

National Encampment Day 1 Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

We have gathered here this weekend to conduct the business of our Order. Over the course of the next two days we will no doubt have spirited discussions on various topics with like goals in mind, fostering the growth of our beloved Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and preserving the memory of those who served in the United States Armed Forces from 1861-1865. While things may get heated over the course of the weekend, please always keep in mind that we are all Brothers, that we were all brought together in the spirit of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. We all come from different backgrounds and walks of life and our various past experiences give us all a different outlook and perspective on any task put in front of us.

While trying to achieve our collective goal, we must always remember that the Brothers we are working with have a different perspective than ours. A perspective that may bring them to a different conclusion than yours. This difference in opinion does not make one person wrong or the other right but shines a different light on a problem we are all trying to solve. We should not outright dismiss someone that has a different point of view than your own, but foster communication and discussion and together come up with a game plan that will help us achieve our goals. This is a very important message that I want you all to remember through out the course of these next two days.

The other message I want you all to remember is to have fun, we are all volunteers. We ask ourselves at Camp, Department, and National level meetings “how can we retain Brothers and get new Brothers”. One of the answers is to make sure that our activities are fun, no one is going to continue to volunteer for an organization where they are not having fun and enjoying themselves. So, whether it be with a well-timed joke, or a Fraternal outing at a local sports event remember that we need to have fun in our time together.

Now some of you may be asking what exactly does this have to do with Patriotism. Well, I am glad you asked. If we do not have the membership to continue with our mission, we cannot teach our communities on Patriotism. If we do not have fun while teaching our communities on Patriotism, we will do other activities outside of community outreach. So having fun in a volunteer organization has a direct correlation to Patriotism and how we educate not only our Brothers, but also our Neighbors. So my challenge to you all is to have fun, with that, I will end with a joke, and anyone who knows me knows I love a good (or horrible depending on your mindset) dad joke. “Why did the have to bury George Washington standing up? Because he could never lie” Enjoy the encampment, the festivities and remember to have fun!

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,
Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor