



THE JOURNAL

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Fall 2016

National Society Southern Dames of America

Organized 1962



Gabrielle Smith Hadyka
National President 2016-2018



National President's Message

Dear Southern Dames,

What an honor to be installed as the National President of Southern Dames at the 54th National Assembly in Birmingham, Alabama. We welcomed Illinois Society of Southern Dames at our Nation Assembly in 2016 as our newest society. The Assembly was well attended and all had a great time celebrating the year of service through our Southern Dames Societies to fulfill our goals of ophthalmic research and Southern Culture.

On the cover is a picture of your new executive board 2016-2018. From left to right seated are: National First Vice President, Camille Lowery; National President, Gaby Hadyka; National Second Vice President, Melissa Fischer; standing Immediate Past National President, Sue Comerford; National Registrar, Bobbie Lou Ray; National Corresponding Secretary, Penny Chaboudy; national Chaplain, Brenda Hamilton; National Recording Secretary Bonnie Lashley; National Treasurer, Virginia Fettes, National Historian, Mary Ann Hepler. Nelly Shearer is appointed National Parliamentarian and she is not pictured.

The new Executive Board is looking forward to serving ya'll over the next two years. Over the past few years the Society has grown in leaps and bounds, just look at page 3 to see all the newest members, and we will be working on insuring all our documents are updated and all have and are using the most current instructions and forms. Communication is vital so please contact any of the National Officers with your questions. Our contact information is on page two of this publication. Our new website is a work in progress but please take the time to review the website and give us your feedback, we want this to be a resource for all members.

The minutes from the National Assembly are on page 5. Two motions adopted and most important to all State Societies are: *"Social media sites in any form representing SDA shall be prohibited for members, states societies and the National Society Southern Dames of America, excluding National approved websites."* **If you do have a SDA website or facebook page they must come down until approved by the National Society.** And, *"The deadline for all reports to*

National Officers be moved to May 1st." Please review the minutes for all motions adopted.

This office stayed in Alabama after the Assembly traveling to Concord, GA to a small ancestral grave yard. This officer did crawl over a posted gate and walked .6 of a mile in to see the boarder of the grave yard where she was amazed to see a brand new headstone for a Beckham who passed away Jan 2016. There were 18 other Beckham's ranging from births in 1774 (revolutionary ancestor) to 1973.

The next day along with Connie Grund, Helen Keller Gazebo Chairman we visited Ivy Green and met with the director. It was upsetting to see the condition of our gazebo and marker. Connie is working with the director to get estimates on repairs and future upkeep for the gazebo. Look forward to updates on this effort.

On opening night of the 125th NSDAR Continental Congress this officer proudly represent the National Society Southern Dames of America as a guest of the NSDAR President General, Lynn Forney Young.

This officer emailed the National Handbook and National Bylaws to each State President the beginning of July. Please take time to review both documents and forward them to your state chapter presidents.

The Change of Member Information Form on page 10. Please use this and all new form as it has been updated to make it a little more user friendly. The membership application and instructions have also been updated and were emailed to every State Registrar by the National Registrar.

REMEMBER: Bylaw change suggestions must be received by the bylaw committee chairman (rayhepler@northstate.net) **BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2016.** Please send copies of your state bylaws to this chairman as well as any state bylaw changes.

We have had a great year and are looking forward to an outstanding 2017 National Assembly and hearing all the wonderful works of the Society. Be sure to "save the date---June 1-3, 2017". I will see you there in South Carolina.

In Southern bonds,

Gaby

Gabrielle S. Hadyka
National President, 2016-18



NATIONAL OFFICERS 2016 - 2018

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Gabrielle "Gaby" Hadyka (Mrs. Joseph)
4506 Lake Charles Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78413-5239
Phone: 361.854.5432 (Home)
361.215.3534 (Cell)
Email: ghadyka@aol.com

NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Camille R. Lowery (Mrs. Clifford C.)
4690 Kilmersdon Lane
Johns Creek, GA 30024
Phone: 404.851.7338
Email: Camillerbaxter@aol.com

NATIONAL SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Melissa H. Fischer (Mrs. Jeffery)
13525 Sanderling Place
Germantown, MD 20874
Phone: 301.916.8331
Email: mhfischer@verizon.net

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Brenda M. Hamilton (Mrs. Edwin B.)
917 W. 2nd Avenue
Red Springs, NC 28377-1219
Phone: 910.843.4644
Email: Bmham@embarqmail.com

NATIONAL RECORDING SECRETARY

Bonnell W. Lashley (Mrs. Eugene C.)
1130 Dove Creek Circle
Winder, GA 30680-5037
Phone: 770.725.5020
Email: blashley@bellsouth.net

