



# NSCDA- West Virginia THE LINK NEWSLETTER

Sandy Smith – Editor

Summer 2023

## President Dixie Wilson's Message



Dear Ladies,

Congratulations to you!

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as President of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of West Virginia for the last two years.

We have made remarkable contributions to our Corporate Society and community. We are to be commended for our success and diligent work.

Some of the highlights of our accomplishments these last two years include:

1. Re-stating our By-Laws
2. Sponsoring our extraordinary Mark Twain Fundraiser. It was a collaborative effort with the WV Dames, West Virginia State University, West Virginia State University Foundation, and Jobs for West Virginia Graduates. The Fundraiser resulted in our West Virginia Dames receiving the prestigious Clarinda Pendleton Lamar Award for Excellence. The Lamar Award was created by NSCDA in 2014 to identify and celebrate exceptional projects at a state level.
3. We are proud of Lynn Goldsmith who was elected National Registrar of NSCDA, as well as a NSCDA Board Member. Congratulations to Lynn!
4. The revitalization of the Parade of Flags Program.
5. The development and implementation of the Oral History of the Veterans Project.

6. The West Virginia Dames were awarded the Great American Treasures Museum Alliance Grant for the restoration of the rear gallery porch at the Craik-Patton House. The grant was for \$12,500.

7. Katherine Cammack, President of NSCDA, was our guest speaker at the West Virginia Dames Semi-Annual Meeting in November 2022.

8. Dede Arbogast received the prestigious Roll of Honor Award in 2022 at our May Annual Meeting. Ginny George received the Roll of Honor Award at our May 2023 Annual Meeting.

9. The ownership of the Craik-Patton House was determined with the development of the Memorandum of Understanding, which is attached to the Deed of the Craik-Patton House.

I look forward to the next two years working with each of you. Your continued support is essential to our overall success.

Our plans for the next two years will be developing a Strategic Plan, incorporating the new organizational structure of NSCDA, as well as the By-Law changes, increasing our membership, preparing for our 125th Anniversary of NSCDA-West Virginia in 2025, preparing for the 250th Anniversary of our Nation in 2026, continuing to work closely with Craik-Patton, Inc., and Craik-Patton House Foundation, Inc. and continuing to work with our members and friends in supporting our Mission Statement of promoting our National heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service, and educational programs.

Best Wishes!

Dixie Wilson  
President, NSCDA-West Virginia

## Cocktail Buffet at the Lovely Home of Mr. and Mrs. Flick Goldsmith

It was a beautiful evening! Lynn and Flick's party at their attractive home was enjoyable and very appreciated.



Lynn and Flick Goldsmith hosted a terrific party for the board. We appreciate all they do for NSCDA and NSCDA-WV.



Joe and Cathy Rice. Cathy serves on the board of NSCDA-WV and recently chaired the Membership Committee.



Wallace and Cindy Taylor will be hosting the Sept. 21 Craik-Patton, Inc. Annual Cocktail Event in their beautiful home.



Max and Sarah Davee. Sarah is the daughter of Georganna Francke and serves on the board of NSCDA-WV.



Pat and Chuck Moyers. Pat is President of Craik-Patton, Inc., and serves on the board of NSCDA-WV.



Guus Lobach and Gail Pitchford. Gail is President of Craik-Patton House Foundation, Inc.



## NSCDA-WV Annual Meeting, May 10, 2023

They came from near and far to attend our annual meeting at Berry Hills Country Club.



Rebecca Heath Francke and Anne Ray Silbernagel live in Charleston. Anne is the new Regent of Gunston Hall.



Gale Rubrecht and Kathy McCullough live in Charleston. Gale serves on the NSCDA-WV board and Kathy is C-P's Treasurer.



Betty Scott Ireland and Gail Pitchford live in Charleston. Betty Scott is NSCDA-WV Treasurer and Bylaws chair. Gail is President of Craik Patton House Foundation, Inc.



NSCDA-WV member Cathy Price is from South Charleston. Candidate Samantha Hageboeck lives in Charleston.



Dale Walter lives in Shepherdstown, WV and new member Melanie Van Metre lives in Charleston. Dale is finishing her five-year term as Regent of Gunston Hall.



Judy Hanlen and Lucinda Taylor live in Charleston. Judy is on the board of Craik-Patton, Inc. Lucinda is the chair of the Parade of Flags Committee. Betsy Wilson and Joline Osborn live in Huntington, and both serve on the NSCDA-WV board.

## NSCDA-WV Past President Mary Hodges Passed Away



Mary Henderson Hodges, age 90, died April 6, 2023, at hospice in Huntington, West Virginia. Mary was preceded in death by her husband and best friend, Churchill Hodges.

