." *Id.* at 348.

70. NSDAR failed to provide those fundamental protections to Plaintiff. During August and September 2026, NSDAR requested information from the Martha Laird Chapter concerning the Chapter's communications, activities, and relationship with Restoration, but NSDAR never provided the Chapter with any notice specifying any acts alleged to violate the National Bylaws, that disbandment was being considered, the grounds upon which disbandment would be sought, or the proceedings at which those charges would be adjudicated. And NSDAR never afforded

the Chapter any meaningful opportunity to respond to any charges or evidence before the Board disbanded the Martha Laird Chapter.

71. On October 10, 2026, NSDAR's National Board of Management voted to disband the Martha Laird Chapter under Article XIX, Section 4, of the National Bylaws. Its notice to Plaintiff stated only that the Chapter's actions violated that provision but did not identify any particular conduct found unlawful, explain how that conduct constituted a violation of the National Bylaws or discredited the NSDAR, or provide the factual findings supporting the extreme sanction.

72. The Martha Laird Chapter engaged in no conduct that would justify disbandment. The National Bylaws expressly authorize chapters to participate in NSDAR governance, including the procedure under Article VIII, Section 7, for requesting a special meeting of the National Society. The Martha Laird Chapter adopted a resolution pursuing that procedure. Its participation in coordinating resolutions submitted by other DAR chapters furthered that authorized governance process. The Chapter did not vote to affiliate with, become subordinate to, or assume the operations of an outside advocacy organization. The use of a chapter email account in connection with the Chapter's efforts to pursue change through NSDAR's own governance procedures is not institutional misconduct warranting disbandment.

73. NSDAR's interpretation of its governing instruments also impermissibly substitutes new restrictions for the rules actually adopted by the National Society. Texas courts defer to an association's interpretation of its governing documents only so long as its governing body does not "substitute legislation for interpretation" or exceed the bounds of reason, common sense, or fairness. *Frey*, 632 S.W.2d at 880. Indeed, in *Frey,* the Texas Supreme Court independently construed an association's governing instruments and rejected the association's assertion that those instruments authorized its challenged conduct. 647 S.W.2d at 247–48. NSDAR, likewise, cannot impose disciplinary restrictions that its governing instruments do not authorize merely by characterizing those restrictions as interpretations of existing rules as it did with the Statement Concerning Chapter Identity and Members Acting in Multiple Capacities, which it issued at the same time it began investigating the Martha Laird Chapter in August 2026. *See* Exh. I.

74. NSDAR's own published Non-Affiliation Policy (attached hereto as Exhibit Q) expressly distinguishes affiliation with an outside organization from permissible cooperation. While the policy itself does not expressly prohibit affiliation, the policy recognizes that DAR organizations may cooperate with others while retaining their independent authority and discretion, and that chapters may cooperate in furtherance of compatible projects. Nevertheless, NSDAR has applied that policy to characterize the Martha Laird Chapter's participation in coordinating resolutions and communications under Article VIII, Section 7, as prohibited institutional activity. The Chapter never voted to become subordinate to or relinquish its independence to any outside or-

ganization. Its official action was to request a special meeting through the procedure established by NSDAR's own bylaws.

75. NSDAR cannot transform an express right of chapter participation in national governance into a disciplinary offense merely by characterizing the Chapter's exercise of that right as participation in an outside organization's campaign. Nor can NSDAR convert a policy permitting independent cooperation into a prohibition against such cooperation when the Chapter retained its independent authority and pursued its own legitimate governance objectives. To the extent NSDAR seeks to prohibit chapters from coordinating with others in the exercise of their rights under Article VIII, Section 7, it must adopt that restriction through the procedures governing substantive changes to its rules. NSDAR cannot accomplish that through disciplinary interpretation. Its construction of the governing instruments effectively replaces the rules adopted by the members with new restrictions that the instruments do not impose. That is precisely the substitution of legislation for interpretation that Texas law forbids.

76. The timing, circumstances, and extraordinary severity of the disbandment support Plaintiff's contention that NSDAR's asserted justification was pretextual and that the Chapter was punished for its leadership in advocating for the Amendment and the Resolution through procedures those bylaws expressly authorize. NSDAR employed the most severe disciplinary sanction available, extinguishing the Chapter's recognized status and the corresponding organizational privileges of its members, without a fair adjudication of the conduct attributed to the Chapter.

77. NSDAR's disbandment is now being used by Defendants as the basis for requiring Plaintiff, a separately incorporated Texas nonprofit corporation, to wind up its affairs and surrender its funds, records, and historical property to TXDAR. The challenged disciplinary action therefore directly threatens substantial corporate and property rights entitled to judicial protection.

78. By imposing disbandment without the procedural protections required by Texas law and without establishing misconduct warranting that sanction under its governing instruments, NSDAR breached its governing obligations to Plaintiff and acted arbitrarily and beyond the lawful limits of its disciplinary authority. NSDAR's breach caused Plaintiff to lose its recognized chapter status and organizational rights, disrupted its operations, and subjected its corporate property to demands for winding up and compulsory transfer.

79. Plaintiff accordingly seeks a declaration that NSDAR's October 10, 2026, disbandment decision is invalid, null, and void; temporary and permanent injunctive relief prohibiting enforcement of that decision; and an order restoring Plaintiff's status and corresponding rights as a recognized chapter of NSDAR; reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and costs to the extent authorized by law; and all further appropriate relief.

COUNT 2: DECLARATORY JUDGMENT REGARDING CORPORATE EXISTENCE, GOVERNANCE, AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

(Against NSDAR and TXDAR)

80. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

81. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between Plaintiff and Defendants concerning Plaintiff's continued corporate existence, the authority to manage or dissolve the corporation, the interpretation and effect of Article XIII of the Chapter Bylaws, and the ownership and disposition of Plaintiff's funds, records, and other property. Plaintiff seeks declarations resolving these controversies under the Texas Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code §§ 37.003–.004.

82. The National Bylaws provide that chapters are "independent legal entities from the National Society, and solely responsible in all instances, for their debts, legal obligations, liabilities, expenditures, claims made against them and any actions taken by them." Exh. B Art. XIII § 1.

83. The Martha Laird Chapter is a separately incorporated Texas nonprofit corporation. Its Certificate of Formation expressly provides that management of the corporation's affairs is vested solely in its members. Texas law permits such a management structure and provides that, where management is vested in the members, those members are responsible for managing any lawful winding up. Tex. Bus. Orgs. Code §§ 22.202(a), 22.307. Neither NSDAR nor TXDAR possesses independent authority to manage, dissolve, or terminate Plaintiff's Texas corporation merely by virtue of its position in the DAR organizational structure.

84. The Texas Business Organizations Code specifies the events that require a domestic corporation to wind up its affairs. Tex. Bus. Orgs. Code § 11.051. When such an event is alleged to arise from the corporation's governing documents, the event must be specified in the corporation's Certificate of Formation or in a bylaw adopted by its members in the manner required for amendment of the certificate. *Id.* § 11.059. Plaintiff's Certificate of Formation contains no provision requiring the corporation to dissolve or wind up upon disbandment by NSDAR. Nor does Article XIII of the Chapter Bylaws expressly identify a national disciplinary decision as an event automatically requiring the Texas corporation to wind up. Whether Article XIII otherwise establishes a legally sufficient winding-up event must be determined according to its actual language and the requirements of Texas law, including the manner of its adoption.

85. Article XIII provides that the Chapter's duration is perpetual and addresses the disposition of its assets *if* the Chapter is dissolved or otherwise terminated. It prohibits distributions to members or officers and directs that, "[u]pon the dissolution of the chapter," assets shall be distributed by the chapter executive board to the state organization of NSDAR. That provision es-

tablishes obligations governing the disposition of property *upon dissolution;* it does not expressly provide that NSDAR's unilateral withdrawal of chapter recognition ("disbandment" as opposed to "dissolution") automatically dissolves the separate Texas corporation or immediately conveys title to all corporate assets to TXDAR. The reference to the chapter executive board must also be construed consistently with Plaintiff's Certificate of Formation, which vests corporate management solely in the members, and the applicable provisions of the Texas Business Organizations Code. See Tex. Bus. Orgs. Code § 22.103(a).

86. Neither Plaintiff's Certificate of Formation nor its Chapter Bylaws establishes that Plaintiff presently holds its corporate property in trust for NSDAR or TXDAR. The Certificate of Formation does not identify either Defendant as a beneficiary of Plaintiff's property or confer upon either Defendant a present ownership interest in that property. Article XIII instead establishes a conditional obligation concerning the disposition of assets "[u]pon the dissolution of the chapter." That language does not, by itself, create an immediately effective trust or conveyance in favor of either Defendant.

87. Texas courts distinguish an organization's affiliation with a superior body from the existence of an enforceable trust or other property interest in favor of that body. In *Masterson v. Diocese of Nw. Tex.*, 422 S.W.3d 594, 609–13 (Tex. 2013), the Texas Supreme Court recognized that property belonging to a separately incorporated local organization does not become property of its superior organization merely because of their hierarchical relationship. The existence and enforceability of any trust must instead be determined under applicable Texas law and the instruments governing the property. *See also Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth v. Episcopal Church*, 602 S.W.3d 417, 433–35 (Tex. 2020); Tex. Prop. Code §§ 112.001–.005.

88. A closely analogous dispute arose in *American Legion, William Frank Martin Post No. 185, Department of Texas v. Big Spring Veterans, Inc.*, 73 S.W.2d 594 (Tex. Civ. App.—Eastland 1934, writ dism'd). Like NSDAR, the American Legion was a congressionally chartered national organization with state and local affiliates. A local post had acquired property through the efforts of its members. The Texas state organization claimed ownership of that property based on its relationship to the local post. The court rejected that claim because the governing instruments established no present trust or other enforceable interest in the property in favor of the state organization. *Id.* at 597–98. Although the national bylaws provided for surrender of property upon revocation of a local post's charter, the court declined to apply that provision because no revocation had occurred. *Id.* at 597. Thus, the state organization's supervisory authority over its affiliated post did not, without an independently enforceable property interest, establish ownership of the property acquired through the local post's activities.

89. Accordingly, NSDAR's disbandment decision did not, merely by terminating Plaintiff's recognized chapter status, establish that Plaintiff held its property in trust for Defendants or

transfer beneficial ownership of that property to TXDAR. Any claimed right to the property must arise from an independently enforceable trust, contractual obligation, or other legal instrument and must be exercised according to the terms and conditions of that right and applicable Texas law.

90. Texas courts also determine questions of corporate governance and property rights by examining the corporation's governing instruments and applying the governing statutes, rather than presuming that a superior association's organizational authority extends to control of a separate legal entity. *Masterson*, 422 S.W.3d at 609–11; *Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth*, 602 S.W.3d at 431–35. Again, in *Masterson*, the Texas Supreme Court expressly recognized that an external organization does not acquire authority over a nonprofit corporation's internal governance merely by virtue of the parties' organizational relationship, absent specific, lawful provisions in the governing documents. 422 S.W.3d at 609–10. Likewise, the Supreme Court has independently examined a nonprofit association's governing instruments and declined to recognize powers those instruments did not confer. *Frey*, 647 S.W.2d at 247–48. Moreover, Texas law provides that, where a nonprofit corporation's bylaws conflict with its certificate of formation, the certificate controls. Tex. Bus. Orgs. Code § 22.103(a). Accordingly, NSDAR's withdrawal of chapter recognition does not, without a separate and legally sufficient basis under the governing instruments and applicable law, establish authority to dissolve Plaintiff's Texas corporation or transfer ownership of its property.

91. Furthermore, even if an event requiring corporate winding up had occurred, that event would not automatically entitle TXDAR to immediate possession of all of Plaintiff's funds and property. Texas law requires a corporation in the process of winding up to discharge, or make adequate provision for, its liabilities and obligations before distributing its remaining property. Tex. Bus. Orgs. Code §§ 11.052–.053, 22.304. Any distribution must also respect applicable restrictions, conditions requiring the return or transfer of particular property, and the statutory requirements governing charitable assets and plans of distribution. *Id.* §§ 22.304–.305. The existence of a provision designating TXDAR as a recipient of residual assets does not authorize Defendants to bypass those requirements by demanding immediate surrender of the corporation's entire checking-account balance and other property.

92. Nevertheless, both NSDAR and TXDAR have instructed Plaintiff's officers to wind up the Texas corporation and transfer its remaining assets to TXDAR. Defendants have thus asserted rights adverse to Plaintiff concerning its continued existence, management authority, and ownership and possession of its assets. These demands create a present controversy requiring judicial resolution.

93. Plaintiff accordingly seeks declarations that:

(a) NSDAR's October 10, 2026, disbandment decision did not, by itself, dissolve or

terminate Plaintiff's separate Texas nonprofit corporation, and any obligation to wind up must arise from an event satisfying Texas Business Organizations Code §§ 11.051 and 11.059;

(b) Management of Plaintiff's Texas corporation remains vested in the persons lawfully entitled to exercise that authority under its Certificate of Formation and Texas law, and neither Defendant possesses unilateral authority to assume management, direct corporate termination, or file termination instruments solely by virtue of NSDAR's disbandment decision;

(c) Article XIII of the Chapter Bylaws does not, solely by virtue of NSDAR's October 10, 2026, decision, effect an immediate conveyance to TXDAR of all corporate funds, records, historical artifacts, and other property;

(d) Even if Plaintiff is lawfully required to wind up its affairs, any resulting distribution of property must comply with Texas Business Organizations Code §§ 11.052–.053 and 22.302–.307, including the satisfaction or adequate provision for liabilities, the lawful exercise of corporate authority, and the protection of applicable property restrictions; and

(e) Defendants' demands and instructions do not independently confer upon either Defendant authority to seize, transfer, or dispose of Plaintiff's corporate property without establishing an enforceable legal right to do so.

94. Plaintiff further seeks temporary and permanent injunctive relief preserving its corporate property and lawful governance pending resolution of these controversies, reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and costs as are equitable and just under Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 37.009, and all further appropriate relief.

APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

95. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

96. Plaintiff requests a temporary restraining order and, after notice and hearing, a temporary injunction under Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 65.011 and Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 680–684. A temporary injunction is warranted when the applicant pleads a cause of action, demonstrates a probable right to relief, and establishes a probable, imminent, and irreparable injury before final judgment. *Butnaru v. Ford Motor Co.*, 84 S.W.3d 198, 204 (Tex. 2002). The purpose is to preserve the last actual, peaceable, non-contested status until trial. *In re Newton*, 146 S.W.3d 648, 651 (Tex. 2004).

97. Plaintiff has pleaded a viable claim challenging NSDAR's disciplinary action and has a

probable right to relief on that claim. As alleged above, NSDAR did not identify specific charges, disclose the material evidence on which it would rely, or provide Plaintiff an opportunity to be heard before ordering the Chapter disbanded under Article XIX, Section 4, of the National Bylaws. Texas decisions have invalidated comparable suspensions of subordinate associations imposed without charges, notice, and a hearing. *United Bhd. of Carpenters & Joiners of Am.*, 178 S.W.2d at 569–70; *Pait*, 322 S.W.2d at 347–48. Plaintiff's October 19 internal grievance did not afford an evidentiary hearing or cure the prior lack of notice; NSDAR rejected the grievance on October 27 and declared its decision final.

98. Plaintiff also has a probable right to relief concerning its separate corporate existence and assets. Its Certificate of Formation vests corporate management in its members. Tex. Bus. Orgs. Code § 22.202(a). Loss of NSDAR recognition is not itself identified in the Certificate of Formation as an event requiring corporate winding up, and any winding-up event based on a by-law must satisfy Texas Business Organizations Code § 11.059. Even if winding up were ultimately necessary, members must exercise the authority conferred by applicable law, and corporate assets must be administered in accordance with §§ 11.052–.053 and 22.302–.307, including applicable restrictions and liabilities. The challenged disbandment does not itself establish a present right in Defendants to seize or receive all of Plaintiff's assets.

99. The threatened injury is immediate and concrete. NSDAR's October 27, 2026, communication directed the Chapter to dissolve and deliver its assets to TXDAR by November 9, 2026. TXDAR has separately directed the Chapter to refund certain member dues and remit the balance of its checking account by that same date. Unless restrained, Defendants may seek implementation of those directions before the Court can determine whether either Defendant is lawfully entitled to compel a corporate dissolution or asset transfer. The Chapter holds bank funds, historical and charitable property, organizational records, and materials used in its ongoing activities. The threatened compulsory transfer and disruption would impair Plaintiff's possession and governance of property that is the subject of this suit.

100. Defendants have demanded that Plaintiff wind up its affairs and surrender its funds, records, and property. Those demands threaten more than a monetary loss. They would disrupt the operations of a longstanding organization, interfere with the lawful management of a Texas corporation, and place its records beyond its control. Even if the Chapter's funds could ultimately be recovered, a money judgment would not adequately remedy the disruption of its operations or the loss or dispersal of its property.

101. Separately, NSDAR's disbandment deprives the Chapter of its ability to operate as a recognized DAR chapter and participate in the National Society's governance. Every day the disbandment remains in effect is another day the Chapter is deprived of the organizational rights and opportunities it previously enjoyed. A judgment restoring recognition after trial cannot

restore the period of participation, representation, and organizational activity lost in the meantime.

102. The requested temporary restraining order would preserve the Chapter's existing corporate operations and property pending resolution of this dispute. The Chapter would retain possession and control of its funds, records, and historical property, and its members would remain free to manage its affairs in accordance with Texas law and its governing instruments. Defendants, meanwhile, would be prohibited from compelling the Chapter's dissolution or the surrender of its assets before their authority to do so has been adjudicated. Such relief would preserve the status quo without determining the ultimate rights of the parties.

Request to Preserve Corporate Property and Governance

103. Plaintiff accordingly requests, effective upon entry of the temporary restraining order and continuing until the temporary-injunction hearing, that NSDAR and TXDAR be restrained from: (a) taking possession of, withdrawing, transferring, disbursing, or directing others to transfer any funds or other property held by or in the name of Martha Laird Chapter to NSDAR, TXDAR, or another person based on the October 10 disbandment decision; (b) submitting, causing another to submit, or representing themselves as authorized to submit any certificate of termination, dissolution document, bank signature change, or other filing or instruction purporting to wind up or assume management of the Texas corporation based on that decision; (c) entering upon, removing, destroying, transferring, or disposing of the Chapter's corporate minute books, financial records, membership records, and other documents or property based on that decision; and (d) directing banks, custodians, vendors, or holders of Chapter property to recognize either Defendant as the lawful owner or manager of the Chapter's property because of that decision.

104. After notice and hearing, Plaintiff seeks continuation of the property-preservation and governance-preservation restraints described in paragraph 103 by temporary injunction pending final judgment.

Request for Mandatory Provisional Reinstatement

105. Plaintiff also applies for a temporary restraining order requiring NSDAR provisionally to reinstate the Martha Laird Chapter to recognized chapter status pending the temporary-injunction hearing. Specifically, Plaintiff requests that NSDAR: (a) restore Plaintiff to its roll of active, recognized chapters and restore its ordinary chapter access to NSDAR communications and administrative systems; (b) recognize Plaintiff's duly selected officers who served immediately before the October 10, 2026, disbandment for the limited purpose of conducting Chapter business pending the hearing; (c) restore to Plaintiff's chapter roster any member whose affiliation was changed because of the disbandment, without disturbing any individual member's voluntary transfer; and (d) permit Plaintiff to exercise the chapter-specific participation and governance

rights that it enjoyed immediately before the disbandment, subject to the same generally applicable rules as other recognized chapters and without denying those rights solely by reason of the October 10 decision.

106. Plaintiff requests that, after notice and hearing, this provisional reinstatement described in paragraph 105 be continued by temporary injunction pending trial.

107. The requested provisional reinstatement would restore, rather than alter, the status quo. The status quo is the last actual, peaceable, noncontested status preceding the controversy. *In re Newton*, 146 S.W.3d at 651. Before October 10, 2026, the Martha Laird Chapter was a recognized NSDAR chapter, operating through its elected officers and exercising the organizational rights afforded to chapters under the National Bylaws. NSDAR's disbandment of the Martha Laird Chapter disrupted the parties' established relationship. Texas courts have recognized that a party cannot establish a new status quo merely by taking the very action challenged in the lawsuit. *Benavides Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Guerra*, 681 S.W.2d 246, 249–50 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 1984, writ ref'd n.r.e.). Provisional reinstatement would return the parties to their pre-disbandment relationship pending adjudication, without determining the ultimate validity of NSDAR's decision.

108. The requested reinstatement is necessary because preserving the Chapter's property alone would not preserve its organizational rights. While the disbandment remains in effect, the Chapter cannot participate in NSDAR governance, exercise its chapter-specific rights, or conduct its activities as a recognized DAR chapter. Nor can a later judgment restore the opportunities for participation and organizational activity lost during the period of exclusion. More immediately, NSDAR has directed that the Chapter's members be transferred to Member-at-Large status and has given them only until November 9, 2026, to secure acceptance into another chapter. The National Bylaws generally permit only one membership transfer per year. Exh. B, Art. XIV § 2(b). Thus, members who transfer to another chapter to preserve their chapter-affiliated status may be unable to return promptly to the Martha Laird Chapter if its disbandment is subsequently invalidated. These forced changes threaten to disperse the Chapter's membership, disrupt its existing organizational structure, and impair its ability to resume operations even if it ultimately prevails. Provisional reinstatement would preserve the Chapter's membership and organizational rights until the Court can hear its application for temporary injunction. Although reinstatement requires affirmative action, Texas law permits temporary mandatory relief when necessary to prevent irreparable injury or extreme hardship. *Iranian Muslim Org. v. City of San Antonio*, 615 S.W.2d 202, 208 (Tex. 1981).

109. The balance of equities supports separate consideration of both requests. Preservation of corporate governance and property does not prevent Defendants from asserting any independently proven contractual or trust rights after adjudication. Provisional reinstatement would temporarily restore the Chapter's pre-disbandment recognized status without preventing lawful

later proceedings. Neither category of preliminary relief is contingent on granting the other. Without the requested safeguards, the November 9 turnover demand and continued loss of recognized chapter functions risk rendering final relief ineffectual.

110. Plaintiff requests a bond in an amount fixed by the Court under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 684 and offers to post the required security before issuance of any temporary restraining order or temporary injunction.

111. Upon trial and final judgment, Plaintiff requests a permanent injunction against enforcing the invalid October 10 disbandment decision, requiring restoration of Plaintiff's recognition and related organizational rights, and preventing Defendants from directing Plaintiff's Texas corporate dissolution or taking or requiring transfer of its property except under a valid and enforceable legal entitlement determined under applicable Texas law.

JURY DEMAND

112. Plaintiff hereby requests pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 216 that this cause be placed upon the jury docket of this Court and thereafter be tried by jury consistent with the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas.

PRAYER

Wherefore, premises considered, Plaintiff respectfully asks that the Court:

A. Issue citation for Defendants to appear and answer and set Plaintiff's application for temporary injunction for an expedited hearing, preferably before November 9, 2026;

B. Upon the showing and security required by Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 680–684, issue a temporary restraining order restraining Defendants from compelling Plaintiff's dissolution, transferring or taking possession of Plaintiff's corporate property, or otherwise interfering with Plaintiff's corporate governance, as specifically set forth in paragraph 103 above;

C. Upon the showing and security required by Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 680–684, issue a temporary restraining order compelling NSDAR to provisionally reinstate Plaintiff's recognized chapter status and the associated chapter and membership affiliation rights as specifically set forth in paragraph 105 above;

D. After notice and hearing, issue a temporary injunction continuing the corporate-property and governance-preservation relief, as requested in paragraphs 103–104 above, pending trial;

E. After notice and hearing, issue a temporary injunction requiring NSDAR provisionally

to restore Plaintiff's chapter status and organizational rights, as requested in paragraphs 105–106 above, pending trial;

F. On final judgment, declare that NSDAR's October 10, 2026, disbandment decision is invalid, null, and void and grant permanent injunctive relief reinstating Plaintiff's recognized chapter status and the associated chapter and membership affiliation rights as specifically set forth in paragraph 105 above;

G. On final judgment, enter the declarations regarding Plaintiff's separate Texas corporate existence, management, property, winding-up requirements, and conditional asset-disposition provisions specifically requested in paragraph 93;

H. Permanently enjoin Defendants, and persons bound under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 683, from enforcing any invalid disbandment decision, directing an unauthorized corporate termination, or causing an unauthorized transfer of Plaintiff's property, and provide further restorative relief consistent with the Court's findings;

I. Award Plaintiff its taxable court costs and reasonable and necessary attorney's fees to the extent authorized by law, including under Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 37.009; and

J. Award all other and further legal or equitable relief to which Plaintiff may show itself entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Justin E. Butterfield
Justin E. Butterfield
Texas Bar No. 24062642
Lea E. Patterson
Texas Bar No. 24102338
The Heritage Foundation
P.O. Box 941681
Plano, Texas 75094
Tel.: (202) 608-6237
Fax: (945) 523–0171
justin.butterfield@heritage.org
lea.patterson@heritage.org

Counsel for Martha Laird Chapter NSDAR

VERIFICATION

STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF Titus §

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Laura McDonald, who, being by me duly sworn, stated:

"My name is Laura McDonald. I am over eighteen years old, of sound mind, and competent to make this affidavit. I am an officer of the Martha Laird Chapter NSDAR. I am familiar with the Chapter's governance, its property and records, and the communications described in the accompanying Original Petition and Application for Temporary Restraining Order, Application for Temporary Injunction, and Request for Declaratory and Permanent Injunctive Relief. I have read the petition. The factual allegations in paragraphs 9, 17–65, 70–74, 99–101, and 107–108 are true and correct based on my personal knowledge. For allegations based on identified Chapter records, I have reviewed those records in the ordinary course of my duties."

Laura McDonald

Laura McDonald

Sworn to and subscribed before me by Laura McDonald on November 2, 2026.

CARA WELBORN
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires 09-03-2030
Notary ID 135570679

Cara Welborn

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

EXHIBIT A

Form 202

Secretary of State
P.O. Box 13697
Austin, TX 78711-3697
FAX: 512/463-5709

Filing Fee: $25

Certificate of Formation
Nonprofit Corporation

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of Texas
Filing #: 805766318 10/30/2024
Document #: 1419004850002
Image Generated Electronically for Web Filing

Article 1 - Corporate Name

The filing entity formed is a nonprofit corporation. The name of the entity is :

Martha Laird Chapter NSDAR

Article 2 – Registered Agent and Registered Office

☐ A. The initial registered agent is an organization (cannot be corporation named above) by the name of:

OR

☑ B. The initial registered agent is an individual resident of the state whose name is set forth below:

Name:
Lannette Hightower

C. The business address of the registered agent and the registered office address is:

Street Address:
510 Dellwood Drive Mount Pleasant TX 75455

Consent of Registered Agent

☐ A. A copy of the consent of registered agent is attached.

OR

☑ B. The consent of the registered agent is maintained by the entity.

Article 3 - Management

☑ A. Management of the affairs of the corporation is to be vested solely in the members of the corporation.

OR

☐ B. Management of the affairs of the corporation is to be vested in its board of directors. The number of directors, which must be a minimum of three, that constitutes the initial board of directors and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as directors until the first annual meeting or until their successors are elected and qualified are set forth below.

Article 4 - Organization Structure

☑ A. The corporation will have members.

or

☐ B. The corporation will not have members.

Article 5 - Purpose

The corporation is organized for the following purpose or purposes:

To perpetuate the memory and spirit on the men and women who achieved American Independence by the acquisition and protection of historical spots and the erection of monuments, by the encouragement of historical research in relation to the American Revolution and publication of its results, by the preservation of documents and relics, and the records of the individual services of the Revolutionary soldiers and patriots, and by the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries. To cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all blessings of liberty.

Supplemental Provisions / Information

[The attached addendum, if any, is incorporated herein by reference.]

Effectiveness of Filing

☐ A. This document becomes effective when the document is filed by the secretary of state.

OR

☑ B. This document becomes effective at a later date, which is not more than ninety (90) days from the date of its signing. The delayed effective date is: **November 1, 2024**

Initial Mailing Address

Address to be used by the Comptroller of Public Accounts for purposes of sending tax information.

The initial mailing address of the filing entity is:

510 Dellwood Drive
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
USA

Organizer

The name and address of the organizer are set forth below.

Lannette Hightower, Regent of Martha Laird Chapter NSDAR **510 Dellwood Drive, Mount Pleasant, TX 75455**

Execution

The undersigned affirms that the person designated as registered agent has consented to the appointment. The undersigned signs this document subject to the penalties imposed by law for the submission of a materially false or fraudulent instrument and certifies under penalty of perjury that the undersigned is authorized under the provisions of law governing the entity to execute the filing instrument.

Lannette Hightower
Signature of organizer.

FILING OFFICE COPY

EXHIBIT B

National Bylaws
of the
National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

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Revised July 2025

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

During the first five years after organization, The National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution operated under a Certificate of Incorporation dated June 8, 1891. This certificate was for a term limited to twenty years.

The objects were as stated in the Act of Incorporation December 2, 1895.

ACT OF INCORPORATION

H.R. 3553

Fifty-fourth Congress of the United States of America;

At the First Session,
Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the second day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

AN ACT

To incorporate the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Mary Parke Foster (Mrs. John W. Foster), of Indiana; Mary Virginia Ellet Cabell (Mrs. William D. Cabell), of Virginia; Helen Mason Boynton (Mrs. Henry V. Boynton), of Ohio; Henrietta Greely (Mrs. A. W. Greely), of Washington, District of Columbia; Leslie Dent Saint Clair (Mrs. F. O. Saint Clair), of Maryland; Regina M. Knott (Mrs. A. Leo Knott), of Maryland; Sara Agnes Rice Pryor (Mrs. Roger A. Pryor), of New York; Sarah Ford Judd Goode (Mrs. G. Browne Goode), of Washington, District of Columbia; Mary Desha, of Kentucky; Sue Virginia Field (Mrs. Stephen J. Field), of California; Sallie Kennedy Alexander (Mrs. Thomas Alexander), of Washington, District of Columbia; Rosa Wright Smith, of Washington, District of Columbia; Sarah C. J. Hagan (Mrs. Hugh Hagan), of Georgia; Mary Stiner Putnam (Mrs. John Risley Putnam), of New York; Mary Leighton Shields (Mrs. George H. Shields), of Missouri; Ellen Hardin Walworth, of New York; Mary E. MacDonald (Mrs. Marshall MacDonald), of Virginia; Eugenia Washington, of Virginia;

Alice M. Clarke (Mrs. A. Howard Clarke), of Massachusetts; Clara Barton, of Washington, District of Columbia; Mary S. Lockwood, of Washington, District of Columbia; Frances B. Hamlin (Mrs. Teunis S. Hamlin), of Washington, District of Columbia; Martha C. B. Clarke (Mrs. Arthur E. Clarke), of New Hampshire; Lucia E. Blount (Mrs. Henry Blount), of Indiana; Jennie A. O. Keim (Mrs. Randolph De B. Keim), of Connecticut; Louise Ward McAllister, of New York; Effie Ream Osborn (Mrs. Frank Stuart Osborn), of Illinois; Maria Devereux, of Washington, District of Columbia; Belinda O. Wilbour (Mrs. Joshua Wilbour), of Rhode Island; Georgiana E. Shippen (Mrs. W. W. Shippen), of New Jersey; Julia K. Hogg (Mrs. N. B. Hogg), of Pennsylvania; Katherine C. Breckinridge (Mrs. Clifton R. Breckinridge), of Arkansas; Sara Isabella Hubbard (Mrs. Adolphus S. Hubbard), of California; Mary L. D. Putnam (Mrs. Charles E. Putnam), of Iowa; Delia Clayborne Buckner (Mrs. Simon B. Buckner), of Kentucky; Emily Marshall Eliot (Mrs. Samuel Eliot), of Massachusetts; Lucy Grey Henry (Mrs. William Wirt Henry), of Virginia; Elizabeth Blair Lee, of Maryland; Mrs. Frances P. Burrows (Mrs. Julius C. Burrows), Mrs. Mary L. McMillan (Mrs. James McMillan), Mrs. Emma Gregory Hull (Mrs. J. A. T. Hull), Mrs. Mary B. K. Washington (Mrs. Joseph Washington), and their associates and successors, are hereby created a body corporate and politic, in the District of Columbia, by the name of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, for patriotic, historical, and educational purposes, to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence, by the acquisition and protection of historical spots and the erection of monuments; by the encouragement of historical research in relation to the Revolution and the publication of its results; by the preservation of documents and relics, and of the records of the individual services of Revolutionary soldiers and patriots, and by the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries; to carry out the injunction of Washington, in his farewell address to the American people, “to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge,” thus developing an enlightened public opinion and affording to young and old such advantages as shall develop in them the largest capacity for performing the duties of American citizens; to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

Sec. 2. That said Society is authorized to hold real and personal estate in the United States, so far only as may be necessary to its lawful

ends, to an amount not exceeding $500,000, and may adopt a constitution and make bylaws not inconsistent with law, and may adopt a seal.

Said Society shall have its headquarters or principal office at Washington, in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. That said Society shall report annually to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution concerning its proceedings, and said Secretary shall communicate to Congress such portions thereof as he may deem of national interest and importance. The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution are authorized to permit said National Society to deposit its collections, manuscripts, books, pamphlets, and other material for history in the Smithsonian Institution or in the National Museum, at their discretion, upon such conditions and under such rules as they shall prescribe.

Approved February 20, 1896
GROVER CLEVELAND

THOMAS B. REED
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A. E. STEVENSON
Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

I certify that the above is a true copy of an Act of Congress, the original of which is on file in this Department.

In testimony whereof, I, Richard Olney, Secretary of State of the United States, have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Seal of the Department of State to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this 5th day of May, A.D. 1896, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 120th.

(Seal)

RICHARD OLNEY

PUBLIC LAW – NO. 277 – 63Rd CONGRESS
H.R. 2504

An Act to amend Section 2 of an Act entitled "an Act to Incorporate the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Section two of an Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution," approved February twentieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-six, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. That the said society is authorized to hold real and personal estate in the United States, so far only as may be necessary to its lawful ends, to an amount not exceeding $1,000,000, and may adopt a constitution and make bylaws not inconsistent with law, and may adopt a seal.

"The said society shall have its headquarters or principal office at Washington in the District of Columbia."

Approved, March 3, 1915.

PUBLIC LAW – NO. 6 – 69TH CONGRESS
S-780

An Act to Amend Section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Section 2 of the Act entitled, "An Act to Incorporate the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution," approved February 20, 1896, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. That said Society is authorized to hold real and personal estate in the United States, so far only as may be necessary to its lawful ends, to an amount not exceeding $5,000,000, and may adopt a constitution and make bylaws not inconsistent with law, and may adopt a seal. Said Society shall have its headquarters or principal office at Washington, in the District of Columbia."

Approved February 5, 1926.

PUBLIC LAW 93 – 82ND CONGRESS
CHAPTER 255 – 1ST SESSION
H.R. 1899

AN ACT

To amend Section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 2 of the Act entitled, "An Act to incorporate the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution," approved February 20, 1896, as amended, and as amended February 5, 1926, is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2 That said society is authorized to hold real and personal estate in the United States, so far only as may be necessary to its lawful ends, to an amount not exceeding $10,000,000, and may adopt a constitution and make bylaws not inconsistent with law, and may adopt a seal. Said Society shall have its headquarters or principal office at Washington, in the District of Columbia."

Approved July 30, 1951.

PUBLIC LAW 94-443
94TH CONGRESS, H.R. 11149
OCTOBER 1, 1976

AN ACT

To amend section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution" approved February 20, 1896, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. The society is authorized to acquire by purchase, gift, devise, or bequest and to hold, convey, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or personal, as may be convenient or necessary for its lawful purposes, and may adopt a constitution and make bylaws not inconsistent with law, and may adopt a seal. Said society shall have its headquarters or principal office at Washington, in the District of Columbia."

"SEC. 3. That said Society shall report annually to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution concerning its proceedings, and said Secretary shall communicate to Congress such portions thereof as he may deem of national interest and importance. The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution are authorized to permit said National Society to deposit its collections, manuscripts, books, pamphlets, and other material for history in the Smithsonian Institution or in the National Museum, at their discretion, upon such conditions and under such rules as they shall prescribe.

"SEC. 4. The society and its subordinate divisions shall have the sole and exclusive right to use the name 'National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.' The society shall have the exclusive and sole right to use, or to allow or refuse the use of, such emblems, seals, and badges as have heretofore been adopted or used by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution."

Approved October 1, 1976.

NSDAR – NATIONAL BYLAWS

Article I – Name

The name of this Society shall be THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, hereinafter referred to as the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, the National Society, the Society, NSDAR, and/or DAR.

Article II – Objects

The objects of this Society shall be:

(1) To perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence, by the acquisition and protection of historical spots and the erection of monuments; by the encouragement of historical research in relation to the Revolution and the publication of its results; by the preservation of documents and relics, and of the records of the individual services of Revolutionary soldiers and patriots; and by the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries;

(2) To carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people, "to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge," thus developing an enlightened public opinion, and affording to young and old such advantages as shall develop in them the largest capacity for performing the duties of American citizens;

(3) To cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

Article III – Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility. Any woman is eligible for membership in the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution who is not less than eighteen years of age, and who is lineally descended from a man or woman who, with unfailing loyalty to the cause of American Independence, served as a sailor, or a soldier or civil officer in one of the several Colonies or States, or in the United Colonies or States or as a recognized patriot, or rendered material aid

thereto. NSDAR and its chapters may not discriminate against an eligible applicant based on race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.

SECTION 2. Admission. Admission to membership in the National Society shall be either through a chapter or as a Member-at-Large.

(a) The applicant shall submit all required documents, prepared in accordance with instructions established and distributed by the National Society, and accompanied by the prescribed fees and dues within one year, unless granted extension by the chapter. Signatures of endorsement on applications are optional.

(b) An applicant desiring to become a Member-at-Large shall request to begin her application process through the state regent of the state in which she wishes to join. The state regent shall assign a DAR member to work with the prospective member within one year, unless granted an extension by the state regent, she shall present to said state regent the completed application and all required documents prepared in accordance with instructions established by the National Society, and accompanied by the prescribed fees and dues. The state regent shall sign the application in lieu of chapter officers.

SECTION 3. An applicant from the Children of the American Revolution desiring to become a member at any time after her eighteenth birthday, and before her twenty-second birthday, shall provide her application and annual dues of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a certificate of good standing issued by the Senior National Treasurer of the Children of the American Revolution that shall be accepted in lieu of the required application fee. The certificate shall be void unless presented within one year of issuance.

SECTION 4. Upon verification by the office of the Registrar General, applicants shall be certified to the National Board of Management which shall vote upon the question of admission to membership. A two-thirds vote is required.

SECTION 5. Each member of the National Society shall be entitled to a certificate of membership, duly attested by the President General, the Recording Secretary General and the Registrar General, to which is affixed the Seal of the National Society.

SECTION 6. All persons whose applications were approved on or before October 11, 1891, are charter members of the National Society.

SECTION 7. Termination of membership by death or otherwise [see Article IV, Fees and Dues, Section 2 (f)] shall terminate any interest of the member in the property of the National Society, the state organization and the chapter.

Article IV – Fees and Dues

SECTION 1.

(a) The application fee for all applicants for membership in the Society, except an applicant from the Children of the American Revolution as provided in Article III, Membership, Section 3 of these Bylaws, shall be determined by the Continental Congress.

(b) In the event that application papers cannot be verified within the time limit which shall be fixed by ruling of the National Board of Management, the application fee shall be applied toward the expense of the Registrar General's office in attempting to verify the papers and the dues and the papers which were submitted shall be returned to the chapter or to the applicant for Member-at-Large.

SECTION 2.

(a) Annual national dues are payable showing a Federal Postal Service, or other carrier, cancellation date no later than December 1, and are delinquent after that date.

(b) National dues shall be:
   (1) for a member of a chapter, fifty-two dollars.
   (2) for a Member-at-Large, seventy-two dollars, with the exception of those members who are at-large for the purpose of organizing a new chapter, fifty-two dollars.
   (3) for a member admitted at-large for the purpose of organizing a new chapter, fifty-two dollars.

(c) Dues for a member admitted or reinstated on or after July 5 shall be credited for the upcoming dues year, which begins December 1.

(d) Except as may be provided in national, state or chapter bylaws, no per capita tax in addition to dues shall be levied.

(e) A member whose dues are delinquent:
   (1) shall not be counted in determining representation at the meetings of the National Society;

(2) shall not be entitled to vote for delegates or alternates to meetings of the National Society or of the state organization;

(3) shall not be entitled to act as representative or alternate at such meetings;

(4) shall not be entitled to transfer or to resign from membership.

(f) Membership is automatically terminated if dues are not received showing a Federal Postal Service, or other carrier, cancellation date no later than the last day of February. Notice of this action is reported to:

(1) the Regent of a chapter member; or

(2) the Member-at-Large; and

(3) the National Board of Management.

(g) Upon written request by a chapter or a Member-at-Large, the Executive Committee may grant an exception to the deadline for the payment of dues to a member(s) residing in a federally designated disaster area.

(h) In the third year of every administration Continental Congress shall vote upon the adjustment of the dues to the nearest dollar by the amount of the cumulative change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the prior three years. The Continental Congress may authorize a dues adjustment above the CPI if warranted.

SECTION 3. Life Membership.

(a) (1) A. A Life Membership shall be available to members attaining the age of sixty-five years, upon completion of a special application and a $1,500 payment to the Treasurer General.

B. For the rest of her life, the fee paid for her life membership shall be invested in a permanent DAR Life Membership Fund, and shall pay the member's annual national dues, her contribution to the President General's Project, and, if applicable, ten dollars annually to her chapter from which payment towards state dues shall be paid.

(2) A Member under sixty-five may become a Life Member Pending with a one-time payment of $1,500. An installment plan may be available for an additional convenience fee. The Life Member Pending shall continue to pay her national, state and chapter dues until she attains the age of sixty-five, at which time she shall become a Life Member.

(3) A Life Member Pending who resigns or forfeits membership in the National Society will have until her sixty-sixth birthday to reinstate or forfeit all claim to Life Membership.

(b) A chapter may in its bylaws provide that a Life Member shall pay chapter dues exclusive of national and state dues, or may require reimbursement for the per capita cost of special chapter events which she attends. A Life Member may transfer from one chapter to another chapter or to Member-at-Large or from Member-at-Large to a chapter.

(c) Having no communication with a Life Member in a chapter for seven years or longer, the chapter may transfer that member to Member-at-Large.

(d) At the death of the Life Member/Life Member pending, any remaining balance shall be transferred to the Guardian Trust Endowment.

SECTION 4. The fee for reinstatement of membership shall be ten dollars.

SECTION 5. A fee determined by the Continental Congress shall accompany each supplemental claim to establish the right for an additional Ancestral Bar.

Article V – Officers

SECTION 1. The national officers of this Society shall be President General, First Vice President General, Chaplain General, Recording Secretary General, Corresponding Secretary General, Organizing Secretary General, Treasurer General, Registrar General, Historian General, Librarian General, Curator General, and Reporter General, to be designated as Executive Officers, and twenty-one Vice Presidents General.

SECTION 2.

(a) To be eligible for national office a member shall hold and have held membership in a chapter or chapters of the National Society for at least five years.

(b) No member shall be eligible to the same national office for two successive terms, and no member who has served one term in any national office shall be eligible for any other national office,

except that of President General or of First Vice President General, until the expiration of at least one year, with the exception of a Vice President General whose term expires in the year of a general election. A member having served more than one half of a term in a national office shall be deemed to have served a term.

SECTION 3. No member shall hold at the same time two offices carrying a vote at the Continental Congress.

SECTION 4.

(a) In recognition of valuable service to the National Society a member who has served as President General may, upon her retirement from office, be elected Honorary President General for life at the Continental Congress. Election may be by voice vote.

(b) Honorary Presidents General shall be exempt from national fees and dues.

(c) In recognition of valuable service to the National Society, a member who has held the office of Vice President General may be elected to the office of Honorary Vice President General for life at any Continental Congress provided that (1) the number of Honorary Vice Presidents General shall at no time exceed 13; (2) no two may be members of chapters in the same state; (3) a vacancy in the office of Honorary Vice President General occurring before December 31 of any year shall be filled by the Continental Congress of the following year. The election shall be by ballot and a plurality vote shall elect. A notice shall be filed by the first day of the month preceding the month of Continental Congress with the office of the Recording Secretary General that a member is to be nominated for the office of Honorary Vice President General. A statement certified by the member of the qualifying service to the National Society as required under the provisions of this Bylaw shall be included.

