

Let's Talk Pins!

[Frequently Asked Questions]

Did you know that the Insignia Committee was the FIRST committee authorized on October 11th, 1890?

Did you know that although the DAR Insignia was patented on September 22, 1891, it was not until October 1, 1976, that the Charter of the National Society was amended to give the DAR the exclusive and sole right to use, allow, or refuse the use of its emblems, seals and badges?

Let's look at some questions members have asked the National Chairman. Questions are within the following categories: ORDERING PINS, CHAPTER PINS, CHAPTER REGENT, ANCESTOR PINS, WEARING PINS, and USE OF DAR INSIGNIA AND MISCELLANEOUS.

ORDERING PINS

Q. I am a new DAR member. How do I order pins?

A. Send an order form with a check or credit card number directly to Hamilton Jewelers or Office of the Organizing Secretary General, NSDAR, 1776 D Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-5303. The Office of the Organizing Secretary General will verify the DAR service and immediately forward the order to Hamilton. You may wish to order directly from Hamilton by phone at 800-786-5890 or online at www.hamiltoninsignia.com. Hamilton verifies orders for DAR pins with the Office of the Organizing Secretary General. Also, an order form can be downloaded from the member's web site: members.dar.org, select Committees, scroll under Special Committees, select Insignia Committee. Make checks payable to Hamilton Jewelers.

Q. What is the difference between the Recognition Pin and the Miniature pin?

A. The Recognition pin (small plain insignia) is worn on the lapel. The Miniature insignia (plain or pierced) is worn on the miniature, narrow, ribbon. Also, the miniature insignia may be worn on a branch bar along with miniatures of other societies. Another way to remember—the recognition pin has the pin closure and the miniature has the loop. The recognition and branch bar may be worn on any occasion. The recognition pin is not to be placed on the official ribbon with other pins. The miniature insignia on narrow ribbon is to be worn at DAR functions as you would the official ribbon and pins.

Q. Can I put DAR pins on the miniature narrow ribbon with the miniature insignia?

A. No other pins are to be placed on the miniature narrow ribbon, only the miniature insignia at the end of the ribbon.

Q. I would like to purchase service pins earned under three past State Regents. Do I need signatures of all the past State Regents?

A. Your current State Regent can sign for all three. When an order is confirmed in the Office of the Organizing Secretary General, a member's service is on her record.

Q. Is there a past state officer pin?

A. Hamilton does not sell a past state officer pin. When the state officer pin is ordered, the years of service are engraved on it. You would continue to wear your state officer's pin on your ribbon, placing it according to the official placement of pins.

Q. Is there an Associate Member pin?

A. Yes, in 2007, an Associate Member pin with bar to be engraved with the chapter's name was approved and is now available from Hamilton Jewelers. If you are an associate member of more than one chapter, the Associate Member pin will accommodate more bars.

Q. I would like to become an associate member of an overseas chapter. What pin would I be eligible to wear?

A. As an associate member, you would be eligible to wear the Units Overseas pin with a bar engraved with the name of the country. If you are a member of an overseas chapter the bar would be engraved with the name of the chapter.

Q. I understand that there are two different state chairman pins, the one with the eagle and the oval one. What is the difference?

A. The pin with the eagle on top is for state chairs of National Committees. The oval is for state chairs of state standing, special, and state conference committees.

Q. If “Jane” makes a donation to a project fund in honor of “Mary” and specifies on the form that the credit goes to “Mary,” can “Jane” also buy the pin?

A. No. Only one person would be eligible to buy the pin. Since “Mary” was specified on the form to receive the credit, she would be the only one eligible to buy the pin.

Q. How soon after taking office, can a new state officer or state chair order her pin for that position?

A. After she is elected as a new state officer or appointed as a state chair, she may order her pin from Hamilton Jewelers. Their toll-free number is: 800-786-5890. Hamilton will contact the Office of the Organizing Secretary General for verification.

