

The DAR School Sparkler

"SCHOOLS ARE THE JEWELS OF DAR"

From The Chairman's Heart

Summer is upon us and that means Congress is right around the corner. We're hoping to see you at the Education Awards Luncheon! I've seen the luncheon lineup and it is going to be a fantastic program. The next issue of the DAR School Sparkler will highlight the monetary gifts we are giving the schools from the Friends of DAR Schools Fund. You won't want to miss that issue. Through the generosity of our membership, the National Society is able to help the schools with big projects.



We started something a bit different with this newsletter. We've been featuring a member who loves the schools and it occurred to us... what about our Juniors? The Juniors have always been incredibly supportive of the schools since the inception of the committee and of the Helen Pouch Memorial Fund. Under President General Wright, each school now has a Junior Representative. The DAR School committee decided we should start featuring some of our Junior committee members and give you a peak into Junior Membership and what they do for our schools. First up... Sarah Grace Brooks, the National Chair! We're thrilled she said yes.

If you're attending Congress, don't forget to stop by the DAR School committee table on Friday night! Many of the members of the DAR School committee will be manning the table, as well as we may have one or two Junior Representatives. Please come by and introduce yourself, even if you are incredibly well versed in our DAR schools, we'd love to meet you.

Sparkle on!

Dawn Crumly Lemongello
National Chair, DAR School



**PURCHASE A DAR SCHOOL PIN FROM THE DAR STORE
TO SUPPORT THE DAR JEWELS**

[HTTPS://SHOP.DAR.ORG/HEARTS-SCHOOLS-PIN/](https://shop.dar.org/hearts-schools-pin/)

Take a Minute to share the DAR School Committee with your chapter ...

Review of DAR School Scholarship Process

Did you know the DAR School Committee administers four scholarships? Idamae Cox Otis, Mildred Louise Brackney, Longman-Harris, and Frankie Ellen Wood Giroux Scholarships. Please see The DAR Sparkler's October edition for a description of each scholarship. Application Packets are mailed to participating DAR Schools in August. After the February 15 deadline, the National Vice Chair ("NVC") appoints a DAR member, a teacher, and a community leader to review the applications and select the winners. The NVC submits a report to the National Chair of DAR School, the DAR School Executive Liaison, and the Reporter General's Office in advance of the Executive Board meeting in April for its approval. The NVC prepares winner notification letters for each student and their sponsoring DAR Schools. The Treasurer General distributes the funds to each respective school in August, and a new cycle begins for the next school year.

Tracy Suarez, National Vice Chair, DAR School Scholarship

14 Acres to Every Student

The Berry College campus, the world's largest, includes a vast ecosystem of woodlands, meadows and streams and is home to unique opportunities for research, entrepreneurship, hands-on learning and recreation. It has been consistently ranked among the country's most beautiful by Architectural Digest, Travel + Leisure, Buzzfeed, Thrillist and Southern Living. The campus boasts 27,000 acres, 47 primary buildings and 88 miles of hiking trails! DAR members are always welcome to tour the school grounds. Highlights of any visit might include a visit to the Oak Hill Estate, Martha Berry's home. Oak Hill was built in the 1880's and is a wonderful example of a Greek Revival style mansion. Martha Berry added the now famous gardens in the 1930's during her renovation of the estate. The estate's most famous garden, the Sunken Garden, was inspired by the grand gardens of Europe. If you can't make it to Georgia, check out the Berry College website, where you can take a virtual tour of this amazing campus!



Sammy Lackner, National Vice Chair

Finding Mrs. Atwell, Champion of DAR Schools

Sammy Lackner, National Vice Chair

You can find part 1 of this article in the April Edition of the DAR Sparkler, located on our committee page at <https://www.dar.org/members/committees/service-committees/dar-school/dar-school-sparkler-archives>

Ella K. Young Atwell, Part 2, A Legacy of Compassion

In April of 2006, NSDAR received a wire transfer of \$12,706,944.83 from the estate of Ella Young Atwell. Each quarter, the interest accrued from Mrs. Atwell's money is divided between Kate Duncan Smith DAR School and Crossnore Communities for Children. Because her Will stipulated that the "NSDAR Executive Committee exercise discretion over the disbursement of the income from the Fund", each school prepares a proposal for how they will use the funds, which is then presented to the Executive Board for approval.

Looking back over the National Board of Management minutes, we start to see the full scope of Mrs. Atwell's presence in the health of these schools. The Atwell Fund has paid for music and art teachers, funded outdoor learning opportunities, supported grounds maintenance and maintenance employees, purchased school lunches, hired school nurses, paid for school uniforms, and quite literally kept the lights on by subsidizing utility bills. It has helped to pay for curriculum, playground equipment, sports programs, basic office and classroom supplies, administrative employees, and more scholarships than we can even imagine. Multiply this generosity by the number of students over the course of 16 years, and the impact is simply staggering.

The Atwell Fund now amounts to over \$20 Million. It has grown to such a sum, that it exists independently. I'm sure that is how Ella Young Atwell would have wanted it....to have her gift continue long after she was forgotten. But as DAR moves forward into the 21st Century, it is vital that the ladies who built this society NOT be forgotten. With each new generation of Daughters, another generation passes on.

There is no Daughter alive now who personally knew Eugenia Washington – who knew the sound of her laugh or the color of her eyes. I went looking for ladies who might have known Mrs. Atwell personally and was thrilled to connect with Sissy Wood, the author of the December 1990 DAR Magazine article on the Atwells.

In December 2022, I had the honor of interviewing Sissy and her daughter Ellen over a Zoom call from Sissy's home in Bryan, Texas. Our National Chair, Mrs. Dawn Crumly Lemongello joined us. Sissy's article had provided us with so many incredible details about Mrs. Atwell that we could never have gleaned from the impersonal pages of census records and passport applications. In speaking about the Atwells, Sissy's genuine and abiding affection for them was clear.

Ella, according to Sissy, was most passionate about the DAR Schools and served as the Chapter Chair of the Committee for many years. We know she was generous with her money, but she was generous with her time as well. She served as Chapter Vice Regent one term, but never as Regent since she and Charles did so much traveling abroad.

Sissy joined the Captain William Sanders Chapter in Port Arthur in 1954 as a Junior. She was attending the University of Texas to study English. This is one of the things that Sissy and Ella had in common; they were both Texas Longhorns married to Texas Aggies! At that time, Mrs. Atwell would have been aged 61 and a 16 year member of DAR.

Sissy told us how kind both Ella and Charles were. They were very well known in their community but were incredibly unpretentious and lived in a modest home, despite their wealth. When Sissy married, the Atwells presented the newlyweds with a stunning Prussian cake plate which Sissy showed to Dawn and I over Zoom. As Sissy held up the plate in front of her computer screen, it was clear how special this treasure was to her....not just as a beautiful piece of porcelain, but as the physical expression of a friendship from long ago.

Sometimes, when we go looking for one thing, we find another. In searching for Mrs. Atwell, I developed a deepened appreciation for the breadth of our membership both across the globe and across the years. We are bonded through our service to others, and that servanthood is the badge of honor that all of our pins hang on.

As for Ella Young Atwell, the children who she so loved and cared for now number in the many thousands. Her legacy lives on through the Daughters who read and speak her name, through the young people whose lives are enriched by her generosity, and through the Atwell Fund which continues to do her important work. May we continue to be good stewards of her gift, and champions of her cause.

IN MEMORY OF LYSABETH "SISSY" HOGAN WOOD
1935-2023

DAR Member Spotlight

Sarah Grace Brooks, National Chair, Junior Membership

Junior membership has a long history of supporting the DAR schools since the founding of the Helen Pouch Memorial Fund in 1938. The fund was so successful that first year, that it was able to give three \$100 grants to the DAR schools. This year the five DAR schools will receive over \$85,000 from the Helen Pouch Memorial Fund!



The DAR Schools are no longer the only schools that benefit from the fund. Over the 85 years the fund has expanded to include two American Indian Schools, a National Junior Committee Project, and the cherry on our sundae, the Junior Membership Classroom Grants!

The Junior Membership Classroom Grants began in 2017. There are 102 \$500 grants awarded each year to teachers all over the United States. Each state, and the District of Columbia, are eligible for two classroom grants. As DAR members, our love of education runs deep and wide. The Classroom Grants are just one more way the DAR community can come together and spread education and patriotism. Please visit our page on the members only website for more information:

<https://www.dar.org/members/committees/service-committees/junior-membership/junior-member-committee-home>

Seed Showers for the Roots & Rows Program

Brook Tyler Hanna, National Vice Chair, DAR School Communications

Hindman Settlement School's commitment to student and community enrichment includes collecting vegetable seeds to distribute to families enrolled in their Roots and Rows home gardening program. Families attend ongoing workshops and receive support in growing and preserving fresh, nutritious foods for their families and the community. The school provides seeds, supplies, tools, and accessible gardens.



The July floods that destroyed a portion of the campus and washed away seed packets that were designated for this year's gardens also destroyed neighboring families' gardens and greenhouses. Florida Daughters jumped at the opportunity to host a Seed Shower in honor of Dawn Crumly Lemongello, National Chair DAR School, and help rebuild Hindman's seed resources. The Ponce de Leon Chapter encouraged its members to bring vegetable seed packets for the Seed Shower held during the Florida Fall Forum, a tradition that began during the Lemongello Administration.

Other states showered Hindman with seeds too. Members of the Ozark Spring Chapter (MO) gathered 74 vegetable seed and 23 flower seed packets, Francis Vigo Chapter (IN) members collected 240 seed packets, and John Reilly Chapter (OH) members donated dozens of vegetable seed packets to Hindman by the April 15, 2023 deadline.



Ozark Spring Chapter Members and Seed Packets

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DAR School Scholarship Winners

Tracy Suarez, National Vice Chair, DAR School Scholarship

The DAR School Scholarship Committee of Judges met in March to review the DAR School Scholarship applications and select winners for each of the three academic scholarships. We were fortunate to have DAR member Christine Page, Ponce de Leon Chapter, Winter Haven, Florida; retired teacher Wendi Wooddell, Winter Haven, Florida; and community leader Karen Tiner, Davenport, Florida; serving on our distinguished panel of judges. The Committee is pleased to announce their selections were approved by the NSDAR Executive Board and will be awarded to the following students:



1. Katelyn Dunnaway, senior, Kate Duncan Smith DAR School – Idamae Cox Otis Scholarship. The Idamae Cox Otis Scholarship is a \$1,000 per year scholarship and is renewable for four consecutive years. Funds will be mailed from the Office of the Treasurer General NSDAR to Lipscomb University, Katelyn’s school of choice.
2. Shannon Eli Cryer, senior, Kate Duncan Smith DAR School – Longman–Harris Scholarship. The Longman–Harris Scholarship is a \$2,000 per year scholarship and is renewable for four consecutive years. Funds will be mailed from the Office of the Treasurer General NSDAR to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Shannon’s school of choice.
3. Ella Satterfield, senior, Kate Duncan Smith DAR School – Mildred Louise Brackney Scholarship. The Mildred Louise Brackney Scholarship is a one–time award in the amount of \$1,000. Funds will be mailed from the Office of the Treasurer General NSDAR to the University of Alabama at Huntsville, Ella’s school of choice.
4. Additionally, five students from Crossnore Communities for Children and three students from Hillside School will be awarded Frankie Ellen Wood Giroux Boarding Scholarships. The Giroux Boarding Scholarship is a one–time award of \$2,000 for up to five Crossnore students and up to five Hillside students to cover tuition, subsistence, and other expenses of the student.

