



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Pennsylvania Department

Office of the Department Commander

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DEPARTMENT ORDER # 1
SERIES 2026-2027

Date: 01 July 2026

Administration

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

1. I wish to thank the Brothers who attended the 146th Pennsylvania Department Encampment, held in Carlisle PA, for electing me for another year to lead the Department in 2026-2027; I am truly humbled, and I shall endeavor to continue to serve in a way that honors the trust that you have bestowed on me.
2. Command is hereby assumed, and the Pennsylvania Department headquarters will continue to be the address and email listed above, where Commander specific correspondence should be sent.
3. Congratulations to the Sisters of our Pennsylvania Allied Orders who were elected as Presidents at their respective conventions/encampments. I look forward to working with you to keep green in our minds the Boys in Blue, and their families, who sacrificed to save the United States from 1861-1865. May their sacred memory never be forgotten!
4. I would like to thank the Brothers and Sisters who worked on the site committee to ensure the 146th Pennsylvania Department Encampment was a success. I would especially like to thank the host Camp, the Capt. J.P. Brindle Camp 50, for their hard work in ensuring the Allied Orders' needs were met.
5. The following Brothers were elected at the encampment, or continue to serve in unexpired terms, to the Department offices as indicated:

Senior Vice Commander
Junior Vice Commander
Secretary/Treasurer (term expires 2028)
Council (term expires 2027)
Council (term expires 2028)
Council (term expires 2027)

Theodore J. Zeman, PCC, Searfoss Camp 273
Steven R. Johnston, PCC, Eaton Camp 504
Robert J. Koenigsberg, PCC, Campbell Camp 14
John M. McNulty, PDC, Searfoss Camp 273
Douglas McMillin, PDC, Brindle Camp #50
William E. Fischer, Jr, PDC, Griffin Camp # 8

6. All business correspondence, bills, and approved requests for departmental payment should be forwarded to:

**PA Dept Secretary/Treasurer
Robert J. Koenigsberg, PDC,
504 Prospect St,
Portage PA 15946-1630**

7. Camp secretaries, please ensure that changes in Brothers' status are recorded on Form 30 and forwarded to the PA Dept Secretary in a timely fashion. Particularly important are Form 30s for deceased Brothers. In addition to forwarding the Form 30s for deceased Brothers, contact Chaplain Brocht so that those Brothers will be remembered at the annual PA Department and National Memorial Services.
8. Camp Secretaries, please provide the Department Commander with dates, times, and locations of Camp meetings, with as much lead time as possible to reduce scheduling conflicts. I am honored to visit camps, and to conduct Camp officer installations whenever possible, as per the PA Dept. Bylaws, (2024) Article XV, Section 2.
9. As per Department Order # 12, Series 2025-2026, and General Order No. 14, dated 27 April 2026, A Public Relations Committee has been formed to oversee the Department social media outlets and newsletter. All Camps are urged to provide details of upcoming camp events to the Department Facebook page as early as possible so that Brothers are made aware of, can plan to attend, and support your efforts to honor our Boys in Blue. Brothers may reach out to the Public Relations Committee to help with posting events on other media outlets. Brothers are also asked to submit articles and items of interest to the committee for the newsletter.

Similarly, reach out early to your local media outlets, place event information on free online community calendars, and be sure to have membership applications (only use the current Form 3) on hand at your events. However, ensure that all events, etc, include Paragraph 4 of General Order No. 7 (Revised) (Series 2021-2022), which reads as follows:

“It is Ordered that the following statement be noted on the Official Programs for all SUVCW events, ceremonies, and meetings, along with posting on any SUVCW website homepage and photo galleries:

Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material’.

10. I will continue to urge all Camps and Brothers to engage youth at every opportunity but do so within PA Department and Pa Youth Protection guidelines. Youth are our future but ensure a parent/legal guardian participates with them.
11. The **2026 National Encampment** will be held July 30th thru August 1st, in Gettysburg, PA. A large delegation from the PA Dept. Encampment was elected to attend.

