

September National Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

A few years back you might have remembered that I focused a lot on the various applications of Social Media and how we can use them to grow as an organization, but also teach Patriotic Values to those that follow our online footprint. One of the newer applications that you can now find the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on is Reddit. Reddit is an online forum where you can make various types of posts either as a user on your own feed or make a post in an Online Community. The SUVCW has one of those Online Communities that you can join with the handle being [r/SonsofUnionVeteransCW](https://www.reddit.com/r/SonsofUnionVeteransCW/).

This forum is a good way for Brothers to connect with other Brothers in the order, but also to spread the word about events we maybe having as there is no limit to how many communities you make your post on. You can make a post regarding a presentation your Camp might be doing at the local Elks lodge and post it in communities for History, for your State, for local Cities, for the Elks, etc this not only expands our online footprint, but it will get people in the doors for our presentations where we can spread Patriotic values and the true history of the Civil War, both of which are valued parts of our mission.

On Reddit you can share photos of your ancestor and tell their story, or you can post a photo of a local member of the GAR either in parade or ceremony and start explaining why their participation in local matters are not only important to their time, but how it has molded modern day Veterans activities and organizations. We can use this forum to post in communities about Patriotism in general or get into detail on specific topics. A good post might be on Flag Etiquette and Education, there are a surprising amount of people in the youth of the United States that do not know what the Stars and Stripes on Old Glory stand for, and as much as that is a failure of our schools, but it is also a failure on our parts. We are not doing enough in our communities to educate the youth on these matters, and part of the way we can combat that is by speaking their language so to speak, and that means using Social Media to our advantage.

By using Social Media, specifically in this case Reddit, we can expand our reach to fulfill our mission. By completing our mission, we are spreading the word of Patriotism throughout our communities, and teaching the next generation why we should be proud about the nation we call home, and that our ancestors fought so hard to keep whole. I hope to see even more social media posts these next few months from all Camps and Departments!

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