Virginia Voices

www.virginiafoundingfathers.org

Founded February 2013

Honoring our past ~ Preserving our future

March 2026

Dear Members of Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers,

It's a very busy time of year as we all make our final arrangements for attending Hereditary Fortnight in April. I hope to see many of you at our Annual Meeting. Working closely with Order of the Steel Magnolias President, Pat Gallagher, we decided to eliminate the head table this year in order to accommodate an additional round table of 8-10 people. Our groups continue to grow, and we want as many as possible to have the opportunity to attend our meetings.

I am honored to have been elected your 5th Governor General, and as you know, my predecessors have left some big shoes to fill. I pledge to do my best!

Your officers and chairmen have been very busy at work. Deputy Governor, Mary Glenn, has maintained our agreement with Hamilton Jewelers, approving and sending batches of insignia orders. More on that on page 3.

Marshal General, Brenda Dorsett has done an excellent job of compiling the Directory and Register of ancestors for the 2025-2027 term. Her attention to detail has been extraordinary! We expect those to be shipped in the very near future.

Honorary Governor Suzanna Rawlins, who is also our Genealogist General, has kept the approval of applications flowing, approving 16 new members and 21 Supplementals since April of last year.

In the tradition of the Walden Administration, we have continued to contribute to scholarships to both George Mason University and the University of Mary Washington. Please see page 10 for the SDVAFF Crystal Brooch order form. Purchsase of this pin supports our scholarships.

We would also like to continue the tradition of historic marking. If you have a passion for finding historical locations to mark, please volunteer to be our chairman. To encourage you, I will include the description of the program as it was outlined by then-Governor General Deborah Hicks during her administration in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on April 13, 2026.

Julie Palmer Hesler
Governor General

Julie Palmer Hesler
Governor General 2025-2027

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 2025-2027

ELECTED OFFICERS

Governor General - Julie Palmer Hesler
Deputy Governor General - Mary Glenn
Marshal General - Brenda Dorsett
Secretary General - Lynda Moreau
Treasurer General - Tony Vets
Chaplain General - Ann Garner
Historian General - John C. Workman
Counselor General - Deborah Whitmore Hicks, Esq.

APPOINTED OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Genealogist General - Suzanna Rawlins
Parliamentarian General - Sharon Sowders
Scholarship Committee - Paul Walden
Technology Committee (Webmistress) - Julie Palmer Hesler
Bylaws Committee - Suzanna Rawlins
Finance Committee - vacant

HONORARY GOVERNORS GENERAL

Suzanna Rawlins—2013-2019
Leslie Kirk—2019-2021
Deborah W. Hicks—2021-2023
Paul Walden—2023-2025

Insignia Update

New Insignia Provider

On March 23, 2026, we were notified by Hamilton Jewelers that they will be exiting the insignia business entirely, and that we will be required to use another insignia provider. We are not alone in this; this applies to all lineage societies who did not move away from Hamilton when their business model changed two year ago. Fortunately, Hamilton has made us a fair offer for acquiring our pin inventory, ribbons, and tooling from them, and they are also working with us on a transition plan to CityPride, Ltd.

CityPride is a known provider within the lineage society community. The fulfillment option your Executive Board selected included transferring our inventory to CityPride, who will reimburse us for the sale of all pins received from Hamilton. Sale of pins manufactured in the future after Hamilton supplies run out will not result in reimbursement to the society. We are not monetizing the sale of insignia.

The benefit to our members is that credit cards will be accepted for future sales. The benefit to our Deputy Governor, our insignia officer, is less administrative burden for processing orders.

Please be patient with us as we work through this transition. We do have some low stock, particularly in our most popular items, the top bar and emblem for the “Full Set” and our ancestor bars. We will request replenishment of these items by CityPride as soon as this transition is finalized.