Article VI – Nomination and Election of Officers

SECTION 1. Candidates may be invited to form slates for executive offices in the National Society following the adjournment of the Continental Congress held two years prior to the targeted election, and

not before. Announcement of candidacy and campaigning shall be during the week of the Continental Congress preceding the Congress at which the election for those offices is to be held. The time will be set by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2.

(a) To be designated for election to the office of Vice President General at a Continental Congress, each candidate shall have been endorsed for the office by a majority vote, by ballot, at a state conference of the state in which she holds membership.

(b) The motion for endorsement shall designate the specific Continental Congress at which she desires to be a candidate for election, and shall be made not more than eighteen months in advance of the Continental Congress so designated.

(c) Of the twenty-one Vice Presidents General, no two shall be members of chapters in the same state or in the District of Columbia, or in any state organization geographically outside of the United States of America.

(d) The name and address of a candidate endorsed by a state conference for the office of Vice President General shall be certified by the candidate and by the State Recording Secretary to the Recording Secretary General by the first day of the month preceding the month of Continental Congress.

SECTION 3. Nomination of candidates for all national offices shall be made at a designated meeting or meetings of the Continental Congress.

SECTION 4.

(a) The Executive Officers of the National Society shall be elected by ballot at the Continental Congress every third year. A majority vote shall elect.

(b) Seven Vice Presidents General shall be elected by ballot at the Continental Congress each year for a term of three years. A plurality vote shall elect. The seven receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

SECTION 5. The officers of this Society shall hold office for three years or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the Continental Congress at which they are elected.

SECTION 6. Vacancies. If the office of President General becomes vacant, the First Vice President General shall become President General. Vacancies in other executive offices shall be filled by the Executive Committee until the next meeting of the National Board of Management, when the Board shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. In an emergency, the highest ranking Executive Officer shall call a meeting of the National Board of Management for the purpose of filling any vacancies. A vacancy in the office of Vice President General shall be filled at the Continental Congress following a death or resignation. A candidate for Vice President General must be endorsed at a State Conference in accordance with the National Bylaws. When one vacancy exists, the candidate receiving the eighth highest number of votes shall be declared elected to fill the existing vacancy. If there is more than one vacancy, the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes shall be declared elected to fill the next longest unexpired term of office.

Article VII – Duties of Officers

SECTION 1. The officers of the National Society shall perform the duties prescribed in this article and such others as the Act of Incorporation, the Bylaws of the National Society, the Continental Congress, the National Board of Management or the parliamentary authority adopted by the National Society may require.

SECTION 2. The President General shall:

(a) be the chief executive officer and the official spokesman of the National Society;
(b) have general supervision of the affairs of the Society;
(c) sign all contracts and agreements made in the name of the National Society with the recorded approval of the Executive Committee, the National Board of Management or the Continental Congress as directed by these Bylaws;
(d) have the authority to draw upon funds of the National Society as stated in Article VII, Duties of Officers, Section 8 (b).
(e) preside at all meetings of the National Society, of the National Board of Management and of the Executive Committee;
(f) appoint committees as specified in Article XII, Committees, and a registered or certified parliamentarian;

(g) have the authority to assign duties to the officers as required;
(h) serve on the Investment Committee;
(i) be ex-officio a member of all committees.

SECTION 3. The First Vice President General shall:
(a) perform the duties of the office of President General in the absence or inability of the President General;
(b) fill a vacancy in the office of President General;
(c) serve as chairman of the Human Resources Committee;
(d) compile and publish the *DAR Handbook*.

SECTION 4. The Chaplain General shall:
(a) read Scripture and prayer when necessary during meetings of the National Society; and
(b) conduct such religious services as may be required.

SECTION 5. The Recording Secretary General shall:
(a) keep a record of the proceedings of the meetings of the National Society, the National Board of Management, and the Executive Committee;
(b) compile and publish the *Annual Proceedings* of the Society;
(c) have charge of the Seal;
(d) give notice of meetings of the National Society, National Board of Management and Executive Committee;
(e) notify officers, committee chairmen and chapters of votes, orders and proceedings affecting or pertaining to their duties;
(f) notify the national officers of their election;
(g) notify the State Regents and State Vice Regents of the confirmation of their election;
(h) call the meeting to order in the absence of the President General and the First Vice President General and preside until a chairman pro tempore is elected;
(i) serve on the Investment Committee

SECTION 6. The Corresponding Secretary General shall:
(a) attend to such correspondence as the National Society, the National Board of Management, or the Executive Committee may direct;
(b) distribute pamphlets, circulars and supplies as directed by the National Board of Management or the Executive Committee.

SECTION 7. The Organizing Secretary General shall:

(a) receive through the State Regents all applications for authority to organize chapters and recommendations for appointment of organizing regents, and present them to the National Board of Management for action;
(b) notify the organizing regents of their appointment and send instructions;
(c) with the respective State Regent,
    (1) have supervision of the organization of chapters,
    (2) receive and verify the reports of organization,
    (3) submit the organizing chapters to the National Board of Management for consideration;
(d) notify the organizing chapters and the State Regent of the action of the board;
(e) issue a charter, bearing the signatures of the required Executive Officers and State Regent, to any chapter desiring to purchase one;
(f) keep a record of the following facts regarding each chapter of the National Society:
    (1) name and date of organization,
    (2) names of organizing members and officers,
    (3) date of issuance of charter,
    (4) all officers;
(g) receive all material from chapters which relates to the disbandment or merging of chapters (Article XIII, Chapters, Sections 17 and 18; Article XIV, Transfer, Resignation and Reinstatement)
(h) keep a complete catalog of the membership of the National Society;
(i) keep a list of all state officers;
(j) present the names of the State Regents elect and the State Vice Regents elect to the Continental Congress for confirmation;
(k) prepare the official mailing list of the National Society;
(l) issue permits for the purchase of all service emblems and pins including the Insignia, Ancestral Bars and Recognition Pin.
(m) send, prior to February 1, a notice to all members whose dues are delinquent;
    (1) to a member of a chapter through her Chapter Treasurer.
    (2) to a Member-at-Large at her address of record.

SECTION 8.

(a) The Treasurer General shall:
    (1) have charge of the funds and securities of the National Society within the guidelines of Article XI, Finances;

(2) direct the work of the Accounting, Business, and Information Services Departments;
(3) be a member of the Finance Committee and chair the Investment Committee;

(b) Either the signature of the Treasurer General or the President General shall be sufficient to draw upon funds as authorized.

SECTION 9. The Registrar General shall:

(a) keep a register of the names and dates of the admittance to membership of all members of each chapter, and of members-at-large;
(b) have custody of all approved applications for membership;
(c) examine all applications for membership, approve the applications of those found eligible and certify them to the National Board of Management for final action;
(d) return to the chapter or the Member-at-Large the application of any applicant that cannot be verified within the time limit fixed in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Fees and Dues, Section 1 (b), with a statement pointing out deficiencies;
(e) notify applicants of their admission to the Society and provide an electronic copy of the approved application to the chapter or member, if joining at-large;
(f) maintain a file of ancestors' records and make all corrections thereto; and
(g) conduct the correspondence connected with all genealogical questions within the province of the office of Registrar General.

SECTION 10. The Historian General shall:

(a) have charge of and catalog the NSDAR Americana Collection, the NSDAR Archives, the Special Collection Pertaining to the History of the NSDAR, and the DAR Historical Research Library;
(b) grant permission to mark the graves of Revolutionary War patriots/soldiers, their spouses and daughters with DAR-approved markers and maintain a catalog of such grave records;
(c) grant permission to mark the graves of members with the DAR Insignia;
(d) grant permission for and maintain a record of the markings of historic spots requested by the National Society, the state organizations and the chapters;
(e) promote the study of American history and historical research.

SECTION 11. The Librarian General shall:

(a) have custody of the books, magazines, pamphlets and manuscripts of the National Society other than those authorized to be in custody of other officers;
(b) catalog and arrange said books, magazines, pamphlets and manuscripts for use;
(c) have charge of receiving gifts, negotiating exchanges and purchasing volumes for the Library;
(d) have the power to reject any volume which she deems unsuited to the character of the collection;
(e) have supervision of the administration of the Library.

SECTION 12. The Curator General shall:

(a) have supervision of the Museum and State Rooms and custody of the collections;
(b) keep a complete and accurate catalog;
(c) have authority to solicit gifts and purchase articles for the Museum;
(d) have the power to reject any gifts offered to the Museum which are deemed unsuited to the character of the collection.

SECTION 13. The Reporter General shall:

(a) assist the Recording Secretary General in the preparation of the *Annual Proceedings* of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution;
(b) furnish requested copies of said *Proceedings* to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in compliance with the provisions of Section 3, of the Act of Incorporation;
(c) supervise the Office of the Committees and the Program Office.

SECTION 14. The twenty-one Vice Presidents General may be assigned to direct committees and to perform such duties as may be requested by the President General or required by the National Society.

Article VIII – Meetings of the National Society

SECTION 1. Continental Congress.

(a) The annual meeting of the National Society shall be known as the Continental Congress of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It shall be for the purpose of:

(1) receiving reports of officers, of the National Board of Management, and of committees;
(2) electing officers;
(3) promoting programs in furtherance of the objects of the Society;
(4) any other business that may arise.

(b) The Continental Congress shall be held in Washington D.C. on dates chosen by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the National Board of Management. The vote may be taken electronically.

(c) In the event of a situation where an in-person gathering is not possible, is prohibited or discouraged, the National Board of Management, by majority vote, which may be taken electronically, may authorize the Continental Congress to convene through the use of Internet meeting services, subject to all rules adopted by the National Board of Management to govern them, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for participation. An anonymous vote conducted through a designated Internet meeting service shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the bylaws or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.

SECTION 2. The voting members at the Continental Congress or at any special meeting of the National Society shall be:

(a) the officers and the honorary officers of the National Society;

(b) the Regent, or in her absence the Vice Regent, of each state, the District of Columbia, and of any DAR organization geographically outside the United States;

(c) the Regent or, in her absence the First Vice Regent or alternate of each chapter;

(d) delegates or alternates of each chapter in the United States and other countries, in accordance with paid memberships as required by these Bylaws.

(e) Only a chapter member in good standing, whose credentials have been completed in accordance with the Standing Rules of the National Society, shall be eligible to represent her chapter at meetings of the National Society.

SECTION 3. A member shall have belonged to the chapter at least one continuous year immediately preceding the Continental Congress to

be eligible to represent the chapter at said Congress except the Regent or First Vice Regent of a newly organized chapter, as provided in Article XIII, Chapters, Section 8.

(a) A member admitted at either of the meetings of the National Board of Management held in the month of the Continental Congress shall be deemed to have been a member for one year at the opening of the Congress the following year.

(b) The members of merged chapters shall be deemed to have fulfilled the one year requirement if they were members of either of the merged chapters for the required time.

SECTION 4.

(a) The Continental Congress shall act by ballot upon questions involving new projects or replacements or improvements requiring appropriations or expenditures exceeding $25,000 which cannot be accommodated within the regular budget or income of the National Society or within funds accumulated or on hand and available for such replacements or improvements, or which require contributions by chapters or members in addition to the prescribed dues of the National Society except as set forth in Article IX. Section 3 (b).

(b) Such proposals shall be submitted to the Executive Committee as provided in the Bylaws and approved by the National Board of Management by a majority vote by ballot. Notice of the proposals so approved shall be sent by the National Board of Management to all chapters of the National Society at least sixty (60) days before the Continental Congress.

(c) Nothing in this section shall preclude the voluntary contributions by chapters or members in support of the work of regularly established committees of the National Society.

(d) Only the Continental Congress may accept a proposal or contract which will obligate the National Society to expenditures of funds over a period longer than the term of the incumbent President General, with the exception of existing contracts and agreements as designated in Article X, Executive Committee, Section 4.

SECTION 5. Three hundred voting members shall constitute a quorum at the Continental Congress.

SECTION 6. Registration shall close at 3 o'clock of the afternoon of the day preceding the election of officers. An alternate registered

before the official closing of registration, upon compliance with the announced requirements of the Credentials Committee, may be transferred from alternate to delegate at any time during the business meetings of the Congress, except when the polls are open.

SECTION 7. Special meetings of the National Society shall be called by the President General when directed to do so by a majority vote of the National Board of Management provided that at least thirty members of the National Board of Management vote affirmatively. This vote may be taken by mail. A special meeting also shall be called by the President General upon the written request of thirty or more chapters in at least ten states. Not less than thirty days' notice of a special meeting shall be given and only that business specified in the call may be transacted. One hundred-fifty voting members shall constitute a quorum at any special meeting of the National Society.

Article IX – National Board of Management

SECTION 1. The National Officers of the National Society, and the State Regent, or in her absence the State Vice Regent, of each state, the District of Columbia, and of any DAR state organization geographically outside the United States, shall constitute the National Board of Management.

SECTION 2. The Executive Officers of the National Society shall be the officers of the National Board of Management.

SECTION 3. The National Board of Management shall:

(a) have all power and authority over the affairs of the National Society during the interim between the meetings of the National Society, excepting that of modifying any action taken by the Continental Congress or other meeting of the National Society, provided that no debt or liability except for ordinary current expenses shall be incurred by the National Board of Management;
(b) at a regular meeting, be permitted to approve the naming of the President General's Project and the receiving and raising of funds, said action to be ratified by the next Continental Congress;
(c) be the custodian of all real and personal property of the National Society;
(d) approve an annual budget of the current income of the National Society to include operation and maintenance;

(e) determine fees to be charged for copies of application papers obtained from the office of the Registrar General;
(f) make recommendations to the Continental Congress for appropriations for the Committees in accordance with the budget;
(g) have the power to confirm the election of a State Regent, or a State Vice Regent elected to fill a vacancy;
(h) admit, by a two-thirds vote, applicants to membership;
(i) perform such other duties as are prescribed by these Bylaws and by the Continental Congress;
(j) have the power to grant to a chapter or a state organization, for reasonable cause, a temporary exception to the provisions of Article XIII, Chapters, Section 6 (b) and (c) and Article XV, States, Section 6.

SECTION 4. The Board shall report and shall make recommendations to the Continental Congress. It shall have authority to approve the draft of Standing Rules for the Continental Congress provided that they are not in conflict with the Bylaws of the National Society and that the Congress may, by a majority vote, amend the Rules. The Standing Rules as approved by the Board shall be printed in the official program of the Congress.

SECTION 5.
(a) At least four regular meetings of the National Board of Management shall be held at the call of the President General each year. One of the meetings shall be held immediately preceding Continental Congress, and a second meeting shall be held immediately following Continental Congress. One may be held in February and one in October.
(b) Special meetings may be called by the President General, with the approval of the Executive Committee, or upon the written request of ten (10) members of the National Board of Management. The only business to be considered at a special meeting is that which has been specified in the call of the meeting.
(c) The National Board of Management may meet through the use of Internet meeting services that support aural communication, visual display and anonymous ballot voting in the event of a situation where an in-person gathering is not possible, is prohibited or discouraged. The meeting is subject to all rules adopted by the National Board of Management to govern them, which may include any reasonable limitation on, and requirements for, participation.

(d) At least ten days' notice of time and place of meetings shall be given.

SECTION 6. The National Board of Management may vote electronically on the admittance and reinstatement of members; exceptions in terms of office or length of membership for office; appointment of organizing regents and authorization of chapters; confirmation, disbandment, merging, and changes in name and/or location of chapters, and related chapter business; and for the approval of pins.

SECTION 7. A two-thirds vote in the negative at a regular meeting of the board shall be required to reject the application for an organizing chapter.

SECTION 8. Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the National Board of Management.

Article X – Executive Committee

SECTION 1.

(a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the President General, the First Vice President General, the Chaplain General, the Recording Secretary General, the Corresponding Secretary General, the Organizing Secretary General, the Treasurer General, the Registrar General, the Historian General, the Librarian General, the Curator General, and the Reporter General.

(b) The National Board of Management may authorize this committee to perform such duties of the Board between its meetings as it may from time to time deem expedient.

(c) The Executive Committee shall:

(1) meet at the call of the President General, or upon the written request of five members of the committee;

(2) meet through the use of Internet meeting services that support aural communication, visual display and anonymous ballot voting in the event of a situation where an in-person gathering is not possible, is prohibited or discouraged;

(3) vote by mail or electronically, if necessary;

(4) report and make recommendations to each meeting of the National Board of Management;

(5) review the dues and fees structure at least once in each administration and exercise its fiscal responsibility by making recommendations as necessary to the National Board of Management and Continental Congress.

SECTION 2. This committee shall have charge of all investments and the placing of insurance of all kinds with the Washington agencies of accredited companies at the expiration of policies in effect. It shall consider the budget submitted by the Finance Committee and make recommendations pertaining to the budget to the National Board of Management.

SECTION 3. Any recommendations for projects requiring expenditure of funds outside of routine operation to be considered by the Continental Congress shall be submitted to the Executive Committee on or before January 15 of each year.

SECTION 4. This committee shall have the authority to enter into contracts and agreements concerning the business of the Society so long as such contracts and agreements are not in conflict with the Bylaws of the National Society and the directives of the National Board of Management and the Continental Congress and do not extend beyond the term of office of the Executive Committee making such contracts and agreements except in those instances where existing contracts and agreements must be renewed or replaced; such contracts and agreements shall not extend into a succeeding administration for a period of more than nine months unless otherwise ordered by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the National Board of Management, which vote may be taken by mail or electronically.

SECTION 5. Five members shall constitute a quorum. In the event the National Board of Management cannot be assembled because of a national emergency creating extraordinary conditions beyond the control of the Society, the Executive Committee shall have power to arrange for financing of current obligations as they arise, and of refinancing such other obligations of the Society as may be necessary.

Article XI – Finances

SECTION 1.

(a) The fiscal year of the National Society shall be January 1 through December 31.

(b) The annual budget shall cover the fiscal year and shall be prepared on the basis of dues payable the preceding December first.

SECTION 2. The funds of the National Society shall be placed to the credit of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in such institutions as the Executive Committee shall select with the recommendation of the Investment Committee for investment accounts, and the Finance Committee for operating accounts.

SECTION 3.

(a) The Treasurer General and such others entrusted with funds of the National Society as may be designated by the National Board of Management shall be bonded in such amount as shall be determined by the Board.
(b) The accounts of the Treasurer General shall be examined by a certified public accountant approved by the Executive Committee and reports on such examinations shall be made to the Auditing Committee at least annually, in addition to the regular financial statements by the accountants throughout the year.
(c) All invoices shall be made available to the chairman or chairman pro tem of the Finance Committee for review.
(d) In case of the inability of the Treasurer General and the President General to serve, the chairman of the Finance Committee is empowered to sign checks for payment of bills duly authorized, provided checks shall be countersigned by a member of the Executive Committee designated for the emergency by the President General.

SECTION 4. Registration Fees for Continental Congress shall be determined by the National Board of Management.

Article XII – Committees

SECTION 1. The President General shall appoint the following Standing Committees: Auditing, Bylaws, Development, Finance, Human Resources, and Property Beautification and Hospitality.

SECTION 2. Such other committees, Standing, Administrative, National, Special or Congressional, shall be appointed by the President General as the Executive Committee, National Board of Management,

or Continental Congress shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Society.

SECTION 3.

(a) Only a chapter member in good standing shall be eligible to serve on a National committee, except:
    (1) a Member-at-Large may serve as a member of, but not as a chairman of a Congressional committee.
    (2) a chapter member who transfers to Member-at-Large to become an Organizing Regent may retain a national committee appointment.

(b) All appointments of national committee chairmen and committee members shall be concurrent with the term of the President General making the appointment. Appointments shall terminate with the end of the administration, with the exception of the Long Range Planning Commission. No national committee chairman may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same chairmanship.

SECTION 4.

(a) The Long Range Planning Commission shall consist of twelve (12) members, each of whom shall serve no more than nine (9) years.

(b) At the beginning of a new administration the President General, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint four (4) new members to the Commission, with the four (4) members completing the longest term retiring.

(c) Should a vacancy occur in the membership of the Commission, the President General, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a new member to the Commission, whose appointment shall expire at the time of the member she is replacing.

(d) The President General shall appoint a chairman of the Commission from the eight (8) members already serving. Should a vacancy occur in this chairmanship, the President General shall appoint a new chairman to serve the balance of the unexpired term. This chairman shall also be named from those who have completed at least three (3) years on the Commission.

(e) Any member who misses two (2) consecutive meetings of the Commission without just cause shall automatically be retired from the Commission. The President General, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a replacement to fill the unexpired term.

SECTION 5. The duties of committees shall be such as these Bylaws, the Continental Congress, the National Board of Management, or the Executive Committee shall prescribe.

SECTION 6. Committees shall meet at the call of the chair or by written request of a majority of its membership. Committees are authorized to meet in person or through the use of Internet meeting services or conference calls that support, at a minimum, simultaneous aural communication.

Article XIII – Chapters

SECTION 1.

(a) For the purpose of promoting the objects of the National Society members may be organized into chapters.

(b) Such chapters, whether presently existing, in formation, or to be organized under this Article XIII, shall be independent legal entities from the National Society, and solely responsible in all instances, for their debts, legal obligations, liabilities, expenditures, claims made against them and any actions taken by them.

SECTION 2. A chapter may be organized with no fewer than twelve members in a city, town or village, or if overseas, see Section 19.

SECTION 3. Chapters may be organized through an Organizing Regent or by authorization of the National Board of Management.

(a) The State Regent shall recommend as an Organizing Regent a Member-at-Large in good standing. The recommendation must be submitted to the Organizing Secretary General, who shall present it to the National Board of Management. If approved, the Organizing Secretary General shall notify the member of her appointment. The appointment of Organizing Regent shall expire by limitation if no chapter is formed within one year, except that upon the request of the State Regent the appointment may be extended for one additional year. It shall be the duty of the Organizing Regent to secure the necessary number of members who wish to form a chapter and thereafter to call a meeting to organize the chapter. She shall serve as Regent of the chapter until the first election date specified in the bylaws adopted by the chapter and shall appoint the other necessary officers to serve for the same period.

(b) At the request of the State Regent, the National Board of Management may authorize a group of members who have met the requirements for a chapter to organize. All officers including the Regent shall be elected at the organizing meeting to serve until the first election date specified in the bylaws adopted by the chapter.

