

April Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

The time has now come, and I don't mean first pitch at Fenway Park or puck drop on the Stanley Cup Playoffs, I mean it is the time where the weather has turned, and we can finally get outside and do some of our most meaningful work. Where we can get outside in our communities and hold educational programs or clean ups and ensure that those who fought to preserve the Union are not forgotten. I have already seen Camp and Department social media pages flooded with these efforts and I could not be prouder. I am seeing Camps and Departments teaming up with local groups and towns to work together in these endeavors and genuinely feel that you all have been hearing the message I have been preaching for the last few months. For that I want to personally thank each and every Brother. With that being said, there is always more that we can do it help further our mission. This Patriotic Instruction I want to focus on Recruiting, a goal that each Camp and Department should always be focusing on.

At every event that we host, or assist with, we come across people who are of like mind and want to ensure that the memories of our ancestors are not forgotten. In today's day and age, we must leverage the technology at our fingertips, literally, and get the information about our Order, and the Sisters of the Allied Orders, into their hands. Most people have smartphones these days where we can quickly email them the National Website (www.suvcw.org) or share with them the National Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Reddit, or YouTube pages with them. We also have free pamphlets through the National Quartermaster Store ([SUVCW Pamphlet \(suvcw-qm.org\)](http://SUVCW Pamphlet (suvcw-qm.org))) that you can order, and bring with you to events and hand out, I would suggest ensuring you have your Camp or Departments contact information ready to hand out with the pamphlet as well. Once they see the great work we do across the United States and abroad, or the great work we are doing right in front of them, it is an easy segway to ask if someone wants to join our ranks, or the ranks of the Allied Orders. By growing our ranks, we ensure that our mission continues, and by continuing our mission we are being Patriotic.

A little known fact in the Order is that there are a few recruiting awards and individual Brother and Department can earn:

- The David R. Medert Award – Presented to the Individual Brother that recruits the greatest number of new members during the period from 1 April through 31 March
- The Augustus P. Davis – Conrad Linder Award – Presented to the Department with the greatest number of members during the period 1 April through 31 March
- The U.S. Grant Cup – Presented to the Department with the greatest percentage increase in membership during the period of 1 April – 31 March
- The Under Forty Award – Presented to the Department with the greatest number of new members under age forty (40) during the period of 1 April – 31 March
- The National Aide Award – Presented to a Brother who has recruited five (5) or more new members during a Commander-in-Chiefs term in office.

My challenge to you all this month is to recruit! By growing our ranks, we ensure our Order will long exist and we will carry out our mission by preserving their memory!

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