Historic Marker Program Original Proposal

The purpose of this program is to identify, research, and commemorate historic sites and/or structures, predominately located in colonial Virginia as Virginia geographically existed prior to 1700. This will be accomplished by placing the SDVAFF historic marker at the site, conducting a ceremony, and archiving the information on the Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers website. This will ensure future generations are aware of historic events, sites and/or structures that had a role in Virginia's early colonial history.

Marking of historic properties located outside of colonial Virginia as Virginia geographically existed prior to 1700 but related to one of Virginia's Founders who arrived in Virginia or was born in Virginia prior to 1700 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The SDVAFF historic markers are not ancestor or member grave markers. The production of grave markers will be considered at a later date. Ideally one or two historic markers would be presented during each administration.

Ranking criteria for historic sites or structures include:

1. Events occurred prior to 1700
2. Relation to Virginia's History
3. Relation to one of Virginia's Founders who arrived in VA or was born in VA prior to 1700
4. Accessibility to the public

The first SDVAFF marker was presented to Dr. and Mrs. Bill Nordt, current owner of Doghams Farm, on April 18, 2023. We are in search of a location for a future presentation of the SDVAFF plaque.

Welcome our New Members

Member #	Member	Ancestor
263	Christopher Edward Chapman	Jabez Whitaker
264	Charles Kent Leftwich	Thomas Leftwich, Sr.
265	Deborah A Domain	Stephen Hopkins
266	David Wayne Powell	Richard Flynt
267	Alice Lynette Davey Schroeder	Edward Boykin,
268	Leeann Lattimore Childers	John Echols
269	Regina Maria Abernathy Ragan	Robert Abernathy
270	Harriet Marie Story DeWitt	Robert Bracewell
271	Ann Rinear Wilkerson Dougherty	Thomas Marshall
272	Daniel Leo Coberly	Abrose Dixon
273	Robinson Whitmell Williams	Robert Sheppard
274	George Raymond Mitchell	Thomas Warren, Sr.
275	Nancy Susan Benson Royer	Robert Harris
276	Kenneth Lee Bage	Gideon Macon
277	Peggy Smith Gates	Robert Wynne
278	Elizabeth Anderson Tait	Francis P. Settle
279	Ron Phillips	Nicholas Meriwether
280	Dennis Kean McIntire	Drury Stith
281	Shelia Joy Moore	Thomas James
282	Matthew Ian Conard	Thomas Parsons
283	Gina Lea Dennison	Lawrence Smith
284	Kenneth W. Batchelor	Richard Batchelor
285	Carlton Murray Mansfield, Esq.	John Fisher
286	Heyward C. Hosch III	Thonas Harris
287	John R. Agner	Robert Albertson/Alverson
288	Renee Marie Willingham Hamilton	Richard Wells
289	Linda Young Howell Swindell	Paul Luke
290	Richard Edward Backlund	Susannah Crump
291	Cynthia Katherine Friedman Lucius	Thomas Farley
292	Alisha Candace Taylor	John Fisher
293	Mary Brown Turner	John Marshall
294	Connie Hayes Cleveland	Thomas Hawkins
295	Laura Ellen Moore	John Stockley
296	Thomas Bernard Clements	Peter Montague
297	Timothy Stuart Mills	Benjamin Beck
298	Tamala Ann Stokes Vogel	Josiah Moody
299	Anne Causin Henninger	Stephen Hopkins
300	Darlena Elaine Browning Trapp	Peter Montague

Newly-Approved Supplemental Applications are listed on page 6.

