



Entrusted With History's Future

**The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America
in the State of South Carolina Historian Report
2022-2023**

President Mrs. Saunders McKenzie Bridges, Jr. reflected on this past year in saying, “The highlight of the year for me, and I think for most of us, was the in-person Annual Meeting which Lowcountry hosted April 20-21, 2022. It was one of the best meetings ever.” The membership learned that the GAT (Great American Treasures) Book had taken a turn from being a project of the South Carolina Society to partnering with NSCDA. This book is now envisioned to be NSCDA’s gift to the nation as we celebrate her birthday in 2026. NSCDA-SC has donated more than \$50,000 to this project.

A called meeting of the Board of Managers was held in August 2022 by Zoom. The subject was the re-organization of the NSCDA Board. After hearing the presentation and holding a discussion, the Board of Managers voted to recommend the adoption of the new plan. The South Carolina Delegates voted accordingly at Biennial 2022.

Kathy Armato, Agnes Asman, Margaret von Werssowetz and Marianna MacIntyre served as South Carolina’s delegates to Biennial 2022 held in Washington, DC in October. Lowcountry submitted an application for the Lamar Award for its Veterans’ History Project and won.

The Strategic Plan Committee has continued to meet throughout the year. The committee has under consideration a plan that would combine our two properties, The Powder Magazine Museum and Dames House, into a South Carolina Colonial History Campus. This campus would serve as a gateway to the colonial history of our state through the midlands to the upstate.

Mrs. Bridges closed in reporting that the NSCDA-SC has had a very productive year. “We have worked diligently to conform as closely as possible to best practices for non-profits. We have moved our financial reporting to a firm that represents more than 300 non-profits. The return of the printed *Palmetto Post* has been very popular with our membership. We will look to build on these successes and move into 2023-2024 with energy and excitement.”

As **First Vice President**, Mrs. Samuel Jackson Galloway, Jr. presided at all meetings in the absence of the President, and in the event of a vacancy in the office of President, she shall fill the unexpired term. She performed all duties that were designated to her by the President or the

Board of Managers. She served as the Chairman of the Committee on By-Laws and as the Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee. She oriented the new board members in the procedure for voting for new members.

The By-Laws and Standing Rules are continually proofed, updated, and posted on the NSCDA-SC website giving members access to the most current and up-to-date version. The most current is December 6, 2022.

Mrs. Hart Kent reported that as **Second Vice President**, it was her responsibility to welcome all new members, transfers in, and courtesy members to the South Carolina Society. Since April 2021 to present, we have welcomed 52 Dames to the South Carolina Society. This year she reached out to each New Member, Transfer and Courtesy Member by mail with a personal note and welcome packet. Mrs. Kent enjoyed working with Town Chairs on ideas to make the new members feel welcomed into the different Town Committees.

Third Vice President Mrs. Richard Huguenin Coen reported that the office is running very smoothly again this year thanks to office manager Abby Davis, who is in her fifth year as office manager and all the Dames feel grateful for her expertise.

As the Dames look to the future, Abby is helping with the vision for the future of the office. She served on the Strategic Planning Committee and has come up with a development plan that shows where she is helping now and how she could increase her role in the future to be of the most help to the Dames. Her positive attitude as well as her fabulous computer/IT skills are a gift. She implemented major design and content updates to The Powder Magazine's education, field trips, and events web pages.

Abby assisted in creating a new Colonial Council board manual and gave more hands-on support with The Colonial Charleston Teacher Institute (CCTI). She also provided more hands-on assistance and support with the publication of *The Palmetto Post*, which is printed and mailed twice annually. Support that the office provides for state events and meetings continues to grow as Abby takes on more responsibility and tasks for these events. For 2023-2024, she hopes to put together a manual that can be used as a guide for Town Committees who host future events. An office manager job description was also created and will continue to be updated on an annual basis.

Mrs. John David Asman, **Fourth Vice President for Finance**, reported that through this busy year, she felt fortunate to have the help of a dynamic Finance Committee that worked hard to bring some important changes to the Board for approval, including the hiring of a payroll processing service and a new CPA firm. With the assistance of the new firm, the committee converted the books from the Cash Basis of Accounting to the Accrual Basis.

This past spring, she formed an ad hoc committee to aid her in the review and renewal of insurance coverage for the Dames providing protection for real estate and other non-liquid assets. There is now also Museum Collection, Directors and Officers Liability, and Workers Compensation coverage.