(c) If a State Regent refuses to grant permission for the organization of a chapter, the prospective organizing members may appeal to the National Board of Management through the office of the Organizing Secretary General for such permission. Such appeals shall be received in writing, signed by not fewer than seven of the prospective members, at least thirty days before a meeting of the National Board of Management. Notice of such appeal shall be sent to the State Regent by the Organizing Secretary General at least twenty days before a meeting of the National Board of Management. The State Regent shall present to the National Board of Management, in writing, her reasons for disapproval. After consideration of the case, the National Board of Management shall have the power to make the final determination.

(d) If the State Regent refuses to countersign applications for Members-at-Large as provided in Article III, Membership, Section 2 (b) in order to organize said chapter, the President General is authorized to countersign such applications.

SECTION 4. A member of a chapter who wishes to become an organizing member of a prospective chapter shall be transferred to Member-at-Large prior to organization of the new chapter.

SECTION 5. No chapter organizing under any of the provisions of this section shall be recognized as a chapter until a report in duplicate of the organization meeting has been received and verified by the Organizing Secretary General and the organization of the chapter has been confirmed by the National Board of Management. The report shall be on forms furnished by the National Society and shall contain the date of such organization meeting, the proposed name of the chapter, the names and signatures of the organizing members and of the officers thereof who shall be selected from the organizing members. The report shall show by the statement of the Organizing Regent or Recording Secretary of the proposed chapter that a majority of the organizing members were present at the organization meeting.

SECTION 6.

(a) The chapter officers reported to the National Society and recognized for the transaction of business with the National Society shall be the Regent, the First Vice Regent, the Recording Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Registrar. Each chapter shall have these five officers, and no member shall hold two of these offices, except in chapters with thirty (30) or fewer members. The offices of chapter regent, chapter recording secretary and chapter treasurer shall be held by three separate chapter members in all chapters.

(b) To be eligible for the office of Regent or First Vice Regent, a member shall have held membership in the chapter for at least one year prior to her election, except as provided in Section 3 (a) and (b) of this Article and Article IX. Section 3 (j).

(c) No member shall serve as a Chapter Regent for more than six consecutive years. [Exception, see Article IX, National Board of Management, Section 3 (j)]

(d) A chapter may elect such additional officers as it deems necessary and is authorized to adopt bylaws and rules for the transaction of business provided that they do not conflict with the Bylaws of the National Society or of the state organization.

SECTION 7. A chapter may provide in its bylaws for fees and dues for chapter use in addition to national and state dues but may not levy assessments in excess of the requirements of its bylaws. The bylaws of a chapter shall prescribe a date for collection of chapter dues sufficiently in advance to meet the requirements of payment to the National Society before the first day of December.

SECTION 8. Representation.

(a) The representation of a chapter at any meeting of the National Society during the year beginning January first, shall be based upon the number of members whose dues for the current year are credited upon the books of the Treasurer General the first day of December preceding the Continental Congress, except as follows:

(1) A chapter organized and confirmed by the National Board of Management after the first day of February shall be allowed representation by the Regent only, or in her absence by the First Vice Regent;

(2) The right to elect delegates and alternates shall date from the day that the chapter is confirmed and recognized by the National Board of Management, which day shall be at least one year prior to the opening day of Continental Congress. Confirmation in the month of the Congress the year previous shall be deemed to be one year;

(3) Chapters merged during the year shall be eligible for representation according to the number of members whose dues are credited for the current year upon the books of the Treasurer General the first day of December;

(4) A Life Member shall be counted in the basis for representation of the chapter to which she belongs.

(b) Each chapter of at least twelve members, or if overseas at least eight members resident in country where chapter is located, shall be entitled to be represented by the Regent, or in her absence by the First Vice Regent or alternate, provided it has dues of at least twelve or eight members as required under Sections 2 and 19 of this Article, credited for the current year upon the books of the Treasurer General the first day of December and also provided that credentials have been completed in accordance with Article VIII, Meetings, Section 2 (e).

(c) Chapters having from twenty to forty-nine members whose dues for the current year are credited upon the books of the Treasurer General the first day of December, shall be entitled to one delegate in addition to the Regent. Chapters having at least fifty members whose dues for the current year are credited upon the books of the Treasurer General the first day of December, shall be entitled to two delegates in addition to the Regent. Chapters having at least one hundred members whose dues for the current year are credited upon the books of the Treasurer General the first day of December, shall be entitled to three delegates in addition to the Regent. Chapters having at least one hundred fifty members whose dues for the current year are credited upon the books of the Treasurer General the first day of December, shall be entitled to four delegates in addition to the Regent. Chapters having at least two hundred members whose dues for the current year are credited upon the books of the Treasurer General the first day of December shall be entitled to five delegates in addition to the Regent. Chapters having at least two hundred fifty members whose dues for the current year are credited upon the books of the

Treasurer General the first day of December, shall be entitled to six delegates in addition to the Regent. Chapters having three hundred or more members whose dues for the current year are credited upon the books of the Treasurer General the first day of December, shall be entitled to seven delegates in addition to the Regent, and for each additional fifty members so credited, one additional delegate.

(d) Chapters shall be entitled to elect two alternates for each representative to which the chapter is entitled. A Chapter Regent is authorized to fill chapter vacancies in its delegation to the Continental Congress or special meeting of the National Society from duly elected alternates in the order designated by the chapter.

(e) During the time the membership of a chapter is below the number required for organization (see this Article, Sections 2 and 19), it shall not be entitled to representation at the Continental Congress or special meeting of the National Society, or at the state conference. If a chapter falls below the required membership after the first day of January but before the closing meeting of Continental Congress, it shall be allowed representation based on its standing as of January 1.

SECTION 9. Delegates and alternates to the Continental Congress shall be elected on or before the first day of the second month preceding the month of Continental Congress of each year. Using forms furnished by the National Society, the name of the Chapter Regent and First Vice Regent, and a list of the delegates and alternates, must be completed and submitted in the manner and by the date specified by the National Society. The delegates and alternates so elected shall be the delegates and alternates to attend any special meeting of the National Society which may be held prior to the Continental Congress of the following year.

SECTION 10. The Chapter Registrar shall report to the Organizing Secretary General, in writing, all changes in membership, marriages, divorces, deaths, resignations, transfers, and changes of address as they occur.

SECTION 11. With the remittance of fees and dues to the National Society prior to the December 1 deadline the chapter shall include the

chapter dues computer printout furnished by the Office of the Organizing Secretary General. For each remittance of fees and dues to the National Society after December 1 the Chapter Treasurer shall include a remittance form listing the members with their national numbers to whom payment should be credited.

SECTION 12.

(a) The chapter shall maintain a file of the approved duplicate copy of the application papers of an applicant returned by the Registrar General when the member is admitted in either electronic or hard copy form.
(b) Upon the death of a member, the chapter's copy of the original application papers may be destroyed by the chapter registrar.
(c) The State Regent may destroy all materials from chapters which have been disbanded in their state 25 years or more. Material (example gavels, pins, etc.) from disbanded chapters that may be useful to organizing chapters may be disbursed to organizing chapters if desired.

SECTION 13. Chapter Regents shall report to the Organizing Secretary General names and addresses of officers, date of election and date of taking office.

SECTION 14. A chapter may admit associate members provided that any member so admitted shall be a chapter member in good standing and may be an associate member in not more than two chapters in a state at the same time. Before being enrolled as an associate member, and annually thereafter, evidence of membership in good standing in another chapter shall be required by the chapter granting the associate membership. An associate member shall not be counted toward representation or have a right to vote or to hold office in the chapter in which she holds associate membership. [Exception, see this Article, Section 19 (f).]

SECTION 15.

(a) Names of chapters located in states admitted to the Union before 1825 shall be confined to the period preceding 1825 and preferably to historic events, geographic sites or individuals relating to the American Revolution. Chapters located in states admitted to the Union after 1825 may be named for territorial historic events, geographic sites or names of prominent early area pioneers.

(b) Chapters located outside the United States shall be named for historic events or individuals representative of the period of the American Revolution or for geographic sites.
(c) Chapters which may be located in military installations may be named for the military installation.
(d) A chapter shall present three proposed names to the Organizing Secretary General who shall submit the recommended name to the National Board of Management. After a name has been officially granted, it shall not be changed by the chapter unless permission is granted by a two-thirds vote of the National Board of Management.
(e) No chapter shall adopt the name of a chapter in existence.
(f) A chapter may adopt the name of a disbanded chapter, provided permission is granted by two-thirds vote of the National Board of Management.
(g) No chapter may use the name of a historic property owned by a state organization of the Society or by another chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

SECTION 16. The National Board of Management, upon recommendation of the State Regent and the Organizing Secretary General, may change the location of a chapter to another location within the same state provided that the petition for change of location is authorized by a majority vote of the entire chapter and provided, that if there is a chapter in the proposed location, at least thirty days' notice of the proposed change shall be given in writing to the chapter or chapters in that location by the State Regent and the Organizing Secretary General. Before official action can be taken on a change of location the chapter shall file with the Organizing Secretary General a copy of the minutes recording the chapter's action, certified by the Regent and the Recording Secretary.

SECTION 17. Merging of chapters. Two chapters may merge by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of each chapter provided that a notice in writing stating the reasons for the merger has been given to the State Regent and to the Organizing Secretary General before the vote is taken. A special meeting of the merging chapters shall be called after giving notice and the State Regent or her representative shall attend. Report of the vote to merge, signed by two-thirds of the members, shall be forwarded to the Organizing Secretary General before the merger may become final. The vote of members may be taken by mail.

SECTION 18. Disbandment of chapters.

(a) A chapter may disband by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership provided that a notice in writing stating the reasons for proposed disbandment has been given to the State Regent and to the Organizing Secretary General one year before the vote is taken. A special chapter meeting shall be called after giving notice and the State Regent or her representative shall attend. Report of the vote to disband, signed by two-thirds of the members, shall be forwarded to the Organizing Secretary General before the disbandment may become final. The vote of members may be taken by mail.

(b) A chapter whose membership falls below the number specified by these Bylaws as necessary for the organization of a chapter shall be given one year thereafter to increase its membership to the required number. The National Board of Management may grant an extension for a reasonable time. If the required number is not attained within one year and no extension is granted, such chapter shall be disbanded and its members transferred to Member-at-Large. Notice of transfer to Member-at-Large shall be sent by the Organizing Secretary General to each member.

(c) Upon disbanding, the chapter's copy of the original application papers shall be delivered to the individual members by the chapter. Application papers of deceased members and those members who cannot be located, shall be destroyed. Other records of the disbanding chapter, to include, but not limited to, financial records, minutes and chapter history shall be delivered to the State Regent for retention.

SECTION 19. Units Overseas.

(a) A chapter may be organized in a country geographically outside the area of the fifty states and the District of Columbia with not fewer than eight members resident in country where chapter is located.

(b) Each such chapter overseas shall be entitled to be represented by the Regent, or in her absence by the First Vice Regent or alternate, provided it has dues of at least eight members, as required under Section 8 of this Article, credited for the current year upon the books of the Treasurer General the first day of December.

(c) The list of chapter officers shall be sent to the Organizing Secretary General as provided in Section 13 of this Article.

(d) (1) The chapters of countries geographically outside the area of the fifty states having more than one chapter may form a DAR state organization, headed by a State Regent and a State Vice Regent.

(2) Said organization shall hold an annual State Conference.

(3) Either the State Regent or the State Vice Regent, or both, shall reside in the country represented.

(4) The National Board of Management may, at its discretion, waive the requirement of Article XV, States, Section 8.

(e) The Regent of such a chapter, where there is no DAR state organization, shall send the annual report of the chapter to the National Chairman Units Overseas.

(f) A chapter overseas may admit associate members provided that any member so admitted shall be a chapter member in good standing. An associate member shall not be counted toward representation, or represent the chapter as delegate at Continental Congress, and may not hold chapter office or have a vote in the chapter. An associate member may, with the approval of the chapter executive board, hold a chairmanship so long as such appointments do not exceed one-fifth of the total chairmanships recognized by the National Society, and, as a chairman, she shall be granted the privilege of the floor for the purpose of giving a report but shall not make motions, second motions or vote.

(g) Except for the directions stated in this section, chapters in Units Overseas shall be governed by Article XIII, Chapters, and state organizations in Units Overseas shall be governed by Article XV, States.

Article XIV – Transfers, Resignations and Reinstatements

SECTION 1. A member who is delinquent in payment of dues may not transfer or resign from membership.

SECTION 2. Transfers.

(a) A Member-at-Large, in good standing, may transfer to a chapter provided she is accepted by the chapter. The chapter should request her transfer in accordance with instructions established and distributed by the National Society.

(b) (1) A member in good standing, at her request, may transfer from one chapter to another, provided she is accepted by the chapter, or to Member-at-Large, in accordance with instructions established and distributed by the National Society.

(2) The transfer will be recorded as of the date of receipt by the Organizing Secretary General. The chapter and the member will be notified of the effective date.

(3) No member shall be entitled to more than one transfer in a year.

(4) Members-at-Large, uniting to form a chapter, shall not be regarded as transferred.

SECTION 3. Resignations.

A member in good standing may resign from membership in the National Society. The resignation shall date from the time it is received by the Organizing Secretary General. Resignations shall be reported by the Organizing Secretary General to the next regular meeting of the National Board of Management.

SECTION 4. Reinstatements.

A woman having previously held membership may be reinstated by the National Board of Management in either of the following ways:

(a) To chapter membership, provided her reinstatement shall be approved by the chapter, and upon payment of the reinstatement fee and the national dues for the current year.

(b) To Member-at-Large upon payment of the reinstatement fee and the national dues for the current year.

Article XV – States

SECTION 1.

(a) The chapters of each state and of the District of Columbia, and of every country geographically outside of the United States having more than one chapter, may form a state organization which shall hold an annual state conference. The requirement of having more than one chapter in order to form a state organization shall not affect any state organization duly established before the Continental Congress of 1955.

(b) Such state organizations, whether presently existing, in formation, or to be organized under this Article XV, shall be inde-

pendent legal entities from the National Society, solely responsible in all instances, for their debts, legal obligations, liabilities, expenditures, claims made against them and any actions taken by them.

SECTION 2.

(a) Only a chapter member in good standing shall be eligible to be a delegate or an alternate to official state meetings, to hold a state office, or to serve on a state committee; however, a chapter member who transfers to Member-at-Large to become an Organizing Regent may, providing there is no conflict with state bylaws, retain a state office or committee appointment.

(b) The voting members for state meetings shall be the state officers as provided in the state bylaws, the national officers and the honorary national officers whose membership is within the state; the Chapter Regent or in her absence the First Vice Regent or alternate; and the elected delegates or alternates of each chapter of the state entitled to representation at the Continental Congress or special meeting of the National Society, and such others as the state bylaws may designate.

SECTION 3.

(a) The number of representatives from each chapter shall be determined by the rules for representation of chapters in the Continental Congress except that the state bylaws may increase this representation in a direct ratio. A member holding two or more offices each carrying a vote at an annual state conference shall be limited to vote only in one of the offices held by said member.

(b) States holding their state conference July 1-December 31 may base their chapter representation at state conference on their membership as of July 1.

SECTION 4. The state conference shall adopt bylaws which shall not conflict with the Act of Incorporation and Bylaws of the National Society.

SECTION 5. The state conference shall elect a State Regent, a State Vice Regent and such other state officers as the state bylaws may provide.

SECTION 6. To be eligible for the office of State Regent or State Vice Regent, a member shall hold and have held membership in a chapter or chapters within the state organization for at least five years

prior to her election and have served a term as Chapter Regent. [Except see Article IX, National Board of Management, Section 3 (j).] A state organization may provide in its bylaws for conferring the title of Honorary State Regent by election upon a member who has held the office of State Regent.

SECTION 7. The election of State Regent and State Vice Regent shall be confirmed by the Continental Congress and their terms of office as well as all other state officers in their administration shall begin at the close of the Congress at which they are confirmed. Confirmation of a State Regent or State Vice Regent unable to be present at the time of installation during the Continental Congress shall be deemed completed upon receipt by the office of the Organizing Secretary General of the oath of office subscribed in writing. If the office of State Regent becomes vacant, the State Vice Regent shall become State Regent automatically provided she has been confirmed as State Vice Regent. Between meetings of the Continental Congress, the National Board of Management shall have the power to confirm a State Regent, or a State Vice Regent elected to fill a vacancy.

SECTION 8. No member shall be eligible to serve on the National Board of Management as State Regent for more than three consecutive years. This shall not apply to a member who has served less than half a term as State Regent because of a vacancy in that office.

SECTION 9. A state organization may provide in its bylaws for dues for the use of the state organization. The state may require payment of the state dues by a stated deadline as a prerequisite to chapter representation at state meetings.

SECTION 10. The rulings of the National Society shall be binding upon each state organization and each chapter and the State Regent and State Board of Management shall be responsible for compliance within each state.

Article XVI – Records

SECTION 1. All records, including but not limited to applications, minutes, treasurer's records, and official correspondence, generated by any person or group of people acting in an official capacity

for the DAR, are and shall remain the property of the DAR body generating the records.

SECTION 2. No individual DAR member or members may dispose of any of the said records without the official knowledge and consent of the DAR group responsible for generating the records.

SECTION 3. It is the responsibility of the body creating the records to secure adequate storage for the records.

(a) Records shall remain under the control of, and accessible to, said body; and
(b) Such storage shall not be accessible to the public.

Article XVII – Seal

The Seal of the National Society shall be charged with the figure of a Dame of the period of the American Revolution sitting at her spinning wheel, with thirteen stars above her, the whole surrounded by a rim containing the name, *The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution,* the motto, *God, Home and Country,* and the dates *1776* and *1890.* The Seal of the National Society or facsimile thereof may be used only on official documents.

Article XVIII – Insignia

SECTION 1. The official Insignia of the National Society shall be in the form of a spinning wheel and distaff. The wheel shall be seven-eighths of an inch in diameter and of gold, with thirteen spokes and a field of dark blue enamel upon the rim bearing the name DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION in letters of gold; upon the outer edge of the wheel, opposite the ends of the spokes, are thirteen small stars which may be set with precious stones at the discretion of the owner; underneath the wheel a golden distaff, one-and-one-half inches long, filled with platinum or white gold flax. Upon the back of the insignia the national number of the owner shall be engraved, and her name may be added. The ribbon to be worn with the Insignia shall be blue with a white edge, ribbed and watered, following the color of the Official Sash for National Officers.

SECTION 2. The official Insignia shall be worn upon the left breast and only at functions of the Society or its chapters or when representing the organization or attending ceremonial occasions.

SECTION 3. The replica miniature Insignia and the Recognition Pin may be worn on a branch bar upon any occasion.

(a) The miniature insignia may be worn on the miniature DAR ribbon at DAR functions, in the same manner as the official Insignia and pins.
(b) The miniature DAR Insignia may be worn on a branch bar with the miniature insignia of other societies.
(c) The recognition pin is worn alone and may be worn on any occasion.

SECTION 4. The Insignia, Recognition Pin and Ancestral Bars shall be issued only by permit of the Organizing Secretary General.

SECTION 5. No words shall be written or printed above the Insignia, except that on an official DAR Banner the Insignia may be placed in the center with designation of National Society, state organization, or chapter by name above, below, or around the Insignia.

SECTION 6. The insignia may be placed

(a) on a monument above a deceased member's name or wherever there is ample space on the monument or marker;
(b) on the welcoming sign of a community, among those of other organizations;
(c) on other plaques or markers, at the center top or the upper left hand corner.

SECTION 7. The National Board of Management may authorize official pins as the need arises. Only Ancestral Bars patented by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and service bars and pins authorized by the National Board may be worn with Insignia upon the official ribbon.

SECTION 8. Official Sash for National Officers, Honorary National Officers, past National Officers, State Regents and past State Regents shall be worn only as authorized by the National Society.

Article XIX – Discipline

SECTION 1. Any member conducting herself in a way calculated to disturb the harmony of the National Society or to injure its good name or to hamper it in its work may, upon charges filed, be reprimanded, suspended or expelled by the National Board of Management.

SECTION 2. The charges shall be in writing, signed by at least five members of the National Society and filed with the Recording Secretary General, together with proof in writing that a copy thereof has been served upon the person charged with the offense. No charge against any member shall be considered by the National Board of Management until after investigation by the Executive Committee which shall report its findings in writing to the Board. If, upon consideration of the charges and the report by the Executive Committee, the Board determines that the charges state an offense and that there is probable cause for believing that the charges will be sustained by evidence supporting the same, a date shall be set for a hearing on the charges, of which hearing the person accused shall be given at least thirty days' notice to enable her to prepare her defense.

SECTION 3. The National Board of Management shall, after full hearing at which the accused may appear in person and be represented by counsel, render its judgment upon the charges and in case it shall find that the person charged has been guilty of any offense therein charged, or included therein, shall discipline the member by reprimand, suspension or expulsion.

SECTION 4. Any chapter guilty of violation of the rules of the National Society, or of action discrediting the organization, may be reprimanded, suspended or disbanded and the right to use its name and that of the Society revoked by the National Board of Management.

SECTION 5. In the event that discrimination by a DAR chapter is alleged to have taken place, the President General shall appoint a special committee to be known as the Ethics Committee, to investigate the charges. The Ethics Committee shall present its findings to the Executive Committee so that the Executive Committee may investigate and determine proper action.

SECTION 6. Any member, chapter or state organization of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution having a grievance against any member, chapter, state organization or the National Society relating to the activities of the National Society or its constituent organizations and wishing to institute legal action for redress of such grievance shall submit the grievance in writing to the President General and the Executive Committee at least nine months prior to instituting any legal action to permit time for the

Executive Committee to mediate the grievance before any legal action is instituted. Failure to comply with this Bylaw may subject said member, chapter or state organization to disciplinary action under Section 1 of this Article.

SECTION 7. All decisions of the National Board of Management in proceedings under all sections of this Article shall require a two-thirds vote by ballot of those present and voting.

Article XX – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Society in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the National Society.

Article XXI – Amendments

SECTION 1.

(a) These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any Continental Congress, except that no general revisions and no amendments pertaining to the number, term or eligibility of National Officers may be proposed in a year of the election of Executive Officers; provided that the proposed amendment has been sent by the National Society to all chapters of the National Society and posted to the NSDAR Members' Website at least sixty, and not more than ninety days, before the Continental Congress; and provided further that the amendment has been proposed by the National Board of Management, or by a chapter, or by a committee authorized by the Continental Congress. In case the amendment is proposed by a chapter, it shall be endorsed by at least nine other chapters, the ten chapters being located in at least five different states.

