

## About the Dames

We are a National organization or Society of women in the United States.

We are called The National Society of the Colonial Dames in America. The Society was formed in 1891 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The purpose of the organization is as stated in:

Article 11, NSCDA Constitution:

*The objects of this Society shall be to collect and preserve manuscripts, traditions, relics, and mementos of bygone days; to preserve and restore buildings connected with the early history of our country; to educate our fellow citizens and ourselves in our country's history and thus diffuse healthful and intelligent information in our Colonial History; to stimulate a spirit of true patriotism and a genuine love of country, and to impress upon the young the sacred obligation of honoring the memory of those heroic ancestors whose ability, valor, sufferings and achievements are beyond all praise.*

All Colonial Dames are members of the National or parent Society. We are also members of one of 44 associate State Corporate Societies, which one depending upon where we live.

We, in Texas, are members of the State Society called officially The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Texas (NSCDA in the State of Texas).

The Texas Society was incorporated in 1898.

State societies are incorporated and function autonomously in many ways but the purposes are the same and they are organized structurally according to the National Bylaws. We function administratively like the National organization. State Officers, Board of Managers and standing Committees are reflections of the National structure.

Our purposes are carried out through projects. Four principles – education, preservation, patriotism, and properties – govern our projects and the committees through which they are executed. The committees are (1) Historical Activities, (2) Patriotic Service and (3) Museum Properties; State societies have a national committee counterpart.

We are elected to membership. (For selection procedure see the Texas Bylaws.) We qualify for membership by being descended from an ancestor (1) who rendered efficient services to this country during the Colonial Period in the founding of a state, commonwealth, or of an institution that has survived and is important now; (2) or held an important position in the colonial government; (3) all services constituting a claim to membership being rendered before July 5, 1776, but including all Signers of the Declaration of Independence; and (4) being personally known and considered worthy

and desirable by our proposer and seconder, and by meeting other qualifications set by the Board of Managers who elect new members.

To execute the purposes and goals of the NSCDA and the NSCDA-TX, we attend meetings:

1. There is one Board Meeting for the Board of Managers and one General Meeting of all members of the Texas Society in November in Austin.
2. There is one Board of Managers meeting in February in Austin.
3. There is one Board Meeting for the Board of Managers and one Annual Meeting for all members of the Texas Society in May. The place of the Annual Meeting is rotated among our Town Committees except Austin.
4. Town Committees have three or four meetings a year.
5. We attend the Biennial Council of NSCDA in Washington, D.C. The Texas Society President is an official delegate and gives the report from the Texas Society. All Dames are invited to attend. The National Society is divided into four regions.
6. The Texas Society is in Region III. Our officers, committee chairmen, and others meet at the Regional Conference held once every two years in a different state of our region. All national committee chairmen attend.
7. Our Board of Managers traditionally meets the second week in November, February and May. This sometimes varies by a week because of elections, holidays, etc.

The Texas Society fiscal year is June 1 – May 31. As of January 2018, the regular dues of \$125 (including \$40 to cover National dues and \$85 for NSCDA-TX) are payable before the Annual Meeting in May with a deadline of June 15. The one-time entrance fee of \$100 for new members is payable in addition to the annual dues. The Courtesy Member dues are \$40. There is no longer a Life Member category.

There are eight Town Committees: Austin, Beaumont, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and Waco and one At-Large Committee.

The Neill-Cochran House Museum is the State Headquarters. Texas Dames contribute to its upkeep and programs through the Friends of the Neill-Cochran House Museum and every Dame is expected to participate.