



Department of Pennsylvania
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Office of the Commander
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July 8, 2013

Department Order No. 1

Series 2013-2014

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

1. I wish to thank my Brothers for supporting me this past year in my first term as Pennsylvania Department Commander. I express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has provided guidance and assistance to me in the discharge of my duties since my election to this office. It is truly an honor to represent this Department and its proud heritage. I thank the Brothers for their continued confidence in me and I pledge to faithfully discharge my duties to the best of my ability.

2. I extend my deepest appreciation to the 2013 site committee for a memorable encampment. The ability to stand on such hallowed ground as the Gettysburg Battlefield and participate in the Rededication of the Peace Light Memorial as a representative of an organization created by the Brothers of the G.A.R. themselves and charged, by them, with the mission of preserving their memory, was an event I shall always cherish and never forget.

3. I have attached a list of the current officers and committees for 2013-2014 to this order and it will be posted on the Pennsylvania Department web page (www.pasuvcw.org). I encourage all brothers to contact these committees with your thoughts, comments, questions or concerns. These Brothers will be pleased to answer any of your questions and help point you along the path leading to a successful resolution.

4. 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 Mattie Stahl, President, Pennsylvania Department, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and we congratulate the Pennsylvania Department DUV on 100 years of service.

I also congratulate Sister Lucille Coe, President , Pennsylvania Department Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on her re-election to the leadership of our Auxiliary. I extend my personal best wishes and congratulations to Lucille on her upcoming wedding. I wish you a happy and love filled life together.

I extend my best wishes and support to Mary Jane Bannan, Pennsylvania Representative Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to 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. The support of these and the rest of the Allied Orders are instrumental in our success as an organization.

5. The Mid-Year Meeting for the Pennsylvania Department of the SUVCW will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at Hoss's Restaurant located at 1222 N Center Ave Somerset, PA 15501. The location is one mile North of Turnpike, Exit 110 on Route 601. The meeting will begin promptly at 9am. There are reasonably priced overnight accommodations available at six hotel chains all within a six mile radius of this location. Lunch will be your selection from the regular menu. All Officers and Committee Chairmen must submit a report on their activities to the Department Chief of Staff, Brother Paul McMillin no later than October 12, 2013. Electronic submission is preferred. Reports should be sent to: paul.mcmillin@hotmail.com or 5 Jane Lane, Carlisle, PA 17013. Even if there has been no activity or recommendation from your Office or Committee, a report is still required.

6. All Camps in the Pennsylvania Department are urged to begin planning for the sesquicentennial of the end of the Civil War. I have tasked the sesquicentennial committee as a clearing house for ideas and plans. Although 2015 seems a long way off, anyone who has planned an event knows how vital proper planning is for an event to succeed. I encourage our Brothers to give this commemoration the attention it deserves by involving your communities and local historical groups. I urge our Brothers to think outside of the box. Parades, church bell ringing, commemorative tree plantings, living histories are just a few ideas.

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. I extend the congratulations of all brothers of the Pennsylvania Department as well as my own personal congratulations to PC-in-C Elmer "Bud" Atkinson. Brother Bud celebrated his 75th anniversary of belonging to the SUVCW this year. Brother Bud was present for the dedication of the Peace Light Memorial in 1938 as a boy scout and escorted Civil War Soldiers during the event. Brother Atkinson was also present when the monument was rededicated at

this Encampment. I encourage all our members to speak with this extraordinary Brother and share in his knowledge and history. The Pennsylvania Department is proud to have such a distinguished link to our nation's past as a member of our Department.

9. I extend the congratulations of this Department as well as my own personal congratulations to the recipients of the 2013 Pennsylvania Department Dr. Mary Walker Award. It was a very proud moment for me to present Sisters Margaret Atkinson and Faye Carlisle with this honor. I was also proud to posthumously grant the award to Sister Elizabeth Koch. Betty Koch, PNP Ladies of the GAR, served for decades on the Dept. encampment committee, supported all the activities of the SUVCW, kept Weaver Camp alive for many years following her husband's death.

Margaret Atkinson PNP Aux, member of the board of directors of the GAR Hall in Philadelphia for more than 25 years, co-chair of the Blue Gray Ball for more than 25 years raising over \$100000 for monument restoration at Gettysburg NP, ardent supporter of the Dept SUVCW for numerous years.

Faye Carlisle PNP Aux, served on the encampment committee for 20+ years, has worked to charter a camp in Williamsport (succeeded once to have the camp fail several years later). Has supported all of the Dept activities. Chaired the Appromatix Day luncheon/dinner on numerous occasions.

I thank all those who made nominations and encourage you to try again next year.

10. On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department, I extend our deepest sympathy to the Family of Dottie Kern, PDP. Dottie served as PA Department Secretary for the ASUVCW as well as Department President. Our Sister went to her reward on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at Carlisle Regional Medical Center. Dottie was married to Al Kern, PDC, for 67 years. Dottie and Al were fixtures at Department events and encampments for many years.

By order of
Richard R. Essenwein
Commander, Pennsylvania Department
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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