

The Sarah O. Dunaway Award Criteria & Scoring

The Sarah O. Dunaway Award annually recognizes the Branch demonstrating the best overall performance in accomplishing the objectives of the National Society. The award is made only by the National Society.

Selection of the Branch to be the recipient of this award is made by the General Court (after considering the recommendation of the Committee on Awards) based upon the evaluation of Branch activities. To be eligible for consideration and to compete for this award, a record copy of the Branch Governor's Report (submitted to the Governor General) must be received by the Governor General and Recording Secretary General by 15 March. Mailed or express parcels must be dated no later than 15 March to be counted. The Committee on Awards must receive the Report of Branch Activities for the Sara O. Dunaway Award no later than 20 March to analyze the data and make selections. The Committee will then prepare a recommendation for consideration by the General Court.

The award is a handsome plaque retained by the winning Branch for one year following its presentation.

The Sarah O. Dunaway Award is based on the following criteria, with a maximum of five points allowed for any individual category.

1. **Branch Meetings:** The number of meetings of members of the Branch: *One point shall be awarded for each such meeting conducted during the year covered by the said annual report (i.e., March 1 of the prior year through February 28 of the current year).* Joint meetings with other Branches or Societies do qualify for credit for each Branch participating.

2. **Speakers:** Having a speaker at a meeting of Members of the Branch: *One point shall be awarded for having a Branch member as a meeting speaker; two points shall be awarded for having a non-member speaker, and a bonus point shall be awarded for having a "nationally recognized" speaker at a Branch meeting.* Names and titles of speakers and program details should be provided. The "quality" of the speaker shall not be a factor, as long as the speaker's topic is of a colonial or historical nature, in furtherance of the National Society's educational purpose, as stated in its Bylaws.

3. **Community Affairs:** Actual participation in or sponsorship of events with other heritage organizations or community affairs, school events, events of churches, historical or patriotic societies, youth groups, service clubs, and other organizations, and the familiarization of the preceding with the NSSDP, its objectives, and requirements for membership. Examples falling within this category: (a) laying wreaths at local, state, or national locations of a historical nature (including but not limited to statues or monuments) or local, state, or national cemeteries; (b) participating in parades or other public ceremonies (e.g., on Washington's Birthday, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Patriot's Day, or Veteran's Day) as a representative of the National Society or a Branch. *One point shall be awarded for each such event, with one bonus point being awarded for a Member being a speaker at an event.* No points shall be awarded merely for attendance at the meeting of another lineage society or monetary donation to some entity or cause.

4. **Newsletters:** The quality, content, and frequency of the Branch newsletter: ***One point shall be awarded for each Branch newsletter published during the year covered by the annual report, with "newsletter" being defined as an informational publication of at least two pages sent via USPS or email to all Members of the Branch.*** One additional bonus point shall be awarded for each excellent Branch newsletter, with "excellent" being defined as being four or more pages, including photographs of Branch meetings or activities.

5. **Media Coverage:** Actual media coverage of Branch and National Society activities, including newspaper, radio, and television: ***Two points shall be awarded for the actual publication of an article or story about the National Society or a Branch in a local, state, or national newspaper or magazine or a story appearing on local, state, or national radio or television.*** Evidence of actual publication shall be furnished as part of the Branch Governor's annual report. Zero points shall be awarded merely for submitting a press release to the media above with no resulting publication.

6. **Extend Public Awareness of NSSDP:** Other steps to extend public awareness of NSSDP and the nation's history should include recognizing outstanding students of history, especially colonial history, at the high school or college level. Eligible events are limited to an Officer or Member speaking at a school on a historical topic or presenting an award at a school on behalf of the National Society or a Branch to encourage the study of history. ***One point shall be awarded for each such event.***

7. **Representation at General Court:** ***One point shall be awarded for sending at least one representative (authorized by the Branch Credentials Report) to attend and participate in the prior year's General Court.*** (The preceding year's General Court attendance is used because the Committee wants to make its decision before the current year's General Court and will not know until the day of that General Court whether anyone on the Branch Credentials Report actually does attend the current General Court.)

8. **Donations to National Programs:** ***One point will be awarded for each \$100 donated to any of the Society's National Projects, i.e., Cook College & Theological School, Cathedral of the Pines, Bicknell Scholarship, and Pershing Memorial.*** The amounts donated to the four projects will be totaled to a single sum, with the total being rounded up or down to the nearest \$100 (i.e., \$440 will be rounded down to \$400 for 4 points; \$450 will be rounded up to \$500 for 5 points; amounts below \$50 will be zero points).

9. **Special Project Completion:** Completion of a special project of significance to the National Society. This should be something "extra," such as a significant contribution towards preserving the history of the National Society or a Branch or any other significant exceptional accomplishment in the opinion of the Awards Committee. ***One point shall be awarded for each such special project, except that the Awards Committee has the discretion to award two points for a significant special project.***

10. **Website:** ***Two points will be awarded for maintaining a current Branch website.***