The Investment Portfolio is governed by a moderate and balanced Investment Policy Statement. Bulldog Investment Consulting at Stifel in Charleston. Mrs. Asman reported, “Despite the market volatility of the past year, we maintained a portfolio balance in excess of \$1,000,000 which allowed our quarterly management fee to remain at 1.00%.”

According to **Treasurer** Mrs. Robert Holmes Hood, Jr., NSCDA-SC had a good financial year. The State had income that exceeded expenses. This fiscal year Dames members donated with their dues and Memorials and Honorariums \$22,997.00 which will be invested in the Stifel Portfolio. Colonial Council/Powder Magazine received \$35,610.00 in Partnerships from members and Town Committees.

The main duty of **Assistant Treasurer** Mrs. Francis Ellerbe Grimball was to collect and process dues for the State Society and the Town Committees. Approximately 1,120 dues notices were mailed in February 2022. There were 82 late notices sent on May 9. There were phone calls and emails to the members before 28 certified letters were sent on October 17, 2022. Four members were dropped in 2022 for nonpayment of dues. In January the thank you receipts were mailed to all members.

The responsibility of Mrs. Timothy George Dargan as **Corresponding Secretary** was overseeing all NSCDA-SC printed and digital membership publications. Both editions of *The Palmetto Post* were professionally published, printed, and mailed to the entire membership. Additionally, a digital format was emailed to the membership and is available on the Dames website. The summer edition was sent out in August 2022 and the winter edition in late February 2023. The winter *Palmetto Post* has an emphasis on the many and very worthwhile educational projects and gives highlights from our Christmas luncheon at the Carolina Yacht Club.

On November 28 the contents of the handbook were updated and published on the Dames website. A link to a printable version was emailed to the membership. Also, members were given the option to purchase a bound copy of the inserts for \$20. To date, 71 such requests have been processed. New blue binders were designed and ordered to be available when needed.

The duties of Mrs. George Cameron Todd, Jr., **Recording Secretary**, continue to be the same. Accurate minutes were recorded for every Board and General Membership meeting and emailed to the President within two weeks following each meeting. An attendance record was kept for all Board Meetings. Copies of all signed, corrected and approved minutes were filed at Headquarters.

According to **Registrar** Mrs. Gaillard T. Dotterer, Jr., the state membership totaled 1,104 members, an increase over this past year of 19 members and the largest increase since 2018. She also reported that verifying Genealogist, Mary Jane Stallworth, and Researcher, Renee Marshall, are a delight to work with on proposed members. The National Registrar is Lynn Goldsmith. The Society voted on new members at the May meeting, and another membership report was sent to the National Registrar on June 1, 2023.

According to **Assistant Registrar** Mrs. Timothy William Bouch, the Board of Managers voted on new members in May and November 2022. Twenty-seven candidates were invited to submit

their papers for membership in May. Fourteen candidates were invited to submit their papers for membership in November. Appropriate letters were emailed to all Proposers and letters with the invitation to join were mailed to the newly approved candidates. Upon receiving each candidate's acceptance, an electronically fillable Admission Blank, along with instructions for completing it, were then emailed to the candidate.

Throughout the year, electronically fillable Proposal Blanks, along with instructions for their completion, were emailed to members upon request. The online proposal process continued to be modified as needed to make it as easy to use as possible by all the membership.

In the past year **Registrar for Associate States** Mrs. Daniel Bowman White reported that candidates from the following Associate States have been admitted into NSCDA-SC: Florida 3, and Mississippi 1.

Board Arrangements Chair, Ms. Robert Gabrey Weston, made preparations for the meeting space, collecting checks for luncheon reservations, and having name tags available for each board member upon their arrival. She worked closely with the Food and Beverage director at Forest Lake Club to reserve our meeting dates. As the meeting dates approached, she contacted the F&B director to choose the menu and special meal requests for those with dietary restrictions, discuss table linens and room setup, and request any speaker requirements such as projectors and screens. She reported, "We were quite fortunate to be able to have in-person meetings this year and had nice turnouts for the meetings. I received many compliments regarding the delicious meals provided by the club, and it was a pleasure to pass along those positive comments."

Mrs. Henry Wayne Unger, **Collections Chair**, and The Collection Committee continued to review the inventory housed in The Powder Magazine and the Colonial Dames House. A loan agreement is needed with the OEBC for the Pringle chair. On the Patrick Appraisal it was assumed the Drayton chair had been listed twice since both chairs had the same description.

The committee recommends a new inventory for the items located in The Dames House, Library, and The Power Magazine. The Library does not have climate control and it is recommended the books and scrapbooks be digitalized and the originals be donated to an organization where they can be preserved before they deteriorate. A central location is recommended for NSCD-SC documents (one example deeds of gifts) not in closets and attics of the committee chairs. These documents should also be digitalized. The silver in the silver closet needs to be polished, photographed, and some estimate of value determined by a knowledgeable silver dealer or appraisal.

The Museum Alliance Committee, chaired by Mrs. Shannon Nelson Weston, Jr. was responsible for the South Carolina Society's two historic properties located in Charleston. The Powder Magazine (completed in 1713) located at 79 Cumberland Street and the Dames House at 81 Cumberland Street (circa 1840) which serves as our headquarters.

The Powder Magazine has approved a balanced budget and is exploring fundraising efforts to help continue to update the gift shop and grounds. Under the leadership of Elizabeth Gay, the

aim is to Strive to Thrive! We hope to generate revenue and support the staff to have the tools to succeed in attracting greater numbers of visitors as well as programming and event space rental.

The South Carolina Society has also made a donation of \$40,267 to the Great American Treasures Book Project. That is the sum of NSCDA-SC donors' gifts and the board approved \$25,000 from the Museum Alliance account.

Mrs. Eugene Dewey Foxworth, III, **Chair of the Colonial Dames House**, reported that through an in-depth study of the whole house revealed there are areas that need work due to the age of the building products and the breakdown due to this ageing. The roof was looked at due to possible leakage that Abby Davis noticed around the third-floor fireplace/mantle. It took about three months to get the roofer started. This style roof has to be hand painted, once the paint starts to crack it has to be beaten off by hand. It only took a week to do the whole job, but very specialized work.

The next project was the repair and painting of the fire escape as the Fire Marshall requires a much larger and more expensive staircase if it has to be replaced. "I just finished having the bench in honor of Charlotte Trotter Painted and brought back to life," Mrs. Foxworth reported. "I continue to enjoy taking care of this special house, mostly done by Abby!"

Colonial Council-Historical Activities Chair, Mrs. Steven Michael Armato, reported that NSCDA-SC Historical Activities and The Powder Magazine attended Tartan Day at the Old Columbia Speedway. On April 21 the Colonial Council bade a sad farewell to retiring Powder Magazine Chair Frances Ford after 8 years of service. At the Annual Meeting she and Rennie All were recognized for their years of hard work for the Dames and both ladies were made members of the NSCDA Roll of Honor for SC. Over the summer the Council and Strategic Planning Committee began a deep dive into our goals, our finances and organizational structures.

Spring 2022 Zoom series delved into the archeology of the site and assessment of our c.1830 headquarters house. Fall Lunch and Lecture series covered a range of interesting topics and authors, from the Charleston tea parties, to camp followers, to Broad Street, to historical fiction. Book Club: HA created another booklist for summer reading, which was published in the Fall Palmetto Post. The Council's first meeting of the season was an Orientation meeting hosted by the Spartanburg TC on September 13, 2022.

The Colonial Charleston Teacher Institute 2022, an HA project adopted by the Lowcountry TC and run with assistance from TPM staff, took place from September 20-November 19. Teachers who completed the course earned 60 recertification hours or 3 hours of graduate credit from the College of Charleston. Another project is A Colonial or RevWar Day at the State House. The December Council Meeting was very brief and took place at The Powder Magazine the evening before the Christmas luncheon. The February Meeting is traditionally the Council's budget meeting.

Colonial Council Powder Magazine Chair, Miss Elizabeth F. Gay, reported that The Powder Magazine is a jewel in the colonial history of Charleston and the state of South Carolina. Completed in 1713, The Powder Magazine is South Carolina's oldest government building. The

building was used for gunpowder storage from 1713-1748 and during the American Revolution in order to defend the city. The Powder Magazine was listed as a National Historic Landmark in September 1989. As one of the few surviving structures of pre-Revolutionary South Carolina, it operates today as a colonial museum. This year was a continued recovery year for the museum as the resumption of normal activity began to return post pandemic. After a significant two-year loss of revenue and visitor traffic, the museum began to see school field trips and visitors and opened a newly renovated gift shop. Thanks to the success of Lanny's Legacy, the gift shop experienced a tremendous renovation.

Parliamentarian Mrs. John Frampton Maybank attended the meetings of the Board of Managers and assisted with the interpretation of bylaws. She helped tally votes, especially during elections.

As **Patriotic Service Chair**, Mrs. Donald Asendorf Harper worked on the following collaborations: America's Heritage Award, America's Vet Dogs, E Roy Stone Veteran's Pavilion, Library of Congress, Operation Gratitude, Patriots Point, Richard M Campbell Veteran's Nursing Home, Upstate Warrior Solutions, Veteran's Victory House, Veteran's Village, and William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center.

