

Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War

Office of the Commander-in-Chief

Charles E. Kuhn Jr., PDC

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GENERAL ORDER #3

SERIES 2007 – 2008

18 August, 2007

1. After a lawfully chosen Hearing Council was selected and proper notice conformant to the Constitution and Regulations of the National Order, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was given to both parties, the Hearing Council assigned to take testimony in the matter of Commander in Chief James B. Pahl vs. Keith D. Ashley, PDC, convened and held a hearing in abstenia on August 9, 2007 at the Hilton Frontenac Hotel at 1:00 PM local time in St. Louis, Missouri.
2. The Hearing Council was unable to reach a consensus as to guilt or innocence of Brother Keith D. Ashley, PDC.
3. The Constitution and Regulations as well as the Digest of the National Order Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are mute in this circumstance.
4. It is my ruling that if a Brother who is brought before a Hearing Council and a consensus of guilt or innocence is not reached by the Hearing Council, he must be treated as if he were found not guilty.
5. In as much as Keith D. Ashley, PDC had resigned from the Order in a letter dated July 18, 2007 to Brooks Grant Camp #7, Department of Ohio and this letter was not received prior to the date of the hearing, he resigned while under suspension. Therefore, as stated in the Constitution and Regulations of the National Order, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Chapter V, Article 1, Section 3(e) General Discharge for the Good of the Order - a certificate of a less than honorable discharge, but not a punitive discharge issued to a Brother who has been dropped for nonpayment of dues or is not in good standing at the time he requested a discharge.) Keith D. Ashley, PDC is only entitled to a General Discharge for the Good of the Order as he was not found guilty by the Hearing Council and he resigned while under suspension leaving any proof of guilt or innocence unanswered.
6. In resigning from the Order, Keith D. Ashley, PDC also resigned his Life Membership. Should he ever seek and be granted admission to the Order in the future, his Life Membership will be reinstated under the terms of his original life membership.

7. In as much as Keith D. Ashley, PDC was a Past Department Commander the matter of past honors must be addressed. Since the Constitution and Regulations as well as the Digest of the National Order Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are mute regarding past honors when a Brother resigns from the Order, it is my ruling that under such circumstance the Brother also resigns all claims to past honors. Should the former Brother seek readmission to the order, he must seek restoration of rank through the process provided in the Constitution and Regulations of the National Order, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Such a former Brother will still be listed on the rolls of the Order, Department or Camp as a Commander for the terms during which he served but without rights to the respective past honors associated with his past service.

8. All parties to this case have the right to appeal this ruling to the National Encampment. Written notice to the National Secretary of the intent to appeal must be received by the National Secretary at least 30 days prior to the National Encampment.

9. In the absence of any language in the Constitution and Regulations of the National Order Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War regarding the time to appeal to the National Encampment, it is my ruling that such appeal must be made to the next following National Encampment if the ruling is issued prior to 30 days before the National Encampment or the right to appeal is foregone. In the case of the ruling being issued within 30 days of the National Encampment, the appellant must appeal to the next following National Encampment or the right to appeal is foregone.

10. Any appeal of this Order and Ruling must be made to the 127 th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to be held in Peabody Massachusetts from August 7 th through 10th, 2008.

So ordered this 18th day of August, 2007;

Charles E. Kuhn, Jr.
Commander in Chief
National Order, 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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