

August Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

The past few months, I have been talking about programs that the SUVCW has that I think we should all be making more of an effort to use. For this month's instruction I want to point out a program that the Order has that I feel is underutilized. The program is Memorial University. For those of you that are new to the Order you might be wondering, what is Memorial University? Well fret no further, I am going to give you all a quick tutorial. Simply, Memorial University is the training program of the SUVCW.

This free program is designed for all members, new and old, to be compelled to open and review the CnR and the Rituals and Ceremonies, learn more about the American Civil War and about the Grand Army of the Republic. The more Brothers who understand the history of our Order, history of our Predecessors, and the internal workings of the Order, the smoother our meetings, Encampments, and the overall business we conduct on a day-to-day basis will be. The only thing that remains is how do you get to the course? Well, you simply go to the link www.suvcwmu.org or at the bottom of the Projects & Preservation tab on the SUVCW Website, you can click the Memorial University Program and it will take you to Memorial University. Once you are at the Memorial University Web Page, you will notice a Course Catalog. Within the course catalog page, you will see a few courses that have reference material there but no test currently, these are the American Civil War Studies and the Grand Army of the Republic Studies. These are great informational tools to use for someone who may not be as well versed in one area of the other.

The bread and butter of MU is the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Studies. When you click that you will see 3 courses: Introduction to the SUVCW, Charter, Constitution and Regulations, and Junior & Junior Associates courses. The Intro to the SUVCW is much like the GAR and Civil War courses where we do not have a current test for it but is a great reference tool. The Juniors course is a PDF pamphlet that our Junior members will have assignments that will need an advisor, a full member of the order, who will sign off on each assignment. Once the full pamphlet is completed, the Brother can either scan and email the pamphlet or snail mail the completed pamphlet to the National Patriotic Instructor so they can get full credit. The Charter, Constitution, and Regulations Course is an all-online course.

As it is currently constituted, the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations Course covers the basic ins and outs of the Order. If you are wondering what color the Patriotic Instructors Station Banner is (Red in case you were wondering) or the ins and outs of the Department Encampment, well this course covers that. This course does contain an open book, untimed test that you can take the as many times as you need to pass and is an amazing tool to learn all these items. With the current course, you will need a copy of the Charter, Constitutions, and Regulations (CnR) and the Rituals and Ceremonies book to complete. Electronic copies of both are available on the website: [Governance – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War \(suvcw.org\)](http://www.suvcw.org). Upon passing either the CCnR course or the Juniors Course, the Brother will receive from the National Patriotic Instructor a Memorial University Graduation Certificate and a Lapel Pin. Most of my instructions I end with some type of challenge to you all, well this challenge should be obvious, if you haven't already, go enroll in Memorial University! I look forward to seeing more people take a swing at Memorial University as I can say from experience is a great method to learn more about the order and the Civil War.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Br. Ben Frail, PDC
National Patriotic Instructor