For Congressional Workshop, one essay was sent to National and the winner will attend the workshop this summer. For America's Vet Dogs, South Carolina Dames were able to collaborate with North Carolina in funding an additional Vet Dog, "Carolina." She is currently being trained. For Operation Gratitude, Dames worked with Fourth Grade students to craft letters for Veterans. For Veteran's History Project, Dames continued to participate by interviewing and recording veteran's stories for the Library of Congress. For Upstate Warrior Solutions, Dames collected supplies to be distributed to homeless Veterans. Also, a contribution was made to Upstate Warrior Solutions for their new administration building. For Valentines for Vets, members sent Valentines to five veterans' facilities and to the Dames' honorary Valentine.

Under the leadership of Chair Mrs. Robert Bruce Frantz, the **Scholarships Committee** oversaw and reviewed all scholarships awarded by the state society and explored expansion opportunities. The committee was composed of six members and included representation from the Finance Committee and Patriotic Service.

Per the ongoing agreements with the College of Charleston, Converse College, and Winthrop University, each school awarded a \$2,000 Colonial Dames Teaching of History Scholarship to an aspiring teacher pursuing a degree. These were funded by budgeted funds and interest from the Scholarship Fund.

The state society provided funding for a summer intern at The Powder Magazine, support for the national American Indian Nurse scholarship, and funding for the NSCDA District 8 Scholarship which is awarded to a graduate student in history and rotates among the four societies in Region III. On behalf of NSCDA-SC, the Scholarship committee also sent support to two organizations that assist veterans in addressing and overcoming challenges such as PTSD and retraining for employment: Upstate Warrior Solution and Vets on Deck in Charleston.

As **Special Projects Chair**, Mrs. Henry Manning Unger assisted in any special projects that the state and town committees were interested in pursuing. She has been working with the president, Angelyn Bridges, and the Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Gay, to make progress towards advancing the pathways identified while working with Dan Rogge of Rogge and Associates since the summer of 2021. The group has hired a grant writer who will identify and apply for grants that both align with the group's goals of furthering the public's knowledge of Colonial South Carolina and benefit The Powder Magazine. The committee has also been exploring ways to enhance The Powder Magazine's website. The committee has shifted its focus towards utilizing The Powder Magazine as an event space, which was identified as "Pathway 2" during the group's time with Dan Rogge.

As the **Columbia Town Committee Chair**, Mrs. Walter James Bristow, III reported that The Columbia Town Committee hosted the NSCDA-SC statewide board and general membership meetings on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at Forest Lake Club. The speaker was Andrews Waters who discussed his latest work, *To the End of the World: Nathanael Greene, Charles Cornwallis, and the Race to the Dan*. He shared the dramatic story of the Southern Campaign's "Great Escape" while providing insights into the psychological and intellectual distinctions between its two great generals, Greene and Cornwallis.

Mrs. James Pinckney Kellett, IV and Mrs. Clarence Ernest Phillips, III, **Georgetown Town Committee Chairs**, reported that their committee consists of approximately 60 members from Georgetown, Pawleys Island, Murrells Inlet and Myrtle Beach, SC. A small group of Georgetown Dames met on January 28, 2022, to begin planning for the April 2023 State Meeting which will be held in Georgetown. They discussed venues, speakers and other important details.

The **Greenville Town Committee** was chaired by Mrs. Douglas Neal Kelly. Their 2022-2023 year began with a great speaker and luncheon at the Poinsett Club. Their speaker, Virginia Beach, author of *American Landmark*, was the perfect way to begin the year. Their next guest speaker in was Walter Edgar, and they were fortunate to have him and share with the Spartanburg Town Committee. They have focused on various Patriotic Service projects under the leadership of Mrs. John Murphy Armstrong. They are especially proud of our involvement with the Veterans.

Mrs. Bruce Devon Ball chaired the **Lowcountry Town Committee** and reported that the Lowcountry Town Committee, 2022-2023 has been a year of great strides and wonderful accomplishments. The year began at the Annual Meeting hosted by the Lowcountry in Charleston. Attendees at the Annual Christmas Meeting and Luncheon hosted by The Lowcountry were privileged to hear our National President, Katherine Taylor Cammack, enlighten us as to the ongoing plans to streamline our organization for better access and communication, and the efforts being made to increase growth and interest in NSCDA.

As Chair, Mrs. Murray Leon Garber reported that the **Pee Dee Town Committee** is back to their normal schedule with programs have been very interesting, from historical authors to learning to dress colonial style. The budget for the fiscal year was passed and included \$1,000 for The Powder Magazine. Monies were spent to help the Veteran Dog project sponsored by the state organization, Ann Williamson History Awards to Francis Marion University and Coker

University, and a donation for the repair of a historic marker at Christ Church, Florence. The committee is proud that Mrs. Saunders McKenzie Bridges, Jr. (Angelyn) is serving as president of the NSCDA – SC Board of Managers.

The **Spartanburg Town Committee** Chair Mrs. Victor Charles McLeod, III shared that they had a terrific year with starting off with many STC Dames generously contributing to the “Great American Treasures” Book Project in late spring/early summer. The Colonial Council’s September meeting/luncheon was held and hosted by our Town Committee’s CC committee members at the Piedmont Club. The STC will again donate to the Dames’ four museum properties: \$1000 to TPM and \$100 each to Dumbarton House, Gunston Hall and Sulgrave Manor.

Mrs. James Cleatus Owens, **Lady of Dumbarton House**, reported that the Dumbarton House Board Meeting and the 64th Biennial Council were held together in the fall. The Dumbarton House Board Meeting coincided with the gala, celebrating 90 years of Dumbarton being opened as a museum. Nearly 220 Dames attended Biennial Council in Washington, D.C. after four years apart. Membership was a priority and a National Membership Drive and a Founding Females Initiative were approved in order to increase membership.

Dumbarton House has been undergoing renovations which hope to be completed by the end of April. Guest Curator Gretchen Pendleton, Curator Maya Foo, and Executive Director Carol Cadou think that the wallpaper is from a later date, probably 1870-1890. The Comprehensive Campaign was successful and made possible through donations by our Dames and the corporate society. The NSCDA-SC society and its members supported Friends of Dumbarton House, Dumbarton House Funds for the Future, the Museum Alliance Grant Fund, and the Martha L. Walden Fund for the American Indian Medical Scholarships. These funds are the four pillars by which our mission is realized through Dames’ generous contributions. South Carolina donated over \$6200 toward these funds.

According to **South Carolina Regent for Gunston Hall**, Mrs. Douglas Neal Kelly was happy to report that Gunston Hall is to be one of the 11 recipients to receive a grant from the Virginia Museum History & Culture’s Commonwealth History Fund. Gunston Hall has been generously awarded \$20,400. The Commonwealth History Fund is made possible by generous funding from Dominion Energy and is administered in partnership with Virginia’s Department of Historic Resources. It was established to provide grants annually to history organizations and projects across the state of Virginia. This year \$401,206 was awarded to 11 organizations, and the VMHC plans to give nearly \$2,000,000 over the first five years.

Gunston Hall, in collaboration with George Mason University and the National Museum of the American Indian, plans to use the \$20,400 to fund the project “Native Peoples Connecting Past and Present.”

Gunston Hall had a record number of attendees at its recent archaeology symposium. Titled “Remember Me when You Walk By,” the program focused on recent projects related to cemeteries. Almost 90 people participated in person and online. Every Saturday in April, visitors

will have the opportunity to support the garden by purchasing plants cultivated at Gunston Hall. Many of these plants are from seeds collected during this past year's growing season.

Associate Trustee Sulgrave Manor, Mrs. Madison Baker Wyche, III reported that the years of the pandemic were severely devastating to many organizations, especially those with interest abroad. Without the generous support of NSCDA, the impact on Sulgrave Manor and its mission would have been devastating. Once, again the South Carolina Dames joined Dames across the United State to generously support Sulgrave Manor through annual gifts.

Celebrations were in order for the Dames Day at Sulgrave Manor this past May after a hiatus of four years. The day was a resounding success beginning with a solemn service at St. James the less, followed by welcoming remarks by Sulgrave Manor Trust chair, Nigel Bowles. Importantly, this was also the official opening of the permanent George Washington Exhibit and the Friends of Sulgrave Manor presented at check of \$100,000 in support of this exhibit.

In October of 2022, the Friends of Sulgrave Manor held its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. with excellent attendance from all the state societies. During the meeting, Dames were reminded again of the importance of FSM support of Sulgrave Manor these past few years. The funds were given to continue the important restoration of both the interior and exterior of the Manor; to implement additional educational outreach for students; restoration of the beautiful gardens continues, and substantial funds to support of staff during the pandemic shutdown.

As **Historian**, Mrs. Henry Brevard Clay prepared the historian's report which is a summary of the NSCDA-SC activities for the year. This report was posted on the state website and a copy was sent to the National Board to be shared with other societies.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Henry Brevard Clay, Jr., Historian