Be sure to join the SDVAFF Facebook Group:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/305354829596497

Supplemental Applications Approved since February 2024

Supplemental #	Member Name		Ancestor	
177-30	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Allen	Jane/Joan
177-31	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Epes	Daniel
177-32	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Williamson	Robert
177-33	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Exum, Jr	William
177-34	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Exum, Sr	William
177-35	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Williamson	George
177-36	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Lear	Martha
177-37	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Pitt	Robert
177-38	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Pitt	Hester
177-39	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Bridger, Sr.	Joseph
177-40	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Bridger	Hester
177-41	Dorsett	Brenda Eatmon	Allen	Arthur
192-1	Crabtree	Frances Rae	Harris	Thomas
192-2	Crabtree	Frances Rae	Harris	Edward
192-3	Crabtree	Frances Rae	Washington	Richard
192-4	Crabtree	Frances Rae	West, I	John
72-S1	Walden	Paul	Dorsey	Edward
167-S1	Fischer	Melissa Anne Harrison	Horsmanden	Warham
167-S2	Fischer	Melissa Anne Harrison	Byrd I	William
167-S3	Fischer	Melissa Anne Harrison	Duke, Sr	James
228-S2	Smith	David Carline	Rouzie/Rouzee	Edward
228-S3	Smith	David Carline	Rouzie/Rouzee	Mary (Gulloch)Whitlo
178-S5	Hesler	Julia Lynn Palmer	Anderson	Amy
178-S6	Hesler	Julia Lynn Palmer	Parker	John
289-S1	Swindell	Linda H	Stevenson I	John
289-S2	Swindell	Linda H	Wiggs, Sr	Henry
228-S4	Smith	David Carline	Mountford	Katherine
228-S5	Smith	David Carline	Langston	John
292-S1	Taylor	Alisha Candace	MNU - married is Fisher	Elizabeth
116-S2	Glasow	James F.	Colson	Jacob
290-S1	Backlund	Richard Edward	Crump	Stephen
228-S6	Smith	David Carline	Andrews	James
290-S2	Backlund	Richard Edward	Cade, Sr.	Robert
144-S1	Keating	Norma Anne Storrs	Farrar	Cicely - XXX - Baley
144-S2	Keating	Norma Anne Storrs	Perrin	Richard
144-S3	Keating	Norma Anne Storrs	Royall	Joseph
144-S4	Keating	Norma Anne Storrs	Farrar	William
144-S5	Keating	Norma Anne Storrs	Farrar	Thomas

Minutes from April 7, 2025 12th Annual Meeting

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers was called to order by Governor General, Paul Walden at 10:32am April 7, 2025 at the Army Navy Club, Washington, DC.

Governor Walden welcomed everyone and started the business meeting while waiting for our speaker to arrive.

Chaplain Lynda Moreau gave the invocation. The Pledge to the Flag of the United States was led by Treasurer, Tony Vets, the American's Creed was led by Deputy Governor General, Julie Hesler and the salute to the Flag of SDVAFF was led by Historian General, Brenda Dorsett.

Governor Walden brought greetings, introduced the General Officers and other distinguished quests. Presiding Officers of other National Societies were asked to stand and be recognized.

Secretary General, Mary Glenn, read the Bylaw Article VII.B that states five persons constitute a quorum. The Chair declared a quorum.

The Executive Board met on March 3, 2025 via Teams. Minutes were distributed earlier. There were no corrections received. Hearing no objections the reading of the minutes was waived and declared adopted as printed.

Brenda Dorsett and Lynda Moreau were appointed to review the recording of the minutes of this meeting.

OFFICER REPORTS: Full copies of reports are available.

Governor Walden reported it had been a productive year. The Society has continued the support of Virginia Scholarship by giving a donation to the scholarship programs at George Mason University and Mary Washington University.

Governor Walden represented the SDVAFF at a celebration of the adoption of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. There is also a program where a plaque is presented to historic sites in Virginia. On December 13, Governor Walden presented the plaque to the Elsing Green Plantation in King William, Virginia. The current resident, Edgar Laferty, was honored to receive our plaque to promote our interest in preserving Virginia history. If there are any suggestions for the coming year, please contact one of the Officers.

Governor Walden expressed his appreciation of the hard work of all the Board members, especially that of our Genealogist General, Suzanna Rawlins and Deputy Governor General, Julie Hesler, who headed up the Nominating Committee.

