



## Virgin Valley Chapter E-Newsletter

### Chapter Officers 2024

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**Pending  
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**Next Chapter Meeting**  
**January 13, 2024**  
**Women's Center**



### Regent's Message

#### Happy New Year to Everyone!!

A new year is here and time to make our New Year resolutions. My resolution is to give support to all members who want to work on projects for the coming year, become more informed by completing the DAR classes, and to assist all DAR "prospectives" to become members of our organization. Even though my term as Regent is ending this coming summer/fall, I am still responsible for keeping up with all Regent requirements which I will do until the "wand" is passed on. Thank you all for your support during these last two years and putting up with someone who had no idea what "I" was doing.

The Chapter Master Report is an annual report of our chapter achievements, and our chapter receives points for these accomplishments. When our Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs share in the responsibility with the membership, the entire chapter benefits. For the coming 2024 year, my hope is to have each officer and committee chair assist the Chapter Regent in completing this report. This will help in bringing us together with a sense of gratitude and accomplishment.

This year, as approved at our last meeting, we will be supporting our Community Classroom Committee, Chairman: Ruth Dickie, by providing our local Mesquite Christian Academy with programs to promote patriotism, educate them about our American flag, give recognition to the teachers for their dedication for educating our youth, as well as assisting with other programs. This past year the children were very responsive to our assistance. We will be sending emails, during the school year, informing the chapter of upcoming events. If you would like to participate, please email Ruth Dickie at [rmdickie.rd@gmail.com](mailto:rmdickie.rd@gmail.com).

**Our first meeting of the year is going to be January 13<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, at 10:00 AM to 12 Noon. Please attend if possible so we have a quorum of votes. Please let me know if there is anything you would like to have put on our agenda no later than January 10<sup>th</sup> by emailing me at [vickijclift@gmail.com](mailto:vickijclift@gmail.com).**

We will be reviewing the committees and the committee requirements. Setting up Nominating Committee, if needed, and an Auditing Committee to audit the treasurer's documentation for verification. Election of chapter officers should be held no later than March regardless of month in which these officers are installed. *See Committee information below.*

Thank you so much for everyone's support in assisting our chapter to continue to make strides toward our DAR mission to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism.

**In DAR Friendship,  
Vicki Clift, Regent**

### COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN

We will be looking at the committees at our next meeting. We need to discuss what we want to do with the other committees listed that currently are in limbo, and for Genealogical Records and Lineage Research.

**American Heritage:** Chairman: Sandy Ball

**America 250:** Chairman: Leigh Roessner

Co-chairman: Vicki Clift

**Community Classroom:** Chairman: Ruth Dickie

Co-chairman: Sandy Ball

**Constitution Week:** Chairman: Ruth Dickie

Co-chairman: Sandy Ball

Assisting As Needed: Vicki Clift

**DAR Good Citizens:** Chairman: Amy Bradshaw

Co-chairman: Cindy Conti

**DAR Museum Outreach:** *To Be Determined at a later Date*

**DAR Service for Veterans:** Chairman: Ruth Dickie

Co-chairman: Cindy Conti

**Historic Preservation National Defense:** *To Be Determined at a later Date*

**Service to America:** Chairman: Sandy Ball

**The Flag of the United States of America:** Chairman: Amy Bradshaw

**Women's Issues:** Chairman: Elaine Rebele

Co-chairman: Laura Johnson

**Genealogical Records:** *(Possible Candy)*

**Lineage Research:** *(Possible Candy)*

**Protocol:** Chairman: Leigh Roessner

Co-chairman: Vicki Clift

**Public Relations & Media:** Chairman: Amy Bradshaw

Co-chairman: Ruth Dickie



## 2024 Meeting Schedule

During our last meeting, we took a vote, and the decision was unanimous to have monthly meetings starting with January. A schedule has been set up and dates have been set with the Women's Center as follows:

**All dates will be a Saturday at 10:00 AM to 12 Noon**

January 13th  
February 10th  
March 9th  
April 13th  
May 11th  
June 8th  
July No Date  
August No Date  
September 14th  
October 12th  
November 9th  
December 14th



Meeting monthly will hopefully reduce the time frame to one hour, plus or minus.

The first meeting of the year is considered our annual meeting, so there will be some important matters to discuss. I hope you all will be able to come to our meeting.

**Upcoming Events:** Please attend if you can:

Our next "Vets Chat" will be January 17<sup>th</sup> at Mesa Valley Estates at 10:30 AM. Please let Ruth know if you will be attending by emailing her at [rm dickie.rd@gmail.com](mailto:rm dickie.rd@gmail.com).

Lawyer's meeting with Amy Bradshaw and myself regarding incorporating our chapter as a nonprofit organization. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome. Meeting is set for January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the offices of Barney McKenna & Olmstead located at 590 West Mesquite Blvd, Suite 202A, Mesquite, NV above the America First Credit Union. If you are interested in attending, please let Vicki Clift know by emailing her at [vickijclift@gmail.com](mailto:vickijclift@gmail.com).