(b) Proposed amendments to these Bylaws shall be submitted in accordance with rules of procedure adopted by the National Board of Management. The Board shall order notice to the chapters of proposed amendments duly submitted provided the subject matter is suitable for inclusion in the Bylaws and the proposal is in proper form, and if found not to be suitable subject matter may reject the proposal or if not in proper form, may revise it, return it to the Bylaws Committee for redrafting, or take such action as is deemed in order.

SECTION 2. Unless otherwise provided prior to its adoption or in the motion to adopt, an amendment to these bylaws shall take effect at the close of the Continental Congress at which it is adopted.

SECTION 3. Any amendment to the Bylaws of the National Society shall become the law of the chapters and states without further notice.

Article XXII – Dissolution

Although the period of duration of the National Society is perpetual, if for any reason the Society is to be dissolved or otherwise terminated, no part of the property of the Society or any of the proceeds shall be distributed to or inure to the benefit of any of the directors or members of the Society. Upon the dissolution of the Society, assets shall be distributed by the National Board of Management and/or the Executive Committee of the Society for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, and consistent with the purposes and objectives of the Society. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the United States District Court of the District of Columbia, exclusively to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated within the meaning of section 501(c)(3), with purposes and objectives consistent with those of the Society.

Revised April 1993

Amended April 1994

Amended April 1995

Amended April 1996

Amended April 1997

Amended April 1999

Amended April 2001

Amended July 2002

Amended July 2003

Amended July 2004

Amended July 2005

Amended June 2006

Amended June 2007

Amended July 2009

Amended July 2011

Amended June 2012

Amended June 2013

Amended June 2014

Amended July 2015

Amended June 2016

Amended July 2017

Amended June 2019

Amended July 2022

Amended July 2023

Amended July 2025

Standing Rules of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

A. General Rules

1. The official NSDAR mailing list is restricted to DAR use exclusively. The NSDAR Directory, state and chapter yearbooks, and any other official mailing lists or names and addresses are not to be released except for official use within the organization.
2. Circularization. No member of the National Society is authorized to issue circulars about the National Society or state organization or the organization of chapters without the approval of the National Board of Management.
3. DAR Projects or funds. All fundraising, including through the use of social media and other electronic sales platforms, must comply with federal, state and local regulations concerning sales and solicitations by charitable organizations. Chapters shall abide by the policies set forth by state DAR societies and organizations.
4. Insignia. Use of the official Insignia is limited to programs, stationery, books, or other publications of use to the Society. For any other purpose, permission must be granted by the Executive Committee and/or the National Board of Management. The Insignia should not be used on match boxes, playing cards, or other articles designed purely for commercial purposes.

B. Credentials for Continental Congress

1. Eligibility for chapter representation and the number of delegates from the chapter are detailed in NSDAR Bylaws, Articles VIII, Meetings, and XIII, Chapters.
2. Chapters whose members' dues are credited to the office of the Treasurer General by December 1 are entitled to representation at Continental Congress.
3. The Chapter Regent is automatically the voting representative of her chapter. If the Chapter Regent is attending Continental Congress, the First Vice Regent has no credentials standing unless she is elected a delegate or alternate. If the Chapter Regent is unable to attend Continental Congress, the First Vice Regent automatically is the chapter voting representative. In case neither the Regent nor the First Vice Regent is attending, the first

elected alternate is the voting representative. If the first elected alternate is not attending, the second elected alternate is the voting representative. Two alternates are elected for each voter and are listed in the order of their election. If an elected chapter alternate is replacing a voter, she should have a written statement signed by the Chapter Regent, giving the name and position of the person she is replacing. This statement is to be presented or mailed to the Credentials Committee.

4. The Chapter Regent is responsible for completion of the chapter credentials form after the election of the chapter representatives as prescribed in NSDAR Bylaws, Article XIII, Chapters, Section 9. The form must be completed in the manner and by the date specified by the National Society.
5. The credentials form must be signed by the following three chapter officers: Regent, Recording Secretary and Treasurer.
6. Advance registration and fees must be completed and paid in the manner and by the date as specified in the credentials mailing. Registration must be confirmed in person prior to 3 o'clock of the afternoon of the day preceding the election of officers.
7. Advance registration fees are non-refundable.

C. National Election Rules

1. The rules for nomination and election of national officers are contained in the NSDAR Bylaws, Article VI, Nomination and Election of Officers.
2. Members of congressional committees and/or employees of DAR shall not wear or display campaign objects of any kind.
3. Campaigning for office, except for the wearing of campaign objects, shall not be allowed at or within 100 feet of NSDAR Headquarters by anyone at any time.
4. Campaign objects may not be worn or displayed at or within 100 feet of the polls by anyone at any time.
5. Ads appearing in the *Daughters Newsletter* in support of candidates for national office shall not include the word "unanimous" or any word implying "unanimous."
6. Any election violation shall be reported to the office of the President General. The President General shall call violations to the attention of the candidates involved. After the first warning, if the violation is repeated, the President General shall announce the violation at the next scheduled business meeting.

7. Drawing for position on the ballot shall be held in accordance with instructions issued by the office of the Recording Secretary General.

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Amended April 1997
Amended July 2003
Amended July 2008
Amended June 2012
Amended June 2013
Amended June 2019
Amended December 2021
Amended July 2023

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EXHIBIT C

BYLAWS OF THE MARTHA LAIRD CHAPTER
OF THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this chapter shall be the Martha Laird Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE II - Objects

The objects of this chapter shall be to promote the objects of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, hereinafter referred to as the National Society or NSDAR.

1. To perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence, by the acquisition and protection of historical spots and the erection of monuments; by the encouragement of historical research in relation to the Revolution and the publication of its results; by the preservation of documents and relics, and of the records of the individual services of Revolutionary soldiers and patriots; and by the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries;
2. To carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people, “to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge,” thus developing an enlightened public opinion, and affording to young and old such advantages as shall develop in them the largest capacity for performing the duties of American citizens;
3. To cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

ARTICLE III – Members

Section 1. Eligibility. Any woman is eligible for membership in the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution who is not less than eighteen years of age, and who is lineally descended from a man or woman who, with unfailing loyalty to the cause of American Independence, served as a sailor, or a soldier, or civil officer in one of the several Colonies or States, or in the United Colonies or States or as a recognized patriot, or rendered material aid thereto. NSDAR and its chapters may not discriminate against an eligible applicant base on race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.

Section 2. Admission. An applicant for membership in this chapter shall submit all required documents, prepared in accordance with instructions established by the National Society, and accompanied by the prescribed fee and dues.

a. An applicant desiring to become a Member-at-Large shall initiate her application process through the office of the Organizing Secretary General, who shall assign a DAR member to work with the prospective member. Within one year the applicant shall present the completed application and all required documents prepared in accordance with instructions established by the National Society and accompanied by the prescribed fees and dues to the office of the Organizing Secretary General unless granted an extension by this office. The Organizing Secretary shall sign the application.

b. An applicant for membership through this chapter shall be endorsed by two members of the chapter who are in good standing and to whom the applicant is personally known. The acceptability of the applicant for chapter membership shall be by a majority vote.

Section 3. Transfers and Reinstatements. A member in good standing who desires to unite with a chapter by transfer, either from another chapter or from member-at-large, or by reinstatement, shall be approved by the chapter. A member who is delinquent in the payment of dues may not transfer.

Section 4. Associates.

a. A chapter may admit associate members provided that any member so admitted shall be a chapter member in good standing and may be an associate member in not more than two chapters in a state at the same time.

b. An associate member shall not be counted toward representation or represent the chapter as a delegate at a state meeting or at Continental Congress and may not hold chapter office or have a vote in the chapter.

Section 5. Resignations. A member in good standing may resign from membership in the National Society by presenting her resignation in writing to the Chapter Regent, who shall immediately report the resignation to the Office of the Organizing Secretary General. A member who is delinquent in payment of dues may not resign from membership.

ARTICLE IV - Fees and Dues

Section 1. Application Fee. The application fee to the National Society shall be as determined by the Continental Congress.

Section 2. Annual Dues.

a. Annual National Society dues shall be $52 and the TXDAR annual dues shall be $5 payable in advance on or before November 1 of each year.

b. Dues for a member admitted or reinstated on or after July 5 shall be credited for the upcoming dues year, which begins December 1.

c. The dues and fees for readmission of a resigned member and of a member dropped for non-payment of dues shall be as established in the bylaws of the National Society.

d. The annual national dues for each member shall be sent by the chapter treasurer to the Office of the Organizing Secretary General, payable to the Treasurer General, by the date and method established in the bylaws of the National Society.

e. On November 2 the chapter treasurer shall notify all members whose dues have not been paid that their dues are delinquent. Membership will automatically terminate if national dues are not received by the date and method established in the bylaws of the National Society.

ARTICLE V - Officers

Section 1. Officers. The elected officers of the chapter shall be a regent, first vice regent, chaplain, recording secretary, treasurer, registrar, librarian and historian. Officers will be elected by secret ballot for a term of two years. A majority vote shall elect. If there is only one nominee for any office, the election of that office may be by voice. Officers shall be installed at the May meeting and new officers shall assume their elected position at the close of the meeting.

Section 2. Nominations. In the year of an election, a nominating committee of 3 members shall be elected by ballot at the regular meeting in January. If no more than 1 nominee is nominated, the ballot may be dispensed with and the election declared. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate a candidate, whose consent to serve has been obtained for each office to be filled and to report 2 months prior to the meeting at which election will be held. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided the consent of the nominee shall first have been obtained. If the nominating committee is unable to secure a nominee for a particular office, it is acceptable for a person to serve 2 consecutive terms if agreeable to that person.

Section 3. Eligibility. To be eligible for the office of regent or first vice regent, a member shall have held membership in the chapter for at least one year prior to her election.

Section 4. Term of Office. Officers shall be elected by ballot for a term of 2 years or until their successors are elected. A majority vote shall elect. If there is only one nominee, the ballot may be dispensed with and the election declared. The term of office shall begin at the close of the May meeting. Officers should be selected based on their abilities and interests, and to keep the chapter viable, incumbents are encouraged to seek out and train/mentor replacement officers. A member who has served a partial term in any office shall not be considered to have served a term and will be eligible to serve a second term in that office. A chapter regent may not serve more than six consecutive years, except by permission of the National Board of Management.

Section 5. Vacancies. In case of a vacancy in the office of chapter regent, the first vice regent shall become chapter regent. Vacancies in other offices shall be filled by the executive board until the next annual meeting when the chapter shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI - Duties of Officers

Section 1. Duties. The officers of the Martha Laird Chapter shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, the bylaws of the National Society, the bylaws of the Texas Society and the parliamentary authority, and such other duties as ordered by the chapter.

Section. 2. The regent shall:

a. preside at all meetings of the chapter and of the executive board, and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter;
b. be the chief executive officer of the chapter;
c. appoint all committees except the nominating committee.
d. appoint a parliamentarian subject to approval by the executive board;
e. be ex-officio a member of all committees except the nominating committee, audit committee, and disciplinary committee.
f. complete the Chapter Master Report, or ensure it is completed, and submit it as instructed by the State Regent.
g. send the annual report as directed by the state society/organization.
h. sign checks in the absence of the treasurer.
i. sign all contracts and agreements made in the name of the chapter and authorized by the executive board.

Section 3. The first vice regent shall:

a. perform the duties and responsibilities of the chapter regent in her absence or inability to serve.
b. fill the unexpired term if a vacancy occurs in the office of regent;
c. sign checks in the absence or inability of the regent and treasurer;
d. perform other such duties as may be directed by the regent or the executive board.

Section 4. The chaplain shall:

a. conduct such religious services as required or requested;
b. communicate, whenever possible, with members who are ill or in distress;
c. plan memorial services for deceased members.
d. perform other such duties as may be directed by the regent or the executive board.

Section 5. The recording secretary shall:

a. record the proceedings of the meetings of the chapter and executive board;
b. be custodian of all records not otherwise provided for;

c. notify officers of their election and committees of their appointment;
d. notify officers and chairs of votes affecting their duties;
e. perform other such duties as may be directed by the regent or the executive board.

Section 6. The treasurer shall:

a. receive all funds of the chapter and deposit them in an approved financial institution as may be designated by the chapter or the executive board;
b. disburse funds as directed by the regent, and pay only those bills authorized by the executive board or chapter;
c. remit national dues to the office of the Organizing Secretary General prior to the first day of December, and state dues to the state treasurer by date as required in state bylaws, of every paid member;
d. file the appropriate form 990 with the IRS following the end of the fiscal year, ensuring that it has been accepted, and any annual reports required by the state taxing authority.
e. prepare a detailed financial statement representing funds received and dispersed from the beginning of the fiscal year to be presented to the chapter;
f. close the books at the end of the fiscal year for audit;
g. perform such other duties as may be directed by the regent or executive board.

Section 7. The registrar shall:

a. prepare or assist prospective members in preparation of the current application;
b. ascertain, prior to submitting, that the application is in proper form and accompanied by properly prepared supporting documentation;
c. see that together with the application and documentation, the proper fees are remitted as established by the current procedure of the National Society;
d. notify the regent and the new member of acceptance to membership;
e. upon transfer out of the chapter, send the member's application to the member (if transfer is to member-at-large) or the receiving chapter, in accordance with instructions of the National Society;
f. report to the office of the Organizing Secretary General all changes in membership, marriages, divorces, deaths, resignations, transfers and changes in contact information as they occur.
g. perform such other duties as may be directed by the regent or executive board.

Section 8. The historian shall:

a. direct such historical work as may be requested by the chapter in accordance with the historical programs of the National Society and of the Texas State Society DAR;
b. be custodian of historical and biographical papers which the chapter may acquire.
c. perform such other duties as may be directed by the regent or executive board.

Section 9. The librarian shall:

a. cooperate with the state librarian in securing books for the DAR Library in Washington DC;
b. provide other library work as the National Society and the Texas State Society DAR may authorize
c. perform such other duties as may be directed by the regent or executive board.

ARTICLE VII - Meetings

Section 1. Monthly Meetings. The regular meetings of the chapter shall be held on second Saturday of each month from October to May inclusive, unless otherwise ordered by the chapter or Executive Board.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The regular meeting in January shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of receiving reports of officers and committees, electing of officers, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the regent or upon the written request of 7 members. Except in cases of emergency, 3 days‘ notice shall be given. The business transacted at any special meeting shall be limited to that stated in the call to the meeting.

Section 4. Electronic Meetings. The majority of regular chapter meetings shall be held in person, except that provision may be allowed for members who are unable to attend in person to participate electronically, so long as all members can simultaneously hear each other and participate, subject to any limitations established in special rules of order adopted to govern such participation, and at no expense to the chapter. Electronic mail (email) shall not be used to conduct meetings.

Section 5. Quorum. Seven (7) members of the chapter shall constitute a quorum for a regular or special meeting.

Section 6. Proxy Voting. There shall be no proxy voting.

Section 7. Notice. Unless members indicate otherwise to the regent in writing, all communication required in these bylaws, including meeting notices, may be sent electronically.

Section 8. Cancelled Meetings. In case of emergency, three chapter officers may collectively agree to cancel a regularly scheduled meeting due to adverse weather or other circumstances beyond the control of the chapter or members. Every attempt will be made to provide timely notification to members.

ARTICLE VIII - Executive Board

Section 1. Officers. The elected officers of the chapter shall constitute the executive board.

Section 2. Authority. The executive board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter between its meetings and shall make recommendations to the chapter. The board is subject to the orders of the chapter and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the chapter.

Section 3. Meetings. Meetings of the executive board shall be at the call of the regent, or upon written request of 4 members of the executive board. Meetings shall be held at a central location, but executive board members who are not present in person may be permitted to participate electronically, so long as all members can simultaneously hear each other and participate, subject to any limitations established in special rules of order adopted by the executive board to govern such participation, and at no expense to the chapter.

Section 4. Quorum. Four (4) of the members of the executive board shall constitute a quorum for a regular or special meeting.

Section 5. Non-members. With the consent of the members of the executive board the regent may invite chapter chairs or other non-members to attend meetings of the executive board and to participate in discussion. Chapter chairs and other non-members shall not make motions, second motions, or vote.

Section 6. Proxy Voting. There shall be no proxy voting.

Section 7. Notice. Unless members indicate otherwise to the regent in writing, all communication required in these bylaws, including meeting notices, may be sent electronically.

Section 8. Email Voting. In matters that require urgency and when a meeting is not critical to a decision, and with the written permission of every member, a vote may be conducted by electronic mail (email) which must be ratified at the next meeting.

ARTICLE IX – Committees

Section 1. Program Committee. A Program Committee shall be the executive board.

Section 2. Budget/Finance Committee. The executive committee (board) shall consider requests for funds, plan a budget and recommend to the chapter such expenditures as the committee shall deem expedient.

Section 3. Financial Review Committee. A Financial Review Committee of 3 members appointed by the regent shall examine the treasurer's records at the close of the fiscal year and report at the annual meeting. Such report will be adopted by the members.

Section 4. Other Committees. Such other committees shall be appointed by the regent as the chapter may authorize or as the National Society or the Texas State Society DAR may require.

Section 5. Proxy Voting. There shall be no proxy voting.

ARTICLE X - Representation

Section 1. Continental Congress. The representation of the chapter at Continental Congress shall be as provided in the bylaws of the National Society.
Section 2. State Conference. The representation of the chapter at meetings of the Texas State Society DAR shall be as provided in the bylaws of the Texas State Society DAR.

Section 3. Delegates. The chapter shall elect delegates and alternates for Continental Congress and for the State conference at the January meeting.

ARTICLE XI - Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws, special rules of order, standing rules, or rulings of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution or the Texas State Society DAR, these chapter bylaws, or any special rules of order the chapter may adopt.

ARTICLE XII - Amendment to Bylaws

Section 1. Proposed Amendments. These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the chapter by a two-thirds vote, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted electronically or in writing at the previous regular business meeting. Unless otherwise provided prior to its adoption or in the motion to adopt, an amendment shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Section 2. Mandatory Amendments. Any amendment adopted by the National Society, or by the Texas State Society DAR affecting the work of this chapter shall become the law of the chapter without further notice.

ARTICLE XIII - Dissolution

Although the period of duration of the chapter is perpetual, if for any reason the chapter is to be dissolved or otherwise terminated, no part of the property of the chapter or any of the proceeds shall be distributed to or inure to the benefit of any of the officers or members of the chapter. Upon the dissolution of the chapter, assets shall be distributed by the chapter executive board to and only to the state organization of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the local United States District Court, exclusively to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated within the meaning of section 501(c)(3), with purposes and objectives consistent with those of the chapter.

Bylaws revised July 1, 2025, to comply with the NSDAR Bylaws,
Bylaws revised October 14, 2025 - Associate Dues increased and moved to Rules
Bylaws revised August 2026 - NSDAR change regarding admission of Members-at-large

EXHIBIT D

PUBLIC RELATIONS
DAR National Headquarters
1776 D Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 572-0563
www.dar.org

Membership Eligibility of Adopted Children

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) requires proof of lineal bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence. This requirement does not preclude membership for individuals who are adopted; it simply means that adopted children must enter on their bloodline, or lineage of their birth parents, not the lineage of their adopted parents.

The tradition of lineal societies goes back to the founding of our country. Possibly, one of the earliest lineal societies was the Society of the Cincinnati organized in 1783 by the officers under the command of General George Washington. The Daughters of the American Revolution is only one of dozens of hereditary and lineage societies that were organized around the turn of the century to memorialize the patriots and founders of our country. The purpose behind such organizations was the belief that lineal descendants of the Revolutionary patriots had a duty to perpetuate the memory and spirit of those patriots because the patriots' blood flowed in their veins.

Contrary to modern-day belief, DAR was not organized to be an exclusive society, as most women of the 1890's had family members who participated in the American Revolution, such as fathers and grandfathers. Celebrating the glory of "Americanism" also served a secondary benefit as soothing means of uniting the women of the North and the South in the aftermath of the Civil War. Because DAR permits lineal qualification for membership through any bloodline descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, it is the least exclusive and is the largest of all the various hereditary organizations.

In fairness to all, every applicant is treated alike and each must prove bloodline descent. The DAR membership eligibility requirements, which are in full compliance with the current law for private, nonprofit organizations, have not changed since 1890. The accumulation of our members' lineages is the backbone of our DAR Library, which is one of the finest genealogical repositories in the world. To remove the lineal requirement would destroy the meaning of our organization and the significance of our library.

xxx

EXHIBIT E



GENEALOGY GUIDELINES

Part Two:

Completing the Application

And Proving Lineage

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C.A.R. members may use the electronic application format. They would check the box stating they are a member of the C.A.R. in Good Standing and upload a copy of their Certificate of Good Standing in .jpg or .png format to waive the application fee. The Certificate of Good Standing is NOT listed in the Source Citation field. All other requirements for electronic applications are the same as for members who are not members of C.A.R.

Start with the Applicant

If the applicant does not know of any relatives who are now or were previously members, then it may be necessary to conduct genealogical research to identify a Patriot ancestor whose service may make her eligible to join the DAR. If the applicant has already done her own research, use this information to search the Genealogical Research System (GRS). This should be done with all applicants to ensure the most up-to-date information is used on the new application. The GRS along with a variety of research tools are available to all members through the Members' Website.

Adoption Records Guide

In the case of an adoption, birth certificates are amended to include the name of the adoptive parents. There may be an original birth record with the name of one or both biological parents. The availability of these records to prove lineage varies from state to state. If the applicant is adopted, she will need to provide evidence of her relationship to either biological parent. Ideally, an adoptee would include both birth certificates, and a copy of the adoption papers.

Most states, to different degrees, have restricted access to original birth records at some point in time. Many states have recently opened closed records or are in the process of changing their access laws. If the applicant does not have a copy of any vital records showing her biological heritage, it may be helpful to check online to see if the state where she was born or adopted has opened their records at this time.

Organizations such as the National Conference of State Legislatures or Adoptee Rights Law Center may have updated online information pertinent to the state(s) she is researching. Many states also have adoptee-rights organizations or adoption search angel networks. No organization is endorsed as a guaranteed source of the latest information, so the applicant and/or lineage research volunteer should consult multiple sources to find the best possible option for record access in the relevant state(s) at the time of application.