Q. What is a “Best Friend” pin?

A. A donation is made to a “friends” fund. The average amount is \$100 or \$200. These various funds are listed in the DAR Handbook (or from the Development Office at DAR). You would then be eligible to purchase a “Friends” pin. Upon receipt of an additional donation equal to the minimum required donation to the same Friends Fund, a member is eligible to purchase a Best Friends pin and bar. The bar will be engraved with that Friends Fund name (i.e. American History). There is no limit to the number of contributions or bars that can be added. The President General’s Project and Benefactor pins are not in the Best Friends category. Authorization for the pin or bar will be provided by the Office of the Organizing Secretary General.

Q. What is engraved on the Member-for-Member pin?

A. The bar is engraved with the number of new members credited in increments of five. The DAR Handbook states, “When the prospective member becomes a DAR member, the Office of the Registrar General records the sponsoring member’s Member-for-Member credit, and she is then eligible to purchase the Member-for-Member pin to wear on their official DAR ribbon. The member is eligible to purchase one member-for-Member bar for every five additional new members credited after she has earned her Member-for-Member pin. The bar easily attaches to the pin.”

Q. The chapter donated \$100 to the Friends of Veterans fund in my honor. Can I buy the pin to wear on my ribbon?

A. Since the chapter donated the money for the contribution, the chapter would have to order the pin, and you would pay the chapter for the pin.

CHAPTER PINS

Q. What is the requirement to purchase a Charter Chapter Member pin and bar?

A. A member is eligible to purchase a Charter Chapter Member pin with Organizing bar if she was an organizing member at the time the chapter was organized. A member is eligible for a Charter Chapter Member pin if she was admitted, transferred, or reinstated into the chapter during the first year following the chapter’s organization.

Q. If I transfer my membership to another chapter can I wear chapter bars from the old chapter and the new chapter?

A. Yes. The new chapter bar should be worn above the old chapter bar.

CHAPTER REGENT

Q. I am now a chapter regent and was presented with the Chapter Regent pin on a ribbon with insignia. May I take off the Chapter Regent’s pin and wear it on my own ribbon?

A. If the Chapter Regent’s pin is on a ribbon with an insignia, then she usually wears this during her term of office much like the State Regents do. However, if she is only presented with the Chapter Regent’s pin and no ribbon, she may place the pin at the top of her own ribbon. At the end of term, the pin is returned to the chapter.

Q. The chapter has an Ex-Chapter Regent pin. There is now a Past Chapter Regent pin. Which is correct or does it matter?

A. The Ex-Chapter Regent pin is the older version. Past Chapter Regent is the newer pin now being sold by Hamilton Jewelers. However, the Ex-Chapter Regent pin may still be worn on the ribbon.

Q. If a past chapter regent has a Past Chapter Regent pin and an Honorary Chapter Regent pin, can she wear both on her ribbon?

A. Yes. The Honorary Chapter Regent pin goes above the Past Chapter Regent pin.

Q. When a chapter regent has served a second term, but not concurrently, does the chapter present her with another Past Chapter Regent's pin?

A. If the chapter wishes to, they may. However, since she already has a Past Chapter Regent's pin, they could present her with a commemorative pin or contribution pin, for her ribbon. These pins are listed in the DAR Handbook and at hamiltoninsignia.com.

Q. When you are chapter regent, can you wear the Chapter Regent's pin with ribbon and insignia next to your own ribbon and pins?

A. No, only one official insignia may be worn at a time.

Q. Can a donation pin or a commemorative pin, purchased by the chapter, be worn on the chapter regent's ribbon?

A. Yes, if the chapter makes the donation to a DAR fund and purchases the pin, it may be worn on the chapter regent's ribbon. Since the pin belongs to the chapter, it remains on the ribbon when the ribbon is passed to the next chapter regent.

Q. When a member transfers to another chapter, can she continue wearing the Past Chapter Regent pin from her former chapter?

A. Yes, she would continue wearing the Past Chapter Regent pin since she held that office. If she becomes a Past Chapter Regent of her current chapter, that pin would be worn above the other pin.