NATIONAL CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Louise "Penny" Chaboudy (Mrs. Butch)
335 Mt. Ida Lane
Staunton, VA 24401-5618
Phone: 540.337.1006
Email: Chaboudyc@aol.com

NATIONAL TREASURER

Virginia Fettes (Mrs. Michael)
1706 SW 66th Place
Gainesville, FL 32608-5424
Phone: 352.335.8385
Email: vfettes@cox.net



Sue Comerford, National President 2014-2016, Gaby Hadyka, National President 2016-2018, Robin Towns, National President 2012-2014. Past National officers not pictured: Fritz Martin, LA 1988-1990, Frances Hawkins, MD 2000-2002, Catherine Brister, FL 2002-2004, Carolee McKinstry, 2004-2006, Mary Rever, 2006-2008, Nelly Shearer, 2008-2010

NATIONAL REGISTRAR

Barbara "Bobbie Lou" M. Ray (Mrs. Wilson)
P.O. Box 53
Red Springs, NC 28377-0053
Phone: 910.843.4277
Email: BLROne@aol.com

NATIONAL HISTORIAN

Mary Ann Hepler (Mrs. Ray)
410 Otteray Avenue
High Point, NC 27262-2918
Phone: 336.887.2241
Email: rayhepler@northstate.net

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Nelly G. Shearer (Mrs. James O.)
1225 Oak Timber Circle
Collierville, TN 38017-9087
Phone: 901.854.9151 (Home) 901.278.2403 (Work)
Email: njgs@aol.com

IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT

L. Sue Comerford (Mrs. Richard J., Jr.)
301 Plymouth Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33405
Phone: 561.585.9756
Email: Comerforddrls@yahoo.com

NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Auditing - Emily Weil, Chairman; Lucy Willis

Budget & Finance - Virginia Fettes, Chairman;
Betty Stevens, Gaby Hadyka (ex officio)

Bylaws & Standing Rules: Mary Ann Hepler Chairman; Sudie Pool

Handbook: Ann Farley, Chairman; Jane Power
Advisor: Catherine Brister

Assembly Meeting Place: Jeanette Taylor, 2017 Chairman;
Judith Arthur Advisor: Gaby Hadyka

Creative Arts: Mary Armstrong, Chairman 2017
(Hostess State Society to appoint judges)

Eye Program: Melissa Fisher, Chairman; All State President

Helen Keller Gazebo: Connie Grund, Chairman

Insignia & Ribbons: Penny Chabouy, Chairman; Trudy Tanzilla

Membership: Bobbie Lou Ray, Chairman

Website: Camille Lowery, Chairman

Scholarship: Dr. Linda Harvey, Chairman; Kimberly Nagy

Endowment: 2015-2018 - Virginia Fettes, Penny Chabouy,
Robin Towns **2015-2020**—Brenda Hamilton, Bobbie Lou Ray

Editor, The Journal: Gaby Hadyka



WELCOME New Members

Since Spring 2016 Issue of *THE JOURNAL*



CALIFORNIA

Georgie Ann Stevens Bonfigli	3196
Janet Ruby Chance Buckley	3245
Patricia Ethel Spence	3247
Betty Freeman Hinman	3197
Debra Suzanne Parent Jamison	3224
Delores Viola Strandberg Pederson	3261
Sandra Renee Schaad	3198
Lolita Stiegelmeier Smith	3262
Linda Richter Unrue	3246

FLORIDA

Theresa Jane Sawyer Cobb	3223
Mary Prudence Boucher Zabel	3250

GEORGIA

Connie Ross Hayes Bivins	3222
Julie Anne Reutter O'Neill	3256

Kentucky

Susan Elaine Evans McCrobie	3232
Gail Rhea	3227

Maryland

Virginia Louise Apyar	3249
Betty Lee Nichols Myers	3248

NEW YORK

Gyda Sheridan Arber Sabaugh	3259
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NORTH CAROLINA

Sandra Elaine Conwell Baldasare	3195
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TEXAS

Joyce Marie Dixon	3231
Janet Eileen Hicks	3229
Deborah Carol Porter Hinckley	3260
Leslie Alice Vander Meulen Richards	3230
Julie Ann Harper Rohling	3228

VIRGINIA

Barbara Lou Chandler-Terrell Joyner	3233
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ILLINOIS