12. The **2027 Pennsylvania Department encampment** will be held on June 17-19, 2027, in Williamsport PA.

13. I have appointed the following Brothers to the positions and responsibilities indicated, and request that Brothers routinely and regularly communicate with each other to further our work:

Patriotic Instructor	William Dixon , Lt. Ezra Griffin Camp # 8
Chaplain	Clark R. Brocht , PCC, Mt. Union Church 502
Chief of Staff	Douglass McMillin , PDC, Brindle Camp #50
Aide de Camp	Glenn Rodel , CC, Baker-Fisher Camp #101
Counselor	Ivan E. Frantz, Jr. , PDC, Ruhl Camp 33
Counselor	Richard R. Essenwein , PDC, Crawford Camp 43
Counselor	John R. Gipson , PDC, Davis ★ Camp
Color Guard	Baker-Fisher Camp 101
Color Bearer	Robert Clare , PCC, Baker-Fisher Camp 101
Guard	Andrew Carr , PCC, Anna M. Ross Camp #1
Guide	Wayne Blattner , PCC, Hartranft Camp 15
Graves Registration Officer	William E. Fischer, Jr. , PDC, Griffin Camp 8
ROTC/Cadet Awards Coordinator	Trevor Taylor , CC, Gettysburg Camp 112
Historian	Gregory E. Kline , PDC, Gobin Camp 503
Parliamentarian	Ivan E. Frantz, Jr. , PDC, Ruhl Camp 33
Parliamentarian	John M. McNulty , PDC, Searfoss Camp 273
Signals Officer/Webmaster	Kevin W. Kuhn , PCC, Campbell Camp 14
Memorial Camp 300 (At Large) Sec'y/Treas	David W. Demmy, Sr. , PCC, and Nat'l Executive
Director	
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Robert J. Koenigsberg , PDC, Campbell Camp 14
Asst. Eagle Scout Coordinator	Albert El , Anna M. Ross Camp # 1
GAR Highway Officer	Robert Baker , PCC, Lt. Ezra Griffin Camp #8
Civil War Monuments	William Bray , CC, Cribbs Camp
Public Relations Officer	Scott Teeters , Crowther Camp #89

14. The following Brothers are appointed to the below committees:

National Park Service Relations Committee

Kyle Purchase, CC, Hartranft Camp 15 (East)

Robert J. Koenigsberg, PCC, Campbell Camp 14 (West)

Long Range Planning Committee

John M. McNulty, PDC, Searfoss Camp 273

Kyle Waite, PCC, Crowther Camp #89

Legislative Affairs

Adam Mitchell, JVC, George H. Thomas 19

Camp Organizer (Revitalization/Development)

Steven R. Johnson, DJVC, Isaac Eaton Camp 504

William Dixon, Lt. Ezra Griffin Camp # 8

Encampment Site Committee

Chairman: Steven R. Johnson, JVC, Isaac Eaton Camp 504
Lucas Holsopple, Isaac Eaton Camp 504
Bob Wrigley, PCC, Gen Geo. Thomas Camp 19

Credentials Committee

Robert Koenigsberg, PDC, Campbell Camp 14
Joshua McMillin, PCC, Brindle Camp 50

Bylaws Committee

Douglass McMillin, PDC, Brindle Camp #50
Richard R. Essenwein, PDC, Crawford Camp 43
Dane DiFebo, PDC, Searfoss Camp 273

GAR Memorials Committee

Timothy L. Bennett, Sec/Tres, Isaac Eaton Camp 504
Alfred C. Carty, PDC, Searfoss Camp 273

Public Relations Committee:

Chairman: Ted Zeman (Department Senior Vice Commander)
Members: Lucas Holsopple (Dept Newsletter Editor), Kevin Kuhn (Department Signals Officer), Kyle Purchase, Scott Teeters

Education Committee

Kyle Purchase, CC, Hartranft Camp 15
Walt Lafty, Sec, Baker-Fisher Camp #101

15. As stated before, one of the most difficult tasks for the Commander is making appointments to the positions and committees that are needed for our department to run successfully. **As you will note, there are many Camps not represented at the department level.** Once again, I urge all Brothers of the Department to consider serving in vacant positions, or as non-voting informal committee members, with Council approval. This would enable the department to develop knowledgeable Brothers, which would lead to the success of the department. This type of "succession planning" will only strengthen our department.

Finally, please note that Department Officer and Camp reports are due to Chief of Staff Douglas McMillin, PDC, no later than 21 May 2027.

If you have nothing to report, then state, "Nothing to Report", but please complete the report.

SO ORDERED IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY AND LOYALTY

Michael E. Peter

Michael E. Peter, PDC
Commander

ATTEST:

Rob Koenigsberg, PDC
Secretary