If it is not possible to obtain original birth records reflecting the biological parents, there are several different ways to prove the adoptee's parentage, such as submitting adoption paperwork listing the biological parents, the amended birth certificate showing the adoptive parents, and a brief statement, ideally from the biological parent. If this is not possible, a statement is often obtained from someone who was aware of the situation when it occurred e.g., a sibling or parent of the biological mother.

If the adoption papers listing the biological parents are not available due to restrictions by law in that state, there are other options. If the birth parent is living, that person can take a paternity (or maternity) test of the type used by the courts. (It does not have to go through the court system; it just needs to be a certified lab that maintains chain of custody). The test results should show a 99% probability that the test person is the biological parent. This test, along with the amended birth certificate and a brief statement from either the applicant or the biological parent is sufficient. We have used paternity tests as proof of parentage for applications for well over 20 years.

If the biological parent is not alive, is not able, or is not willing to take such a test, and there are full siblings, a variant of the paternity test is a siblingship test. The test results should show a 99% probability that the applicant and the sibling tested are full siblings. This test, along with the amended birth certificate and a brief statement from either the applicant, the biological parent, or another family member familiar with the situation when it occurred is often sufficient. Similar tests can identify a half sibling as well but are less accurate.

Please be advised, a birth certificate (if living) or death certificate for the biological parent who descends from the Patriot will be required in any scenario outlined above.

Whenever DNA evidence is used to establish lineage through a biological parent who is living, a signed statement from him or her, acknowledging parentage and granting permission to use his or her DNA results and or biographical information, will also be required.

If an adoption is in a different generation in the lineage (e.g., a parent or grandparent was adopted), and the path to a Patriot is through the biological lines, then the same type of record research applies as outlined above.

Using The Ancestor Database

EXHIBIT F

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006–5303

August 21, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Lani Hightower, Regent
Martha Laird Chapter, 6071TX
Mount Pleasant, TX
[redacted]

Re: Request for Information Concerning Martha Laird Chapter Activities

Dear Mrs. Hightower:

The National Society is reviewing certain activities involving Martha Laird Chapter and activities conducted under the name Daughters Advocating for Restoration ("Restoration").

This review is not directed at the views held by the Chapter or its members. DAR chapters and members may advocate for changes in National Society policy or the National Bylaws, propose resolutions or bylaw amendments, communicate with other members and chapters, and use governance procedures available under the National Bylaws. Individual members also may associate and organize with others in their personal capacities.

The purpose of this review is to determine what Martha Laird Chapter itself authorized or did, what Chapter identity or resources were used, and whether Chapter officers acted on behalf of the Chapter in connection with organized Restoration activities. The fact that an activity involved advocacy, a resolution, a proposed bylaw amendment, or communication with other DAR chapters does not by itself answer those questions.

For purposes of this request, "Restoration" includes organized activities conducted under the Daughters Advocating for Restoration or Restoration name, whether through the incorporated nonprofit organization, a separately described grassroots movement, or related campaigns, committees, chapter networks, membership or referral programs, coordinator or ambassador systems, or successor activities. This definition is used only to identify the activities covered by the request.

As a chapter of the National Society, Martha Laird Chapter is subject to the National Bylaws and applicable National Society policies and rules, including the National Society's authority to obtain information reasonably necessary to exercise its governance and oversight responsibilities. Martha Laird Chapter also participates in NSDAR's federal group tax exemption, which gives the National Society additional oversight responsibilities concerning the Chapter.

Please provide the following information and records for the period **September 1, 2024 through the present**, to the extent they are in the possession, custody, or control of the Chapter or of a Chapter officer acting in her official Chapter capacity.

1. Martha Laird Chapter and Daughters Advocating for Restoration

Please provide Chapter or Executive Board minutes, resolutions, motions, written approvals, or other records sufficient to show:

- when and for what purpose Martha Laird Chapter first used or authorized use of the name Daughters Advocating for Restoration;
- the Chapter authorization, if any, for the preparation, circulation, signature solicitation, transmission, or other use of the March 8, 2025 letter to President Donald J. Trump, including use in that letter and its signature process of the name Daughters Advocating for Restoration, the Martha Laird Chapter name, Chapter office titles, Chapter member or officer information, or other Chapter resources;
- whether and when the Chapter understood Restoration to be an organization, movement, or activity separate from Martha Laird Chapter;
- any Chapter action approving, ratifying, limiting, ending, or otherwise defining the Chapter's relationship with Restoration; and
- whether the Chapter authorized, approved, or ratified its identification as a "Resolute Chapter" or as participating in a Restoration campaign, chapter network, program, or other organized structure.

Please also provide records sufficient to show any participation by a Chapter officer, acting in her Chapter capacity or on behalf of the Chapter, in Restoration leadership, committees, campaigns, chapter networks, membership or referral activities, coordinator or ambassador programs, or other organized Restoration functions.

2. Chapter Identity, Resources, and Information

Please identify any use of the Martha Laird Chapter name, Chapter officer titles, official email accounts, communications, meetings, funds, records, mailing or distribution lists, member or chapter contact information, or other Chapter resources in connection with Restoration activities.
Please provide records sufficient to show whether the Chapter:

- provided Restoration with funds, records, resolutions, chapter or member information, administrative assistance, communications, services, or other resources;
- received funds, professional services, administrative assistance, information, materials, or other resources from Restoration for use in Chapter activities; or
- authorized a Chapter officer to use her Chapter position, authority, information, access, or resources in carrying out Restoration activities.

Please also provide records sufficient to show whether any materials, work product, funds, accounts, contact information, professional engagements, communications infrastructure, intellectual property, or other resources originally created, obtained, funded, or maintained by Martha Laird Chapter were subsequently transferred, provided, made available to, or used in connection with Restoration.

Please also provide records sufficient to show whether any Chapter account, subscription, email address, member or chapter contact information, mailing or distribution list, or other Chapter resource was used to circulate the March 8, 2025 letter, solicit or collect signatures, administer the DocuSign process, or transmit the completed letter.

Please also provide records sufficient to show any involvement by Martha Laird Chapter, or by a Chapter officer acting in her Chapter capacity or on behalf of the Chapter, in developing, proposing, promoting, or supporting federal legislation (H.R. 9701 and S. 5152) concerning the National Society or its membership requirements, including any use of Chapter identity or resources in connection with that effort.

For any responsive activity in which a Chapter officer also held a Restoration role, please identify, to the extent reflected in Chapter records, the capacity in which she was acting.

3. Professional Legal and Parliamentary Services

Please provide records sufficient to show the Chapter's authorization, general purpose and scope, source of payment, and identity of the client or recipient for professional legal or parliamentary services obtained in connection with NSDAR governance or membership matters.

This includes:

- the Chapter's engagement of the Center for American Liberty resulting in its January 15, 2025 letter and memorandum; and
- any engagement of Tim Wynn, PRP, or Perfect Rules Inc.

For each engagement involving the Chapter, please provide records sufficient to show who authorized and retained the professional, who paid for the services, and whether resulting opinions, strategies, documents, training, or other work were later provided to or used by Restoration.

With respect to Mr. Wynn, please also provide records sufficient to show the Chapter's involvement, if any, in the original engagement, retainer, fundraising, continuing engagement, or use of his work in connection with the special meeting or chapter-resolution efforts.

This request does not seek privileged attorney-client communications or attorney work product. It seeks only nonprivileged records sufficient to establish authorization, client identity, general scope, payment, and subsequent use or distribution of resulting work.

4. Chapter Resolutions and the "Resolute Chapter" Process

Please provide records sufficient to show Martha Laird Chapter's role in soliciting, receiving, maintaining, collecting, transmitting, or reporting resolutions or other official actions submitted by other DAR chapters in connection with requests for a special meeting.

Please also provide records sufficient to show whether Martha Laird Chapter, its officers acting on its behalf, or Chapter resources were used to:

- identify, count, track, code, number, map, maintain information concerning, or communicate with chapters characterized by Restoration as "Resolute Chapters," as supporting its special meeting effort, or otherwise included in a Restoration chapter network or tracking system, whether identified by chapter name, number, code, or another identifier;

- provide chapter actions or information for use in Restoration's chapter lists, maps, statistics, progress reports, or campaign;

- solicit or receive official chapter actions for transmission or reporting through Restoration; or
- continue such activities after the June 26, 2026 vote on the chapter-resolution at Continental Congress.

The National Society is not questioning a chapter's right to consider or adopt a resolution or to communicate its position. The purpose of this request is to determine whether official chapter actions or Chapter resources were also provided to, incorporated into, or administered through a separate organized process.

5. Membership and Referral Activities

Please provide records sufficient to show whether Martha Laird Chapter, or any officer acting on behalf of the Chapter, participated in or supported a Restoration process for connecting, referring, transferring, reinstating, recruiting, or directing DAR members or applicants to chapters identified or selected through Restoration.

This includes the "Resolute Chapter" membership or referral process and any successor activity, including "Resolute Connections."

Please identify any Chapter information or resources used in such activities and any Chapter authorization for that participation.

With respect to **restore.dar@gmail.com**, please state whether Martha Laird Chapter authorized or participates in use of the account, whether any Chapter officer uses it in her Chapter capacity or on behalf of the Chapter, and whether Martha Laird Chapter records, contact information, or other Chapter resources have been used in connection with it.

6. Martha Laird Chapter Email Account

With respect to **marthalairdnsdar@gmail.com**, please identify:

- who established the account;
- who owns or controls it;
- who has or had access to it; and
- the purposes for which the account was established and used, including any uses authorized, approved, or known by the Chapter.

Please provide records sufficient to show whether resolutions, chapter identities, contact information, records, or other information received through that account in connection with DAR governance activity were later provided to or used by Restoration, including in a "Resolute Chapter" list or network, membership or referral program, coordinator or ambassador system, **restore.dar@gmail.com**, or another Restoration activity.

Restoration's published *Becoming a Resolute Chapter* instructions direct chapters that adopt the resolution to send the resulting letter to **marthalairdnsdar@gmail.com**, identifying Laura McDonald as Recording Secretary of Martha Laird Chapter. Please provide records sufficient to show who authorized, approved, or knew of the designation and use of this email account for that purpose; who received or had access to resolutions, special meeting requests, confirmations of

chapter action, or other materials submitted through the account; and how and where the resulting information or records were maintained, transmitted, or used.

Chapter Confirmation

In addition to the records requested above, please provide a short written response, authorized by the Chapter Executive Board and signed by the Chapter Regent and Recording Secretary, stating whether:

1. the Chapter authorized, approved, ratified, or used the name Daughters Advocating for Restoration in connection with Chapter activities;
2. the Chapter authorized, approved, ratified, supported, or knowingly participated in a Restoration campaign, committee, network, membership program, coordinator or ambassador program, or other organized Restoration activity, including through a Chapter officer;
3. the Chapter authorized use of its name, identity, officer titles, funds, accounts, communications, records, information, or other Chapter resources in connection with Restoration;
4. the Chapter provided resources or information to Restoration or received resources or services from Restoration for Chapter activities;
5. the Chapter participated in a Restoration-administered "Resolute Chapter," membership, transfer, referral, reinstatement, applicant, or "Resolute Connections" process;
6. information obtained or received through **marthalairdnsdar@gmail.com**, or through another account or resource used for Chapter business, was provided to or used in connection with Restoration for a purpose other than the DAR governance process for which the information was obtained or received;
7. the Chapter has authorized, approved, or knowingly permitted its Chapter name, identity, official action, or another identifier corresponding to the Chapter to be included, maintained, tracked, or used in a Restoration chapter list, network, tally, map, membership or referral system, or other organized activity; and
8. the Chapter has adopted or applied any membership eligibility requirement, standard, or criterion different from the requirements currently established by the National Bylaws and applicable National Society policies; and

For each item above, a "yes" or "no" response is sufficient. If the Chapter believes that a response requires qualification to be accurate, it may briefly explain that qualification. For an affirmative response, please briefly identify the activity and the responsive records.

The Chapter need not provide duplicate copies of the same record in response to more than one request. If no responsive Chapter records exist for a particular request, the Chapter may state that fact.

* * *

The Chapter is expected to respond fully and in good faith to these requests. If the Chapter declines to provide requested information or records, or is unable to provide a complete response, please identify the particular request and explain the basis for the Chapter's response. The National Society will take the Chapter's response, including any failure to provide requested information or records

within the Chapter's possession, custody, or control, into account in determining what further action, if any, is appropriate.

Please preserve potentially responsive records while this review is pending, including relevant emails and attachments, electronic documents, text or messaging communications, financial records, meeting records, social media or online account records, and records maintained in Chapter-controlled accounts or other accounts used for Chapter business. Please provide the Chapter's response no later than **September 14, 2026**, to the Office of the President General at **OfficeofthePG@DAR.org**. If the Chapter has responsive records that cannot reasonably be provided electronically, please contact the Office of the President General to arrange for their delivery.

The purpose of this request is to establish the facts necessary for the National Society to carry out its governance and oversight responsibilities. No conclusion has been reached concerning whether Martha Laird Chapter or any individual member has violated the National Bylaws, National Society policies or rules, or other applicable requirements. Any such determination would depend upon the particular facts and the applicable standards and procedures.

Thank you for the Chapter's attention to this request and cooperation with the National Society's review.

Sincerely,

Virginia Sebastian Storage

Ginnie Sebastian Storage
President General

Marguerite Hogan Fritsch

Marguerite Fritsch
Organizing Secretary General

cc: Members of the Executive Committee
Texas State Regent

EXHIBIT G

Martha Laird Chapter
107 E. 11th Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

August 27, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Mrs. Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General
Mrs. Marguerite Fritsch, Organizing Secretary General
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
[redacted]

Re: August 21, 2026, Request for Information Concerning Martha Laird Chapter Activities

Dear Ms. Storage and Ms. Fritsch:

Martha Laird Chapter acknowledges receipt of your letter dated August 21, 2026, addressed to Chapter Regent Lani Hightower. The Chapter takes the request seriously and intends to respond fully where applicable and in good faith.

The request covers a twenty-three-month period, seeks records across six subject areas, and requires a search of Chapter minutes, financial records, correspondence, and electronic accounts. The Chapter cannot complete a responsible search, and prepare an accurate written response by September 14, 2026. The Chapter respectfully requests an extension to October 30, 2026. If the National Society is unable to grant an extension to that date, the Chapter asks that you propose a date that accommodates the work described above.

The NSDAR Handbook says the following:

"Chapter and state organizations must also comply with requirements established by NSDAR. The National Society's requirements ensure that NSDAR, as the central organization for the group tax-exemption, exercises reasonable oversight of the DAR organizations participating in the group, as mandated by the IRS. The group tax-exemption is a privilege that benefits participating DAR organizations because they do not have to spend the time and money to apply for federal tax-exempt status on their own. The National Society extends the requirements in this section to DAR organizations with stand-alone tax-exempt status to ensure that each DAR chapter and state organization adheres to the same standards for maintaining the privilege of tax-exempt status and to units overseas to ensure that their financial records remain in good order."

Records were submitted to Lisa Lettie, TXDAR State Assistant Treasurer on July 29, 2026 fulfilling the requirements of the IRS mandate. Ms. Lettie confirmed receipt of these records.

We can find no other mention of anything outside of the IRS mandate.

So that the Chapter's response is complete and accurate, the Chapter asks for the clarifications set out below. The Chapter raises these questions in order to respond correctly, not to delay its response or to dispute the National Society's oversight role.

Martha Laird Chapter
107 E. 11th Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

1. **Authority.** Please identify the provision of the National Bylaws, the National Society policy or rule, or the federal group tax-exemption requirement on which each category of request is based, and please confirm whether the request was authorized by the Executive Committee or by the National Board of Management. The Chapter asks because the National Bylaws prescribe specific chapter reporting obligations at Article XIII, Sections 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, and 18, and because Article XVI, Section 1 provides that records generated by a DAR body remain the property of that body.

2. **Handling of the Chapter's response.** Your letter is copied to the members of the Executive Committee and to the Texas State Regent. Please confirm how the Chapter's response and any records produced will be maintained, who will have access to them, and whether they will be used for any purpose other than this review.

3. **Scope of possession, custody, or control.** Please confirm whether the request is intended to reach personal accounts, personal devices, or personal records of individual members, and if so, the basis for that scope. The Chapter can search records that it owns and controls; it does not control the personal accounts of its members.

4. **Records held by others.** Please confirm that the Chapter is not asked to produce the records of other DAR chapters, or records already in the possession of the National Society.

5. **Professional services.** Section 3 of your letter asks whether resulting professional work was later provided to or used by others. Please confirm that this request is not intended to reach privileged communications or attorney work product, consistent with the limitation stated in your letter. Where the Chapter was not the client of a professional identified in your letter, the Chapter will say so.

6. **Referenced authorities.** Please provide a copy of the Policy of Non-Affiliation adopted by the 57th Continental Congress in 1948, and a copy of the Executive Committee action approving the Statement Concerning Chapter Identity and Members Acting in Multiple Capacities enclosed with your letter.

7. **Application of the August 2026 Statement.** The enclosed Statement is dated August 2026 and states that it creates no new grounds for discipline. Please confirm that conduct occurring before its adoption will be measured against the standards in effect at the time of that conduct.

The Chapter is able to answer one item now. With respect to Chapter Confirmation item 8, Martha Laird Chapter has not adopted or applied any membership eligibility requirement,

Martha Laird Chapter
107 E. 11th Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

standard, or criterion different from the requirements currently established by the National Bylaws and applicable National Society policies.

The Chapter notes the National Society's statement that no conclusion has been reached concerning the Chapter or any individual member, and the Chapter will address each request on the merits.

Sincerely,

Lani Hightower

Lani Hightower
Regent, Martha Laird Chapter, NSDAR

cc: Members of the Executive Committee
Texas State Regent

EXHIBIT H

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006–5303

August 31, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Lani Hightower, Regent
Martha Laird Chapter, 6071TX
Mount Pleasant, TX
[redacted]

Re: Request for Information Concerning Martha Laird Chapter Activities

Dear Mrs. Hightower:

Thank you for your August 27, 2026, letter (the "Letter"). We appreciate the Martha Laird Chapter's (the "Chapter") statement that it takes the National Society's August 21, 2026, request (the "Request") seriously and intends to respond fully and in good faith.

We recognize that collecting Chapter records may require additional time. The Chapter's written response to the Request should be provided no later than September 14, 2026, and responsive records should be produced on a rolling basis beginning on that date, with all requested records provided by September 30, 2026. The September 14 written response should answer the questions in the Request based on the information then available to the Chapter; identification and production of responsive records may be supplemented through September 30 as the Chapter completes its collection. The National Board of Management is scheduled to meet the first full week of October, and NSDAR needs sufficient time before those meetings to review the Chapter's response and determine what further action, if any, may be appropriate.

The questions raised in the Chapter's Letter do not require the Chapter to defer its response or its collection of responsive records. The Request already identifies its purpose, scope, applicable limitations and the categories of information and records sought. If, after completing its review, the Chapter determines that it has no responsive information or records for a particular request, it should state that and briefly explain the basis for that conclusion.

The Chapter's status as a separately incorporated legal entity does not alter its obligations as a DAR chapter. Article XIII, Section 1 of the National Bylaws recognizes that chapters are independent legal entities and are responsible for their own debts, liabilities, and other legal obligations. At the same time, the Bylaws establish chapters as part of the National Society's organizational structure, and Article XIII, Section 6(d) expressly provides that chapter bylaws and rules may not conflict with the Bylaws of the National Society or the applicable state organization. The National Bylaws further provide that rulings of the National Society are binding upon every Chapter and authorize the National Board of Management to act when a Chapter is not acting in accordance with National Society rules or engages in conduct discrediting the organization.

The Bylaws likewise establish broad responsibilities for the National Board of Management and the President General. The Board has "all power and authority over the affairs of the National Society" between meetings of the National Society, and the President General is the chief executive officer

with general supervision of the National Society's affairs. The Organizing Secretary General has specific responsibilities relating to the organization and administration of chapters and maintains records concerning each chapter. The Request was made by the President General and Organizing Secretary General in their official capacities to obtain information concerning the Chapter's activities and compliance with National Society requirements. Seeking information and records reasonably related to those matters is consistent with these responsibilities.

The Request seeks information reasonably necessary for the National Society to review the activities identified and carry out its governance and oversight responsibilities. It is not necessary for each category of requested information to correspond to a recurring chapter report or to a provision prescribing a specific periodic submission. The Chapter's reliance on Article XVI, Section 1 does not alter that conclusion. Article XVI provides that records generated by a DAR body remain the property of the body that generated them. Nothing in Article XVI states or suggests that the provision limits the National Society's authority to seek records from a chapter for purposes of exercising its governance responsibilities. Indeed, the Bylaws expressly contemplate that chapter records may be provided to National Society officers in connection with chapter administration.

To be clear, the fact that the Martha Laird Chapter has submitted records to the Texas State Assistant Treasurer in connection with federal tax-exemption requirements does not resolve the Request. The National Society's inquiry is broader and concerns the specific activities described in the Request, including the Chapter's relationship to Daughters Advocating for Restoration, use of Chapter identity and resources, professional services, chapter resolutions, membership and referral activities, and the Chapter's official email account. The Request, therefore, is not limited to records previously provided for tax purposes.

The Request includes responsive communications and documents created, sent, received, or maintained by a person *acting in an official capacity* for or on behalf of the Chapter, including Chapter business conducted through a personal email account, cell phone, or other device. It does not seek personal communications unrelated to Chapter business. Chapter business does not become personal or nonresponsive merely because a personally owned account or device was used. As stated in the Request itself, documents subject to the attorney-client privilege and attorney work product protection are not requested. Similarly, the Request does not require the Chapter to produce records belonging exclusively to other DAR chapters or records already in the National Society's possession.

The Chapter also asks about the use and handling of its response and records. The information will be maintained and reviewed as appropriate by National Society officers and others involved in carrying out the review and the National Society's governance and oversight responsibilities. It will be used for those purposes. No conclusion has been reached concerning the Chapter or any individual member.