Beverly Jean Harbers Atkinson	3209
RubyMarie Oldfield Boedecker	3235
Mary Kathryn Thompson Carey	3208
Donna Lee Rowe Ching	3236
Karin Jennie McLaughlin Ciaccio	3206
Diane Eileen Dolan	3215
Mary Jane Eckler Engstrom	3252
Susan Kay Chenoweth Erlick	3207
Joyce Auline Mincey Evans	3237
Charlotte Elizabeth Schumm Feist	3216
Marcia Florence Coate Flanagan	3203
Leslie Kay Reynolds Fowler	3238
Sharon Gail Turner Free	3225
Sandra Jean Smith Gibertini	3202
Sonja Jean Saether Hayes	3239
Joanna Cheri Davis Hunter	3205
Susan Elizabeth Flanagan Hurtig	3204
Sharolyn Ann Perisho Irwin	3218
Carol Eva O'Neal Twork Jacobs	3234
Joyce Lorraine Dougherty Johnston	3240
Jennifer Lynn Hayes Mills	3254
Amanda Leigh Nagy	3200
Donna Maria Nagy	3199
Helen Dodd Ollis Palmer	3213
Catherine Ann Munch Passas	3214
Linda May Pennybaker Poole	3212
Virginia Irene Plunkett Rinehart	3219
Sandra Ann Wright Robinson	3217
Jane Lawrence Miller Duxbury Schleinzer	3201
Nancy Gayle Emerick Sheppard	3255
Audrey Olivia Smith Sowka	3241
Cyndi Petra Guerra Valencia	3221
Stephanie Jordan Marie Valencia	3220
Linda Carol Walker	3258
Patricia Josephine McGrath Wehrs	3243
Linda Lou David Williams	3242
Billie Dawn Tuggle Williams	3257
Marjorie Louise Harbers Witschie	3210
Sharyn Dianne Kelley Worrell	3251
Helen Jean Moffett Wright	3244
Sharon Kaye Zingery	3211

54TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Alabama Dames, chaired by Judith Arthur, entertained the seventy-two attendees at the 54th National Assembly in Birmingham, Alabama, June 2-4, 2016. After registration, we traveled to tour the Historic Arlington House. The house was built by Judge William S. Mudd, one of the ten founders of Birmingham. Here Madam Lou Wooster entertained us in costume of the 1800s. And added to our knowledge of the opportunities for women in the business world in the 1800's. Madam Wooster was honored for helping children especially. The day ended with dinner at local Café or Grills.

Our Friday morning breakfast began with the National Officers Club Breakfast. The discussion was on the condition for the Gazebo. A committee will be appointed to get recommendations for repair. Hence, the \$3,000 in the budget will be used for repair in the near future. From Joann Drake, Florida: By accident I found Helen Keller's speech at the 1925 Lions International Convention and once more was astonished at her insight and ability to convey her thoughts so vividly that others are captured by her message:

"You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God it is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver I empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness."

The speaker for "The Spirit of the South Luncheon" Annette Edgeworth Smith told the story of the many historic Dolls that are in her collection. These historic dolls were on display for our education and enjoyment.

The Alabama Reception and the Alabama Banquet were enjoyed by all. Past National Presidents Fritizi Martin and Robin Towns brought greetings. And this was the opportunity to view the hundreds of items that the Dames had brought for the silent auction.

The Eye Luncheon was chaired by Camille Lowery who introduced the speaker Dr. Dawn DeCarlo, Program Director for the Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation.

On Saturday evening, a Formal Reception, was followed by the Creative Arts and Awards Banquet. Camille Lowery introduced the program "One-Eyed Jacks & Jills; Emily Weil, Marian Westbrook, Emmy Mitchell & Betty Duncan.

Many awards were presented to recognize the work in leadership of the Board, the States and especially recognizing Illinois as our newest State Society. The new board was installed and The new National President Gabrielle Hadyka called a short board meeting to outline the points for consideration for the next term.

This very special Assembly had ended and plans are being made to meet in South Carolina in 2017.



National Society Southern Dames of America

54th National Assembly Minutes

The first Plenary Session of the 54th National Assembly, National Society Southern Dames of America was called to order at 9:30 on Saturday, June 4, 2016, in the Vulcan Room of the Hilton Garden Inn at Liberty Park in Birmingham, Alabama by National President Dr. Sue Comerford. The invocation was given by National Chaplain Betty Stevens. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of American was led by Barbara Ray, National Corresponding Secretary. The Pledge to the Flags of the Southern States by led by Melissa Fischer, National Treasurer. The assembly sang the National Anthem led by Betty Stevens.

The National President welcomed all present, introduced the National Officers in attendance. She introduced Alabama State President and National Assembly Chair Judith K. Arthur and the 54th National Assembly Parliamentarian Penny Chaboudy. Recording Secretary Virginia Fettes called the official roll with the following in attendance: National President Dr. Sue Comerford, Vice President Gabrielle Hadyka, 2nd Vice President Camille Lowery, Chaplain Betty Stevens, Recording Secretary Virginia Fettes, Corresponding Secretary Barbara Ray, Treasurer Melissa Fischer, Registrar Brenda Hamilton, Historian Bonnell Lashley, Parliamentarian Penny Chaboudy, Immediate Past National President Robin Towns and Past National President Fritz Martin. State Presidents in attendance: Judith Authur (AL); Pat Gallagher (GA); Davine Roberts (FL); Kimberly Nagy (IL); Jessianne Wells (KY); Hazel Gaudet (LA); Melissa Zack (NY); Emily Weil (NC); Jeanette Taylor (SC), Betty Stevens, TN); Janisue Rigel (TX); Carole Featherston (VA).

