

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Stephen A. Douglas Chapter, NSDAR, held meeting this past May



Submitted Photo

New officers for the Stephen A. Douglas Chapter were installed at the May 5 meeting at the Smith House, Tuscola. Sara Tondini, Villa Grove, is the 2021-2023 Chapter Regent. Other officers serving with her are Martha Burris, Jane Faust, Marlene Lincoln, Judy Landeck, Jennifer Appleby, Nancy Willamon, Karel Welch, Areta Joines. The Stephen A. Douglas Chapter will be 100 years old on March 2, 2023 with members from throughout Douglas County; the organizing chapter regent in 1923 was Mrs. John Chadwick, Tuscola. Although originally called the Douglas County Chapter NSDAR, it officially changed its name to the Stephen A. Douglas Chapter NSDAR in 1932. In 1859 the Illinois legislature selected the name of Douglas for our county to honor the U.S. Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, so the chapter accepted his name also.



Submitted Photo

During the May meeting the Stephen A. Douglas Chapter, NSDAR, recognized three of the chapter's former regents: Areta Joines (joined DAR in 1986), Newman; Charlotte Wax (joined in 1974), Newman; Marlene Lincoln (joined in 1981), Tuscola. Combining their years of chapter, district and state service in Daughters of the American Revolution the total is 122 years. These members have continued to hold chapter committee chairmanships and to be chapter officers.



Submitted Photo

Chapter Registrar Karel Welch presented new members to the Stephen A. Douglas Chapter, NSDAR, during the first in-person meeting of 2021. The new chapter members left to right: Shirley Sy (member since 2013 but officially welcomed by the chapter), Jaye Sanstrom, Nancy Willamon, Jennifer Appleby. The process of submitting new member applications for verification varies from an applicant who may not know who her Patriot was to an applicant whose mother is already a member. Finding her Patriot can sometimes be a long process but it is the chapter registrar's job to assist the applicant in any way possible. For further information, www.dar.org, tap "Become a Member" or "Find a Chapter". Stephen A. Douglas Chapter: contact Sara Tondini, saratondini@gmail.com.

Red, white, kaboom...Arthur's Freedom Celebration to be held June 26

The community of Arthur will put out the "Welcome Mat" for thousands of visitors this Saturday, June 26, as it hosts the annual Freedom Celebration downtown and in Jurgens Park (the Moultrie-Douglas County fairgrounds).

The celebration has two parts with a parade downtown and the Arthur Fireworks in the park south of the high school.

The annual Freedom Celebration Parade steps off at 2 p.m. on East Progress Street. Line-up begins at 12:45 p.m. in the former Progress Industries property on the north side of the street.

Members of the Arthur American Legion Auxiliary are the grand marshals and will lead the procession.

Belgian horse hitches, queens, politicians, antique cars and tractors, floats, and more will delight those in attendance for the annual pa-

rade sponsored by the Arthur Area Association of Commerce.

The parade proceeds west on Progress Street to Vine Street, south on Vine Street to Logan Street, east on Logan to Pine Street, and north on Pine back to Progress where it will disband.

At 4 p.m. events begin at the park, leading up to the spectacular fireworks displays. Concession stands and vendors galore will be offering a wide variety of food and treats set up on Jurgens Parkway.

Special guests Captain Rat and the Blind Rivets will be performing before the fireworks from 6-9 p.m. behind the high school.

Central States Fireworks of Athens is returning to present almost 30 minutes of fireworks accompanied with music which will be simulcast on the radio station WZNX-The Fox, 106.7 FM.



This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the 500-foot Niagara Falls and Wall of Fire featuring the Rural Patriot riding a horse and carrying the American flag.

The Niagara Falls Fellows, under the direction of Larry Schlabach, return to launch a battery of fireballs including Vesuvius, one of the most powerful fireballs in any fireworks display in east central Illinois.

Arthur Rotary Club presents the Arthur Fireworks with the assistance of hundreds of businesses, organizations, and individuals who support the event financially and through volunteerism.

The fireworks display is scheduled to begin at dusk (around 9:30 p.m.).

Come early and enjoy the parade; stay late and celebrate America with the spectacular Arthur Fireworks.

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