



# Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

## Pennsylvania Department

### Office of the Department Commander

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

Greetings fellow Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department,

I hope that this communication finds you well in these difficult times. Our Nation is facing an incredible challenge in the form of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

The contents of this Department Order could easily have been split into several Orders, but I believe it is beneficial for ease of reference to keep it concise and in one communication. I ask that you please read this Order carefully and, in its entirety, because it contains a great deal of time sensitive information.

Safe practices and the need to practice "social distancing" have made it necessary for numerous Camps to cancel their meetings and other events for March and April and this may well need to continue in further weeks and months. In addition to these local events, I regret to announce the cancellation of the following events:

1. Headstone Dedication in Meyersdale, PA for Peter Bittner, March 28, sponsored by Col. Jacob M. Campbell Camp #14 and the Allied Orders of the G.A.R. All planned events have been cancelled for this weekend but will be re-scheduled.

2. The Appomattox Luncheon, April 18 in Grove City, PA, hosted by Isaac Eaton Camp #504 and Davis \* Camp has been cancelled.

I have received no communications as yet regarding changes to Memorial Day activities in Gettysburg and the Pennsylvania Department will be registered to march in the annual Memorial Day Parade. Any changes will be communicated as soon as they are received.

The Pennsylvania Department Site Committee continues to meet via conference call and plan for the 2020 Allied Orders Encampment in Altoona with a focus on holding the Encampment on the originally scheduled dates, June 25-28. That being said, it is impossible to predict what the COVID-19 situation will be at that time and the committee has set a date of May 15 to make a final decision if the Encampment will go on as planned. This decision will be made in consultation with the Department Commander and other senior Department officers. In the meantime, the Committee asks for us to plan as if the Encampment will take place as usual and to proceed to pre-register, make hotel and meal reservations and send in ads for the Program Booklet. Should it be necessary for plans to change, you will receive a refund for pre-registration, meals and Program Booklet ads and the hotel will not penalize you for canceling your reservation. The entire text of the Site Committee's communication is attached to this email and I encourage all Brothers to share it with all who are planning to attend the Encampment. My thanks to the members of the Site Committee for a fantastic job under very difficult circumstances.

Several Camp Secretaries have made inquiries to the Pennsylvania Department Secretary regarding the possibility of an extension to the April 30 due date of Form 27 due to the COVID-19 situation. These inquiries were referred to Officers of the National Order with the determination being that NO extensions will be given in filing required annual forms at this time. Please submit Form 27 to Department Secretary Rob Koenigsberg by April 30.

We are living through very uncertain and nervous times. I urge all Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department to please come together in the spirit of Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty as our Nation works to overcome the COVID-19 crisis. Please take the time to check on the well-being of older Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders as well as your family, friends and neighbors. If you don't need to travel or be out in the community, please STAY HOME! It is the single most important thing you can do to help stop the spread of the virus.

I pray for God's Blessing on all of you and your families and friends. Let's do what we can to help and encourage each other and WE WILL get through this.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Greg Kline, DC  
Commander  
Pennsylvania Department  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War