



# Combined Reports to the Commander in Chief

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT, GETTYSBURG, PA 30 JULY – 1  
AUGUST 2026

RODERICK FRASER, CHIEF OF STAFF

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## Reports of Elected National Officers

### Commander in Chief

#### **REPORT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

##### **145th National Encampment**

##### **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**

**July 31, 2026**

Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War:

As I conclude my term as Commander-in-Chief, I respectfully submit this report for the period from August 10, 2025, through July 31, 2026.

Serving as Commander-in-Chief of our Order has been the honor of my lifetime and a profound privilege. Over the past year, I have worked to advance the goals established in General Order No. 2 and to represent the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War across the nation. This year has included extensive travel, participation in commemorative activities, collaboration with our Allied Orders and heritage organizations, and continued efforts to preserve the memory of the men who fought to save the Union.

Throughout my term, I worked to raise the visibility of our Order, strengthen relationships within the Civil War community, promote membership growth and engagement, and support the Departments and Camps that form the foundation of our organization.

#### **OFFICIAL VISITS AND REPRESENTATION**

One of the most rewarding aspects of serving as Commander-in-Chief has been meeting Brothers across the country and seeing firsthand the dedication and accomplishments of our Departments and Camps.

During the reporting period, I attended the following Department Encampments:

| DEPARTMENT             | LOCATION                     | DATE              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Florida                | St. Augustine, Florida       | February 21, 2026 |
| California and Pacific | Bakersfield, California      | March 7, 2026     |
| Alabama                | Alabaster, Alabama           | March 22, 2026    |
| Southwest              | Tucson, Arizona              | March 28, 2026    |
| Rhode Island           | East Greenwich, Rhode Island | April 4, 2026     |
| New Hampshire          | Concord, New Hampshire       | April 18, 2026    |
| Massachusetts          | Marlborough, Massachusetts   | April 25, 2026    |
| Arkansas               | Van Buren, Arkansas          | May 1, 2026       |
| Oklahoma               | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma      | May 8, 2026       |
| Vermont                | Danville, Vermont            | May 16, 2026      |
| Columbia               | Everett, Washington          | June 6, 2026      |
| Ohio                   | Columbus, Ohio               | June 13, 2026     |
| Pennsylvania           | Carlisle, Pennsylvania       | June 27, 2026     |

In addition to Department Encampments, I participated in numerous meetings, commemorative events, educational programs, and ceremonies, including:

| EVENT                         | LOCATION                      | DATE               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Dept. of Ma Officers Meeting  | Andover, Massachusetts        | September 13, 2025 |
| Burial for PCinC Brad Schall  | Hutchinson, Kansas            | September 19, 2025 |
| Talk to F. W. Lander CWRT     | Lynn, Massachusetts           | October 9, 2025    |
| Funeral for PDC Robert Knight | W. Springfield, Massachusetts | October 15, 2025   |
| Veterans Day Ceremonies       | Arlington National Cemetery   | November 11, 2025  |
| Remembrance Day               | Gettysburg, Pennsylvania      | November 15, 2025  |
| Talk to N.S.D.U.              | Teleconference                | December 2, 2025   |
| Soldiers Home Xmas Party      | Chelsea, Massachusetts        | December 6, 2025   |
| Battle of Galveston Ceremony  | Galveston, Texas              | January 3, 2026    |
| Wisconsin Midwinter Meeting   | Milwaukee, Wisconsin          | February 7, 2026   |
| Lincoln Birthday Brunch       | Wakefield, Massachusetts      | February 15, 2026  |
| Lincoln Tomb Ceremony         | Springfield, Illinois         | April 11, 2026     |
| Dr. B.F. Stephenson Ceremony  | Petersburg, Illinois          | April 11, 2026     |
| Memorial Day Observance       | Lynn, Massachusetts           | May 24, 2026       |
| Memorial Day Ceremonies       | Arlington National Cemetery   | May 25, 2026       |
| Cathedral of the Pines        | Rindge, New Hampshire         | May 30, 2026       |
| Juneteenth Commemoration      | Boston, Massachusetts         | June 19, 2026      |
| SCV National Reunion          | Lexington, Kentucky           | July 16, 2026      |
| DUVCW Encampment              | Springfield, Illinois         | July 22, 2026      |

These visits provided valuable opportunities to meet Brothers and members of our Allied Orders, promote the work of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and strengthen relationships that advance our mission of honoring the memory and sacrifices of the soldiers who preserved the Union.

#### **Executive Leadership and Virtual Conferences**

In addition to my travel schedule and in-person appearances, I conducted and participated in numerous virtual meetings throughout the year to support the effective administration of the Order, maintain communication with national leadership, assist Department operations, and advance key initiatives.

On August 20, 2025, I convened a meeting of the National Executive Staff to discuss priorities and objectives for the coming year, and coordinate implementation of the goals outlined in General Order No. 2. On August 28, 2025, I participated in the inaugural meeting of the National Special Committee on Social Media Management, supporting the administration's efforts to strengthen the Order's digital communications and public outreach.

To address concerns about the timely delivery of ROTC and Cadet Awards, I met on September 12, 2025, with the National Quartermaster, Assistant Quartermaster, and National ROTC Coordinator to review existing challenges and develop plans to improve service to Departments and Camps. Follow-up discussions on November 7, 2025, reviewed progress and addressed remaining concerns related to award fulfillment and inventory management.

On September 25, 2025, I convened a meeting of Department Commanders to begin planning the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's participation in the national commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States. This meeting launched what became the "SUVCW 250 for the 250th" initiative and encouraged Departments to develop programs and activities supporting the Semiquincentennial observance. I also participated in two extended review sessions on the proceedings of the 2025 National Encampment. On October 10 and November 19, 2025, I joined Immediate Past Commander-in Chief Kevin Martin and the Assistant National Secretaries for Recordings and Transcription to review the proceedings and ensure their accuracy and completeness for the historical record.

To support the work of our national committees, I held a conference with appointed National Committee Chairmen on October 16, 2025, to review plans, objectives, and expectations for the year. The meeting helped coordinate committee activities and align their work with the administration's priorities.

A second National Executive Staff meeting was held on December 16, 2025, to review progress toward annual objectives, discuss ongoing projects, and address matters requiring national coordination. A second Department Commanders meeting followed on December 29, 2025, providing updates on national initiatives, America 250 planning, and matters affecting the Departments.

I also attended a Department of Massachusetts Officers Meeting on January 20, 2026, continuing my commitment to close communication with local leadership and support for the Departments.

These virtual conferences were an effective way to maintain communication across the Order, coordinate national initiatives, address operational challenges, and keep Departments, Camps, and National Officers informed and engaged throughout the year.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORDER**

Throughout my administration as Commander-in-Chief, eighteen General Orders and three Special Orders were issued addressing organizational governance, membership engagement, communications, awards, commemorations, and matters of administration. These orders were intended not only to address immediate operational needs but also to strengthen the long-term health and effectiveness of the Order.

### **Strategic Direction and Organizational Priorities**

Shortly after assuming office, General Order No. 2 established the strategic priorities of my administration. Those priorities focused on strengthening fraternity and fellowship through renewed in-person engagement, increasing membership growth and retention, expanding public awareness of the Order, enhancing communication between the National Organization and the Departments, and modernizing the Order's digital presence and communications capabilities. These objectives served as the framework that guided my activities throughout the year.

### **Fraternity, Membership, and Recognition**

A major emphasis of my administration was reinforcing the fraternal character of our Order. To encourage stronger bonds among Brothers and Departments, General Order No. 10 established the Spirit of Fraternity Award, recognizing Camps and Departments that demonstrate exceptional commitment to brotherhood, mentorship, cooperation, and mutual support.

General Order No. 9 renewed emphasis on the National Awards Program by encouraging Departments and Camps to nominate deserving Brothers and Sisters for recognition. The Order's awards program serves not only to acknowledge individual achievement but also to inspire continued service and leadership throughout the organization.

### **Public Outreach and Patriotic Observances**

Several General Orders were issued to encourage public engagement and historical remembrance. General Order No. 4 called upon the Order to observe National POW/MIA Recognition Day and to remember both Civil War prisoners of war and all American service members who were prisoners of war or remain missing in action.

General Order No. 5 provided guidance and information for Remembrance Day activities in Gettysburg, reinforcing the importance of that annual observance as one of the most significant events in the SUVCW calendar.

General Order No. 18 encouraged active participation in the nation's Semiquincentennial celebration and reminded Brothers of the direct connection between the liberties secured in 1776 and the Union preserved by our Civil War ancestors. Camps and Departments were urged to participate in public commemorations, educational programs, and patriotic observances marking the 250th anniversary of American independence.

#### **Preservation of Tradition and Order**

General Order No. 3 addressed the proper wearing of the badges of the Order and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining uniform standards when representing the SUVCW in public. The Order's insignia are visible symbols of our heritage and responsibility, and the Order reminded Brothers of their obligation to wear them appropriately and with dignity.

#### **ROTC and Youth Programs**

Recognizing the importance of the SUVCW ROTC Awards Program, General Order No. 7 directed Departments participating in the program to appoint Department ROTC Coordinators to improve administration and communication. Later in the year, Special Order No. 3 appointed Brother Roger Letournon as National ROTC Coordinator and Assistant National Quartermaster to further strengthen the program and support recognition of deserving cadets nationwide.

#### **Technology and Organizational Continuity**

As part of the modernization goals established at the beginning of the term, General Order No. 14 addressed administrative access to Department and Camp digital assets. The Order directed that at least two Brothers maintain administrative access to official websites, social media accounts, and related digital resources to ensure continuity, security, and institutional stability.

#### **Membership and Camp Administration**

The administration was required to address several Camp charter matters during the year. Replacement charters were authorized for Chapman-Compliment Camp No. 2 and Francis E. Warren Camp No. 44 of the Department of Colorado and Wyoming after their original charters were lost or damaged.

Conversely, the charters of Bay State Camp No. 61 and Satuit Camp No. 3188 in Massachusetts, along with Maj. Gen. Gibbon/1SG Burke Camp No. 2 in North Carolina, were revoked following votes by those Camps to dissolve and after all required property and assets were transferred in accordance with the Regulations of the Order.

#### **Interpretation of Regulations**

General Order No. 15 clarified the rights, privileges, and participation of Honorary Past Commander-in-Chief Robert J. Wolz within the Council of Administration. The Order affirmed his entitlement to the courtesies traditionally accorded Past Commanders-in-Chief while recognizing the limitations imposed by the Constitution and Regulations.

#### **Historical Accuracy and Organizational Integrity**

Special Order No. 1 addressed the correction of an inaccurate public attribution involving the dedication of the grave of Samuel Lander Hough in England. The Order clarified that Ensign John Davis Camp No. 10 had no involvement in the project and reinforced the importance of protecting both the reputation of the Order and its relationship with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### **Memorials and Remembrance**

The passing of significant figures connected to the Grand Army family required official recognition during the year. General Order No. 16 commemorated the life and service of Woman's Relief Corps Past National President Lurene I. Wentworth, whose decades of leadership and service left a lasting mark on the Allied Orders.

General Order No. 17 marked the passing of Brother William "Bill" Pool, the last known Real Son of a Union veteran. His death represented the closing of a direct living connection to the



generation that preserved the Union and served as a solemn reminder of our responsibility to continue preserving their memory for future generations.

Collectively, these actions strengthened fraternity, modernized administration, expanded public outreach, improved organizational continuity, and positioned the Order to fulfill its mission well into the future.

### **Special Messages and Membership Communications**

Throughout the year, a series of Special Messages were issued to communicate directly with Brothers of the Order, provide leadership guidance, encourage participation, promote educational initiatives, and advance the strategic goals of the administration. These communications served as an important tool for strengthening fraternity, supporting local leaders, and encouraging active engagement at every level of the Order.

### **Strengthening Camps and Leadership Development**

Several Special Messages focused on improving the health and vitality of Camps and Departments by encouraging active participation and effective leadership. Guidance was provided on creating engaging Camp meetings that balance business, education, and fellowship, while offering practical suggestions for programs, heritage activities, and member involvement.

Additional communications encouraged leaders to involve Brothers in meaningful projects, emphasizing that participation in preservation, educational, charitable, and commemorative activities strengthen fraternity, improves member retention, and increases public visibility for the Order.

A separate message urged Camp and Department officers to complete Memorial University training in order to strengthen leadership skills, improve understanding of the Order's history and regulations, and ensure consistent administration throughout the organization.

### **Fraternity and Member Engagement**

Promoting fraternity remained a central theme throughout the year. Special Messages encouraged Brothers to participate actively in meetings, social events, ceremonies, and public observances, reminding members that attendance and personal involvement are essential to maintaining a vibrant and growing organization.

Messages issued around Thanksgiving and other occasions reflected on the shared values of gratitude, remembrance, fellowship, and service that unite the Brothers of the Order and connect them to the legacy of the Union veterans they honor.

### **Communications, Technology, and Public Outreach**

Recognizing the importance of modern communications, guidance was issued regarding Camp and Department websites, outlining recommended content standards, membership information, educational resources, and best practices for presenting the Order to the public.

Additional messages announced social media training opportunities developed by the National Special Committee on Social Media Management. These efforts sought to help Camps and Departments use modern communication platforms to increase public awareness, attract prospective members, strengthen partnerships, and preserve the relevance of the Order in a digital age.

Grant-writing resources prepared by the National Special Committee on Grant Writing were also introduced to assist Camps and Departments in securing funding for projects that support the mission of honoring and preserving the memory of Union veterans.

### **Historical Education and Public Interpretation**

Several Special Messages provided educational guidance regarding important Civil War anniversaries and historical observances. A message commemorating the anniversary of Appomattox emphasized the preservation of the Union, the triumph of constitutional government over rebellion, the destruction of slavery, and the importance of historical accuracy in public interpretation.

Other messages marked the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and Juneteenth, highlighting the connection between Union victory, emancipation, and the advancement of liberty and equality. These communications encouraged Brothers to preserve and teach the full history of the Civil War and its enduring significance to the American Republic.

A special message honoring Dr. Mary Edwards Walker celebrated her service, sacrifice, and continuing legacy as a symbol of patriotism and dedication to the Union cause.

### **America 250 and National Commemorations**

As part of the Order's preparations for the Semiquincentennial of the United States, I issued a formal proclamation commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, declaring the years

2026 through 2033 to be a period of Semiquincentennial Commemoration under the theme "Liberty Preserved: From Independence to Union." The proclamation established an eight-year framework for commemorative and educational activities through 2033. In addition to the proclamation, several communications encouraged participation in America 250 observances. A New Year's message outlined the national "SUV CW 250 for the 250th" initiative and called upon every Camp to organize programs highlighting the role of Union veterans in preserving the nation.

Additional communications promoted participation in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., encouraged strong Memorial Day observances rooted in the traditions of the Grand Army of the Republic and reinforced the Order's responsibility to educate the public regarding the origins and meaning of Decoration Day.

### **Fundraising and Recognition**

The year also saw the announcement of the commemorative Henry "1860 SUV Eagle®" partnership project, an officially approved fundraising initiative supporting the educational, memorial, and preservation activities of the Order while honoring the legacy of Union soldiers.

Additional guidance clarified the administration and presentation of national awards, ensuring consistent recognition practices throughout the organization and encouraging Departments and Camps to acknowledge outstanding service by Brothers and members of the Allied Orders.

Recognizing that fraternity is one of the three foundational principles of our Order and essential to its long-term health, I established the **Spirit of Fraternity Award** to recognize Camps and Departments that demonstrate exceptional commitment to strengthening bonds among Brothers and fostering unity throughout the organization. The award was designed to encourage mentorship, cooperation, mutual support, conflict resolution, and acts of service that exemplify the highest ideals of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Through this initiative, my administration sought to reinforce the principle that a strong and vibrant Order is built not only upon historical remembrance and public service, but also upon the fraternal relationships that unite us in common purpose.

### **Email Voting by the National Council of Administration**

The Council of Administration passed 23 out of 27 emailed motions, focusing heavily on authorizing new promotional graphics, approving 250th USA anniversary branding, and updating organization forms. Key decisions included updating recruitment materials, approving new, licensed merchandise and graphic designs for events like Loyalty Day and the 250th anniversary, and renewing the Banner Editor position.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

No Commander-in-Chief can serve alone. I could not have carried out this work without the skill, determination, and dedication of Chief of Staff Brother Rod Fraser. I was fortunate to have Brother Fraser in this role; his judgment, diligence, and steadfast commitment were indispensable to the success of this administration.

I have also been blessed with some amazing counselors, the official appointees, like Brother Ed Norris and Brother Mike Paquette, and the unofficial ones that I have leaned on at various times during the year, like Brothers Dan Murray, D. Michael Beard, PCinCs Steve Michaels, Don Darby, Jim Pahl and many others. Two special National Officers to whom I am especially indebted to are National Secretary Jim Crane and National Quartermaster Daryl VerStreate. Both are focused on problem solving and making sure the Order keeps running smoothly despite all issues and obstacles encountered.

I am deeply grateful to the members of the Council of Administration, the National Officers, Department Commanders, Camp Officers, Committee Chairmen, and Brothers throughout the Order whose dedication and service made the accomplishments of this year possible.

Although it was my desire to visit every Department during my term, I found it impossible to fulfill this aspiration. I wish to thank Brothers Dan Murray, Robert Amsler, PCinC Danny Wheeler, Rob Payne, Bobby Welch, and Rod Fraser who attended the Department Encampments in my stead, when I was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. And I thank PCinC Kevin Martin and PNP Rosemary Martin for coordinating and attending Decoration Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery in my stead.

I also extend my appreciation to our Allied Orders and partner organizations for their continued efforts, support and cooperation in preserving the history and legacy of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Union veterans of the Civil War. I am especially grateful to National President Danielle Michaels, whose

skills, knowledge and experience as National President are exceptional, as well as her kindness in taking care of me every time we managed to be in the same place at the same time.

## CONCLUSION

As we approach the close of another year in the history of our Order, we remain the custodians of a sacred trust. The generation that saved the Union has long since passed, but the responsibility to preserve their memory rests with us. The work of remembrance, education, preservation, and patriotic service continues because of the commitment of our members.

As we pass this responsibility to those who follow us, may we never forget that the memory entrusted to our care belongs not merely to the past, but to the future. The soldiers of the Grand Army preserved the Republic for generations they would never know. It is now our privilege—and our solemn duty—to ensure that their sacrifice is remembered by generations yet to come. I thank the Brothers of this Order for the confidence you placed in me and for the honor of serving as your Commander-in-Chief.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The National Standing Committee on eBay Surveillance was established by PCinC Danny Wheeler in 1999 to monitor eBay for the buying and selling of Civil War grave markers. As e-commerce marketplaces now allow individuals and businesses to buy and sell a vast array of goods, and as these platforms account for over 60% of global online sales, monitoring should extend beyond eBay. Aside from eBay, these platforms include Bonanza, Amazon, Facebook Marketplace, Mercari, Craigslist, Etsy, Whatnot and more. Therefore, **I recommend that the National Standing Committee on eBay Surveillance be renamed the National Standing Committee on E-Commerce Surveillance, and that its job description be expanded to include all e-commerce platforms allowing the reselling of items.**
2. Now that the last Real Son of a Veteran, William Pool, has passed away, there remain only two daughters of Civil War veterans, one who wishes to remain anonymous and DUVCW member Emogene Horton, 100, of Marshall, Arizona. Since the DUVCW is monitoring the status of Ms. Horton, I feel it is unnecessary for the SUCVW to duplicate this effort. **I recommend that the National Standing Committee on Real Sons & Daughters be dissolved.**
3. Upon taking office as Commander-in-Chief, I discovered that one of the National Standing Committees listed in the Constitution and Regulations is the National Committee on Life Membership Investment. The SUCVW utilizes the Permanent Fund to support life memberships, paying out annual reimbursements to eligible Brothers' Camps or Departments from its investment earnings. The National Committee on Life Membership Investment historically handled this process, but with the National Treasurer now overseeing Life Member reimbursements for Life Members with designated Life Member numbers under 601, and those funds coming from the SUCVW Permanent Fund, the Committee has been defunct for several years now. **I recommend that in the SUCVW Regulations, Article X Standing Committees Section 1., the words "Life Membership Investment" be removed from the listing of National Standing Committees and that the current Committee be dissolved.**
4. The National Special Committee on Headquarters Planning was initiated to evaluate, plan, and recommend the optimal locations, technology, and operational needs for the organization's administration. After evaluating possible relocation sites without success, the Committee's focus shifted to improving recordkeeping and administrative functions through technology. The search for a relocation site was abandoned. In addition, a new long-term lease with the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania has been signed. Therefore, **I recommend that the National Special Committee on Headquarters Planning title be changed to National Special Committee on Headquarters Technology and Operations and that the search for relocation of SUCVW Headquarters be removed as a function of the Committee.**
5. Memorial University is an online instruction and testing course whose purpose is to train Brothers on the history, bylaws, and patriotic principles of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The National Special Committee on Memorial University continuously reviews and updates course content to align with national directives and actively promotes program participation through official Patriotic Instruction resources. The coursework is designed to help Brothers engage with their Camps, Departments, and the broader organization. Members who complete the required educational modules are recognized as

Memorial University Graduates. This is a key function of the SUVCW. Therefore, **I recommend that the National Special Committee on Memorial**

**University be designated as a National Standing Committee of the Order and be redesignated as the National Standing Committee on Memorial University.**

6. In addition, our current practice is for the appointed National Patriotic Instructor to serve as chairman of the National Special Committee on Memorial University. I believe this arrangement can present challenges. Because the National Patriotic Instructor is appointed annually as part of the incoming Commander-in-Chief's staff, the position may change from year to year, resulting in a loss of institutional knowledge and continuity. Furthermore, not every appointee may possess the technical expertise or curriculum development experience necessary to effectively enhance Memorial University's coursework. Accordingly, **I recommend that the chairmanship of the National Standing Committee on Memorial University be established as a separate appointment, independent of the office of National Patriotic Instructor.**
7. The National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the United States of America leads the SUVCW's observance of the United States Semiquincentennial. Through its work, the committee provides national direction, resources, and coordination for the Order's participation in this historic anniversary. Because the 250th anniversary observance continues through the end of 2033, renewing the committee for an additional seven years will ensure continuity, coordination, and national support for Camps as they complete their Semiquincentennial activities. Therefore, **I recommend that the SUVCW National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the United States of America be renewed for seven years, through the National Encampment in 2033.**
8. The National Council of Administration has historically reviewed and approved both official organizational graphics and composite artwork incorporating those graphics. In recent years, the rapid development of artificial intelligence image-generation tools has made it possible to create a virtually unlimited number of commemorative graphics for holidays, anniversaries, observances, recruitment, educational initiatives, and public outreach. While the official logos, seals, coat of arms, badges, and other identifying marks of the Order appropriately warrant review and approval by the National Council of Administration, requiring Council approval for every artistic composition in which those approved graphics appear has created an unnecessary administrative burden. The volume of potential images has increased dramatically, making continued review of each individual composition impractical. Therefore, **I recommend that the National Council of Administration retain exclusive authority to approve all official graphic representations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, including, but not limited to, the organization's official logos, seals, coat of arms, badges, emblems, headers, and other official identifying marks, and that once approved by the National Council of Administration, these official organizational graphics may be incorporated into commemorative, educational, promotional, and patriotic artwork created by the National Organization, Departments, Camps, or individual Brothers without requiring further approval by the National Council of Administration, provided that the official organizational graphics themselves are not altered, distorted, or modified, the graphics are used in a respectful manner consistent with the purposes and principles of the Order, and the resulting artwork does not imply an official policy, endorsement, or position of the National Organization beyond the inclusion of the approved organizational graphic.**

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,



Kevin P. Tucker  
Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

## Senior Vice Commander in Chief

Daniel Murray, PDC

It's been a great privilege to serve as your Senior Vice Commander this year, and of course one of the pleasures was serving under Commander-in-Chief Tucker. He is a close friend and it has been a great year working with him and also representing him when he could not attend an official function or Department Encampment. I have also called upon him at times as a sounding board.

Another area of responsibility serving as the Senior Vice Commander is serving as Chairman of the Program and Policy Committee. I will address the activities of that committee in a separate report. Besides attending the monthly meetings of my Camp as allowed by my schedule, I have, since assuming the office of Senior Vice Commander in Chief, attended the following;

August 20 – I attended a zoom Commander in Chief executive staff meeting.

September 11 - Department Officers meeting with the Department of Massachusetts

October 4 - I attended the testimonial for Commander in Chief Tucker in Woburn, MA.

October 10 – I attended a meeting with the head Librarian at the Fuller Library in Hillsboro, NH to discuss how we wanted Camp 1's permanent new meeting room set up. The library was recently renovated and our old meeting rooms were taken to put an elevator in to make the building handicapped accessible.

October 16 – I attended a zoom meeting with the Commander in Chief and all committee chairs.

.November 2, 2025 - I participated in the Ben Butler ceremony in Dracut MA with the First Military District SVR.

November 10, 2025 - I attended the ceremony when Commander in Chief presented a certificate for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US Navy at the Navy Memorial in Washington D.C.

November 11, 2025 - I participated in Ceremonies at the Tomb of Unknown Soldier

November 15, 2025 - I attended ceremonies at Woolson Monument and Remembrance Day Parade

November 16, 2025 - I attended the Council of Administration meeting in Gettysburg PA

December 13, 2025 - I participated in Wreaths across America ceremony in Brentwood, NH

January 31, 2026 - I Installed the Officers of J.S. Durgin Camp 7, Dept of NH

February 11, 2026 - I attended the MOLLUS Lincoln Birthday dinner in Washington D.C as the representative of the Commander in Chief

February 12, 2026 - I presented the Wreath at the Lincoln Memorial as the representative of the Commander in Chief.

February 15, 2026 - I attended the Union Defenders Day Brunch hosted by the Dept of MA

March 28, 2026 Department of CT Encampment as the representative of the Commander in Chief

April 11, 2026 Lincoln Death Day Ceremonies, Stephenson Monument, Council of Administration Meeting

April 18, 2026 Department of Indiana Encampment as the representative of the Commander in Chief

April 24 & 25, 2026 Department of Chesapeake Memorial Service and Encampment as the representative of the Commander in Chief

May 2, 2026 Department of North Carolina Encampment as the representative of the Commander in Chief

May 16, 2026 Department of Texas and Louisiana Encampment as the representative of the Commander in Chief

May 30, 2026 Memorial Day Services at Pine Grove and Valley Street Cemeteries Manchester, NH

June 7, 2026 Department of Kentucky Encampment as the representative of the Commander in Chief

June 13, 2026 Department of Maine Encampment as the representative of the Commander in Chief

## Junior Vice Commander in Chief

### Junior-Vice Commander-in-Chief Report

- During the past year I have attended all the Council of Administration Meetings, participating in discussions and voting
- I have participated in every electronic vote called.

- I have participated in online debates and votes.
- I have attended Zoom Meetings, including The Department Commanders, National Headquarters Planning, ROTC, and The Committee Chairs, RootsTech pre-planning meeting, and Promoting the Order.
- I followed up with the DJVC's with an explanation of what was happening at RootsTech and explained what RootsTech is.
- I have represented the order at the Meridian Township Heritage Festival and helped locate the Last Civil War Veterans Grave in 2 counties for Curtenius Guard Camp 17.
- On the Weekend of January 30 – February 1, I represented the Commander-in-Chief in St. Cloud, Florida, for the re-dedication of the St. Cloud GAR Memorial Hall. The Department was well represented along with some of the Allied Orders, historical Groups, and civic leaders.
- I had the privilege to represent the Commander-in-Chief at 4 Department Encampments. Tennessee, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin.
- I attended Remembrance Day, participating in the service at the GAR Woolson Monument, services at the Michigan section in the National Cemetery, a memorial service at a Michigan Monument on the Gettysburg Battlefield, and the Remembrance Day Parade. I was also present for and participated in the Council of Administration meeting on Sunday morning.
- In April, I attended and participated in the Lincoln Tomb and Dr. B. F. Stephenson Ceremonies in Springfield, IL and Petersburg, IL. Attending the Council of Administration Saturday evening.
- As the Chairman of the Membership Committee, I communicated with many Department Junior-Vice Commanders, fielding questions from them and potential members. Questions included, but were not limited to which camp to join, the availability of Camp-at-Large, and cost of membership.
- **Recommendation:**
- The following be adopted to ensure a consistent public facing profile across all forms of Digital and print media. This will enable a finite group to oversee all the graphic images, past and present, in order to maintain consistency and professionalism in the proper display of our Order.

### **Proposed amendment to the regulation**

#### **Chapter III Article X**

**Section 1** – Strike the word “and” before Vision and Planning and insert “and Graphics and Branding” at the end of the sentence.

Insert a new Section 21 and renumber the following sections accordingly

**Section 21.** The National Graphics and Branding Committee, **a Sub-Committee of, and reporting to, the Programs and Policy Committee**, shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, and protecting the visual identity, public image, and official trademarks of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War of the United States. The Committee ensures that all visual communications accurately reflect the values, history, and professionalism of the organization. The duties of the committee shall include but are not limited to:

- Developing and updating an official Brand Style Guide that dictates the proper use of the organization's crest, letters, logos, colors, and typography.
- Designing and distributing official graphics, to be used for marketing and recruiting materials, social media outlets, and external communications.
- Reviewing and updating as necessary, all currently used graphics, artwork, and logos.
- Reviewing and approving all designs for apparel, merchandise, and promotional items produced by or for the organization to ensure compliance with established brand standards and these regulations, prior to approval by the National Council of Administration.
- Ensuring that historical symbols, crests, and imagery are used accurately and with appropriate reverence.
- Working in coordination with the National Council of Administration to file for, and actively maintain all registered trademarks, service marks, and copyrights associated with the organization's name, acronyms, historical seals, crests, logos, and insignia.

- Maintaining a repository of all approved official graphics, brands, logos, crests, and artwork in a vector format.

## National Secretary

### National Encampment Report

Gettysburg, Pa. July 30, 2026

It has been a learning year for me, and I have enjoyed working with all the Department Commanders and Secretaries this past 12 months. I fully understand the work this takes and appreciate Past Secretary Alan Russ and his guidance along the way. Thank you Brother Alan.

I have attended both Council meetings in Gettysburg and Springfield and will also attend Gettysburg for the record-breaking National Encampment in July/August 2026. I also attended the Post Encampment Council Meeting in Houston, TX.

I have been working with the Camp Applications and Organizers along with their Department Commanders to create New Camps for the Order. We will have two new Camps this year, they are:

The John S. Kountz Camp # 14, Department of Ohio (Charter issued)

The Spicy Camp # 252, Department of Indiana (Charter to be issued at Encampment) We are working on the following Camps to get them finished, they are:

Bradley S. Osbon Camp # 150, Department of New York

Sgt. Judson Horsford Camp # 106, Department of New York

Willam Washington Hence Camp # 1624, Department of Tennessee

Gen. James H. Kidd Camp # 98, Department of Michigan

Col. Albert Fountain Camp # 4, Department of New Mexico

Loyal Mountaineers Camp # 39, Department of Tennessee (Withdrawn 6/10/26)

Minutes from the Post Encampment Council Meeting in Houston, Texas on August 10, 2025, was approved at the Council Meeting in Gettysburg, Pa. on November 16, 2025. Minutes from the Council Meeting in Gettysburg, PA. on November 16, 2025, was approved on April 12, 2026, in Springfield, IL. on April 12, 2026.

This year there have been 17 General Orders Posted from the Commander in Chief Kevin Tucker on the National Website so far this year.

There have also been 3 Special Orders issued by the Commander in Chief Kevin Tucker in the National Website this year.

The following Email Motions were made by the Council of Administration so far this year, they are:

Motion # 1- Made by Council member Fraser, regarding the approval of the upcoming POW/MIA Recognition Day logos. Motion PASSED. Voting, YES-7, NO-0

Motion # 2 – Made by Council member Fraser, on behalf of the National Special Committee For the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the USA seeks approval of the design of the Medals & Lapel Pin commemorating the USA. Motion Passed. Voting, YES 7, NO-0

Motion # 3 – Made by Council member Fraser regarding the images of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USA be approved for the use for Official purposes promoting the Order during the Semi sesquicentennial. Any use of these images would require a license and CofA approval. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 4, No- 0

Motion # 4 – Motion made by Council member Payne to appoint Jim Pahl as Banner Editor for an additional three-year term ending in 2028. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 8, NO – 0

Motion # 5 – Made by Council member Fraser that the attached artwork images be approved for use by all Camps & Departments. (SUVCW Veterans Day Graphics). Motion, PASSED, Voting YES – 11, No – 0

Motion # 6 – Made by SVCinC Daniel Murray regarding to replace the words Camp Status Report on Form 30 with Brothers Status Report everywhere it appears, Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 10, NO- 0

Motion # 7 – Withdrawn, Ruled Out of Order by the CinC Kevin Tucker.

Motion # 8 – made by Council member Fraser but was postponed taking further action until the Council met in Gettysburg.

Motion # 9 – Made by Council member Fraser that attached two guides developed by the National Special Committee on Grant Writing be approved as official documents of the Order. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 11, NO – 0

Motion # - 10 – This Motion was made due to the result of Motion # 8. It was ruled out of Order due to the Ohio Corporation supplying evidence that they were not operating under a suspension.

Motion # 11 – Made by Council member Fraser regarding Accepting the attached graphics (250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Graphics) for use by the Departments & Camps. Motion PASSED, Voting YES – 9, NO – 0

Motion # 12 – at Council Meeting at Gettysburg on November 16, 2025, regarding Motion # 7, which was ruled out of order by the CinC Kevin Tucker and Motion # 8, made by Council member Fraser amending Motion # 7 postponing further action until the Council convened in Gettysburg, Motion PASSED, Voting, Yes, -7, NO- 0

Motion # 13 – made by Council member Fraser regarding New Year Holiday graphics for use on Social Media. Motion PASSED, Voting, YE - S – 10, NO - 0

Motion # 14 – Made by Council member Beard regarding the Revision to the Form 11 instructions page. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 8, NO – 0

Motion # 15 – made by Council member Fraser regarding approval of the recruitment card design which states “Established in 1881, the SUVCW is a Fraternal organization dedicated to Preserving the memory of the men who fought to preserve the Union. Their sacrifices also ended the scourge of slavery. From our powerful bonds of brotherhood to our rich traditions and rituals, we offer meaningful relationships, important causes, and community leadership”. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 10, NO - 0

Motion # 16 – Made by Council member Fraser regarding the approval of Advertising developed by the National Committee for Promotion of the Order as a Recruiting Ad, in the Sons of American Revolution Magazine over the next 4 issues. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 9, NO – 0

Motion # 17 – Made by Council member Hann regarding the approval of the Henry Rifle contract. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 11, NO – 0

Motion # 18 – (Amended) Made by Council member Hann regarding to approve the request of the Department of Colorado/Wyoming for the use of the SUVCW logo for their fundraising efforts and said license is for 2 (two) years with an option to renew. Motion PASSED, Voting YES – 6, NO – 2

Motion # 19 – made by Council member Fraser regarding the approve the attached Loyalty Day graphics for use by this Order in celebrating Loyalty Day. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 10, NO – 1

Motion # 20 – made by Council member Fraser regarding to approve the attached Patriotic Holiday graphics for use by the Order. Motion PASSED, Voting YES – 9, NO -0

Motion # 21 – made by SVCinC Murray to adopt the new Proposed Form 20. Motion PASSED Voting, YES – 8, NO – 0

Motion # 22 – made by Council member Fraser that the attached Flag Day graphics to be approved by the Order. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 8, NO – 1

Motion # 23 – made by Council member Beard that the Council approve purchasing a Dell OptiPlex computer or similar one for the Headquarters with an estimated cost of \$1500.00. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 11, NO - 0

Motion # 24 – made by Council member Fraser regarding approving of a Merchandise License for Camp # 54 Department of Massachusetts for a T-Shirt commemorating the Battle of Ft. Wagner. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 9, NO - 0

Motion # 25 – made by Council member Hann regarding to adopt the following procedure for ordering the Special Edition Henry Rifle, keeping in line with what was voted on at the Springfield CofA Meeting. Motion PASSED, Voting, YES – 9, NO -0

Motion # 26 – made by Council member Fraser regarding the attached Patriotic graphics be approved for use by the Order. They include Black History Month, Albert Woollen, Birthday of Col. Robert Gould Shaw, Founding of the Anniversary of the G. A. R., Juneteenth, and Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Motion FAILED, Voting, YES – 5, NO – 4

Motion # 27 – made by SVCinC Murray regarding “The attached Form 20 instructions be approved to be added to the National Website”. Voting opened at 11:00am on Monday June 21, 2026, and was closed at 11:00am on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. This Motion has: PASSED. Voting, YES – 9, NO 0. End of my Report.

James T. Crane, PDC  
National Secretary



## National Treasurer

### Treasurer's Report 2026 National Encampment

#### 1. Fund Status at May 31, 2026:

a. General Fund: The fund is projected to have an operating surplus this year. The 2026 Budget predicted a \$50K Deficit. The positive results came from a significant increase in Quarter Master Sales making \$20K profit over last year – Primarily due to America 250 Sales. The Graves Registration Website work was suspended and we did not spend \$12K that was budgeted. The Executive Director was unable to travel this year, thus 6K in budget travel went unspent.

b. Headquarters Fund: The fund is projected to have an operating surplus. The fund currently receives \$8 per capita dues for each member and revenues from its investments. On May 31, the Fund Balance was \$12,800.

c. The Permanent Fund (Endowment) received \$24K in donations this year with \$20K coming from the 1881 Club. The Fund did well in the stock market with investment income of \$78K. Fund Balance is \$524,752 vs \$488,000 last year. Its ROI through May was 18.77%

d. Preservation Fund (AKA Monuments and Memorials Fund). This fund receives \$1 per capita for revenue from the General Fund. Fund Balance is \$41,834 (this is a paper balance, as the fund's only asset is what it is owed by the General Fund). The Fund awarded \$8,000 in grants this year.

e. Life Fund. The fund received \$17K life member fees this year. It earned \$39K in interest, dividends and realized & unrealized gains. Its ROI through May was 29.64%. Fund Balance is \$170,000 invested in equity stocks.

f. The Lincoln Fund. The fund lost \$200 running the Lincoln Death Day Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois. Fund Balance is a negative \$1,585.

2. **Merrill Lynch Account.** For the 12 months ending May 31, 2026 we earned 19.17 percent on our investments with Merrill Lynch (including capital appreciation). Our balance was \$1,355,237. The General Fund has \$409K in CDs earning 3.78 percent. I transferred \$40K from the CD account to fund this year's cash operations. The remainder of our funds are invested in moderate risk equity stocks.

3. **1881 Club.** The club currently has eighteen members, **Robert Amsler, James Bryja, James Crane, Mark Day, Clay Hoffman, Summer Hunnewell, Tim McCoy, Bruce Frail, James Pahl, Michael Paquette, Glenn Martin, Brian McManus, Linn Malaznik, Ronald Perisho, Phurriott Henry, III, Michael Reither, Alan Russ, and Wayne Wehrheim.** For fiscal year 2026, the members contributed \$19,488 to the SUVCW Endowment Fund.

4. **Form 990.** I filed our 2025 Form 990 in December.

5. **Camp/Department 501(c)(3) Status.** The IRS has yet to reflect the subordinates as 501(c)(3) on their website. We have asked them correct the status on numerous occasions and so far, they have not. This is an ongoing project. IRS Publication 4573, Group Exemptions, state the National Organization controls the status of its subordinates. EVERY SUBORDINATE IS A 501(c)(3). I will provide any camp, department, or SVR unit wishing to prove its 501(c)(3) status with a letter addressed to any prospective donor. This year I proved such a letter to:

- a. Appomattox Camp #2
- b. Gettysburg Blues SVR
- c. Department of Illinois
- d. Ord Camp #3
- e. Anderson Camp #233
- f. Department of Indiana

6. **New Camps and SVR units.** I add each new camp and SVR unit during the year with a faxed letter to the IRS. So far this year, I have faxed letters for:

- a. Logan Camp #9
- b. Earnshaw Camp #89

7. **Annual Group Exemption Report to IRS.** I filed our annual Group Report with the IRS in May. We are Group #049. We currently have 302 Camps, Departments, and SVR units in the Group

501(c)(3) exemption. In that report I have to list all members by EIN number with responsible individuals name and address. I have to prepare separate lists showing new members, deleted members, and members with changes. Several camps and SVR units are not included as they have their own exemption or are currently working to restore an IRS-revoked exemption.

8. **State Registrations.** Labyrinth, Inc., is currently filing our annual state registrations in the 36 states that require registration for charities that raise money within the state. We do not file in the District of Columbia (fraternal organizations are exempt). The other states either do not require us to register or we are exempt. I, and the CINC, have signed the necessary forms, including a notary when required. This contract cost us \$12,400 this fiscal year.

9. **Financial Statements for fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.** Our auditors, Coulter & Justus, LLC, have issued our statements with a “clean opinion.” A copy is included as an attachment to the encampment annual reports.

10. **Form 1099NEC.** I filed our 1099NECs with the IRS and sent copies to our contractors for their returns.

11. **2025 Donors.** I mailed acknowledgement letters to all our donors for their use in filing their income tax returns. I provided the *Banner* with a list of donors for publication in each issue.

12. **Lincoln Death Day Ceremony.** I prepared the annual report on the finances of the Lincoln Death Day Ceremony for the MOLLUS & SUVCW Commanders. This year’s ceremony had revenues of \$2,394 and expenses of \$2,623, a loss of \$228.

13. **Council of Administration.** I attended and participated in the Council meetings held in Houston, Gettysburg, and Springfield.

14. **Fund Raising.** I am on the Fund-Raising Committee where we continue our capital campaign to increase our Permanent (Endowment) Fund. The committee bought two ads in the National Encampment program book to promote fundraising. I helped run the Committee’s Booth on Remembrance Day handing USA flags, SUVCW brochures, and accepting donations for the Parade.

15. **Insurance Certificates.** Camps, Departments, and SVR are frequently asked to provide proof of insurance to sponsor or participate in events. I arrange for certificates of insurance as detailed in the Treasurer’s Handbook. This year our insurer issued certificates for these events:

- a. Crawford Camp #43 ceremony in Freeport Cemetery
- b. Cobb Camp #68 ceremony in Achorn Cemetery
- c. Department of New York Encampment
- d. National Fundraising Committee Gettysburg Heritage Center
- e. Gettysburg Blues for Gettysburg Ceremonies
- f. Judson Hicks Camp ceremony at Newark Cemetery
- g. Davis\* Camp for ceremony at McKeesport Cemetery
- h. Rosecrans Camp #2 for camp meetings.
- i. Crawford Camp #43 Kittanning Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies
- j. Lincoln Death Day Ceremony in Springfield
- k. SVR Artillery School in Wisconsin
- l. Felix St. James Camp #326 ceremonies at Memorial Cemetery, Ste. Genevieve
- m. Rosecrans Camp #2 maintenance activities at Angelus Rosedale Cemetery
- n. March to the Sea Camp #135 as a non-profit vendor at Saint Joseph County Village festival
- o. Moses Baldwin Camp #544 meetings held in the Albertson Fire House

16. **Proposed Budget for FYE 2027.** This is the proposed budget for 2027 that the CofA will discuss, modify, and approve at its Sunday morning meeting at the National Encampment.

### **Proposed Budget FY 2027**

#### **Income**

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Per Capita Dues      | \$194,700 |
| Quarter Master Sales | 68,000    |
| Dividends            | 15,000    |

|                                           |                |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Interest                                  | 13,000         |
| Donations                                 | \$9,500        |
| National Encampment Reg. Fees             | 7,000          |
| Lincoln Luncheon                          | 2,300          |
| Fundraising - T-Shirts                    | 2,000          |
| New Member Application Fees               | 2,100          |
| Miscellaneous Revenue                     | 500            |
| Reinstatement Fee                         | 300            |
| New Camp & Department Application Fees    | 125            |
| Charter Application Fees                  | 75             |
| International Mailing Fees                | 50             |
| Banner Subscriptions                      | 40             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                       | <b>314,690</b> |
| Cost of Quarter Master Sales              | 55,000         |
| <b>Net Operating Income</b>               | <b>259,690</b> |
| <b>Expense</b>                            |                |
| Commander in Chief Expenses               | 15,000         |
| Secretary Expenses                        | 5,000          |
| Treasurer Expenses                        | 5,000          |
| Quartermaster Expenses                    | 5,000          |
| CinC Representative. Expenses             | 6,000          |
| Banner Editor Expenses                    | 5,000          |
| Junior Vice Commander Expenses            | 500            |
| <b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>      | <b>41,500</b>  |
| Accounting Fees                           | 4,000          |
| Audit Fees                                | 21,200         |
| Brokerage Fees                            | 9,000          |
| State Charitable Organization Fees        | 10,000         |
| Rent                                      | 10,320         |
| <b>Total Contract Services</b>            | <b>54,520</b>  |
| Two Dells for Treasurer & Credentials     | 3,000          |
| Liability Insurance- Director and Officer | 1,100          |
| General Liability Insurance               | 3,200          |
| Surety Bond Insurance                     | 230            |
| Office Expenses                           | 2,000          |
| Software                                  | 1,200          |
| Proceedings Transcription                 | 1,500          |
| Printing                                  | 500            |
| Postage                                   | 1,800          |
| Bank Charges                              | 200            |

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Telephone, Telecommunications      | 4,000             |
| SUVCW Web Site                     | 8,500             |
| Executive Director                 | 21,000            |
| Assistant Executive Director       | 12,000            |
| Executive Travel                   | 5,000             |
| Contingency                        | 4,000             |
| Lincoln Death Day Expenses         | 2,300             |
| <b>Total Operations Expense</b>    | <b>71,530</b>     |
| Banner                             | 59,000            |
| Scholarships                       | 5,000             |
| Monument and Memorial Grants       | 10,000            |
| Remembrance Day                    | 12,000            |
| ROTC Program                       | 7,000             |
| Grave Registrations Web Site       | 5,000             |
| National Encampment Site Committee | 3,500             |
| National Encampment Host Committee | 3,500             |
| National Encampment Printing       | 3,000             |
| National Encampment Awards         | 3,000             |
| National Encamp. Recorder Expense  | 1,000             |
| National Photographer              | 3,000             |
| Committee on Fund Raising          | 2,000             |
| Committee on Memorial University   | 1,500             |
| Committee on Promoting the Order   | 10,000            |
| Committee on Lincoln Birthday      | 600               |
| Committee on Grant's Tomb          | 250               |
| Committee on Arlington Cemetery    | 600               |
| Committee on Fraternal Relations   | 500               |
| Cathedral of the Pines             | 130               |
| Life Member Reimbursements         | 300               |
| Sons Of Confederates Rep.          | 300               |
| <b>Total Program Expenses</b>      | <b>131,180</b>    |
| <b>Total Expense</b>               | <b>298,730</b>    |
| <b>Projected Deficit</b>           | <b>(\$39,040)</b> |
| In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty  |                   |
| D. Michael Beard                   |                   |
| National Treasurer                 |                   |

Quartermaster

#### SUVCW Sales Summary

**Reporting Period:** All Day (12:00 AM – 11:59 PM ET)

**Sales Activity**

- **Gross Sales:** \$91,113.65
- **Returns:** (\$494.00)
- **Discounts & Comps:** \$0.00
- **Net Sales:** \$90,619.65
- **Deferred Sales:** \$0.00
- Additional Revenue**
- **Taxes Collected:** \$127.35
- **Tips Collected:** \$10.00
- Refunds**
- **Refunds by Amount:** (\$18.00)
- Total Sales & Collections**
- **Total Sales:** \$90,739.00
- **Total Payments Collected:** \$90,739.00
- Processing Fees**
- **Fees:** (\$2,760.93)
- Net Proceeds**
- **Net Total Deposited:** \$87,978.07
- Top 5 Items: Gross Sales**
  - America's 250 Medal \$19,215.00
  - Membership Badge, Camp - Blue \$10,005.00
  - Grave Marker, GAR Star \$4,320.00
  - 250 Medal and Pin Combo \$2,390.00
  - Gildan® Softstyle® Unisex T-shirt - SUVCW AMERICA 250 T-SHIRT \$2,372.00

#### **Summary**

The SUVCW generated **\$91,113.65** in gross sales during the reporting period. After returns totaling **\$494.00**, net sales were **\$90,619.65**. Including taxes and tips collected, total sales amounted to **\$90,739.00**, all of which was successfully collected. After processing fees of **\$2,760.93**, the organization realized **net proceeds of \$87,978.07**.

If the charitable rate values volunteer time at **\$35.63 per hour** (the commonly cited Independent Sector value for recent years), then:

**2,080 volunteer hours × \$35.63 = \$74,110.40 (Hours for two people running the store an average of 20 hours per week)**

So, **2,080 volunteer hours** would have an estimated charitable value of **\$74,110.40**.

#### **Recommendations**

1. Special committee, chaired by the elected Quartermaster, with minimum of two Assistant Quartermasters and no more than five full members on the committee, as the other members of the committee. The term of the special committee would be the same as the term of the elected Quartermaster. The committee's name would be the National Special Committee for the National Quartermaster Store. The committee would conclude at the end of its fifth year (2032) or upon being made a standing National Committee.

Refer to the following in P&P :

#### **National Quartermaster Store Policy**

##### **Purpose**

The National Quartermaster Store exists to provide official merchandise, insignia, awards, supplies, and other approved items for the members, departments, camps, and affiliated organizations of the National Organization. This policy establishes procedures regarding purchases, returns, restocking fees, ownership of intellectual property, and the production of official merchandise.

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#### **Section 1 – Authority**

1. The National Quartermaster shall be responsible for the operation, management, inventory, production, and distribution of all merchandise sold through the National Quartermaster Store.

2. The National Quartermaster shall maintain appropriate records of inventory, sales, and financial transactions in accordance with National regulations and applicable financial policies.
3. All National committees and officers shall coordinate the production and distribution of merchandise through the National Quartermaster.

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### **Section 2 – Merchandise Orders**

1. Orders shall be processed in the order received unless otherwise authorized by the National Quartermaster.
2. Custom-produced items, special orders, convention orders, or items produced specifically for an individual, camp, department, or committee shall be considered final sales and are not eligible for return unless defective or incorrectly manufactured.
3. The National Quartermaster reserves the right to decline orders that violate National regulations, trademark policies, or intellectual property rights.

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### **Section 3 – Returns and Exchanges**

1. Merchandise may be returned within thirty (30) days of receipt for a refund or exchange, provided:
  - The item is unused and in original condition.
  - The item is returned in its original packaging when applicable.
  - Proof of purchase accompanies the return.
2. Returns will not be accepted for:
  - Custom or personalized merchandise.
  - Special-order items.
  - Convention pre-orders after delivery.
  - Merchandise damaged through misuse, neglect, or unauthorized modification.
3. Defective or incorrectly shipped merchandise shall be replaced or refunded at the discretion of the National Quartermaster without assessment of a restocking fee.
4. Return shipping costs shall be the responsibility of the purchaser unless the return results from an error by the National Quartermaster Store.

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### **Section 4 – Restocking Fee**

1. Returned merchandise that qualifies for a refund may be subject to a restocking fee of up to twenty percent (20%) of the purchase price.
2. The purpose of the restocking fee is to offset:
  - Credit card processing fees.
  - Packaging materials.
  - Administrative processing costs.
  - Inventory handling expenses.
3. The National Quartermaster may waive the restocking fee when:
  - Merchandise is defective.
  - Merchandise was shipped incorrectly.
  - Extraordinary circumstances justify such action.

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### **Section 5 – Intellectual Property**

1. All logos, emblems, seals, artwork, designs, publications, insignia, trademarks, service marks, and other intellectual property owned or licensed by the National Organization shall remain the sole property of the National Organization.
2. No individual, camp, department, committee, officer, or member may reproduce, manufacture, sell, distribute, or authorize the production of merchandise utilizing National intellectual property without prior written approval from the National Organization and coordination through the National Quartermaster.

3. Merchandise produced using National intellectual property shall be considered official merchandise only when approved by the National Organization and distributed through or authorized by the National Quartermaster.
4. Any artwork, designs, logos, or merchandise created on behalf of the National Organization by members, committees, contractors, or vendors shall become the property of the National Organization unless otherwise specified by written agreement.
5. Unauthorized use of National intellectual property may result in:
  - Revocation of authorization to use National trademarks.
  - Removal of merchandise from sale.
  - Other disciplinary actions authorized by National regulations.

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#### **Section 6 – Production of National Merchandise**

1. Any National officer, committee, or program wishing to produce merchandise, awards, promotional materials, apparel, or other items bearing National branding shall coordinate such production through the National Quartermaster.
2. The National Quartermaster shall:
  - Review production specifications.
  - Coordinate vendor selection when appropriate.
  - Ensure compliance with National branding standards.
  - Maintain quality control and inventory accountability.
3. No National committee shall independently contract with vendors for the production of National merchandise without prior approval from the National Organization and the National Quartermaster.

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#### **Section 7 – Policy Review**

This policy may be amended by action of the Council of Administration or other governing authority as prescribed by National regulations. The National Quartermaster shall periodically review this policy and recommend revisions as necessary.

#### **Council of Administration #1 Kevin Martin**

SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker,

During my term, I actively performed the duties associated with being the most recent Past Commander-in-Chief. I monitored and participated in all discussions and votes in the Council of Administration associated with issues and questions coming before the Council.

Activities since the last National Encampment include:

- Attended and spoke at Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker's Testimonial in Woburn, Massachusetts on 4 October 2025.
- Participated in the Gettysburg Remembrance Day SVR Breakfast, Woolson Monument Ceremony, Parade, and the SVR Civil War Ball, 15 November 2025.
- Participated in the Gettysburg Council of Administration meeting on 16 November 2025.
- Attended the Antietam Camp and Auxiliary #3 Dinner at the Red Horse Restaurant in Frederick, Maryland on 20 December 2025.
- Participated in the Wreaths Across America at Mt. Bethel UM Church, Smithsburg, Maryland, on 13 December 2025.
- Attended the Joint SUVCW/ASUVCW Antietam #3 Meeting, elections, and installation on 11 Jan 2026 at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland.
- Attended the Lincoln Birthday Events sponsored by MOLLUS and the LBNCC at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC on the weekend of 11-12 February 2026.
- Attended the Antietam Camp and Auxiliary #3 meeting on 8 March 2026 at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland.
- Attended the Antietam Camp and Auxiliary #3 Medal of Honor Ceremony at the Antietam Battlefield on 22 March 2026 in Sharpsburg, Maryland.

- Attended James A. Garfield Camp #1 Lincoln Dinner on 16 April 2026 in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Made a trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for the National Encampment Host Committee assignment to meet with Campfire Entertainment play personnel on 9 May 2026.
- Attended the Antietam Camp and Auxiliary #3 meeting on 17 May 2026 at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland
- Attended what was likely the final Memorial Day Service held at the Landsdowne Christian Church – Hull Memorial in Landsdowne, Maryland on Sunday, May 24, 2026. Located just outside Baltimore, LCC is the only church in America dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic.
- Escorted PNP Rosemary Martin and NP Danielle Michaels to the National Memorial Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.
- Attended and presented the National SUVCW wreath at the Traditional Memorial Day Ceremony at the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns at the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

In addition, I am a participating member of the 2026 Gettysburg National Encampment Host Committee and attended monthly Google Meet meetings.

It is an honor to be a representative of our great organization as the most recent Past Commander-in-Chief!

**No recommendations.**

Past Commander-in-Chief (2025-2026) – Kevin L. Martin

## Council of Administration #2 Shane Milburn

August 7, 2025: Attended the Pre-Encampment Council of Administration meeting

August 7- 9, 2025: Attended the National Encampment in Houston, Texas.

August 8, 2025: Participated in the Color Guard during opening

August 9, 2025: Attended the SVR Breakfast.

September 17, 2025: Henry Casey Camp #92 meeting. Re-elected as Camp Secretary.

October 4, 2025: Participated in a Cemetery Tour of Washington Cemetery in Washington Court House, Ohio where I told the story of Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Major Francis McMillan, the history of the Civil War Soldier Memorial at Veterans Plaza and of the Cenotaph dedicated in 1902 by Members of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor their Brothers who were buried elsewhere.

November 15, 2025: Attended the SVR Breakfast.

November 15, 2025: Escorted Wreath Presenters at the Woolson Monument.

November 15, 2025: Marched in the 69th Annual Remembrance Day Parade.

November 16, 2025: Attended the Council of Administration meeting.

November 19, 2025: Henry Casey Camp #92 meeting. Re-installed as Camp Secretary.

January 21, 2026: Henry Casey Camp #92 meeting. Received Kentucky Colonel Commission.

March 18, 2026: Henry Casey Camp #92 meeting.

April 11, 2026: attended the Council of Administration meeting in Springfield.

April 18, 2026: Represented Commander-in-Chief Tucker at the Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas Encampment in Elmwood, Nebraska.

May 17, 2026: Participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony for Medal of Honor recipient 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Francis McMillen at Washington Cemetery in Washington Court House (Fayette County), Ohio.

May 20, 2026: Participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the G.A.R. Monument at Soldiers Point in Sugar Grove Cemetery in Wilmington (Clinton County), Ohio

May 20, 2026: Henry Casey Camp #92 meeting

May 25, 2026: Participated in a Memorial Day Ceremony in Bloomingburg (Fayette County), Ohio at 0930. Led Company C, 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve in the presentation/retirement of Colors as well as a musket salute.

May 25, 2026: Participated in a Memorial Day Ceremony in Lees Creek (Clinton County), Ohio at 1330. Led Company C, 20th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve in the annual Memorial Day Parade, presentation/retirement of Colors as well as a musket salute.

June 13, 2026: Attended the 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Department of Ohio Encampment. Installed as Chief of Staff for new Ohio Department Commander Kelly Hopkins.



Throughout the year, worked with Brothers Rod Frasier and David Hann on the Civil War Memorials Grant Fund Committee.

Shane L. Milburn, PDC

Council of Administration

### Council of Administration #3 Gary Gibson

Commander-in-Chief Tucker, Delegates and Brothers,

It has been a privilege to serve on the Council of Administration.

In this capacity, I have participated in discussions and votes on the various topics brought before us throughout the year.

I attended the Post Encampment meeting at Houston, Remembrance Day weekend events at Gettysburg and the council meeting held that weekend.

Due to illness, I could not attend the Lincoln Death Day event in Springfield, Illinois.

I continue to serve my camp as Secretary, my department as G.A.R. Records Officer, and as the National Historian.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Gary L. Gibson, PDC

Member

Council of Administration

### Council of Administration #4 David Hann

Dear Brothers,

It is an honor to submit this report. I want to thank the Brothers of the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment for the flowers and all the kind thoughts and prayers for my wife during her recent illness. I am very happy to report that through the grace of Almighty God she is doing very well, and the Doctor expects a 100% full recovery.

I started fund raising for the Annual Remembrance Day parade and I hope to see donations coming in soon to help offset the costs of the parade.

I have participated in all the electronic votes of the Council of Administration.

I have participated in the following events:

May 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade in Hammonton, NJ

May 30<sup>th</sup> Traditional Memorial Day services at Greenmount Cemetery in Hammonton, NJ

June 13<sup>th</sup> Attended the New Jersey Department Encampment representing National.

At this time, I have no recommendations.

It is an honor to serve our order.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

David K. Hann PDC

Council of Administration

### Council of Administration #5 Robert Amsler

I participated in the Central Region of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic in Fort Wayne, Indiana in October.

I participated in the Col Fredrich Hecker Monument Dedication on September 9, 2025 along with my fellow brothers of the U.S. Grant Camp with the German Counsel to the United States

I lobbied the Missouri legislature for U.S. Grant Day in Missouri and we now have a bill in the senate and the house, with identical language, to commemorate his birthday in Missouri. It was voted do pass on March 9, 2026, in the Missouri Senate.

I provided an Eagle Scout certificate to Louis Blaise Miclovik.

I participated in the Gen. Wm. T. Sherman memorial ceremonies on March 8, 2026, in St. Louis.

I attended the Missouri Department Business Meeting.

I attended the Georgia and South Carolina Department Encampment on March 28, 2026.

I helped plan with the National Park Service at the U.S. Grant Presidential Site for the America 250 Celebration. This will be to commemorate the peace at Appomattox and will be the second weekend of April 2026.

I attended the Springfield, Illinois Lincoln Death Remembrance Ceremonies and the following Council of Administration Meeting.

I attended the U.S. Grant SUVCW Ceremonies at the Grant Monument in New York on April 26, 2026

I attended at the US Grant Monument Ceremonies in New York on April 27, 2026, followed by the US Grant Monument Association Dinner in New York that evening.

I swore in Brooks Simpson, the foremost U.S. Grant historian in the nation as a member of the U.S. Grant Camp in St. Louis. He is the Foundation Professor of History at the University of Arizona.

I attended the Memorial Day Services in Washington, D.C. and was honored to carry the National Colors and command the SUVCW honor guard in the America 250 Memorial Day Parade

I attended the Missouri Department Encampment on June 6, 2026.

I attended the Colorado and Wyoming Department Encampment on June 13, 2026.

We have begun preparing the Annual U.S. Grant Colloquy in St. Louis with the U.S. Grant Presidential Site. Timothy Wilson, Ph.D. will be the speaker on July 18, 2026

Finally, I have participated in the committee on the Henry Rifle project.

**Recommendation:**

The SUVCW approve up to \$5,000.00 for the marker for the Last True Son, William "Bill" Pool.

The marker design will be furnished at the CofA meeting.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr.

Council of Administration

## Council of Administration #6 Roderick Fraser

I participated in all motions before the CofA and voted on every motion.

I attended the CinC meeting with Department Commanders and the CinC meeting with committee chairmen.

I participated in all online CofA motions and votes.

I scheduled and participated in the Commander in Chief Staff Zoom meeting.

I continue as National Chief of Staff, Chairman of the National Committee on the Promotion of the Order and the Chairman of the National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the USA. Those committee reports are provided separately.

I served on the National Special Committee on Grant writing.

Conducted multiple National Encampment Planning Meetings for development of program.

I presented a lecture on the life of the first African-American U.S. Army Nurse Suzy Taylor to the National Society Daughter of the Union 1861-1865.

I organized the Department to partner with the National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865 and the William E. Carter American Legion post 16 to conduct a "Do you think you have a Civil War Ancestor" event.

The event was held at the American Legion post and was open to the public. The event was to help people research their Civil War ancestors with the goal of getting new members into the SUVCW and the NSDU.

I led the Department of Massachusetts General Benjamin Butler annual memorial Ceremony in Lowell, MA.

I joined the Commander in Chief in presenting a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day, November 11.

I worked with the Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54 conducting a maintenance field day at the Gen Charles R. Lowell GAR Post No 8, burial plot at Mt Hope Cemetery in Boston and the City of Boston soldiers and Sailors plot.

I brought in five new members into the SUVCW.

I worked with the New Bedford Civil War Roundtable to apply D2 solution to the headstones in the New Bedford Rural Cemetery GAR burial plot.

I worked with Brother Ben Hobbins to present a Commander in Chief Proclamation honoring the 250th birthday of the United States Navy and the 250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

I worked with Brother Ben Hobbins to present a Commander in Chief Proclamation to the US Navy SEAL

Museum in San Diego, CA on the occasion of their opening.  
 I participated in meetings of the National Special Committee on Social Media.  
 I compiled all reports for the Gettysburg CofA meeting and the Springfield CofA meeting.  
 I attended the Annual Victorian Military Society Mess night on February 6th in Newport, RI along with two Brothers from the Department of Rhode Island.  
 I attended the Ancient and Honorable Artillery company of Massachusetts Annual President's Day Luncheon.  
 I attended the Department of Massachusetts 26th Annual Abraham Lincoln Birthday Brunch, Sunday, February 15th, 2026 in Wakefield, MA.  
 I assisted the National Special Committee on Fundraising with the Henry Rifle project.  
 I organized and participated in a National Medal of Honor Day Ceremony with the Governor Elisha Dyer Camp 7 of Rhode Island. We remembered all MOH recipients but specifically William B. Avery, a Civil War MOH recipient and ancestor of Camp 7 Brother Avery Seaman.  
 I attended the Department of Rhode Island Encampment.  
 With the Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54, I organized an America 250 for 250 event in partnership with the Boston Chapter Sons of the American Revolution and the Paul Revere Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution to honor Paul J. Revere and Edward H. R. Revere, both grandsons of Patriot Paul Revere who were killed in action during the Civil War.  
 With the Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54, I organized the second annual Juneteenth Ceremony in partnership with the William E. Carter Post 16 American Legion at the Gen Charles Russell Lowell GAR Burial plot in Mt Hope Cemetery, Boston, MA.  
 I participated, along with Brothers from the Elisha Dyer Camp 7, Providence, RI, in the City of Providence Juneteenth Ceremony.  
**Recommendation:** The National Awards and Recognition Policy be updated to include the Abraham Lincoln Good Citizenship Award." We currently sell the lapel pin and certificate through the National Quartermaster store, however there is no guidance on the award.  
 Roderick J Fraser Jr., PDC  
 National Chief of Staff  
 Council of Administration

## National Headquarter Reports

### Executive Director

Brother Commander and National Council:

#### **Observations Ref The 2026 Annual Reporting Season**

##### **Correct Reference to Brothers in Reports**

Camps continue to use nicknames instead of a Brother's full, proper name, e.g. Johnny Smith. Is it Jonthan, John or Jon Smith who is updating his email? Please refer to all Brothers by their proper names.

##### **Failure to Suspend Camps for Not Filing Reports**

Some Departments refuse to suspend a Camp for not filing Form 22 or Form 27 or both in a timely manner. Failure to timely file these reports cause delays in the filing of Form 35 with Headquarters. When Form 35 is not timely filed, the department forfeits its opportunity to be in the running for potential CinC personnel awards. The proper sanction of Camps that do not make timely filings of reports is suspension.

##### **Meeting Membership Dates**

Camps and departments repeatedly fail to submit the enrollment date of new Brothers on Form 3 Part III bottom of page 1 of form 3. There are several department secretaries who seem not to know about Brothers in their department who are members at large and fail to report those Brothers on Form 27 and subsequently on Form 35.

##### **Prompt Submission of Form 27 and Form 35**

Camps continue to retain winter and early spring new membership forms for submission of Form 27. If the new member joined in November and he is not reported until Form 27 is submitted to department secretary, by the time Form 35 arrives and is reviewed at Headquarters the new member has missed the winter and spring *Banner*

and may miss the summer *Banner* too. Form 3 accompanied by form30 must be submitted within 30 days of processing of new brother.

#### **Combat Zone Service Brothers**

Too many Camps and departments do not know, or neglect to report, changes of combat zone service status on Form 30, line 12 and 13. All Camps and departments must be diligent about reporting changes of Brothers' combat zone service status.

#### **Copies of The Banner Not Posted on the National Website**

If any Brother or Camp has copies of any *Banners* not scanned and posted to national website, please donate them to Headquarters so they can be scanned and posted at [suvcw.org/thebanner](http://suvcw.org/thebanner).

Mail such copies to:

SUVCW, 1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg PA 17103-2411 or email to [execdir@suvcw.org](mailto:execdir@suvcw.org).

#### **Current Stats of Interest**

|     |                                                           |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 242 | New 2026 applications                                     |
| 44  | Deaths so far this year                                   |
| 70  | Discharges in the past 12 months                          |
| 282 | Drops in the past 12 months                               |
| 10  | Snowbirds                                                 |
| 5   | Snowbirds issued Spring <i>Banner</i>                     |
| 8   | Eagle Scout queries                                       |
| 2   | ROTC queries                                              |
| 2   | Visitors to Headquarters                                  |
| 27  | Form 49 submissions to date                               |
| 32  | Form 35 submissions                                       |
| 5   | Late filed form 35s.                                      |
| <5  | Replies to queries from the website contact button        |
| 150 | Brothers who have recruited since 2025 awards cutoff date |
| 11  | Life Memberships since Winter Banner                      |
| 641 | Currently living life members                             |
| 585 | Life Members added to national database since 2008        |
| 1   | Loss of our last known Real Son.                          |

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Form 49, page 5 -- relocate last subject regarding the check mark ☒ to the bottom of page 4 and potentially eliminate page 5 or keep it for overflow data. 99% of 2026 Form 49s had no data on page 5 other than the checkmark. Page 5 is a waste of a sheet of paper and adds the extra work of printing and scanning of it at Headquarters.

2. Add ROTC Officer as a permanent position on Form 49. It will benefit the national ROTC Officer and the ROTC committee. Likewise, add the Assistant Treasurer position along with the existing Assistant Secretary position.

#### **Note From the Executive Officer**

As Executive Director serving over the last three decades, and in remembrance of my ancestors who served our country during the Civil War and other conflicts since, it is an honor to continue to serve the brotherhood of our grand patriotic organization.

Due to my continued IBS medical condition, I chose travel venues very carefully!

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

David W. Demmy, Sr

Assistant Executive Director

Brothers,

It has been a whirlwind year here at Headquarters in Harrisburg, PA. We have been working diligently on bringing our historic backlogs of work up to date. For the majority of the year, we have held our work load up to date well. Only during Annual Reporting do we have a glut of paperwork that forces us into a load that falls behind. We ought to have the load caught up again soon in time for the next round of reports.

This year has brought a large number of life membership applications to us. In addition to processing these applications, we have been getting a small, yet regular, number of requests for Cadet awards and for Eagle Scout awards. HQ is a records processing and storage facility. Wherever possible we forward these requests to the local department officers to get the request to the closest camp. However, there are departments that have no officers appointed whatsoever. This is a tremendous problem for the applicants because National HQ is not equipped, authorized, staffed, or funded to accommodate these requests. Nor will it be. Which leaves these requests in a state of limbo.

We can forward these requests to the National Officers, but this is not a solution since they must also send the requests to the same nonexistent department and camp officers. Which only extends the dead end road by another step. Department Commanders MUST understand that unfilled appointed offices are going to fall back upon themselves, and their Department Secretaries to do the work. Nobody wants this. It is understood that some of these offices are very hard to fill. We are all in the same situation.

As national programs, these jobs must be done. Otherwise, I would remind our brothers that members of our Order have the same right to petition that we have as citizens. If we want the program gone, write the proposals and get them passed. If that is not something anyone is willing to do, then find the officers and get the job done. Pick one and get to it. We are not building a pool of future members by not delivering upon our promises.

Stabilizing the workload at HQ has delayed the development of the proposed podcast. The Asst. Dir. Has collected the required equipment to begin production. The delays are in the fact that our administrative duties are the first priority, as they should be. This year has not presented adequate available time to go into production. We did start running test filming which demonstrated that the concept works. The delays are in the need to write concise, yet comprehensive shows. Which can be a time consuming process.

If the time required cannot be created by efficiency, we will have to simply find a place to work it into the current The plan going forward is to schedule a block of three hours a week to devote to the job regardless of workload.

One volunteer this year, Ann McMillin, PDP from the Pennsylvania Auxiliary, has devoted over one thousand hours this past year in transcribing historic membership roles that are in storage at HQ. She is building a searchable database for these records. While the amount of data is enormous, the amount not in our keeping is even greater. Her hopes are to continue this project going forward. HQ is assisting wherever it can in preserving these records.

Technology issues have occurred this year with Microsoft twice canceling some of our non-profit organization licenses for Microsoft 365. The primary Computer in the Executive Director's office suffered a hard drive failure. This CPU was replaced, but it took two weeks of debate to get it done through the debates and process of CofA. Fortunately, our active data backup system retained all data up to the point that the CPU went to "the blue screen of death". This failure resulted in a reduction of productivity during the two weeks it took to get back online. We are now moving again.

The situation has exposed a weakness in our systems that needs investigating.

**Recommendation:**

If it has not already been done, it is recommended that the Council of Administration create a "Headquarters Technology Replacement Fund". With sufficient funds and the authorization to rapidly replace the computers at headquarters without requiring a vote to replace the computers in the case of catastrophic failure of the units. This report respectfully submitted in

Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

Douglas McMillin, PDC

Asst Executive Director, SUVCW

## Reports of Appointed National Officers

### National Chief of Staff, Roderick J Fraser Jr, PDC

Brother Commander in Chief,

This report combines my activities as Chief of Staff. I continue as Chairman of the National Committee on the Promotion of the Order and the Chairman of the National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the USA. Those committee reports are provided separately.

I served on the National Special Committee on Grant writing.

I attended the CinC meeting with Department Commanders and the CinC meeting with committee chairmen.

I scheduled and attended the CinC meeting with Department Commanders and the CinC meeting with Committee Chairmen.

I complied all Officer Reports for the Gettysburg Remembrance Day CofA meeting and distributed to the CofA and Department Commanders.

I scheduled and participated in the Commander in Chief Staff Zoom meeting.

Conducted multiple National Encampment Planning Meetings for development of program.

I brought in five new members into the SUVCW.

I traveled to Washington D.C. with the Commander in Chief to present a Proclamation to the US Navy Memorial commemorating the Navy's 250th Birthday and to place a wreath on the Tomb of the unknown Soldier.

I worked with the United States Marine Corps Headquarters to present them with a Proclamation honoring their 250 years of service to the nation.

I worked with Brother Ben Hobbins to present a Commander in Chief Proclamation to the US Navy SEAL Museum in San Diego, CA on the occasion of their opening.

I complied all Officer Reports for the Springfield CofA meeting and distributed them to the CofA and Department Commanders..

#### **No Recommendations.**

Roderick J Fraser Jr., PDC

National Chief of Staff

Council of Administration

### National Aide-de-Camp, W. Faron Taylor, PDC

During this reporting period the National Aide de Camp has served by assisting with various administrative tasks and requests in support of the Commander-in-Chief.

### National Chaplain, Dexter A. Bishop, PDC

As the National Chaplain, I have attended in person the Council of Administration meeting in Springfield Illinois and participated in the Lincoln and Stevenson Memorial Services.

Provided the information to the Banner, a prayer for the recently passed Brothers and the material for the Chaplains Corner.

Submitted a recommendation to Commander Tucker in the Chaplain Awards process.

Participated in the development of the upcoming Memorial Service for the National Encampment.

In F., C., & L.

Dexter Bishop PDC

National Chaplain

### National Civil War Memorials Officer, Walter E. Busch, PDC

Report Concurrent with National Committee Report.

## National Color Bearer, Charles Lewis

Nothing to Report.

## National Counselor, Edward Norris, PCinC

No official opinions have been called for, so none have been written. I have answered a number of questions concerning the Regulations and Policies from the Commander-in-Chief and others.

**No recommendations.**

## Assistant National Counselor, Michael Paquett, PCinC

I have assisted the National Counselor on a number of occasions by providing research and a second informal opinion.

## Assistant National Counselor, C&R, James B. Pahl, PCinC

Hopefully the 2026 version of the C & R will be ready soon that includes the annotations of the 144th National Encampment in Houston.

**No recommendations.**

James B. Pahl, PCinC

## National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator, Michael Spaulding, PDC

### **2026 REPORT**

Form 14 for requesting Eagle Scout Certificates are often sent directly to me. I forward these to the appropriate Department Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinators (DESCC) and follow-up to make sure all requests are processed. Not every Department has an active DESCC, so I personally mailed 40 certificates to new Eagle Scouts. I also presented 9 certificates here in Ohio.

Since August 2025, I processed 305 requests from 29 Departments, a decrease of 1 Department since last year. Some Departments are networked with local Scout troops and have processed certificates without going through me as the middleman, so the total number of Eagle Certificates awarded and reported to me in the past year is 643, a decrease of 5% from last year. Last year, however, was exceptional, as the Department of New York alone reported 257 awards compared to a still program-best 108 this year. The remaining Departments reported an increase of 118 certificates year-over-year.

I received reports on certificates awarded from 20 Departments. For the other Departments, I have provided numbers from my own records of requests I received and forwarded to those Departments.

|                            |    |                                |     |
|----------------------------|----|--------------------------------|-----|
| Alabama                    | 0  | Missouri and Arkansas          | 55  |
| Arkansas                   | 12 | Nebraska, North & South Dakota | 1   |
| California and Pacific     | 21 | New Hampshire                  | 6   |
| Chesapeake                 | 16 | New Jersey                     | 65  |
| Colorado and Wyoming       | 3  | New York                       | 108 |
| Columbia                   | 80 | North Carolina                 | 5   |
| Connecticut                | 6  | Ohio                           | 16  |
| Florida                    | 25 | Oklahoma                       | 2   |
| Georgia and South Carolina | 35 | Pennsylvania                   | 29  |



|               |    |                           |            |
|---------------|----|---------------------------|------------|
| Illinois      | 13 | Rhode Island              | 6          |
| Indiana       | 3  | Southwest                 | 12         |
| Iowa          | 2  | Tennessee and Mississippi | 7          |
| Kansas        | 0  | Texas and Louisiana       | 43         |
| Kentucky      | 10 | Vermont                   | 0          |
| Maine         | 4  | Wisconsin and Minnesota   | 14         |
| Massachusetts | 16 | Unknown                   | 1          |
| Michigan      | 27 | <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>643</b> |

This means at least 29 Departments (91%) participated in the Eagle Scout Commendation program. The remaining Departments are encouraged to assign a DESCC and to participate in the program, as this is an excellent opportunity to meet Scouts and their parents, introduce our organization, and provide recruiting material. It also honors the long relationship between the GAR and later the SUVCW with the Scouts, starting at the 1913 Grand Reunion in Gettysburg.

A number of Departments are very actively involved with their local Scout councils and troops, making living history presentations and doing other joint activities. Not surprisingly, they tend to be the ones with the highest reported certificates totals above. These Departments are to be commended and emulated.

In other activities, I worked with individual Department and Camp Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinators as requested, helping guide new Coordinators, providing resources, and answering questions.

#### **No recommendations.**

Michael Spaulding, PDC

#### **National G.A.R. Highway Officer, Peter J. Hritsko, CinC**

Commander-in-Chief Tucker,

I have the honor to submit my GAR Highway Officer Report for the upcoming 145<sup>th</sup> 2026 National Encampment in Gettysburg, Pa. I notified all the Department GAR Highway Officers by email that are listed on our current National webpage. As listed. Department California & Pacific, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Missouri, Department of Nebraska and including South and North Dakota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin.

**Department California & Pacific:** Brother Charles Beal

#### **No Response**

**Department of Illinois:** Brother Brian Conroy

Sir,

I have NO report to be submitted.

CC Brian Conroy, Gen. Phillip H. Sheridan Camp 2

GAR Highway Officer

Department of Illinois

**Department of Indiana:** Brother Willam Adams

As of June 1, 2026 all GAR Highway signs are posted in proper locations in accordance with Indiana Law. That law requires that a GAR Highway sign be placed at all locations where a Federal or State highway intersects US 6. All GAR Highway signs are new or like new condition and are provided by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). US 6 is administered by two Regional INDOT facilities. The eastern half is maintained by the Fort Wayne Regional office and the western half by the La Porte Regional office. Since my last report for the 144th National Encampment, there have been no issues or changes to the condition and location of GAR Highway signs across Indiana. All continues to be in excellent shape. I wish to thank Past



Department Commander, Brother Tom Schmitt for his help as he continues to drive the eastern portion of Indiana's US 6 and provides updated reports on the condition of GAR Highway signage.

It is with great pleasure I announce that GAR Highway signs proudly proclaim US 6 as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway across the Hoosier State of Indiana, where Abraham Lincoln grew up!

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Adams PDC

GAR Highway Officer Department of Indiana

**Department of Iowa:** Brother Dan Rittel

**No Response**

**Department of Massachusetts:** Brother Henry Buckley

Brother Hritsko,

Please see my report below as Massachusetts GAR Highways Officer:

I was appointed at the 2026 Department Encampment to be the GAR Highway Officer for the Department of Massachusetts. The Grand Army of the Republic Highway in Massachusetts was established by the General Court (the legislature of Massachusetts) in Chapter 19 of the Acts of 1937, because they believed that it was "fitting and proper that the veterans of the civil war should be given further recognition for their valiant services in the war of the rebellion". The highway consists of all portions of US Route 6 within Massachusetts. The Massachusetts section of US Route 6 runs from the Rhode Island border in Seekonk to Provincetown and covers roughly 118 miles. Massachusetts was the first state in the Union to ever adopt this measure of recognition, but such a memorial was subsequently adopted by other states through which US Route 6 ran. I have and will continue to submit articles about the GAR Highway in my Department's newsletter. I will liaise with State Highway leadership to ensure that the road serves as a clean and dignified memorial to the boys in blue.

That is the report.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Henry Buckley

**Department of Missouri:** Brother Walt Busch

**No Response**

**Department of Nebraska and including South and North Dakota:** Gene Hasenkamp

**No contact information listed on National website**

**Department of New Jersey:** Brother Bruce Strak

**No Response**

**Department of New York:** Brother Matthew Hereford

**No Response**

**Department of Ohio:** Brother Peter J. Hritsko

I have inspected the GAR Signs that have been placed along US Route 6. I am happy to report that all signs are still in their original location and are in great condition like they were placed there yesterday in the cities of Vermilion, Lorain, Sheffield Lake, Avon Lake, Bay Village, Downtown Cleveland at the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument. Unfortunately, 2 signs at 103<sup>rd</sup> OVI Museum were taken by an unknown person. I had the pleasure of placing a total of 13 GAR Highway Signs. I am happy to say the entire Lorain County is completely done and has a sign in both directions of the cities within Lorain County. I still promote the GAR Highway signs whenever I can. However since covid the price of materials for making these signs have increased making the signs to go up in price drastically. Now we face the dilemma of the oil prices, just when I thought the prices might go down. I am following the economy closely and as soon as I see a chance I will send out letters again to the different representatives of cities, villages and townships with the new price of the GAR Signs. All of our neighboring cities have found the funds to make lane additions for bikes on the road and it seems to be a lot of road and bridge repair in this area. Hopefully these cities will decide it's an important part of our history that needs to be known and not forgotten. This means much to me and I stand strong to continue to promote the GAR sign placements along US RT 6 they are very dear to my heart.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko, PC-in-C

Dept. of Ohio GAR Highway Officer

**Department of Pennsylvania:** Dane DiFebo

Dear Brother Hritsko,

I have no report to be submitted for the Pennsylvania Department's GAR Highway office.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Dane DiFebo, PDC

Pennsylvania Department GAR Highway Officer

**Department of Rhode Island:** Brother Mike Lannigan

**No Response**

**Department of Vermont:** Unknown (Route 15 Vermont's GAR Highway)

**No contact listed on National website**

**Department of Wisconsin:** Brother Robert Koenecke (Iron Brigade Highway Officer)

**No Response**

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko, PC-in-C

National GAR Highway Officer

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

National G.A.R. Records Officer, Dean A. Enderlin, PDC

It has been an honor to serve as your National GAR Records Officer for the 2025-2026 administrative year. This is my sixteenth consecutive term in this appointed office.

The number of known and uniquely named/numbered GAR Posts listed in our catalog rose significantly this year to 10,987. This is an increase of eighty-four Posts since last year's report. The largest gains were made in the states of North Dakota, Maine, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Oregon and Mississippi. Most of the new additions were the result of access to previously unavailable Journals of Proceedings of GAR Department Encampments, which identified short-lived, renamed or re-organized Posts. The Dakotas are a particularly complex case, due to the evolution of Department boundaries as the territorial government transitioned to statehood. With each Department change, Post numbers were necessarily reassigned. As I've often said, there are undoubtedly still dozens – if not hundreds – of Posts throughout the country yet to be identified, particularly those that existed prior to 1879. It wouldn't surprise me to see us pass the 11,000 mark by this time next year.

Our network of Department GAR Records Officers was particularly active this year. In addition to communicating with the National GAR Records Officer, some Departments are now networking with each other, which is extremely gratifying and in keeping with the vision of the National Committee on GAR Records.

I'd like to give special recognition to Brothers Rich Holmes, PDC, and Hughston Burnheimer, of the Dept. of Tennessee (with Mississippi). Brother Holmes stepped in to fill a vacancy in his Department soon after I had talked with him at last year's National Encampment. Brother Burnheimer succeeded him as Department GAR Records Officer in Tennessee this year. He has already made significant strides in research there.

Brother Loran Bures, PDC, from the Dept. of the Columbia, continues to make new discoveries in Oregon and Washington. This year, his research helped resolve some surprisingly complex Post histories in Oregon, which led us to making several important revisions to our Post list.

Brother Ryan Estes, from the Department of Florida, is another one of our up-and-coming Department GAR Records Officers. He recently contacted the Library of Congress to obtain copies of GAR Journals of Proceedings for Florida spanning the years 1887-1901, 1903-1912, 1916, 1918, and 1931-1940. The project is ongoing, and it will involve significant expense to have digital copies made. We have been in contact with the SUVCW Dept. of the Chesapeake, to see if any Brother might be actively researching in the Library of Congress. If so, we are hoping we might be able to enlist his help with making copies of these records in person. Otherwise, we'll most likely order them directly from the Library of Congress and find other ways to bear the digitizing expense.

I'd also like to acknowledge Scott A. MacKenzie, Ph.D., a historian who has authored several papers on the Civil War and Grand Army of the Republic. Dr. MacKenzie reached out to our organization to share the results

of his research regarding the histories of Canadian GAR Posts. Most importantly, he identified a significant error in our Canadian list involving a Post No. 77 purportedly based in Hamilton, Ontario, which he found to have never existed. It was an old error (from over 26 years ago) that has thankfully now been corrected. Dr. MacKenzie also shared with me the draft of a paper he had delivered at a recent conference, titled, *A Welcome Presence: The Grand Army of the Republic in Canada*. It adds considerably to our understanding of the expansion of the GAR into Canada.

More details regarding our program are presented in the annual report of the National Committee on GAR Records.

**RECOMMENDATIONS: No Recommendations.**

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Dean A. Enderlin, PDC

National GAR Records Officer

**National Graves Registration Officer, Henry C. Duquette, PDC**

As of June 29, 2026, we have 947,666 records in the database, of which 887,572 are active and 60,139 have been deleted as duplicates or false records. The number of deleted records reflects the various clean-up efforts that several Departments have undertaken this past year but with much more clean-up to do. For example, we still have as many as 7,216 duplicate records on file.

We have 1,749 registered accounts; 1,631 submitters, 114 administrators and 4 root or "Super Admin" accounts. Very few of the submitter accounts are active at this time. Only 6 have logged in since 1/1/2026 but account for 48,103 new records. The accounts that have never submitted a record continue to be dropped from the system. In contrast, 69 Admin accounts have logged in to the system since Jan. 1, 2026.

Clean-up efforts continue. Many of the errors found are due to data entry mis-spellings, etc. from before fields were selected from dropdown menus. I recently cleaned up the counties of Florida and Pennsylvania. I am the only one who has direct access to the database so I am often called upon to provide reports to Department Grave Registration Officers.

We have entered year 3 of the Graves Registration System upgrade. Completed components of the "Public" system include new log in process, "Contact Us" message system, documenting service in multiple units/branches/Navy ships, documenting membership in multiple GAR Posts and Departments, enhancements to the search function (search on names using Exact, Contains, Like and Starts With), search results can be sorted and filtered, search results show a camera icon if an image is attached to the record, rows per page is displayed and can be adjusted, Approved and Unapproved records can be accessed by each user, submitted records may be edited by the submitter at any time, edit profile information at any time, a scratch pad is available for note taking, jump from tab to tab without losing data, the new web front end is mobile friendly, all data is being added to the database and recalled to the web front end, and elimination of nearly all freeform text through the use of dropdown menus.

Still needed before testing can begin: a new "Create Account" system, change/ forgot password system, integration with Memorial University, new fields added to the database and associated functions programmed. While testing is underway, the "Admin" system enhancements will be programmed – perhaps another 2-3 months.

**Recommendation:**

While the Graves Registration Committee prefers to complete the system rewrite with the current developer, the committee strongly recommends the following:

1. That a search be undertaken immediately to find an SUVCW Brother/Volunteer with the skills and dedication to complete the Graves Registration System upgrade (should the current developer not be able to complete the project) and/or to maintain it in the future.
2. That additional funding be made available to vet and contract a freelance developer for all future maintenance of the system.

Respectfully Submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Henry C. Duquette, PDC

National Graves Registration Officer

Commander, Department of North Carolina

National Guard, Member of Dept of PA – No Report Submitted.

National Guide, Ronald Glidden - No Report Submitted.

National Historian, Gary L. Gibson, PDC

Commander-in-Chief Tucker, Delegates and Brothers,  
This has been a successful year for this office.

An article was written for each issue of The Banner. I try to make the subject matter timely and tie them into current events.

I was interviewed on the YouTube podcast Addressing Gettysburg episode featuring the history of Remembrance Day. This was released at the end of November. To date, it has been viewed by over 660 individuals.

In the Winter issue of The Banner, I wrote about our official hymn of the Sons of Veterans. A call was issued for the sheet music. Brother Karl “Woody” Woodcock, PCC, of Antietam Camp No. 3, Department of the Chesapeake, was able to locate the sheet music at the Indiana University Archives.

I have been in contact with the Smithsonian Institution, inquiring about the condition of the flags of the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. I have also requested current photographs of the flags and requested permission to publish the photos in an upcoming issue of The Banner. This project is ongoing.

I have answered inquiries about the GAR and veterans. I have also assisted two individuals in the process of becoming Brothers of the Order – one in the Department of the Chesapeake and the other in the Department of Illinois.

**RECCOMENDATION:**

That the Committee on History be discontinued. This committee has not functioned as such for several years. As we currently do not have a repository for the retaining of any original documents, artifacts, etc., gathering of same is not feasible. With the Internet, research is easier and the collecting of information does not require a full committee.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,  
Gary L. Gibson, PDC  
National Historian

National Legislation Officer, Daniel R. Earl, PCC

I am honored to have served 10 consecutive years as the National Legislation Officer, since the position was created in 2016. The duties of the National Legislation Officer are to keep Brothers apprised of “legislation affecting the welfare of the Order or the Constitution or the welfare of the United States” (C&Rs Chapter III, Art. VII, §32). To that extent, this report is an *overview* of relevant federal legislation.

Below is a summary list of federal legislation that has been introduced during the first and second sessions of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress (**from 3 January 2025 through 26 June 2026**), relevant to the purpose and objects of the Order. (Previous federal legislation that was introduced during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and was not passed, died when Congress adjourned *sine die* at 11:57 a.m. on 3 January 2025.) Since the start of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress on 3 January 2025 at 12 noon, I have reviewed over 17,100 federal bills and resolutions. Unless otherwise noted below, each measure is awaiting action in a House or Senate Committee.

Departments are encouraged to monitor legislation in their respective state and local government jurisdiction (see G.O. #6 Series 2016-2017) and contact the National Legislation Officer about issues of interest and to assist with further review and/or advice.

*Brothers may be particularly interested in legislation below that is denoted in **bold with an asterisk (\*) and underscored print**.*

### **Battlefields, Monuments/Memorials, and Historic Areas**

**\*H.R.Res.63\*** – Redesignating the Robert E. Lee Memorial as the “Arlington House National Historic Site.”

**\*H.R.3056\*** – This legislation is known as the Camp Nelson National Monument Boundary Expansion Act. It would authorize the addition of approximately 132 acres to the Camp Nelson National Monument in Kentucky, bringing the total acreage of the monument to 597 acres. Camp Nelson was established by the Union Army on 29 April 1863 as a supply depot and hospital. It later became a recruitment and training center.

**\*H.R.5928\*** – “Camp Nelson National Monument Act.” This bill changes the name of the “Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument” to “Camp Nelson National Monument” by striking the word “heritage.”

**\*H.R.7495\*** – To authorize the establishment of *memorials* to the Wisconsin infantry officers and enlisted men who fought in the Battle of Antietam and the Second Battle of Bull Run, and for other purposes.

**\*H.R.7618/S.3524\*** – This bill is cited as the “American Battlefield Protection Amendment Act of 2026.” It would modify certain cost-sharing requirements for grant programs under the American Battlefield protection Program.

### **Miscellaneous Patriotic and Related Legislation**

**H.R.51/S.51** – To provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

**H.R.465** – To prevent the flying of any flag other than the United States flag over United States diplomatic and consular posts.

**\*H.R.1087/S.498\*** – To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service.

**H.R.1421/S.900** – These bills would forbid a U.S. flag from being displayed on federal property unless it was made in the United States. Additionally, federal funds could not be used to purchase U.S. flags that are not manufactured in the United States.

**H.R.1976** – To require \$20 notes to include a portrait of Harriet Tubman.

**H.Res.222** – Recognizing the patriotism and contributions of veterans service organizations, veteran advocacy groups, and volunteers.

**\*H.Res.373\*** – Expressing support for the month of May as “Fallen Heroes Memorial Month” (with specific references to the American Civil War).

**\*H.Res.440\*** – Recognizing on Memorial Day, 26 May 2025 the denial of voting representation in Congress and full local self-government through statehood for active duty servicemembers, National Guard members, reservists, veterans, and their families who are residents of the District of Columbia.

**\*S.1858/H.R.5942\*** – This bill would require national cemeteries administered by the DOD, VA, or NPS to be open to visitors on federal public holidays.

**\*H.Res.444\*** – Calling upon all Americans on this Memorial Day, 2025, to honor the men and women of the Armed Forces who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.

**S.Res.290** – A resolution commemorating June 19, 2025, as “Juneteenth National Independence Day” in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States. [Agreed to in the Senate by Unanimous Consent.]

**\*H.Res.645\*** – Honoring John Brown’s relentless endeavors in his pursuit of liberty for all human beings, his unyielding opposition to the institution of slavery, and his significant role in the abolition of this monstrous crime against humanity.

**\*H.J.Res.113\*** – Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution designating August 20<sup>th</sup> to serve as a reminder of the evils of slavery.

**\*H.Res.864\*** – Honoring the service and sacrifice of America’s veterans on Veterans Day, 2025.

**S.Res.544** – A resolution designating 13 December 2025 as “National Wreaths Across America Day.” [Agreed to in the Senate by Unanimous Consent.]

**\*H.Res.962\*** – A resolution Honoring Harriet Tubman’s extraordinary courage, unyielding opposition to the institution of slavery, and lasting contributions to American history.

**\*H.Res.1384\*** - Recognizing on Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, the denial of voting representation in Congress and full local self-government through statehood for active duty servicemembers, National Guard members, reservists, veterans, and their families who are residents of the District of Columbia.  
**H.Res.1334** – The America 250 Commemorative Flag Act. This resolution recognizes the celebration of our semi-quincentennial, with the America 250 flag is as an official flag of the United States, and during this year of celebration it would be authorized to be flown alongside the Star Spangled Banner and POW/MIA flags worldwide over all government buildings, embassies, and official U.S. locations as a testament to the 250th anniversary of our great nation. The resolution does not define how the America 250 Flag is different from the standard 50-star flag.

**S.4745** – A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 East Grant Avenue in Georgetown, Ohio, as the “Ulysses S. Grant Post Office Building.”

**H.R.9321** – A bill to temporarily expand the authorized uses of grants awarded under the Veterans Legacy Program of the National Cemetery Administration. This bill would allow the use of grants for “(1) locating unclaimed or abandoned humane remains suspect to be remains of a veteran; (2) determining whether such remains are the remains of a veteran; or (3) interring such remains in a national cemetery. . . .”

**\*S.4828\*** – The “Declaration of Independence Reaffirmation Act of 2026” was introduced and passed by unanimous consent in the Senate on 18 June 2026. It awaits action in the House of Representatives.

**S.Res.781** – A resolution commemorating June 19, 2026, as “Juneteenth National Independence Day” in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reach the slaves in the Southwestern States.

#### **Proposed Constitutional Amendments**

**\*S.J. Res.58/H.J.Res.101\*** – A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

#### **I have no recommendations.**

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

*Daniel R. Earl, PCC*

National Legislation Officer

Data current as of 27 June 2026

#### **National Liaison to Cathedral of the Pines, Charles Tucker**

Brother Commander-in-Chief,

It has been an honor to serve the Order as National Liaison to the Cathedral of the Pines.

Upon assuming this appointment, I visited the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, New Hampshire, to meet with the organization's staff and discuss plans for the annual Memorial Day observance. During that meeting, I learned that much of the Cathedral's staff had been recently hired and was unfamiliar with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's longstanding participation in the annual ceremony. After discussing our historic relationship with the Cathedral, they welcomed the continued participation of our Order in both the memorial service and the wreath-laying ceremony.

Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker arranged for the official SUVCW memorial wreath to be prepared by a local florist, which I collected and delivered to the Cathedral for the observance.

On Saturday, May 30, 2026, I attended the Cathedral of the Pines Annual Memorial Day Observance with Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker. We were assisted by my daughter, Noelle Tucker, who served as photographer for the event. Arriving early, we helped the Cathedral staff prepare for the reception that would follow the ceremony.

Shortly before the program was scheduled to begin, an unusually late spring snowstorm moved into the area, requiring the ceremony to be relocated on short notice to an indoor meeting room. The program commenced at 10:00 a.m. with the posting of the colors by the Rindge Veterans Association Honor Guard, whose members were dressed in historical military uniforms.

Pastor Tom Brown of Sturtevant Chapel in Keene, New Hampshire, delivered the Invocation, followed by a reading of John McCrae's immortal poem, *In Flanders Fields*.



A special tribute was presented in honor of Donald Nelson, a United States Army veteran who served with the 7th Infantry Division during the Korean War. While serving overseas, Mr. Nelson was assigned as an announcer and producer with the American Forces Korea Network of the Armed Forces Radio Service. The Rindge Veterans Association Honor Guard then conducted a moving Folding of the Flag ceremony in his memory.

The featured speaker was Mr. Nelson's son, Master Sergeant Kent Nelson, United States Air Force, who delivered a heartfelt address reflecting upon his father's military service, character, and enduring legacy. Following the keynote address, Ramona Branch, an Incorporator of the Cathedral of the Pines, led the assembly in singing *America the Beautiful*, accompanied by pianist Jessica Mahoney.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of floral tributes by numerous local and national veterans' organizations, including the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Dames of the Court of Honor, and the Woman's Relief Corps. Following the presentation of the tributes, Ms. Branch led the assembly in singing *God Bless America*, again accompanied by Ms. Mahoney. Pastor Brown then offered the closing prayer and Benediction.

Following the indoor service, the memorial wreaths and floral tributes were carried through the falling snow to the Cathedral's open-air **Altar of the Nation**, overlooking Mount Monadnock.

Constructed in 1946 and designated by Congress in 1957 as a National Memorial to the American men and women who have given their lives in military service, the Altar of the Nation stands as one of the Cathedral's most remarkable features. Its stonework incorporates contributions from all fifty states, from every President of the United States since Harry S. Truman, and from sites representing pivotal moments in both American and world history.

Among its many historic elements are stones from Plymouth, England, and Plymouth Rock; the battlefields of Lexington, Concord, and Yorktown; the Parthenon in Athens; the Roman Colosseum; the homes, libraries, and gravesites of numerous Presidents; Omaha Beach in Normandy; battlefields throughout Europe and the Pacific; Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and the Pentagon following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The Altar itself carries a profound symbolic message of national reconciliation. Three massive slabs of "Verde Antique," or Maryland Green marble, form its upper surface. Quarried along the Mason-Dixon Line, the outer slabs represent the North and South, while the center slab symbolizes their reunification into one Union. Soil from Mount Zion in Jerusalem was mixed into the mortar binding the marble to the structure, further emphasizing the Cathedral's themes of faith, peace, and reconciliation.

Perhaps the most poignant stone is one donated by the city of Koblenz, Germany, in 1969. It came from the centuries-old bridge spanning the Moselle River near the location where Cathedral founder Sandy Sloane's aircraft was shot down during the Second World War. Its presentation by the Mayor of Koblenz symbolizes reconciliation between former enemies and embodies the Cathedral's enduring ideals of friendship, peace, and brotherhood.

The observance concluded with the retiring of the colors, a rifle salute presented by the Rindge Veterans Association Honor Guard, and the sounding of *Taps* by bugler David Pipitone. A reception and time of fellowship followed.

The Cathedral of the Pines continues to provide a fitting setting for honoring the service and sacrifice of America's veterans, and I am pleased that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War maintains its longstanding participation in this meaningful annual observance.

Respectfully submitted,

**Charles E. Tucker**

National Liaison to the Cathedral of the Pines

National Liaison to MOLLUS, Kevin Martin PCinC

Nothing to report.

National Membership-at-Large Coordinator, Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC

Since the last encampment in Texas, I have received 2026 dues and completed Form 27.

The camp IRS Form 990N has been filed for this year and our Form 11 has been sent and receipted.

I received an application for membership for a new brother who is serving in Germany. It was applied for by his mother as a surprise gift for his retirement in May. That application has been completed and receipted at national. This brings the NMAL camp to five.

I continue to receive correspondence and provide help for brothers inquiring for membership in the NMAL. In these cases, they were eligible for membership in a department, and I have directed them to those various departments successfully.

I participate actively in my local camp and department serving as camp Secretary/Treasurer and Department Treasurer and Chief of Staff. In September I participated in the funeral of PCinC Brad Schall in Hutchinson, KS, along with department brothers and CinC Tucker. My friend, and fellow brother, PDC Conrad Fisher, passed in September and I was appointed his executor. In that office, I planned his memorial service which was attended by many department and camp brothers.

In April we held our department encampment and in May our camp held it's annual Memorial Day ceremony at Topeka Cemetery, of which I was the primary coordinator. We were honored to have in attendance WWII and Korea veteran Reverend Max Manning who is 97, as well as a descendant of a USCT soldier speak at the event.

I have attended two USA 250<sup>th</sup> celebration events: The commemoration of Sarah Ruddled Davis, who was captured during the Revolutionary War and was alive to see the entire Civil War, and the Museum of the Kansas National Guard's annual Heartland Military Days Salute to America's 250<sup>th</sup> where we marched in the Patriot Parade.

I plan to attend the National Encampment in Gettysburg this July.

**No Recommendations.**

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rocky L Bartlow, PDC

National Membership-at-Large Coordinator

**National Organization Expansion Officer, John Buckler, PCC**

Brothers.

I have done my best to answer all correspondence in a timely fashion. I have forwarded all messages to the proper Brothers. I have continued the effort to recruit by sending out requests to historical societies and libraries to post a recruiting poster with a QR code that leads a user to the national website. I have placed them in public libraries in my immediate location and provided them to camp members. Included in my activities are the normal events in the Kentucky Department and my camp.

I sent requests to have recruiting posters to; The Kentucky Historical Society, The Maryland Center for History and Culture, The West Virginia State Museum, The Historical Society of Michigan, The Massachusetts Historical Society, The New Hampshire Historical Society, with a request from Society for an electronic copy, (sent) for use as of this writing, The Tennessee Historical Society. The Ohio History Society. I have placed recruiting posters in the Woodford County, Kentucky public library, Jessamine County Public Library, Lexington/Fayette County Kentucky Public Library, Eastside branch, Beaumont Branch and Madison County Kentucky Richmond, Kentucky and Berea, Kentucky Branch.

Also, the Woodford County Historical Society and the Jessamine County, Kentucky Historical Society. I have made available recruiting posters to Camp Commanders in Kentucky and will others if requested. I will continue to send out requests for interactions with local and state libraries and other lineage societies until the end of my term in office.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

John T. Buckler.

**National Parliamentarian, James B. Pahl, PCinC**

Brothers are reminded the 12 th Edition of Robert's Rules of Order is the latest edition. A treatise on parliamentary procedure will be submitted soon for CofA approval, to place on our Order's web site and potentially in the reports packet for the National Encampment. **No recommendations.**

James B. Pahl, PCinC



## National Patriotic Instructor, Jeffrey French, PDC

CinC Kevin Tucker,

Since last Encampment, the NPI Handbook and Forms 40, 41, and 42 changes are still being reviewed by the P&P Committee. The change to the Forms reflects the requirements for a future CFC Campaign.

The articles for the Voices of Patriotism have been submitted and published in the Banner to support recruitment and retention efforts. The third article in the upcoming Banner edition is how to promote America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The last article promotes story submission from our brothers whose ancestors used the original Henry Rifle.

Monthly Patriotic Instructions are current through June. In progress in developing July's monthly instructions.

**RECOMMEND** that the NPI is no longer the Chairman of the Memorial University or in charge of the Memorial Certificates and pins. The issuance and presentations of the Memorial University certificates and pins should be accomplished by the Memorial University Committee. This will require a change to the C&R.

The NPI should focus on Banner articles, monthly patriotic instructions, and promote patriotism on our social media sites by posting items related to patriotism and acknowledge brother doing good work on social media. This will require a focus on patriotism and not the University.

**RECOMMEND** the NPI has permission and given access to post on National Social Media sites as an administrator.

**RECOMMEND** that Camp, Department, and National Patriotic Instructors have their own PI YouTube accounts to do video PI Instructions for the brothers.

**RECOMMEND** that the NPI creates an award to present to the best DPI at National Encampment. Criteria will be developed and approved at National level before sharing with the DPIs.

The notification problem has been fixed and notifications to the NPI are now working properly. I would like to thank Brother Jaimie McGuire and Brother Michael Beard for their assistance in getting this rectified.

The password notification and link issue has been resolved thanks to Brother Bray for providing screenshots so we could troubleshoot and rectify the issue.

I'm aware of only a few Departments taking advantage of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America. Those who share on Facebook are doing a great job (National should capture all the posts related to the 250<sup>th</sup> and post on their Facebook page). Department of Massachusetts did one, New York has done 3, Alaska is doing one, and Missouri has done one. Our Departments and Camps are missing out on an opportunity to promote the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year to not only promote patriotism but recruitment. The NPI Monthly Instructions provided the emphasis of promoting the America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Only ten Departments submitted their Form 41. The Ten Departments are NJ, PA, WI, RI, MA, NY, GA & SC, ME, MI, and AL. I believe once these Forms are changed to reflect better what they/we are doing, submissions will improve.

Since the last Encampment, the following have completed the Memorial University Course: **Brother George Ritchie, Brother Donald Hall, Brother Ray Wilson, Brother Ross Groenke, Brother Andrew Roemer, Brother Robert Kennedy, Brother Charles Bogino, Brother Benjamin Alvarado, Brother Paul Vilga, Brother Gerald Holan, Brother Eben Smith, Brother Jared Barber, Brother Cole Anderson, Brother William Bray, Brother Steven Greene, Brother Jeffrey Kennedy, Brother Timothy Marcus, Brother Lorenzo Fiorentino, Brother Clay Hoffman, Brother Mark Hagedorn, Brother Richard Holmes, Brother James LyBolt, Brother Mark Atterson, and Brother John Dupre** (will be completed before end of July). Congratulations Brothers!

The NPI will continue to support the Commander's priorities for future Articles and Instructions.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty

Brother Jeffrey French, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor

Assistant National Secretary (Department-at-Large Secr./Treas.), James B. Pahl, PCinC

Nothing to report.

Assistant National Secretary (Transcriptions), Michael L. Lance, PDC ,

Commander-in-Chief Tucker,

I am pleased to present this report of my activities as Assistant National Secretary for Transcriptions for the 2025-2026 term. My charge was to prepare and submit a report of the proceedings of the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, which was held in Houston, Texas on August 8-9, 2025.

On September 3, 2025, I received the transcription of the August 8 business session (Day 1). I then began a careful review of the transcription, identifying and noting spelling errors, missing or incorrect punctuation, and sidebar comments. In addition, I reformatted the pages for presentation consistency and optimal visual and reading appeal.

ANSR Brother Vander Meulen provided assistance by reviewing the video recordings of the business sessions to positively identify speakers that were labeled as 'unknown', and discern phrases or words noted as 'indistinguishable' by the transcriptionist. The suggested corrective edits were highlighted for review and approval.

In October, Brother Vander Meulen and I met via Zoom with you and PCinC Martin to present the suggested Day 1 edits and formatting enhancements. This review process was very productive and approvals were obtained.

On September 18, 2025, I received the transcription of the Saturday, August 9, 2025 business session (Day 2) and repeated the review process. Another Zoom session with you and PCinC Martin was conducted on Thursday, November 18, 2025 to obtain approvals. Day 2 was thence finalized.

The approved businesssession transcriptions were then combined with several additional report elements to create a single 500-page encampment report in PDF format. The additional items included:

- Images of: the Encampment badge, souvenir badge, name tag and ribbon, Joint Memorial Service program, CinC challenge coin, 6-piece souvenir challenge coin set, voting card, Program book cover, Banquet program, and souvenir apparel.
  - The Encampment attendance roster.
- Reports submitted by: the National elected and appointed officers, the Standing and Special Committees, and the Department Commanders.
  - Financial Statement with Supplementary information.
  - National CofA Meeting Minutes and Email Motions.
  - General and Special Orders
  - Roster of Past CinCs and listing of Past National Encampments.

The completed comprehensive *Proceedings Report* was then submitted by email attachment to Brother Roger Leturno, National Washington, DC Representative. Copies of the *Report* were also sent by email attachment to you and recent Past CinC Kevin Martin.

On February 26, 2026, Brother Roger Leturno reported that he had submitted the *2025 National Encampment Proceedings Report*, in PDF format, to Sarah Hamilton, librarian at the Library of Congress, as an email attachment. Receipt of the *Report* was acknowledged by Ms. Hamilton on the same day. Her reply stated that she "will process it in a timely manner."

The *Proceedings Report* was concurrently posted to the SUVCW National website.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Ass't National Secretary for Transcriptions during the 2025-2026 term.

**I HAVE NO RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Michael L. Lance, PDC

Assistant National Secretary for Transcriptions

## Assistant National Secretary (Recordings), John C. Vander Meulen, PCC

Commander-in-Chief Tucker,

**National Encampment:** In support of the 2025 National Encampment (NE) in Houston, I interfaced with the contracted A/V company to ensure required services were provided satisfactorily. The same will be done with the vendor in Gettysburg for the 2026 National Encampment.

**Recordings/Transcription:** Good audio and video recordings of the 2025 National Encampment in Houston, Texas were captured. Copies of these recordings were provided to the Transcriptionist. From these recordings, she produced a transcript of the Encampment business sessions. The Assistant National Secretary for Transcriptions, Michael Lance, and I then reviewed the resulting transcript. During our review, we applied minor corrections for misspelled names and words, and improper or missing punctuation. In addition, where the Transcriptionist categorized some speakers as "Unknown" and some remarks as "Indistinguishable," we reviewed the video recording of the Encampment proceedings to attempt to identify the speaker's name, or the correct word or phrase spoken. The video recording proved helpful in this regard. We also identified "side-bar" remarks included in the transcription and highlighted them for review by the incoming and outgoing C-in-Cs. Zoom meetings were conducted with them to explain our findings and recommendations. Careful attention was given to ensure that the transcript reflected a verbatim copy of the business proceedings. With their approval, we completed the final editing of identified "side bar" remarks. The complete 500-page Proceedings Report, which included the transcript, was then finalized, approved, and published on the National website, and delivered to the Library of Congress before the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**Preservation of Recordings:** Audio/Visual recordings of the 2025 National Encampment have been placed in electronic cloud storage for historical and records retention purposes. Segments having promotional value were made ready for public consumption and put on the National YouTube channel and the Department of Texas YouTube channel. Recorded segments of the business meetings have not been made public.

**Value Added Music:** For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, pre-recorded music was provided during the 2025 National Encampment - which added value to the event.

Respectfully submitted In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

**John Vander Meulen, PCC, DC**

Assistant National Secretary for Recordings

## National Signals Officer, James P. McGuire, PDC

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve in the office of National Signals Officer for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for the 2025-2026 term. It has been a very active year on several fronts, highlighted by some key successes and a couple of near misses. I have worked strategically in partnership with the National Webmaster to keep the National Organization's website updated and functioning through several security updates, many document updates, a pair of global internet outages, and a recent barrage of errors that popped up after a Drupal security update. Several Brothers across all Departments have reached out with an inability to reach certain forms, and while the National Webmaster and I have not been able to determine the cause for the sudden errors (malware has been eliminated as a potential cause), we have acted quickly to both update form pathways and send forms directly to the Brothers in need. This is the latest example of how we aim to serve our Brothers and the Order in every way possible to keep things running smoothly.

One of my main duties as the chief communications officer is to monitor communications coming in through the webform. Through June 29, 2026, we have received approximately 750 submissions through the form since August 18, 2025. Of these, 298 were direct queries for information regarding new membership, transferring membership, restoring membership, obtaining Life Membership, etc. I personally responded to every such query and referred each to the appropriate Department, or in some cases, directly to a Camp. I do not have any metric to record conversions from the new Membership queries, as once they are passed on to a Department or Camp, I generally do not hear back from anyone unless they are having trouble reaching someone. This makes a strong case for Departments and Camps to have a clearly visible and easily accessible point of contact on their website. An additional 120 or so were requests for help with ancestor, soldier, G.A.R. or general Civil

War research. 84 were requesting specific assistance with the ROTC program. Of the remainder, there were a fair amount of Brothers reaching out for guidance on how to fill out forms, how to reach a National Officer or order quartermaster supplies. Other queries received were asking after sponsorship/support opportunities, inquiries into the Allied Orders in general, cold call sales, an occasional political diatribe, and form spamming. In the time it has taken me to write this paragraph, we've received another research request. I do make every effort to respond to every authentic email with a personal response directly related to the query. I help when I can and suggest alternative resources when I cannot.

The email forwarding program for National Officers has functioned within normal margin of error. Some emails failed to forward in timely manner because of email proxies between our Google workspace not playing nicely in the sandbox with various email providers or firewall setups. The issues that come up have been dealt with on a rolling case-to-case basis.

I have communicated with several Department Signals Officers about websites, content decisions, and best practices throughout the year. I advised the Commander-in-Chief on the perils of having only one point-of-contact with access to Department and Camp websites in case something should happen and a site owner becomes incapacitated and access is lost.

Throughout the year, I have worked with the Patriotic Instructor on the management of Memorial University; the Graves Registration Office on helping to look under the hood of how the GRD interacts with other SUVCW web technologies, as well as the National Quartermaster and National ROTC Coordinator on managing incoming requests for ROTC award materials this past season. I regret not being able to work out an appropriate schedule to meet with the Monuments & Memorials team but hope to do so in the future. I have worked to advise on and support the deployment of web assets from the National Committee on the Promotion of the Order and the Special Committee on America's 250.

I attended all Council of Administration meetings as an *ex officio* non-voting member by virtue of the office, and provided input on topics relating to communications, technology, and our digital footprint. I provided guidance and insight when requested by the Signals Corps.

All in all, a very busy year. Looking to the future, I am excited to inform the Membership that the National Webmaster and I have been actively running an audit on the user experience on the National Website and will move to improve the user experience. Additionally, we are developing a roadmap for the digitization of the SUVCW forms process. More on this exciting opportunity for the betterment of the paperwork process is forthcoming.

I congratulate Commander-in-Chief Tucker and all of my Brothers on a successful year for the SUVCW.

James P. McGuire, PDC  
National Signals Officer

### National Webmaster, Jason Black

It has been my pleasure to continue serving as National Webmaster for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The National Website remains current on its platform, Drupal, and continues to provide for the Order's primary external communication, membership outreach, access to forms, governance documents, historical resources, and public information.

Throughout the year, I have worked to keep the website updated, secure, and functioning through regular maintenance, content updates, document revisions, and troubleshooting. The site has remained active and up to date, but several areas have been identified for additional attention in the coming year. Many sections of the website contain older formatting or code that should be cleaned for consistency, efficiency, accessibility, and long-term maintainability.

A key priority moving forward will be improving the user experience of the National Website. The site contains a significant amount of valuable information, but some areas can be difficult for users to navigate, especially when they are looking for membership information, forms, Department or Camp contacts, or help with completing SUVCW processes. A review of the website's structure, navigation, page layouts, and calls to action will help make the site more seamless for both prospective members and current Brothers.

Special attention should be given to the membership experience for clarity and easy of use. The website should continue to make it easier for interested visitors to understand eligibility, find a local Camp or Department, and

know what steps to take next. The same is true for troubleshooting. When users are unable to access a form, complete a process, or reach the right contact, the website should provide clearer guidance and backup options. The forms and PDF sections should also be reviewed. Many important SUVCW functions depend on PDF documents, and users may experience different results depending on their browser, device, or PDF reader. Where possible, form pages should include a short explanation, a clear button to open or download the document, a direct PDF fallback link, and simple troubleshooting language. This will help reduce confusion and improve successful completion of forms.

In the coming year, I will aim for the National Website to focus on four main areas: cleaning and standardizing older Drupal code; improving the membership and forms user experience; strengthening accessibility and mobile usability; and reviewing the site from a brand and communications perspective. These improvements do not require a full rebuild, but they will help make the website easier to use, easier to maintain, and more effective as the digital front door of the Order.

I look forward to continuing this work in partnership with the National Signals Officer, National Officers, Departments, Camps, committees, and Brothers across the Order. The National Website is in a strong technical position, but with focused attention to user experience, forms, membership pathways, and consistent presentation, it can better serve the Brotherhood and the public in the year ahead.

Thank you,  
Jason Black  
National Webmaster

#### Assistant National Secretary-Treasurer Department at Large, James B. Pahl, PCinC

We have two Camps in the Department at Large: the Ensign John Davis Camp #10 located in London, England and the Pvt Robert F Dodd Camp 4 in Canada. Other Canadian Camps are being discussed. **No recommendations.**

James B. Pahl, PCinC

#### Assistant National Treasurer #2, Michael A. Paquette, PCinC

Nothing to report.

#### National ROTC Coordinator, Roger Leturno

I am honored to present this annual report for the National ROTC Awards Program for the School Year (SY) 2025-2026. This report provides an overview of the program's execution across our 32 departments, celebrating our successes, identifying our challenges, and offering recommendations to strengthen the program for SY 2026-2027.

Overall, the program saw varied but dedicated engagement. This report details those experiences and outlines a path forward to ensure greater success. Departments are encouraged to review the findings, particularly the recommendations for what can be done at the local level to improve our collective efforts.

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#### ♦ Overall Program Execution SY 2025-2026 ♦

The following table provides a department-by-department summary of performance for SY 2025-2026 and projections for SY 2026-2027.

| Department | Form 7s Completed<br>(2025-26) | Awards Presented<br>(2025-26) | Variance | Projected Awards<br>(2026-27) |
|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Alabama    | 21                             | 23                            | 2        | 36                            |
| Arkansas   | 30                             | 30                            | 0        | 38                            |

|                          |    |    |    |     |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| California & Pacific     | 41 | 41 | 0  | 44  |
| Chesapeake               | 67 | 67 | 0  | 132 |
| Colorado and Wyoming     | 19 | 21 | 2  | 22  |
| Columbia                 | 12 | 12 | 0  | 20  |
| Connecticut              | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0   |
| Florida                  | 25 | 25 | 0  | 0   |
| Georgia / South Carolina | 20 | 20 | 0  | 64  |
| Illinois                 | 12 | 12 | 0  | 20  |
| Indiana                  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0   |
| Iowa                     | 1  | 1  | 0  | 6   |
| Kansas                   | 16 | 16 | 0  | 13  |
| Kentucky                 | 10 | 11 | 1  | 13  |
| Maine                    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| Massachusetts            | 1  | 1  | 0  | 20  |
| Michigan                 | 4  | 4  | 0  | 0   |
| Missouri                 | 31 | 31 | 0  | 41  |
| Nebraska                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| New Hampshire            | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0   |
| New Jersey               | 17 | 17 | 0  | 17  |
| New York                 | 17 | 18 | 1  | 49  |
| North Carolina           | 7  | 7  | 0  | 15  |
| Ohio                     | 1  | 14 | 13 | 25  |
| Oklahoma                 | 5  | 5  | 0  | 7   |
| Pennsylvania             | 18 | 18 | 0  | 15  |
| Rhode Island             | 9  | 9  | 0  | 9   |

|                       |     |     |    |     |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Southwest             | 45  | 47  | 2  | 33  |
| Tennessee/Mississippi | 8   | 8   | 0  | 12  |
| Texas/Louisiana       | 17  | 17  | 0  | 26  |
| Vermont               | 3   | 3   | 0  | 15  |
| Wisconsin             | 9   | 9   | 0  | 15  |
| Total                 | 458 | 480 | 22 | 710 |

### Top Performing Departments (by Awards Presented)

These departments led the Order in program execution.

| Department           | Awards Presented |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Chesapeake           | 67               |
| Southwest            | 47               |
| California & Pacific | 41               |
| Missouri             | 31               |
| Arkansas             | 30               |

Analysis: The Department of Chesapeake was the clear leader in overall awards, more than doubling the program average. The Southwest, California & Pacific, Missouri, and Arkansas departments also demonstrated robust programs with high levels of engagement.

### Top Performers by Cadet Program

Performance is also measured by engagement with specific cadet programs, particularly the JROTC and senior ROTC units.

Most JROTC Awards Presented:

1. Chesapeake: 62 awards
2. Southwest: 44 awards
3. California & Pacific: 36 awards

Most ROTC Awards Presented:

4. Arkansas: 10 awards
5. Colorado & Wyoming: 9 awards
6. Missouri: 7 awards

Analysis: The JROTC program remains a primary focus of the awards, with departments like Chesapeake and Southwest showing exceptional success. In the senior ROTC category, Arkansas and Colorado & Wyoming are leading the way, demonstrating strong connections with universities in their regions.

### Significant Contributions

Several departments deserve special recognition for their initiative and resilience.

- Missouri: Served as a model for proactive outreach, dramatically increasing their awards and leading the nation in ROTC presentations. They also created their own fillable PDF certificates when official ones were unavailable.



- Georgia / South Carolina: Demonstrated excellent local process management by proactively emailing schools with the required forms, resolving fulfillment issues from prior years.
- Wisconsin: Showcased resourcefulness by creating and printing their own certificates to fulfill last-minute requests, ensuring no cadet went unrecognized during a period of national supply shortages.

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#### ◆ Successes (What Went Right) ◆

Despite the challenges, several positive themes emerged this year that provide a strong foundation for future growth.

- Improved Materials and Processes: Departments in Arkansas and Missouri, among others, praised the revised, easier-to-use Form 7. The fillable PDF certificate template was also highlighted as a key tool for professional presentations.
- Strong Local Engagement: Departments like Chesapeake and Georgia/South Carolina reported great participation from local camps, proving that proactive outreach and relationship-building with schools lead to increased award presentations.
- Effective National Support During Transition: Multiple departments credited the incoming National team for stepping in to resolve issues and ensure the program's continuity after a period of unresponsiveness from the previous coordinator.

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#### ◆ Challenges (What Went Wrong) ◆

It is crucial to acknowledge the significant operational difficulties faced this year to prevent their recurrence.

- Communication breakdown at National Level: A lack of communication from the former National ROTC Coordinator was the most cited issue, leading to widespread confusion, missed deadlines, and a near halt of the program.
- Logistical and Supply Chain Issues: Departments experienced widespread issues receiving medals and certificates on time. Some received incorrect items (e.g., Jr. Membership badges instead of JROTC medals), while others faced a shortage of new certificates.
- Inconsistent Processes and Form Usage: Many schools and camps continued to use old forms or bypassed department coordinators, creating tracking difficulties. The requirement for a physical signature on a digital form was also a significant hurdle for instructors.
- Financial Burden on Coordinators: A recurring issue, noted by the New York and Tennessee/Mississippi departments, is the personal financial burden on coordinators for mailing awards, with no clear process for reimbursement.

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#### ◆ Recommendations for SY 2026-2027 ◆

To address the challenges and build on our successes, I propose the following actions for the upcoming school year.

- Standardize Program Title: Update the official title to "Cadet Award Program" to better reflect the inclusion of JROTC, CAP, and other deserving cadet organizations.
- Improve National Outreach: National should send Department Coordinators a list of schools in their area of responsibility with ROTC/JROTC programs.
- Streamline Logistics: Pre-position an adequate supply of medals and certificates with each department by January, based on their projections. Furthermore, the award certificate should be modified to include a blank line for "type of award" reducing the need for multiple certificate versions.
- Enhance Communication: Implement regular (e.g., quarterly) online meetings with all Department Cadet Award Coordinators to ensure alignment on processes and timelines.
- Establish Financial Policy: The National Organization must establish a clear policy and process for reimbursing Department Coordinators for shipping and other program-related expenses.
- Support New Coordinators: A comprehensive welcome packet and "best practices" guide should be created and distributed to new coordinators to outline roles, responsibilities, and timelines.

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Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



Roger L. Leturno, PDC  
National ROTC Awards Coordinator & Assistant National Quartermaster

National Battle Flag Preservation Officer, Ed Norris, PCinC

The Facebook page is now at 4,996 total followers. Postings have been made about the New York, Michigan, and Kansas flags in their restoration process. Some other flag related postings were also made.

**No recommendations.**

Editor of the Banner, James B. Pahl, PCinC,

As I submit this report, the Summer issue is in layout and should be in the hands of our printer soon. The Fall issue deadline is August 31. All other deadlines remain unchanged. **No recommendations.**

James B. Pahl, PCinC

Commanding Officer Sons of Veterans Reserve, Donald E. Darby, PCinC,

To: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers in attendance at 145<sup>th</sup> National Encampment

1. It has been an interesting year for the relationship between this administration and the Sons of Veterans Reserve. It all began with a misunderstanding regarding 2025 Remembrance Day payments and who was responsible.
2. As Commanding General I found out about the issue that arose at the Gettysburg CofA meeting AFTER the meeting was over. I immediately tried to contact the Commander-in-Chief via text, phone call voice message and email IMMEDIATELY following the meeting in November. I furthermore tried to find the minutes of the meeting on the SUVCW website to no avail. (The minutes were NOT posted until sometime in April 2025).
3. In April 2026 the Commander-in-Chief contacted me about the issue prior to the Springfield CofA meeting. Apparently, the National Treasurer was requesting that the SVR repay the SUVCW over \$4,000.00 for expenses that he believed we owed. At this time, and according to the Gettysburg CofA minutes the CofA discussed the matter but took no further action. (I explained the SVR position that we were tasked with running the Remembrance Day activities, including the Civil War Ball where the issue appeared AND the SUVCW would pay the expenses. This was the agreement when the SVR took over the Remembrance Day Activities with the late brother Henry Shaw carrying the load.) At that time the Commander-in-Chief told me to take NO ACTION until he figured out what was going on.
4. Shortly after the Springfield CofA at which time the CofA, according to the Springfield minutes, discussed the matter again with "no further action" the Commander-in-Chief informed me that the SVR should pay the overage. I then informed the Commander-in-Chief that the SVR could not pay the amount until the National Treasurer submitted an invoice to the SVR Adjutant General. Within two weeks the matter was cleared up.
5. I would like to point out that the SVR Provost Marshal solicited over \$8,000 for the Remembrance Day Parade in 2024, and had the funds sent to the SUVCW. This money basically replaced the funds that were set aside in the budget for Remembrance Day. Last year, 2025, the SVR raised only \$4,000 BECAUSE Brother Hann was taking care of family medical issues and could not "beat the drum in Gettysburg."
6. Also, over the last 9 years the Civil War Ball contributed approximately \$3,000 a year to the Gettysburg National Park. (That \$27,000.00 for you non-math majors). Which should have counted as "Charitable Contributions" for the SUVCW BUT NEITHER the SVR nor the SUVCW claimed that contribution. I believe both thought the other was claiming.

7. If anyone wishes to hear the story of how the SVR was given the Remembrance Day Activities, it will take more than the 3 minutes allotted, but I am available.

Donald E. Darby, Past-Commander-in-Chief  
Commanding General, SVR

## National Committee Reports

### National Committee on Program & Policy, Daniel Murray, PDC

We, the members of this committee, are honored to serve the Order in this capacity. We have updated forms, publications, policies and created guidelines for the continuance of the organization as directed by the Commander-in-Chief, Council of Administration and by the vote of the National Encampment.

The Committee is composed of the following members;

Daniel Murray, PDC Chair

Robert Payne, PDC

Leo Kennedy, PCinC

Tad Campbell, PCinC

Chip Huffman, PDC

Aide – Bobby Welch, PDC

The committee addressed several Form corrections, revisions and created a new Form.

These revised Forms approved by the Council of Administration were:

Form 7 – Cadet Award Application

Form 9 - Life Membership Application to reflect the voting at the National Encampment.

Form 12 - The changes were requested by PCinC Martin to improve the applications received. These were requested in Springfield, completed in June, and missed getting approval last year.

Form 27 - Camp Annual Report –

Form 30 - Camp Status Report – Change title to Brother's Status Report

Form 35 - Department Annual Report

Form 40 Camp Patriotic Instructor Report, Form 41 Department Patriotic Instructors Report and Form 42 National Patriotic Instructors Report all approved by the Council of Administration.

Form 71 - The Committee worked with the Promotion of the Order Committee to update the Form 71 Flag Facts Flyer.

The new Form approved by the Council of Administration was:

Form 20 - The Committee was tasked with coming up with a new Form and instructions for Licensing of SUVCW branded Merchandise.

Rituals and Ceremonies book - At the bottom of page 8 there is a note concerning election of officers that was updating to conform with the C&R., Chapter 1, Article V, Sections 2 & 3.

The P&P Committee corresponded multiple times since the Council of Administration meeting in Gettysburg.

The Committee created the certificate for the "New Birth of Freedom" Youth Essay Program sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The Committee created a new policy for the Commander in Chief for the Spirit of Fraternity award.

The Committee is currently working on updating Form 80 and also creating a new form for GAR articles

The Committee has sent 14 recommendations to the Constitution and Regulations Committee. The recommendations can be read in their entirety in the Constitution and Regulations Committee report.

**Recommendation 1. Regulations, Chapter III, Article IV.** Add the jobs that are not currently on the list of National Officers.

**Recommendation 2. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII.** Replace Section 23 with Cadet Awards Coordinator. Section 28 already covers the National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator

**Recommendation 3. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII.** Replace Section 34 with National Parliamentarian.

**Recommendation 4. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII.** Add New Section 35, The Liaison to the Cathedral of Pines.

**Recommendation 5. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII.** Renumber old Section 34 as new Section 36.

**Recommendation 6. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X.** Ebay Surveillance is listed under Section 1 but has no corresponding job description. Add new Section 22 for the committee's job description.

**Recommendation 7. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 1,** to read as amended at the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment – Change name of Promotions and Marketing Committee.

**Recommendation 8. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 19** to read as amended in red at the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment on Promotion of the Order

**Recommendation 9. Regulations, Chapter II, Article VIII., Section 3** amend job description of Department Counselor

**Recommendation 10. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII., Section 9** amend job description of National Counselor.

**Recommendation 11. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 1,** That the National Special Committee on Memorial University be made a standing committee.

**Recommendation 12. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII.** Add New Section 37, job description of Committee on Memorial University.

**Recommendation 13. Regulations, Chapter III Article X Section 1** that a permanent committee be formed and called National Graphics and Branding Committee, and add **Section 21** job description of Graphics and Branding Committee.

**Recommendation 14. Renumber Chapter III Article X old Section 21 as new Section 23.**

It was a pleasure to work with P&P Committee members PCinC Tad Campbell, PCinC Leo Kennedy, PDC Chip Huffman, and special thanks to PDC Robert Payne and Aide Bobby Welch for their abilities to make the actual Form changes.

## National Committee on Civil War Memorials and Monuments, Walter E. Busch, PDC

Chair Walter E. Busch, PDC E-Mail: [cwmemorials@suvcw.org](mailto:cwmemorials@suvcw.org)

Members: Ed Manak; Dean Enderlin, PDC; Rod Reber; Bruce Kolb

Group E-mail: [monuments\\_committee@suvcw.org](mailto:monuments_committee@suvcw.org)

Twenty-one pages of an input user's manual for the monuments database is, I guess, done. I guess, because only two people have responded upon review. One was Brother Dean Enderlin and the other was Sister Sandra Flores, WRC, who has been doing a lot of work on monuments in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas this past year. I had hope to be entirely complete with draft one by now but I am still dealing with my mom's estate and had to force myself to go for a 30-day cruise around Europe. However, I am in a good spot and it seems we may have a buyer for my mom's house, so executor issues may end this July.

I am sitting on 60 monuments of my own that still need to be completed from my late 2025 vacation to Georgia. Also, I have yet to review, edit and post a submission from Indiana and 9 reports from Kansas and Oklahoma that have just been submitted this week, but the database is up to date for everything else. Cudos to Sumner Hunnewell who has done 77 monuments this year so far. A roaring Huzzah for Sister Sandra Flores is the number one submitter this year with at least 96 being turned in. Brother Avery Frantz also deserves a hats-off for sending in some during his travels.

A completed manual on how to enter monuments and have some people (other than just Sumner Hunnewell) trained on entering monuments is set now to be finished before the 2027 national encampment. I think training can be done by Zoom. If any brother is interested in recording and entering monuments, he may contact me at [cwmemorials@suvcw.org](mailto:cwmemorials@suvcw.org). When I have a few members I will test my draft manual on them. Once some brothers have completed the training, the national signals officer said he can set up the logins (and protocols if needed) to get other members adding monuments.

Finally, Missouri has been working on preparing a monument for Real Son William Pool's grave. I prepared a design and have obtained pricing from an in-state company and Missouri's report should have more on this project.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Walt Busch, PDC

## National Committee on Communication and Technology, James P. McGuire, PDC

This year, the main issues that related to the committee were related to Headquarters technology. Notably, these items were renewal of the internet services and the subsequent recommendation and purchase of a replacement desktop computer when HQ's main hardware failed. These issues were resolved satisfactorily. Moving into 2026-2027, a new laptop needs to be procured for the National Encampment Credentials Committee, and we request a budget line of \$1500 to cover the expense of the laptop and necessary antivirus software & software licenses.

In the coming term, this committee should expect receipt of a proposal for the digitization of the organization's forms process for review and referral to the Council of Administration. The National Webmaster and I are assembling data from an array of providers and practices to determine what the high-level needs of the SUVCW are and what the roadmap to meeting these needs will be.

I thank the Members who have agreed to serve on this committee this year.

James P. McGuire, PDC Chair

## National Committee on Constitution & Regulations, Donald E. Darby, PCinC,

Commander-in-Chief and assembled Brothers. The Committee has received Resolution from the Programs and Policy Committee, as permitted by the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment, and the Department of Massachusetts, the Department of Rhode Island and the Department of South Carolina in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations Chapter VI, Amendment, Alterations and Additions, Article 1 Repealing Clauses and Amendments Section 2, page 168.

The Programs and Policy Committee submitted 14 resolutions. I have show the changes in red or script as I do not wish to cause the Order undue cost in having to print in color but still be able to show the changes. Let's begin with Programs and Policy resolutions.

**Recommendation 1: Regulations Chapter III, Article IV.** Add the jobs that are NOT currently on the list of National Officers. They are noted in red/script.

Article IV Officers, Section 1(a) The officers of the National Organization shall consist of a Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Quartermaster, five members of the Council of Administration (of which no two *can* be from the same Department), BANNER Editor, Organization Expansion Officer, National Battle Flag Preservation Officer, National Chaplain, National Chief of Staff, National Civil War Memorials Officer, National Counselor, National GAR Highway Officer, National GAR Records Officer, National Graves Registration Officer, National Historian, National Legislation Officer, National Membership-at-Large Coordinator, National Patriotic Officer, National Signals Officer, *National Parliamentarian, National Liaison to Cathedral of the Pines, National Cadet Awards Coordinator*, and a Washington DC Representative. The same member may hold the office of National Secretary and the office of National Treasurer simultaneously. (b) A dual member who seeks election to the Council of Administration must be a candidate from his primary or home department.

**Recommendation 2. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII.** Replace Section 23 as it is redundant. Section 28 covers National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator.

Section 23. The National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator shall recognize the advancement of young scouts belonging to the Boy Scouts of America to the rank of Eagle Scout; and maintain statistics of requests for Eagle Scout Certificates and maintain statistics on the presentation of Eagle Scout Certificates and shall perform such other duties as pertain to his office.

*Section 23. Cadet Award Coordinator*

*Acts as Assistant National Quartermaster, working specifically with Cadet Medals and certificates. Handles Form 7 requests, maintains the inventory for ROTC/Cadet medals, Issues Cadet Award Certificates, ensures the proper ordering of Cadet Medals, in sufficient quantities to fulfill the yearly requests preferably ordered in June to support the coming year. Maintains a true record of medals and certificates issued.*

**Recommendation 3. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII.** Replace Section 34.

*Section 34. The National Parliamentarian's primary role is to advise on parliamentary procedure. They assist the presiding officer, typically the chair, by providing guidance on rules and procedures during meetings. Here are key responsibilities:*

***Advisory Role:** Offer advice on questions of parliamentary procedure when requested by the presiding officer. However, only the presiding officer has the authority to make rulings on procedural matters.*

***Facilitator:** Help with the completion and review of Regulations ensuring compliance with established rules.*

***Mentorship:** Educate members on parliamentary procedures.*

***Documentation:** Maintain a copy of current Regulation and ensure all members are aware of them.*

***Meeting support:** Assist the presiding officer in keeping meetings organized, which may include managing speaker lists and timekeeping.*

**Recommendation 4. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII.** Add New Section 35.

*Section 35. The Liaison to the Cathedral of the Pines acts as the primary contact for and representative of the National Organization during the Memorial Day exercises held annually on May 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*The Cathedral of the Pines is a national sacred memorial landscape and interfaith outdoor sanctuary – combining natural beauty, military remembrance, and a universal call for peace, located in Rindge, New Hampshire, at the base of Mount Monadnock. It is an open-air cathedral set within a forest of Pine trees, designed as a place for reflection, worship, remembrance, and public ceremonies rather than a traditional enclosed church.*

*Recognized by the Congress of the United States as the Alter of the Nation as a national memorial honoring fallen service members, with monuments and dedications representing all branches of the U.S. military, allied nations, victims of war and terrorism, advocates of peace and reconciliation. Included in the structure of the altar is a stone from each of the Allied Orders. The Commander-in-Chief has appointed a representative for him at the Memorial Observance at the Altar of the Nation at the Cathedral of the Pines since 1957.*

**Recommendation 5. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII.** Renumber old Section 34 as new Section 36.

*Section 34-36 All officers and committee members of the National Organization shall promptly turn over to their successors all the property of the National Organization in their possession, taking receipts, therefore.*

**Recommendation 6. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X.** Ebay Surveillance is listed under Section 1 but has no corresponding job description. Add new Section 22 for the committee's job description.:

*Section 22. Ebay Surveillance is changed with:*

- 1. Monitoring Ebay and Facebook Marketplace for historical items with ownership vested in the GAR or SUVCCW. Items include, but not limited to, Charters, Grave Markers, and Post/Camp flags.*
- 2. Monitoring Ebay and Facebook Marketplace for Commercially produced items that violate the copyright of the SUVCCW.*
- 3. Reporting items discovered to the governing body of the selling site to request their removal.*
- 4. Contacting the seller in an attempt to have them remove the item for sale and attempt to acquire the items for the Order*

**Recommendation 7. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 1, to read as amended at the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment**

*Section 1. The **Standing Committees** of the National Organization shall be as follows: Programs and Policy, Civil War Memorials and Monuments, Communication and Technology, Constitution and Regulations, Encampment Credentials, Encampment Site, Fraternal Relations, GAR Post Records, History, Life Membership Investment, Lincoln Tomb Observance, Membership, Military Affairs, Civil War Memorial Grant Fund, Ebay Surveillance, Scholarships, **Promotion of the Order**, and vision and Planning. In the discretion of the Committee Chair, the committee meetings may be held as virtual meetings or provide virtual participation to in-person meetings. Committees at any level of the Order shall only consider matters properly referred to them by proper authority. Each item must be reported back to the appointing authority with the committee's recommendation to adopt, reject, refer, or other appropriate action.*

**Recommendation 8. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 19 to read as amended in red at the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment**

*Section 19, The purpose/mission of the National Committee on Promotion and ~~Marketing~~ **of the Order** is to expand awareness and visibility of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and its activities and its brand to the broadest possible audience of organizations and individuals, through:*



1. An increased active social media presence.
2. Develop and implementation of active advertising campaigns.
3. Develop of Marketing tools, press releases, and public educational campaigns.
4. ~~To increase our~~ *An increased* visibility in mutual growth areas such as Genealogical Groups, Preservation Associations and Veterans Organizations.
5. Generate articles, essays and short story series to be offered for publication in free publications such as AARP Periodicals, Historical Newsletters, Genealogical Publications, and other monthly or quarterly magazines, newsletters or publications.
6. Working with other programs and committees to generate a more cohesive and strengthen overall brand.
7. ~~Develop a more efficient and effective campaign to develop, market and sell items to generate funding for programs and projects~~ *Promotion of the Order to K-12 Schools, Colleges, and universities, developing resopurces and curriculum educations materials in areas of the American Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic.*

**Recommendation 9. Regulations, Chapter II, Article VIII, Section 3** to be amended as seen in *red/script*: Section 3. Counselor. The Department Counselor shall act as ~~a legal~~ advisor of the Department Commander and the Department.

- a. The Department Counselor shall advise the Commander and the Department on such ~~legal~~ issues as may come before them.
- b. The Department Counselor shall, upon the request of the Department Commander, provide advice and interpretation of the Department's bylaws, the Orders Constitution and Regulations, ~~and on parliamentary questions.~~

**Recommendation 10. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII, Section 9** to be amended as seen in *red/script*. Section 9. The National Counselor shall act as the ~~legal~~ advisor of the Commander-in-Chief and the National Organization. He shall render advice and interpretation to the National Organization upon request on issues arising from questions concerning the Order's Constitution and Regulations ~~and on parliamentary procedures.~~ He serves as a non-voting member of the Council of Administration. The National Counselor shall prepare and submit annually to the Editor of the BANNER (for publishing in the BANNER) a listing of all opinions and interpretations regarding the Order's Constitution and Regulations rendered by the National Counselor.

**Recommendation 11. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 1.** That the National Special Committee on Memorial University by made a Standing Committee. To be amended as seen in *red/script*.

Section 1. The ~~Standing Committees~~ of the National Organization shall be as follows: Programs and Policy, Civil War Memorials and Monuments, Communication and Technology, Constitution and Regulations, Encampment Credentials, Encampment Site, Fraternal Relations, GAR Post Records, Graves Registration, History, Life Membership Investment, Lincoln Tomb Observance, Membership, Military Affairs, Civil war Memorial Grant Fund, Ebay Surveillance, Scholarships, Promotion of the Order, *Memorial University* and Vision and Planning. In the discretion of the Committee Chair, committee meetings may be held as virtual meetings or provide virtual participation to in-person meetings. Committees at any level of the Order shall only consider matters properly referred to them by proper authority. Each item must be reported back to the appointing authority with committee's recommendation to adopt, reject, refer or other appropriate action.

**Recommendation 12. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII.** Add New Section 37

*Committee on Memorial University*

1. *Establish, refine, and maintain the Memorial university webpage. A page established at: <https://www.suvcwmu.org/> and linked seamlessly to the national website. The Introduction course and other additions to the course catalog and reference library were made. The committee has adopted a framework of three learning levels (Camp, Department, National), each with its own program of study.*
2. *Develop a basic leadership course, re: SUVCW's 2020 Vision Statement the Course will enhance leadership and team building, recruiting, retention, techniques for acclimating members, recognizing and solving problems, and understanding group dynamics.*
3. *The Memorials University will be responsible for tracking and issuing Memorial University Certificates and Pins for the Training Officers Course.*

**Recommendation 13. Chapter III Article X, Section 1** Strike the word “and” before Vision and Planning and insert *and Graphics and Branding*” at the end of the sentence.

**Chapter III Article X, Section 21.** *The National Graphics and Branding Committee, a subcommittee of and reporting to, the Programs and Policy Committee, shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, and protecting the visual identity, public image, and official trademarks of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War of the United States. The Committee ensures that all visual communications accurately reflect the values, history and professionalism of the organization. The duties to the committee shall include but are not limited to:*

1. *Developing and updating an official Brand Style Guide that dictates the proper use of the organization’s crest, letters, logos, colors and typography.*
2. *Designing and distributing official graphics to be used for marketing and recruiting materials, social media outlets, and external communications.*
3. *Reviewing and updating as necessary, all currently used graphics, artwork, and logos.*
4. *Reviewing and approving all designs for apparel, merchandise, and promotional items produced by or for the organization to ensure compliance with established brand standards and these regulations, prior to approval by the National Council of Administration.*
5. *Ensuring that historical symbols, crests, and imagery are used and with appropriate reverence.*
6. *Working in coordination with the National Council of Administration to file for, and actively maintain all registered trademarks, service marks, and copyrights associated with the Organization’s name, acronyms, historical seals, crest, logos, crests and artwork in a vector format.*

**Recommendation 14. Renumber old Section 21 as new 23.**

#### **End Programs and Policies Resolutions**

##### **Department of Rhode Island Resolution**

The 142<sup>nd</sup> Department Encampment of the Department of Rhode Island submitted a Resolution that was put forth by the Major Sullivan Ballou Camp 3.

It reads in part

“ In our Constitution and Regulations, states that “Any Brother serving as Camp Secretary or Camp Treasurer continuously in office for a period of ten years may have conferred upon him the rank of Past Camp Commander with its voting privileges at Department Encampments” (Chapter II Departments, Article II Membership, Section 1 (a) and “A Department Secretary or Treasurer holding office continuously for ten consecutive years may have bestowed on him the rank of Past Department Commander with its voting privileges at the National Encampment” (Chapter III National, Article II, Membership, Section 1). In both sections there are footnotes for clarifications stating that these Brothers can NOT wear the current Past Camp or Department Commanders Badge. We hope to rectify with this resolution as we have at least 2 well esteemed Brothers in our Department who have not received this honor and respect that they have earned and greatly deserve because of these rulings.

We would like to create 2 new badges, authorized for wear by Brothers who have earned the PCC/PDC Honors as commonly referred to as the “Hard Way” or serving ten consecutive years as Camp/Department Secretary or Treasurer. These badges would have the same drop as the standard Past Camp and Past Department Commander, but instead of having the ribbon that is standard for Past Camp and Department Commander badges, these badges would have a ribbon consisting of three (3) stripes of equal width, one a solid Red stripe, one solid White stripe and one a solid Blue Stripe. The ribbon would go to show the difference in how the PCC/PDC honors were earned.

To accommodate the new medals, we would also like to amend the Constitution and Regulations of our Order to add the following lines to Chapter V (General Regulations, Article VI (Badges and Medals) Section 3.

*New line: Chapter V Article VI Section 3: Past Camp Commander Honors Badge (Sec/Tres) “ Brother who have served the necessary ten (10) consecutive years as Camp Secretary or Camp Treasurer are entitled to wear this badge. This badge shall have a ribbon of a solid Red stripe, a solid White stripe and a solid Blue stripe without top bar and the drop shall be the Iron Cross of the Order, with insignia of the Order affixed in the center of the iron cross. A miniature Past Camp Commander Honors Badge (Sec/TRES) Badge with above mentioned ribbon that is 5/8 inch in width may be worn in accordance with Article III.*

*New line: Chapter V Article VI Section 3 Subsection (New) T. “Past Department Commander Honors Badge (Sec/Tres).” Brother who served the necessary ten (10) years consecutive years as Department Secretary or*

*Department Treasurer are entitled to wear this badge. This badge shall have a ribbon of a solid Red stripe, a solid White stripe, and a solid Blue stripe without top bar. The drop shall be the sterling silver cross of the Order, with Jewel. A miniature Past Department Commander Badge with regulation ribbon 5/8 inch in width may be worn in accordance with Article III.*

End Rhode Island Resolution.

#### **Massachusetts Resolution.**

Article VII of the Constitution Membership, Section 2. Associates paragraph (a) states “ There shall be two classes of Associates.

( Associates are males, a person who was biologically male at birth, at least fourteen (14) years of age who does not meet the qualifications stipulated in Article III of this Constitution and Section 5 of the Articles of Incorporation but otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization. And

Whereas paragraph © states

“© The combined number of Associates and Junior Associates in any Camp shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total roster of the Camp at the time of election. At no time during a meeting of a Camp, a Department or the National Organization shall business be transacted if the number of Associates in attendance exceeds forty-nine per cent (49%) of the total attendance then present at said meeting.”

Whereas it is in the best interests of Departments to engage with potential members who do not meet membership requirements,

And

Whereas, there are potentially associates who would like to join our Order but are prohibited by the “not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total roster of the Camp” restriction

Therefore, be it resolved; that the SUVCW Constitution, Article VII, Membership, Section 2 Associates Paragraph c be amended as follows:

Change paragraph © which currently reads

c. The combined number of Associates in any Camp shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total roster of the Camp at the time of election. At no time during a meeting of a Camp, a Department or the National Organization shall business be transacted if the number of Associates in attendance exceeds forty-nine (49%) of the total attendance then present at said meeting.

To read:

c. The combined number of Associates and Junior Associates in any Camp shall not exceed *the number of members* of the Camp at the time of election. At no time during a meeting of a Camp, a Department , or the National Organization be transacted if the number of Associates exceeds forty-nine per cent (49%) of the total attendance at said meeting. *The total number of Associates in the Department must not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total Department Roster at the time of the Department Encampment.*

End Massachusetts resolution.

#### **Georgia and South Carolina Resolution**

##### **Resolution concerning adding Assistant Department Secretary and Assistant Department Treasurer positions to the Charter, Constitution and Regulations**

Whereas the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is committed to the efficient administration and the effective transitional continuity of the Order and

Whereas the failure of either Department Treasurer or Department Secretary to complete their respective term of office can occur for a variety of reasons, and any corresponding failure of a Department to have Brothers who are trained and ready to assume these duties on short notice can create a significant hardship for the smooth and orderly operation of the Department, and

Whereas it has been the practice of some Departments to combine the Department Secretary/Treasurer role, whereby these Departments thereby often fail to develop other Brothers in advance who are ready to immediately step into either of these roles without notice or due to unforeseen resignations of the incumbents, and where the resignation of a Secretary/Treasurer can create unforeseen hardship for a Department where two critical positions thereby become vacant concurrently; and

Whereas administrative workload on both the Department Secretary and Department Treasurer positions is significant and given the mission-critical nature of both positions to a Department, the consequences of losing Department functionality from either (or both) of the incumbent Brother(s) not serving an entire term of office



results in the Department Forms and other important deliverables not being completed or turned in to National on time, access to Department funds being interrupted, and Department historical records not being maintained or even accessible for extended periods of time; and

Whereas, modifying language in the Chart. Constitution & Regulations to make it standard or required practice for a Department Commander to appoint an Assistant Department Treasurer and an Assistant Secretary addresses all major risks the Order faces today when either Department Treasurer and/or Department Secretary are unable to perform their duties for a given term of office.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved *that the National Encampment of the Sons of Union veterans of the Civil War remove Section 4 – Assistant Department Secretary from Article IX – Optional Officer Jobs Descriptions & Duties, Chapter II – Departments from the C&R, and to remove the clause “and may appoint an Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, whichever is in keeping with the office within the individual department.” From Chapter II -Departments, Article VI Elected Officers Section 2; and*

And be it further resolved *That the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War add to Chapter II – Departments, Article, Article VIII – Appointment of Officers – Job Descriptions & Duties, Section 11 – Assistant Department Secretary (The Purpose of this position is to assist the Department Secretary in all duties as directed by the Department Secretary and to serve as interim Department Secretary should the Department Secretary become unable to perform during his term of office”) and Section 12 – Assistant Department Treasurer (“The purpose of this position is to assist the Department Treasurer in all duties as directed by the Department Treasurer and to serve as interim Department Treasurer should the Department Treasurer become unable to perform during his term of office”)*

End Georgia & South Carolina Resolution.

#### **Department of Ohio Resolution**

Whereas the cost of printing, distribution and mailing of a physical hardcopy of the BANNER continues to increase, due to the cost of paper, ink, and related cost; and

Whereas the annual cost of said printing, distribution and mailing is approximately \$59,000.00; and

Whereas the elimination of printing, distribution and mailing costs could result in a larger more informative BANNER publication; and

Whereas any funds saved by the adoption of this resolution could be redirected to further the mission of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in ways more directly supporting the legacy of the same;

Now Therefore be it resolved *that the Department of Ohio recommends the distribution of the BANNER be solely by electronic means, including but not limited to email distribution and/or by posting the digital document on the National website, thereby effectively eliminating the production of a physical copy of the BANNER.*

Chairman’s note: Acceptance of this resolution would cause changes to Chapter III National Organization Article VII Officer Job Descriptions Section 18 BANNER Editor Page 101 of the C&R.

End Ohio Resolution.

#### **National Committee on Encampment Credentials, John Dupre’, PDC**

We have processed 150 pre registration forms with checks forwarded to the national secretary. About one in ten brothers have responded to the email confirmation of their registration being received.

One registered brother has since cancelled.

We have forwarded an alphabetized list to Michael Paquette chair of the host committee who will issue name tags and lanyards at the encampment.

All registrations are being inputted into a spreadsheet and should allow the required reports to be produced efficiently when needed.

I am endeavoring to set up an online meeting with the other members of the committee, Walt Busch, Thomas Brown, Dan Rittel and Tony Howell. So far Brothers Brown and Rittel have registered. Brother Busch will not be attending this year. We need to determine a work schedule to man the credentials table from 4 PM on Thursday and 7:30 AM both Friday and Saturday we will probably need assistance from non-committee members.

I have reviewed pages 122 and 123 of the C&R which explain the duties of the Credentials Committee and its’ members and have encouraged the other members to review it.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the 2026 Credentials Committee.  
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
John Dupre' PDC  
Committee Chair 2026

## National Encampment Site Committee, Michael Paquette, PCinC,

Commander-in-Chief,

The following report is submitted on behalf of the National Encampment Site Committee (NESC).

A contract for the 2028 National Encampment was signed with the Wyndham Indianapolis Airport Hotel. The encampment will be held in Indianapolis August 9 – 13, 2028. The Department of Indiana is very excited to be hosting the encampment.

The Department of Michigan has expressed a interest in hosting the 2029 National Encampment and is researching hotels in the Grand Rapids area. The NESC will visit these hotels in the Fall of 2026.

The NESC continues to meet with members of the Pennsylvania Department and Department of the Chesapeake who are assisting with the 2026 National Encampment in Gettysburg. The tour, polo shirt, medal, encampment badge, campfire entertainment, banquet and lunch selections have all been published set and published in the Banner and on the National website. A few minor items remain to be purchased, but all else is in readiness for the National Encampment. Special thanks to Host committee members; John Huffman, Nick Kaup, Kevin Martin, Michael Peter, Steve Johnston, Trevor Taylor, Rosemary Martin, and Ann McMillin, for ensuring all preparations have gone smoothly. We anticipate more than ample support from members of the Pennsylvania Department and Department of the Chesapeake in support of the execution phase of the encampment.

The committee currently has no recommendations.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Michael Paquette, PCinC

## National Committee on Fraternal Relations, George Huttick, PDC

### Status:

- The Committee consists of:
  - George Andrew Huttick, PDC, Chair
  - John M. Huffman Jr
  - Tom Wing
  - Frank Avilla, PDC
  - W. Mark Clark
- The Committee did not formally meet during the quarter
- Positive contact was made with the following Orders during the Lincoln Tomb Ceremonies
  - Auxiliary to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War
  - Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865
    - Please note: the former DUVCW has had a minor name change, and the 1861-1865 adder is important to them. We should include it when communicating to these sisters.
- Invitations to attend activities around our National Encampment sent to:
  - Women's Relief Corp
  - Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic
  - Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865
  - Auxiliary to the SUVCW
  - Sons of Confederate Veterans
  - United Daughters of the Confederacy
  - Members if the Loyal Legion (MOLLUS)
- We recently found a contact for:
  - National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865
- During this year, we were unable to find contacts for

- Military Order of the Stars and Bars
- CC&R also calls out the following groups, yet we can find no online presence to contact their leadership
  - National Order of the Blue and Gray
  - GAR Memorial Association
  - Society of the Grand Army of the Republic

**Recommendations:**

None at this time.

**Upcoming known events of other groups to report:**

- Women's Relief Corp
  - Convention in July – dates TBD.
- Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic
  - Encampment 7-9 August 2026 – Bedford PA
- ASUVCW – National Encampment in Gettysburg concurrent to our National Encampment
- Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 – 2026 Convention – 22-26 July 2026, Springfield IL
- Sons of Confederate Veterans – 131<sup>st</sup> National Reunion – 15-19 July 2026 – Lexington, KY  
(<https://131scv.org/index.html>)

**Next steps:**

- Support any changes to this Committee if needed.
- Establish the 2026-2027 contacts for each of the groups. Many are going through changes of command.
- Continue more personal contact with the groups
- Understand the ongoing tensions with some of the other Orders and determine what steps may be taken to mend fences.
  - Provide recommendations by next report
- Provide a strategy to help Camps and Departments to understand how to respectfully interact with other Orders. Seemingly simple faux pas can be taken very seriously.
- Develop contact with the Order of the Confederate Rose (OCR) – an organization that works closer with the Sons of Confederate Camps.
- Work with Signal Corps to help promote the other (mostly Allied) Orders

Respectfully Submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
George Andrew Huttick, PDC, Chair

National Committee on Grand Army of the Republic Post Records, Dean A. Enderlin,  
PDC

Progress Report and Accomplishments for the 2025-2026 Administrative Year

**GAR Records Blog:** Since December 2019, our committee has been using an invitation-only blog on Blogger as a forum for communication outside of email. Previously, we had been using a group on Yahoo! which was discontinued as a service in 2019. The Blogger site continues to serve as our archive for reports. Most routine communication takes place via email.

**GAR Records website:** The GAR Records website continues to perform exceptionally well, and its contents are now being cited in artificial intelligence searches (such as Google AI Mode). One of our housekeeping tasks this year was to restore a secure sockets layer (SSL) to the site. Most modern browsers now issue warnings about entering any website that does not begin with the prefix "HTTPS." Ours originally had it, but when National shifted the main website over to another platform (separate from ours), our site reverted back to standard (HTTP) security. The matter was resolved in March 2026, thanks to the support of CinC Kevin Tucker and National Signals Officer Jamie McGuire. Our current web address has been restored to: <https://www.garrecords.org>

**Department GAR Records Officer:** Since the 2020 adoption of the revised SUVCW Form 49, which included for the first time a line item for the Department GAR Records Officer, we have seen general improvement in the

number of Departments reporting an appointment to this office. Last year, 66% of our Departments reported a Department GAR Records Officer. Six Form 49s for 2026 had not yet been forwarded to the National GAR Records Officer by the deadline for submitting this report, so we are unable to report accurate progress at this time. We will follow up with a finalized analysis in our next report to the Council of Administration.

The following table shows the status of Departments who have and have not confirmed their GAR Records Officer (as of July 2026). Our thanks go to all the Departments who have filled the office!

| Status of Departments with a Named GAR Records Officer |                       |                |                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Department                                             | Reported Form 49      | Department     | Reported Form 49      |
| ALABAMA                                                | (Vacant)              | MICHIGAN       | Gary L. Gibson, PDC   |
| ARKANSAS                                               | Paul Dolle            | MISSOURI       | Walter E. Busch, PDC  |
| CALIFORNIA & PACIFIC                                   | David A. Davis*       | NEBRASKA       | Marc Witkovski        |
| CHESAPEAKE                                             | (Vacant)              | NEW HAMPSHIRE  | (Vacant)              |
| COLORADO/WYOMING                                       | James M. Barker, PDC* | NEW JERSEY     | Dylan Wettstein       |
| COLUMBIA                                               | Loran T. Bures, PDC*  | NEW YORK       | (Vacant)              |
| CONNECTICUT                                            | (Vacant)              | NORTH CAROLINA | (Vacant)              |
| FLORIDA                                                | Ryan Estes            | OHIO           | Richard A. Davis, PDC |
| GEORGIA & SOUTH CAROLINA                               | Timothy Barlow        | OKLAHOMA       | Kevin D. White        |
| ILLINOIS                                               | Brian Conroy*         | PENNSYLVANIA   | (Vacant)*             |
| INDIANA                                                | Bruce R. Kolb, PDC    | RHODE ISLAND   | Scott Reese           |
| IOWA                                                   | Daniel F. Rittel      | SOUTHWEST      | David A. Swanson, PDC |
| KANSAS                                                 | Boone O. Dodson       | TENNESSEE      | Hughston Burnheimer   |
| KENTUCKY                                               | (Vacant)              | TEXAS          | Michael L. Lance, PDC |
| MAINE                                                  | (Vacant)              | VERMONT        | (Vacant)              |
| MASSACHUSETTS                                          | (Vacant)              | WISCONSIN      | John R. Decker, PDC*  |

\* Copy of Form 49 not available to confirm 2026 appointment. Entry is based on 2025 information.

**National Policy Regarding Loans, etc.:** A critical matter resulting from the issuance of a new National Policy was brought to the attention of the National GAR Records Committee in late August 2024. Titled, "Policy regarding the loan and/or deposit of artifacts and any and all object, including, but not limited to, charters, memorabilia, ephemera, etc.," the 2024 policy was accompanied by a new form (Form 80) and General Order (No. 22, Series 2023-24). The combined effect of the three documents led to unintended consequences affecting the GAR Records program. In particular, it prevented the donation of GAR records to suitable local institutions, as directed by other SUVCW regulations. A full explanation of the issues, and recommendations to temporarily resolve them, was provided in our report to the Council of Administration in November 2024. In response to our recommendations, which were supported by the Departments of Iowa and the Columbia, the Council of Administration and CinC Kevin Martin acted on the matter in November 2024, issuing General Order No. 7 and directing the National Committee on Program & Policy (P&P) to review the matter.

A review of the rescinded "Loan/Deposit" Policy and Form 80 is currently underway by the P&P Committee. SVCinC Daniel Murray (chair of the committee) contacted our committee on 20 May 2026 to advise us that the review had begun, and that the P&P Committee was requesting our input. We responded that we would be glad to assist. In an email dated 28 June 2026, Brother Murray informed our committee that it is expected that two forms will most likely be created to address the differences in the handling of GAR and SUVCW records. The matter is complex, and Brother Murray reported that the final products would not be ready for approval by the time of the National Encampment. Our committee fully supports a methodical approach to the matter, and appreciates the efforts of the P&P Committee to address it through a thoughtful and thorough process. We are in full agreement with the idea of separating the handling of GAR vs. SUVCW records into two forms, and look forward to collaborating with the incoming P&P Committee in the 2026-2027 administrative year to continue this review.

**Status of Previous National Encampment and Administrative Actions Relating to GAR Records:**

| Year | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Action    | Status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024 | <b>Recommendation from Nat'l GAR Records Committee:</b> That the CofA work with the CinC to issue a new General Order rescinding items 1 and 3 of General Order No. 22, Series 2023-2024, until such time as the "Loan/Deposit Policy" (and its associated Form 80) can be further examined and modified as necessary to remove verbiage that might be in conflict with the SUVCW Congressional Charter, the GAR Deed of Conveyance, and sections within the SUVCW Constitution and Regulations (particularly National Policies) that pertain to the handling of GAR records).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Completed | <b>COMPLETE.</b> Heard and acted upon at the 17 Nov. 2024 CofA Meeting. Motion passed: Yes 11 votes, No 0 votes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2024 | <b>Recommendation from Nat'l GAR Records Committee</b> That the CofA remand the "Loan/Deposit Policy" to the National Committee on Program & Policy for further review, so that a new policy (or policies) and form (or forms) can be crafted to account for the separate and distinctly different conditions of ownership as they apply to SUVCW versus GAR records.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Completed | <b>COMPLETE.</b> Heard and acted upon at the 17 Nov. 2024 CofA Meeting. Motion passed: Yes 11 votes, No 0 votes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2025 | <b>General Order No. 7, Series 2024-2025 issued</b> in follow-up to the 17 Nov. 2025 actions of the Council of Administration. The following items pertain to GAR records:<br>1) Sections 1 and 3 of General Order #22, Series 2023 – 2024, Policy Loan and/or Deposit of Artifacts Policy Vendor Tables Deposit Agreement Form 80 is rescinded.<br><br>2) The National Committee on Program & Policy is instructed to conduct a thorough review of the rescinded National Policy regarding the loan and/or deposit of artifacts and any and all objects including, but not limited to, Charters, memorabilia, ephemera, etc. along with the rescinded Form 80 and report their findings and recommendations to the Council of Administration. The National Committee on Program & Policy is encouraged to consult with National Officers and Committees along with subject matter experts who may provide relevant input germane to the issue. | Pending   | <b>UNDER REVIEW.</b> General Order issued by CinC Martin. The National Committee on Program & Policy began a review in 2026, and plans to continue it into the 2026-2027 administrative year. The current thought is to split the policy that applies to GAR vs. SUVCW items on loan or deposit into two forms, to address the different ownership factors that apply to each. |

**GAR Records Project Five-Year Plan (2022-2027):** The National Committee on GAR Records is guided by an action plan, which is considered by the National Encampment every five years. The current plan was presented and approved at the 141st National Encampment (2022). Progress toward each of the action items is presented below.

1) Routinely manage the GAR Records website (www.GARrecords.org) and online GAR Records Catalog. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**

2) Continue to expand the GAR Records website content to include:

- Separate historical summaries for individual GAR posts, including but not limited to meeting locations, dates of muster and disbandment, details of consolidation with other posts, and any other noteworthy facts. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**
- Links to other SUVCW web pages (Camps and Departments) containing GAR Records information. **[STATUS: Links are added upon request, or when links of interest are discovered by the National GAR Records Officer.]**
- Links to other online resources of interest, such as digitized library collections. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**
- Relevant bibliographic references. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**

3) Continue to encourage and assist SUVCW Departments and Camps in developing and/or expanding their respective GAR Records programs. Support actions to include:

- Preparation of a handbook to provide guidance in searching for and cataloging GAR records. **[STATUS: Sections of the handbook are in preparation, but little progress was made this year.]**
- Providing personal guidance, as needed, to Department GAR Records Officers and other individuals when needed. **[STATUS: Ongoing and growing rapidly.]**

4) Expand public awareness and involvement in the GAR Records Program. Actions to include:

- Creation and/or participation in an online forum or message board that is specific to the topic of GAR records. **[STATUS: The "Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)" group on Facebook currently serves this function, although it is unofficial. It is an invitation-only group co-administered by committee member Bob Wolz, while others on our committee are members. Brother James R. Hanby is also an administrator.]**
- Encouraging local libraries, museums, genealogical and historical societies, veterans' organizations, and other holders of GAR records collections to index and publish the contents of their collections. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**
- Support efforts (both within the SUVCW and external to our organization) to digitize and make publicly available collections of GAR records. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**

**Vision 2030 Strategic Plan Response:** In its report to the 2022 National Encampment, the National Committee on Vision and Planning summarized strides toward achieving the goals of the "Vision 2020" strategic plan, and proposed new goals for the current "Vision 2030" strategic plan. Under the heading of Research, it was noted:

*During the 2010's, the GAR post records project completed listings for all GAR posts in 50 states, the District of Columbia and international posts, and documented at least one record for approximately 20-25% of the posts in the database. However, in the states of the former Confederacy, only 3% of the posts had at least one record documented. [141<sup>st</sup> National Encampment Committee Reports, p. 70]*

Tracking metrics were added to our existing spreadsheets in August 2023 to help measure progress toward achieving the "Vision 2030" goals. A table summarizing the goals, status at the beginning and end of this administrative year, and target date is presented below.

| Initiative       | Goal                                                                                                                                                 | Status August 2025 | Status August 2026 | Target Date |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| GAR Post Records | At least one record documented for 40% of GAR posts in database.                                                                                     | 47%                | 47%                | Aug. 2030   |
|                  | At least one record documented for 10% of GAR posts in states of the former Confederacy (11 states: AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, and VA). | 26%                | 26%                | Aug. 2030   |

Note: The above metrics don't take into account GAR departmental collections in which the contents have not been individually described. Large, uninventoried collections of GAR materials, such as those in Iowa,

Massachusetts, and Ohio, are examples. Although numerous newly discovered collections of records were added to the catalog over the past year, the overall progress statistics remain the same as last year.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**None.**

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,  
Dean A. Enderlin, PDC, Chairman

#### **National Committee on Graves Registration, Henry Duquette, PDC**

Combined report included in National Graves Registration Officer Report.

#### **National Committee on Membership, Robert Payne, PDC**

##### **Membership Committee Report**

I didn't hold any formal meetings with all of the Department Junior Vice-Commanders, I communicated with many about potential new members and received some localized recruiting strategies.

The best being wearing something that will help with a conversation starter that will help engage someone that you may be able to open the conversation about being in the SUVCW. The brother who was talking about this has brought in at least 6 brothers recently using this method.

As Chairman of the Membership Committee, I received many inquiries through the Membership Request Form, Facebook, and the Quartermaster Store. These were then forwarded to the appropriate Departments, with many follow-up emails. As of the writing of this report, I have received more than 250 inquiries concerning our order.

| <b>Department</b>        | <b>Inquiries</b> | <b>Department</b> | <b>Inquiries</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Alabama                  | 3                | Arkansas          | 1                |
| California & Pacific     | 12               | Chesapeake        | 17               |
| Colorado & Wyoming       | 3                | Columbia          | 2                |
| Connecticut              | 2                | Florida           | 5                |
| Georgia & South Carolina | 7                | Illinois          | 8                |
| Indiana                  | 2                | Iowa              | 3                |
| Kansas                   | 2                | Kentucky          | 6                |
| Maine                    | 3                | Massachusetts     | 2                |
| Michigan                 | 17               | Missouri          | 4                |
| Nebraska                 | 0                | New Hampshire     | 0                |
| New Jersey               | 2                | New York          | 7                |
| North Carolina           | 3                | Ohio              | 12               |
| Oklahoma                 | 0                | Pennsylvania      | 20               |
| Rhode Island             | 2                | Southwest         | 2                |
| Tennessee                | 4                | Texas             | 8                |
| Vermont                  | 2                | Wisconsin         | 4                |
| Membership At Large(UK)  | 2                |                   |                  |

I received 48 names from the National Genealogy Conference in Ft. Wayne, IN. I reached out to all the attendees who provided names and email. In my communication I also address the Allied Orders being available as well as the SUVCW. I have received communication back from some that were already Brothers, and some interested in joining.

I received 48 names from the RootsTech Conference held in Salt Lake City, UT. They were forwarded to Departments as indicated by their state of residence. There were 2 that didn't indicate a home state, I contacted them at the email provided. Neither responded.

| <b>Department</b>    | <b>Names</b> | <b>Department</b> | <b>Names</b> |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| California & Pacific | 6            | Chesapeake        | 2            |



|                    |    |                       |   |
|--------------------|----|-----------------------|---|
| Colorado & Wyoming | 28 | Columbia              | 3 |
| Florida            | 1  | New Jersey            | 1 |
| Pennsylvania       | 1  | Southwest             | 1 |
| Tennessee          | 1  | Wisconsin w/Minnesota | 2 |

In evaluating the email inquiries, a majority have been online research and the Membership request form.

**I have no recommendations.**

National Committee on History, Gary A. Gibson, PDC

No report given.

National Committee on Lincoln Tomb Observance, Nick Kaup, PDC,

Report to: Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

It has **been** an honor to serve as chairman of the Lincoln Tomb Observance committee again this year. I wish to congratulate our committee members and aids especially Brothers Don Sherman, PDC Steve Westlake, Tom Brown, Larry Werline, and PNP Cher Petrovic. Each provided both on site assistance and attended our quarterly committee Zoom and in person meetings when practicable. A review of the April 10th event was discussed at length.

Recommendations: The committee felt the Tomb program went very well. Upon review, the following suggestions were ways the program might run more smoothly;

- 1) Have the wreath bearer escorts walk a shorter distance to the podium for their wreath placements. This will reduce the overall length of that portion of the program.
- 2) Narrate the wreath presenters' introductions more quickly.
- 3) Provide more assistance in the chair set ups and removal.
- 4) Upon conclusion of the ceremony, begin the VFW luncheon program earlier, commencing at 12:00 noon instead of 12:30.
- 5) Revise the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony form which appears in the Banner magazine.
- 6) Create a one-page flyer to distribute for our various organizations and communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Kaup, PDC,

Department of Illinois Chair, Lincoln Tomb Observance Committee

National Military Affairs Committee, Daniel Murray, PDC

There was only one request from General Darby for our approval for a field grade commission. Brother Jamie McGuire, SGT, SVR was named as the replacement to the position as 1st Military District Commander. It was requested that Sgt McGuire be promoted to the rank of Major to serve as Commander of the 1 st Military District until

November 2028 This was approved by the Committee.

The Committee is composed of the following members;

Daniel Murray, PDC

Ken Freshley, PCinC

Leo Kennedy, PCinC

Wayne Eder, PDC

Shane Milburn, PDC

**No Recommendations at this time.**

National Committee on Civil War Memorial Grant Fund, Shane Milburn, PDC

General George H. Thomas Camp #19, Department of Pennsylvania requested a grant to restore the monument on the grave of Major General John F. Reynolds which is located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Major General Reynolds was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. The committee approved a grant of \$2,000.00 to go towards this restoration, which was estimated to cost \$15,000.00.

The Department of Kentucky requested a grant to assist in erecting a seven-foot African American Union Civil War Soldier at the Old Hopkins County Courthouse in Madisonville, Kentucky. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$175,000.00. Past Department Commander Bruce Fortin will speak at the dedication and three Kentucky Camps will provide the Color Guard. A donor's plaque may be added to the base of the statue at a later date. The committee approved a grant of \$2,000.00 to go towards the erection of this new monument.

Custer Camp #1, Department of Illinois requested a Grant for the placement of a new memorial behind the Benjamin F. Stephenson Memorial in Petersburg, Illinois. A bronze relief sculpture, which received a blue ribbon for best sculpture and purple champion ribbon for Best of Show at the 2023 Illinois State Fair, and an additional blue ribbon at the Lake County Fair will be affixed to a granite marker and will be placed behind the current Memorial. A grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 was approved and issued.

L. A. Tift Camp #15, Department of Massachusetts requested a grant in the amount of \$2000.00 to assist in the refurbishment of a base for a 3" Ordinance Rifle located in Belchertown, Massachusetts. The work to be completed will be cleaning of stone work, removal of deteriorating mortar, rebuilding area of loose/missing stone and waterproofing.

A grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 was approved and issued.

Crapo Camp #145, Department of Michigan submitted a request for \$1000.00 to aide in the erection of a new Veterans Monument in Flint, Michigan. Additional information was requested from David Wallace, Secretary/Treasurer of Crapo Camp #145, which he provided. The Committee discussed and denied this request because the monument to be erected wasn't Civil War specific.

Shane L. Milburn, PDC

Chair

Civil War Memorials Grant Fund Committee

National Committee on Ebay Surveillance, Terry McKinch – No report provided.

National Scholarship Committee Report, Donald Martin, PCinC

I wish to thank our committee members for their assistance and work on this year.

The revision to Form 12 (SUVCW Scholarship Application) completed last year was successful in preventing many of the applicant errors on Form 12 that were prevalent in 2025. My thanks to the Programs and Policies Committee, PDC Robert Payne, PCinC Kevin Martin and all involved with this overhaul. The Scholarship Committee received 12 applications for 2026 year. Three were disqualified for incomplete applications. We are pleased to announce the following selectees who each received a \$2,500 SUVCW Scholarship.

**Austin David Ingall**

Nash-Hodges Camp #43 Department of Michigan

To attend the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor

**Joshua Cassio**

Henry Casey Camp #92, Department of Ohio

To attend the University of Cincinnati

**NO RECOMMENDATIONS**

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Donald L Martin, PCinC, Chair

Garry W. Brewer, PDC

Brian McManus, PDC

John M. Huffman Jr., PDC

Dr. Timothy E. Campaign PDC, DNP, RN

## National Committee for the Promotion of the Order, Roderick Fraser, PDC

Brother Commander in Chief,

The National Committee for the Promotion of the Order continues to accomplish a great deal on behalf of the order since last National Encampment. The Committee is made up of myself plus John Vander Meulen, Steve Michaels, PCinC, W. Faron Taylor, PDC, D. Michael Beard, PDC and Benjamin Hobbins as aide. The purpose/mission of the National Committee on Promotion and Marketing is to expand awareness and visibility of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, its activities and its brand to the broadest possible audience of organizations and individuals and we are doing that with everything we accomplish.

Brother Rod Fraser designed graphic images for various Holidays and special events that have been approved by the CofA and have been placed on the Patriotic Holiday Graphics Images page on the National website and also distributed to the National Special Committee on Social Media Management.

The committee sponsored two episodes of “The History Guy” YouTube Channel Topics:

- History of the GAR – received 67,435 views and 563 comments.
- Tin Clads of the Civil War – received 100,923 views and 309 comments.
- The link to the History Guy channel is <https://www.youtube.com/@TheHistoryGuyChannel>

Additionally, we have paid to sponsor a third episode which will air in early July, after submission of this report.

The National YouTube Channel now has 594 subscribers, 73 videos and 16,577 views. The committee has posted 11 videos to the National YouTube channel since last Encampment:

- Doc Williams Headstone Dedication
- 2025 National Encampment Memorial Ceremony
- Commander in Chief Tucker’s remarks to the 2025 National Encampment
- Commander in Chief Tucker’s address to the SUVCW Commemorating Veterans Day
- Flag Raising at Hildreth Cemetery, Lowell, MA
- CinC Kevin Tucker Announces the SUVCW America 250 Program
- 2026 Battle of Galveston Commemoration Ceremony
- The 250th Birthday of America
- 2026 Memorial Day Highlights, Lt. Cmdr Edward Lea Camp
- Revere Brothers Memorial Ceremony
- Pvt Anthony McInham Headstone Dedication

The most watched YouTube video is the story of William Pool with 1764 views.

The committee sponsored RootsTech, the world’s largest genealogical conference again this year. The Committee also purchased business cards that advertise the SUVCW for the Roots Tech team to use at Roots tech as a handout to people who may be interested. This card was approved by the Council of Administration. Thank you to the Brothers of the department of Colorado and Wyoming for manning the booth at RootsTech. Forty eight (48) people provided their names and contact information at the conference.

The Committee sponsored the National Genealogical Society Conference with a booth and an ad in their program. The Brothers from the department of Indiana manned the booth at this conference. Forty seven (47) people provided their names and contact information at the conference.

The Committee redesigned the Flag Facts Brochure and purchased them to be made available at no charge to Camps and Departments, they just pay shipping as with the recruitment brochure.

The committee has placed a 1/3 page ad in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Magazine. The SAR has approximately 37,000 members.

The committee has placed a full page ad in the *Military Images* Magazine.

The committee discussed redesigning the Adopt-A-School program brochures and recommended that a survey be done to determine how many Camps have an Adopt-A-School program. Based on the survey, there are no

Camps that have adopted a school IAW the program so the committee voted not to expend resources on the brochure.

In the past, the committee has sponsored episodes of “The Civil War 1861-1865, a History Podcast.” This Podcast is now taking sponsorships through a national firm. The price of the sponsorship went up and the sponsorship is for a 30 day period. After the 30 days, the sponsorship comes off the episode. Based on this change the committee voted not to expend funds on this podcast this year.

The committee was budgeted \$11,500 and expended \$10,235.53 as shown in the table below:

| Item                                     | Expense            |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Roots Tech                               | \$1,600.00         |
| History Guy sponsorship (three episodes) | \$3,000.00         |
| National Genealogical Society Conference | \$825.00           |
| Business Cards for RootsTech/NGS         | \$39.91            |
| SAR Magazine (4 issues)                  | \$3,200.00         |
| Proclamation framing                     | \$70.62            |
| Military Images Mag Ad (4 issues)        | \$1,500.00         |
| <b>Total Spent</b>                       | <b>\$10,235.53</b> |

**Recommendation:** The Committee budget of \$11,500 be approved for FY 2026-2027.

Submitted,  
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty  
Roderick J Fraser Jr.

## National Committee on Vision & Planning, Donald D. Palmer, Jr., PCinC

The Vision & Planning Committee developed our 2030 vision and strategic plan for the current decade and was approved at the 2022 National Encampment. The strategic plan identifies ways and means needed to achieve our 2030 vision and ensure the long-term growth, relevance, and vitality of the Order which are critical to achieving its end, its purpose stated in the Congressional charter. It recognizes and carefully evaluates the current environment and context in which we must work.

The committee believes the vision established for our 2020 plan should carry forward into this decade. The vision:

**To be recognized by Government, academia and the general public as the leading source of information pertaining to: (1) History, genealogy and preservation initiatives associated with the Grand Army of the Republic and the soldiers, sailors, marines and members of the revenue cutter service who fought to preserve the Union; and (2) Patriotism, the duties of citizenship and honoring those that made the supreme sacrifice in defense of this Nation.**

This vision captures the essence of our mission as defined by our Federal Charter and brings forward the educational element, which now has added importance since we achieved a 501c3 tax determination by the Internal Revenue Service.

A strategic plan requires consideration of ways, means, and ends within the strategic environment (which provides the **context**). The **ways** are the methods that the organization uses to achieve those ends. The **means** are the resources used to accomplish the ways. And the **ends** are the goals...ultimately the purpose or mission of the organization. The following is a listing of the goals associated with the 2030 plan.

- **Organizational Growth** – includes membership, organizational expansion and youth programs

- **Research** – includes graves registration, GAR Post records and research grants
- **Marketing & Promotion** – includes advertising and outreach activities.
- **Education** – includes promoting greater awareness of Civil War history in elementary and secondary schools, patriotism & citizenship, and educational grants.
- **Preservation** – Civil War monuments/memorials, battle flag preservation, battlefield preservation. GAR Highway, and preservation grants
- **Communication** – includes the BANNER, National website, subordinate websites, social media
- **Technology** – includes increased business operation efficiency, rapid information transfer, membership feedback, and cybersecurity.
- **Financial** – includes total revenue, donations, Quartermaster store, investments, and grants.

2025-2026 Progress - as of the writing of this report, the Vision & Planning Committee is compiling data and accomplishments from the 2025-2026 administrative year as presented by various officers and committees in their year end reports. It is anticipated that this compilation will be completed prior to the National Encampment and made available to officers, committees and the general membership for review.

Membership Survey – a membership survey was drafted and is currently in review by the committee. The results of this survey will be used to help determine if we need any course corrections relative to our current strategic plans as well as use the information to help formulate our vision for the following decade. This comprehensive survey will include inquiries relative to demographics and preferences, perspectives on National initiatives, and Department and Camp activities. It will also present opportunities for members to provide candid feedback on what's working and what's not and any ideas to improve our Order. The survey will be submitted to the CofA for review shortly after the National Encampment and anticipate it will be administered early in the Fall.

Vision & Planning Data Capture – the committee has been investigating potential processes to improve the efficiency of annual data capture and compilation. The current “brute force” approach requires review of year end reports, websites, social media sites and word of mouth. One candidate currently being investigated is a simplified version of a process the Sons of the American Revolution uses to capture Chapter and State Society accomplishments toward their strategic plan and operational goals. The tool is called the SAR Mission Activity Record Tracker (SMART). Within the SAR, it took a number of years for this tool to gain traction; however, in 2025, the SAR reported a 70% response rate from their Chapters and State Societies. This Excel-based tool, as it stands, is far more complex than something the SUVCW would like to adopt. Given this, the committee is working on a simplified alternative. A draft will not be available for review until the middle of the next term, with the earliest roll-out not expected until the 2027-2028 administrative year.

**The committee has no recommendations.**

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,  
Don Palmer, PCinC  
Chairman, National Committee on Vision & Planning

National Committee on Real Sons & Daughters, Dale Crandell, PDC,

The National Committee on Real Sons and Daughters includes Dale Crandell, PDC, E. Donald Wlit, PDC, Dannis St. Andrew, PDC, Jerome Kowalski, and Jerome Orton, PDC.

Sadly, the committee reports the loss of our last real son Brother William Pool who passed at the age of 101 on June 7, 2026. His father was Private Charles Pool who served in the Company D, 6th West Virginia Infantry. Brother Pool's biography with information on his military service during World War II is found in General Order #17.

The last living real daughter is Emogene Horton who is 101 and lives in Marshall, Arkansas. Her father was Private Jackson Carroll who served in Company M, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry.

There are no living real sons or daughters of a Confederate States of American soldier or sailor.

**Recommendation:** maintain the committee until all know real sons and daughters have passed.

National Committee on Life Membership Investment, D. Michael Beard, PDC

The Life Membership Investment Committee is a Standing Committee named in the CC&R. It has not filed a report or held a meeting in at least a decade. Tradition has it a former treasurer had the funds in a non-interest-bearing account which prompted a call for forming a committee.

When I became National Treasurer, the \$23,385 Life Fund was invested in Pennsylvania municipal tax-free bonds earning less than 2 percent. I moved the Fund to Merrill Lynch where it is today. Merrill is instructed to invest the Life Fund in medium risk equities.

At May 31, 2026 the Fund had \$170,054 invested in ISHARES CORE S&P U.S.; ISHARES CORE S&P; VANGUARD FTSE EMERGING; VANGUARD FTSE DEVELOPED; and VANGUARD RUSSELL 2000. For the year ended May 31, 2026 the Life Fund ROI was 29.64 percent.

The Life Fund's income (besides investment income) are Life Membership fees. The Fund's expense (besides brokerage fees) is per capita reimbursement to the General Fund (\$33 for every life member in the Fund). For the last few years, the investment income has covered the per capital withdrawal so the Fund is operating as intended.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 the fund collected \$16,557 in Life Membership fees, it reimbursed the General fund \$17,292 for life member per capita dues. At the same time, the Life Fund had \$17,099 in investment income (interest, dividends, realized & unrealized gains).

While the Order may have needed a Life Fund Investment Committee in the past, it no longer does since Merrill Lynch is making the investment decisions for the SUVCW and the Life Member Fund is operating as intended.

The following recommendation was presented at the Springfield CofA meeting and referred to the National Committee on Constitution and Regulations.

**Recommendation: The Life Membership Investment Committee be deleted from the list of standing committees with the following change to the CC&R:**

Chapter III National Organization, Article X Standing Committees

Section 1. The standing committees of the National Organization shall be as follows: Program and Policy, Civil War Memorials and Monuments, Communication and Technology, Constitution and Regulations, Encampment Credentials, Encampment Site, Fraternal Relations, GAR Post Records, Graves Registration, History, ~~Life Membership Investment~~, Lincoln Tomb Observance, Membership, Military Affairs, Civil War Memorial Grant Fund, EBay Surveillance, Scholarships, Promotions and Marketing, Promotion of the Order, and Vision and Planning

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,  
D. Michael Beard  
Chair, Membership Investment Committee

National Spec. Committee on Veterans of Wars of the US, Dexter A. Bishop, PDC

A FYI issue: *Veterans Heritage Grant Program*

At this time, 30 of the 50 states have this program. These grants are matching grants and are to preserve objects, sites, collections, documents that are significant to history and experience of military Veterans. Municipalities and nonprofits may apply for these matching grants.

For more information about these grants, contact Brother Bishop at [genord9@comcast.net](mailto:genord9@comcast.net).

Brother Fraser brought to the committee an issue that he felt needs our attention in that it effects a member of our order. The member is in good standing with the order. He has inquired to obtaining The Military Service Medal, and or the War Medal. The issue being the Brother's service was with the French Army. The committee discussed the issue and decided to bring it to the encampment.

**Recommendation:**

Article VI Badges and Metals Section 3 would require a change as shown below. The War Medal section would stay the same.



Change Article VI Badges and Medals Section 3. From:

H Military Service Medal: Authorized for any Brother who has served honorably in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States. If a Brother is qualified for this medal and the War Medal, the Brother may purchase both, but may only wear one or the other at any one time.

To read:

H Military Service Medal: Authorized for any Brother who has served honorably in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United *States or a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) nation serving with the Armed Forces of the United States*. If a Brother is qualified for this medal and the War Medal, the Brother may purchase both, but may only wear one or the other at any one time.

In F., C. & L.

Dexter Bishop PDC

Chairman

National Special Committee on Headquarters Planning, Bruce Frail, PCinC – No report provided.

National Special Committee on Memorial University, Jeffrey French, PDC

CinC Kevin Tucker,

The Memorial University submitted the Mission Statement/Job Description to the P&P Committee. This will allow Memorial University to become a standing committee.

We lost Brother Mark Hale due to health issues and wish him a speedy recovery. The committee appreciates your swift approval of Brother Darin Everdyke to fill his position. Brother Darin quickly developed the Secretary portion of the Camp Leadership Course and is 75% complete on the Treasurer course.

Brother McGuire did a great job in cleaning up the Memorial University website to reflect only courses that enhance the Camps, Departments, and National on leadership emphasis and knowledge of our order. Brother McGuire also corrected the contact information on the MU webpage.

The Committee is on track to go live with the Camp Leadership Course for elected positions in July timeframe. The next course will be Department Leadership Course for elected positions to be developed.

The committee is working on a PowerPoint presentation of B. F. Stephenson for the GAR Anniversary in April. Unfortunately, we have not met this timeline but still hope to get on the website.

Brother Skip has completed the C&R Training Officer review with updated changes to the C&R. Changes to the C&R course will be completed by first week of July.

The Committee is also reviewing the Junior Member/Associate course to be updated. Expect completion by end of July.

The committee are working on a special project about leadership and will unveil during the National Encampment.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Our committee recommend that the Memorial University become a Standing Committee. The Memorial University has been working on the courses for 12-14 years. There are many years to go on future courses.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is my recommendation that the incoming CinC keeps the current members and Aides to the Memorial University as it is right now. The current team is highly motivated and innovative in developing the Leadership courses. I assure you that their collaborative efforts will produce high quality courses in the coming years.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty

Brother Jeffrey French, PDC

Memorial University Chairman

Committee Members:

Brother Steve Michaels, PCinC

Brother Darin Everdyke

Brother John Vander Meulen

Brother Bruce Amsden



Brother Joseph “Skip” Davis (Aide)

## National Special Committee on Fundraising, Dave Hann PDC

Dear Brothers,

It is an honor to make the following report. The committee has met via Zoom and is working on the tasks assigned to it.

These figures are from July 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026.

Donations to the Permanent Fund from our donation sheet \$4,112.00

Donations to General Fund from our donation sheet \$500.00 (Scholarship Fund)

This past Remembrance Day we set up a table at the Gettysburg Heritage Center which many of you might remember as the Gettysburg Wax Museum. We set out a donation jar, brochures about the SUVCW, wooden nickels, information about Remembrance Day 2026, flyers about the fund-raising committee and a Remembrance Day non logo tee-shirt.

T-shirt sales at Remembrance Day \$2,227.00

Remembrance Day Cash Donations at Tent \$546.00

We still have some special Brothers only Remembrance Day shirts and tee shirts that we will have available for sale at the National Encampment.

1881 Club:

As of this report we have 18 Brothers who have joined the 1881 Club. Donations from the 1881 Club members \$19,487 — over \$40K since it started.

One of the exciting projects is the Henry Rifle. The Rifle is available to our Brothers at a huge discount if the Brothers use the special SUVCW code. This code is available to any SUVCW Brother in good standing from the Fund-Raising Committee. This fund Raiser will generate \$100.00 per every rifle sold to a Brother and \$675.00 sold to a non-member of the SUVCW. I would like to thank Brother Ben Hobbins for taking the lead on this. This Fund-Raiser will run until 2033 and hopefully generate a good deal of much needed funds.

### **Recommendation:**

In looking at some of the duties of the committee I notice that we may in conflict with one other committee. I feel that we need to strike the following as duties from the committee and since this is a Special Committee the new Commander-in-Chief may want to address this.

“Development of a Grant Writing Campaign that would target outside organizations, foundations, and corporations. The type of grant would depend on the grantor as most grants must support a specific project” This task is already done by the National Special Committee on Grant Writing.

“Development of a Wall of Honor section within the website to honor all of those who support our fundraising.” I would strike this as we already list all donors in the Banner. This puts extra strain on the webmaster to maintain the list. Each new donation will be listed ONE time in the BANNER; space permitting at the direction of the Editor;

I would be remised if I did not thank the Brothers of this members committee, Michael Beard, John T. Buckler, Robert Amsler, Don Gates, and Aides Ben Hobbins, Don Darby, Jeff French, and Gary Carlberg. I would like to thank them for their ideas, their hard work and their wise council. It is an honor to serve with these Brothers.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Dave Hann PDC

Chairman

## National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the USA, Roderick J. Fraser, PDC

Brother Commander in Chief,

The National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the USA is made up of myself plus Ted Phillips, Brian C. Pierson (PCinC), Ben Block Jones II, PDC, Ben Hobbins, CC with Ron Barnes, PCC and Skip Davis

as aides, and has made tremendous progress since last Encampment. The Committee met in December, January, March and June.

Sales of the commemorative America 250 medal have been strong. The National QM has sold over 500 of the medals generating over \$20,000 in sales. Lapel pin sales continue but not as strong as the medal, selling just over 100 pins.

The SUVCW America 250 Eagle Logo T-shirt also has strong sales generating approximately \$2,400 in sales so far.

Brother Ben Hobbins designed the SUVCW America 250 Eagle logo that has been approved for use by the CofA. The Eagle logo has been very popular and is also part of the Henry Rifle Design.

I designed a number of SUVCW America 250 graphic images that have been approved by the CofA and have been placed on the Patriotic holiday Graphics Images page on the National website and also distributed to the National Special Committee on Social Media Management.

The Committee has developed over 30 “Civil War Sons of American Revolution Patriots” biographies of Union Officers and soldiers who were grandsons of American Revolutionary War patriots for the use of the National Special Committee on Social Media Management. Brother ben Block-Jones was especially helpful in this task.

Brother Ben Hobbins is serving as liaison with the other Allied orders and with the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Brother Ben Block Jones is serving as the Liaison to the US Government America 250 organization and has been participating in the America250 State and Territory Monthly Zoom Calls.

The committee developed guidelines for the SUVCW “250 for 250” project as directed by the CinC and forwarded for his review and approval. This project is to encourage all Camps to participate in at least one America 250 even.

The committee developed guidelines for the America 250 Essay Contest. The guidelines were sent to the P&P Committee for review and then were placed on the National website.

The committee developed guidelines for the America 250 Time Capsule. The guidelines were sent to the P&P Committee for review and then placed on the National website.

The Committee has recommended flag streamers that can be presented to Camps that complete a “250 for 250” event as well as partner organizations. The Committee has a streamer design and pricing and will request funding in the 2026-2027 budget.

The committee is working on a strategic plan to develop actionable projects for each year through 2033.

**Recommendation:** The Committee be provided a budget of \$1500.00 to cover cost of America 250 flag streamers and proclamations for the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of America.

**Recommendation:** The Committee be extended until 2030. The Committee was appointed for five year ending in 2026.

**Recommendation:** The Committee recommends developing a new color version of the SUVCW Flag Certificate that incorporates the America 250 logo and SUVCW 250 Eagle logo.

Submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Roderick J Fraser Jr.

Chairman, National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the USA

National Special Committee on Social Media Management, Benjamin Frail, PDC

Br. Ben Frail, PDC, Chair

Br. Peter Redman, PDC

Br. George Huttick, PDC

Br. Harry Reineke IV, PDC

Br. William Stump, PDC  
Br. Dan Anderson  
Br. Jacob Bates  
Br. Hamilton Jansen  
Br. Nate Riley

Br. Dylan Wettstein, PCC  
Br. Scott Preston  
Br. Henry Buckley  
Br. Barrett Young

Brothers of the Council of Administration,

It is my honor to report on the activity of the National Special Committee on Social Media for the 2025-2026 year. I would like to first thank the Brothers of this committee for their tireless effort, without their efforts the successes seen by this committee would not have been possible. During the year we met monthly on the 3rd Friday at 7PM Eastern via Microsoft Teams. During these meetings our standing agenda included reviewing social media trends and how the Order's Social Media presence can fit those trends. We also brainstormed new ideas on how to expand our Social Media footprint, reviewed post analytics, reviewed our existing Social Media Policy (Recommendation 2 is our recommended updated policy), created/planned 5 social media training sessions, developed a program for future Social Media Lives, developed plans for various content creation programs (March Madness, Memorial Day KIA, Holiday & Important Events Calendar, Reels/Shorts, etc.), we also developed Application Post "Best Practices". We also started developing our vision for the future of Social Media in the Order, with the hope of turning this Special Committee into a Standing Committee in the future, as well as researching security options for our applications. All these activities were done in addition to running the day to day operations of our various applications.

We promptly established new administrators for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X based on the committee roster, as reported at the Gettysburg CofA Meeting in November, which put us in line with General Order 14 when it was issued on 27 April 2026. We also established a LinkTree account (description of scope of application below) and embedded this in all our Social Media Accounts under our jurisdiction. We also created a team whose purpose is to develop ideals for video shorts, or Reels. These reels, which is the growing trend on Social Media, would be 30-60-second-long video shorts that could be used to highlight SUVWCW activity, educate on our Order/GAR, and promote YouTube videos to help grow our footprint on YouTube.

Within the first quarter of the year, we experienced a Facebook Outage when account of one of the administrators was hacked and the hackers gained access to the National SUVWCW Facebook Page through said hackers. Our Page was updated by the hackers to a Vietnamese culinary page where they attempted to take out over \$300.00, \$145.00 of which they were successful, in Facebook ads using the administrators personal banking information stored on his account, all charges were disputed and reimbursed by Brothers banking institution. All Facebook Administrators placed multiple reports and complaints to Meta, Facebook's parent company, regarding the hack of the Page. Meta & Facebook have no phone numbers for users to call to escalate these matters and users rely on Meta & Facebook Staff to return electronic communications. Luckily, Facebook returned access to our administrators on 9 October, administrator Br. Dan Anderson was notified directly from Facebook. At this time Br. Anderson spent multiple hours researching the extent of posts made and damage done to our account. Br. Anderson documented posts and interactions made by hackers and deleted them from our page and has since made posts to our Facebook Page. Br. Harry Reineke did extensive research on these types of Facebook scams, and it appears hackers gain access of account, try to get new business by taking out ads promoting their scam, after a few days they relinquish control of page, if Facebook has not acted by then. Many thanks to both Brothers for their quick actions during this trying time. This led to a massive review of all applications' security measures that can be taken to prevent future hacks. From this review we concluded that all applications should start the process of becoming verified, this, in part, led to Recommendation 1, a request for a budget as most applications Verified requires a monthly cost (broken down in Recommendation 1).

This year we have worked closely with the Promotions of the Order Committee (POTOC) on multiple projects. The first project was a request from us to them to create SUVCW Approved Patriotic Holiday Images for use on Social Media when those days occur. We requested 55 graphics for important SUVCW Dates and Holidays, with the intent to have 5 – 10 dates addressed each year for the next 5 – 10 years to slowly build our catalog of graphics, to date 8 of the 55 requested dates/holidays have been published. We also have been monitoring our National YouTube channel for new posts. When we see a post made, we share it on our Facebook page to help raise public awareness to our YouTube channel. The third project we have been working with POTOC has been to tell the stories of Union Civil War Veterans, who were Sons of American Revolutionary War Veterans to further promote and affirm our affiliation with the American 250 Project, since October of 2025 we have made monthly posts highlighting these veterans. The last project we are working on with the POTOC is to turn pre-existing YouTube Videos into Reels that we would post on our various social media accounts. These posts would be used to help promote our YouTube Channel in one of two ways:

- Refer to our LinkTree by saying “full video is on our YouTube Channel, link is in the Bio” (Apps like Instagram that do not allow URL Posting will utilize this approach)
- Posting the direct URL to the YouTube Channel’s post that the Reel originated from. (Apps like Facebook that allow direct URL Sharing)

Thank you to the Promotions of the Order Committee for their ongoing support and assistance!

We have also worked closely with the Fundraising Committee to highlight & promote multiple fundraising initiatives. The first being fundraising for Remembrance Day and sharing ways supporters could donate to Remembrance Day. The second was sharing the SUVCWs collaboration with Henry Rifles for the 250 America SUVCW Henry Rifle. We also assisted both the Quartermaster Store & the Charitable Foundation with promoting and highlighting multiple items, like the 250 America Medal, SUVCW Lapel Pin, and SUVCW Grave Flag Markers, in their catalog. Both groups reported that these shares lead to increased sales on these items and we look forward to working with all 3 groups in the future to raise funds for the Order. We have also started reviewing post statistics on each application for the purpose of developing “Best Practices” for Posts, or what works and what doesn’t. By being able to determine which posts have most interaction both with our followers, and with those that have yet to follow us, we can give Camps and Departments ideas on what helps grow your Social Media footprint, thus getting our Order in front of new potential members. For instance, we have found that posts that originate on Instagram, and interface over to Facebook are seen more by our non-followers as that particular algorithm focuses on non-followers. We have found that Posts of Brothers doing field work have gathered the most attention from non-followers. We also have found the occasional Fraternal post (Civil War Meme) as well as a Current Events tie to the Civil War (ie a Post about the Super Bowl but highlighting Civil War Facts about the locations the two teams represent, and the host site) have been well received as well. The thought is that even though we are serious about our work, there are still ways to have fun while doing the work of the Order and these style posts show that side of our Order. Our March Madness of Battles tournament timed in conjuncture with the NCAA March Madness tournament averaged 1,120 views on Instagram. This series started slow, with none of our first 8 posts not surpassing 500 views but finished strong with our Finals post and Champion’s post having 5,900 views between the 2. Our Memorial Day KIA Series was also received well on Instagram, with an average of 2,300 views, our largest post receiving 4,400 views. Reviewing the data of posts allows us to stay in front of Social Media trends as well, thus optimizing our views and interactions.

As announced via Special Message 14, the Signal Corps developed various courses on Facebook and Instagram, with courses on Reddit, X, and LinkedIn to follow. Courses started with how to create an Account/Page/Group on the applications. We then covered post & story best practices; these are posts and stories that we have found had positive interactions on the National pages. These courses have been well attended, with many requests for a copy of the presentation to be available to the Brothers. We are currently

working on these Power Point Presentations, 2 presentations are in final review at this time, once approved they will be sent out to Department Secretaries and Department Signals Officers for initial distribution, and the Memorial University Committee in hopes that they will consider placement of courses on Memorial University.

The Brothers of the Signal Corps have been also working on a Social Media “Live” Program. Starting from a brief conversation with CinC regarding the potential of using “Live” for a SUCVW version of Fireside Chats, it morphed after some further discussion to using Lives to showcase Brothers doing the Work of the Order. With this in mind, we created a free account with Stream Yard, a Live Streaming Service, that will allow up to 2 simultaneous Live Feeds across 2 Applications. This will allow us to reach a larger audience and further memorialize the men who gave the last full measure of devotion. We have worked with the National Signals Officer, Br. Jamie McGuire, to obtain 3 sets of HollyAudio lapel microphones for this purpose. We have begun testing the audio capability of these microphones so that when we start doing Livestreams we will not have Audio issues. As this is a new endeavor to the Order, we stress patience as it will take a few Live feeds for us to work out some kinks. It will also take a few Lives for Brothers, Sisters and Friends of the Allied Orders to know that we will be going Live, and we anticipate steady growth the more Live interactions we have. Thank you to Br. Jamie McGuire for his donation of the 3 HollyAudio lapel microphones!

We have also started the process of reviewing the Social Media Policy. All Brothers on the committee had been asked to review the current policy and provide any input on improvements over the course of 5 months. We have agreed that we should add a section on “Tagging the Allied Orders” and encouraging all Brothers, Camps, Departments and SVR Units to tag our Sisters in the Allied Orders when we are working alongside them at Ceremonies, Flagging Details, Displays or other events that we often share together. We are also adding clarifying language to what an “Authorized Adult” is and who qualifies as such. Lastly, we are adding a paragraph on both security and administrators, to reflect General Order 14. This is reflected in Recommendation 2.

The Brothers of the National Social Media Committee have heard from many Brothers throughout the course of the year through comments and direct messages. One theme that we have heard about regularly is that Brothers feel that National is not in touch with the Brothers who are doing the work on the local level. Because of this, the National Social Media Committee highly suggests that future administrations utilize the Live Streaming functionality of our various Social Media applications to foster a National presence, not only with Camps and Departments, but with each individual Brother of the SUCVW, Sister of the Allied Orders and Supporter that tunes in. These streams can be used to regularly give a “State of the Order” style address to those listening. It is a fact that most of our 6,000 Brothers do not attend the National Encampment, Remembrance Day, or the Lincoln’s Tomb Ceremony, those of us that regularly attend those events can tell this just from observing the events. These streams will make it so Brothers can hear from National at times other than their Department Encampment, which for most Brothers is the only time they see the face of National. In an age where communication is at everyone’s fingertips, we must harness it to keep the Brothers in the know and engaged, which we believe will lead to Brothers staying in the Order.

Our last project for this year is to write a proposal to make this committee a Standing Committee per the CnR. We did not complete this project but have started developing a proposed future state of the committee, with the hope to continue this work into the upcoming administration. It has become apparent to the committee that the need for a Social Media Committee of some sort will always be needed to help further the mission of the SUCVW. With this in mind, the committee is in the process of writing a rough draft for the committee to review and update as necessary. Once this is completed this will be forwarded to the appropriate Brothers for review and action. The committee would like to thank the following Brothers for their assistance to the committee thus far this year; Br. Jamie McGuire, Br. Jason Black, Br. Rod Fraser, Br. Daryl VerStreete, Br. Jim Pahl, Br. David Demmy Sr., Br. Bruce Frail, Br. Robert Payne, Br. David Hann, Br. Mike Beard, Br.

Don Darby, Br. Bob Wolz, Br. Bobby Welch, Br. Ed Norris, Br. Jeff French, Br. Ben Hobbins, and CinC Br. Kevin Tucker. The work of this Order is a Team effort and these Brothers exemplify this mindset as when asked for assistance or advice, none of them hesitated to assist or provide said advice and we greatly appreciate your help and input! I would also like to take this time to specifically thank the following 4 Committee Members: Br. Dan Anderson, Br. Harry Reineke, Br. Dylan Wettstein, and Br. Scott Preston. These 4 Brothers all went above and beyond during the year to assist the committee in various ways, without their assistance, the Signal Corps would not have had the successes it had this year.

#### Application Specific Reports:

##### Facebook:

- Followers increased from 10,958 to 13,669
- Record Page Visits: June 9 – 1464 visits to the page
- Audience:
  - 97% US, 0.6% Canada, 0.6% UK
  - 25% NYC, 14% Philadelphia, 8.3% Chicago, Columbus, Gettysburg, Houston
  - 38% 65+, 24% 55-64, 18% 45-54, 13% 35-44, 7% 25-34, <2% All others
- Top Posts (views): 146k Last Son, 19k Henry rifle, 13k Obscure Civil War Reference meme, 10k Dawes – CW Rev War, 8k Lincoln Tomb
- Pushing Instagram Post to Facebook Page increased the views 60-100% larger than the exact same post made through Facebook at the exact same time, and the views had a greater percentage of non-followers, which in turn led to more new followers.
- Every subsequent post pushed to Facebook from Instagram started accruing interest, for lack of a better term. The first post would generate 200 views, then the next 300, then 500, then 1000, then 1400, then someone shared a post from Facebook, and we'd return to 200 views. We did this several times, with the same results. We concluded that the way to maximize visibility of the National Facebook page (and thus suggest to Camps and Departments) was to not post or share from the page (though we could edit a post that was pushed from Instagram) but share it to Facebook from Instagram.

##### X (Formerly Twitter):

- Advanced Analytics only available for Verified users
- Followers: 1361
- Scheduling Posts ahead of time helps increase engagement over multiple days
- Posts with SUVCW members photos on average get more interactions than other posts
- Use of Poll functionality when appropriate.

##### Instagram:

- Followers: 2007, up 70 in last 6 months, first time account is over 2,000 followers
- 49,463 views in the last 6 months, 88.6% from followers
- 4,779 interactions the last 6 months, 96.6% from followers
- Just under 10% interaction rate, goal is 10%
- Profile views are up 22.2% in last 6 months (776 visits)

##### LinkedIn:

- Posted all content asked to post by Committee Chair
- Followers: 551, up 85 followers this year.

##### Reddit:

- Gained 138 new Forum Users
- 47,000 Visits this year, down 3,000 from last year.
- 344 Posts, up 31 from last year
- 579 Comments, up 197 from last year

LinkTree:

- Purpose: a repository for links that can itself be posted in the descriptions a bios on various platforms. Available at [linktr.ee/SUVCW](https://linktr.ee/SUVCW), contains links to the the National Organization's various social media platforms, the Order's main website AND donation page, the Quartermaster Store, the Charitable Foundation's QM, and the Henry Rifle fundraiser.
- For certain applications, we can only put 1 or 2 URLs in our bio. By having a link repository like LinkTree, we can list as many URLs in the repository as we feel necessary. We then utilize posts to draw attention to the links by saying "link in bio" or phrases to that affect.

Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: A proposed budget for the National Special Committee on Social Media

- We request a \$1000.00 budget for the National Special Committee on Social Media for the purposes of Application Verification and Enhanced Livestream Capabilities
- Verifying Applications gives additional security protections, adds legitimization to pages, adds enhanced analytics: \$530
- Meta, before taxes & fees: \$336 for 12 months (Requesting \$400 to accommodate for any taxes and fees)
- X, before taxes & fees: \$115 for 12 months (Requesting \$130 to accommodate for any taxes and fees)
- Base Paid model of Stream Yard: \$470
- Additional security
- Given an additional streaming destination (from 2 to 3 applications can stream live feed)
- Will not have Stream Yard Logo on it, can be set up to have SUVCW logo on it.
- Can have 16 Custom Backgrounds
- Livestreams are recorded and saved.

Recommendation 2:

Update the National Social Media Policy to the below (Word Doc version available to be forwarded to appropriate committee), Changes to Policy shown in Red Font (clarification to "Authorized Adult" and new sections IX and X and relabeled original section IX to XI):

### **SUVCW Social Media Policies and Guidelines (Revised June 1 2026)**

#### **Overview**

Social media is a term that describes the engagement in internet-based social platforms that are visible to others. Social media tools allow for the creation and exchange of user-generated content. All social media is trackable, traceable, and discoverable. These networks include (but are not limited to):

- Audio/video sharing (podcasting, TikTok, YouTube, Vimeo, etc.)
- Blogs and blog comments
- Commenting on news stories and other platforms online
- Geotaging and review (Foursquare, Google Reviews, Nextdoor, TripAdvisor, etc.)
- Information sharing (Chat Rooms, Listservs, Forums, Message Boards, etc.)
- Micro-blogs (Twitter)
- Photo sharing (Instagram, Snapchat, Flickr, Pinterest, Photobucket, etc.)
- Professional and social networks, and publishing platforms (Facebook, Forbes, Tumblr, WhatsApp, LinkedIn, etc.)
- Q&A (Quora)
- Social bookmarking (Pocket, Reddit, etc.)

New platforms and applications for electronic devices (mobile, TV, PDA's, etc.) are being launched regularly. All of these increase the users' virtual footprint, introduce new business



development, marketing, and public relation opportunities, and add to the amount of trackable, traceable, and discoverable information online.

The SUVCW believes the use of social media can support the transfer of information within membership, assist with recruitment and retention efforts, and promote the overall mission of the organization. We are aware of, and understand, how social media can affect relationships within the membership, with the media and with the public at large. We also understand that social media is often used personally and not exclusively for the business of the organization.

The SUVCW Social Media Policies and Guidelines are intended to prompt the forethought, care and responsibility that are necessary components of creating and maintaining social media accounts and navigating the broader world of social media. As new tools are introduced, and new challenges emerge, SUVCW's Social Media Policies and Guidelines will be revised further to reflect those changes.

### **Individual Profiles**

Brothers are personally responsible for any online activity that they conduct. As is true for participation in SUVCW activities, all Brothers, whether Member or Associate, Full or Junior, should abide by the principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty when participating in social media networking. The SUVCW National organization respects Brothers' right to privacy and free speech as they apply to online activity conducted on personal social media accounts and email addresses.

However, what Brothers publish on personal sites should never be attributed to the SUVCW and should not appear to be endorsed by or originated from the SUVCW. If a Brother chooses to list his affiliation with the SUVCW on a social network, then he should regard all communication on that network as he would in a professional network. Online lives are ultimately linked, whether or not a Brother chooses to mention the SUVCW in his personal online networking activity.

### **Camp, Department, and SVR Profiles**

Where possible, the username "SUVCW" should be reserved for the National Organization (e.g., @SUVCW on Twitter). Any username by a Camp, Department, or SVR Unit should include SUVCW in their username (e.g., @SheridanCamp2SUVCW, or similar). On platforms that allow a more complete identification, such as a Facebook Page, including the name of the Camp, Department, or SVR unit, with the additional designation "SUVCW" is preferred.

Camp, Department and/or SVR social media accounts should include information that clearly establishes the account(s) as not being an official social media account(s) of the National Organization, but is instead your own Camp, Department, or SVR unit account. It should additionally be understood that such accounts are not the personal accounts/property of the Brother(s) who created them. Instead, they are the property of the Camp, Department, and/or SVR unit that they represent.

The following template language can be used at the discretion of the Camp, Department, or SVR unit: *"This site is the [reference your specific social media channel] of [your name or organization] and is reflective only of the personal views, thoughts, and opinions of the [your name or organization] and the designated administrators. This site does not have the endorsement of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War – National Organization, and it is not an official communication channel of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War – National Organization."*

### **Content and Language**

- Never disclose or use proprietary, privileged, or confidential information in any form on online media.
- Be respectful of personal privacy. This includes refraining from sharing online others' personal contact information unless you have received their permission to do so.
- Obey the law. Do not post any information or conduct any online activity that may violate applicable local, state, or federal laws or regulations.
- Do not post anything using the SUVCW logos, badges and/or other emblems in conjunction with inflammatory remarks.

- Be wary of hostile communications. If a reporter, blogger, or any other online influencer posts a statement with which you disagree, and you feel a comment is warranted, be very careful in your use of words. Vulgar or derogatory language should strictly be avoided. In some states, online harassment is a misdemeanor or a felony.
- Responding to media inquiries requires approval. If you are contacted directly by a journalist regarding issues pertaining to the SUVCW, bring the inquiry to the immediate attention of a relative officer.

### **Nondiscrimination and Anti-Racism**

The SUVCW, following in the tradition of our forefathers in the Grand Army of the Republic, does not tolerate discrimination and racism. Any online discourse in violation of our nondiscrimination and anti-racism principles, including sharing of content from other sources, may be cause for disciplinary action.

### **Youth Protection**

All Brothers should review and strictly adhere to the terms of service and existing guidelines outlined by each individual social media channel. As with any SUVCW undertaking, safety and Youth Protection should be a key focus, pursuant to the provisions of the C&R regarding the protection of minor-age members. Social media is heavily used by youth, and we must ensure that any transmission made using the SUVCW trademarks and logos be done in such a way as to protect any user, especially minors, from questionable and potentially unlawful communication.

To help ensure that all communication on social media channels remains positive and safe, these channels must be public, and all communication on or through them must be public. This enables administrators to monitor all communication and help ensure there is no inappropriate communication between Brothers and minors. Therefore, private channels (e.g., private Facebook groups or invite-only YouTube channels) are generally not acceptable in helping to administer the Camps, Departments, the SVR, or the National Organization. Private channels and private communication put both the public and our Brothers at risk.

If you feel the information you seek to share via social media channels should not be shared in public, you should not share that information via social media. As it relates to social media and minors, two-deep leadership means there should be no private messages and no one-on-one direct contact through email, Facebook messages, Twitter direct messaging, chats, instant messaging (Google Messenger, AIM, etc.), or other similar messaging features provided through social media sites between adult members and minors, whether in the Allied Orders or not. All communication between adults and youth should take place in a public forum (e.g., the Facebook wall), or at a bare minimum, electronic communication between adults and youth should always include one or more authorized adults, **as appointed by parent/guardian**, openly copied on the message or message thread. While all communication should be public, it is recommended that as you and members of your Camp, Department, or SVR unit create personal social media profiles, the personal information on these profiles should be kept private (e.g., do not display your phone number, address, or personal email address on these profiles). It is recommended that any Brothers, especially Juniors and Junior Associates with personal profiles for social media make those profiles private so the Brother's personal information is not accessible by the public. In creating personal profiles, everyone should familiarize himself with and abide by the terms of service of the sites where they create and maintain personal profiles.

### **Social Media Safety Guidelines for Minors**

Any Camp, Department, or SVR unit that uses social media should share the following safety guidelines with their minor Brothers, and all minor Brothers should abide by the following guidelines and personal protection rules:

- Keep online conversations with everyone in public places, not in email.
- Do not give anyone online your real last name, phone numbers at home or school, your parents' workplaces, or the name or location of your school or home address unless you have your parents' permission first. Never give your password to anyone but a parent or other adult in your family.
- If someone sends or shows you email or any type of direct message/wall post with sayings that make you feel uncomfortable, trust your instincts. You are probably right to be wary. Do not respond. Tell a parent or trusted adult what happened.
- If somebody tells you to keep what's going on between the two of you secret, tell a parent or guardian.
- Be careful to whom you talk. Anyone who starts talking about subjects that make you feel uncomfortable is probably an adult posing as a kid.
- Pay attention if someone tells you things that don't fit together. If one time an online "friend" says he or she is 12, and another time says he or she is 14. That is a warning that this person is lying and may be an adult posing as a kid.
- Unless you talk to a parent about it first, never talk to anybody by phone if you know that person only online. If someone asks you to call—even if it is collect or a toll-free, 1-800 number—that's a warning. That person can get your phone number this way, either from a phone bill or from caller ID.
- Never agree to meet someone you have met only online at any place off-line, in the real world.
- Watch out if someone online starts talking about hacking or breaking into other people's or companies' computer systems; phreaking (the "ph" sounds like an "f"), the illegal use of long-distance services or cellular phones; or viruses (online programs that destroy or damage data when other people download these onto their computers).
- Promise your parent or an adult family member and yourself that you will honor any rules about how much time you are allowed to spend online and what you do and where you go while you are online.

### **Ensuring Sustainable Management of SUVCW Social Media Accounts**

SUVCW Departments, Camps and SVR units should administer their social media accounts in a way that ensures constant adherence to the SUVCW National Social Media Policies and Guidelines. A qualified officer of the Camp, Department, or SVR unit should have the responsibility of serving as administrator of the relevant social media accounts and monitor them daily. Backup administrators/monitors should be designated so there is no gap in the monitoring. It may also be helpful to offer elected officers the opportunity to serve as administrators and post/share information on behalf of the particular Camp, Department, or SVR unit.

Content posted on social media "lives forever" on the Internet, sometimes even if the accounts have been deleted. That means social media posts created today may still exist five, 10, or 15 years from now, in some cases long after those who started them are no longer involved directly with our Order. As such, considerations should be made regarding the transitioning of administration rights and duties if the initial administrators end their direct involvement with SUVCW.

### **Tagging Allied Orders and Assisting Organizations**

Whenever possible, Camps, Departments, and SVR units should tag the social media accounts and/or pages of all Allied Orders and Assisting Organizations. This will help foster positive relationships with our partners in the Allied Orders and in other Organizations. Camps, Departments, and SVR units should use appropriate hashtags (#) whenever possible. For example: #suvchw #gar #civilwar

### **Security Measures and Administration**

All Social Media accounts MUST have at least 2 Brothers who are administrators or have access to the login credentials for the account. We highly recommend that, whenever possible, Camp, Department, and SVR Unit financial information NOT be stored on social media platforms. If

running an Ad or paying for Verified, we recommend you use your financial information to make the purchase, then remove said information from platform. We recommend that Camps, Departments, and SVR units research the most up to date methods for secure financial transactions on application in question and make an informed decision on how to proceed.

**Consequences for Violating the SUVCW Social Media Policies and Guidelines**

Any Brother who willfully uses social media in violation of, or contrary to, the Constitution and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War may face discipline as outlined in Chapter IV of same.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Br. Ben Frail, PDC  
Chairman  
National Special Committee on Social Media

**National Special Committee on the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the SUVCW,  
Robert J. Amsler, Jr., PDC**

The Committee believes that the following actions are required and achievable for the Order's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

- Strike a special medal and challenge coin.
- Encourage all camps to undertake at least one if not more 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. The events should leverage local assets including any state or federal parks to arrange events for the public to bring awareness of the order and our objectives.
- We believe the current social media process has worked very well for the order and it should be utilized with a plan to publicize history events of the Civil War as well as SUVCW events. Camps and Departments should continue to report the events to the national team for widespread distribution to the public.
- We believe the national encampment should be held in or near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the order's first Encampment in 2032.
- We are working on other ideas and are open to any suggestions by members.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr.

**National Special Committee on Grant Writing, Jeffrey French, PDC**

CinC Kevin Tucker,  
Since last report, National Council of Administration approved both Grant Writing Handbooks and the National Webmaster has posted for our brothers for immediate use.  
The committee has completed all assigned tasks and is currently inactive as there are no other issues for them to work on.  
In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty  
Brother Jeffrey French, PDC  
Special Committee on Grant Writing Chairman  
Committee Members:  
Brother Roderick Fraser  
Brother Joseph "Skip" Davis

**CinC's National Special Committee on Chaplain Affairs, Dexter A. Bishop, PDC**

No issues arose requiring a committee meeting.

## CinC's National Special Committee on Eliminating Camp & Dept. Life Member Dues, Daniel Murray, PDC

The Committee was tasked with finding a way to exempt life members from paying life membership dues to Camps and Departments. The Life Membership investment committee prior to the current treasurer taking over had not filed the report or held a meeting in over 10 years. At that time, it was invested in municipal bonds at 2% interest and the fund had \$23,385 in it. The current treasurer has invested the money with Merrill Lynch and currently the Life Member investment fund had \$156,589 on January 31, 2026.

The Life Funds income is the Life Membership fees and investment income from this fund. The Life Funds expense is the per capita reimbursement of \$33.00 to the General Fund for each Life Member. Camps with Life Member numbers 001-499 are reimbursed \$4.00 per member and those with numbers 500-599 are reimbursed \$12.00 per member. For the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2025, the Life Member fees collected were \$16,557 while at the same time \$17,099 was generated in interest from the Life Fund and the General Fund was reimbursed \$17,292 to cover dues.

As of May 31, 2026, there were 651 Life Members. The General Fund will need to be reimbursed \$21,483 to cover those Life Members. During the June 2025 to May 2026 period, we gained 26 new Life Members.

During the period June 2020 to June 2025 the average was 64 new Life Members per year.

