



MTSSAR Gazette



A periodic newsletter of the
Montana Society -
Sons of the American Revolution
November 10, 2025

Editor - Steve Armstrong, President - Glacier Chapter MTSSAR

Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
2026 Annual Meeting
April 25, 2026, starting at 10:30 AM
Missoula Country Club (tentative)

Annual Meeting details - This is an in-person meeting. MTSSAR has a unique opportunity in the next two years (2026 and 2027) to have our annual meeting at the same time and city location as Montana Society - Daughters of the American Revolution.

MSSDAR has already indicated that members of MTSSAR are invited and can register for their Friday evening banquet on April 24, 2026, which will take place at the Double Tree Edgewater Hotel along the Clark Fork River. More details will be forthcoming, but this is an occasion where MTSSAR and MSSDAR can join together to celebrate our joint missions and America 250.

MTSSAR's Saturday Annual Meeting will likely start at 10:30 a.m. The end of the meeting will be no later than 3:00 p.m., although it is likely that the meeting could finish earlier.

A detailed agenda will be emailed to MTSSAR members by the end of March 2026. Other information will be mailed throughout the next several months.

Membership Renewal dues for 2026

SUMMARY OF YEARLY DUES	<u>NSSAR</u>	<u>MTSAR</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Total</u>
Regular Member	\$50	\$20	\$5	\$75
Junior Member	\$5	\$5	\$0	\$10
Dual Member whose primary state is other than Montana	\$0	\$20	\$5	\$25
Life Member	\$0	\$20	\$5	\$25
Reinstatement (Regular Member)	\$50	\$20	\$5	\$75
Reinstatement (Junior Member)	\$5	\$5	\$0	\$10
NSSAR Life Membership Dues - Consult NSSAR Life Membership Application located on NSSAR website	\$0	\$20	\$5	\$25

MTSSAR Treasurer Pat Duncan mailed membership renewal notices for 2026 last month, October 2026. On the day I received my membership renewal notice, I wrote a check and mailed that check and my renewal information to Pat in the stamped, self addressed envelope. One couldn't ask for an easier way to complete this important task.

Dues are necessary to keep any organization alive and active. And while not all of our members are able to participate in-person due to a variety of reasons, we all share the common bond of having ancestors who fought to create this great nation.

Please renew! Please mail your annual dues as soon as you can. Both Treasurer Pat Duncan and Secretary Jim Gustafson have specific obligations that they must fulfill with National by the end of the calendar year.

Montana Society - SAR

2025 Parades and Events

The following is a recap of the varied events and parades that Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution participated in and was involved with during the 2025 calendar year.

- **February 13, 2025** - Glacier Chapter President and MTSSAR V-P Steve Armstrong testified at a Montana Legislative Committee hearing in support of a resolution to commemorate the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Time of the hearing was 8:00 a.m. Guardian Chapter Compatriot Chris Shermer also attended this hearing.

- **February 22, 2025** Liberty Tree Chapter's annual George Washington Birthday celebration was held at the Missoula Country Club, 5-8 p.m. Each attendee paid \$45.00 for the dinner.
- **March 29, 2025** Annual event honoring Vietnam Veteran's with a walk around the Capitol complex in Helena. Start time was 11:00 a.m. MTSSAR President Don Reed carried the American flag, MTSSAR V-P Steve Armstrong carried the Montana State flag, and Guardian Chapter member Keith Kramlick carried Guardian Chapter's banner.



- **April 18, 2025** 250th Declaration of Independence Commission Lexington and Concord "Two Lanterns" celebration at the Capital Rotunda in Helena. MTSSAR Compatriots participating in this celebration included Steve Armstrong, Terry Atwood, Larry Mylnechuk, Bruce Taylor, Chris Shermer, Keith Kramlick, Don Reed and Mike Naylor.



- **April 26, 2025** MTSSAR Annual Meeting, Missoula Country Club, 10:30 a.m. Attendees are purchased their lunch from the Missoula Country Club menu. Several Compatriots received medals and certificates, recognizing their special contributions to MTSSAR.
- **May 3, 2025** MTSSAR Compatriots Don Reed (Guardian Chapter), Bruce Taylor (Liberty Tree Chapter and Don Drake (Yellowstone River Chapter), provided Color Guard duties for Montana Society DAR's annual convention in Billings.



- **May 26, 2025** Memorial Day Parade in East Helena using DAR's Betsy Ross float. Several members of Oro Fino Chapter DAR participated in this parade, and were joined by Guardian Chapter members Jim Gustafson and Terry Atwood. Jim is to the left in this picture, with Terry in the middle.



- **May 26, 2025** Memorial Day Parade in Corvallis - Bruce Taylor registered MTSSAR's Flag Float. Bruce arrived in Corvallis at 0715 to get in line and prep the float. **Parade started at 10:00 am.** with staging is at Corvallis High School at the north end of Main St. Five Liberty Tree Chapter Compatriots joined in this parade, including Bruce Taylor (driving the float) Chuck Webber, Walter Briggs, Larry Mylnechuk and Mike Naylor. (picture on page 6)



- **May 26, 2025** Memorial Day Parade in Bozeman was a combined effort of MTSSAR and the Mount Hyalite Chapter of MSSDAR. MTSSAR participants were Wayne Bequette, Steve Armstrong and Don Reed. The Encampment Float was well-received by the Bozeman crowd.



- **June 14, 2025** Clancy Days Parade - - MTSSAR joined with members of Oro Fino Chapter - MSSDAR in this afternoon parade, which started at 2:30 pm. MTSSAR participants were Steve Armstrong and Terry Atwood.



- **June 28, 2025** Augusta Rodeo Rodeo Parade, start time noon. Don Reed and Steve Armstrong drove to Augusta to participate in their annual rodeo parade.



- **July 3, 2025** Cody, Wyoming parade. MTSSAR President Don Reed drove the Encampment Float to Cody for their annual parade. Wyoming DAR member Karin Neilson is standing next to Wayne Bequette (Liberty Tree) on the float. Don's cousin Josh Hollinger is next to him. The three girls are also Don's cousins Lanie Jopps the oldest, Avie Jopps with my cousin Dave Hollinger's arm around her and the smallest Mekana Jopps all are future DAR Members. Their Grandma, Dave's wife, is a Pennsylvania DAR Member. Don is trying to get Josh and Dave to Join MTSSAR. Not in the photo but driving my truck is Wayne's wife Barb from the Silverbow DAR chapter.



- **July 4, 2025** Red Lodge parade - Don Reed drove the Encampment float to Red Lodge for their July 4th parade and festivities. On the float from left to right are: Don Reed (Guardian Chapter), Don Drake (Yellowstone River Chapter) and Wayne Bequette (Liberty Tree Chapter)



- **July 4, 2025** Liberty Tree Chapter held its annual Encampment at Fort Missoula. Bruce Taylor drove the Flag Float to Missoula. Liberty Tree also erected the Washington Tent.



- **July 12, 2025** St. Ignatius Good Old Days Parade, starting at noon. Among the highlights was the ability to fire the cannon, which was done twice!! In this pictures, Larry Mylnechuk and Bruce Taylor display the award MTSSAR won. Also on the float were Wayne Bequette, Mike Naylor, Roy Heffern and Steve Armstrong (not in picture as he's taking this picture!).



- **July 19, 2025** Sheridan, Montana Rodeo Parade - **did not participate in 2025**
- **July 26, 2025** Phillipsburg Flint Creek Valley Days Parade. Riding on the Flag Float are Gale and Keith Kramlick, Walter Briggs, Wayne Bequette and Bruce Taylor.



- **July 26, 2025** Columbia Falls Heritage Days Parade - **did not participate in 2025**
- **August 2, 2025** Stevensville Creamery Day Parade - with the Flag Float are Bruce Taylor, Walter Briggs, Wayne Bequette, Chuck Webber and Steve Armstrong.



- **August 8, 2025** Northwest Montana Fair Parade, Kalispell, start time 10:00 a.m. Bruce Taylor drove the truck and Steve Armstrong was on the float!



- **August 9, 2025** Trout Creek Huckleberry Days Parade, start time 10:30 a.m. Wayne Bequette and Steve Armstrong load the firing cannon, which was fired four times during the parade. Bruce Taylor drove the truck.





- **September 1, 2025** Dillion Labor Day Parade started at 10:00 a.m. Float participants, standing on float Warren Dupuis, standing in front of float, left to right, Terry Atwood, Linda Roberts, Don Reed, Nancy Mace, Mike Naylor, Steve Armstrong, Bruce Taylor



- **September 17, 2025** Constitution Day event at the Capital with DAR. MTSSAR Color Guard included Steve Armstrong, Terry Atwood, Keith Kramlick, Mike Naylor and Don Reed. The young boy in front is a future member of Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution!



Also during this event. Glacier Chapter's Steve Armstrong gave MTSSAR President Don Reed two rolls of 1976 Bicentennial coins, donated by an MTSSAR Compatriot who wishes to remain anonymous.



- **October 25, 2025** Ft. Logan Blockhouse ceremony in White Sulphur Springs with Oro Fino Chapter-DAR. Oro Fino Chapter's Gale Kramlick writes that the Chapter "will present a Community Service Award to the Berg family for their continual work preserving the Ft. Logan Blockhouse which we dedicated back in August 1924." The Meagher County Historical Association will also present a plaque to go on the replica of the blockhouse located in their park. MTSSAR President Don Reed will give greetings, and is joined by Guardian Chapter Compatriot Keith Kramlick in Color Guard.

"We did the Fort Logan Berg Family Honor Guard and speech last Saturday, The facility was packed my estimate was at least 50 people attending. I haven't received any photos yet from the DAR ladies. In honor of the event which was in the 1869 to 1881 period. I wore a combination of 1861 and 1874 Cavalry Officer uniform attire. My speech was the only one to receive an applause from the attendees, so I think it was well received. I paid homage to The Berg Family, DAR, Captain Logan, the Nez Perce Shield Maiden that killed Captain Logan at the Big Hole battle and all our Veterans and first responders for their service to We the People of this Constitutional Republic "

MTSSAR President Don Reed among the featured speakers



MTSSAR President Don Reed and Guardian Chapter Compatriot Keith Kramlick as Color Guard



- **November 7, 2025** Montana Veterans Home Cemetery, Columbia Falls, MT. Flag placement for Veteran's Day
- **November 11, 2025** East Helena Veterans Day Parade in East Helena
- **November 14, 2025** Montana Veterans Home Cemetery, Columbia Falls, MT. Remove flags for Veteran's day, then place wreath stakes in preparation for annual Wreaths Across America celebration on Saturday, December 13, 2025.
- **December 8, 2025** Wreaths Across America Event at the Capitol Rotunda with DAR, noon
- **December 13, 2025** Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Montana Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls, coordinated by Steve Armstrong and Glacier Chapter.
- **December 13, 2025** Wreaths Across American Event at the Montana Veteran's Cemetery at Ft. Harrison in Helena, coordinated by Oro Fino Chapter - DAR with Color Guard from Guardian Chapter.
- **December 2025** Christmas Parades around Montana TBD - - -

As you learned from this list of activities and events, Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution is excited to have the public learn about our organization.

It is apparent that the crowds were excited to see the floats, our colonial era attire, the display of flags and other colonial era artifacts.



Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution will be a state leader in celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Important events include the following:

June 27, 2026 - This date is the Montana 250 Commission sponsored celebration of the Declaration Of Independence to be held on the Capital grounds. This also coincides with the opening of Montana's updated Heritage Museum.

July 8, 2026 - This is national 250 Commission nationwide wide event to have members in all states read the Declaration Of Independence at the same time, which in Montana will be 4:00 p.m.

More specific details of these events will be forthcoming as they are finalized.

Please remember that the Semiquincentennial is not just celebrated in the year 2026, but should be celebrated in the time leading up to 2026.

MTSSAR is eager for Compatriot suggestions on activities that will showcase MTSSAR as well as promoting a greater understanding of the meaning of the Declaration of Independence, not only as it was read in 1776, but even its meaning for our citizens in our third century of independence.

Montana Society - SAR website and communication

<https://www.mtssar.org>



MTSSAR website important information

MTSSAR Guardian Chapter Compatriot Chris Shermer is our MTSSAR webmaster.

MTSSAR is excited that this process has been so successful, thanking Chris for stepping up and keeping our public image out there.