Mary and her husband J. Churchill Hodges generously supported Cabell Huntington Hospital, Marshall University, and the Huntington Museum

of Art. The Mary H. Hodges Joint Replacement Center of Cabell Huntington Hospital was named for Mary. For years Mary served on the Huntington Museum of Art's Board of Trustees where she chaired the Membership Campaign. She organized the Huntington Museum of Art receptions, hosted gatherings in her home, sponsored exhibits, and actively planned the museum's largest annual fundraiser, the Museum Ball. She was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Colonial Dames, DAR, Woman's Club of Huntington, Friends of Hospice of Huntington, and the Huntington Museum of Art.

Mary was an asset to the West Virginia Dames. She started serving on the NSCDA-WV Board of Managers in 1984 and faithfully attended board meetings until she became ill in 2023. Mary was active with Cabell County Town Committee, she represented the WV Dames at Sulgrave Manor, was Parliamentarian, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and President of NSCDA-WV, and chaired numerous committees. As chair of Historical Activities, she created "Ladies Home Companion" for school tours and served on the board of Craik-Patton, Inc. for several years.

## Kanawha County Town Committee



Co-Chair Madeline George Gibbons reported that the committee met in December for a social gathering at her home.

The Kanawha County Town Committee hopes to plan a gathering one evening in late summer or early fall. Details will be forthcoming!

## Cabell County Town Committee



Betsy Wilson, Cabell County Town Committee Chair reported that the Cabell County Dames went back to school at their June 21st meeting.

That school was the one-room Union School House located on the Marshall University campus. Dr. Neil Arneson, retired Marshall University Social Studies

Professor and current manager of the one-room schoolhouse took us back in time with a living history presentation. The Union School House was built in 1889 and was once located on the Cabell-Mason County line.



Following the presentation, the Dames walked to the Marshall Student Union for lunch.

## Greenbrier County Town Committee



Sue McKinney reported that the Greenbrier County Dames gathered at the newly renovated School House Hotel in White Sulphur Springs for a spring meeting. The hotel tour was followed by lunch and a photo at the hotel. See the photo on the next page. We will meet again in the fall.





### Greenbrier County Town Committee Photo

Priscilla Lawson sent the above photo of the Greenbrier County Town Committee's June meeting. Those in the photo are Sue McKinney, Kit Wellford, Barbara Tuckwiller, Kathy Becker, Priscilla Lawson, and Lynn Brody.

### Mercer County Town Committee



Co-Chair of Mercer County Town Committee Becky Steorts reported that the Mercer County Dames continue to emphasize that a new member learn about her (ROA) ancestor who first entered America and served with distinction in service to our country. At our Fincastle September meeting, each Dame will provide a summary

of their ancestor's life.

In April 2023, Mercer Dames awarded two Louisa Sowers History Scholarships to history students MacKenzie Franklin and Shawn Johnson. Mercer Dames thank WV Dames for their memorial contributions in honor of past president Louisa Sowers.

In June, Mercer Dames attended the Appalachian Artist Association's spring art show at Paine Gallery in the Bluefield Arts Center.

Mercer Dames sent condolence cards and food gifts to Mrs. John Kersey (Delia) after the July 8 death of her husband John. Delia and John had been married for 62 years. Delia was recognized two years ago as a 50-year Dames member.

Below is a photo of Mary Graf and Elizabeth Sudduth.



Mary Thompson Graf is NSCDA-WV's newest member; Elizabeth Sudduth, with the Trust Department at Summit Community Bank located in Bluefield, has mailed her Dames membership application to Registrar Jill Stevens.

Below is a photo of baby Caroline with her mother Carlie Graf.



Carlie is one of NSCDA-WV's newest members. Carlie said: "I am very proud to be a Colonial. Dame. Former Registrar Lynn Goldsmith did research on my ancestry. I became very thankful when I learned that my ROA ancestor, Joshua Storrs, came to America from Yorkshire, England. His family established Helmsley Hall in a suburb of Richmond, VA and served in city gov."

The Mercer County Town Committee will host a shower for Miss Caroline in September at a luncheon meeting at the home of Rebecca Steorts. The officers Cindy Gillespie and Sheila Harris will present Miss Caroline with a silver engraved drinking cup. Miss Caroline's mom, Carlie, is looking forward to hosting a Mercer Dames meeting at their home in the future

## NSCDA-WV's Roll of Honor Recipient, Ginny George



Virginia Gussler George became a member of NSCDA-WV in 2011. In 2013 Ginny was elected Treasurer. As Treasurer, she served on the board of NSCDA-WV and NSCDA-WV's Executive Committee for five years.

In 2020 Ginny joined the board at Sulgrave Manor where she continues to serve as Associate Trustee of Sulgrave Manor.

