

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COUNSELOR

OPINION II – SERIES 2015-2016

At the post Encampment meeting of the Council of Administration in Richmond, Virginia on August 23, 2015, the Commander-in-Chief requested me to render an opinion as to the following question: Does a National Elected Officer's credentials to attend and vote at a National Encampment count as one of the delegate positions allowed that officer's home Department?

Membership at a National Encampment is defined in National Regulations, Chapter III, Article II, Section 1. The various paragraphs indicate the diverse ways one may have voting credentials at a National Encampment. Each Department gets a set number of delegates, plus those who have standing credentials, such as the current Department Commander and all Past Department Commanders. These credentials are issued by the Department Secretary.

The section goes on to read that all elected National Officers have voting credentials and those credentials are issued by the National Secretary.

During the 2011-2012 Administrative year, I issued Opinion V as National Counselor, that any Past Department Commander and any Past Commander-in-Chief may be seated and have a vote at any National Encampment even if their home Department were under suspension. After this opinion, National Regulations were amended in Chapter II, Article I, Section 10, which takes all voting rights away from the entire Department delegation (including the Department Commander and all Past Department Commanders – but not any Past Commander-in-Chief) if that Department is under suspension for failing to file their reports in a timely fashion for five consecutive years. One Department was under this type of suspension at the 134th National Encampment. If an elected National Officer's credentials counted against the allowed number of delegates allowed at a National Encampment, such interpretation would give good argument that such National Officer could not be seated at the Encampment if his home Department was under such suspension. This would have interesting implications should the home Department of the Commander-in-Chief be under such suspension.

It is therefore my formal opinion, the credentials of a National Elected Officer does not count towards the number of delegates allowed from that officer's home Department.

Respectfully submitted in fraternity, charity and loyalty:

James B. Pahl, PCinC
National Counselor