

Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War

Office of the Commander-in-Chief

David V. Medert, PDC

72 Limestone Blvd.

Chillicothe , OH 45601

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GENERAL ORDER #1

SERIES 2008– 2009

17 August, 2008

1. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all the Brothers who attended the 127th National Encampment in Peabody, MA. and elected me Commander-In-Chief. It is with reverence that I accept this honor and I pledge to discharge the duties of this office to the best of my abilities.
2. I wish to thank the Brothers of the Department of Massachusetts for hosting the encampment. PDC Kevin Tucker and his committee did an excellent job to ensure that everyone's needs were met from transportation to accommodations. I think all who attended would agree a good time was had by all.
3. I would like to congratulate the newly elected National Presidents of the Woman's Relief Corp, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic (WRC), Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861 – 1865 (DUVCW), The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR) and the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW). I wish you a productive year and am looking forward to working with you as we all venture to perpetuate the memory of our ancestors who fought so nobly to preserve these United States.
4. This will be a challenging and exciting year. Challenging in that we must all endeavor to increase and "retain" our members. Since the inception of our Order, we have been charged to recruit new members. This has been done; however we have failed to retain many of those who we have worked so hard to recruit. Where did we fail? What do we need to do?
5. One of the first things we need to do is to make our Camp meetings and our Order interesting. We need to realize that we live in a world where everything is fast paced and people are busy. Kids have sporting events, school events, and church activities. We are constantly on the go, shuttling between activities for ourselves as well as our families. Both parents are working longer hours or commuting further to work which leaves evenings and weekends filled.
6. The challenge before us is to make our Camp meetings interesting enough for someone to want to sacrifice an hour or two of that precious evening time. We can no longer afford to hold meetings where all we accomplish is the reading of minutes and discussing who is going to be elected to office. We should become more involved in activities related to the Order such as grave registration, monument preservation, and the Last Soldier Project. We should contact our local schools for permission to speak to students regarding the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic. Students will go home and talk about these presentations to their parents which in turn may excite some interest in them to explore membership opportunities. Perhaps hold a fundraiser to present a scholarship. Get involved in community activities such as Junior Achievement. Present a "Citizen Of The Year" award to a worthy person. These are only a few ideas. The list is endless, limited only by our imagination.

7. This year will be exciting with the formation of the new committees. One of the committees is charged to develop a leadership correspondence course. The objective of this course would be to help develop effective leadership in our brothers by giving them an in-depth knowledge of our Constitution and Regulations, Ritual, Policies, etc. It will also aid those Brothers seeking advancement through the Camp, Department, and National lines. More will follow concerning this course throughout the year.
8. We have also formed a Digest Committee to review the rulings of our Past Commander-In -Chiefs and to incorporate into regulations or policies those rulings that are applicable to governing our Order.
9. This is also an exciting year, as we will celebrate the birth of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. We should all make a concentrated effort to recognize one of the most gifted and honored presidents in our history. Plan a Lincoln Dinner and invite the public. Ask a Brother to present a topic during a Camp meeting on his accomplishments. Again, invite the public to attend.
10. The National Headquarters is established at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
11. All correspondence requiring the attention of the Commander-in-Chief should be sent to; 72 Limestone Blvd; Chillicothe, OH 45601. Phone 740-773-7646 or email batteryi@horizonview.net . For a more rapid response, I urge brothers to use electronic mail.
12. All bills of the National Order Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War must be filed with the National Treasurer, Max L. Newman, 4995 E. Wilkinson Road, Owosso, MI 48867-9616; (989) 743-3525; treasurer@suvcw.org.
13. All other correspondence concerning the Order shall be directed to the National Secretary; Donald D. Palmer Jr., PDC , 147 Lucerne Place Dr., Ballwin, MO 63011-3218;(636) 230-3656; secretary@suvcw.org.
14. All applications for Civil War Memorials Grant funds should be sent to: D. Brad Schall, PDC, 2754 Woodacre Court, Lincoln, CA 95648; Phone: (916) 408-4482 Fax: (916) 408-4482; CofA6@suvcw.org.
15. I encourage everyone to attend Remembrance Day this year in Gettysburg, PA. on 22 November 2008. Past Commander-In-Chief Charles Kuhn has selected Mr. Ken Burns to receive the Founders Award which will be presented to him on 19 November 2008, in Gettysburg. Please try to join us as we present this prestigious award to an individual who has devoted much effort into perpetuating the Civil War.
16. I am looking forward to this year and to meet as many of you as I can. The Sons along with our sisters in the Allied Orders will continue to work together in honoring the Boys In Blue!

Ordered this 17th Day of August, 2008.

David V. Medert
Commander-In-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Donald Palmer
Secretary,
National Order, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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