Marlene Lawley gave the Credentials Report: 71 in attendance of which 9 are National Officers, 2 Past National Presidents, 1 Parliamentarian, 5 guests, total voting strength of 66. A quorum was declared and business proceeded.

Camille Lowery, Second Vice President, presented the Program and Standing Rules for the Assembly. Corrections were noted and Program was adopted.

President Comerford called upon the Recording Secretary to read recommendations passed by the National Board of Management:

- #1. \$1,000.00 be distributed each to Florida, Georgia and Illinois for 2017. Adopted
 - #2. The budget for 2016-17 be approved as presented. Adopted
 - #3. Designated Funds: to distribute for the Helen Keller Fund at a later time. Adopted
 - #4. Designated Funds: Add a line for a Political Science Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Defeated
 - #5. Designated Funds: Add a line future assemblies be given \$1,400.00. Adopted
 - #6. Social media sites in any form representing SDA shall be prohibited for members, states societies and the National Society Southern Dames of America, excluding National approved websites. Adopted
 - #7. Recommendation to accept the slate of officers as presented. Adopted by acclamation
- Nominating Committee, chaired by Robin Towns presented the slate of Officers for 2016-2018.

President Gabrielle Hadyka TX
First Vice President Camille Lowery GA
Second Vice President Melissa Fischer MD
Chaplain Brenda Hamilton NC
Recording Secretary Bonnell Lashley GA
Corresponding Secretary Penny Chaboudy VA
Treasurer Virginia Fettes FL
Register Barbara Ray NC
Historian Many Ann Helper NC

- #8. The deadline for all reports to National Officers be moved to May 1st. Adopted

Reports of the National Officers were presented. National President Comerford, 1st VP Hadyka, 2nd VP Lowery, Chaplain Stevens, Recording Secretary Fettes, Corresponding Secretary Ray, Treasurer Fischer, Registrar Hamilton, Historian Lashley and Parliamentarian Chaboudy.

The reports of State Presidents in attendance were presented: State Presidents in attendance: Judith Authur (AL); Pat Gallagher (GA); Davine Roberts (FL); Kimberly Nagy (IL); Jessianne Wells (KY); Hazel Gaudet (LA); Melissa Zack (NY); Emily Weil (NC); Jeanette Taylor (SC), Betty Stevens, (TN); Carole Featherston (VA).

Reports for California, Mississippi and Texas were received and filed with the minutes.

As there no objections, the business of the Final Plenary Session proceeded immediately. There were no changes in the Credentials Report. It was moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the First Plenary Session. Adopted. Reports of the National Committee Chairmen were presented: Audit/Review (report to be filed); Budget and Finance (previously reported); Bylaws and Standing Rules (no changes to report); Website (problems being corrected, change in password: Blossom); Handbook (exclusively online at SDA website); Insignia and Ribbon (no further report); Membership (no further report); Special Awards (given out at Creative Arts Banquet); Creative Arts (awards given at Banquet).

Jeannette Taylor issued the official invitation to the 55th National Assembly to be held in North Charleston, SC at the first week end in June.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 12:00 p.m.
Virginia Fettes, Recording Secretary



Memorial Roll Call

Betty Stevens, National Chaplain 2014-2016

Assisted by Connie H. Grund

Alabama

<i>Molly Ann Hicks Hagood</i>	<i>2946</i>	<i>May 8, 2016</i>
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Florida

<i>Elizabeth (Betty) Hurd</i>	<i>707</i>	<i>February 14, 2016</i>
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<i>Betty Ann (Beth) Clapp Williams</i>	<i>1001</i>	<i>January 15, 2015</i>
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North Carolina

<i>Harriet Bruce Barlowe</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>October 2, 2015</i>
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<i>Margaret Jordan Ellis</i>	<i>2116</i>	<i>May 14, 2015</i>
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<i>Norma Sellers Grabenstein</i>	<i>2564</i>	<i>October 2, 2015</i>
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South Carolina

<i>Claire Simpson Godwin</i>	<i>2945</i>	<i>August 21, 2015</i>
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Tennessee

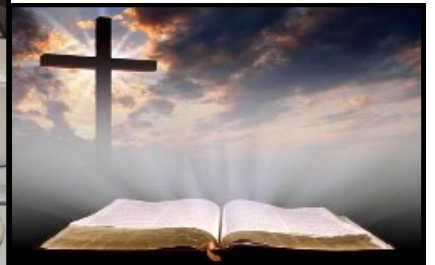
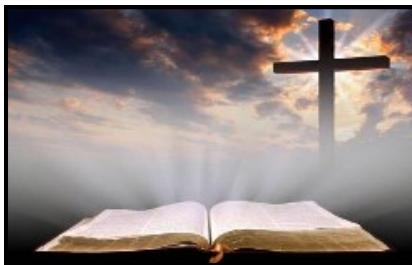
<i>Marilyn Johnson Baugus</i>	<i>1464</i>	<i>November 20, 2015</i>
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Virginia

<i>Denise Lee Maupin Watson</i>	<i>2626</i>	<i>December 5, 2014</i>
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"I can see, and that is why I am happy, in what you call the dark, but which to me is golden.

I can see a God made world, not a man-made world." Helen Keller





NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AWARDS

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Certificate of Appreciation:

To her executive board: Gabrielle Hadyka, Camille Lowery, Betty Stevens, Virginia Fettes, Barbara Ray, Melissa Fischer, Brenda Hamilton, Bonnell Lashley, Louise Chaboudy

Certificate of Appreciation:

To her National Chairman: Nelly Shearer, Betty Stevens, Lynn Jones, Camille Lowery, Bonnell Lashley, Robin Towns, Barbara Ray, Gaby Hadyka

National President's Award for Outstanding Service in hosting the 2016 Assembly:

Alabama

Outstanding Programs:

California, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Texas
South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

Re-organization:

Old Fort Myers chapter, Florida

Special Award for Help and Assistance:

Robin Towns

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AWARDS

Journal Articles

Alabama Society, Azalea Chapter, California State Society, Poinsettia Chapter, California State Society, Florida Society, Georgia Society, Kentucky Society, New York Society, Goldsboro Chapter, North Carolina Society, Pinehurst Chapter, North Carolina Society, Southport Chapter, North Carolina Society, Wilmington Chapter, North Carolina Society, South Carolina Society, Texas Society, Middle Tennessee Society, Tennessee Society, Virginia Society

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT AWARDS

Best Eye Report

1st Place, Georgia; 2nd Place, North Carolina; 3rd Place, Tennessee

Best Eye Programs

California, Georgia, New York, and North Carolina

Most Eyeglasses Collected

1st Place, Texas (5,920); 2nd Place, North Carolina (916);
3rd Place, Tennessee (153)

Best Eye Support Assistance

1st Place, Texas; 2nd Place, California; 3rd Place, Georgia

Largest Monetary Contribution to Ophthalmic Research & Aid

1st Place, North Carolina (\$2,525); 2nd Place, Virginia (\$1,267);
3rd Place, Louisiana (\$1,000)

Largest Monetary Contribution to Seeing Eye Dog Program

1st Place, California (\$1,642); 2nd Place, North Carolina (\$775);
3rd Place, Georgia (\$300)

NATIONAL CORRESPONDING SECRETARY AWARDS

Most Insignia Purchases

1st Place North Carolina, 2nd Place Texas
3rd Place Georgia and Kentucky

Other Awards

California, Illinois, North Carolina and Texas

NATIONAL REGISTRAR AWARDS

National President's Award

Illinois Society

National Registrar's Awards

California Society and Texas Society

Most New Members

First Place: Illinois Society (49 new members);
Second Place: California Society (40 new members);
Third Place: Texas Society (26 new members)

Most New Junior Members

First Place; North Carolina Society
Second Place: California Society; Third Place: Illinois Society

Newly Chartered Society:

Illinois Society- Dr. Kimberly Nagy Organizing President

Newly Chartered Chapters:

FL Society; Mary McKenzie, Organizing Pres., Old Fort Myers Chapter;
TX Society - Sudie Pool, Organizing Pres., South Texas Chapter

New Membership Gain:

Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia,
Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, North Carolina,
Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

HISTORIAN AWARDS

Most Donations for Scholarship Funds:

North Carolina

Outstanding Newsletter:

1st Place, Georgia; 2nd Place, Texas

Most Creative Fund Raiser Program:

North Carolina, Texas

Most Outstanding Program On Southern History:

New York

Excellent Programs On Southern History and Culture:

Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, North Carolina,
South Carolina, Texas

Most Outstanding Yearbook:

1st Place, Georgia; 2nd Place, California; 3rd Place, Texas

Best Overall Report:

1st Place Georgia; 2nd Place Virginia 3rd Place, North Carolina

Most Outstanding Programs for The Visually Impaired:

1st Place, Alabama; 2nd Place, North Carolina; 3rd Place, Georgia

Most Volunteer Hours:

Alabama



Ann Craft Creative Arts Awards

BASKETRY

1st Place: Mary Ellen Shugart FL

CROCHET

1st Place: Kimberly Nagy IL

2nd Place: Karen Hall TX

CROSS STITCH

1st Place: Mary Armstrong SC

2nd Place: Sally Wooley AL

DOLLS

1st Place: Janisue Rigel TX

JEWELRY

1st Place: Linda Linzey FL

2nd Place: Sharen Zingery IL

KNITTING

1st Place: Betty Stevens TN

2nd Place: Barbara Meszaros NY

NEEDLEPOINT

1st Place: Kimberly Nagy IL

2nd Place: Sarah Brown FL

OLDIES BUT GOODIES:

1st Place: Anne Gibbon AL

2nd Place: Brenda Haynie AL

PAINTING

1st Place: Hazel Gaudet LA

2nd Place: Autumn Strickland GA

PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place Sharon Zingery IL

2nd Place: Barbara Webb TX

POETRY

1st Place: Janice Arinson,

FL; 2nd Place: Sarah Martin NC

QUILTING

1st Place: Diana Cannestra GA

2nd Place: Betty Stevens, TN

WEAVING

1st Place: Mary Ellen Shugart

WOODWORK

1st Place: Bee Little LA

Alabama Society

Judith Kennedy Arthur, State President

The Alabama Chapter was pleased to host the 54th Annual Assembly in early June in Birmingham, Alabama. We were amazed that we had 75 attendees at the Assembly and we were honored that so many from across the country wanted to come to our wonderful city. As you might imagine, the planning for this event took up our activities for the past year. In September, our meeting will be the changeover from one administration to the next. We will meet at the Birmingham Country Club and I know it will be a fun day for all of us.

California Society

Barbara Aerni, State President



Left to right: Pat Hugar, Barbara Payne Aerni, Penny Adams-O'Neill, Karon Jarrard, Shirley Vanderbeck, Jan Gordon, and Midge Enke. Not pictured Cher

On March 8th, 2016, the California Society held its 3rd Annual Meeting and Tea at the Forks Golf Club in San Ramon. All Chapters were represented including two chapters who are in the final stages of organizing. California currently has over 150 members and we are always looking for more Southern Dames to join us. A gift of \$250 was presented to Guide Dogs for the Blind in honor of our speaker, Mr. Tom Kowalski and his companion, Dynamo. All California chapter members enjoy working together for the benefit of vision-impaired individuals in our communities. State Officers for the term 2016-2018 were installed by Honorary Organizing State President, Pat Hugar.

Illinois Society

Kimberly Nagy, President



May 5, 2016, we held our Inaugural State Assembly in Bloomington, Illinois. Thirty ladies attended, including 3 prospective members. A brief program on "Who Are The Southern Dames" was presented. Our Eye Program chairman gave a program about the National Eye Program and challenged members to donate. This resulted in a collection of \$225 at the meeting. We are proud to say that we have 51 Charter members in our State, of whom 49 are new members this year. These ladies are eager to support the purposes of the Southern Dames of America. We had one attendee at the Annual Assembly and brought items for the Ann Craft Creative Arts display. Southern Dames of America is off to a great start in Illinois.

Georgia Society

Patricia Gallagher, President 2016-2018



Front, L to R) Dianne Cannestra, Patricia Gallagher, State President, Dr. Linda Harvey, (Standing) Lora McDaniel, Lynda Moreau, Sharon Free, Bonnell Lashley, Robin Towns, Camille Lowery, & Jan Stancil. Enjoying the Eye Luncheon together.

Georgia Dames attending the 54th National Assembly on June 2-4, 2016, at Liberty Park Hilton Garden Inn, Birmingham, Alabama, were delighted with the gracious hospitality of the Alabama Dames. Georgia Society is proud of our Dames who were elected to National Office: Camille Lowery, First Vice President, and Bonell Lashley, Recording Secretary.

Florida Society

B. Davine Roberts, State President 2016-2018

The Florida Society Southern Dames of America 53rd Florida State Assembly was held on May 7, 2016, at the Ramada Conference Center Mandarin in Jacksonville, Florida. The meeting was called to order by Florida State President Beth Wilson. Seven chapters reported on their good works over the last year. Speaker Betty Jane Stewart gave an interesting presentation on Frederick Delius, who was sent from England to Florida in 1884 to manage an orange plantation. Maria Miller Chaplain Pro-tem performed a memorial service for deceased members Betty Hurd and Beth Williams. National President Sue Comerford installed the 2016-2018 officers.



