



Department of Pennsylvania
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Office of the Commander
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June 26, 2012

Department Order No. 1

Series 2012-2013

(To be read in the Camps and retained in Camp files)

1. I thank my Brothers for the honor bestowed upon me by my election as Pennsylvania Department Commander. I also express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has helped in my election to this office. I pledge to the best of ability to be worthy of the trust placed in me by the Brothers assembled at the 132nd Department Encampment in Greensburg. I thank my immediate predecessor, Commander Howard Wolfe for his efforts on behalf of this Department. It was truly a pleasure to serve in his administration.
2. Headquarters of the Pennsylvania Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is established at 948 Orr Avenue, Kittanning, PA 16201 with telephone and email contact as listed above.
3. I have attached a listing of the current department officers for 2012-2013. I encourage all brothers to contact these officers if in need of their assistance. This list is made, by reference, a part of this order. Committee members will be listed in my next Department Order.
4. I extend the best wishes of the Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department, S.U.V.C.W. and my own personal wishes to the outgoing site committee. Joe and Mary Jo Long, Mary Jane Bannan, Elizabeth Sienerth and Faye Carlisle. With a combined total of more than 76 years' experience, their leadership and dedication to service to this committee, charged with organizing and hosting the Annual Encampment, was an asset and blessing to not only this Department but to the Allied Orders as a whole.
5. I extend the best wishes of the Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department, S.U.V.C.W. and my own personal wishes to the incoming site committee. Faye Carlisle, will retain her

position with over 11 years of service, and will be joined by PC-in-C's Richard Orr and Charlie Kuhn. They have accepted the duty of planning for our 2013 Encampment to be held June 27,28,29 at the Eisenhower Inn at Gettysburg. This Encampment will also be in conjunction with the 150th commemoration of the battle of Gettysburg. Please know, this committee has the complete trust and confidence of this office and I urge all Brothers of this Department to make plans to attend.

6. I extend my personal congratulations and the congratulations of all the Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to:
Sister Mary Jane Bannon, Pennsylvania. Representative of the Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic,
Sister Daryl Reed, President, Pennsylvania Department, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865
Sister Lucille Coe, President, Pennsylvania Department, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on their elections to the leadership of their Orders. I look forward to again becoming the "Allied Orders" who will work together for our common goal, "to remember the Boys in Blue and the Grand Army of the Republic." I pledge to our Sisters the full cooperation of this Office and trust that all my Brothers will do the same.
7. The Brothers in Good Standing of the Pennsylvania Department, S.U.V.C.W. who are also members of the Gettysburg Blues are designated as the Pennsylvania Department Guard. These Brothers are hereby authorized to wear a ribbon of the Department colors affixed behind their regular S.U.V.C.W. membership badge for the duration of this appointment.
8. All Camps are requested and strongly encouraged to submit news of their activities for publication in "The Battle Cry of Freedom", our Department newsletter. Editor Brother Robert C. Shaffer PCC devotes many hours to the production and improvement of our newsletter. The Department is very proud of the result of his dedication and resulting publication. Remember, you know what good work your Camp does and are justifiably proud of the results now share the good news with the rest of us. Please let us all know about the events you have scheduled and any licensed merchandise your Camp has to offer so we may support you. We all look forward to hearing what all our Brothers have been accomplishing. Please submit your information to Brother Bob at (rshaffer24@yahoo.com) or 128 Wallace Rd. Lake Ariel, Pa. 18436-9343 as soon as possible but no later than January 1, 2013. Electronic submission is preferred. In the same vein, all Camps are encouraged to submit a synopsis of their events to the local news outlets in their area.

9. All Camps are encouraged to participate in the PA 150th Civil War sesquicentennial. The Civil War touched every corner, every city, town, village and hamlet across this state. The sesquicentennial is the perfect opportunity to complete one of Order's stated purposes, to be an educational organization. Many of our Brothers have their own Civil War ancestor tales and can provide a wealth of information to our populace. I urge all Camps to take advantage of your internal resources and use this opportunity to not only educate our communities about the Civil War but also use this as a marketing tool for membership in our Order. I encourage all Brothers to stress the point that period dress or uniform is NOT REQUIRED to belong to the SUVCW.
10. All Camp Commanders are instructed to provide to this office the time, place and dates of their Camp meetings along with contact information by September 1, 2012.
11. It has come to our attention that there are Camps in this Department that are "on the brink" of collapse. I urge any and all Brothers in these respective Camps not to surrender their history. Help is available thru this Department's Camp mentoring program as well as the Camp revitalization committee. I encourage you to contact myself, our Department Sr. Vice Commander or Jr. Vice Commander to seek assistance.
12. Retention and recruitment of members is an ongoing priority. I encourage all Camps and Brothers to not only continue their recruitment but focus equal attention on retention of current members. Many times, when a Brother is dropped for non-payment of dues, he is dropped and forgotten. Perhaps a friendly telephone call from a Camp Officer will be all that is needed to determine the underlying reason the Brother did not rejoin. We cannot fix a problem if we are unaware of its existence.

By order of

Richard R. Essenwein

Commander Department of Pennsylvania