Q. I am a past chapter regent; can I still wear a Chapter Officer pin with bars on my ribbon?

A. Yes. You would wear the chapter officer pin, with bars, under your Past Chapter Regent pin.

Q. I am a past chapter regent, and now a Past Chapter Regent again, in another chapter. Can I wear both pins?

A. Yes. The past chapter regent of the current chapter would be placed above the other.

ANCESTOR PINS

Q. What is the difference between the Ancestor Bar and the Ancestor Rider?

A. The ancestor bar has a pin behind it. The Ancestor Rider has a thin wire behind it with no pin. If you have a single ribbon (not padded), the ancestor rider slides down the ribbon. If you have your pins on a padded ribbon set, you would need an ancestor bar, with the pin.

Q. Can a state pin be worn for the state where your ancestor or supplemental ancestors served?

A. Yes.

Q. My supplemental ancestors are not all from the same state. How do you place them with the state pins?

A. The state pins are grouped together above the ancestor bars. The ancestor bars are grouped together below the state pins.

Q. I have two supplemental ancestors who served in the same state. Can I wear two pins from the same state?

A. One state pin should represent the two ancestors.

Q. My ancestor served in two states during the Revolutionary War. Can I wear both state pins or just one?

A. If you have previously proven his service in both states, you may wear both state pins. When an order is received by Hamilton Jewelers, they contact the Office of the Organizing Secretary General to verify the ancestor's service on the member's record.

Q. Can I wear the State CENTENNIAL pin for the state of my ancestor and supplemental ancestors?

A. No. A State Centennial pin may only be worn for the state where you hold membership, not for the state of your ancestor and not for the state of supplemental ancestors.

Q. Can Ancestor Bars be buffed and re-engraved? How about other pins?

A. Hamilton will not re-engage ancestor bars and chapter bars since they are thin and deeply engraved. However, other pins may be buffed and re-engraved with the exception of ones that have the chapter name in enamel. Before you send a pin to Hamilton to be re-engraved, please contact them first to be sure that it can be done on that pin. Their toll-free number is: (800)786-5890.

WEARING PINS

Q. The "Placement of DAR Insignia and Pins on Official Ribbon" says, place pins "beginning with the highest office at the top of the ribbon." Is it the highest office that I am currently serving or the highest office held?

A. You wear the pin designating your highest position held on the top of the ribbon, with the rest of the pins in order below.

Q. I don't have a service pin, a "highest office held," i.e. Past Chapter Regent's pin. What do I wear at the top of my ribbon?

A. You wear a chapter bar or ancestor bar. If you have both chapter bar and ancestor bar, the chapter bar would go at the top.

Q. My ribbon has three rows. How do I go from one row to the next?

A. You begin with the row closest to your arm starting at the top of the ribbon with your highest office. The second row starts at the top and goes down. The third row starts at the top ending with the DAR Insignia.

Q. I recently joined DAR and I've purchased an official insignia pin. May I wear the pin alone, without the ribbon and ancestor bar?

A. The official insignia is to be worn at the bottom of the official ribbon.

Q. Can commemorative and donation pins be worn off the official ribbon?

A. Yes. Also, they may be purchased and worn by non-DAR members.

Q. In what order do I put pins on my ribbon?

A. The "Placement of DAR Insignia and Pins on Official Ribbon" is the official order to follow. It can be found on this Insignia Web site.

Q. Can I wear a State Regent's project pin on my official ribbon?

A. No. Only pins approved by the National Board of Management and provided by Hamilton Jewelers may be worn on the official ribbon. Other pins, i.e., State Regent's Project, Cameo Club, DAR campaign pins, etc., may be worn on the lapel, or on a separate unofficial badge, worn on the right side.

Q. Can I wear the Cameo Club pin on the official ribbon?

A. No. It can either be worn on the lapel/dress or on a separate, non-official ribbon to the right, along with other non-official DAR related-pins.

Q. Can I wear my DAR ribbon and pins to the funeral or calling hours of a DAR member?

A. Yes.

Q. Can I wear the miniature "branch" pin and my official DAR ribbon and insignia at the same time?

A. You should wear one or the other, not both at the same time.

Q. Can a member wear a President General's project pin that belonged to someone else?

A. In order to wear a "contribution" pin, in this case, a President General's Project pin, a contribution of \$100.00 must be made to the President General's Project. Then you will be eligible to wear the pin.