State President 2014-2016 Beth Wilson, National President Sue Comerford; Newly installed officers for 2016-2018: President B. Davine Moore Roberts, Vice President Lynn Jones, Treasurer Janice Arinson, and Historian Linda Linzy

Kentucky Society

Jessieanne H. Wells, State President 2015-2017

The Kentucky Society was pleased to receive four awards at the 54th National Assembly June 2-4, 2016 in Birmingham, Alabama. A check in the amount of \$100.00 was presented to Kentucky and this was then donated to the Lions Club Kentucky Eye Bank. Kentucky continues to collect used eye glasses and has donated in excess of 134 to date this year. Our Southern heritage is important to all of us. Jessieanne H. Wells, State President 2015-2017 attended representing Kentucky at Assembly.

North Carolina Society

Brenda M. Hamilton, State President, 2016-2018



left to right: Brenda Hamilton, Madam Lou Wooster, Bobbie Lou Ray

North Carolina Dames enjoyed meeting with sister Southern Dames at the 54th National Assembly in May. The tour and luncheon at Arlington House were wonderful. Important information was brought back to State members and the Tar Heel State looks forward to a most productive year!

Texas Society

Janisue Rigel, State President 2016-2018



Gabrielle Hadyka (National President); Anne Stafford (immediate Past President Texas Society); Janisue Rigel (President); Geni Holmes (Vice President); Gail Utley (Chaplain); Ashley Naumann (Secretary); Cindy Broderick (Treasurer); Karen Kurth Hall (Historian); and Ora Jane Johnson (Parliamentarian). Not Pictured: Diane Dyess (Registrar).

At the Annual meeting in New Braunfels, TX May 2016. Members enjoyed lunch and the Creative Arts Awards were presented. Over forty items from a hand made paper dress to beautiful quilts and one outstanding unpublished photograph of Elvis taken by Elaine Collings mother when he visited her restaurant. To name a few - a seashell frame and an outstanding photograph plus needlepoint and crochet work, plus a small wood doll from the early 1960's dressed in period clothing for the 1800's. The Texas Dames enjoyed bringing, showing and viewing all the creations which covered ten tables.

New York Society

Melissa Zack, President 2016-2018



left to right: Alison Sands, Anne Farley, Susan Rock, Melissa Zack, Norma Wickersham, Joan Kiely from the Guide Dog Foundation, Betsy Bloomer, Debbie Kopinski

Our spring 2016 meeting, New York's annual meeting, was held April 19 in Smithtown, on the eastern end of Long Island. We gathered for brunch at a local restaurant, and then moved to the Guide Dog Foundation for our business meeting and a full tour of the campus. We saw how seeing-eye and service dogs are recruited and housed. We saw their feeding stations, sleeping arrangements and the areas where dogs are trained. We also learned about all of the wonderful programs the Foundation offers. It was an incredibly moving experience! At the end of our tour we presented a check for \$250 to the Foundation.

Other State Society Presidents

Louisiana Society

Hazel Gaudet, State President

Maryland Society

Ellan Thorson, State President

South Carolina Society

Jeannette Taylor, State President

Tennessee Society

Betty Stevens, State President

Virginia Society

Carole Featherston, State President





NATIONAL SOCIETY SOUTHERN DAMES OF AMERICA CHANGE OF MEMBER INFORMATION FORM

(One member per form - Please print)

National Number _____ Name on record _____

CONTACT CHANGES:

Current Information:

State Society _____ Chapter (if applicable) _____

Current Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

New Information:

Name changed to: (if applicable) _____

New Address: (if applicable) _____

New Phone _____ New Email _____

DEATH OF MEMBER:

Date: _____ Place of Death _____

Next of Kin (if available) – Name & Address _____

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:

Transfer Out Date _____ From: _____ To: _____

Transfer In Date _____ To: _____ From: _____

State Dues paid (if applicable) \$ _____ Date: _____

RESIGNATION/DROP AND REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP:

Resigned in Good Standing – Date _____

Reinstatement – Date _____ Fee Paid, Date: \$ _____

Reinstated to State Society _____ Chapter (if applicable) _____

Dropped for Non-payment of Dues – Date _____ Date last paid dues: _____

Reinstatement from Dropped Status – Date _____ Fee Paid, Date: \$ _____

Reinstated to State Society _____ Chapter (if applicable) _____

Approved by:

Chapter President _____ Date: _____

Chapter Registrar _____ Date: _____

Chapter Treasurer _____ Date: _____

State President _____ Date: _____

State Registrar _____ Date: _____

State Treasurer _____ Date: _____

PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS COMPLETED FORM TO: National Treasurer, State President, National Registrar, and National & State Chaplains (only in the case of Death) **RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR FILES.** *Reproduce form as needed.*

ORDER FORM FOR OFFICIAL NSSDA INSIGNIA

Member _____ National number _____

State Society name _____ Chapter (if applicable) name _____

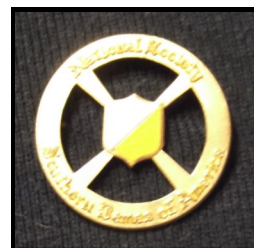
Ship to _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

