

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Office of the Commander

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June 20th, 2015

Department Order # 23

Series 2014-2015

Brothers of the PA Department,

Thank you for all the wonderful and generous donations to the Soldiers National Monument restoration in Gettysburg, PA. To date we have raised nearly \$8,000 as a Department. The outpouring of generosity has been outstanding.

While we have been working to raise these funds, the Gettysburg Foundation has raised more than \$350,000 of the needed \$500,000. After a year of diligent work, news has only just reached us that the Federal Government, who has rarely ever funded a monument preservation project, provided the entire \$500,000 for the project. This was completely unexpected and unforeseen.

Naturally this windfall has solved the trouble for the monument but it has created a monumental problem for both the Foundation and for the PA Dept SUVCW in the process. Basically, what do we do with the money raised?

This is not a simple question because the legal nature of donations directed to be used for a specific project must either be used for the project specified, returned to the donors, or the donors must be asked to release the donations to another purpose and provide that permission in writing. To do otherwise would cause an issue with the IRS and possibly cause other legal ramifications.

Discussion in the 2015 PA Department Encampment at Williamsport, PA showed a general consensus that we investigate setting up a "Permanent Maintenance Fund" to provide ongoing maintenance for the monument against damage and repairs that will be required in the future. If the NPS is agreeable to this idea, a letter to this effect will be sent out in the next series of Department Orders for the 2015-2016 year.

For now, I would ask that all fund raising cease. Any donations that have not been sent in may be either returned to the Camps or members at your discretion or may be sent to the Department Secretary/ Treasurer with the letter identifying from where it came. Any donations sent in will be held until we know if a Permanent Fund can be set up or if we will be forced to return the donations. Regardless of the path we have available the option to have the donations sent back to the camp will be offered as this Fund, if successful, is not the original purpose for the money and no donor camp should be forced to accept the change if they do not agree to it. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to sort out this situation.

So ordered this 20th day of June, 2015.

Douglas P. McMillin commanding,
Pennsylvania Department
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest: Charles Kuhn, PCnC
Pennsylvania Department
Secretary/ Treasurer