At this point the fund should be able to sustain the membership fees of \$33.00. If the fund were to reimburse Camps \$7.00 to help with Camp dues, the reimbursement to the General Fund goes up to \$26,040. We would continually be dipping into the permanent fund.

Until the fund has a chance to grow, the Committee does not believe that National can offer any relief for Camp or Department dues in the immediate future.

The Committee is composed of the following members;

Daniel Murray, PDC

William Stump, PDC

D. Michael Beard, PDC

**No Recommendations**

## Reports of Department Commanders

### Alabama

The Alabama Department held its first campfire on August 23, 2025, in Pelham, Alabama. It was a great success and all brothers enjoyed the food and fellowship. I hope this will be an annual event. All five camps of the Alabama Department held a Memorial Day Service including placement of flags on the graves of Union Veterans in area cemeteries. Between the five camps, 22 JROTC/ROTC Awards and certificates were presented to eligible cadets. The SUVCW ROTC-JROTC Award asks, "Cadet selected for this award should display a high degree of patriotism to his or her Nation and have demonstrated a high degree of academic performance and leadership." Three camps have been diligent in setting up recruitment tables at local genealogical seminars and military events. All five camps continue to update their records of Union Soldiers interred in their covered counties and the National Graves Registration of Union Soldiers Database. Thanks to all brothers who attended the 6th Annual Alabama Department Encampment on March 21, 2026. All five camps were represented, and we were fortunate to have in attendance Commander In Chief Kevin Tucker. The Alabama Department participated as a Department in two America 250 Events. The Old Autauga Historical Society sponsored the USA 250-The Chronicles of America on April 9-11, 2026. The venue included 250 trifold displays depicting 250 years (1776-2026) of United States History. The Alabama Department also participated in the 43rd Alabama State Games Opening Ceremony on June 12, 2026 at the Legacy Arena, in Birmingham, Alabama. The theme of the Opening Ceremony was "Honoring Our Heroes."

The ADM Farragut Camp No. 5 was honored to present the National Colors to open the Tampa Bay Rays MLB game on Saturday September 6, 2025, at Steinbrenner Field in Tampa, Florida. The presentation received high praise from the Rays event staff and was live streamed nationally on the Rays MLB Network and locally on Sunshine Sports. On November 8, 2025, the brothers of the MG John T. Croxton Camp #17 and the Department

of Alabama met at Oak Hill Cemetery in Birmingham, Alabama to rededicate the grave of Henry Rensford, UNS GAR. The gravesite monument and headstone were destroyed when a masonry retaining wall collapsed. The Veterans Administration provided the new headstone and Clark Memorials completed the installation. The Private Richard Taylor Camp #5 held a ceremony on November 15, 2025, at Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville, Alabama for Corporal Samuel Sweinhart, formerly of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, who settled in Huntsville following the Civil War. The camp dedicated a metal Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Grave Flag Holder on his gravesite.

#### **Recommendations:**

The SUVCW Departments of the Southeast propose that a Task Force be formed to investigate ways to improve operational efficiency, to enhance communications overall and to reduce costs across The Order. The Task Force would evaluate ways to reduce or eliminate all manual processes and unnecessary transmissions of information in favor of electronic processes wherever possible at the Camp, Department and National levels within The Order. This investigation would include, but not be limited to...

- All forms need to be PDF Fill-in forms.
- Electronic Dropbox-like tools for developing, storing and accessing National, Department and Camp information (electronic Database records keeping).
- All forms need to be uploaded electronically (Camp to Department, Department to National).
- Eliminate all unnecessary signatures. Allow remaining signatures to be signed electronically (e.g. Docusign)
- Allow all payments to be made electronically (Individual to camp, camp to department, department to national).
- Electronic membership cards
- The Task Force should survey all Departments for additional ideas and concepts.

A final report will be submitted to the National Committee on Communication and Technology prior to the 2027 National Encampment for review.

The Southeastern Department Commanders Coordinating Committee (composed of the Departments of NC, TN & MS, GA & SC, FL, AL, KY) volunteer to form the Task Force Steering Committee, headed up by The Department Commander of NC.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,  
Scott A. Martin

Department Commander

## **Arkansas**

Department of Arkansas Annual Report since last National Encampment.

On Labor Day changed out the Flags at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park with the Sons of Confederate Veterans Hindman Camp.

On POW/MIA day put out Pow flags on graves of know POW'S

Attended Missing Man Table Ceremony at VA Hospital Fayetteville, AR.

Attended Artillery Training at Pea Ridge Battlefield Park

Attended Wreaths Across America at the Fayetteville, AR. National Ceremony.

Place Wreaths on the graves of Medal of Honor Recipients WWI Sgt. Hatler at the G.A.R cemetery in Sulphur Springs, AR. And Civil War Recipient Samuel Johnson at the Baker Cemetery, Washington County, AR.

Camp Commander Tom Wing was appointed to serve on the National Committee for Fraternal Relations. He has attended meetings, worked to contact the National Offices of the UDC and the DAR to promote good relations with other heritage focused organizations. In October the Talkington and McPherson camp members helped commemorate the Federal Raid on Van Buren, Arkansas, by conducting weekend of living History event with demonstrations of camp, artillery and infantry. A membership table was set up as well. On Medal of Honor Day, the McPherson camp held a ceremony at the Baker cemetery for Civil War Medal of Honor recipient Samuel Johnson. We had both TV and Newspaper coverage. The Keynote Address - Liberty Preserved was given.



The Mcpherson camp gave out Valentines made by School Children to the Patients at the VA. Hospital in Fayetteville, AR., on Valentines Day.

On Memorial Day at the Fayetteville National Cemetery the Mcpherson Camp opened and closed the Ceremony with a cannon shot. A Mcpherson camp member played taps while his son held a 34-star union flag.

In the afternoon of Memorial Day the Mcpherson Camp conducted a ceremony at the G.A.R. Cemetery in Sulphur Springs, AR. Jim Spillars a member of the Mcpherson Camp is also a Member of the Group - Taps across America. He played taps at 3 PM Central time. Taps were played at 4 PM Eastern, 3 PM Central, 2 PM Mountain and 1 PM Pacific. The Keynote Address - Liberty Preserved was given.

On Memorial Day the John Talkington camp held a ceremony at the Fairview Cemetery in Van Buren, AR.

The Department of Arkansas gave out 30 Jr ROTC and ROTC Awards.

The Department of Arkansas gave out 9 Scouting Awards.

Shane Lind, Camp Commander of the Isaac Murphy camp has been working on getting a statue erected in Little Rock to honor the 5,500 African-Americans who served as United States Colored Troops in Arkansas during the Civil War. On June 3rd the Arkansas Heroes statue was unveiled.

On April 25th the Mcpherson camp and the Talkington camp participated in the Fort Smith Darby Days - America's 250th Event, with Civil War Artillery, Infantry and Calvary demonstrations. We also had a Recruitment table with the Proclamation Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America as a hand out.

## **NO RECOMMENDATIONS**

Joseph Rainey, DC

## **California & Pacific**

It is my honor and privilege to present this report as Commander of the Department of California & the Pacific. Our Department covers the States of California, Nevada, and Hawaii as well as the Pacific Territories.

**Total Membership:** 327 Brothers in 13 camps

**Department Encampment** - Our 140th Department Encampment was held in Bakersfield, CA on March 6-7, 2026. The following Brothers were duly elected by the membership:

### **Elected Officers**

Department Commander - Dr. Wayne L. Eder, DC (First Term) Pleural member of Camps 31, 21, and 25. Commander of the 6th MD SVR.

Senior Vice Commander - Gary Hormel, PCC (Camp 4) - Subsequently retired for personal reasons.

Junior Vice Commander - Robert Mayer, PCC (Camp 24) - Currently serving as DSVC per Department Council recommendation.

Secretary/Treasurer - Randy Dhindsa, PCC (Camp 32)

Council Chairman - Daniel R. Earl, PCC (Camp 4)

Councilman - Rick T. LaRosa, PCC (Camp 4)

Councilman - Dean R. Smith, PCC (Camp 2)

### **Appointed Officers**

Patriotic Instructor - Clay Hoffman (Camp 21)

Chaplain - Rudy E. Velasco III, PDC (Camp 18)

Counselor - Daniel R. Earl, PCC (Camp 4)

Historian - David A. Davis, PCC (Camp 25)

Graves Registration Officer - Kenneth G. Felton, PCC (Camp 24)

Camp Organizer - Robert J. Mayer, PCC (Camp 24)

Color Bearer - Brandon A. Villardi (Camp 2)

Guard - John M. Morris, PCC (Camp 18)

Guide - William K. Gallagher (Camp 2)

GAR Records Officer - David A. Davis, PCC (Camp 25)

Civil War Memorials Officer - Dean A. Enderlin, PDC (Camp 23)

Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator - Randall W. Hawkinson, PCC (Camp 4) • GAR Highway Officer - Charles L. Beal, PCC (Camp 17)



Newsletter Editor - Jimmie L. Bodenhamer, PCC (Camp 31)  
ROTC/JROTC Coordinator - Dean R. Smith, PCC (Camp 2)  
Signals Officer/Webmaster - Tad D. Campbell, PCinC (Camp 4)  
Assistant Signals Officer/Webmaster - Daniel R. Earl, PCC (Camp 4) **Departed Brothers**

Our Annual Encampment began with a Memorial Ceremony honoring our five departed Brothers.

- Dean Richard Birge
- Paul Banning Nichols
- Donald Braden “Brad” Schall, PCinC
- Philip Lee Gaines
- William Stewart Crew

#### **Department Awards**

- *Graves Registration Award* - Bill Harrington (Camp 2) , 820 registrations.
- *Kirby Morgan Award* - Tim Roche, Evergreen Historical Memorial Cemetery Board member, Riverside
- *Best Newsletter* - Stoneman Camp 18
- *Commander's Award* - Kim Sayre
- *Officer of the Year* - Randy Dhindsa
- *Abe Lincoln Dedication Award* - Daniel Earl

#### **Work in the Department**

- Newsletter - After a four year absence, I have the honor to report that our new newsletter the California & Pacific Dispatch, was published in April 2026
- 6th MD SVR - The 6th MD SVR reported a total of 41 new members throughout the department with a new unit formed within the Department, Co. A, 1st CA Cavalry (Dismounted) Headquarters Guard, based in Southern California
- The Department Commander was asked to assist in the relocation of a GAR 30 lb. Parrott Rifle by William T. Sherm,an Camp 28 in Santa Barbara. The DC has negotiated the removal, refurbishment and display of the weapon with the California Military Department and is currently awaiting approval by the COA and CinC to proceed in saving this valuable historical artifact. There were concerns that this weapon would be stolen or otherwise removed by outside parties and the DC has worked closely with National Staff, Camp 28, and the California Military Department to secure and preserve the piece.

**Memorial Day 2026** - Appropriate ceremonies and activities were held throughout the Department. The DC attended the following ceremonies in support of local camps: ● Camp 17 - Santa Ana, CA

- Camp 18 - Riverside, CA
- Camp 21 - Oceanside, CA
- Camp 2 - Los Angeles, CA

**Music Video** - Brother Randy Dhindsa, PCC, (Camp 32) Dept. Sec/Treas put together the music video “*The Boys in Blue*”. Brother Dhindsa created this to honor our ancestors and for use as a recruitment tool.

#### **Camp 21**

MOH Recipient Sergeant William Pittenger and his family were honored thanks to the efforts of Camp 21 through Jerry Sayer, PDC and his wife Kimberley Sayer, as well as all of the members of the Camp. PDC Sayer devoted countless hours to research the MOH recipients of the *Andrews Raid* aka *The Great Locomotive Chase*. He was able to track down the families of the “Raiders”. As Camp 21 is named after Pittenger, and the Reverend Pittenger lived, worked and was buried in Fallbrook, CA within the jurisdiction of Camp 21, the Camp feels a close tie to their namesake. Through the course of his research, it was learned that a family member lost the original MOH. Camp 21 arranged for not only a reproduction MOH, but contact the DOD for a replacement medal. The Camp hosted two special events this year:

- The Everything Pittenger Tour - 4/11/26 Members of the camp, Pittenger Family, and community gathered to tour the Pittenger home, church, grave, and held a ceremony to present the reproduction medal.
- The Pittenger Gala - 6/13/26 Members of the camp, Pittenger Family, and community gathered to present the OFFICIAL replacement MOH which is now on permanent loan to the Fallbrook Historical Society. The Gala event was held at Fallbrook’s Mission Theater and included a showing of the original Disney movie *The Great Locomotive Chase*. Both events were well attended with SVR members in uniform at both events.

As incredible as these events may seem, PDC Sayer has also personally recruited 20 new members for Camp 21 in the past year. Camp 21 is the fastest growing camp in the department and their efforts are admirable as they continue to grow and honor not only Sgt. Pittenger, but other veterans of all wars through San Diego County and Southern California. Kimberley Sayer is the unofficial Chief of Staff for Camp 21 and does an outstanding job of coordinating efforts with the Camp and Department through emails, social media, and text messages. The Sayer family is a key component of the Camp and Departments success and we thank them both for their service.

#### **Other Camp Activities**

- Camp 2 has been busy cleaning and restoring graves at the Rosedale Memorial Cemetery in Los Angeles, CA
- Camps 4 and 24 in the San Francisco Bay area, with 6th MD SVR members from throughout Northern California continue to host living history events at both Fort Point and Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay. Both locations are former Union fortifications that now host these events to educate the public on the American Civil War in the West.
- Camp 17 hosts a community wide recognition of veterans buried at the Santa Ana Cemetery (CA)
- Camp 18 has been busy with multiple events at the Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside, CA and has been working closely with the formation of a new DUVCW Tent in Riverside, CA.
- Camp 21 has been busy cleaning and restoring graves at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Fallbrook, CA
- Camp 25 (Reno, NV) has been working to secure the remains of an apparent Union Cavalryman, found in the Nevada Desert in 1988. This soul, with Union buttons and cavalry leathers still intact, is awaiting final approval for burial by Camp 25 and their SVR members. It has been a political nightmare and the Camp hopes to bury the veteran within the next year.
- Camp 31 (Henderson, NV) has been working to secure nine headstones for veterans buried in Tonopah, NV.
- **ALL** of our Camps are active with various ceremonies, grave dedications and cleaning, Memorial Day and Veterans Day events.
  - Our Department JROTC/ROTC and Eagle Scout programs continue to be active.
  - Recording of veterans in our SUVCW Graves Database is a high priority for our department. We have additionally begun recording MOH recipients buried in our department's service area.

#### **Fourth of July Event**

The Department, Camps 2 and 18, and the 6th MD SVR have been invited to participate in the 179th Flag Raising over Fort Moore (Memorial) in Downtown Los Angeles on July 4, 2026 as a part of the SUVCW 250 for 250th Initiative . While Fort Moore is a Mexican-American War US Military Outpost, the department plans on tying in, how the “ Boys in Blue ” served in that conflict in addition to the American Civil War. The Department Commander has been asked to be a keynote speaker at this event, and we will use the event to not only honor our ancestor, but to recruit and educate as outlined in the CinC GO #2 and SO #11. This event will be documented for inclusion in the Banner and California Column . The event hosts have stated that due to its location in Downtown Los Angeles, that it is well attended and covered by major news outlets.

#### **Conclusion**

As Department Commander since March 2026, I am extremely proud and humbled by the efforts of our Department members, Auxiliary, and DUVCW. It is truly an honor to submit my first report to a National Encampment, and I am blessed to have the opportunity to report these activities to our National Brothers. Thank you for the opportunity to report on our Department's activities.

Dr. Wayne L. Eder DC , Department of California & the Pacific

## **Chesapeake**

Currently comprised of 12 camps, the Department of the Chesapeake is in good standing and continues to complete the work of the Order. Of particular note since the last National Encampment:

PDCs Brian Horgan and Faron Taylor of James Garfield Camp No. 1 have been working closely with the board of the Lansdowne Christian Church – Hull Memorial, which faces an uncertain future. Located in southwest Baltimore County, Md., the church is a registered National Historic Landmark and the only religious structure ever built to honor the service and sacrifice of Union service members during the Civil War. Earlier this year it suspended its regular Sunday services for the first time since 1904, when it opened. Brothers

Horgan and Taylor have been advising and working with the church's board on finding solutions to preserving the building and its unique G.A.R. features and artifacts.

On April 24 we held the opening ceremony of our 139th Annual Encampment at the church, and on May 24 we held what may be the final Memorial Day service ever conducted there. Thanks to Brother Taylor's vigorous media promotion of the event, the local ABC affiliate produced a positive news story about the church's uncertain future and potentially final service, two days before the event. Around 100 people attended, making it the largest gathering there in recent memory. In addition to members of the public, Brothers from as far away as Ohio, Massachusetts, and even Switzerland traveled to attend the historic observance. Brother Dan Anderson of the National Signal Corps traveled from Massachusetts with his family and, through video and photographs, documented the service for posterity.

Meanwhile, our 12 camps continued to sponsor and participate in a wide range of activities, all designed to honor the service of our ancestors in Blue. Among those, several are worth highlighting.

The Col. James D. Brady Camp No. 63 of Norfolk, Va., under the leadership of Brother Eric Kirk, organized several notable inter-camp events, which they also made open to the public. Those included a USCT monument dedication at the Charles City Courthouse, a guided tour of Fort Monroe, a tour of the Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield and Shelton House, and a Burning of Norfolk 250th ceremony, among others. Around 35 non-camp members attended these events. Brady Camp has also explored new ways to promote their camp and events, including paid Facebook ad campaigns and an AI-assisted email list.

Our Irish Brigade Camp No. 4 of Fredericksburg, Va., under the leadership of Commander Ross Schwalm, has continued moving forward on their Irish Brigade Monument project, which they took over from the 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry living history group in 2022. In the past year, the Irish Brigade have established informal agreements of support from the Brady Camp, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish Cultural Society of Virginia, the Civil War Roundtable of Fredericksburg, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and the Jubilation Senior Living Facility in Fredericksburg. They have also begun detailed discussions with City of Fredericksburg officials on a potential site, and with a private foundry in Chester, Pa., on the manufacture of the monument.

Since taking command of the Department, I have directed the creation of a new, public-facing Facebook page and a new Social Media Signal Officer position, to be held by our Department Historian, Brother Bill Elliott. Our Website Signal Officer, Brother James Masars de Mazarin, continues to refine our new website, which I believe can be a more effective tool for promoting and communicating the good work of our Department. We have also been preparing for the Chesapeake Leadership Program event to be held during the National Encampment, as a model that other Departments or Camps can consider adapting to their own needs. This program has been a popular success within our Department, providing valuable preparation for Brothers like myself to take on positions of greater responsibility within the Order. Over the last three years, 21 Brothers have completed the program.

#### **No recommendations.**

Respectfully submitted,

ERIC N. ATKISSON, Department Commander

### **Colorado and Wyoming**

The Department of Colorado-Wyoming remains dedicated to our core mission of supporting Union Veterans, preserving and perpetuating the legacy of the Grand Army of the Republic, and promoting patriotic education. As my tenure as Department Commander from 2023 to 2026 ends, this will be my final report to National.

I believe the format our department used to implement the National SUVCW vision has significantly strengthened our organization. I have been fortunate to work with a Department Council and a team of Department Officers whose expertise and guidance I have relied upon throughout my term.

Lastly, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Camp Commanders and their members. Their willingness to step up has ensured that the memory of the Boys in Blue remains visible and not forgotten in everything we do within our organization and in public.

It has been an honor to serve as Department Commander for the Department of Colorado-Wyoming.

Department Meetings:

The Department recently held two Officers' meetings, one Informal Department Officers meeting conducted by Department JVC Jacobsen, and one Special Encampment. Please find the highlights and recaps of these sessions below:

*Department Council Meeting – September 10, 2025*

All Department Officers were present for this session, which focused on key administrative and financial matters. Highlights include:

- Officer Appointments & Protocols: We discussed the appointment of officers and established new protocols for recording meetings.
- Per Capita Dues: The council addressed a proposed increase in department per capita dues. It was agreed that a survey will be distributed to gauge member sentiment prior to the October special encampment.
- Finance & Planning: We reviewed financial bonding options and began developing plans for the department's upcoming 100th anniversary.
- Compliance: New measures were established regarding camp submissions and payments.

*Department Special Encampment – October 25, 2025*

A Special Encampment was held via Zoom with 15 members in attendance. The primary focus was the proposal to increase the Department per capita from \$3 to \$10.

- Procedural Update: Although the motion had been previously tabled for Camp Commanders to consult their membership, it was re-tabled during this session to ensure compliance with Robert's Rules of Order.
- Vote: Following a presentation of the video provided by CinC Tucker, the motion was brought to a vote. The motion passed with 13 "yea" votes and 2 "nay" votes. Accordingly, the Department per capita is now set at \$10. This increase will enable the Department to meet its financial obligations more effectively moving forward.

*Jan 14, 2026 Department Council, Department Officers were all present, Recap and highlights*

The recent meeting focused on planning for our upcoming department encampment and fundraising initiatives for our 100th anniversary. Key highlights and administrative updates are outlined below:

*Feb 25, 2026 Informal Department Officers meeting conducted by Department JVC Kenny Jacobsen.*

To present options for the Department Encampment and Election of Officers.

*Fundraising & 100th Anniversary*

We have decided to order an initial 30 hats for fundraising, priced at \$25 each (shipping included). Regarding the 100th anniversary, we discussed forming a dedicated committee. Per Department JVC Jacobsen's recommendation, which is supported by Department SVC Adkins and me, the Department Senior Vice Commander will chair this committee with representation from Camp Senior Vice Commanders.

*Administrative Items*

- Website Maintenance: We are planning for Wally's upcoming retirement.
- Financial Management: A separate savings account will be opened for department funds.
- Form 22: We are currently reviewing submission statuses from various camps.
- Encampment Format: We are discussing the potential for Zoom participation.
- Elections: Per the CC&R, in-person attendance is required for the Department Commander election, while other positions may be voted on remotely.

*Department Orders*

- Order 1: Commander, Officer, and Camp Commanders contact list.
- Order 2: Department Headquartered in Torrington, Wyoming.
- Order 3: Special Encampment Notice.
- Order 4: Appointment of Parliamentarian.
- Order 5: Department JROTC/ROTC Coordinator.
- Order 6: Per-Capita Increase.
- Order 7: Brother Richhart may participate in Camp 15 activities.
- Order 8: Brother Richhart is a Brother in Good Standing.

*Upcoming & Past Meetings*

- September 25, 2024: CinC with Department Commanders.
- December 29, 2024: CinC Meeting regarding America 250 (Attended with Dept. SVC).
- March: Camp 1 Lot Smith (Utah) will operate a booth at RootsTech in Salt Lake City, sponsored by National SUVCW.

Our department is currently undergoing a period of significant change and modest growth. As Department Commander, my primary focus remains ensuring our alignment with the CC&R and improving our overall fiscal health.

Recruiting – As Department Commander, I actively tracking our new members via phone calls and emails to ensure we provide excellent service. My priority remains ensuring that our Department and Camps offer a clear path to membership and a warm welcome to all.

From October to the present, we continue to see a slight increase in inquiries in the Denver and Colorado Springs areas.

Our Department of Colorado-Wyoming is currently experiencing significant growth and change. During my tenure as Department Commander, I have focused on ensuring our department aligns with the CC&R, issuing verbal reprimands as needed, and improving the fiscal health of our department checking account.

We currently have one Brother that is on suspension and will be returning in March 2026. That Brother is now off suspension.

Recruiting – As Department Commander, I have actively tracked their journey through phone calls and emails to ensure we provide excellent customer service. My goal is to ensure our Department and Camps offer a clear path to membership and warmly welcome all new members into the department. This Department has at least 8 prospects and 5 new members.

CinC Communication:

This Department has formally communicated with Commander-in-Chief Tucker. This communication includes the "Department in Action" message, which has been distributed to all Department Officers, as well as Camp emails containing Department Orders and General Orders received from National.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Commander-in-Chief Tucker for producing a video to convey his support for this Department Special Encampment 25th October 2025.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

William D Neu Jr. PDC

Department of Colorado-Wyoming

No corrections or changes by the incoming Department Commander.

Bill Neu, PDC

Kenny L. Jacobsen, PCC

Department of Colorado - Wyoming

Columbia – No report provided.

Connecticut – No report provided.

Florida

Sir,

I have listed what we have accomplished since the last National Encampment within the State of Florida. We are striving to build up our membership, create new camps and making our presence within the state more visible.

Revived “The Dispatch”, a Department newsletter

Eagle Scout Coordinator sent out 24 award packages containing the official SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate, Merit Badge, Commendation letter and an invitation to join the "Friends of the Department of Florida, SUVCW.”

Created Dept of FL website. Created “DoF” email links for each Elected Officer that hides Officers personal email address. National forms created as “Fill-in .pdf” forms, Brothers were able to vote electronically using “election runner”. Brothers are able to pay dues electronically as well.

Civil War Memorials Officer working on a Heritage marker for General Ames. Estimated cost \$7k, American Legion Post 267 donated \$3.5K. General Adelbert Ames was the last full-rank General of the CW to pass away. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions at First Battle of Bull Run.

The Dept formed the Olustee Monument Committee. The purpose is to erect a Union monument at the site of the largest CW battle in the State of FL. They are also working on erecting a marker in an adjacent private cemetery to Honor over 200 Union Soldiers buried there in a mass grave, mostly Colored Troops from Ft. Clinch.

Department Camps and SVR Harmon Company attended 11 events throughout FL; including presenting the Colors at 4 MLB Spring Training games, presented Colors and fired a cannon salute after Taps at Memorial Day ceremony at South FL National Cemetery. Positive note, we recruited a new Brother that plays the fife up North with a SAR camp. We played Taps at the opening ceremony for "Flags For Fallen Soldiers" at the South FL National Cemetery. Conducted a Memorial Service at a local cemetery and placed flags upon 37 Union graves in 4 cemeteries within Palm Beach County.

Keeping in line with the C-in-C's wishes we supported the July 4th event in Okeechobee, FL. We set-up a "camp", conducted cannon & musket firing demonstrations, had displays of Union equipment and artifacts, and presented the Colors for the opening ceremony. Recruitment brochures were handed out.

We supported 2 "Emancipation Proclamation" events within the state. We set up "camps, displayed CW artifacts, portrayed General McCook and read the Emancipation Proclamation, and presented the Colors.

We held a Memorial ceremony in Lynn Haven, FL to Honor and Remember Sergt Philemon H. McCracken, Co K 50th PA Vol Inf. He is the grandfather of Dept of FL PDC Ron McCracken who attended.

Working on starting up 1-2 new Camps in FL. A new camp will be established in Lakewood, FL. Brother Wilder has found enough new Brothers to form the camp and applications are being completed. He is also working on a new camp in Zephyrhills, FL and is actively recruiting.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Jeffrey A. Garten

LTC (ret) Jeffrey A. Garten

Commander, Dept of FL

## Georgia & South Carolina

Commander-in-Chief Tucker:

It is my pleasure to submit the following report on the Events and Activities of The Department of Georgia & South Carolina, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War since our 2024 National Encampment. I send you greetings as Department Commander, and I am pleased to report that the state of the Department is strong. We accomplished quite a bit this year as evidenced by success at the camp level, and by several important initiatives and events undertaken at the Department level. We have been able to make important progress towards achieving our Department Mission which states:

"Promote and preserve the history and legacy of the Union Army Veterans who fought during the Civil War and the SUVCW as the legal successor to the GAR." Our Vision is for The SUVCW Depart. of GA & SC to be recognized as a leading advocate of Union Civil War Heritage in each of the geographic areas where our Department Camps operate, by sponsoring or supporting interactive programs involving the local public and their communities.

I would like to highlight several key activities and events executed over the past year which I believe underscore how we are making our mission a reality.

- Reached Our Legacy Fund Raising Goal of raising \$1,500 the Gift Matching Program that was launched in 2024. This increases our funds available to support worth projects going forward. Over the past year The Legacy Fund sponsored a \$250 donation in the name of the late Commander Elijah Washington Department of GA & SC to the Beaufort, SC GAR Hall in the name of our late Brother. The Legacy Fund also made a \$150 donation to The McDuffie House in Thomson, GA. This was an opportunity to support a 250th US Anniversary Event and make an impact on the Thomson GA community.
- Continued Growth of the Department – The Department added 16 new brothers across 4 of the 4 camps, Although the total number of Brothers in our Department did not change very much due to drops and administrative cleanup of Camp rosters, we continue to attract interest and membership. Our goal for this past year was to reach 122 members. Although we did not quite make the goal, substantial progress is being made. We all accepted the challenge of reaching the next growth milestone of 140 Brothers and

Associates by March 2027. The Department will then be the largest it has ever been over its 19-year history.

- Rollout of Department-Wide American Legion Partnership Program - In keeping with ongoing efforts to connect with the local community, promote patriotism and to recruit new members, we are rolling out a partnership program. Each Camp has committed to select at least one local American Legion Post to partner with and to cross-recruit new members for the SUVCW. Our first such program between KMC#3 and American Legion Post #160 in Smyrna, GA was launched in Q1 2026 with a presentation to the Post #160 Leadership Council and we provided an honor guard to support their Memorial Day ceremony at the Smyrna City Square Flag location. Over 400 spectators attended and the SUVCW was featured in a frontpage article with photograph in the Marietta, GA Daily Journal executing a musket salute.
- Continued Growth of the 14th Corp HQ Guard - We are now over 35 enlisted men in the unit and let's make big push to assist Sgt. Morrall on filling our new Company D. The challenge for the coming year is +50 total enlisted men and commissioned officers in our unit by March 2027.
- Department Wide Signature Project – The 14th Corp SVR completed a reproduction 14th Corp flag in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution. This flag will accompany the SUVCW/SVR on future ceremonial events and will be loaned on loan to the Pickett's Mill State Battlefield Park Museum.
- Implement Additional Department Wide Social Media Strategies- We have a Department Facebook Page, Website and Newsletter so all "Three legs of the table" are in place at the Department level. Kennesaw Mountain Camp #3 also has all three components of its social media program operational. Every other Camp in the Department has at least one component of its social media program operational, and all are working on completing all components before March 2027.
- The United States Semi quincentennial (250th) Celebration - Every Camp has committed to having an individual Memorial Day event and a July 4th Event (with prepared reading) commemorating the 250th Birthday of the United States of America.
- New Camp Development - The Department established an exploratory committee to look into establishing a future Camp in Savannah, Ga and we continue our efforts to establish a camp in the Columbus, Georgia area.
- March 2026 Department Encampment – We held our annual Department Encampment on Columbia, SC in March 2026. It was our most successful Encampment in many years, Brothers from all 4 Camps participated in person and we had over 27 participants in total, including several outside guests and speakers. The 14th Corps HQ Guard served as our Honor Guard for the event and presented the 14th Corp reproduction flag to The Department for the first time. The department bestowed the Dr. Mary Edwards Warker Award to a Sister in The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865, Georgia Tent. A full slate of department Officers was elected and Installed at the Encampment. We have added several Assistant positions to key functional areas to enhance effectiveness and to improve succession planning (Assist. Sec & Treas, Assist. GAR Records Officer, Assist. Graves registrations Officer, Assist. Signals Officer).
- The Southeast Department Coordination and Communication Committee – We have held 5 virtual meetings since the last National Encampment in Houston, TX. The Departments of Tennessee & Mississippi, GA & SC, North Carolina, Alabama, Florida and Kentucky continue to participate.

Historic Site, Events & Community Participation – A few Camp highlights of our year's activity and events include:

- Brothers from Kennesaw Mountain Camp #3 participated in 14 living history events for schools at Pickett's Mill Battlefield Park over the past year. Each of the 14 sessions was 3 hours and we also had 2 living history events for Park visitors which were 7 hours each. In total these events involved over 180 students and another +100 park visitors. Brothers from Kennesaw Mountain also participated in a living history event in May 2026 at Tunnel Hill Heritage Center & Museum. They had 4 presentations and all of them had large visitor groups participate. A brother participated in Voices of America for Pickett's Mill State Historic Park, portraying an Asian American who fought on the Dallas Line with the 11th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, he presented to an audience ranging from Germany to South Korea and from Florida to New York, ensuring that visitors knew of the sacrifices the Boys in Blue made, no matter where they were born, for their adopted land. The Camp participated in the Memorial Day Event Wreaths Across America Event at Marietta National Cemetery. Kennesaw Mountain Camp #3 Brothers also spent a day at Our Lady



of Peace Cemetery in North Augusta with several SUVCW Brothers at a commemoration ceremony. The Camp also led a delegation at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park's Battle Anniversary event where living history demonstrations and interactions with the park visitors occurred. Camp #3 coordinated with Missionary Ridge #63 of The Department of TN to assist in getting a new federal marker for Pvt. James Watkins of the 4th Tennessee Cavalry, buried right outside Ringgold, Georgia. Brothers from Camp #3 and the 14th Corp HQ Guard SVR lead the musket salute at the end of dedication ceremony. Camp #3 and the 14th Corp HQ Guard SVR coordinated again with the Department of TN on a multi-grave dedication ceremony at Mt. Gilead Methodist Church Cemetery in Alcoa, TN. A camp #3 Brother was present at the McDuffey House Museum 250th Celebration in Thompson, GA representing the SUVCW at the event.

- Brothers from Edward Wallace Camp #21 headed up the organizing Committee and led the Memorial Day Parade in Beaufort County, SC this year. Edward Wallace Camp #21 planned & partnered with the USC Beaufort's Institute for the Study of Reconstruction Era (ISRE) to be a part of the Afro American Civil War Museum's Veteran's Day "Reading of the Names". This event had organizations from across the US pick a regiment/s of USCT and read the names in public events in honor of Veterans Day. This event happened on Veteran's Day at the GAR Beaufort and was a public event with educational opportunities for those who attended. A member of Edward Wallace Camp #21 actively sits on the planning board for the 1st South Carolina Volunteers Park that is being planned in Beaufort SC. He has had several such Planning Board Meeting over the past 90 days where his SUVCW affiliation is known and well received throughout the local community. The Camp also established a partnership with the Susie King Taylor Institute for Women for inclusion in the SUVCW's 250 for 250 Program. Camp #21 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Women's Relief Corps jointly sponsored the 4th Annual Spring Symposium hosted by the Institute for the Study of the Reconstruction Era (ISRE) This year's theme was , "Securing the Economic Foundations of Citizenship," exploring the challenges formerly enslaved people faced as they transitioned to citizenship after the Civil War—focusing on issues such as land ownership, wages, community building, and the benefits earned by United States Colored Troops veterans. The symposium highlighted the experiences of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent / 33rd US Colored Troops and their families in the Lowcountry during the era often referred to as Beaufort's "Rehearsal for Reconstruction."
- Brothers of Elias Moon Camp #2 led a walking tour of the Chickamauga Battlefield ALSO attended by members of that camp and from Kennesaw Mountain Camp #3 and by about a dozen members of local reenactors groups. Supported the 125th OVI reenactors and Camp members including Brothers in multiple patriotic and living history events. A Brother from Elias Moon #2 participated in the Washington D.C. 250th Memorial Day Parade as a member of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry reenactors group. Established relationship Southeastern Railway Museum as future meeting site for quarterly Camp meetings.
- Charles Devens Jr. Camp #10 Brothers attended an event at the Aike Wild West/Military Timeline event while others attended a living history event at the Beaufort Museum. The Camp Commander went out to the Florence National Cemetery and paid his respects as well as placed US flags on several Union graves. Brothers from Charles Devens Jr. Camp #10 took part in a Civil War reenactment at Ft. McAllister near Savannah, GA. The Camp Commander, with the help of 4 Brothers, set up and ran our information and recruiting table at the Battle of Aiken reenactment. Camp 10 hosted the Department Encampment in Columbia and had an outstanding attendance. Several JROTC award ceremonies have been attended throughout the year including 3 new schools added for Camp 10. Camp 10 was also set up and attended the Memorial Day Service at the Florence National Cemetery with the Saluda Guard Co. B presented the colors, attended by the Commander, Sr Vice Commander Steffy, and Secretary/Treasurer. A July 4th ceremony including a 250th Celebration at the Peach Festival Parade and an event at Ft. Jackson are in the works.

Eagle Scout & JrROTC - In past year we have honored 30 Eagle Scouts across Ga & SC. For this current school year, we targeted 45 JROTC programs at High Schools regarding our new process and we recognized 21 Cadets. With the certificates and medals inventoried at the Department level we were able to respond to all requests we received over the past year.

GAR Registration and Grave Registration Activities – The Department has developed and continues to maintain a comprehensive graves database for all Union Veterans buried in private cemeteries across Georgia

and South Carolina. We communicated with National over the past year to update the respective database. We placed GAR markers on 17 union graves in Glynn County Georgia over the past year in Georgia. The grave of Corporal Isaac Rucker, who had his grave rededicated by the camp in 2016 was also cleaned and refreshed. A GAR marker on Corporal Reuben Samuel Anderson's grave in North Georgia. We continued our maintenance efforts at Maloney Springs Cemetery in Marietta, GA and supervised 2 work parties there over the past year. We have secured funding from The Georgia Civil War Commission to subsidize 50% of the cost of 150 GAR markers which we intend on placing on identified soldier's graves over the next 12 months.

Department Patriotic Instruction – I appointed a new Department Patriotic Instructor in March 2026 who has not only begun submitting our Form 41 on time and established contact with all Camp Patriotic Instructors, but he has also begun issuing periodic patriotic Instruction and communications once again for distribution to all Camps.

The Department implemented a New Member Onboarding Kit, modeled on the document shared at a previous C-in-C led Department Commander's meeting. This "onboarding packet" will now be shared with all new recruits across the Department.

I personally attended several meetings at all four of our Camps to learn more about how we can cross pollinate ideas and ways to improve our effectiveness at the local level.

Communications were enhanced across Camps through active Department initiatives and ongoing issues our Department Newsletter "The March".

### **Recommendations**

The Department of GA & SC is submitting or participating in two proposals for consideration and vote by the Delegates attending the National Encampment in Gettysburg, PA on July 31 and August 1, 2026:

#### **Proposal I**

This proposal has been submitted for recommendation by the C&R Committee from the Department of Georgia & South Carolina:

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Resolution No. 001

Resolution Concerning Adding Assistant Department Secretary and Assistant Department Treasurer Positions to the Charter, Constitution & Regulations

WHEREAS the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is committed to efficient administration and the effective transitional continuity of The Order; and

WHEREAS the failure of either a Department Treasurer or Department Secretary to complete their respective term of office can occur for a variety of reasons, and any corresponding failure of a Department to have Brothers who are trained and ready to assume these duties on short notice can create a significant hardship for the smooth and orderly operation of the Department; and

WHEREAS it has been the practice of some Departments to combine the Department Secretary/Treasurer role, whereby these Departments thereby often fail to develop other Brothers in advance who are ready to immediately step into either of these roles without notice or due to unforeseen resignations of the incumbents, and where the resignation of a Secretary/Treasurer can create unforeseen hardship for a Department where two critical positions thereby become vacant concurrently; and

WHEREAS the administrative workload on both the Department Secretary and Department Treasurer positions is significant and given the mission-critical nature of both positions to a Department, the consequences of losing Department functionality from either (or both) of the incumbent Brother(s) not serving an entire term of office results in Department Forms and other important deliverables not being completed or turned in to National on time, access to Department funds being interrupted, and Department historical records not being maintained or even accessible for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS modifying language in the Charter, Constitution & Regulations to make it standard or required practice for a Department Commander to appoint an Assistant Department Treasurer and an Assistant Secretary addresses all the major risks The Order faces today when either the Department Treasurer and/or Department Secretary are unable to perform their duties for a given term of office,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War remove Section 4 - Assistant Department Secretary from Article IX - Optional Officer Jobs Description & Duties, Chapter II - Departments from the C&R, and to remove the clause "and

may appoint an Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, whichever is in keeping with the office within the individual department." from Chapter II - Departments, Article VI - Elected Officers, Section 2.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that That the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War add to Chapter II - Departments, Article VIII - Appointment of Officers - Job Descriptions & Duties, Section 11 - Assistant Department Secretary ("The purpose of this position is to assist the Department Secretary in all duties as directed by the Department Secretary and to serve as interim Department Secretary should the Department Secretary become unable to perform during his term of office."), and Section 12 - Assistant Department Treasurer ("The purpose of this position is to assist the Department Treasurer in all duties as directed by the Department Treasurer and to serve as interim Department Treasurer should the Department Treasurer become unable to perform during his term of office."); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, with the request that they consider this suggestion at their 2026 National Encampment.

### **Proposal II**

This proposal will be raised jointly by multiple Departments in the Southeast for consideration at the National Encampment.

The SUVCW Departments of the Southeast propose that a Task Force be formed to investigate ways to improve operational efficiency, to enhance overall communications and to reduce costs across The Order. The Task Force would evaluate ways to reduce or eliminate all manual processes and unnecessary transmissions of information in favor of electronic processes wherever possible at the Camp, Department and National levels within The Order. This investigation would include, but not be limited to...

All forms need to be PDF Fill-in forms.

Electronic Dropbox-like tools for developing, storing and accessing National, Department and Camp information (electronic Database records keeping).

All forms need to be uploaded electronically (Camp to Department, Department to National).

Eliminate all unnecessary signatures. Allow remaining signatures to be signed electronically (e.g. Docusign).

Allow all payments to be made electronically (Individual to camp, camp to department, department to national).

Electronic membership cards.

The Task Force should survey all Departments for additional ideas and concepts.

A final report will be submitted to the National Committee on Communication and Technology prior to the 2027 National Encampment for review. The Southeastern Department Commanders Coordinating Committee (composed of the Departments of NC, TN & MS, GA & SC, FL, AL, KY) volunteer to form the Task Force Steering Committee, headed up by The Department Commander of NC."

All Commanders from the Departments listed above have unanimously approved this resolution, and we will each include it as part of our respective National Encampment Department Reports to C-in-C

Tucker. Department Commander Henry Duquette is prepared to make the motion on the floor at the appropriate time during the National Encampment. I will second the motion, while our other Southeastern Department Commanders will make supporting comments during discussions.

I respectfully submit this report for your review and consideration.

In FC&L,

Jim Bryja, Commander, Department of GA & SC

Illinois

My activities as Commander of the Department of Illinois since the last National SUVCW Encampment are listed by month.

September 2025: Attended and spoke about the Civil War, and the SUVCW at the GAR Hall in Aurora, for approximately 45 people.

October 2025: Acted as Chaplain, Sang, and spoke at the St John United Church of Christ, Palatine, IL dedicating a stone with a plaque in remembrance of 3 Civil War Shoulders from that church, on the 11<sup>th</sup>. 4 camps in attendance. Midterm Encampment at the McClean County Court House and Museum on the 25th

November 2025: Veterans Day Ceremonies at Rosehill Cemetery Chicago, where I sang and spoke. Union Ridge Cemetery Chicago where I spoke and swore in a new member. Aurora GAR Hall for a Veteran's reception all on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Aurora Parade on the 11<sup>th</sup> where I spoke at the reception and was interviewed by ABC news Chicago. Installed Officers Camp #1863 in Schaumburg, IL

December 2025: MC at Moraine Valley Community College Christmas Concert on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

January 2026: Installed officers at Camp #1 Glenview, IL on the 20<sup>th</sup>. GAR reception for opening of exhibit on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

February 2026: Camp #39 Tinley Park, attended the meeting and install a new member on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Joined in on 2 SUVCW Zoom meetings.

March 2026: Read Civil War letters and answered questions to 36-5<sup>th</sup> grade students from St Isaac Jogues Church School, Hinsdale, IL on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Sang at a wake for a fallen brother from my camp on the 11<sup>th</sup>. GAR event on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Visited Jewell Grove and Pleasant Hill Cemeteries in Wheaton doing stone cleaning and minor landscape work on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Made a presentation of a GAR Charter from a defunct GAR Camp from Chicago at the Veterans Museum in Addison, IL. On the 28<sup>th</sup>. The museum fixtures funded by the Department. 2 Camp Zoom meetings.

April 2026: Lincoln Death Day in Springfield on the 11<sup>th</sup>, I was the MC at the luncheon. Also, our department's annual Petersburg Cemetery on the same day where I sang and spoke. Arranged, sang and spoke at a marker rededication ceremony for the great grandfather of a brother from Arizona, in Cambridge, IL on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Organized a Civil War presentation of memorable items in Coal City on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Presented awards to ROTC Cadets at Joliet Central HS on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Presented ROTC awards at Wheaton College on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

May 2026: Annual Encampment for the Department at the GAR Hall, Aurora, IL on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also, I was MC at the Moraine Valley Community Choral Concert that Evening. Organized, sang and spoke at a day of remembrance in conjunction with the Bronzeville Historical Society honoring 3 Colored Civil War Veterans at Oak Woods Cemetery, in Chicago on the 8<sup>th</sup>. New stone placement at Jewel Grove Cemetery, Wheaton on the 12<sup>th</sup>. MC and spoke and sang at the Jewell Grove Cemetery for Memorial Day on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Memorial Day Ceremonies at Oakwoods Cemetery Joliet and at West Aurora Cemetery in Aurora. Organized the Ceremony at West Aurora, I was the MC, sang and spoke. Both on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Sang for the 18<sup>th</sup> year at Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Taught 2<sup>nd</sup> graders about the Civil War along with my wife Dr. Anna Quinzio-Zafran at the GAR Hall in Aurora on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Attended a Civil War presentation in Palatine and spoke as Commander on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Observed our traditional Memorial Day on the 30<sup>th</sup> by visiting 4 cemeteries my camp has worked in.

June 2026: Prairie cleanup at St. Stephen Cemetery Carol Stream on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Presentation at the City Council meeting Aurora on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Palatine Flag Day Ceremony on the 13<sup>th</sup>. My 5<sup>th</sup> year attending. Organized the America 250 Celebration for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July sponsored my Milton Township at Pleasant Hill Cemetery Wheaton. I was again the MC and spoke at the ceremony with my America 250<sup>th</sup> speech.

July 2026: Scheduled events so far. Representing the Department at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Concert in Naperville on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Parade participation at the Aurora 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade on the 4<sup>th</sup>. We lead the parade. MC for the Patriotic Concert at Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Heights on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The other positions I hold are Commissioner on the GAR Hall Board, Chairman of The Friends of the Pioneer Cemeteries of Milton Township Wheaton, Commissioner on the Milton Township Wheaton Cemetery Board, MC at Moraine Valley Community College Palos Heights, and as a professional singer. During the year since the last National Encampment, I have attended various meetings at our Camps and ceremonies, throughout the state compiling close to 3000 miles for the Department. Also, meetings at the GAR Hall in Aurora, and Milton Township meetings in Wheaton, representing our order.

Respectively Submitted in F. C. L.

Michael Zafran, Commander, Department of Illinois

## Indiana

It is my honor and privilege to present this report as Commander of the Department of Indiana.

The Department of Indiana has been very active over the last year but unfortunately, we have lost four Brothers who passed away in the past year, six Brothers who were dropped and one who was granted an

Honorable Discharge. We gained 15 Brothers which resulted in a net increase in Department membership. Our strength now stands at 215.

The Department currently has nine Camps throughout the State of Indiana with two potential Camps forming in the Paoli and Lafayette area. Our Camp Organizer activity has been very active and productive.

**Department Encampment** – we held our Annual Department Encampment on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Commandant's Home of the Indiana Veterans Home in Lafayette, Indiana. Installing Officer was Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Daniel Murray, and the following Brothers were elected:

- Travis LeMaster, Department Commander
- David Hoesli, Senior Vice Commander
- Frederick E. Leickly, Junior Vice Commander
- Dennis Hutchinson, PDC Secretary
- Council:
- Dennis H. Rigsby, PDC
- Timothy H. Beckman, PDC
- Thomas L. Schmitt, PDC

The following Brothers were appointed to office:

- Chaplain; J. Alan Teller, PDC
- Graves Registration; David Hoesli
- Historian; Bruce Kolb, PDC
- Civil War Memorials; Michael W. Beck, PDC
- Eagle Scout Coordinator; Michael W. Beck, PDC
- ROTC Coordinator; George Frantz
- Counselor; Bruce Kolb, PDC
- GAR Highway Officer; William R. Adams, PDC
- Camp Organizer; William R. Adams, PDC
- Signals Officer; Timothy Beckman, PDC
- GAR Records; Bruce Kolb, PDC
- Indiana Legion Editor; Taylin Allen
- Guard; Brian Mexin
- Guard; Ronald L. Hyer

#### **Department Awards**

The Lew Wallace Award for recruitment of the most Brothers into the Order was presented to Herbert Smith of David D Porter Camp # 116.

The Oliver P. Morton Award for the Camp with the most growth during the last year was awarded to David D Porter Camp # 116.

#### **Work by the Department**

The Department has started a project to document and mark the graves of Civil War Nurses with connections to the State of Indiana. This project has been fruitful in identifying these ladies and their service.

The Last Union Soldier Project in Indiana has identified the last Union soldier buried in all 92 counties in Indiana. Biographies are maintained on our Department website.

Sons of Veterans Reserve Members participated in the Annual Lincoln Day at the Lincoln Boyhood National Park on February 8<sup>th</sup> and the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony on April 11<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, IL.

Memorial Day ceremonies were held by the Orlando A Somers Camp at Marion IOOF Cemetery and Ben Harrison Camp.

Members of the Department of Indiana manned the National SUVWCW booth at the National Genealogical Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana on May 27-30<sup>th</sup>. This booth exposed the Order to genealogists from around the country.

The Department has participated in joint ceremonies with MOLLUS to mark the grave stones of Companions in Greene County and Vigo County.

**Travis LeMaster, DC**

## Iowa

To the Commander-in-Chief,

Since the 2025 National Encampment report, the Department of Iowa and the five Camps that make up its membership report the following.

### DEPARTMENTAL REPORT & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department reports 106 members, 1 Associate member, and 1 Junior member for a total of 108 members. The Department has lost 23 members since the last report and has gained 16 new members. 12 of the 23 members are members of a Camp currently under suspension. See number 3 below. 5 new members are under the age of 40.

The Department report's 19 National life members.

The Department has mourned the loss of two honored members of our Order this past year. Brother James Johnston from Robert Mitchell Camp No. 206 and Brother Roger Wheeler from General Grenville M. Dodge Camp No. 75 have gone to their final rest and will be sorely missed by their Brothers.

The Department has five (5) Camps, four (4) in good standing. The Camp and the Department have been contacted by National about an issue with a Camp regarding the lack of elected officers. Members of the Camp have expressed interest in rectifying the situation and are in the process of electing the required officers and completing the proper paperwork. The Camp and membership fees are paid and up to date. The Department Commander and Secretary are working with the Camp and its membership to rectify the status of the Camp and bring them back into good standing.

The Department's State Encampment was held at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa, on April 25, 2026. We thank Brother Bobby Welch for joining us and his participation in the meeting as the National representative.

The Department updated its bylaws to include language regarding an Assistant Department Secretary and an Assistant Department Treasurer.

Departmental Brothers elected John Pregler, Department Commander; Martin Mundorf Sr. Vice Department Commander; Dustin Laver, Jr. Vice Departmental Commander; Dan Rittel, Department Secretary-Treasurer; and Kevin Parmenter, Asst. Department Secretary-Treasurer.

The Department Encampment directed Secretary Dan Rittel to secure for the State Archives the 1881 G.A.R. charter for Fuller Post #38, Logan, Iowa, listed on eBay. Secretary Rittel was successful in his efforts, and the charter is in the process of being turned over to the Iowa State Historical Society archives.

Brothers of the Department were pleased to honor Marilyn Rittel with the Doctor Mary Edwards Walker Award for her unwavering support of the Order and the Department of Iowa through her tireless efforts with the Auxiliaries of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

### CAMP ACTIVITIES

Since our report to the 2025 National Encampment, our Department, its Camps, and Members continue to represent the S.U.V.C.W. and do the work of the Order with great dedication and exuberance. Included here is a summary of some of the activities of the Department of Iowa this past year.

Department members volunteered and worked to educate the public about the Civil War and the G.A.R.

Special recognition goes to:

Brother Mike Rowly who works tirelessly in his personal efforts to place 76 veteran headstones to celebrate America's 250th Birthday. Rowley has been recognized for his persistent efforts by Iowa PBS television.

The General Grenville M. Dodge Camp # 75 in Des Moines recently formed a committee to find ways to assist in education and promotion leading to increased membership.

Brothers from the Colonel William H. Kinsman Camp #23 performed living-history duties at General Dodge House Railroad Days in Council Bluffs and Reverend Hitchcock House, a stop along the Underground Railroad in Lewis, Iowa.

Grave and Monument

Robert Mitchell Camp #206 completed their project to place a stone marker on the former site of Camp Union/Camp Franklin in Dubuque, one of the State of Iowa's primary Civil War mustering centers in 1861-62.

Department Graves Registration Officer Roy Linn continues his diligent work to document the graves of our forefathers. The current number of documented Union Civil War Soldiers buried in Iowa is 47,754.

Bob Niffenegger of General Grenville M. Dodge Camp #75 repurposed a broken stone at his own expense to complete the incredible story of William and Minerva Callender, a Civil War Union Spy and a formerly enslaved person who found love and salvation during an exceptional time in American history. Brothers from Colonel William H. Kinsman Camp #23 dedicated a GAR monument in Blanchard with support from the local American Legion.

#### Remembering and Honoring Service

Brothers from across the Department participated in Memorial Day parades, Decoration Day celebrations, Veteran Honor Flights, Veterans Day celebrations, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, and America 250 celebrations on the 4th of July honoring our Veterans and our Union.

Members of Robert Mitchell Camp #206 - joined by the Department Secretary-Treasurer Dan Rittel - marched in the Dubuque Memorial Day Parade.

Colonel William H. Kinsman Camp #23 participated in the Atlantic Memorial Day Services.

Camp Commander Ray Wilson of Robert Mitchell Camp #206 was the keynote speaker at the Mediapolis Memorial Day ceremony.

Many members have worked to raise awareness of the S.U.V.C.W. Members have presented at genealogical society meetings and speaking engagements and have also participated in local community festivals and parades across the State. Members have contributed to news stories, radio shows, and magazine articles about their efforts.

Department Brothers attended the dedication ceremony for the new DAR marker of Clarissa Claypoole Wilson, daughter of Betsy Ross, in Fort Madison.

Colonel William H. Kinsman Camp #23 presented the S.U.V.C.W. Academic Achievement Award to Iowa State University Army Cadet Seamus P. O'Connor.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Please accept the following recommendations for consideration and discussion at the 2026 National Encampment.

In the Order's ongoing efforts to provide support to the Departments and Camps in increasing membership, it is recommended a nationally coordinated effort to promote the order and drive membership be reimaged and coordinated. Efforts from our National officers and organization in raising money and conducting national marketing campaigns through advertising and providing more resources to Departments and Camps for membership drives is critical to effectively increasing membership on a national level.

A committee should be convened to explore options to reach out to public, corporate, and national and regional institutions to raise awareness of the Order and drive membership. Examples of potential ideas include working with The History Channel to create a documentary on the history of the G.A.R. and the S.U.V.C.W. to raise awareness; Finding corporate and charitable institutions to financially support the mission of the Order's Congressional Charter; and creating a toolkit that includes more marketing materials and ideas from efforts that have worked for Camps in the past.

Certificates are an important tool our Order uses to honor and promote individuals and efforts that align with the sacred mission of our Order. To reduce the time and cost of delivery of our Order's certificates, it is recommended the National Quartermaster provide S.U.V.C.W. certificates online at no cost to Camps. A downloadable PDF file should be accessible from [suvw.org](http://suvw.org) that includes a specific certificate, editable text boxes to allow for the entry of recipient information, and an instruction's page that outlines the size, weight, color, and quality of the paper the certificate should be professionally printed on by a local print shop. This would increase the number of certificates awarded to worthy recipients and reduce the cost and burden placed upon Camps and Departments in doing so.

The S.U.V.C.W. should create an S.U.V.C.W. ball cap with a gold S.U.V.C.W. and laurel embroidered badge on a dark blue, black, or (department) red hat that could be effectively used to promote the Order and help Departments and Camps raise operating capital in the execution of their mission. It is recommended Camps be allowed to offer approved ball caps and other items like coffee cups, mouse pads, and other appropriate items to raise funds. To avoid the need to manage sales tax, National should find partners willing to work with the Order and local Camps and Departments to promote items and provide a percentage of sales back to Camps, Departments, or National as donations. This can be done with links from a manufacturer or provider who handles all logistics and sales and provides a link that can be embedded on a Department or Camp's website or social media page. The program could be created as a fund-raising program established by National.



In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, I am,  
John T. Pregler, Commander  
Dan Rittel, Secretary

## Kansas

### Commander's Report – Department of Kansas

The Department of Kansas held a Department Council Meeting on April 27, four weeks after the Department Encampment. All elected department officers and brothers of the council were present. Discussions were held regarding the finances and budget for the coming year as well as plans for department-wide activities in celebration of America 250.

The department has appointed an ROTC Medal and Award coordinator to centralize and improve communications with the national office in accordance with the C-in-C's directives. This has greatly enhanced the ROTC Award program within the Department of Kansas and has expanded the number of awards presented as well.

On Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, the Department of Kansas sponsored and held an America 250 Wreath Laying Ceremony at the grave of the only known recognized Revolutionary War Patriot buried in the State of Kansas. Sarah Ruddell Davis is recognized by the SAR for her activities in support of the Revolutionary War and she also happened to live through the Civil War, passing in May 1865. With participation by the SAR Color Guard, the DAR, and the DUVCW, the Department of Kansas led a ceremony honoring her life and contributions to the American Revolution. Representatives from three department camps were in attendance. Plans are underway for the department to hold grave marking ceremonies later this year, including a headstone dedication for a previously unmarked grave brought to our attention by the Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas. The marker has been obtained and installed upon the grave and a dedication ceremony is in the works. Another ceremony being planned is for the installation of a plaque upon the grave of the last Civil War Union Veteran in the State of Kansas. This will be spearheaded by the Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4. Membership numbers have remained steady since the last annual report. A key focus of the coming year will be an increase by the camps in community engagement and visibility. It is important we make ourselves known to the community by taking part in parades (especially this year's America 250 Celebrations) and offering to provide speakers for gatherings and meetings. By increasing visibility, we hope to grow public interest and, in turn, increase membership.

**No recommendations** for the National Encampment.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
James D. Thornton, PCC  
Commander, Department of Kansas

## Kentucky

### Six Month Report

**Introduction-** The Department of Kentucky has had a busy first half in support of normal and semi quincennial events. We conducted our Annual Department Encampment on June 6, 2026 at the Union Church in Berea, Kentucky. We do have some leadership changes in our Camp #3 and will have additional reports once that is complete.

#### **From Fort Duffield Camp #1**

John Martin, Camp 1 Commander

#### **January 17, 2026:**

Monthly meeting took place with usual old/new business discussed. At the close of the meeting, Camp 1 had its' installations of new officers: John Martin as Camp Commander, Eugene Wood as Sr. Vice Commander and as Assistant Chaplain. Brother Edward Lane agreed to stay on as Sr. Chaplain, Tom Latham becomes the Patriotic Instructor, Brother and past CC Todd Early become Sr. Vice CC, Keith Karcher is on the camp council as is John Gatton, brother Tim Downey is CC for the Bridgewater Scouts and Brother Bruce Fortin remains as Camp 1 Secretary and Treasurer. All selections passed unanimously.

**March 20, 2026**

Graves dedication and ceremonies at the Old Methodist Church Cemetery on the Lawrenceburg Rd., Bloomfield, Ky. Units participating were SUVCW, Camp 1, Brothers Martin, Fortin, Latham and Wood; DAR, SAR, SCV, NSDARNSUSD 1812. Honored were soldier from the American Revolution, War of 1813, Mexican War, the Civil War, and the Indian national are. Also honored were Confederates also buried in the cemetery.

**March 21, 2026**

Meeting held underneath the pavilion at the entrance to Ft. Duffield due to work being performed on the fort grounds immediately following the March meeting. Camp 1 members were advised to wear work clothing beforehand. Due to time restraints, meeting was adjourned after 30 minutes.

**March 25, 2026**

Medal of Honor Day

Camp 1 members Bruce Fortin, Tom Latham and Keith Karcher performed service to past MOH recipients from the Civil War such as Chas. H. Seston who earned the award at the battle of Franklin. However, due to legal ramification set by Fairview Cemetery, no volley fire or placed of flags into the ground was/is allowed. In addition, a service was held for Otto Voight, for performance at Reno Hill, June 25, 1876 during Custers Last Stand. Voight was also a veteran of the Civil war. Also honored was Henry B. Mattingly who is buried in Lebanon Junction with services rendered by Camp 1 Chaplain Ed Lane.

**April 11, 2026**

Living History Day at Ft. Duffield

Approximately 100 middle school students from Stuart Middle School camp out to the fort to witness artifacts and daily life of a soldier in the Civil War. Such artifacts were uniforms, weaponry, tents, a Crimean furnace and log structures used for living spaces. The students were also treated to a question/ answer period and a volley fire from Camp 1 members, i.e, John Martin, Tom Latham, John Gatton, Keith Karcher, Bruce Fortin whichever Eugene Wood played taps on the bugle. Also in attendance was Vestal Rogers. The two-hour demonstration was well received by the students and teachers.

**April 17, 2026**

Lincoln gravesite ceremony took place in Springfield, Illinois with participants coming from several states. In attendance from Camp 1 was John Gatton and Bruce Fortin. When asked how the ceremony went, Brother Gatton commented that it was a " Good service."

**April 25, 2026**

Camp 1 member John Gatton took part in a memorial service with Camp Calhoun for eight (8) union soldiers buried in St Charles, Ky. at the Cranor Church Cemetery

**May 8, 2026**

Camp Cc John Martin presented the SUVCW Jr. ROTC Award to a 10th grade student at Bullitt Central High School.

**May 9, 2026**

Camp clean up at the Casey Cemetery for two (2) union soldiers and one (1) confederate soldier. Duties were performed by Bruce Fortin. Cemetery located in Vine Grove, Ky.

**25 May 2026**

Memorial Day service held at Ft. Duffield, West Point, Ky. Service included message by Camp 1 Cc, John Martin, invocation by Assist. Chaplain Eugene Wood and the firing of volley fire by Bros. Tom Latham, Keith Karcher and John Gatton, and Todd Early and Bruce Fortin. Taps played by Eugene Wood.

**May 31, 2026**

Decoration Day service at New Albany National Cemetery. In attendance were John Martin, Tom Latham, Keith Karcher, Eugene Wood and Bruce Fortin. Message give by Camp 1 Cc, John Martin.

**June 2, 2026**

Presentation of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Award by Camp 1 Cc, John Martin to C/2nd Lt. Deen Parr. Presentation made at the 9th Annual Lee Corps Award Banquet in LaGrange, Ky.

**June 6, 2026**

State Encampment at the Union Church, Berra, Ky.

In attendance were Brothers Bruce Fortin, Todd Early, Tom Latham, John Gatton, Keith Karcher, Eugene Wood and John Martin. Brother Fortin selected for Sr. Vice Cc as well as Sec/Treas. Brother Early selected for Commander, Department of Kentucky, SUVCW.

#### **From Camp Calhoun #2**

6 Month report from January to June 2026

By Camp Commander Alben B. Shockley, M.D.

January 6<sup>th</sup> Camp Commander Alben Shockley gave a presentation on Civil War medicine to the Owensboro Sons of the American Revolution Chapter.

February 21<sup>st</sup> Camp Calhoun held its regular meeting at the Owensboro Museum of Science and History. Discussion on the Cranor Cemetery ceremony was discussed

April 23<sup>rd</sup> Chaplain Alan Bivens presented ROTC award at Henderson County High School

April 23<sup>rd</sup> Chaplain Alan Bivens presented ROTC award at Daviess County High School

April 25<sup>th</sup> After planning and fundraising for two years, Camp Calhoun's sponsored ceremony occurred. On a beautiful, sunny Saturday afternoon, we unveiled a plaque to honor the eight men buried in the small, rural cemetery that fought in the Union Army.

April 29<sup>th</sup> Chaplain Alan Bivens presented ROTC award at Apollo High School

May 1<sup>st</sup> Patriotic Officer Tanner Davis participated in the Civil War Living History days in Aurora, KY.

May 9<sup>th</sup> Chaplain Alan Bivens presented ROTC award at McLean County High School

May 16<sup>th</sup> Patriotic Officer Tanner Davis participated in the Battle of Sacramento reenactment held in Sacramento, KY.

June 20<sup>th</sup> Camp Calhoun held its second regular meeting at the City Park in Calhoun, KY

#### **From Elijah P. Marrs, Camp #5**

John T. Buckler, Commander

January 4th Camp 5 meeting Lexington Public Library.

January 25th, 2025, Mill Springs Anniversary Wreath Laying Memorial Service; National Cemetery Nancy, Kentucky. Wreath Laying Ceremony with SCV at Zollicoffer Cemetery.

March 1st Camp 5 meeting Lexington Public Library.

March 4th Richmond, Ky. City Hall President Lincoln Honor Guard inaugural address anniversary. March 5th Delivering Civil War Veterans headstone to Ft. Duffield Camp 1.

April 20th ROTC presentation Louis Hall George Rogers Clark High School; Clark County, Kentucky

May 3rd Camp 5 meeting Lexington Public Library.

May 5th Georgetown Kentucky installing new USCT headstones Historic Georgetown Cemetery. May 8th ROTC presentation Sophian Anderson. May 17 State Encampment Hodgenville, Ky. May 18th Flag Day Flags for Veteran Madison County Ky.

May 26th joint American Legion Post 8 Camp 5 SUVCW/SVR Memorial Day Service; Lexington Cemetery, National Cemetery Section. Rifle detail at Confederate Section along with SCV.

June 1st Joint SCV SUVCW Rifle salute; Confederate Memorial Day, Lexington Cemetery, Lexington Ky Confederate Section. Riverview Cemetery, Lee County Ky headstone cleanings and flag placements.

May 16th Dunaway Cemetery Lee County Flag placement

May 16th Proctor Cemetery Lee County Ky. flag placement for Memorial Day.

May 17th Providence Baptist Church Estill County Ky. Cemetery flag placement for Memorial Day.

May 17th West Irvine Cemetery Estill County, Ky flag placement for Memorial Day. Gate Dedication for Battle of Richmond Park. Memorial Day flag placement at Richmond Kentucky Cemetery. Flag Placement Graefenburg Cemetery Memorial Day, Greensburg Ky., Union and Confederate graves. Flag Placement Grove Hill Cemetery; Shelbyville, Ky.

#### **Goals-**

**1. Continue efforts to recruit and retain members**

**2. Support of semi-quincentennial events per National instruction**

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Early, Commander

Department of Kentucky

## Maine

Brother Commander in Chief

I respectfully report on my activities since the last Council of Administration. May 25, 2026 Attended Memorial Day Ceremony in Burlington, Maine.

June 13, 2026 Held Department of Maine Encampment and Election of Officer in Fairfield, Maine.

June 20, 2026 Attended the annual Flag Day service held for three brothers of the Bridges family with Col. C.S. Douty Camp 11 at the McAllister Cemetery in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

June 27, 2026 Attended the 250 Celebration with members from Camp 11, Camp 68, Camp 86, Sons Veterans Reserve and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War S. E. Palmer Tent #23 at the town of Exeter, Maine.

G.O. 14 Compliance We have reinstated the position of Department Signals Officer (Peter Redman) and added the position of Assistant Signals Officer (Larry Bonney) Both have administrative authority to the Department website. As for the Camps in Maine, Camp 11 and Camp 86 have no website or social media. Camp 3 Has a Facebook page with Peter Redman and James Ewing as Administration. Camp 68 has a Facebook page with Steve Gibbons and Donald Grinnell as Administration.

Submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

James A. Ewing, Commander

## Massachusetts

The Annual Department Encampment was held on Saturday April 25th, 2026. The Commander in Chief was present. After regular business, a new slate of officers were duly elected and installed. In an effort to foster leadership development, the appointments of the new Department Commander included a number of members who are rising leaders and who have all shown the desire and initiative to serve actively at the Department level.

A week after the encampment, the Dept. Commander and Dept. SVC were invited to represent the organization at the dedication of a monument recognizing the 57 members of the National Lancers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, 30 of whom lost their lives during the Civil War.

The Department continued its annual participation in the Memorial Day Weekend commemorations at the Bourne National Cemetery, but this year conducted a customized ceremony to recognize and remember the seven unknown Massachusetts soldiers buried there who were killed in the skirmishes leading up to the Battle of Bull Run. The Department was supported by the 1st District of the SVR.

The month following the encampment was spent addressing a number of documentational and organizational procedures which will ensure more efficient operation going forward. The Department Officers held an organizational meeting in June where each camp was assessed and a number of new committees were stood up to support the new direction of the Department's organization. The Department is now firmly committed to putting their full effort to supporting the local Camps in being active in running events, commemorations, and service projects. Department resources are being directed towards those efforts.

There are currently eight local Camps on our roll. After a year's effort of reorganization, Camp 22 continues to struggle to operate as a camp; efforts will continue to evaluate and support their status. Camps 15, 25, 50, and 104 all continue to be active in meetings, membership growth, and in service projects. Camp 54 has been working to balance between being primarily virtual and how that effects their ability to be active with a geographically diverse membership.

Coming off the closing of three camps over the past two years, efforts are being made to support camps which are struggling. After many years, the Department has reached out to Camp 132 and a committee is being formed to help them revitalize. They hold a possibly unique status of being the only camp in the country which meets in a purpose-built Sons of Veterans Hall (not previously a GAR Hall). They have been a major presence in their community for many years and the Department aims to guide them in becoming active again and boosting their membership as well as preserving their historic home and collection of artifacts.

New efforts are being made to increase the local camps and Department's presence on social media and visibility in the local communities. An expansion of involvement in youth programming and support of the national initiatives of graves registration and records tracking are in the works as well.

The Department is fostering a number of new working relationships including with the Massachusetts National Guard and with American Ancestors which will benefit our historical, archival, and preservation efforts. The Department of Massachusetts looks forward to the year ahead and the good works that our Camps will do to continue our charge to preserve and perpetuate the memories and lesson of the boys in blue.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wilder

Commander, Department of Massachusetts

## Michigan

Brothers of the SUVCW this past year has once again been a busy and also fruitful year for the Department of Michigan. I had appointed an exploratory committee with the view of hosting the 2028 National Encampment here in Michigan. Our committee chaired by Chuck Worley, PDC did an exemplary job of exploring different venues for the encampment, we welcomed PCinC Mike Paquette to Michigan as the Chair for the National Encampment. Unfortunately we were not selected for 2028, we congratulate the Department of Indiana on being selected.

We will be exploring having the Encampment back here in Michigan in 2029. The Camps have all been busy with the elections of new officers and I and members of my staff have traveled to the camps for swearing in ceremonies. I was honored to travel to Camp 444 in Cadillac, Michigan to present them with the awards that they were awarded at the 2025 National Encampment.

All camps were busy this past Memorial Weekend with parades and ceremonies honoring those that gave the last full measure of devotion to our great country. Some of the camps also did ceremonies on the REAL Memorial Day, May 30. We are now gearing up for the 250th Birthday of our nation. It looks to be a very busy time.

We were pleased to have our very own brother, Junior Vice Commander in Chief, Robert Payne step in for CinC Kevin Tucker at our Department Encampment held on April 25, 2026. We also were honored to have National Council of Administration member Gary Gibson, PDC also a Michigan brother. National officers of the Auxiliary, President Danielle Michaels, Past National President and current National Council Member, Linda Kronberg, National Council Member and Department of Michigan President, Connie Horning, Women's Relief Corp President Linda McKinch.

We are also pleased to announce that a new camp is coming into our department this year, with many new YOUNG members. One of our young members, Brother Austin Ingall of Nash-Hodges Camp No. 43 was awarded a scholarship from the Department for furthering his education.

All Camps are in compliance with National this year.

The Department of Michigan lost a very good friend of the SUVCW this past February, Chris Allen, Chris was the President of the G.A.R. Hall and Museum in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. He was taken suddenly from cancer, he was a great friend to us and is sadly missed.

We continue to recruit and to advertise for new membership here, things are looking very good for the Department of Michigan.

**No Recommendations.**

Respectfully Submitted

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

David W. Kimble, PCC

Commander, Department of Michigan

## Missouri

Greeting Brother Kevin P. Tucker, Commander-in-Chief:

Over the past year, The Department of Missouri has been very active in promoting the history of the Civil War in Missouri.

Each camp continued their traditions remembrances at Memorial Day. Again, this year members of various camps traveled to St. James, Missouri and shared a time with those veterans who reside at the Missouri

Veterans Home to help them remember their comrades sacrifices for the country. Brothers from St. James Camp #326 held a Decorations Day Ceremony on May 30<sup>th</sup>, which I was honored to be able to attend. Several of our camps are putting on 250<sup>th</sup> events around the state.

As I had reported in my midterm report we did have some significant challenges with our camp located in the Kansas City area. Thomas Hindsley - Senior Vice Commander of Westport Camp #64 has been able to pull some things together to keep the camp afloat. This is still an unstable situation, and the Department is continuing to help in any way we can. I issued a Certificate of Distinguished Service to Brother Hindsley for his efforts in working to keep Westport Camp #64 a viable camp within the Department of Missouri.

At the Department Encampment we presented two Meritorious Services Awards – **Glen Alsop PDC**, Graves Registrations Officer and **Sumner Hunnewell PDC**, JROTC/ Eagle Scout Coordinator.

Francis Blair Jr. Award for Most Outstanding Member of the Department of Missouri went to **Craig Mathews PCC** – Department Photographer.

Received a second request from Michael Hammerson – JVC of the Ensign Davis Camp # 10 – England for help with obtaining from Congress permission to place a plaque at the base of the Lincoln Statue located in Parliament Square. I sent a second request into CinC Tucker and Chief of Staff Fraser. Brother Jim Pahl was contacted, and he reported this is matter that should be handled by the CinC. This information was also passed onto Brother Robert Amsler- CofA member.

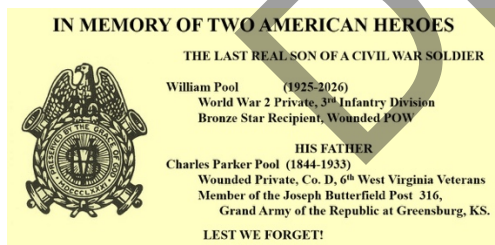
We are working with the Brice's Crossing Foundation to place two red granite markers to mark the locations on the battlefield of the two Missouri units that fought there in Baldwyn, Mississippi. Another project with have just started to work on is to place a marker or plaque at Andersonville, Georgia in memory of those men from Missouri who died there.

The Department is also working with the NPS at Andersonville to place a Monument to those from Missouri who died in captivity.

Robert AuBuchon PDC continued to stay in contact with the Pool family and was notified when Brother Pool was placed in Hospice. He was also notified by the family of his passing. Brother Pool was laid to rest on June 11, 2026. The Department is in the process of having a monument produced and it will be installed at a future time with the family's permission. National will be notified of the date of this event. Below is the lay out of the memorial Missouri Granite with a Bronze plaque attached to the granite.

Bids for the project - Wampler Monuments (Ironton, MO) - 12x24 bronze plaque mounted on Missouri red granite \$3800 + \$1000 for shipping to the cemetery and installation. Total \$4800.00

At the time of this submission we are still waiting for a second bid on this project from a monument company located in Bolivar, Missouri.



The Department Encampment was held in Sainte Genevieve, Missouri, and hour South of St. Louis. Brother Robert Amsler Jr., a member of the Council of Administration and the Department of Missouri, attended our encampment to install officers.

Over the course of the year, we lost the following Brothers:

- James Beckner – Member of Westport Camp #64
- Robert S. Drake of Phelps Camp #66
- Mark S. Schreiber of Lillie Camp # 6
- Davis Clayton Bruce of St. James Camp #326
- Richard Coder of Tiger Camp #432
- Brother Kenneth Bailey of Westport Camp #64
- William Pool the Last Real Son of US Grant Camp #68



The Departments of Missouri will continue to promote the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War so that our ancestors who Preserved the Union will not be forgotten.

Several of our members will be heading to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and are looking forward to a productive and meaningful encampment.

Here by submitted with Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June of 2026.

**Recommendations** – None

Mark Alan Coplin, PDC

Commander - Department of Missouri

## Nebraska and the Dakotas

The department of Nebraska and the Dakotas held our 26th annual encampment on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at Elmwood, Nebraska. All brothers present participated in a poignant memorial service dedicated to all brothers from the department who have passed. After the memorial service, the department successfully conducted its business meeting and elected officers for the upcoming year. Past department commander Mark Nichols gave a presentation was open to the public on the GAR in Nebraska and the several GAR national commanders from Nebraska.

Since our last encampment on April 5, 2025 in Fremont, Nebraska, brothers in this department have been active on several fronts.

This department held 14 last soldier dedications since our last encampment. We have now held dedications and placed the bronze star marker and QR code in all the 92 Nebraska counties with Union soldier burials, thus completing the state of Nebraska! Only Arthur County in Nebraska has no Civil War veteran burials.

This department presented ROTC and Jr. ROTC awards at several colleges, universities and high schools throughout our region. We also presented a Civil Air Patrol award to a Civil Air Patrol cadet in Fremont, Nebraska.

Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day 2025 saw all camps of this department involved in ceremonies, parades, observances and other activities in Lincoln, Fremont, Omaha and Wisner. Brothers from Nebraska also participated in the Wreaths Across America event on December 13, 2025, and laid wreaths in honor of veterans in several cemeteries throughout the state.

This Department undertook fund raising efforts to replace roadside signs commemorating the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic along the GAR highway at McCook and Ashland, the west and east ends of the state of Nebraska respectively. We successfully raised the necessary funds and are now working with the Nebraska Department of Transportation to have the signs installed.

Our Sons of Veterans Reserve unit has also been active. Besides participating in several of the abovementioned events, they also stood guard at the statue of Abraham Lincoln in Nebraska's state capitol honoring the anniversary of the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and assisted posting the colors to open the state legislative session in February, remembering Abraham Lincoln's 217th birthday.

We added six new members to our roster. With these new members and the continuing dedication of all brothers, the Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas looks forward to the upcoming year.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

At our encampment on April 18, 2026, Department Junior Vice Commander Val Schmiedeskamp brought up an issue that new recruits and prospective members have expressed unease or reluctance with swearing the oath as it is currently written. Therefore, The Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas respectfully makes the following recommendation to be considered for vote at the National Encampment: That the wording of the oath be changed from the original to the proposed

Original wording

I, \_\_\_\_\_, | in the presence of the Great Creator | and witnessing members of this camp, | hereby | voluntarily and solemnly | pledge myself | to support and defend | the Government of the United States of America, | to offer my life | if need be | to preserve the Flag | from being lowered in defeat; | to always observe the day | set aside | by the Grand Army of the Republic | as Memorial Day, | sacred to the memory | of the Union Soldiers Sailors and Marines | of 1861 to 1865 | and do all in my power | to persuade others | to do the



same; | to be faithful | in all duties of citizenship, | to be obedient | to the law of the land, | to obey the Constitution and Regulations of this order, | and to promote actively | its objectives and interests | always and everywhere. | So help me God.

Proposed wording, Changed wording underlined

I, \_\_\_\_\_, | in the presence of the great creator | and witnessing members of this camp, | do hereby | voluntarily and solemnly | pledge myself | to support and defend, | to the best of my ability, | the Constitution of the United States of America, | and bearing true faith | and allegiance to the same | against all enemies, | foreign and domestic | to offer my life | if need be | to preserve the Flag | from being lowered in defeat; | to always observe the day | set aside | by the Grand Army of the Republic | as Memorial Day, | sacred to the memory | of the Union Soldiers, Sailors and Marines | of 1861 to 1865 | and do all in my power | to persuade others | to do the same; | and do further swear | that I do not advocate, | nor am I a member | of any political party or organization | that advocates the overthrow | of the government of the United States | by force or violence, | and to be faithful | in all duties of citizenship, | to be obedient | to the law of the land, | to obey the Constitution and regulations of this Order, | and to promote actively | its objectives and interests | always and everywhere. | So help me God.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Respectfully,

Brandon K. Barth

Commander

## New Hampshire

The Department of New Hampshire has been active with a variety of events since our Annual Encampment of 18 April 2026.

- 26 April 2026 Department members participated in an SVR event at Grant's Tomb, NYC, NY.
- 17 May 2026 the Department Commander represented the Department of NH at a 250 Event organized by the Daughters of the American Revolution. This event was attended by the general public, as well as members of the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Masonic Fraternity. This was a dedication of the graves of two colonial Freemasons buried in the Trinity Cemetery, Cornish, NH.
- 6 June 2026, 250 Event Celebration and Civil War Monument Dedication, Marlow, NH.
- 27 June 2026, 250 Event, parade, and Camp recruiting event at the Hanover Center Old Timers Fair, Hanover, NH.

The following upcoming events are being proposed with strong support of the Dept, Camps, and SVR:

- 4 July 2026, 250 Event and parade, July 4<sup>th</sup> Observance, Mount Holly, VT. This is coordinated with the Colfax Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows and members of the Scott Camp, Dept of VT, SUVCW.
- 8 August 2026, 250 Event and parade at Lempster Old Home Day, Lempster, NH.
- 12 September 2026, parade and Camp recruiting event at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Auburn Day and Annual Duck Race, Auburn, NH.
- 250 Event, Camp recruiting event, and elementary school and general public educational event to be held 17, 18, 19, 20 September 2026, at the Tunbridge World's Fair, Tunbridge VT.
- 8 November 2026, Department of New Hampshire Remembrance Day Observance, United Church of Cornish, Cornish, NH.
- 12,13,14,15 November 2026 National Organization SUVCW Remembrance Day Observance and parade, Gettysburg, PA.

Respectfully in F, C, and L,

Gary A. Ward PDC, Dept Commander

Dept of New Hampshire SUVCW

## New Jersey

Dear Brothers of the National Council of Administration,

It is an honor to make this report. The following are some of the activities the New Jersey Department and our Camps have engaged in since the last report.

**Department of New Jersey** – On 13 June 2026, the Department held its 144th annual encampment at the Clarion Hotel in Toms River, New Jersey. We were honored to have our own David Hann, PDC, COA as installing officer. Elected officers for 2026-27 were: Department Commander Peter Lindsay, PCC, Senior Vice Commander Brian Sygmund, PCC; and in a contested election, Christopher Sands, Junior Vice Commander; Secretary-Treasurer Dr. David Martin, PDC; Council Gary DeSiver, PDC 2020-22; Council Jay J. Godin, PDC 2022-24; Council Frank Tomasello, PDC 2024-26. Department Commander Tomasello awarded the New Jersey Department's Good Citizen certificate to Brother Charles "Chuck" Gordinier of the Louis R. Francine Camp # 7 and Gina Denham a non-member. Gina Denham, a British citizen and former London Police Sgt. is the co-founder of the Monuments for UK Veterans of the American Civil War Association, which she established with Darren Rawlings. She has dedicated significant efforts to identifying and properly honoring over 700 American Civil War veterans who died in the UK. Through her research, she secured official US war graves and headstones for many of these previously forgotten soldiers, including Samuel Hough of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NJ Cavalry. In all, it was a successful Department Encampment.

### **Camp 4 - President James A. Garfield Camp**

Past Camp Commander and Treasurer of Camp 4 sadly passed away on 6 March 2026. Proper deceased Brother honors were extended.

### **Camp 7 - Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp**

On 16 May the Brothers of the Camp Dedicated a new tombstone for Private George Giberson in Belin, NJ and dedicated a last soldier marker for on May 7 for Private Lewis Mingin of Gloucester County, NJ. On 21 May Brothers from the Francine Camp placed over 250 flags on graves of Veterans buried in Egg Harbor City Cemetery, and Oak Grove and Greenmount Cemetery in Hammonton, NJ. On 25 May 2026, Brothers marched in the annual Memorial Day Parade and provided a memorial rifle salute in Hammonton, New Jersey. On 30 May 2026, Brothers conducted their traditional Memorial Day Service at Greenmount Cemetery in Hammonton. This consist of the original GAR Decoration Day Service and the later SUVCW service as well as a placing flower on Civil War veterans' graves.

### **Camp 10 - Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon Camp**

The is Camp working hard on updating their unique and extensive on-line database of local GAR records so that these valuable records remain accessible to the public.,

### **Camp 17 - Major General George Armstrong Custer Camp and Camp 20 - Major General Phillip Kearny Camp**

On 27 June 2026, Brothers of the Camp, with Brothers of Kearny Camp, manned at recruitment table at the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth Commemoration at the Battle of Monmouth Battlefield.

**Camp 73 - Major General Winfield Scott Camp** Continues its work with the Society of the Grand Army of the Republic, Private Frederick S. Westlake Post#1 Department of New Jersey on placing markers at the site of former GAR Post buildings. They join Custer and Kearny Camp in this worthy endeavor.

### **Camp 82 - James S. Stratton Camp** (a/k/a Beck's Philadelphia Brigade Band)

On 7 May 2026, the camp offered martial music and taps at the dedication of a last soldier marker for Private Lewis Mingin of Gloucester County, NJ. The also provided a lunch hour interlude on 13 June 2026 and the Department Encampment.

In closing it is an honor to serve my Department and the SUVCW.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Francis A. Tomasello Jr.

Commander

## New York

CinC Kevin Tucker,

My report is as follows:

I attended the Headstone Dedications Ceremonies by Walter H French Camp #17, Homer Searle Camp #114, Col David Ireland Camp #137.

I visited Schuyler F. Smith Camp #193 for their first meeting. The camp is under reorganization and will be active once again. Their main project is the repair of the Halsey Valley GAR Hall. This will be a multi-year project as it needs extensive repairs to bring back to its original state. Brother Todd Shillington is assigned to assist the camp's reorganization. Looking forward to their comeback.

As Department Commander I participated in the Sgt William C. Lilly Camp #66 meeting. Main message is recruitment, retention, and educational events. The camps are doing outstanding work which has resulted in gaining seven new members since they organized.

I attended the Walter H French Camp #17 Memorial Day and America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony on 25 May 2026 in Copenhagen, NY. We had local Representatives joining the ceremony as well as a guest speaker, LTC Aamidor from Fort Drum along with the Fort Drum Military Band. There were 120 people at the ceremony and local media covered in newspapers and television.

DSVC Schwarzmuller attended America's 250<sup>th</sup> event at Lewiston, NY on 24 May 2026 representing the SUVCW NY Department. The event also brought in large crowds and was covered by the Lewiston Sentinel. Good coverage for our Order.

The DJVC and Department Treasurer are exploring better investment opportunities to grow our financial resources. The Department Treasurer has done an outstanding job in improvements on this front. Hopefully we can build on that success.

In August, at request of Scott Wilson from Fort Tribute in Madrid, NY, I attended a meeting to form a new camp. Scott had five others who are joining this effort. They have potentially 5-6 more interested in forming the camp. They wanted to wait till December to submit the Form 3s as they want to recruit more from the local area. The Sgt Judson E. Horsford Camp #106 will be the new camp's name. They have been approved by the Department and National for proceeding to form. This camp will have great potential once given a date of rank. They requested a pause doe now and will resume formation in near future.

Brother Stump is in progress in forming the Bradley S Osbon Camp 150. The formation is delayed until fall of this year for their Charter.

We held the Department Mid-Year meeting via zoom on 5 October. It was a productive meeting covering the upcoming Department Encampment and our mission in the coming days. Our next zoom meeting is scheduled for 13 July 2026.

It was with solemn duty that I attended Brother John Goodnough funeral. The Ireland Camp is currently going through the reorganization phase to keep the camp going. I have been in contact with the members and offered my assistance to help them keep their camp going. I look forward to working with the brother of Ireland Camp in their recruitment efforts.

The Camp Commander of the Tanner Camp requested assistance in recruitment efforts to bolster their camp. I am currently working on an action plan to assist them in this recruitment effort. I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

Recruitment and Retention is a constant focus for the Department and should be for the camps. The Department Officers have worked on some ideas to help the camps. They are as follows:

1. Brother Phillips and I developed a Public Relations guidebook to assist the camps in promoting, recruiting, and retention of the camp and members. We hope this will be of great value to all the camps. The PR Guidebook is posted on the department website.
2. Sent mass email asking for volunteers for the Department Blog, YouTube Channel, and Instagram account. These platforms will help the Department assist the camps in recruitment and retention efforts. A social media Policy has been developed, being 99% from National, and posted on the website. However, we have yet to get any volunteers. We need the brother's expertise and involvement to be successful. Please help us to help you.

3. The Recruitment Medal is to be developed to encourage brothers to recruit new members. The brothers at the Department Encampment approved of this medal. The second is the MG Newton Martin Curtis Medal which encourages more involvement within our order which the Department coted against. We believe the recruitment medal will incentivize recruitment in the Order.
4. At our Department Encampment we conducted a recruitment and retention brainstorming session with the camps and department officers. The session was insightful and we hope to capitalize on the ideas discussed.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of NY recommend National look into maximizing our Forms to be sent digitally. For example, the Camps are sending their Form 27s digitally and the checks by mail with a hard copy and Department the same. We are asking National to develop a procedure where we eliminate mailing Forms and send via email and those Forms requiring money, there is a method to send electronically to National. We are looking into how we can do the same between the camps and the department. This will save on paper, envelopes, and postage.