National Society Southern Dames of America Insignia **\$ 50.00**
 Shipping & handling **8.00**
 TOTAL (no sales tax) **\$ 58.00**



_____ Check enclosed, made to Hamilton Jewelers OR Credit Card ___ VISA ___ MasterCard ___ American Express ___ DISCOVER

Card number _____ Expiration date: _____

Mail completed order form to: Penny Chaboudy
 NSSDA Corresponding Secretary
 335 Mt. Ida Lane
 Staunton, VA 24401 -5618

Include a Self-addressed, stamped envelope,
 addressed to: Hamilton Jewelers
 930 Town Center Drive Suite G
 Langhorne, PA 19047



SDA TOTE BAG
\$ 20.00
 Shipping & handling
5.00

Sturdy Canvas bag 18" wide x 12" tall with front pocket

Number of Orders			
_____ Tote Bag	\$20 each	\$	_____
_____ Bracelet Charm	\$15 each	\$	_____
_____ Branch Charm	\$23 each	\$	_____
	Total	\$	_____
<i>Please make check for product out to NSSDA</i>			
Shipping Fees			
_____ Tote Bag	\$5 each	\$	_____
_____ Charms	\$3 each	\$	_____
	Total	\$	_____
<i>Shipping fees are to be on a separate check made payable to Penny Chaboudy.</i>			



Charm Bracelet Size
\$15.00
 Branch Bar Size
\$23.00
 Shipping & handling \$ 3.00

SOUTHERN DAMES CHARMS and TOTE BAGS

Mail completed order form and personal check to:
 Penny Chaboudy
 NSSDA Corresponding Secretary
 335 Mt. Ida Lane
 Staunton, VA 24401-5618

Member _____ National number _____

State Society name _____ Chapter (if applicable) name _____

Ship to _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Questions: Call Penny Chaboudy 540.337.1006 or Email: chaboudyc@aol.com

54th National Assembly Attendance

Arthur, Judith	AL	Cannestra, Dianne	GA	Mitchell, Mary Emmy	NC
Brock, Julia	AL	Free, Sharon	GA	Nichols, Tonya	NC
Bucklin, Lisa	AL	Gallagher, Patricia	GA	Ray, Barbara	NC
Butler, Dolly	AL	Harvey, Linda	GA	Weir, Emily	NC
Cheney, Ann	AL	Lashley, Bonnie	GA	Westbrook, Marian	NC
Drennen, Carolyn	AL	Lowery, Camille Baxter	GA	Farley, Anne	NY
Gibbons, Anne	AL	Martin, Lea	GA	Zack, Melissa	NY
Grund, Connie	AL	McDaniel, Lora	GA	Armstrong, Mary	SC
Hardeman, Roberta	AL	Morean, Linda	GA	Herren, Tammy	SC
Haynie, Brenda	AL	Stancil, Jan	GA	Taylor, Jeannette	SC
Hicks, Deborah	AL	Towns, Robin	GA	Stevens, Betty	TN
Lawley, Marlene	AL	Nagy, Kimberly	IL	Glenn, Mary	TX
Smith, Annette	AL	Wells, Jessieanne	KY	Hadyka, Gaby	TX
Willis, Lucy	AL	Cunningham, Martelia	LA	Hall, Karen	TX
Wooley, Sally	AL	Gaudet, Hazel	LA	Johnson, Ora Jane	TX
Comerford, Sue	FL	Little, Bee	LA	Kurth, Sara	TX
Fettes, Virginia	FL	Martin, Fritz	LA	Power, Jane	TX
Hunter, Hellen	FL	Fischer, Melissa	MD	Rigel, Janisue	TX
Jones, Lynn	FL	Duncan, Betty	NC	Rigel-Liepman, Davena	TX
Linzy, Linda	FL	Hamilton, Brenda	NC	Chaboudy, Penny	VA
Roberts, Davine	FL	Haun, Virginia	NC	Featherston, Carole	VA
Werner, Helene	FL	Heppler, Mary Ann	NC	Tanzilla, Trudy	VA

Guests

Lowery, Cliff	GA	Haun, Deryl	NC	Posey, Melva	KY
Heppler, Ray	NC	Taylor, Robert	SC		

ATTENTION: SOUTHERN DAMES WEB SITE

<http://www.southerndamesofamerica.com>

To access *Members Only* area:

New Password: Blossom



The 55th National Assembly of the Southern Dames of America will be held in South Carolina June 1-3, 2017. More details will be in the Spring Journal.

National Society Southern Dames of America

54th National Assembly

Birmingham, AL June 4-6, 2016