Q. When I wear my ribbon and pins, can I wear another pin on my left lapel?

A. Only a U.S. flag pin.

Q. The local genealogical library is holding a day-long seminar for people interested in joining hereditary societies. I am representing the DAR, giving the lecture on how to fill out the application, and join the DAR. Can I wear my pins?

A. Yes, you may wear your pins since you are representing the DAR at the seminar. If you were just attending the seminar, the answer would be no.

Q. Can I wear my DAR ribbon and pins to an SAR meeting?

A. Only if you are representing the DAR at the function. If not, you may wear the DAR recognition pin.

Q. If I give my pins to a family member who belongs to DAR, can she wear them?

A. She can wear the insignia and any of the commemorative pins. However, she can only wear the service and donation pins which she is eligible to wear.

Q. Can a deceased member wear her pins during her funeral service? Can she be buried wearing her pins?

A. Yes, to both questions; it is allowable. However, members usually leave their pins to the family or to their chapter, or to National Headquarters, Office of the Organizing Secretary General for resale to members.

Q. If I transfer my membership to another chapter, may I wear the chapter pin for both chapters?

A. A chapter pin is worn representing the chapter where you hold your membership. However, if you transfer your membership to another chapter, you may wear both chapter pins if you wish, current chapter pin above.

Q. I am a member of a chapter and soon will be moving and transferring my membership to another chapter. Can I still wear my state pin and my chapter centennial pin from my original chapter?

A. Yes. You may continue to wear the state pin and chapter centennial pin since you were a member of that chapter when they were purchased, therefore are eligible to wear them.

Q. What are the requirements for wearing the "Serving the Nation" pin?

A. To be eligible to purchase and wear the "Serving the Nation" pin, a member must have served in the United States military or in the National Guard, or in the State Guard, if they are subject to deployment or if they received the DD214 Honorable Discharge when leaving the service. Proof of service must be submitted with pin order. Documents supporting this service are shredded in the Office of the Organizing Secretary General to ensure privacy.

Q. If a member joins a DAR social club, buys and wears the pin, can she continue to wear the pin if she is no longer a member of the club?

A. Yes, she may continue to wear the pin since she was a member when it was purchased.

Q. At Congress I saw a member wearing a pin scarf, that she wore around her neck with the official DAR pins on the left and other DAR-related pins on the right. Is this pin scarf legal?

A. Absolutely and positively NOT. The DAR Handbook says that the official insignia is to be worn over the left breast and should conform to the dignity of the DAR which it represents.

Q. I can't find the Veteran Patients Committee pin on the official list of pins?

A. The name of the committee was changed to DAR Service for Veterans.

Q. Is there a pin for participating in the Descendants Project?

A. The Descendants Project is a project under the DAR Genealogy Preservation Committee. There is a DAR Genealogy Preservation pin.

Q. Can I wear the official pins of other patriotic organizations with my DAR official ribbon and pins at DAR functions?

A. No. Only the DAR official ribbon and pins are to be worn at DAR functions.

Q. Can I wear DAR pins on the miniature ribbon?

A. No, the miniature pin and ribbon are worn alone without other pins.

Q. I am no longer treasurer of our chapter. Can I still wear my chapter officer pin?

A. Yes, you would continue to wear your chapter officer pin since you held a chapter office.

Q. I recently received my Chapter Officer pin from Hamilton. It has two small rings at the bottom. Is this something new with the Chapter Officer pin?

A. Yes, the Chapter Officer pin now comes with loops to attach engraved bars. The bars would be engraved with the chapter office and attached in order of service.

Q. What if my highest office doesn't have a slide wire so that it can be worn at the top of my pins?

A. You would wear the highest "anchor pin" at the top. If you have none, put the Chapter Bar or (next) the Ancestor Bar at the top. A ribbon bar is another solution and may be purchased from Hamilton Jewelers and can be attached to the back of the ribbon.

Q. Can an associate member who lives out of state purchase that state pin?

A. An associate member is ineligible to purchase the State Organization pin for the state in which she is an associate member in a chapter. She is eligible for the associate member pin and bar with chapter name engraved.

