



Director's Report—Debbie Bird

America 250

Patriots of the American Revolution - Their Wisconsin Legacy

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Wisconsin Society are celebrating 250 years with Patriots of the American Revolution and their connection to Wisconsin (2026) with a traveling exhibit. Four banners, each with an overhead light and an interactive electronic kiosk will feature Patriot profiles, families' migration to Wisconsin, legacies and descendants with local connections.

Approached by Gena Selby, Jean Nicolet Chapter NSDAR Chair and Sue Cowan, Chapter Regent from Sun Prairie along with Patti Fichter, Events and Programming Coordinator they inquired about the Portage Public Library's interest in this historic event. Portage, being one of the oldest communities in Wisconsin, was their first choice by the organization as an appropriate and ideal location to kick-off the celebration this fall. The grant that they are writing required a selected host to initiate the celebration that would last for approximately 18 months.

The WSDAR Chapters are responsible to publicize the exhibit. With the participation at the library there is a unique opportunity to piggyback on a wide-variety of events with collections, presenters, and activities for all ages to educate, inform, share and promote genealogical and historical information about a significant period in our history. In addition, this event allows the library to showcase the lobby in an interactive way within the community. Future events, dioramas and city plans, with TV monitors and 3-D displays are part of my vision (and the objective of the Strategic Plan) for the future. The exhibit will stay at the library for one month, this coming fall, on a date to be determined. News, social media, email and direct mail will be used to celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

Other News

- It appears that the Wyocena Public Library may be closing their doors.
- The City of Portage has issued taxi vouchers to the library to aid staff when someone in need comes to the library for help—locating housing for the evening or other social service's needs.
- A gas smell on Tuesday, June 25, resulted in a temporary evacuation of the library until Alliant Energy and the Fire Department could check out the cause of the smell. The gas smell was identified and repaired.
- Tom Tomlinson, Custodian is working 4-6 hours per week at the airport, since the Airport Manager vacancy. The hours worked are being paid out of the airport account.

The Portage Public Library serves and supports the community through open access to resources, partnerships and technology.