

A Newcomer's Guide to State Conference

Or

What I forgot since the last time I attended conference!

The ASDAR is thrilled to welcome new/newer active Members to State Conference!

Following are some frequently asked questions by newcomers.

What is State Conference and how do I find out the information?

Every Spring, the Arkansas State Society meets to report and celebrate the activities and accomplishments of the chapters and committees. In February "The Call to Conference" is made available to the Board of Management including your chapter regent, who shares it with the chapter members. It includes information about the different events and the cost, as well as the special nightly room rate at the designated hotel. Be sure to observe all deadlines listed on the registration forms. The forms are also available on the ASDAR State website <http://members.arkansas-dar.org> under the ASDAR State Conference tab.

What part can I play in a State Conference?

Attend the meetings and meals to learn more about the DAR. Each state officer and state chairman will give a report about the activities of her office or committee and each chapter regent will report about the activities of her chapter. Many of these reports include recognizing chapters for outstanding work within the committees.

What do I need to know about the meetings at the conference?

There is a part of the business meetings, especially the Opening Night session, that is very special. As that event begins, the members of the Executive Board, visiting dignitaries, Board of Consultants, NSDAR dignitaries and finally the State Regent enter the room with the members and guests standing and applauding to recognize the accomplishments of these members of the Board of Management and guests. When the State Regent arrives at the podium, she welcomes everyone in attendance, and leads the group in the opening exercises. She will then ask everyone to be seated. Most of what we recite should be quite familiar, as these are usually included in the chapter meeting opening ritual. All of the things that we recite are located in the program if you are not familiar with them.

There are also opening rituals for the meal functions. The salad is often already on the table upon arriving. **It is expected that no one picks up her fork to eat until the State Regent (presiding officer) has picked up her fork.** After the salad is cleared, it is also polite not to begin eating the main course until everyone at your table is served. You cannot attend the meal function just to hear the speaker or the entertainment. You must have a meal ticket to attend. HODARs (Husbands of Daughters of the American Revolution) are invited to purchase a ticket to attend the meal functions, the entertainment or speaker. They cannot attend any of the business sessions.

Every chapter has a number of delegates who vote on the chapter's behalf. Get involved and get elected as a delegate. The best way to learn about DAR is to have the responsibility of making decisions that better the organization. As a delegate you may ask questions about an issue. To do so, stand and wait to be recognized by the State Regent. When recognized, address the State Regent ("Madame State Regent"), state your name and your chapter name and then your question. Never be embarrassed to ask a question. We all learn from them. Every registered attendee will receive a name badge. If you are a delegate, there will be a blue dot on your name badge. Only delegates may address the chair or vote on an issue.

Do not to move around the room when someone is speaking (i.e. the State Regent, a speaker, or someone giving a report). Move (including entering or leaving the room) between speakers. Attempt to make any of your movements only in the outside aisles, not down the center aisle. A page is usually stationed at the door to let you know when it is okay to come and go. Please be respectful to that page as this is her job.

I heard someone mention DAR Pins, when is it proper to wear them?

State Conference is the perfect place to wear your pins. Wear them only to conference sessions; remove them or cover them with a scarf if going outside or eating in a restaurant. Remember that the insignia should not be worn on the street, in a restaurant, or a cocktail lounge. Wearing your pins should be limited to places where a DAR function is taking place or you are representing the DAR. Wear the insignia pin with attire appropriate for DAR occasions. This attire includes suits (skirted or pants), dresses, or pants with a jacket. The insignia pin should be worn over the left breast and only by active members. No other jewelry is to be worn on the left side when wearing the insignia pin, with the exception of a flag pin, which is worn on the left lapel.

What kind of clothes do I need to bring?

You should dress appropriately for the climate and the dignity of the occasion. Business-casual is recommended for the daytime sessions. **More formal or cocktail attire is recommended for the night sessions (i.e. long or tea-length dresses or appropriately formal pantsuits).** Many members also bring a pair of white gloves for the teas, evening sessions, and for going through a receiving line. Hats are worn by some at the Memorial Service although it is not required. Shoes should be comfortable. Since many members spend time visiting after evening functions, bring some comfortable clothes, too.

What else do I need to bring?

A suggested packing list:

- evening wear for two nights (it is perfectly acceptable to wear the same formal attire for both nights, or add a different jacket to change it up a bit)
- business or business-casual attire for three days
- money for meals not included in your registration
- comfortable clothes to wear after the evening activities
- jacket/sweater/wrap for the meeting room (it can be cold)
- white gloves (if you are a page, or if you wish to go through the receiving line)
- hat for the Memorial Service (optional)
- camera (There is a hired photographer who will be selling prints of the photographs taken each day if you'd rather buy them)
- notebook and pen to take notes during the meeting

- DAR Insignia and other fun pins to wear on the right side opposite your DAR insignia
- spending money for shopping in the DAR Boutique and or from the Junior Shop-including those white gloves for the Memorial Service and the receiving line, DAR note pads, jewelry, etc!
- a tote bag for all of the goodies you will acquire, or you can buy one at the conference