Q. May we wear our official pins & ribbons at a DAR meeting where wine is served?

A. Yes, they may be worn when wine is served at a DAR function. However, they are not to be worn in a bar or cocktail lounge.

Q. I am in the Foreign Service. Am I eligible to purchase and wear the "DAR Serving the Nation" pin?

A. Ruling adopted by the NBM, October 1985 "...the DAR Serving the Nation Pin is to be worn either as a lapel pin or on the official ribbon below Veteran-Patients Committee Pin. Those members eligible to wear this pin shall be those who are serving or who have served in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States." Therefore, the Foreign Service, USO and Red Cross are outside the scope of eligibility.

Q. Can I wear a "Wounded Warrior" pin purchased outside of DAR on the official ribbon?

A. No. Only official DAR pins go on the official ribbon worn on the left. However, you may wear it on an unofficial badge that some members wear on the right side.

Q. I am a state chair and wear that pin. Am I allowed to wear it after I complete my term? If so, does its placement move?

A. You will continue to wear your state chairman pin when you complete your term. Its placement on your ribbon is in accordance with Document INS-1000 "Placement of DAR Insignia and Pins on Official Ribbon." The form is found on the Members' Web Site under Insignia Committee.

Q. Can I wear my official ribbon and pins on the left and the miniature ribbon on the right side?

A. You should wear either the official ribbon or the miniature, but not both at the same time.

Q. How do I earn a commemorative pin, i.e., Treaty of Paris or WWII?

A. There is no requirement to purchase and wear a commemorative pin. They may be worn on or off the ribbon. Any member or non-member may purchase commemorative pins.

Q. Is the Parliamentarian allowed to wear her official pins and insignia at a chapter or board meeting?

A. The only time that the Parliamentarian does not wear her official pins and ribbon is when she is actually serving as Parliamentarian in a meeting. When she is NOT serving as Parliamentarian, i.e., at other events, luncheons, dinners, etc., it is perfectly fine to wear her insignia and pins.

Q. We are dressing in colonial costume at our State Conference. Can the State Regent wear her insignia and sash on her costume?

A. Yes.

Q. I just purchased a pin from the C.A.R. to raise money for a historical project. Can I wear this on my official DAR ribbon?

A. Since this is not an official DAR pin, approved by the National Board of Management and provided by Hamilton Jewelers, it may not be worn on the official DAR ribbon.

USE OF THE INSIGNIA, AND MISCELLANEOUS

Q. May I use the DAR Insignia on a chapter tote bag?

A. The official DAR Insignia may not be used on a tote bag. The red and blue DAR logo design may be used. If you will go to the Members' Web Site, select "Download Graphics," then select "DAR Logo," logo art can be downloaded.

Q. Can I use the DAR Insignia on business cards?

A. Yes, if they are used for official business of the DAR. Otherwise, use the red and blue DAR Logo.

Q. Other than the Insignia Committee Web page, are there other sources of information about DAR pins?

A. Yes. The "DAR Handbook"; the NIP (National Information Packet – Insignia Committee).

Q. Where can I purchase a DAR Banner?

A. All DAR Banners (to be used as a DAR Banner with the American flag) are ordered directly from the DAR Store at National Headquarters, whether it is for a DAR Banner or a custom-made chapter banner. Banners to be used in parades are different from this banner and may not use the insignia. The DAR Logo may be used on a parade banner.

Q. My mother would like a DAR Insignia on her headstone. She resigned from DAR. Can she still have the Insignia on her headstone?

A. Yes, your mother may have the insignia on her headstone. All that is required is that she had been a DAR member.

Q. A deceased member left her pins to our chapter. What should we do with them?

A. The chapter could sell the pins, at a fair price, to chapter members who are eligible to wear them. The money could go toward a favorite DAR project of the deceased member. Also, it would have "friendship value" to own a pin that had belonged to a chapter member. If there are pins not sold, they could be donated to National Headquarters, Office of the Organizing Secretary General, for resale to DAR members.

