



# Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War

Office of the Commander-in-Chief

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General Order #3

**SERIES 2013-2014**

**22 September 2013**

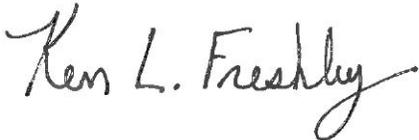
1. Background: In 2011, incidents regarding activities at a major State University came to the public eye. These allegations resulted in a criminal trial which ended 22 June 2012 in a conviction. During this time the SUVCW was aware of the issues and there were questions regarding its effect on the recruitment of Members under the age of 18, and Juniors/Junior Associates into the Order. During this time the Order has taken minor steps to move on this matter. Also, during this time Federal and States have enacted policies/laws in regard to the protection of minors and the requirements enacted on various organizations. To this date the Order has not fully learned how and what laws/requirements affect our type of organization. As such the Order, through ignorance or lack of policies, is vulnerable to law suits for not taking proper action to safeguard minors within our organization. Further, as the various Departments within the Order encompass many legal jurisdictions (e.g. California/Pacific, Colorado/Wyoming, Department of the Chesapeake to name a few) there are questions as to which to follow or a requirement to follow all or the strictest. A prime example is the Department of Pennsylvania in which the latest State requirements are far stricter than Federal mandates.
2. As Commander-in-Chief, I am well aware to the strict wording of the SUVCW Constitution Chapter I, Article V, Section 2b (page 4 of the SUVCW C&R annotated) which states "If the Commander-in-Chief is of the opinion that an action of the last proceeding National Encampment is in violation of or in conflict with our Congressional Charter, and/or the Constitution, and/or National Regulations, and/or United States Law he may propose such General Order(s) to delay implementation of such action or **suspend such action if previously implemented** until such time as the violation or conflict can be corrected." However I do find that the action by proceeding Encampments and the current changes to State and Federal mandates/laws have placed the Order in a precarious situation. The laws have changed and we have not kept up with them or have not at least made changes to protect our members and the Order as a whole.
3. In Accordance with SUVCW Constitution Chapter I Article V Section 2b (page 4 of the SUVCW C&R annotated) the following General Order, with the aforementioned background, is proposed for approval of the SUVCW Council of Administration:

**"Effective immediately, and with the approval of the Council of Administration, the recruitment program for members, under the age of 18, Juniors and Junior Associates is hereby suspended until the next immediate National Encampment in August 2014. This action is taken to permit the Order to assess State/Federal mandates/laws and promulgate policies for the protection of the youth within our Order, as well as the Order itself. As stated in the "Background" above, the Statutes of the Federal law and some States have**

passed the Order by without action on our part. This suspension will permit the Order to establish a committee to ascertain what actions we are required to have in place to comply with the aforementioned Federal/State Laws, it will also provide the upcoming encampment with wording to better protect our youth. Regarding this issue, Departments and Camps will, at a minimum, comply with all State laws dealing with Child Protection until such time as the Order can complete this task. Consideration should be given having parents or legal guardians attend meetings and events.”

4. I am establishing a committee of attorney members to assist the construction of policy regarding our youth. This committee will report to the CofA at the Spring 2014 meeting and hopefully have a written policy that can be presented to the National Programs and Policy or the C&R Committee prior to the 2014 Encampment where such wording can be enacted.
5. This General Order should be taken in the light as a protection for **OUR** youth and **OUR** Order, not as an action to punish or lessen our membership. The youth of **OUR** Country are **OUR GREATEST** Hope and Treasure. And with all Treasures, they should be guarded with our utmost care.

Ordered this 22nd Day of September, 2013.



Ken L. Freshley  
Commander-In-Chief  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Alan Russ  
Secretary, National Order,  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War