In 2023 the Executive Committee of NSCDA-WV voted unanimously to elect the Roll of Honor Committee's worthy and distinguished nominee Virginia Gussler George to be the recipient of NSCDA's National Roll of Honor. Ginny's name will be placed in the National Roll of Honor Book at the 2024 Biennial Council Meeting.

## NSCDA Registrar Lynn Goldsmith's Report



At the 2023 NSCDA-WV Annual Meeting, NSCDA Registrar Lynn Goldsmith reported that NSCDA has created two challenges for our NSCDA Societies.

The first challenge is to search for 250 of our extraordinary female ancestors by 2025. Lynn urged us to look through our family history for females that seemed to

be ahead of their time. We will be searching for those women that made a difference and were extraordinary.

The second challenge created by NSCDA is a \$5,000 incentive for the two exceptional Societies who generate the greatest *number* of new members and the highest *percentage* of new members between 2022 and 2024.

## NSCDA-WV 2023-24 Executive Committee



Members of the NSCDA-WV 2023-24 Executive Committee are: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Betsy Wilson, President Dixie Wilson, Treasurer Betty Scott Ireland, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Virginia King, Recording Secretary Georganna Francke, and Historian Lynn Cvechko. Corresponding Secretary Elizabeth Castle and Registrar Jill Stevens are not in the photograph.