Nancy Blanco, our Recording Secretary, will be collecting any information for future events to report to the editor of the Nevada State Newsletter. If you have anything to report for our chapter for this newsletter, please email Nancy at: [nancy.e.blanco@att.net](mailto:nancy.e.blanco@att.net)

Please remember to keep collecting coupons for our military and bring them to our meeting so Karen Peck can forward to our organization.

Also, if you have any change you are collecting for our chapter, please bring that to our next meeting. We will have a box for you to put them in for Elaine, our treasurer.

**Thank you all for all your support for these projects.**



## Unbreakable: Recollections from a Navajo Code Talker

*By Kim E. Kimmy Regent, Ann Washington Chapter, Mount Vernon, Washington*

In 2016, the author and her husband were on a cross country car trip and ended up in Kayenta, Arizona, at the just right time to listen to a former Marine named Peter MacDonald, Sr., tell his story...

MacDonald, at left, was a Navajo code talker. The code talkers included Native Americans from over 30 tribes, and the Navajo -numbering over 400-- are the best known. Used almost exclusively by the Marine Corps in World War II, their encrypted code, which was never cracked by the enemy, helped the United

States win its way across the Pacific front from 1942 to 1945. Historians agree that the Navajo code talkers helped expedite the end of World War II and undoubtedly saved thousands of Americans from death in the Pacific, particularly on Iwo Jima.

Peter MacDonald is now 94, the youngest of the three remaining Navajo code talkers. His presentation began with a discussion about a civil engineer named Phillip Johnston who contacted a Marine Signal Corps officer (a major) after Pearl Harbor with an idea to use Navajos to create a code. Johnston was a 4-year old when his parents established a mission on Navajo land, and he learned to speak what he called "Trader Navajo." Navajo is a difficult language to pronounce as well as to learn. It includes unique sounds that involve different muscles, uses basic Subject-Object-Verb word order though flexible and irregular at a complex level and is based solely on sound. Johnston noted that it is nearly impossible to master complex Navajo unless you are born into it.

The major presented the idea to a colonel, who thought it was a hair-brained idea. But... time after time the Japanese were breaking the Americans' codes, and the military personnel were getting "clobbered."

The colonel finally relented and gave permission to recruit Navajos ... but with the firm orders that the Navajos were not to be told why. They would be asked if they'd like to fight for America, and if they made it through boot camp and combat training, then they would be informed of their secret mission. A sergeant went to the Navajo reservation to recruit 30 volunteers between the ages of 17 and 32 to fight for the United States. He explained they would be sent to boot camp, warning that it would be tough, and 29 volunteers signed up.

When they arrived at boot camp, 1,200 miles away in San Diego, they saw the ocean for the first time. They were even more surprised to see that they each got a bed, and learned what a pillow was. On top of that, they discovered that food would be provided to them, and three times a day. They didn't have to hunt it, clean it, or prepare their food. MacDonald commented that boot camp was like a resort to the Navajo Marine recruits.

To read more from the National Defender go to: <https://www.dar.org/> and sign in with your member ID – There you will see a box on the right hand side with the link to the National Defender.

## President General's Message – Pamela Rouse Wright

Dear Daughters,

As we ring in the new year, we wish each of you health and happiness and are eager to ***Celebrate Stars & Stripes Forever!*** with you in 2024. We are now just two years away from America's 250th, and we are excited to hear about the efforts underway to draw attention to this important anniversary. Daughters, let's make this year count as we serve our country in promoting Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism!



Last year, we announced in this issue the DAR's collaboration with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation in celebration of America's 250th to raise awareness of the Patriots and events of the American Revolution. We encourage all DAR chapters nationwide to apply for these "Revolutionary America 1775-1783" markers to commemorate points of interest, particularly in areas without existing markers. Chapters can email [RevolutionaryAmerica@dar.org](mailto:RevolutionaryAmerica@dar.org) for more information.

This year, as we approach America's 250th, please take advantage of opportunities to share with your communities and develop awareness by commemorating key anniversaries in our nation's history, including the Edenton Tea Party, which was an agreement signed among the women of North Carolina to boycott tea as proof of their patriotism. Later in the year, the bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour will kick off, and we are very excited that we have appointed a special committee to spearhead our contributions to this commemoration. Other key dates include the 80th commemoration of D-Day, an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices of WWII. Please check the Commemorative Events Committee page on the Members' website for more dates and information.

During the next months, we also mark several annual reporting deadlines, including the Chapter and State Master Reports; and the cutoff for inputting Service to America hours at the end of January. We compiled the service of our members across the country and record it in the NSDAR *Annual Proceedings*, filed annually with Congress through the Smithsonian Institution. We appreciate all that gathering this data entails, and are grateful that this provides a historical record of the service that we have accomplished together. Please reach out to your chapter regent to identify ways to contribute, and please log all 2023 service hours in hour in the online portal as soon as possible!

As we begin 2024, be encouraged that every time we volunteer our time in each of our mission areas of Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism, we are honoring the legacy of our Revolutionary War Patriots and ensuring that our country never forgets what it means to be an American. We are always better united. **Let's Rejoice in Our DAR Ties of Service and Friendship!**

Pamela Rouse Wright  
President General

To read more from the President General go to: <https://www.dar.org/> and sign in with your member ID - There you will see a box on the right hand side with a link to the President's General's Message.

