

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

OPINION IV – SERIES 2015-2016

I have been requested of the Commander-in-Chief to render an opinion as to dual members and resignations from the Order.

Facts: A brother of the Order is a dual member of two or more Camps located within different Departments. This brother submits a letter of resignation from the Order to one of the Camps. As no disciplinary actions have been taken to the knowledge of the Camp and/or the brother and the brother owes no money to the Camp, so the Camp issues an Honorable Discharge. Disciplinary proceedings may have begun by a brother in another Camp or at the National level, but the brother in question had not received a copy of the charges and specifications at the time of his resignation from the Order.

What is the impact of the Honorable Discharge upon this brothers remaining Camps and the Order?

It is my opinion his resignation from the Order submitted to one of his Camps and that Camp issuing an Honorable Discharge is binding upon all other Camps and Departments of which he may have been a member (and the Order as a whole), so long as there are no disciplinary actions pending upon which the brother in question has notice.

The key here is actual notice. To trigger anything other than an honorable discharge, per Chapter IV Discipline, Article 25 and/or Article 26, the brother must have received a copy of the pending charges and specifications under National Regulations Chapter IV, Article 8. Until he receives a copy of the charges and specifications, no proper notice of pending charges has been provided.

Respectfully submitted in fraternity, charity and loyalty,

James B. Pahl, PCinC  
National Counselor  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War