The speaker today will be Susan Hayward-Costa. Mrs. Costa is a docent at Mount Vernon and was previously a docent at George Mason's home in Mason Neck. We are privileged to comp Rev and Mrs. Costa for lunch.

Deputy Governor, Julie Hesler reported that although there have been a few bumps with Hamilton Jewelers, the process was working fairly well. The silver-filled insignia set has been restocked with a new price of $230. The form is updated and was sent to the webmistress. There are a few of the SDVAFF crystal pins for sale for $20 plus $5 shipping.

Treasurer General, Tony Vets, SDVAFF has two accounts at PNC Bank, a non-profit checking account and a Business Premium Money Market Account. We are in good shape and a complete report is available.

Chaplain General, Lynda Moreau, reported there would be a combined Memorial Service with The Order of Steel Magnolias. Chaplain Moreau reported the deaths of the following SDVAFF members:

Baxter Keith Bedell National #258 12 December 2024

Dr. Thomas Graves Gilbert, Jr. National #227 19 July 2023

Jacquelin Lynne Amann Schulman National #217 25 October 2024

Registrar-Genealogist General, Suzanna Rawlins, reported 16 new members, The database has been updated, and all applications are approved, scanned and stored in a timely manner. In the absence of Leslie Kirk, it was reported that members of the Society would highlight ancestors with stories of their ancestors to be submitted to the webmistress.

A Recommendation from the Executive Board to approve the 2025 budget was presented. It was moved and seconded and approved. The copy is available.

New Business:

Governor Walden appointed Julie Hesler to serve as a member of the Board and Ann Scott Garner and Deborah Hicks were elected to serve on the Nominating committee at the last Annual meeting from the floor.

Chair, Julie Hesler presented the nominating committee report.

Governor: Julie Palmer Hesler
Deputy Governor: Mary Glenn
Marshal General: Brenda Dorsett
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Counselor General: Deborah Hicks

It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed and the slate be elected by acclamation. The motion was approved.

Announcements:

- Please purchase an SDVAFF brooch. The proceeds help support our scholarship program. The order form is on the website.
- Everyone was thanked for attending this meeting and the hard work of all of the officers and committee members.
- After the OSM meeting, new officers should gather for a group picture.

The installation of the new officers followed.

Paul Walden was escorted out of the room and a motion was made and seconded to elect him as an Honorary Governor General. This being done, Honorary Governor General, Paul Walden was given a gift for his service.

The meeting was adjourned for The Order of Steel Magnolias to begin their meeting after which a luncheon was served. Chaplain General Lynda Moreau gave a Benediction.

After all meetings and a delicious luncheon, Honorary Governor General Paul Walden introduced Mrs. Susan Howard-Costa as our guest speaker. Mrs. Costa gave an interesting overview of the rooms and items located at Mount Vernon.

Our next meeting will be April 13, 2026, at the Army Navy Club.

Secretary General

Mary W. Glenn

Support Our Scholarship Program!

Scholarship Information

The Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers was founded to honor the memory and service of those men and women who were part of the creation of the Virginia colony. It is part of our mission to help educate our membership on the role Virginia played in the founding of this great country. To this extent, each year, a student enrolled at a Virginia college or university is selected as our scholarship recipient.

Sales of our **crystal brooch,** shown right, benefit our Scholarship Program. You can order it using the form below through March 15 of 2027. Produced by Pamela Wright Collections, the brooch features Swarovski crystals that spell out the letters SDVAFF on a silver-tone base. The brooch is 2-1/2" wide and 5/8" tall. The cost is $20 plus $5 shipping. Purchase of a crystal brooch at the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. will avoid the $5 shipping fee.

Make check payable to SDVAFF and mail order form to

Julie Palmer Hesler
Governor General SDVAFF
105 Cedar Point Drive
LaGrange, GA 30241-9511

Member Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Ship to: _____

Street: _____

City:_____ **State:**_____ **Zip:**_____

Amount enclosed: $_____ **$25 each, check payable to SDVAFF.**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND!