

SAR Reinstatement Guide
Membership Committee, NSSAR



April 1, 2025

Foreword

As is with the recruitment and retention programs, the reinstatement program involves all levels of the society working together. This guide provides an overview of reinstatement-related activities, primarily at the Chapter level.

Suggestions and recommendations included within this guide should be implemented by the chapters, depending on the size and resources available to the chapter. It should be recognized that, while not every suggestion or recommendation can be implemented, efforts should be undertaken by the chapter membership to maximize the use of these resources – this is where “the rubber meets the road.” In addition, reinstatement efforts are most effective when conducted at the chapter level, as the inactive members will usually be most familiar with those who are active members.

This document expands on the reinstatement-related suggestions originally identified in the 3-Rs Guide developed by the Membership Committee and published in 2023.

Note that, in this document, some items are highlighted in red. These are specific to the state society or chapter and should be revised for your particular situation.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the Membership Committee team members and individual contributors whose personal experiences and involvement on various committees helped to make this document.

David Chaffin, MD, Team Leader

Comments and Corrections

This document will always be a work in progress. Its use will generate new ideas with successes and failures. The membership committee encourages members to contact us with the new and not so good ideas assisting us in maintaining an effective working document.

Contact us:

Send an email through National Membership Committee in sar.org - Members Tab – Membership Committee Website – at top “Send an Email” or [Membership Committee Link](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Sample Reinstatement Form	Page 1
II.	Why Reinstatement?	Page 2
III.	The Dropped List	Page 2-6
	A. Alive?	Page 2
	B. Begin Calling Process	Pages 2-3
	C. Actual Call	Pages 3-4
	D. Interesting Programs	Page 4
	E. Script for New Callers	Pages 4-5
	F. Possible Script for Calling Inactive Members	Page 6

REINSTATEMENT FORM

(Thanks to the Kansas Society, Sons of the American Revolution)

"Thank you in advance for deciding to reinstate your membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. At the youthful age of 23, I became a member of the SAR and am proud to say that I've been an active member now for 41 years. I value my SAR membership because it reflects both my fascination with history & genealogy and my patriotic dedication to the principles of the Constitutional Republic that has made America the greatest nation on Earth!

"I've always wanted to see the SAR do more. There must be a hundred new ways that we could fulfill our objectives as a patriotic, educational, and historical organization. As the years have passed, I've seen the SAR become more involved in different things. However, in order for the SAR to expand its horizon and improve its programs and activities, we need members who are active, involved, and dedicated to these ends. The input of all compatriots is both welcome and needed..." quote from Timothy Peterman, Membership Secretary, KSSSAR.

Since most SAR activities happen at the chapter level (eg, monthly meetings with good programs, Color Guard, recognizing patriotic service to the community, supporting youth programs, etc.), all SAR members are encouraged to belong to one of our 13 chapters.

However, we recognize that for a variety of reasons, some compatriots prefer Member-at-Large (MAL) status. Details about the state society can be found at: www.ksssar.org

Dues for MAL status are \$ 60 (\$50 National, \$10 Kansas). Send a check payable to "KSSSAR" and this form to: Compt. Timothy E. Peterman Membership Secretary, KSSSAR xxxxxxxx Street, Kansas City, MO 64134.

Perhaps you have a son, grandson, brother, or nephew interested in joining the SAR. We can help. The application process is a lot simpler than it used to be. If a number of family members apply for membership simultaneously on the same lineage, there is a considerable discount. Perhaps you have identified another Revolutionary War ancestor and would like to apply for a supplemental. You might be interested to know that the SAR now has a Junior Membership Program, where youth (age 0-17) can become SAR members. No more waiting until age 18. There have been a lot of other exciting developments in recent years.

National Number: _____ Kansas Number: _____

Primary Revolutionary War ancestor: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

The state society's newsletter is sent by e-mail at no extra cost to those with e-mail addresses.

REINSTATEMENT How-To Guide

I. Why Reinstatement?

- A. Stressed by current President General Darryl Addington (amend July, 2025)
- B. Of the 3Rs, reinstatement requires the least effort to perform.
- C. Of the 3Rs, it has the highest potential to increase our membership numbers quickly without having to file an application.
- D. They once committed to the SAR, so they did want to be members? Reinstatement is cheap compared to new membership costs.

II. The Dropped List

A. Alive?

- 1. SAR Magazine Death List-need to review each issue and make a list.
- 2. Newspaper Obits (good only for local members)
- 3. Newspapers.com Obits \$60/6 months
- 4. Social Security index-last updated 2014-Genealogybank.com, \$60/6 months, also has obits.
- 5. Intelius.com, public records search site. \$20.35/month. Deaths and addresses. Similar to white pages.
- 6. White pages.com-addresses & cell numbers, \$22.99/month OR 99 cents for first 5 days-save up. Tends to be current.
- 7. Local voting rolls – actually done in KY.
- 8. Find a Grave
- 9. Definitely share death info with NSSAR Registrar, 502-588-6142. Preferred way is via email including National number, Name, Location, Obituary, and death date.
- 10. Google search. Use “Name” (include parentheses), date of birth, location, death. Can also do obit search.
- 11. Call, and if they have passed from life, apologize and go on.

B. Begin Calling Process - start with Blue Data Base. Available on a chapter level to President, Registrar, and Secretary. Others obtain access via Jon Toon.

- 1. Start with most recent drop. This can be done by the following sequence on the SAR.org website. From the Blue Data Base, go to state dashboard, then reports, then inactive member list, then drop down by chapters, select your chapter, select date range, then select generate. Can go back to 2015 for inactive members.
- 2. Divide the drop list among several experienced callers-assign to those who know them best. The person charged with doing this dividing brought up an interesting idea of having a Membership Chair (different from a Membership Secretary) whose main task is to handle matters like membership

reinstatement. For new callers, a script will be helpful in the beginning until they learn to say positive things and are not forced to ad lib. See II E that follows for script. Do not forget that some of your homebound members can serve as excellent callers.

3. Personalize assignments to callers-utilize mentors. Mentor-one who helps with application, calls on them, and can be several guys. Boston Buddies-assigned to new member for first year. Mentors can be the go-to guys when a newbie has questions.
4. Progress from emails to phone calls to text messages to letter - but use what works for you. One may want to email followed by letter. You may want to let them know you are calling by cell, and they can text back.
5. Must be done on a CHAPTER basis. Also, can be done on other levels.
6. Begin with mentors because they will know the person best. See Membership info on sar.org for definition.
7. Don't forget the Reinstatement Transfer Application. Find this on SAR.org, Manuals and Forms, Organizational Forms and Reinstatement Transfer Forms. Path of this form is applying compatriot to society secretary to Registrar General via Jon Toon. Form explains what fees are due. Check with state society how to write the check. Dues cover Chapter, Society and National.

C. The Actual call

1. Needs to be personal. See Script for New Callers, III.E.
 2. Good time to talk? As a rule, call between 9am to 9pm, maybe not on Sunday
 3. Topics not to cover-politics & religion
 4. Text before you call-include your name. Others have found they are successful by calling first followed by a text with their phone number stating you called but got no answer. "I would really like to talk to you about reinstating your SAR membership for the 250th Anniversary. Please give me a call or put my number in your phone so you will know it is me calling back".
 5. Update contact info-email, address, cell, photo-needed info if they are reinstating, but even if they don't now, good to have updated info for the future.
 6. Bring America 250 into conversation like Boston Tea Party and First Continental Congress.
 7. Find out why they did not renew and take notes! (Report these reasons back to Chapter President or person collecting data on why they did not renew.
-
8. Common reasons for #7 are:
 - a. uninteresting programs
 - b. Too much time spent on business.

- c. Time of meeting-meeting insert. (refers to sheet of upcoming events that may be inserted into the printed meeting agenda)
 - d. Location may not be the best.
 - e. Minutes not emailed prior to meeting. If not done, it can make a long meeting longer, and new people may not be patient with meetings that seem never ending.
 - f. Oversight or forgot to pay dues.
 - g. Did not read email.
9. When they answer, repeat answer back to them as a question and get their confirmation. This lets them know you are listening and understanding.

D. Interesting Programs. Caller must be familiar with each of these programs to be able to discuss. I would bet that most members of a chapter are not familiar with these programs. This will serve as rebuttal suggestions if a member is not considering renewing, but it can also serve as suggestions for the Retention part of the 3Rs Guide to make our meetings interesting enough for members to keep returning.

- 1. Historical, Educational that are stressed.
- 2. Interesting and New info.
- 3. Goals & Objectives of SAR.
- 4. Award winner talks.
- 5. Some American Revolution related, some not.
- 6. Projects that men can work on together as a group and ones that makes the SAR visible to the community-Christmas Parade, Veterans Day Parade, USS Arizona program.
- 7. Think out of the box.
- 8. American 250 Event List.
- 9. Zoom presentation.
- 10. Zac Distel-SAR Museum Curator.
- 11. Videos from SAR HQ. One on Flags specifically for school kids.
- 12. American Revolutionary Rarities podcasts-avg 8-15 min each
- 13. Veteran Organizations in your community.
- 14. Story of Heroism Medal Recipient.
- 15. Renee Hamilton Genealogy Workshop.
- 16. Local attorney talking about the Constitution as Constitution Day approaches.
- 17. Presentation about the Presidents.
- 18. Program entitled "This Day in History ".
- 19. Let kids sign a mock Declaration of Independence.
- 20. School history teachers.
- 21. Museum curators.

E. Script for new callers

1. Current dues are required.
2. Introduce self.
3. Give address to remit.
4. Ready to reinstate.
5. Get paperwork done, but file on or after 1 September. Optimally, get the info over the phone.
6. Take notes on person being called. Keep a log for future reference.
7. Relive initial excitement of inactive member.
8. "Love to have you back."
9. Why they dropped? Take notes! See D above.
10. We are not bill collectors!
11. Objections allow us to improve what we are doing. Encourage negative feedback.
12. Some will remain certificate members only.
13. Use PRS system to relate to others who are members and to help them to get them involved finding supplemental ancestors.
14. Zoom for those whose health prevents attendance.
15. Do not be discouraged with an early no. Find out reason for the no. If related to programs, then consult the program list. Call back later if appropriate. Print info from data base to have when you make the call. Check current wife's name.
16. Be ready with name/address where to send app/dues. Have this set up in a saved text or email so you can send immediately.
17. Ready with ability to use credit card information if they are comfortable. Credit card info may not be in the state data base if they have been inactive for a period. Some may be more comfortable using a link themselves rather than passing information over the phone.
18. Be ready with rebuttals.

Possible Script for calling inactive members:

Compatriot _____, I am _____ and I am calling you as a member of the **Kansas Society** Sons of the American Revolution in regard to the fact

that you are a member eligible for reinstatement. Our country is in a crossroads at this time, and we feel that as descendants of those who suffered the perils of our Revolution and its successes, we have an opportunity during the coming few years to advance the principles that were established and have led to the durability and soundness of our Constitution.

We are embarking on a mission to contact all inactive members of the **Kansas Society** and ask that they reinstate and join us in our mission to promote the principles of liberty that our patriot ancestors gave us during our celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. If you are interested in joining us in this endeavor and we hope you will, all you have to do is pay current dues and our **Membership Secretary Tim Peterman** will do the paperwork.

Can you think of any reason not to be a part of restoring honor to our flag as an active member of the SAR and all it stands for as a part of our mission? Yes, I would: Ok let me update your information to make sure it is all correct.

Mailing address:_____ Email address:_____

Is there another Phone # that you would like to use other than this one? I will email you my contact information and the mailing address for Tim Peterman who will do your reinstatement and instruction on who to make the check out to as well as get you on our notifications emails and the **Liberty Bell** Newsletter list.

We also like to let everyone know of any color guard activities taking place around the area. From my email you have my contact information so you can get hold of me with any questions.

- I do not want to: "Can I ask you one question? Was there a particular reason that you chose not to renew your membership?" Rebut if it looks possible or thank them for their time and for being a descendent of one of the Patriots of the American cause at the time of the Revolution. "If there is a chance that you might change your mind and rejoin us in our mission put my number in your phone book so you can give me a call."