



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Pennsylvania Department
Office of the Department Commander
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DEPARTMENT ORDER 13
SERIES 2024-2025

1 October 2024

CAMP PROPERTY REPORTS

1. There have been recurring situations, including recently, where PA Dept camp property has been compromised or lost due to incomplete or inaccurate recordkeeping or outright theft. The National Organization sought to help depts and camps address this very situation with G.O. 22 (Series 2023-2024, dated 9 July 2024), "Policy Loan and/or Deposit of Artifacts, Policy Vendor Tables, Deposit Agreement Form 80," to enhance dept/camp recordkeeping.
2. Per SUVCW C,C&R, Chapter I, Article VII, Section 5. (p.45), camp treasurers "shall have charge of its [the camp's] property not otherwise provided for." While a camp treasurer is not responsible for physically holding all camp property, the treasurer is responsible for maintaining the official camp property inventory.
3. Without accurate recordkeeping, camps risk the inadvertent/deliberate loss of its property, some of which may have been handed down by local GAR posts or other Boys in Blue, or by organizations/individuals that donated Civil War artifacts, objects or ephemera that are tangible links to the camp's/department's/Order's shared past.
4. Furthermore, SUVCW C,C&R Chapter I, Article I, Section 5. (p.32), states, **"In case of the surrender or forfeiture of the Camp Charter, all the Camp property and assets shall be turned over to the National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War via the Department Commander of the affected Camp acting as his duly authorized representative, to collect and hold all such property in trust for the National Organization Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,... All property of a Camp is held by it as a charitable trust that is to be held and used for the purpose for which the Order exists [my emphasis], and any such transfer or disposal within six months of disbandment or surrender of its Charter without consent of the Department shall be conclusively presumed to be in contemplation of such disbandment or surrender. No Camp shall divide its property among its Brothers."**
5. Because camp property is to be turned over to the department when a camp charter is surrendered, it is imperative that the department have a full accounting, in advance, so that camp property does not simply "disappear."
6. Therefore, **I am ordering all PA Dept camps to inventory all camp property, including all camp property on loan.**

7. **Camp treasurers shall electronically provide a report, in Excel or Word, to the PA Dept treasurer**, listing all camp property individually on separate lines, to include a description of each item, when it was procured (if known), circumstances surrounding the procurement (if known, i.e. donated or purchased), where the item is maintained, and which camp brother is responsible for said item.

8. If a camp artifact/object/ephemera is on loan, include where it is on loan, contact information for the repository, when it was loaned, condition when it was loaned, and whether or not there is signed loan paperwork between the camp and the repository. If not, complete the SUVCW Form 80 and get it signed by both parties as soon as practical. Professional standards for loans recommend terms not exceeding five years, although loans can be renewed if it is in the interest of both parties.

9. **Camp treasurers shall electronically forward the camp property report to PA Dept treasurer Rob Koenigsberg not later than 1 May 2025. Reminder that camp commanders are ultimately responsible for ensuring that this report, and all required reports, are completed and forwarded on time.**

SO ORDERED IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY AND LOYALTY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Fischer, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC
Commander

ATTEST:

Rob Koenigsberg, PCC
Secretary