

**NATIONAL HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**  
**NATIONAL BOARD and BIENNIAL COUNCIL, OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2024**  
**Chair: Elsie M. Smith**

Committee Members: Meg Beasley, Gwen Bryant, Sally Connelly (Ex-Officio), Ruth Donohugh, Elizabeth Howard, Lyn Hunt, Francie Root, Tandy Thompson, Gina Whelan, Courtenay Wood

The National Historical Activities Committee is pleased to present the highlights of our activities for the past two years. Our goal has been to develop projects and programming that are easily accessible to our membership and support their mission work.

The Sampler Survey, our oldest and most recognized initiative, continues to expand its quest for sampler inquiry. A team of volunteers is researching the origins of the 800 verses that appear on the Sampler Survey on the NSCDA website, an important resource for sampler scholars. To date this team has successfully researched over 150 verses. The Sampler Survey has also received a refresh on the new website where it will continue to enhance NSCDA's reputation for sampler scholarship.

The Food for Thought Lecture Series continued to provide educational programming to our members and included 4 lectures on "Food Pathways" and 3 lectures on "Federal Fare ". This programming is provided free, as a member benefit. The lectures are recorded and posted on the NSCDA website in our lecture library so Dames can access them any time for member programming or their own personal enjoyment. In the past two years, 552 members have tuned into our lectures and nearly 200 have viewed the lecture library.

The Oral History Project has been rejuvenated thanks to an informal group of volunteers. The goal of this "working group" has been threefold: to pilot TheirStory, a digital platform for recording, transcribing and archiving oral histories; to develop a process for reviewing and archiving previously recorded oral histories; and most recently to spearhead a new project to record the personal narratives of our roll of honor awardees beginning in 2025. This working group will become a formal committee under the new governance structure.

In 2023, our committee, in conjunction with the National Archivist, conducted the Covid Impact Survey. The survey gathered both quantitative data and anecdotal stories about how our corporate societies, GAT properties, and the national leadership dealt with the challenges of the worldwide pandemic. Twenty-five Corporate Societies and nineteen Great American Treasures (GAT) sites responded to the written questionnaire and thirteen roundtable interviews were conducted. The report is now complete. It has been published in the October Historical Happenings e-dispatch and three printed copies will be placed in the permanent NSCDA archives for future members to learn from. Not surprisingly we learned that Dames are determined and fearless and used this challenging time creatively and to good purpose.

Lastly, we are proud to report that there were 5 Historical Activities applications for the Lamar Awards. These projects were clever, impactful, community-based and mission driven.