What the VIS Committee Does

http://members.dar.org/committees/vis2/index.htm

The computer has found its way into every corner of our lives. DAR chapters that have opened their doors through the Internet now experience membership growth through public contact with their web sites and avenues of social media. Both our chapters and the National Society reap the benefits of increased visibility in the community.

The Volunteer Information Specialists Committee is a group of Daughters who serve DAR at the chapter, state, and national levels, using computer and technology skills to assist DAR. Our committee works closely with the Information Systems and Public Relations departments at NSDAR to:

• Provide solutions for DAR concerns using the latest computer technology
• Promote awareness of DAR and its objectives to the public through the creation and maintenance of chapter and state web sites
• Provide skilled computer users as volunteers to assist the Society at all levels
• Convey correct and factual information using rapid electronic communication
• Promote use of e-Membership, the Electronic Master Questionnaire, and the PMD System by educating chapter officers

VIS volunteers serve DAR in the following ways:

• Design, build, maintain, and review over 2,000 chapter, state, national committee, and executive officer web sites
• Create writable and savable PDF forms for NSDAR
• Maintain chapter, state, and webmaster email contacts
• Respond to Help Desk emails
• Create chapter documents, including yearbooks, labels, programs, nametags, certificates, and awards
• Index and enter data for history books, genealogical records, and the Genealogical Research System
• And much MORE!

How Can We Help You?

We encourage Daughters to volunteer their computer skills to help DAR achieve our objectives!

Our experienced volunteers can guide you through the fulfilling experience of creating your web site. A skilled webmaster volunteer can build and maintain your web site, if you’d prefer to have someone else handle the task for you. We stand ready to answer your technical questions should you simply need assistance or someone to look over the page you are building.

Elizabeth M. Swanay-O’Neal, National Chairman

DiAnne B. Lerud-Chubb, Vice Chairman, Web Site Review

Site of the Month

Each month, new and revised DAR web sites are reviewed with the intent of recognizing the hard work of our member web designers and the states and chapters who stand behind them. Since 1998, this committee has chosen a “Web Site of the Month.” In 2012, the contest was extended to include winners for the months of July and August. These winners are the “best of the best,” and are entitled to display a special graphic.

Volunteer judges are needed to help with the selection of monthly winners. If you volunteer, you may not be called to service each month, as it is important to rotate the judges.

Criteria for Web Site of the Month

• Content (informative and shows how the chapter/state serves its community in historic preservation, education, and patriotism)
• Originality (uniqueness)
• Public appeal (oriented to the general public, especially prospective members)
• Attractiveness (pleasing to the eye, legible, good contrast between background and text)
• Compliance with VIS guidelines (VIS Handbook, Approval Checklist, VIS Writing Style Guide for Webmasters)

2013 Web Sites of the Month

• January: Courtney-Spalding Chapter, Kansas
• February: Caroline Close Stuart Chapter, Missouri
• March: Chico Chapter, California
• April: Esther Reed Chapter, Washington
• May: Caravel Chapter, Florida
• June: Colorado State Society, Colorado
• July: Major Isaac Sadler-La Belle Vue, Nebraska
• August: Tennessee State Society, Tennessee