

## DAR - New Members & Young Winners

By Tina Norris Fields

Traverse City - It's a wonderful tradition of the Job Winslow Chapter, NSDAR (National Society Daughters of the American Revolution), to dedicate its April meeting to honoring the winners of DAR student competitions. This year, on Saturday, April 25, 2026, chapter members had the privilege of enjoying the essays written by local students for the American History essay contest and the Good Citizen contest.

From Elk Rapids Cherryland Middle School, eighth grader Adriana Smith read her winning composition on which signer of the United States Constitution she would like to have lunch with and why. She chose Benjamin Franklin and noted that he was the only one who had signed all four of our essential foundational documents: the Declaration of Independence (1776), the Treaty of Alliance, Amity, and Commerce with France (1778), the Treaty of Peace between England, France, and the United States (1782), and the United States Constitution (1787).

The competition for the Good Citizen award was so close that although the chapter can have only one winner, three high school students were recognized. They were Desiree Wetherbee from Northport, Landen Brandt from Pellston, and Gabriel Bouton from Boyne Falls. Landen was unable to attend, but both Desiree and Gabriel were able to come and read their essays on the necessary traits of a good citizen and the role that good citizenship will continue to play in securing the future of the noble American experiment in self-governance. Of note in this particular competition are the conditions under which the candidate must write his or her essay. The candidate has two hours in which to write the essay and receives the topic just before beginning. So, no time to prepare. No reference materials are available to the candidate during the writing time. The essay has to come entirely from the mind and understanding the young candidate brings to the effort. Desiree Wetherbee is the Job Winslow chapter winner. The three were so close that if we had the ability to do so, we would have gladly named the trio our winners.

At this same meeting, the Job Winslow chapter welcomed two new members, Rosemary Hagan and Stephanie Walker. The chapter is blessed to have twenty-eight prospective members working on documenting their lineage back to patriots of the American Revolution. The continued interest in an all-woman organization dedicated to service, historic preservation, education, and patriotism remains an uplifting bright spot in our community.



L-R: Jeanne Cotanch, First Vice Regent and Membership Chair; new members Rosemary Hagan and Stephanie Walker; Janet Scheiwe, Regent



L-R: Joy Garwold, Chaplain and Good Citizen Chair; Desiree Wetherbee, Job Winslow Good Citizen 2026; Corrine Wetherbee, Mother; Janet Scheiwe, Regent



L-R: Joy Garwold, Chaplain and Good Citizen Chair; Shane Bouton, father; Gabriel Bouton, Job Winslow Good Citizen Runner-Up 2026; Janet Scheiwe, Regent



L-R: Janet Scheiwe, Regent; Adriana Smith, American History Essay Contest Winner 2026 (grade 8); Sebastian Smith, brother; Jessi Smith, mother; Tina Norris Fields, Registrar and American History Chair



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