



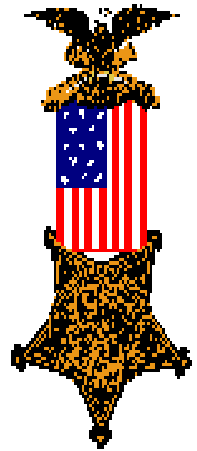
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Pennsylvania Department

Office of the Department Commander

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717-571-6877



July 1, 2021

Department Order No. 1

Series 2021/2022

(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 148th Department Encampment in Altoona. I thank my immediate predecessor, Commander Greg Kline for his efforts, calm approach and leadership skills on behalf of this Department during the most trying of times and circumstances. Your even hand and level headedness during the world wide pandemic was what was needed during this particular period. It was truly a pleasure to serve in your administration..

2. The Headquarters of the Pennsylvania Department is hereby established at:

1427 Maple Ave
Verona, PA 15147
Phone: 412-527-7185
Email: pa142b@yahoo.com

3. I extend my congratulations, best wishes and promise of cooperation to:

- President of the Pennsylvania Department, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Barbara Indan
- President of the Pennsylvania Department, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 Maureen Snowden
- President of the Pennsylvania Department, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic Ellen Higgins
- President of the Pennsylvania Department, Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the

Grand Army of the Republic Daryl Reed.

It is my sincere hope that we may all work together in the spirit of mutual cooperation to keep green the memory of the "Boys in Blue" and to honor their wishes by our actions.

4. The color guard of Isaac Eaton Camp #504 is hereby designated as the Pennsylvania Department Color/Honor Guard. All members in good standing of Isaac Eaton Camp are hereby authorized to wear a ribbon of the Department Colors to be affixed behind their SUVCW Membership badge for the duration of their appointment.

5. All Camps of the Pennsylvania Department are strongly encouraged to submit news of their activities for publication in the "Battle Cry of Freedom", the Department newsletter. Editor Brother William Fischer Jr. devotes many hours to the publication 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. Submit your information to Brother Bob at (wefjr7944@gmail.com) as soon as possible. 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.

6. The Civil War touched every corner, every city, town, village and hamlet across this state. An event sponsored by a local Camp is the perfect opportunity to complete one of our Order's stated purposes, which is, 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. At the same time, many prospective members get the impression that we are a reenacting organization. I encourage all Brothers to stress the point that period dress or uniform is NOT REQUIRED to belong to the SUVCW.

7. 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, 2021.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. As a reminder, The Davis * Camp in Pittsburgh will be conducting a dedication

ceremony at the gravesite of PC-in-C Richard Orr on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 2 PM EST, at Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Cemetery (<https://ccapgh.org/cemeteries/christ-our-redeemer-cemetery/>), located in the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh.

They will also be hosting a re-dedication of the A.P. Davis Mausoleum on Sunday September 12, 2021 at 1 PM. Major A.P. Davis is the recognized founder of the SUVCW. The Mausoleum is located in Allegheny Cemetery (<https://alleghenycemetery.com/>), in Pittsburgh.

Please contact Davis * Camp member Tim Ryan at suvcwryan@gmail.com for further details and/or to express your interest in attending to help estimate headcount

11. I know that under normal circumstances I wouldn't be able to visit every camp in the department or attend every event I would like to. Add to that the news that Covid restrictions may be ramped up once again and no one knows. Nevertheless, I encourage all Camp Commanders who have an interest in having me visit your Camp please contact me using the information above. This would include local ceremonies, dedications, Christmas parties and so forth. I can only do what I can, but I will try my best..

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

John R. Gipson, DC
Commander
Pennsylvania Department
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War