Q. Should DAR pins be sold on eBay?

A. NSDAR cannot stop such public auctions in the "free-market world." It is not illegal for the previous owners or dealers to sell our pins.

For many years, DAR members have been donating previously owned pins to our National Society, Office of the Organizing Secretary General, for resale at a reduced price to DAR members. They still do. It should be noted that the NSDAR does not buy previously owned pins for resale.

Due to the rapid growth of computer technology and Internet selling sites, i.e., eBay, the National Society created an Internet Monitoring Group, Vice Chairmen under the National Insignia Committee. These DAR members, appointed by the President General, share the daily responsibility of monitoring eBay and other public auction sites. They gather the information that sellers post about DAR pins and DAR memorabilia, and through the use of e-Membership, are able to identify and inform chapters or individuals about these items. Those interested have the option to purchase. It is the responsibility of the members to only purchase pins that they are eligible to wear.

DAR members can agree that our pins should not be sold in a public auction, so NSDAR developed the form "Sample Letter for Disposal of Insignia and Pins," it is linked to "forms" on the Insignia Committee Web site, so that members can decide the disposition of their own pins.

Q. Our chapter would like to create a chapter logo to use on our Web page, name badges and other correspondence. Is this allowed?

A. No. To protect the National Society's brand and to achieve consistency essential for effective public relations, chapters and states shall use the official nationally approved logo and the DAR Insignia. Chapters and states shall not develop a unique logo to be used for publicity or creation of badges and pins. (By ruling of the Executive Committee, October 2010.)

Q. Our chapter would like to use the DAR Logo on some items, as a fund-raiser. We would sell to other DAR members. Is this allowed?

A. Yes, it is okay to sell items with the DAR logo on it, ONLY if the proceeds are going to the chapter or state for DAR purposes. Individuals are NOT allowed to use the DAR logo to generate PERSONAL revenue. The money should only be going towards DAR chapter/state events/fundraising etc. Standing Rule A.3 of the National Bylaws requires that fundraising may only be done within the state in which the chapter or state is chartered.

Q. Can our chapter have a special chapter pin made by Hamilton Jewelers? Would it have to be approved by National? Could we wear it on our official ribbon?

A. You could certainly have a special chapter pin made. However, it cannot be worn on the official ribbon. It would be worn on the lapel or on an unofficial badge on the right side. Hamilton Jewelers would apply a die charge and a minimum order. This pin would not require National Board approval since it would not be worn on the DAR official ribbon.

Q. Can a C.A.R. member wear her C.A.R. ribbon and pins while on duty paging for DAR?

A. If a C.A.R. member is paging at a DAR function she should not wear her official C.A.R. ribbon and pins because she is serving the DAR. However, if she is also a C.A.R. Debutante at a DAR State Conference she may wear her official C.A.R. ribbon and pins during the debutante presentation.

Q. If a C.A.R. member at age 18 joins DAR and maintains dual membership through age 21, can she wear both C.A.R. and DAR ribbons and pins at a DAR function?

A. She should only wear the DAR ribbons and pins at a DAR function.

Q. Can the DAR Insignia be used in an obituary?

A. No, according to the uses of the Insignia as stated in the DAR Handbook.

Q. My mother is deceased. Can I purchase her 25-year pin from Hamilton Jewelers?

A. No. A years-of-service pin may not be ordered by an inactive member or for a deceased member. However, a 25-year certificate may be ordered from the Office of the Organizing Secretary General.

Q. Can our State Society use a photograph of its state pin on our DAR State Web site?

A. Yes.

Q. Can our State Society use a photograph of its state pin on the front of note cards?

A. Yes, when using note cards for DAR purposes.

Q. We are going to have a display of our chapter's history in the local historical museum. May we display a DAR Insignia and ribbon in the display case? And, can we use the DAR Insignia on promotional materials for the museum?

A. Yes, you may display the DAR Insignia and ribbon, respectfully, in a display case. However, the DAR logo should be used on all promotional material, not the insignia.

If there is a question that you would like considered for "Let's Talk Pins," please email it to the national chairman, Karon Jarrard: KJarrard@aol.com