## **NSCDA-WV's Annual Campaign Donations as of June 1, 2023**

Sally Benton

Anne Silbernagel

Elizabeth Stultz

Ditsy Keightley

Ginny George

Dixie Wilson

DeDe Arbogast

Sue McKinney

Helen Webb

Barbara Tuckwiller

Charlotte Gardner

Stuart Smith

Ann Harkins

Mary Liz Emmons

Micky St. Clair

Cathy Hart Price

Anne Roberts

Betsy Wilson

Ginny Mairs

Karen Morrison

Virginia King

Nancy Robertson

Lynn Cvechko

Karen Miller

Jessica Graney

Cynthia Chilton Barrett

Elizabeth Adams

Betty S. Ireland

Kit Wellford

Priscilla Lawson

Linda Howard

Julie Haynes

Patricia Wilkinson

Ann Czermer

Lynn Goldsmith

## **NSCDA-WV's Friends of Dumbarton House Donations as of June 1, 2023**

DeArmond L. Arbogast

Katharine B. Becker

Elizabeth S. Castle

Katherine L. Clovis

Ann A. Czermer

Diane C. Doty

Mary E. Eckerson

Mary E. Emmons

Joyce S. Ey

Holmes Flint

Georganna J. Francke

Charlotte A. Gardner

Virginia G. George

Lucinda L. Gillespie

Margaret L. Goldsmith

Jessica S. Graney

Dixie R. Gussler

Jane R. Halpin

Ann K. Harkins

Julie D. Haynes

Mary H. Hodges

Linda M. Howard

Betty S. Ireland

Elizabeth D. Keightley

Lynn H. Keith

Virginia L. King

Priscilla P. Lawson

Virginia V. Mairs

Carolyn J. McClelland

Catherine T. McKinney

Carol D. Miller

Karen H. Miller

Karen L. Morrison

Marsha A. Moses

Patricia M. Moyers

NSCDA-WV

NSCDA-WV, Cabell County TC

Joline N. Osborn

Elana G. Pitchford

Sue C. Powell

Jane H. Ray

Mary C. Rice

Anne E. Roberts

Gale L. Rubrecht

Anne R. Silbernagel

Lisa L. Smith

Stuart L. Smith

Doris A. St. Clair

Rebecca W. Steorts

Jill B. Stevens

Barbara H. Tuckwiller

Dale D. Walter

Katherine F. Wellford

Michelle H. White

Dixie H. Wilson

Betsy H. Wilson

Mary W. Wiseman

## **NSCDA-WV's Friends of Gunston Hall Donations as of June 1, 2023**

Linda Carr

Elizabeth Chilton

Lynn Goldsmith

Linda Howard

Virginia King

Elizabeth Keightley

Sue McKinney

Carol Miller

Karen Miller

Mary Catherine Rice

Gale Rubrecht

Barbara Tuckwiller

Dale Walter

Kit Wellford

Patricia Wilkinson

Betsy Wilson

Dixie Wilson

Cabell County Town Committee

NSCDA-WV

### **Gunston Hall Foundation**

Sue McKinney

Tia McMillan

## **NSCDA-WV's Friends of Sulgrave Manor Donations as of June 1, 2023**

Elizabeth Castle

Katherine Clovis

Charlotte Gardner

Virginia Gussler George

Lynn Goldsmith

Jessica Graney

Rosaline Grenfell

Dixie Gussler

Ann Harkins

Elizabeth Keightley

Anne Silbernagel

Doris St. Clair

Becky Steorts

Barbara Tuckwiller

Katherine Wellford

NSCDA-WV

Anne Roberts

Gale Lea Rubrecht

Ellen Setliff

Robin Gussler Webb

Michelle White

Cabell County Town Committee

Kathy Becker

Betty Chilton

Mary Liz Emmons

Joyce Ey

Holmes Flint

Jane Halpin

Virginia King

Karen Miller

Carol Miller

Linda Howard

Priscilla Lawson

Ann Czermer

## Registrar's Report

Jill Stevens



As of July 15, 2023, we have  
**193 members!**

6 New  
0 Reinstatements  
0 Transfers In  
0 Transfers Out  
0 Resignations  
2 Deaths  
0 Dropped

### We welcome our six new members:

Mrs. Michael David Abernethy (Alice Anne Gay)  
Mrs. Cheryl Alexander Brown (Cheryl Alexander)  
Mrs. Patrick Thomas Corbett (Megan Elizabeth Moyer)  
Mrs. Johnsey Leef III (Margaret Gillmore McCleod)  
Mrs. Edward Lewis Van Metre (Melanie Minyard)  
Mrs. Thomas Edward Gentry Spears (Sayde Elizabeth Daniels)

### We are saddened by the death of two members:

Mrs. J. Churchill Hodges (Mary Frances Henderson)  
Mrs. Leonard Sargeant III (Alice Lee Carter)

## Craik-Patton, Inc. Report

Pat Moyers, President



Craik-Patton House was part of Charleston's FestiVALL event June 15-17. About 75 people attended the three-day event which included information about early textiles from quiltmaker Roberta Farmer and early sampler expert Vera Grimsley. We also had two men demonstrate the spinning of wool into yarn. Punch from a silver punch bowl and cookies were served on the front porch.

**The Craik-Patton, Inc. Annual Cocktail Event** will be held on September 21 at the home of Wallace and Cindy Taylor. The Taylors have recently moved to Charleston and have made lovely renovations to their beautiful home. Watch for an invitation for this evening--you won't want to miss this fun time.

**The Craik-Patton, Inc. Friends Picnic** is scheduled for October 14 on the grounds of the Museum House. Along with food and music, an historic interpretation of Abigail Adams will take place. If you have not already signed up to be a Friend, you will want to do so right away by contacting the Craik-Patton Office—304-925-5141. A great time is promised.

## 2023 NSCDA-WV Calendar of Events

June 14	Executive Committee Meeting.	C-P House	10 AM
July 12	Board of Managers Meeting.	C-P House	10 AM
Aug. 9	Executive Committee Meeting.	C-P House	10 AM
Sept. 13	Board of Managers Meeting.	C-P House	10 AM
Sept. 21	Craik-Patton Cocktail Party		
Oct. 11	Executive Committee Meeting.	C-P House	10 AM
Oct. 14	Friends of Craik-Patton Picnic.	C-P House	
Oct. 20-22	National Board Meeting.	St. Louis, Missouri	
Nov. 8	Semiannual Meeting.	Edgewood	10 AM
Dec. 2-3	Craik-Patton Christmas Open House		

## 2024 NSCDA-WV Calendar of Events

Jan. 10	Executive Committee Meeting.	C-P House	10 AM
Feb. 14	Board of Managers Meeting.	C-P House	10 AM
Mar. 13	Membership Luncheon, Greenbrier County Dames		
Apr. 10	Executive Committee Meeting		
May 8	NSCDA-WV Annual Meeting.	Berry Hills	9 :30 AM
	Craik-Patton, Inc. Annual Meeting		
	Craik-Patton House Foundation, Inc.		

## Cabell County Dames Have Located Two NSCDA-WV Historical Markers



While doing research for a scholarship presentation at Marshall University, Betsy Wilson discovered interesting information in a pamphlet. The information was written by Francis D. Calley in 1979 and it said that in 1921 eighteen members of the NSCDA-WV Cabell County Town Committee purchased Lot #1 in Memorial Park for \$30. At that location a huge

boulder was delivered from the New River. It was rounded, polished, and a bronze plaque was added to honor the Cabell County heroes that lost their lives in World War I. Mary Liz Emmons confirmed that the historical marker was near the Memorial Arch at the west end past Ritter Park. Betsy located the boulder with the historical plaque and photographed it.



Dixie Wilson's husband Dick located and photographed one of our historical markers in Point Pleasant. The Colonial Dames placed the plaque there to commemorate the French's claim to the Ohio River and the Ohio Valley

It is believed the Dames placed seven or more historical markers in various locations in West Virginia. The Historical Activities Committee will be working to locate all of them.