It has been a pleasure to work with Kate Duncan Smith DAR School, Crossnore Communities for Children, and Hillside School. We congratulate our scholarship winners and wish them all the best as they continue their education and sparkle in their communities.

News From The Schools

Hillside School

It is always amazing how quickly the Spring Term flies by in any school. With the nicer weather comes the planting season on our farm. The Eco-team has been hard at work planting, among other things, broccoli, chamomile, beets, dill, bachelor’s button, rainbow carrots, garlic, potatoes, sweet peas, and kale in our community garden. The Fifth and Sixth Grade Science classes have also each made their own individual garden plots for organic gardening. Many of the plants are already sprouting and we look forward to when they are ready to make their way to our dining room salad bar.



A highlight of the spring occurred on May 10 when DAR Day returned to Hillside after a 3 year hiatus due to Covid. Hillside welcomed nearly 100 Daughters to campus that day to thank them for their support. The boys were thrilled to give tours of the campus. Daughters were treated to information sessions, musical entertainment, and a delicious lunch. In the afternoon various states and chapters presented 55 scholarship awards to the boys. It was so wonderful to resume this long standing tradition at Hillside, and we are so appreciative of your support.

Crossnore Communities for Children



High school students on our Avery campus recently attended Prom! They danced the night away after attending a sit-down dinner and mocktail party at Director of Christian Experience and Education Jim Hart's home. We loved seeing everyone all dressed up and having a great time!

Despite the dreary and cool weather we had a great time celebrating the 25th annual Hugh Fields Crossnore Children's Classic at Linville Golf Club with funds raised exceeded \$90,000! Over the past 25 years the annual Hugh Fields Crossnore Children's Classic has raised more than \$1.5 million with proceeds supporting the services Crossnore provides children through the Promise Scholarship program.

Hindman Settlement School

We are so grateful for the group of experts from the National Heritage Responders and volunteers from the Daughters of the American Revolution who spent several weeks on campus this spring working to save hundreds of letters, journals, and photographs that were impacted by last summer's devastating floods and, since that time, have been frozen in order to prevent mold growth and decay. Having the right expertise and wonderful volunteers who are willing to give their time to save a collection that is important to this region makes all the difference!

Did YOU volunteer to support Hindman's rebuilding and recovery in the days, weeks, or months after last summer's flooding? If so, we need your assistance to fill out a brief time sheet that documents the hours and type of service you completed, whether it was on our campus, transporting items, or collecting items to aid in relief efforts in your home community. This documentation is vital in allowing us to qualify for federal funding to assist as we continue our recovery efforts.

ACCESS THE FORM HERE: <https://bit.ly/3NI7xNK>

Please share this form with other individuals who you may have volunteered with. If you have questions, please reach out to our office at (606) 785-5475 or info@hindman.org.



Kate Duncan Smith School

KDS has had a very busy spring as we visited Daughters at several State Conferences. It was an honor to have Pamela Rouse Wright, President General NSDAR visit the KDS booth at the North Carolina NSDAR State Conference. We also attended the Georgia Society DAR State Conference, the Texas State Society DAR Conference, and the California State Society Conference!

Daughters around the world are long-time supporters of the DAR Schools and I am proud to say that their commitment to the continued growth and success of KDS and its students holds true today. Thank you ladies for all you do!



Berry College



Berry is poised to help address a predicted shortage of nurses and primary care physicians in the near future by increasing the number of students graduating from our bachelor of science in nursing program and launching Northwest Georgia's first physician associate (PA) program. Pending the accreditation process, Berry will offer a two-year Master of Medical Science—Physician Associate degree, in line with a national shift in the profession to associates rather than assistants. To house the new program and Berry's growing BSN program, the college will build a \$25 million, 36,000-square-foot health sciences building. Fundraising is underway; construction is expected to begin in 2024.