With respect to the Policy of Non-Affiliation and the Statement Concerning Chapter Identity and Members Acting in Multiple Capacities, the Policy of Non-Affiliation is set forth on page 90 of the current DAR Handbook, including the resolution adopted by the 57th Continental Congress in 1948. We are enclosing a copy of that page for convenience, along with the Executive Committee's resolution adopting the Statement. As the Statement expressly provides, it creates no new grounds for discipline. No conclusion has been reached concerning whether the Chapter or any individual member has violated the National Bylaws, National Society policies or rules, or other applicable requirements. Further action, if any, will depend on the particular conduct identified and the requirements applicable to that conduct.

Please proceed with the written response and collection and provision of the requested records in accordance with the schedule above. If the Chapter declines to provide any requested information or records, it should identify the particular request and state the basis for doing so, as contemplated by the Request. We appreciate the Chapter's cooperation.

Sincerely,

Virginia Sebastian Storage

Marguerite Hogan Fritsch

Ginnie Sebastian Storage
President General

Marguerite Fritsch
Organizing Secretary General

cc: Members of the Executive Committee
Texas State Regent

Encl.

EXHIBIT I

Martha Laird Chapter
107 E. 11th Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

September 9, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Mrs. Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General
Mrs. Marguerite Fritsch, Organizing Secretary General
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
[redacted]g

Re: August 21, 2026, Request for Information Concerning Martha Laird Chapter Activities

Dear Ms. Storage and Ms. Fritsch:

This is the written response of Martha Laird Chapter to the Request for Information dated August 21, 2026, provided in accordance with the schedule in your letter of August 31, 2026. The Chapter Executive Board authorized this response at its meeting on September 8, 2026.

The Chapter's answer is straightforward.

Your letter does not allege that the Martha Laird Chaper has violated any bylaw or rule of the National Society and we can attest as well, that no bylaw or rule has been violated.

The scope of your inquiry goes far beyond what the Bylaws contemplate and we believe that our chapter is indeed being targeted for taking a position that differs from that of state and/or national officers. However, in effort to show good faith, we offer the following:

1. The Martha Laird Chapter has no relationship with Daughters Advocating for Restoration.

2. Every action the Martha Laird Chapter has taken was taken at a properly noticed Chapter or Executive Board meeting, by motion duly made, seconded, and recorded in the minutes, and through procedures the National Bylaws expressly provide to chapters. The chapter minutes starting in September 2024 to the present are enclosed. Each of these actions is of the kind the **Statement Concerning Chapter Identity and Members Acting in Multiple Capacities** describes as available to chapters: "DAR chapters may express views, adopt resolutions, propose change, and exercise the rights available to them under the National Bylaws."

3. The Chapter has exercised rights available to it under the National Bylaws. It did so as a chapter, in its own name, at its own meetings, and through the National Society's own channels.

4. The Chapter has violated no applicable standard, and the standards the National Society has identified confirm that conclusion.

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107 E. 11th Street
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5. The Martha Laird chapter has not become a part of a united group, nor has the Martha Laird chapter's freedom of action been controlled, in any way, by the action of other organizations.

6. The Martha Laird chapter has not adopted or applied any membership eligibility requirement, standard, or criterion different from the requirements currently established by the National Society.

Article XIX, Section 4 of the National Bylaws reaches a chapter "guilty of violation of the rules of the National Society, or of action discrediting the organization." The Chapter's actions were the exercise of rights the National Bylaws expressly confer on chapters: proposing bylaw amendments under Article XXI, Section 1; requesting a special meeting under Article VIII, Section 7; and instructing its own delegates, which the Standing Rules for the 135th Continental Congress recognize as an internal matter between a chapter and its delegates. Exercising a right conferred by the Bylaws is not a violation of the rules of the National Society, and conduct undertaken openly, by recorded motion at a properly noticed meeting, and transmitted to the National Society over the Regent's signature, does not discredit the organization.

The Policy of Non-Affiliation, as set out on page 90 of the DAR Handbook and in the resolution adopted by the 57th Continental Congress in 1948, calls upon National, State, and Chapter groups "to consider thoughtfully, keeping in mind our policies, all proposals placed before them by such groups and to avoid use of the name of our Society in connection with membership in other organizations except with the consent of the Society."

The Chapter has taken no membership in any other organization and has not used the name of the National Society, or its own approved chapter name, to signify membership in another organization. Under the construction supplied in the enclosed Handbook page, to affiliate is to "become a part of a united group and by that affiliation your freedom of action as an individual organization may be somewhat controlled by the action of the other organizations." The Martha Laird Chapter has not become a part of a united group, nor has the Chapter's freedom of action been controlled, in any way, by the action of other organizations.

The **Statement Concerning Chapter Identity and Members Acting in Multiple Capacities** likewise supports the Chapter's position. The Statement provides that it "explains longstanding distinctions" and "does not create new rules," and that it "creates no new grounds for discipline and does not determine that particular conduct violates Article XIX." It provides that chapters "may express views, adopt resolutions, propose change, and exercise the rights available to them under the National Bylaws," and that members, groups of members, and outside organizations "may advocate for particular action, develop and circulate proposed resolution or bylaw language, provide information about DAR governance procedures, and encourage members or

DAR
Martha Laird Chapter
107 E. 11th Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

chapters to act," and that "[t]hose activities, standing alone, do not present the governance concern addressed by this Statement." The Statement identifies the concern precisely: "The concern is the chapter's own participation, in its official capacity, in a separate structure for organizing or administering DAR chapter action." The Chapter did not participate in any such structure in its official capacity. Its official capacity was exercised at its own meetings, on recorded motions, under the National Bylaws. The Statement further provides that a separate structure "does not become part of DAR simply because DAR members participate in it or because some participants are chapter, State, or National officers," and that "[d]isagreement with National Society policy, decisions, or leadership is not, by itself, a basis for action under Article XIX."

The Chapter further notes that the Statement was adopted by the Executive Committee on August 4, 2026, and that the adopting resolution provides that it "shall serve as guidance unless and until modified by the National Board of Management." The Request covers conduct beginning September 1, 2024.

The Chapter has answered the Request in full and does not rely on the timing of the Statement to withhold any information. The Chapter understands, consistent with the Statement's own terms, that conduct occurring before its adoption will be evaluated against the requirements then in effect.

For these reasons the Chapter respectfully submits that no conduct of Martha Laird Chapter has violated the National Bylaws, the Policy of Non-Affiliation, the Statement, or any other applicable requirement of the National Society.

Sincerely,

Lani Hightower, Regent

Amanda Mongognia, Vice Regent

Laura McDonald, Treasurer

Deborah Freeman, Recording Secretary

Jammie Barker, Registrar

Connie Chartier, Chaplain

cc: Texas State Regent

...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence...

Martha Laird Chapter
107 E. 11th Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

Pam McCunn, Historian

Jane York, Historian

Elizabeth Fowler, Librarian

cc: Texas State Regent

...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence...

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006–5303

Statement Concerning Chapter Identity and Members Acting in Multiple Capacities

Approved by the Executive Committee of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

IN BRIEF: DAR members are free to disagree, advocate for change, organize with other members, and participate in other organizations. DAR chapters also have important rights and responsibilities under the National Bylaws. Those rights and responsibilities belong to the chapters and should be exercised through DAR's governance processes, not through a separately organized outside process.

Members may participate in outside organizations and organize with other members, but they should not use or participate in a separately organized outside or member-created system or campaign for directing, coordinating, collecting, or using official DAR chapter actions or for administering DAR membership processes, such as applications, referrals, transfers, or reinstatements. Chapters should keep their chapter actions and DAR membership responsibilities within DAR's established processes. DAR information, records, systems, resources, and access should be used only for authorized DAR purposes.

This Statement explains longstanding distinctions; it does not create new rules.

Chapters and the National Society

Article II of the National Bylaws establishes the objects of the National Society, and Article XIII provides that, "[f]or the purpose of promoting the objects of the National Society members may be organized into chapters." Chapters carry forward the work of the National Society in their communities and exercise important rights and responsibilities under the National Bylaws.

Every DAR chapter is a chapter of the National Society (Article XIII, Section 15). A chapter is organized and recognized under the National Bylaws, receives its approved name through the National Society's established processes, and conducts its affairs under chapter bylaws that must not conflict with the National Bylaws. Its identity and authority as a DAR chapter derive from that relationship.

The rights and responsibilities assigned to a chapter under the National Bylaws belong to the chapter and should be exercised by the chapter through DAR's established processes. A chapter should not place the exercise of those rights or responsibilities under the direction or administration of an outside organization, group, or member-created structure, or exercise them through a separately organized process outside DAR. Doing so introduces a separate structure into the National Society's governance system and places the organization of official chapter action outside the governance processes established for DAR chapters.

A chapter should therefore identify and act solely as a chapter of the National Society. It should use its approved DAR name and should not use another organization's name, designation, or branding to identify itself as part of that organization's campaign, network, program, or other structure.

Members Acting in Multiple Capacities

DAR members may act in different capacities. A member may participate in DAR and also belong to, serve, or organize with an organization separate from the National Society. Members remain free to express their views, organize with other members, support or oppose National Society policies or decisions, participate in other organizations, and seek change through DAR's governance processes.

Members may communicate, encourage participation, share information, propose ideas or language, recommend chapters, make introductions, and help one another navigate DAR's established processes. Those activities are different from participating in or using an outside organization or member-created system to coordinate DAR chapter actions or administer DAR membership processes, such as applications, referrals, transfers, or reinstatements.

Members should not participate in or carry out activities through an outside committee, coordinator network, referral system, or similar structure when that structure is being used to coordinate DAR chapter actions or administer DAR membership processes. Such a structure does not become part of DAR simply because DAR members participate in it or because some participants are chapter, State, or National officers. Members should not use their DAR position, authority, access, information, or responsibilities to operate such a system or carry out its activities.

Chapter Governance and Separately Organized Processes

DAR chapters may express views, adopt resolutions, propose change, and exercise the rights available to them under the National Bylaws. Members, groups of members, and outside organizations may advocate for particular action, develop and circulate proposed resolution or bylaw language, provide information about DAR governance procedures, and encourage members or chapters to act. Those activities, standing alone, do not present the governance concern addressed by this Statement.

A different issue arises when a DAR chapter participates as a chapter in a separately administered structure through which official actions of DAR chapters are directed, coordinated, reported, collected, or used as part of a campaign, network, program, or other organized structure outside DAR. The concern is not that members or outside organizations advocated for the chapter to act, provided proposed language, or assisted members in understanding DAR procedures. The concern is the chapter's own participation, in its official capacity, in a separate structure for organizing or administering DAR chapter action.

The fact that the chapter takes formal action at its own DAR meeting does not resolve the concern. A chapter may act through its own meeting procedures while also participating as a chapter in a separately organized process before or after the vote – for example, by following that process's directions for obtaining the action, reporting the result into the process, or permitting the chapter or its action to be used as part of the resulting campaign, network, or other structure.

The same principle applies whether the chapter action involves a resolution, proposed bylaw amendment, petition, or another chapter governance action. The question is not what position the chapter takes. The question is whether the chapter is exercising its rights and responsibilities as a DAR chapter through DAR's governance structure or participating as a chapter in a separately organized process outside that structure.

The National Society's longstanding Policy of Non-Affiliation, adopted by the 57th Continental Congress in 1948, reflects the same principle. DAR chapters and other organizations may cooperate appropriately on complementary activities while remaining separate. A DAR chapter should not become part of another organization's structure or carry out its DAR rights and responsibilities through that structure.

DAR Information and Resources

DAR membership data, chapter and State records, National Society resources, nonpublic information, and access available through a DAR position are entrusted to members for authorized DAR purposes and should be used only in accordance with National Society policies.

They should not be used to create, maintain, or operate another organization's chapter network, membership or referral system, coordinator structure, or other separately administered system involving DAR chapters or membership processes. A member's belief that an outside activity supports or benefits DAR does not make the use of DAR information, resources, or access an authorized DAR use.

Representative Governance

Nothing in this Statement limits the ability of members or chapters to participate fully in the representative governance of the National Society. Members and chapters may propose change, debate issues, communicate their views, adopt resolutions, and pursue action through the procedures established by the National Bylaws.

Representative governance requires both meaningful opportunities to propose, debate, and decide questions and a workable process for governing after those decisions are made. Members and chapters remain free to disagree with decisions and to advocate for and pursue future change through the National Bylaws. The National Society's governing officers and National Board of Management are responsible for administering its governance processes in a manner that respects decisions reached through those processes while allowing the organization to continue its work and advance its mission, consistent with the National Bylaws, applicable law, and their responsibilities to the organization.

Existing Standards Under Article XIX

Article XIX establishes standards and procedures applicable to individual DAR members and DAR chapters. This Statement creates no new grounds for discipline and does not determine that particular conduct violates Article XIX. Conduct addressed here may, however, implicate existing National Society policies or Article XIX, depending on the applicable standards and the particular facts. Disagreement with National Society policy, decisions, or leadership is not, by itself, a basis for action under Article XIX.

Conclusion

Members remain free to disagree, advocate, organize with other members, participate in other organizations, and advocate for chapter action or change within the National Society. Those freedoms do not extend DAR authority to an outside organization or member-created structure or make such a structure part of DAR. DAR chapters remain chapters of the National Society, and the rights and responsibilities assigned to them should be exercised by chapters through DAR's governance structure. Members should not use separate structures to administer official DAR chapter actions or DAR membership processes, and DAR information and resources should be used only for authorized DAR purposes.

These principles protect members' freedom to participate and advocate while preserving the identity and responsibilities of DAR chapters and the integrity of the National Society's representative governance.

★ ★ ★

EXHIBIT J

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006–5303

September 15, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Lani Hightower, Regent
Martha Laird Chapter, 6071TX
Mount Pleasant, TX
[redacted]

Re: Request for Information Concerning Martha Laird Chapter Activities

Dear Mrs. Hightower:

Thank you for the Martha Laird Chapter's September 9, 2026 response (the "Response") to the National Society's August 21, 2026, Request for Information (the "Request"), which we received on September 14. We appreciate the Chapter's attention to the Request and its provision of Chapter minutes.

The Chapter's Response states that it has "answered the Request in full." After reviewing the Response and materials provided, however, significant portions of the Request remain unanswered. The Chapter principally provided meeting minutes and explained its position that its activities were authorized by the Chapter, permitted by the National Bylaws, and did not violate any National Society rule or policy. The National Society respects the Chapter's right to state that position. The Request, however, also sought specific factual information and records necessary for the National Society to evaluate the activities identified in the Request for itself. Those requests are not answered by the Chapter's characterization of its conduct or by the meeting minutes provided.

As the Request explained, the National Society's review is not directed at the views held by the Chapter or its members, nor does it question their ability to advocate for changes in National Society policy or the National Bylaws. Rather, the purpose of the Request is to determine what the Chapter itself authorized or did, what Chapter identity or resources were used, and in what capacities Chapter officers acted in connection with the activities identified in the Request. The National Society needs the requested facts and records in order to make that assessment.

Notably, the Chapter has not provided the information and records specifically requested concerning marthalairdnsdar@gmail.com. The Request asked the Chapter to identify who established the account, who owns or controls it, who has or had access to it, and the purposes for which it was established and used. It also requested records sufficient to show whether resolutions, Chapter identities, contact information, or other information received through that account in connection with DAR governance activity were subsequently provided to or used in connection with Daughters Advocating for Restoration activities. The Response does not address those questions, and no responsive records concerning the account were provided.

This information is particularly relevant because, as the Request noted, published *Becoming a Resolute Chapter* campaign instructions directed other DAR Chapters adopting the resolution to send their resulting letters to marthalairdnsdar@gmail.com, the contact email address used by the Martha Laird Chapter, and identified Laura McDonald in her capacity as Recording Secretary of the Martha Laird Chapter. The National Society specifically requested records sufficient to show who authorized, approved, or knew of that designation and use of that email address; who received or had access to resolutions, special-meeting requests, confirmations of Chapter action, or other materials

submitted through the account; and how and where the resulting information and records were maintained, transmitted, shared, or used. The Response does not provide that information, and no responsive records concerning these matters were provided.

These are not the only portions of the Request that remain incomplete. More broadly, the Chapter has not fully responded to several categories of records requested concerning the use of Chapter identity, officer titles, official email accounts, communications, records, contact information, mailing or distribution lists, or other Chapter resources in connection with Restoration activities, including whether any such resources were used in connection with activities undertaken by Chapter officers in another capacity. Nor has it provided the requested information and records concerning the Chapter's role, if any, in soliciting, receiving, maintaining, collecting, transmitting, tracking, or reporting resolutions, special meeting requests, or other official actions of other DAR Chapters. These requests concern the Chapter's own role, resources, and records; they are not answered by the Chapter's position that the underlying actions taken by participating Chapters were authorized by the National Bylaws.

We therefore ask that the Chapter supplement its Response and provide the remaining responsive records. For each category in the Request, please either (1) provide the requested information and responsive records; or (2) state specifically that no responsive information or records exist within the Chapter's possession, custody, or control, including responsive Chapter-business records maintained by Chapter officers. The Chapter need not repeat information or provide records already submitted; it may instead identify the portion of its Response or previously provided records that it believes fully responds to a particular request. If the Chapter declines to provide responsive information or records for some other reason, identify the particular request and explain the basis for declining to respond. This is consistent with the Request, which expressly provided that the Chapter could state when no responsive records exist and asked the Chapter to identify and explain any request as to which it declined or was unable to provide a complete response.

Please provide the supplemental response and responsive records by September 30, 2026. In the meantime, please continue to preserve all potentially responsive materials, including emails and attachments associated with *marthalairdnsdar@gmail.com*, electronic documents, text or messaging communications, Chapter records, and records maintained on personal devices or in personal or other accounts used to conduct Chapter business.

As stated previously, the National Society has reached no conclusion as to whether the Chapter or any individual member violated the National Bylaws or any National Society policy or rule. The purpose of the Request remains to obtain the facts necessary for the National Society to carry out its governance and oversight responsibilities. We appreciate the Chapter's prompt attention and cooperation in completing its response.

Sincerely,

Virginia Sebastian Storage

Ginnie Sebastian Storage
President General

Marguerite Logan Fritsch

Marguerite Fritsch
Organizing Secretary General

cc: Members of the Executive Committee
Texas State Regent

EXHIBIT K

DAR
Martha Laird Chapter
107 E. 11th Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

September 17, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Mrs. Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General
Mrs. Marguerite Fritsch, Organizing Secretary General
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
[redacted]

Ms. Storage and Ms. Fritsch,

The response transmitted to you from the Martha Laird Chapter on September 14, 2026, stated that the request was answered in full with the understanding that the minutes reflect all official chapter actions.

The requests made in your previous letters are beyond the scope of what the bylaws and/or handbook contemplate.

But, to dispel any speculation about official actions taken by the Martha Laird Chapter, we provided the meeting minutes from September 2024 through the present, at the chapter's discretion.

No other official action has been taken by the chapter other than what is reflected in the minutes.

To say there are no responsive records is to assume that your request is supported by applicable bylaw or policy.

Nonetheless, we attest that the marthalairdnsdar@gmail.com account is used solely for the purpose of official DAR business.

Your letter requests records sufficient to show whether resolutions, Chapter identities, contact information, or other information received through that account in connection with DAR governance activity were subsequently provided to or used in connection with Daughters Advocating for Restoration activities but does not expressly state the reason for this request or how this would be a potential violation of the bylaws or policy.

We can only assume that the request is made to determine if a violation has occurred.

Our chapter is operating in good faith and if there is a potential violation of a bylaw or policy, please expressly state the bylaw or policy so that we can assess our records to even know if there are any that are responsive.

In your letter dated August 31, 2026, you state that "[i]ndeed, the Bylaws expressly contemplate that chapter records may be provided to the National Society officers in connection with chapter administration."

The controlling word is "may" which indicates permission or possibility and not a requirement. It does not, by itself, impose a duty.

Further, the word "expressly" means that this would be stated directly in the bylaws and not merely implied.

Please expressly identify the provision of the National Bylaws that expressly contemplate that chapter records may be provided to the National Society officers in connection with chapter administration, and specifically as it relates to the chapter email account. Please confirm whether the request was authorized by the Executive Committee or by the National Board of Management. The Chapter asks because the National Bylaws prescribe specific chapter reporting obligations at Article XIII, Sections 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, and 18, and because Article XVI, Section 1 provides that records generated by a DAR body remain the property of that body.

Your letter reiterates that "the National Society's review is not directed at the views held by the Chapter or its members, nor does it question their ability to advocate for changes in National Society policy or the National Bylaws."

DAR
Martha Laird Chapter
107 E. 11th Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

We want to believe this but have documented reason to believe otherwise.

The Martha Laird chapter and other chapters across the nation who support restoration of the DAR as an organization for women (daughters), have been targeted.

This is not hyperbole.

As you both know, members of this chapter have filed an official grievance pursuant to Article XIX, Section 6 of the National Bylaws.

As part of this grievance, evidence was provided from state officers, using official DAR email accounts and letterhead, to admonish chapters not to endorse proposals to amend the national bylaws and/or adopt a resolution calling for a special meeting with the ultimate purpose of restoring the DAR to being an organization for women (daughters).

And, despite repeated reiterations that chapters "may express views, adopt resolutions, propose change, and exercise the rights available to them under the National Bylaws," and that members, groups of members, and outside organizations "may advocate for particular action, develop and circulate proposed resolution or bylaw language, provide information about DAR governance procedures, and encourage members or chapters to act," state regents and parliamentarians, who are to remain impartial, ***continue*** to interfere in chapter business by sending letters on official DAR letterhead and from official DAR email accounts that are filled with misinformation, half-truths, and that invoke Article XIX.

We also note that the past six emails from our chapter, inquiring as to when the President General will fulfill her duty to announce the call of a special meeting pursuant to Article VIII, Section 7 of the National Bylaws must have been overlooked.

Article VIII, Section 7of the NSDAR National Bylaws expressly states that:

"A special meeting also shall be called by the President General upon the written request of thirty or more chapters in at least ten states. Not less than thirty days' notice of a special meeting shall be given and only that business specified in the call may be transacted."

A special meeting (or a called meeting) is a separate session of a society held at a time different from that of any regular meeting, and convened only to consider one or more items of business specified in the call of the meeting. Notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting, clearly and specifically describing the subject matter of the motions or items of business to be brought up, must be sent to all members a reasonable number of days in advance." – RONR 9:13

The operative verb in Article VIII, Section 7 is "shall." The bylaws do not say the President General "may" call the meeting, do not condition the duty on her agreement with the subject matter, and do not condition it on the proximity of the next Continental Congress.

Ms. Storage, the Notice to Members dated April 21, 2026, indicates that sixty-eight chapters sent requests to you for the call of a special meeting.

Specifically stating:

"This resolution was the subject of a chapter request to the President General to call a special meeting of the

DAR
Martha Laird Chapter
107 E. 11th Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

National Society on October 11, 2026. Pursuant to the National Bylaws and applicable law and rules of order, and to allow for participation and consideration by the full voting membership while prudently stewarding the National Society's resources, this matter has been placed on the agenda as the Special Order of Business and will be taken up at the designated time during the 135th Continental Congress."

However, no National Bylaws and/or applicable law or rule was stated that granted authority to avoid calling the special meeting by adding the resolution to the agenda at the 135th Continental Congress.

We await either the National Bylaws and/or applicable law or rule that expressly grant authority to avoid calling the special meeting by adding the resolution to the agenda at the 135th Continental Congress or, the call of the special meeting.

In closing, it is the position of the Martha Laird Chapter to always act in good faith.

It is our intent to adhere to NSDAR bylaws and policies and that is our expectation of all state and national officers.

Where expressly stated in the NSDAR bylaws or policies, the Martha Laird Chapter is happy to and must comply.

Where not expressly stated in the NSDAR bylaws or policies, the Martha Laird Chapter reserves the right to continue to respond at the Chapter's discretion.

Sincerely,

Lani Hightower, Regent

Amanda Mongognia, Vice Regent

Deborah Freeman, Recording Secretary

Laura McDonald, Treasurer

Jammie Barker, Registrar

Connie Chartier, Chaplain

cc: Texas State Regent

DAR
Martha Laird Chapter
107 E. 11th Street
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

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Where expressly stated in the NSDAR bylaws or policies, the Martha Laird Chapter is happy to and must comply.

Where not expressly stated in the NSDAR bylaws or policies, the Martha Laird Chapter reserves the right to continue to respond at the Chapter's discretion.

Sincerely,

Lani Hightower, Regent

Signed via email
Amanda Mongognia, Vice Regent

Signed via email
Connie Chartier, Chaplain

Deborah Freeman, Recording Secretary

Laura McDonald, Treasurer

Signed via email
Jammie Barker, Registrar

Jane York, Historian

Pam McCunn, Historian

Signed via email
Elizabeth Fowler Daniel, Librarian

cc: Texas State Regent

EXHIBIT L

DAR
Daughters of the American Revolution

Organizing Secretary General
Marguerite Hogan Fritsch

October 10, 2026

Martha Laird Chapter, NSDAR (6071TX)
Lanette Hightower, Chapter Regent
[redacted]
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455

Dear Mrs. Hightower,

On October 10, 2026, at the meeting of the National Board of Management of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, a resolution passed by two-thirds majority vote to disband the Martha Laird Chapter, NSDAR. The actions of the Chapter have been found in violation of Article XIX, Section 4 of the Bylaws of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

All chapter members will be transferred to Member-at-Large. Each member will have until November 9, 2026, to transfer to another chapter, provided she is accepted by the other chapter. A request to transfer must be submitted on a Membership Change Form (OSG1002). All transfers must be submitted with the 2027 membership dues. All membership dues previously remitted to the chapter should be refunded to each chapter member.

The chapter must follow all the requirements in the National Bylaws, Texas Society Bylaws and Martha Laird Chapter Bylaws for chapter dissolution.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Hogan Fritsch

Marguerite Hogan Fritsch
Organizing Secretary General

cc: Susan Johnston, Texas State Regent
Amanda Mongognia, Chapter Vice Regent
Constance Chartier, Chapter Chaplain
Deborah Freeman, Chapter Recording Secretary
Laura McDonald, Chapter Treasurer/Historian
Jammie Barker, Chapter Registrar
Beth Daniel, Chapter Librarian

1776 D Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-5303 ★ 202-628-1776 ★ mfritsch@dar.org

EXHIBIT M

Outlook

Martha Laird Disbandment

From KATHY CRUSCO <[redacted]>
Date Sat 10/10/2026 2:38 PM
To [redacted]>
Cc [redacted]

Dear Ms. Hightower and Ms. McDonald,

I was made aware this afternoon of the disbandment of the Martha Laird Chapter. As State Treasurer and executive liaison to the VIS committee I am writing to inform you of next steps with respect to your chapter bank account and chapter websites and social media accounts.

You may ignore the Courtesy Reminder sent to Ms. McDonald this morning. Those dues are no longer due to the state.

1. All dues collected for 2027 should be refunded to the member that paid as soon as possible but no later than November 9, 2026.

2. A check for the balance of the funds in your chapter checking account should be made payable to TXDAR and remitted to me at [redacted] no later than November 9, 2026. These funds are not permitted to be allocated to members.

3. You will need to file a final 990N for your short year.

4. Your chapter website has been disabled by the state VIS committee.

5. All social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) should be deleted immediately.

Ms. White will be in touch on how to handle your chapter records.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best
Kathy

Celebrating 250 Years of America!

Kathy Crusco
Texas State Treasurer
[redacted]

Outlook

Re: Martha Laird Disbandment

From Libby White [redacted] >
Date Mon 10/12/2026 8:44 PM
To KATHY CRUSCO [redacted]
Cc [redacted]

Dear Ms. Hightower and Ms. McDonald,

Please work with your District VI Director, Ann Kuebler, to deliver any chapter property to the State Regent by November 9th.

Please review the following requirements regarding chapter property and procedures:

1. Chapter Property: Deliver items such as historical documents, flags, artifacts, and marketing materials (e.g., photo backdrops, parade banners, or vinyl banners with the DAR logo and chapter name).
2. Real Property: Any property or building owned by the chapter must be disposed of according to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which specifies that no funds shall inure to any member of the chapter.
3. Application Papers: Upon disbandment or dissolution, the chapter's copy of original Application papers and Supplemental papers must be delivered to the individual members. If a member cannot be located, her papers must be destroyed.
4. Records: Chapter minutes and all financial records must be sent to the State Regent or State Recording Secretary to become property of the state organization.
5. Pins: The Chapter Regent's pin and any other pins belonging to the chapter must be sent to the Office of the Organizing Secretary General.
6. IRS Filing: The Chapter Treasurer or Chapter Regent must file a final Form 990-N or 990 with the Internal Revenue Service by following the instructions on the IRS website: https://www.irs.gov/charities-nonprofits/termination-of-an-exempt-organization.

Please feel free to contact Ann or me if you have any questions.

Celebrating 250 years of America,

Libby White
State Organizing Secretary
Texas DAR
[redacted]

On Sat, Oct 10, 2026 at 2:38 PM KATHY CRUSCO [redacted] wrote:

Dear Ms. Hightower and Ms. McDonald,

I was made aware this afternoon of the disbandment of the Martha Laird Chapter. As State Treasurer and executive liaison to the VIS committee I am writing to inform you of next steps with respect to your chapter bank account and chapter websites and social media accounts.

You may ignore the Courtesy Reminder sent to Ms. McDonald this morning. Those dues are no longer due to the state.

1. All dues collected for 2027 should be refunded to the member that paid as soon as possible but no later than November 9, 2026.

2. A check for the balance of the funds in your chapter checking account should be made payable to TXDAR and remitted to me at [redacted] no later than November 9, 2026. These funds are not permitted to be allocated to members.

3. You will need to file a final 990N for your short year.

4. Your chapter website has been disabled by the state VIS committee.

5. All social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) should be deleted immediately.

Ms. White will be in touch on how to handle your chapter records.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best
Kathy

Celebrating 250 Years of America!

Kathy Crusco
Texas State Treasurer
[redacted]

EXHIBIT N

Ginnie Sebastian Storage
President General
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

October 12, 2026

Dear Members of the Martha Laird Chapter:

The October 10 notice advised you of the National Board of Management's decision to disband the Martha Laird Chapter and the administrative steps resulting from that decision. We want to provide additional context concerning the basis for the Board's action and clarify what it means for you as individual DAR members.

The Board's decision concerned the chapter as an institution. The Board found that chapter officers had used the chapter's name, leadership positions, communications, and governance processes to further the goals of a separate advocacy organization. The Board determined that it was this use of chapter authority and resources — not the views being advocated — that constituted conduct discrediting the National Society under Article XIX, Section 4.

The action was not based on the views held by individual chapter members concerning membership eligibility, support for proposed changes to the National Bylaws, or the right of members to advocate for changes in National Society governance.

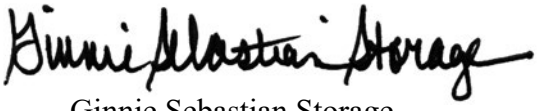
The Board acted after reviewing a factual record concerning the chapter's institutional role, including its use of official identity, officer positions, communications, and governance processes in connection with a separate advocacy organization, together with the chapter's responses to the National Society's requests for information in August and September. The Board concluded that this was chapter-level institutional conduct, not simply individual member advocacy.

The same standards would apply if a chapter used its official authority or resources in connection with any other separate advocacy organization, regardless of the viewpoint involved.

The disbandment of the chapter did not terminate or suspend your individual membership in the National Society. As explained in the October 10 notice, members have been transferred to member-at-large status and may transfer to another chapter in accordance with the applicable procedures. You also remain free to express your views and to pursue changes to the National Bylaws through DAR's established governance processes.

We recognize that the dissolution of a chapter is significant for its members and appreciate that this transition may raise questions. Our staff and the Texas Society leadership will assist any member who wishes to transfer to another chapter or has questions about her membership status.

Sincerely,



Ginnie Sebastian Storage
President General

EXHIBIT O

October 19, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Mrs. Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General
Mrs. Marguerite Fritsch, Organizing Secretary General
National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution
[redacted]

Mrs. Storage,

I am in receipt of your letters dated October 10, 2026 ("Disbandment Letter") and October 12, 2026 ("Storage Letter"). The decision by the National Board of Management to disband our 84 year old chapter is felt with profound sadness and grief. Our beloved Martha Laird chapter, community, and its history was rich and vibrant and we mourn for it. There are no words to describe what you have done to this body of good women who were only standing for truth. This is no less than a tragedy.

The women of Martha Laird have only ever endeavored with great care to hold the DAR in the highest esteem in true belief. *DAR is what Martha Laird is fighting for. DAR is what you are fighting for.* We are not and never will discredit the DAR, we are fighting for it.

Martha Laird never stood accused but was nonetheless pronounced guilty. We regret in the strongest possible terms that the Executive Committee did not provide Martha Laird the decency to a mount a proper defense of specific claims. To claim Martha Laird has discredited the very national organization we are fighting to save is self-defeating. In every one of our collective communications, we esteem the national organization and praise its foundations. There is not one thing any Martha Laird member has ever said against the national organization. We love our beloved DAR. To be clear, Martha Laird has criticized leadership, but this is altogether different than *discrediting the organization.*

If the substantive debate was to be over whether criticisms of national officers' ideologies constituted *discredit* of the national organization, i.e., the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, then Martha Laird would have provided vigorous arguments. Much less whether the conduct itself affected discredit, we would have argued the drafters of Article XIX Section 4 chose specific words to delineate the *organization* from individual national officers, which states:

> "Any chapter guilty of a violation of the rules of the National Society, or of action discrediting the **organization**, may be reprimanded, suspended or disbanded and the right to use its name and that of the Society revoked by the National Board of Management."

We fear the Board has conflated Martha Laird's criticisms of Leadership's ideology with criticisms of the Society as an institution and as the *organization*, as referenced in Article XIX Section 4. I hope we can mutually agree that Leadership is a custodian of the Society, for a time, and then it passes to another. I further hope we can intellectually agree that Leadership is not the Society, but it rather leads the Society. I cannot agree that the Society, or the national organization, was ever discredited by Martha Laird. If there was *discredit*, either by inadvertent use of phrasing, incorrect wording, or some other mistake, it was never Martha Laird's true intent or spirit. You must know this. Disbandment of our 84

year old chapter, with women who have served for over 60 years, was too severe. We appeal to your good nature to reverse this decision, which you have the power to do.

Alternatively, we ask you to share specific claims which Martha Laird can respond to, e.g., Martha Laird used its official email for "A" which constitutes discredit, or Martha Laird chapter officers signed letter "B" which constitutes discredit, or Martha Laird chapter officers coordinated "C" which constitutes discredit. Any of your claims can be answered in good faith with specificity as previously attested in the last letter you received from Martha Laird on September 17, 2026:

> "Our chapter is operating in good faith and if there is a potential violation of a bylaw or policy, please expressly state the bylaw or policy so that we can assess our records to even know if there are any that are responsive."

You and the Board have "a factual record concerning the chapter's institutional role, including its use of official identity, officer positions, communications, and governance processes in connection with a separate advocacy organization…". This factual record is unknown to us, and we cannot provide defenses unless we are aware of its contents. Since Martha Laird knows its own heart and true intentions, it could have provided defenses to each and every claim ostensibly derived from your factual record. It can still do so. We appeal to your sensibilities as a fellow DAR sister to know that Martha Laird has only ever acted to restore the DAR, not discredit it. To disband the chapter is excessive and severe.

By disbanding the chapter, the National Board of Management has disenfranchised members of the society who are in good standing. Forcing transfer to a new chapter will strip duly adopted delegates of their ability to participate in any special meeting that may occur within the next year and their ability to participate in the 136th Continental Congress. And perhaps, that is the motivation for the disbandment of the entire chapter.

We ask that the members of the DAR who are in good standing and are now former members of the Martha Laird chapter and who are also now categorized as Members at Large, be afforded the opportunity to be reinstated to the Martha Laird Chapter should they proceed in transferring to another chapter under the looming deadline of November 9th. Because members are not permitted to transfer more than once a year, we ask for a dispensation of this policy so that there are no barriers in proper chapter representation should the Board make the right decision to reinstate this historic chapter.

If you are unwilling to open a path to reconciliation or uninterested in reconsideration, then I will just repeat that the Martha Laird Chapter categorically denies each and every allegation the Board has made against it and can mount a vigorous defense. I will now address unresolved business matters for which I need guidance.

We understand yours and the Board's action constituted an immediate unilateral action under NSDAR Bylaws Article XIX, Section 4. As a result, no grace period was given for the Martha Laird chapter to settle the affairs of the chapter which is inextricably tied to the separate Texas legal entity. Normally, when a chapter disbands, or is otherwise dissolved, it is a voluntary action and thus, there is period of time given to the chapter's executive board, while still active and in legal standing with the entity, to vote and approve for specific asset and property distribution upon that dissolution.

However, in this case, the unilateral action and declaration by the Board to disband Martha Laird has immediately dissolved the chapter and moved all of its members to Members-at-large status with ostensibly no standing and no legal position in the Martha Laird chapter. It is possible Martha Laird is in limbo, but I am not sure as this appears to be a legal question. This is because Martha Laird's bylaws Article XIII Dissolution appears to tie the life of the Texas corporate entity directly to its status as a chapter, which states:

> "Upon dissolution of the chapter, assets shall be distributed by the **chapter executive board** to and only to the state organization of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the local United States District Court, exclusively to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated within the meaning of section 501(c)(3), with purposes and objectives consistent with those of the chapter".

There is no longer a "chapter executive board". If it is the case that now a United States District Court needs to determine the proper legal disposal due to the Boards unilateral and immediate action, please confirm that understanding and how we are to proceed, or else, provide a separate legal analysis.

Instead and preferably, please consider a path to reconciliation. It seems reasonable for all parties to reinstate back to status quo and allow Martha Laird to defend ourselves against specific allegations. We have and always will work professionally and vigorously to a resolution according to proper procedure and good faith dealings.

Lani Hightower

Lani Hightower, Past Regent of the Martha Laird Chapter

EXHIBIT P

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006–5303

October 27, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Mrs. Lani Hightower
Former Regent, Martha Laird Chapter
[redacted]

Dear Mrs. Hightower:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 19, 2026 (received on October 20) concerning the National Board of Management's October 10 decision to disband the Martha Laird Chapter pursuant to Article XIX, Section 4 of the National Bylaws.

The Board's decision remains in effect.

As previously explained, the Board's action was based on the chapter's institutional conduct, including the use of its official chapter name, officer positions, communications, and governance processes in connection with a separate advocacy organization. The decision was not based on the chapter's views concerning membership eligibility, its criticism of National Society leadership or policy, or its advocacy for changes to the National Bylaws. Members and chapters remain free to express their views and pursue changes through DAR's established governance processes.

The Board concluded that a DAR chapter may not use its institutional identity, authority, communications, and governance mechanisms as an operational vehicle for a separate advocacy organization, regardless of the viewpoint or objective involved.

The National Society also does not agree with the characterization in your letter that conduct directed at National Society leadership is necessarily distinct from conduct that may discredit the organization. Article XIX, Section 4 draws no such distinction. In any event, the factual record considered by the Board concerned the chapter's institutional conduct as a whole, not simply criticism of particular individuals.

The suggestion that the chapter was not afforded an opportunity to respond is also inconsistent with the record. Beginning in August, the National Society asked the chapter directly for information concerning the conduct under review, including the authorization and use of the chapter's official email account, the capacities in which chapter officers were acting, and the handling of official actions received from other chapters. At the chapter's request, additional time was provided, and the National Society subsequently identified specific questions and records that remained outstanding and afforded the chapter a further opportunity to supplement its response. The chapter provided certain information and records, but also challenged the National Society's authority to request other information and declined to provide significant portions of what had been requested.

The National Board of Management acted after considering the chapter's conduct, the materials before it, and the record developed through that process. Article XIX, Section 4 authorizes the National Board of Management to reprimand, suspend, or disband a chapter for violation of the rules of the National Society or action discrediting the organization. It does not establish a separate charging or hearing procedure for chapter action comparable to the procedure applicable to individual members under other provisions of Article XIX.

The disbandment did not terminate or suspend the individual DAR membership of former Martha Laird Chapter members. Those members remain eligible to transfer to another chapter in accordance with the National Bylaws and applicable procedures. The fact that disbandment may affect chapter representation or delegate status does not alter the Board's action or its basis. With respect to the separate Texas corporate entity, the National Board's action terminated Martha Laird's authority to operate or hold itself out as a chapter of the National Society. Separate corporate steps nevertheless remain necessary to wind up the entity's affairs. This winding-up process should also include promptly discontinuing, archiving, or appropriately modifying any website, social media account, email account, or other communication channel that identifies Martha Laird as an active chapter of the National Society or otherwise suggests that it continues to operate in that capacity.

Article XIII of the Martha Laird Chapter Bylaws provides that, when the chapter is dissolved or otherwise terminated, no portion of its property may be distributed to or inure to the benefit of any officer or member and that, upon dissolution, the chapter executive board is responsible for distributing the chapter's assets to and only to the Texas State Society.

Accordingly, the former chapter officers should take such actions as are necessary for the limited purpose of winding up the separate corporate entity, including addressing its records, accounts, liabilities, tax and regulatory obligations, and transferring any remaining assets to the Texas State Society in accordance with the governing documents and applicable law. The Texas State Regent is copied on this letter so that the Texas State Society may coordinate with you, as appropriate, regarding the transfer of those assets.

The National Board has considered and acted upon this matter, and the National Society does not intend to reopen the Board's determination through further correspondence.

Sincerely,

Ginnie Sebastian Storage
President General, NSDAR

Marguerite Fritsch
Organizing Secretary General

cc: Members of the Executive Committee
Texas State Regent

EXHIBIT Q

NON-AFFILIATION

The NSDAR has a long-standing policy and precedent of non-affiliation to protect the name and integrity of the National Society. This is necessary because of the variety of requests received, many of which have no bearing on historical preservation, educational, or patriotic work. In 1948, the 57th Continental Congress adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is being constantly requested to join or affiliate with an increasing number of other organizations in various projects; and

Whereas, Many of these organizations and projects are frequently at variance with the declared policies of this Society, as expressed by action of Continental Congresses; and

Whereas, The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is committed to a policy of non-affiliation with other organizations though cooperating with them when deemed advisable;

Resolved, That the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, call upon its National, State and Chapter groups and upon its individual members to consider thoughtfully, keeping in mind our policies, all proposals placed before them by such groups and to avoid use of the name of our Society in connection with membership in other organizations except with the consent of the Society.

The following statement was made in April 1955 by Sarah Corbin Robert, then Parliamentarian:

"As I understand it, cooperate means to join in efforts in which others participate but retaining at all times your complete freedom of action to assist or not to assist, as you may wish; whereas affiliate means that you become a part of a united group and by that affiliation your freedom of action as an individual organization may be somewhat controlled by the action of the other organizations."

Chapters may cooperate with discretion in the promotion of projects compatible with NSDAR objectives. This includes but is not limited to Sons of the American Revolution and other like-minded lineage societies. If there is any question, National Headquarters should be contacted before proceeding.

POLITICAL NON-AFFILIATION

As public charities, the National Society, each state organization, and each DAR chapter are prohibited from engaging either directly or indirectly

in partisan political activity. Internal Revenue Service regulations, however, do permit public charities, like DAR, to engage in voter education activities provided they are conducted in a nonpartisan manner.

The National Society is nonpolitical. It maintains no lobby at national, state or local government levels; contributes to no political party nor to candidates in any way; initiates no legislation; and does not have a legislative chair. The DAR is interested in preserving and maintaining our constitutional republic and urges its members, as good American citizens, to be informed and to vote.

Each member, chapter and state society must refrain from any activity performed in the name of the DAR, which might be construed as political. Such activities are prohibited.

OFFICIAL INSIGNIA

By a February 1, 1940, ruling of the National Board of Management, the use of the DAR Insignia by states and chapters is restricted to yearbooks, official stationery, programs and uses required by the work of the Society. The Insignia is the property of the National Society and cannot be used for commercial purposes or as an ornament. Insignia usage questions should be directed to the Insignia Committee National Chair.

The Executive Committee must authorize any other use of the Insignia. See also Chapter XIII.

OFFICIAL LOGO

The official logo for the National Society was adopted by the National Board of Management to be used for public relations and other corporate applications where the use of the NSDAR Insignia is prohibited. Questions about usage of the official logo should be directed to the NSDAR Public Relations Office. To download an electronic copy of the logo, go to the DAR Members' Website, Member Resources/DAR Logos and Branding/Logo Variations. The logo is registered as a trademark of NSDAR.

REMITTANCES TO NATIONAL

All checks sent to the National Society, for any purpose, should be made payable to the Treasurer General, NSDAR. Contact the appropriate office or refer to the DAR Members' Website to confirm the proper amount and office to which each remittance is to be mailed.