Our department did open the Campfire event on 1- April to the public to take part of Celebrating America's 250th anniversary. The local Chamber of Commerce supported it by helping advertise the event. Local media were contacted to promote the event. Our goal is to get our name out there and for recruitment opportunities for the local camps and tents within our department. The public did attend as well as 35 members of the Allied Orders. The event was successful.

The Sgt Judson Hicks Camp #111 is installing a new monument mirroring the one in Gettysburg of the 111<sup>th</sup> dedication as part of Celebrating America's Anniversary with huge community support. A Public Relations specialist has been hired to promote this event not just locally, but for National media coverage. The event is scheduled for 22 August 2026, and all our brothers and sisters are welcome to join us. The event has been submitted to the Banner.

I'm confident more camps in our department will do the same to take opportunity to use the America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to promote our order and for recruitment.

Our department will continue to perform the mission in keeping the Memories of the Boys in Blue and improving our department and camps involvement for future missions.

It is a great pleasure and honor to work with such committed and dedicated brothers in the Department of NY. I intend to visit more camps in the coming months if reelected in Aprils Encampment.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
 Jeffrey French, PDC (NY & CH)  
 Department Commander,  
 Department of New York.

## North Carolina

The Annual Department Encampment was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Brother Daniel Murray, Senior Vice Commander in Chief, installed the new officers on behalf of Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker. The 2025 slate of officers was re-elected.

We continue to get calls from America 250 NC to participate in various ceremonies around the state. I am coordinating with the Camp Commanders to make sure all requests are honored.

Our newly re-designed Department Website has gone live to great reviews. Many thanks to newly appointed Department Signals Officer, Paul Vilga, of the Maj Gen Judson Kilpatrick Camp No. 7. I have nominated our website for the Horace Greeley Award.

Our Department JROTC Officer, Michael Hale Gray, continues his efforts to identify the many schools in the state that have JROTC units and arrange for the worthy cadets to be receive the SUVCW certificate.

The Camps have participated in various Memorial Day ceremonies held around the state. I served as the keynote speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony held at the Salisbury National Cemetery Annex on the grounds of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salisbury, NC.

The Southeast Region SUVCW Department Coordination and Communication Strategy Group, made up of the Departments of North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee with Mississippi, continue to meet on a monthly basis. We have set up a shared Google calendar where we post upcoming events like parades and re-enactments and we share information and ideas about forming new camps

and SVR units. As a result of our discussions concerning improvements to the operating efficiency of the Order we make the following recommendation:

**Recommendations:**

The SUVCW Departments of the Southeast propose that a Task Force be formed to investigate ways to improve operational efficiency, to enhance overall communications and to reduce costs across The Order. The Task Force would evaluate the ways to reduce or eliminate all manual processes and unnecessary transmissions of information in favor of electronic processes wherever possible at the Camp, Department and National levels within The Order. This investigation would include, but not be limited to...

- All forms need to be PDF Fill-in forms.
- Electronic Dropbox-like tools for developing, storing and accessing National, Department and Camp information (electronic Database records keeping).
- All forms need to be uploaded electronically (Camp to Department, Department to National).
- Eliminate all unnecessary signatures. Allow remaining signatures to be signed electronically (e.g. Docusign)
- Allow all payments be made electronically (Individual to camp, camp to department, department to national).
- Electronic membership cards
- The Task Force should survey all Departments for additional ideas and concepts.

A final report will be submitted to the National Committee on Communication and Technology prior to the 2027 National Encampment for review

The Southeastern Department Commanders Coordinating Committee (composed of the Departments of NC, TN & MS, GA & SC, FL, AL, KY) volunteer to form the Task Force Steering Committee, headed up by The Department Commander of NC.

Respectfully Submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,  
Henry C. Duquette, DC

## Ohio

### Commander's Report- Department of Ohio

1. On 14 June attended Department Encampment in Clintonville, Ohio. Elected Department Commander.
2. From 7 August to 10 August, attended National Encampment in Houston, Texas. Toured several battlefields on the way there and back including Lincolns birthplace, Shiloh, Tennessee, Corinth, Mississippi, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Chickamauga, Georgia.
3. On 25 September, attended Zoom with CinC Tucker for Department Commanders.
4. On 27 September, attended a tombstone dedication ceremony for Six Civil War veterans in New Lexington, Ohio. Installed new brother Thomas Colvin at the event
5. On 12 October, attended Department audit by Zoom
6. On 22 October, installation for William Dennison Camp #1 at Grove City, Ohio
7. On 2 November, attended a tombstone dedication in Casstown, Ohio
8. On 6 November, installed General Benjamin Fearing Camp #2 in Marietta, Ohio
9. On 8 November, installed Cadot-Blessing Camp #126 in Rio Grand, Ohio
10. On 9 November, attended an historical marker dedicated at Ohio University for Charles McCabe, major popularizer of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic".
11. On 16 November, installed Lytle Camp #10 Cincinnati, Ohio
12. On 15 December, installed Parrott Camp #33 Kenton, Ohio
13. On 20 December, installed Garfield Camp 142 Brunswick, Ohio
14. On 29 December, attended America 250 Zoom with CinC Tucker.
15. On 11 January, installed Triem Camp #43 Salem, Ohio.
16. On 13 January, installed Sherman Camp # 93 Dayton, Ohio.



17. On 15 January, installed Earnshaw Camp #89 Oakland, Ohio.
  18. On 18 January, attended a Department Audit by Zoom.
  19. On 20 January, installed Enderlin Camp #73 Chillicothe, Ohio.
  20. On 21 January, installed McLaughlin Camp #12 Mansfield, Ohio.
  21. On 31 January, attended America 250 meeting in Hardin County, Ohio.
  22. On 8 February, attended Lincoln Dinner with McLaughlin Camp #12 Shelby, Ohio.
  23. On 12 February, attended Lincoln Dinner with Sherman Camp #93 Dayton, Ohio.
  24. On 22 March, attended Camp Secretary zoom meeting for the Department of Ohio.
  25. On 11 April, attended Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony Springfield, Illinois.
  26. On 11 April, attended Annual B F Stephenson Tomb Ceremony in Rose Hill Cemetery Petersburg, Illinois.
  27. On 15 April, installed new James Kountz camp #14 Toledo, Ohio.
  28. On 26 April, attended a Department Audit by Zoom.
  29. On 28 April, attended a Historical Marker Dedication at Fort Dennison in Cincinnati, Ohio.
  30. On 15 May, attended JROTC award ceremony at Springfield H S in Holland, Ohio.
  31. On 22 May, attended JROTC award ceremony at Kenton H S in Kenton, Ohio.
  32. On 23 May, attended a tombstone dedication at Greenlawn Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio.
  33. On 25 May, was in the Memorial Day parade in Kenton, Ohio.
  34. On 30 May, attended a Memorial Service held in Grove Cemetery Kenton, Ohio.
  35. On 7 June, attended a Department audit by Zoom.
  36. On 13 June, attended Department of Ohio Encampment.
  37. On 18 July, attended annual dedication of the Battle of Buffington Island.
  38. On 30 July-02 August, attended the National Encampment in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
- David A. Rish Commander, Department of Ohio

## Oklahoma

### **Current Membership and Camps Status**

As of January 2026, the Department of Oklahoma had 48 Members including Associates. 47 Members, 1 Associate Members. Two (2) new members were inducted during the Department Encampment bringing the total to 50 Members. Department of Oklahoma currently stands at 3 Camps, with 2-3 additional camps targeted for 2026-2027. All camps have regular meetings and conduct events and ceremonies in communities around the state. The Department of Oklahoma held the Annual Department Encampment on May 9, 2026, beginning at 10:30 AM. The Department Encampment was held at the VFW Post 4938, 425 South Fretz Ave Suite E-F, Edmond Ok 73003. The highlight of the Department Encampment was the attendance and participation of the Commander-in-Chief, Brother Kevin P Tucker who inducted the new officers for 2026-2027. Also in attendance were various members of the Allied Orders to include Sister Carol Comp, National President, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861 to 1865. Additionally, the Department awarded the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker award to Sister Sandra Cole Flores, Women's Relief Corps for her work with the Monuments Committee. During the Encampment Terry D. Handley, DC was elected to a third term as Department Commander.

### **Department Activities in Narrative Form**

During the past year, the Department of Oklahoma remained active in administrative, commemorative, patriotic, and community outreach efforts across the state. In May, the Department sought approval for the use of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War name on an Oklahoma Department Challenge Coin, and later that month Department Brothers, the Sisters of the Department of Oklahoma, and the Ladies Auxiliary participated in Memorial Day dedications at both the Oklahoma Veterans Cemetery in Oklahoma City and Gracelawn Cemetery in Tulsa. In June, members took part in the retirement of more than 100 flags in Jones alongside local residents, Cub Scouts, and the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Daughters' of the American Revolution. July was equally active, with participation in Independence Day celebrations in Edmond and Bethany, attendance at the Honey Springs Battlefield Memorial Service, and support for a USCIS Naturalization Ceremony at the Oklahoma Historical Society. In August, representatives attended the National

Encampment in Houston, where the Department was honored with the U.S. Grant Cup Award for achieving the greatest percentage increase in membership for 2025.

Throughout the fall, the Department continued its public and ceremonial presence by organizing and attending the annual Constitution Day observance on the steps of the Oklahoma State Capitol in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department DUVCW, the Oklahoma City Chapters of the SAR and DAR, and the Oklahoma Society SAR Ladies Auxiliary. Members also visited the Oklahoma City Veterans Hospital, assisted in the retirement of more than 300 United States flags, and supported recruiting efforts at the Oklahoma Folk Life Festival. All three camps conducted Remembrance Day Ceremonies in November. As the new year began, Department representatives attended the Route 66 Back in Time Symposium at the Oklahoma History Center and the National Championship Rodeo honoring veterans. In January, the Department also attended the Indian Nations Camp #3 meeting, installed camp officers for 2026, and presented a program titled "From Independence to Union" highlighting the nation's 250th anniversary and the role of the SUVCW in the commemoration. Additional service included honoring wounded warriors at the Norman Veterans Center and participating in the VAVS Committee Meeting and National Salute to Veteran Patients Day at the Oklahoma Veterans Hospital.

In the opening months of 2026, the Department continued both planning and public education efforts. Members met to prepare and hold a reading of the Constitution for Constitution Day 2026 and participated in Black Heritage Day at the State Capitol, where a presentation was given on the Civil War service of African Creeks, the Indian Home Guard, and the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry at the Battles of Honey Springs and Cabin Creek, while also promoting the work of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Administrative responsibilities were also completed, including the submission of all Camp Form 22s to National Headquarters and the dissemination of information regarding National Signal Officer courses. The Department remained engaged in civic and patriotic observances through participation in a naturalization ceremony at the Federal Courthouse, completion of NRA Black Powder Training and Certification, preparation of Scouting Eagle certificates for presentation in Tulsa, attendance at the Kansas Department's 30-year anniversary, and arrangements for the 25th Department Encampment. The Department also took part in America 250 activities, including a tribute to veterans at the Norman Veterans' Center, and is planning continued participation in Liberty Fest and Parade in Edmond and Constitution Day at the State Capitol. In addition, Department leadership has continued to distribute General Orders, Special Messages, and the SUVCW Proclamation for the United States' 250th birthday to all camps. Finally, Brother Tucker McHugh continues his work related to the future commissioning of the USS Oklahoma (SSN-802), with the hope that the SUVCW will participate in the related ceremonies.

### **Recommendations**

#### **1. Resolution Supporting the Establishment of Memorial Memberships**

WHEREAS, the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (the "Order") do not presently establish an honorary Memorial Membership classification for deceased male blood relatives of members; and

WHEREAS, members of the Order desire a uniform mechanism to recognize and commemorate deceased male blood relatives within two (2) generations who would have met the hereditary eligibility requirements for membership during their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Memorial Membership classification is reasonably expected to promote genealogical and organizational engagement and to facilitate the recruitment of eligible descendants into full membership; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Membership should be issued only upon application submitted by (i) a Full Member in good standing of the Order, or (ii) a Hereditary Member in good standing of an Allied Order, and processed in accordance with National Regulations and applicable Department and Camp bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Memorial Membership may provide an ancillary revenue stream to support the lawful purposes and activities of Camps, Departments, and the National Organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Oklahoma, in Encampment assembled, does hereby petition the 145<sup>th</sup> National Encampment to amend the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations by



adding an additional class of membership under Article VII (Membership), to be designated "Memorial," substantially in the following form:

**Section 1. Membership classes.** There are five (5) classes of membership.

**(e) Memorial.** A Memorial Member is a deceased male blood relative within two (2) generations of the applicant who, at the time of death, would have been eligible for hereditary membership under the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations. Memorial Membership is honorary, confers no voting rights, office-holding privileges, or other incidents of membership reserved to living members, and shall be issued only upon (i) submission of a completed Memorial Membership application and the prescribed fee, and (ii) acceptance/approval as provided in National Regulations and applicable Department and Camp bylaws. An application for Memorial Membership may be submitted only by a Full Member in good standing of the Order or by a Hereditary Member in good standing of an Allied Order. Memorial Memberships need not be included in annual Camp or Department strength reports unless otherwise required by National Regulations.

Submitted:

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Terry Handley

LCDR Terry Handley, USN (Ret.), DC

## Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Department has remained active since the report provided to the National Council of Administration, Springfield IL, in April 2026,

1. Zoom meetings were held with Dept elected officers and with Camps Commanders/Secretaries on alternating months to enhance info sharing. There has been a lot of positive comments on their value.
2. Numerous SUVCW Cadet and Eagle Scout Awards were presented across the Commonwealth.
3. A Mid-Year meeting was held on 18 Oct. 25 in Mechanicsburg PA.
4. The Pennsylvania Department had a large contingent of Brothers participate in the Annual Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade, 15 Nov. 25.
5. Davis ★ Camp hosted its annual A.P. Davis Remembrance at its mausoleum in Allegheny Cem, Pittsburgh PA.
6. The Davis \* Camp hosted the Annual Appomattox Day Luncheon on 11 Apr 2026. Brothers from 8 different Camps were in attendance, as were our sisters of the Allied Orders.
7. Brother Ellis Michaels and William Bray, from Davis \* Camp and Cripps Camp, placed and replaced 4 headstones for the Solder's who carried President Lincoln from Ford's theater to the Peterson House. A service was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> and well attended by several Camps and Sisters from the Allied Orders. In addition, the direct descendants of the two soldiers were in attendance.
8. Last Union Veteran ceremonies were conducted in Lancaster, Juniata, Lackawanna, Columbia, and Cambria Counties. This brings the total up to 30 of 67 PA counties completed.
9. The PA Dept Encampment business sessions were held Fri-Sat, 26-27 Jun 2026 at the Comfort in Suites, Carlisle in Carlisle PA. Our Allied Orders Sisters held their conventions at the same venue, same dates, to enhance Fraternal Relations. The Capt. J.P. Brindle Camp # 50 was the host Camp. C-in-C Kevin Tucker, PC-in-C Michael Paquette, Aux PNP Rosemary Martin, as well as National Presidents, and PNP's of the Allied Orders were present. C-in-C Kevin Tucker addressed the assembled Encampment and encouraged participation in the upcoming 2026 National Encampment in Gettysburg.
10. The Pennsylvania Department will have a large Delegation at the National Encampment.
11. I had the honor of being elected as the PA Dept Commander for a second year at the Encampment. I wish to thank all the National Department Brothers and Sisters for attending and making the encampment a success.

## Recommendations

There are no Recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department.

Respectfully submitted in F, C & L  
MICHAEL E. PETER, PDC  
Pennsylvania Department Commander

## Rhode Island

In the past year, all four camps in the Department of Rhode Island have been active and have participated in the work of the Order. We have seen some growth in the Department's membership and we expect this trend to continue.

In August 2025 the Department provided a hearty delegation to the National Encampment in Houston, Texas, and appreciated the host Department's hospitality.

Camps held their annual meetings in November and December of 2025 and all officers were duly elected and installed.

In February 2026 the Department hosted a Lincoln Birthday Dinner in honor of our beloved president. Each Camp held appropriate Memorial Day activities both on Memorial Day weekend and on the following weekend of 30 May 2026.

Sullivan Ballou Camp 3, acting on behalf of the Department, spearheaded a successful effort to have the Rhode Island General Assembly rescind its ratification, in 1861, of the Corwin Amendment to the United States Constitution, which would have given Constitutional recognition of slavery just prior to the outbreak of hostilities.

We have also recently resumed publication of the Department newsletter which have been dormant since the Covid epidemic.

The Department looks forward to another successful year ahead doing the good work of the Order.

## Southwest

Let me start by expressing the appreciation of the DSW Brothers for the leadership of Past Department Commander Todd T. Hoffay, PDC.

The Department of the Southwest continues to be in fair health, with three camps in Arizona and one camp being organized in New Mexico. Picacho Peak Camp No.1 located in the Phoenix metropolitan area, the General R. H. G. Minty Camp No.2 located in southern Arizona and the General U. S. Grant Camp No.3 located in central and northern Arizona. Both Minty Camp and Grant Camp have members residing in New Mexico.

As of the most recently filed Form 35 the Department had 111 members in good standing, having experienced a net loss of 10 this past reporting year.

The Department held its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Encampment on March 28<sup>th</sup> in Tucson. Brothers were honored to have the Commander-in-Chief, Kevin P. Tucker address the Encampment, respond to questions and served as the Installing Officer.

The Encampment authorized organizing activities to begin for forming a southern New Mexico camp, the Colonel Albert J. Fountain Camp No.4 based out of Las Cruces. Very early explorations are also taking place regarding a northern New Mexico Camp.

Also, then Department SVC W. Mark Clark report that in the Fall he had been authorized by the Commander of the 6<sup>th</sup> Military District, Maj. Wayne Eder to undertake recruitment for the Department's first SVR unit, to be named Company G, 1<sup>st</sup> California Infantry Vols, SVR. Following successfully recruiting 13 members, Clark reported he had been appointed by Maj. Eder 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt for the company.

Commander Hoffay also reported on a proposal for the creation of a Department-wide program to fund the purchase and placement of GAR markers at Union soldiers' graves in the Department. The project began as an initiative of the Picacho Peak Camp No.1 for cemeteries in the Phoenix Metro area. Following a successful fundraising campaign, thought was given to expanding the effort department-wide. Key to that success was a generous bequest following the passing of one of the founding leaders of the Department, Gerry Bloom. This lead to the project being named, The Gerald N. Bloom – Honoring the Defenders of the Union Program. The brothers of the PPC#1 generously offered to make the program Department-wide and the Encampment voted to accept the balance of the funds and create a special fund for them.

The Camps have continued to meet regularly and engage in various events including headstone dedications, Last Union Soldier ceremonies, social activities, and of course, Memorial Day remembrances in Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott. There has been an increase in ROTC/JROTC award presentations including schools in New Mexico for the first time. And Eagle Scout Boards of Review and Courts of Honor participation continues.

Several Brothers are looking forward to representing the Department at the 145<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Allied Orders in Gettysburg.

#### **NO RECOMMENDATIONS**

W. Mark Clark, DC

## **Tennessee**

Commander-in-Chief,

Greetings from the Department of Tennessee with Mississippi!

The Department remains in fair health and is actively expanding with one Camp being Chartered this year and one in the process of being organized.

We have six (6) active Camps holding regular meetings.

Pittsburg Landing Camp #61 was officially chartered August 23, 2025, at the Shiloh Battlefield.

Work toward establishing a new Camp tentatively to be named the William Washington Hence Camp #1624 in Natchez, Mississippi with Royal Hill as Camp Organizer. To our knowledge this is the very first Camp in Mississippi.

Our 2026 Department Encampment was held April 19, 2026, at the Williamson County Library in Franklin, Tennessee. National Junior Vice Commander Robert Payne attended and inducted new Department Officers, including myself as Department Commander. We had a very instructional, informative, and illustrious encampment which encompassed the sitting leadership, newly installed leadership, and voting delegates within all subordinate camps attached to the jurisdictional department (Tennessee & Mississippi).

After closure of the encampment, a "farewell" dinner celebration was hosted for our most recent department commander, Chip Huffman and the entry of our newest department commander, Gary Wayne Moore at downtown Franklin's delicious Puckett's Restaurant!

It was a great day of business and camaraderie and a perfect representation of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

At the same time the TN ASUVCW at Large Joseph H. Rider #62 met and included the induction of officers. Activities:

Our Department continues to support National with the commentary and memo of understanding with Vicksburg National Cemetery restoring the graves of USCT disrupted by storms nearly 5 years ago. Br. Ben Block Jones, PDC is our boots on the ground and has been working closely with Br. Henry Duquette. The Department continues plans to host the National Encampment at the Marriott Cool Springs, 700 Cool Springs Blvd. in Franklin, Tennessee in August 2027. Brother George Huttick serves as Chairman of the Host Committee and has appointed several Sub-Committees to work on various aspects of this project. Several Zoom Meetings with Committees and interested Department Members have been held with great success. We are excited to host the very first National Encampment in Tennessee.

Please visit our table for more information.

The focus of the Department is currently:

- Development and Training of Department and Camp leaders to strengthen the Department. The focus is on Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice Commanders, Secretary/Treasurers, Patriotic Instructors and Chaplains.
- Improvement of communication between the Department and the Camps and building the Fraternity between Camps and the Department.
- Developing Leaders in the Camps
- Intentionally improving the health of our Camps

I intend to continue the practice of visiting each Camp in the Department as the opportunity arises.

#### **Recommendation:**

The SUVCW Departments of the Southeast propose that a Task Force be formed to investigate

ways to improve operational efficiency, to enhance overall communications and to reduce costs across The Order. The Task Force would evaluate the ways to reduce or eliminate all manual processes and unnecessary transmissions of information in favor of electronic processes wherever possible at the Camp, Department and National levels within The Order. This investigation would include but not be limited to...

- All forms need to be PDF Fill-in forms.
- Electronic Dropbox-like tools for developing, storing and accessing National, Department and Camp information (electronic Database records keeping).
- All forms need to be uploaded electronically (Camp to Department, Department to National).
- Eliminate all unnecessary signatures. Allow remaining signatures to be signed electronically (e.g. DocuSign)
- Allow all payments to be made electronically (Individual to camp, camp to department, department to national).
- Electronic membership cards
- The Task Force should survey all Departments for additional ideas and concepts.

A final report will be submitted to the National Committee on Communication and Technology prior to the 2027 National Encampment for review.

The Southeastern Department Commanders Coordinating Committee (comprised of the Departments of NC, TN & MS, GA & SC, FL, AL, KY) volunteer to form the Task Force Steering Committee, headed up by The Department Commander of NC

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Gary W. Moore

Commander

Department of Tennessee (with Mississippi)

## Texas

Commander-in-Chief Tucker,

I am pleased to report that the Department of Texas continued to accomplish its mission during the 2025-2026 term as follows:

1. All five Camps participated in Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Wreaths Across America events and ceremonies.
2. Ten new members were added to the Department Roster.
3. The Department newsletter, "The Unionist," was published quarterly.
4. 1,500 new grave registrations were entered into the SUVCW Graves Registration database.
5. Progress was made with the research and documentation about the history of the 83 G.A.R. Posts within the Department of Texas, and their membership.
6. We hosted our annual Battle of Galveston Commemoration ceremony in January 2026 - which was attended by the Commander-in-Chief.
7. Participation in public Juneteenth events and celebrations in Galveston, Texas.
8. JROTC Awards were presented to outstanding Cadets.
9. Graveside memorials and headstone dedication ceremonies were conducted.
10. Promotional videos for use on the National YouTube channel were created.
11. We utilized the Zoom platform for intra-Departmental planning and collaboration, as well as for hybrid Camp meetings - to facilitate attendance by distant Brothers.
12. Camp and Department Websites were continuously updated and improved.
13. We maintained an active social media presence (Facebook).
14. We had representation at the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society Seminar.

|                          |                               |    |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----|
| Membership of the Camps: | Byrne Camp #1 Fort Worth      | 21 |
|                          | Lea Camp #2 Houston           | 95 |
|                          | Ord Camp #3 San Antonio       | 11 |
|                          | Bailey Camp #5 Shreveport, LA | 17 |

Ellsworth Camp 18  
**Total Membership:**

Dallas

36

**180**

***No Recommendations.***

**John C. Vander Meulen, Commander**

Department of Texas and Louisiana, SUVCW

Vermont – No report provided.

Wisconsin

The new Department officers and I were elected by the Department of WI at our 143rd Annual Department Encampment and duly sworn in by Jr Vice Commander Robert Payne on June 6, 2026. PCinC Michaels was in attendance.

Department and Camp highlight activities:

- The Department had members participating in the following National events: Lincoln Memorial Ceremony, National Encampment, and Remembrance Day
  - The Department assigned a committee and made good progress on our CinC authorized action to lobby for a monument for Wisconsin troops at Antietam. Several members went to the State Capitol and even more called and wrote letters. There is more to do on this priority project.
  - Membership: The Dept has seven camps and in 2026 had 255 members. While the Dept overall increased by 8 members, only Camps 1 (+4) and 56 (+9) had growth. Of Sr leadership concern is the declining number of members, and even more concerning is the number of active members. Recruiting new members is a top priority.
  - Educational/Recruiting/On the Spot Research booths were staffed at various events across the Dept
  - Memorial Day headstone cleaning, flag placement and Memorial Day ceremonies were done at various cemeteries across the Department
  - Civil War Headstone dedications
  - J.R.O.T.C. awards
  - Eagle Scout awards
  - Juneteenth Day celebrations
  - Camp 1: published the names of 98 Civil War veterans who rest in unmarked graves in Calvary Cemetery
  - Camp 4: Commander Tim Kracht does in-person presentations in uniform at various venues
  - Camp 8: Several Union Soldiers at Lakeside Cemetery in Oshkosh have unmarked graves but the exact location is not identified so it is not possible to get headstones. The Camp is planning a plaque with the soldiers' names to be installed in the small chapel at the cemetery.
  - Camp 15: Naming of the Muskego Post Office "Colonel Hans C. Heg Post Office" after legislative success
  - Camp 49: Primary activities were in support of the John McDermott GAR Hall in Boscobel, including repairs, setting up displays, research and fundraising
  - Camp 56 added 3,352 veterans interred in MN into the SUVCW Civil War database, ordered 219 headstones and after getting the law changed, ordered and dedicated a MOH Medallion for a Civil War veteran
- I commend Camp 56 for their continued membership increase and progress on the research and Last Union Veteran ceremonies in 20 counties (75 of 87 MN counties, or 86% of MN complete).
- Department of Wisconsin, Gary E Carlberg, DC

## Addendum

### Financial Statements and Supplementary Information

Financial Statements and  
Supplementary Information  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.  
*Year ended June 30, 2025  
with Independent Auditor's Report*

DRAFT

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Financial Statements and  
Supplementary Information

Year ended June 30, 2025

**Contents**

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## Independent Auditor's Report

Council of Administration  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc. (SUVCW) (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2025, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of SUVCW as of June 30, 2025, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under GAAS are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of SUVCW and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about SUVCW's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Council of Administration  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)**

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of SUVCW's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about SUVCW's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

**Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The combining statements of financial position and activities are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

*Coulter & Justus, P.C.*

Knoxville, Tennessee  
October 2, 2025

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2025

**Assets**

Current assets:

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 215,091 |
| Accounts receivable       | 3,490      |
| Inventory                 | 48,119     |
| Prepaid expenses          | 31,464     |
| Investments               | 1,084,612  |
| Total current assets      | 1,382,776  |

Fixed assets:

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Website, furniture, and equipment | 76,702       |
| Less accumulated depreciation     | (47,810)     |
| Net fixed assets                  | 28,892       |
| Total assets                      | \$ 1,411,668 |

**Liabilities and net assets without donor restrictions**

Current liabilities:

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Accounts payable          | \$ 57   |
| Deferred revenue          | 114,380 |
| Total current liabilities | 114,437 |

Net assets without donor restrictions:

|                                                             |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Designated                                                  | 627,868      |
| Undesignated                                                | 669,363      |
| Total net assets without donor restrictions                 | 1,297,231    |
| Total liabilities and net assets without donor restrictions | \$ 1,411,668 |

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2025

|                                                                                                         |    |                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| Revenues:                                                                                               |    |                         |
| Per capita dues                                                                                         | \$ | 178,414                 |
| Life member fees                                                                                        |    | 16,557                  |
| Registration and application fees                                                                       |    | 4,890                   |
| Quartermaster sales                                                                                     |    | 43,753                  |
| Shipping and handling                                                                                   |    | 8,290                   |
| Banner subscriptions and advertising                                                                    |    | 36                      |
| Donations                                                                                               |    | 23,696                  |
| Lincoln tomb observance                                                                                 |    | 1,025                   |
| Other                                                                                                   |    | 768                     |
| Total revenues                                                                                          |    | <u>277,429</u>          |
| Expenses:                                                                                               |    |                         |
| Officer allowances and per diem expense                                                                 |    | 37,390                  |
| Executive director and assistant executive director                                                     |    | 28,000                  |
| Cost of quartermaster sales                                                                             |    | 36,914                  |
| Shipping and handling                                                                                   |    | 9,505                   |
| ROTC program                                                                                            |    | 2,217                   |
| National encampment                                                                                     |    | 8,334                   |
| Remembrance Day expenses                                                                                |    | 13,716                  |
| Banner                                                                                                  |    | 57,947                  |
| Website                                                                                                 |    | 22,688                  |
| Lincoln tomb observance                                                                                 |    | 2,124                   |
| Life member payments to camps                                                                           |    | 292                     |
| Awards, grants, and scholarships                                                                        |    | 8,630                   |
| Accounting and professional fees                                                                        |    | 44,201                  |
| Office, telephone, and postage                                                                          |    | 13,762                  |
| Rent                                                                                                    |    | 10,320                  |
| Insurance                                                                                               |    | 4,587                   |
| Committee expenses                                                                                      |    | 14,226                  |
| Depreciation and amortization                                                                           |    | 7,370                   |
| Miscellaneous expense                                                                                   |    | 72                      |
| Total expenses                                                                                          |    | <u>322,295</u>          |
| Change in net assets without donor restrictions before<br>net realized and unrealized investment income |    | (44,866)                |
| Net realized and unrealized investment income                                                           |    | <u>112,051</u>          |
| Change in net assets without donor restrictions                                                         |    | <u>67,185</u>           |
| Net assets without donor restrictions, beginning of year                                                |    | <u>1,230,046</u>        |
| Net assets without donor restrictions, end of year                                                      | \$ | <u><u>1,297,231</u></u> |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended June 30, 2025

**Cash flows from operating activities**

|                                                                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Change in net assets                                                                   | \$ 67,185 |
| Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used by operating activities |           |
| Depreciation and amortization                                                          | 7,370     |
| Net realized and unrealized investment income                                          | (112,051) |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:                                           |           |
| Accounts receivable                                                                    | (2,890)   |
| Prepaid expenses                                                                       | (12,869)  |
| Inventory                                                                              | (9,095)   |
| Accounts payable                                                                       | (2,846)   |
| Deferred revenue                                                                       | (39,475)  |
| Net cash used by operating activities                                                  | (104,671) |

**Cash flows used by investing activities**

|                                           |         |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| Purchases of fixed assets                 | (975)   |
| Sales of investments                      | 128,218 |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | 127,243 |

|                                                |            |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents      | 22,572     |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 192,519    |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year       | \$ 215,091 |

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

# Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

## Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2025

### 1. Description of Organization

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc. (SUVCW) is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1881. SUVCW was incorporated by an Act of Congress on August 20, 1954.

The purpose of SUVCW is to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of The Republic and the men who saved the Union between 1861 and 1865; to assist in every practicable way in the preservation of and availability of documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of The Republic and its members; to cooperate in doing honor to all who have patriotically served our country in any war; to teach patriotism and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our Country, and the love and honor of our flag; to oppose every tendency or movement that would weaken loyalty to, or make for the destruction or impairment of our constitutional union; and to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, of equal rights, and of impartial justice for all.

Membership in SUVCW is limited by an act of Congress to male, blood relatives of persons who served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865, as soldiers or sailors of The United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service, and of such state requirements as were called into active service, and were subject to orders of United States General Officers between those dates, and were honorably discharged from such service or who died in service.

SUVCW consists of Camps, Departments, and the National Organization. The National Encampment of the National Organization has the supreme power and authority of the Order of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. These financial statements include only the activities of the National Organization. SUVCW is classified as an organization exempt from income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) as a public charity. SUVCW has a group exemption that covers its Camps and Departments. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been included in the accompanying financial statements.

SUVCW is governed by a twelve (12) member Council of Administration. The National Encampment elects all Council of Administration members to oversee and administer the day-to-day operations of SUVCW.

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Presentation

SUVCW reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following classes of net assets:

Net assets without donor restrictions – Includes revenue and donations received without donor-imposed restrictions.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**Basis of Presentation (continued)**

Net assets with donor restrictions – Includes revenue and donations, if any, subject to donor-imposed stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets and where the restriction is not met within the same fiscal year. When a donor restriction expires in a subsequent fiscal year, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the Statement of Activities as net assets released from restrictions. Donor restricted gifts are classified as unrestricted if the restriction expires in the same fiscal year.

**Basis of Accounting**

SUVCW uses the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

**Fund Accounting**

The accounts of SUVCW are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, fund balances and activity are classified as net assets with or without donor restrictions in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The following funds are used by SUVCW:

General Fund

This fund is used to collect revenues and disburse funds for expenses related to the normal, day-to-day operations of SUVCW.

National Headquarters Fund

This fund is used to account for funds to establish a National Headquarters. The National Headquarters is located within the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Headquarters will be used for the National Executive Director's office and to store records. Annual rent is \$10,320. As of June 30, 2025, the Council of Administration designated \$2,643 for these purposes.



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**Fund Accounting (continued)**

Preservation Fund

This fund was created by action of the Council of Administration in 1999 to assist Departments and Camps of the Order in the preservation, maintenance, and defense of Civil War monuments and memorials. As of June 30, 2025, the Council of Administration designated \$45,892 for these purposes.

Permanent Fund

This fund was established by vote of the National Encampment of SUVCW and is authorized by Article VIII of SUVCW's Constitution. This fund accounts for Life Membership fees received prior to August 15, 1996. The fund also accounts for monies that have been given or bequeathed to the National Organization in memory of a Civil War veteran, monies given or bequeathed to the National Organization that have not been designated for a specific purpose by the donor, and such other monies as may be added thereto by vote of the National Encampment or the Council of Administration. The Permanent Fund may annually distribute, for each Life Member, \$18 to the National General Fund; \$4,087 was distributed to the National General Fund during 2025. The annual reimbursement sent to each member's camp upon application is set by the Council of Administration. The Council of Administration sets the amount based upon the earnings of the Permanent Fund in the previous fiscal year. Earnings on the monies may be transferred to the National General Fund and used for the operations of the National Organization. Except as may be provided by the donor, no portion of the principal may be disbursed without a vote by the National Encampment. As of June 30, 2025, the Council of Administration designated \$453,456 for these purposes.

Lincoln Tomb Observance Fund

This fund was established by the vote of the National Encampment of SUVCW in 2007 to account for monies designated for the annual ceremony held to honor Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, Illinois. As of June 30, 2025, the Council of Administration designated \$1 for these purposes.

Life Membership Fund

This fund was established by the vote of the National Encampment of SUVCW in 2012 to account for the life membership fees. As of June 30, 2025, the Council of Administration designated net assets of \$125,876 for this purpose.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

SUVCW considers highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Cash on deposit at financial institutions is federally insured to certain limits. SUVCW routinely has cash on deposit with financial institutions with these limits, and balances in excess of these limits are subject to the risk that the financial institution will not pay upon demand.

**Accounts Receivable**

Due to the nature of the activities and services, SUVCW's policies do not require collateral for receivables. The allowance method is used to determine uncollectible accounts receivable, if any, based on prior years' experience and management's analysis of specific accounts receivable. Credit losses, when realized, have been within management's expectations. Accounts receivable as of July 1, 2024 totaled \$600.

**Inventory**

Inventory consists of items for sale to members and is charged as an expense at the time of sale. Inventory is stated at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Cost is determined using the average cost method.

**Fixed Assets**

Website development costs are capitalized to the extent the project is substantially complete and ready for its intended use. Furniture and equipment over \$500 is capitalized and stated at cost, if purchased, or at fair value, if donated. Depreciation and amortization is provided over the estimated useful lives, which range from three to ten years, of the related assets using the straight-line method. The costs of normal maintenance that do not add to the value of assets or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

**Investments**

The investment portfolios are held and managed by investment advisors and stated at fair value (*Note 3*). Investment income, including unrealized gains and losses, is reported as an increase in net assets, depending upon donor restrictions, if any.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**Revenue Recognition**

SUVCW recognizes revenue when control is transferred to its members in an amount that reflects the consideration SUVCW expects to be entitled to in exchange for those products and services. SUVCW memberships run from June 1 to May 31. Membership dues (per capita dues and life member fees) represent a single performance obligation. Progress toward satisfaction of the performance obligation is measured based on time elapsed, and revenue is recognized as the member receives and consumes the benefits of the services performed. Per capita dues are reported as deferred revenue and recognized during the period of membership. Life member fees are recognized upon cash receipt. Registration and application fees consist of one performance obligation. Registration and application fees received in advance are recorded as deferred revenue and recognized at the time of the encampment. Quartermaster sales consist of one performance obligation and are recognized upon the transfer of the goods or services to the customer. Deferred revenue was \$153,855 as of July 1, 2024.

**Donations**

All donations are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Donations subject to donor-imposed stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets, and for which the restriction is not met within the same fiscal year, are classified as net assets with donor restrictions.

**Donated Materials and Service**

The amount of donated materials and services is not considered to be significant by management. Accordingly, no values have been recorded in the financial statements.

**Liquidity and Availability of Resources**

SUVCW has a policy to structure its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities, and other obligations come due.

As of June 30, 2025, SUVCW has approximately \$1,300,000 of financial assets, including approximately \$215,000 of cash and cash equivalents and \$1,085,000 of investments available to meet cash needs for general expenditures that will be available within one year of the statement of financial position date. None of these financial assets are subject to donor or other contractual restrictions that make them unavailable for general expenditure within one year of the statement of financial position date.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

**Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts of assets and liabilities and related disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Subsequent Events**

In preparation of the accompanying financial statements, management has evaluated subsequent events through October 2, 2025, the date the financial statements were available for issuance.

**3. Investments**

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

- |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Level 1 | Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that SUVCW has the ability to access.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Level 2 | Inputs to the methodology include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;</li><li>- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;</li><li>- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;</li><li>- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.</li></ul> |
| Level 3 | Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

The fair value measurement level of the asset or liability within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. There have been no changes in the methodologies used as of June 30, 2025 and 2024.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments (continued)**

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for investments measured at fair value:

*Certificates of deposit:* Valued at the cash redemption amount at the maturity date based on quoted market prices.

*Common stocks:* Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

*Mutual funds:* Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by SUVCW are registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily NAV and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by SUVCW are deemed to be actively traded.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although SUVCW believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, SUVCW's investments as of June 30, 2025:

|                                  | Level 1   | Level 2   | Level 3 | Total       |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| Certificates of deposit          | \$ —      | \$304,500 | \$ —    | \$ 304,500  |
| Common stock                     | 588,816   | —         | —       | 588,816     |
| Mutual funds                     | 191,296   | —         | —       | 191,926     |
| Total investments, at fair value | \$780,112 | \$304,500 | \$ —    | \$1,084,612 |

The total return on certificates of deposit, common stocks, and mutual funds for the year ended June 30, 2025 is summarized as follows:

|                                               |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Interest and dividends                        | \$ 16,787        |
| Net realized and unrealized investment income | 95,264           |
| Net investment income                         | <u>\$112,051</u> |

**4. Endowment**

SUVCW's endowment consists of the internally designated Permanent Fund established for perpetual support of the Order. As required by GAAP, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**4. Endowment (continued)**

Interpretation of Relevant Law – SUVCW classifies the original and subsequent value of funds designated for the endowment as net assets without donor restrictions. The Council of Administration of SUVCW has determined that the long-term preservation of the real value of the assets is the current goal of the endowment. As such, SUVCW has not chosen to be governed by the spending rate as permitted by the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act.

The following represents the change in endowment funds for the year ended June 30, 2025:

|                                               |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Endowment net assets, beginning of year       | <b>\$407,930</b>        |
| Donations                                     | <b>11,702</b>           |
| Net realized and unrealized investment income | <b>43,163</b>           |
| Lifetime memberships reimbursed               | <b>(4,087)</b>          |
| Other                                         | <b>(5,252)</b>          |
| Endowment net assets, end of year             | <b><u>\$453,456</u></b> |

Return Objectives and Risk Parameters – SUVCW has adopted an investment policy for endowment assets that attempt to achieve a real total return, resulting from income and capital appreciation, which will assist SUVCW in achieving its long-term funding objectives. Under this policy, the endowment assets are invested in a manner that, after examining the historical relationships of risk and return among asset classes, is designed to provide the highest probability of meeting or exceeding the return objectives at the lowest possible risk.

Strategies Employed for Achieving Objectives – To satisfy its long-term rate of return objectives, SUVCW relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). SUVCW targets a diversified asset allocation to achieve its long-term return objectives within prudent risk constraints.

Spending Policy and How the Investment Objectives Relate to Spending Policy – Currently, the Council of Administration of SUVCW has determined that the long-term preservation of the real value of the assets is the current goal of the permanent endowment. As such, there has been no approved spending policy, as the current objective of the endowment is to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets held in perpetuity. Current period interest and dividends may be considered to be payment of life membership reimbursements.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**5. Functional Expenses**

The costs of providing the various programs and other activities have been allocated among program and administrative based primarily upon direct charges and were as follows during 2025:

|                                                        | <b>Program</b>   | <b>Administrative</b> | <b>Total</b>     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Officer allowances and per diem expense                | \$ 37,390        | \$ —                  | \$ 37,390        |
| Executive director and assistant<br>executive director | —                | 28,000                | 28,000           |
| Cost of quartermaster sales                            | 36,914           | —                     | 36,914           |
| Shipping and handling                                  | 9,505            | —                     | 9,505            |
| National encampment                                    | 8,334            | —                     | 8,334            |
| ROTC program                                           | 2,217            | —                     | 2,217            |
| Remembrance Day expenses                               | 13,716           | —                     | 13,716           |
| Banner                                                 | 57,947           | —                     | 57,947           |
| Website                                                | 22,688           | —                     | 22,688           |
| Lincoln tomb observance                                | 2,124            | —                     | 2,124            |
| Life member payments to camps                          | 292              | —                     | 292              |
| Awards, grants, and scholarships                       | 8,630            | —                     | 8,630            |
| Accounting and professional fees                       | —                | 44,201                | 44,201           |
| Office, telephone, and postage                         | —                | 13,762                | 13,762           |
| Rent                                                   | —                | 10,320                | 10,320           |
| Insurance                                              | 1,835            | 2,752                 | 4,587            |
| Committee expenses                                     | 14,226           | —                     | 14,226           |
| Depreciation and amortization                          | —                | 7,370                 | 7,370            |
| Miscellaneous expense                                  | 72               | —                     | 72               |
| Total functional expenses                              | <b>\$215,890</b> | <b>\$106,405</b>      | <b>\$322,295</b> |



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Combining Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2025

|                                                              | General Fund | National Headquarters Fund | Preservation Fund | Permanent Fund | Lincoln Tomb Observance Fund | Life Membership Fund | Total Before Interfund Eliminations | Interfund Eliminations | Total        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                                                |              |                            |                   |                |                              |                      |                                     |                        |              |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                    | \$ 194,895   | \$ 4,032                   | \$ 500            | \$ 8,744       | \$ 1,331                     | \$ 5,589             | \$ 215,091                          | \$ -                   | \$ 215,091   |
| Accounts receivable                                          | 3,490        | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | 3,490                               | -                      | 3,490        |
| Due from other funds                                         | 6,762        | -                          | 49,135            | 4,951          | -                            | -                    | 60,848                              | (60,848)               | -            |
| Prepaid expenses                                             | 14,894       | 16,570                     | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | 31,464                              | -                      | 31,464       |
| Inventory                                                    | 48,119       | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | 48,119                              | -                      | 48,119       |
| Investments                                                  | 453,555      | 55,816                     | -                 | 439,761        | -                            | 135,480              | 1,084,612                           | -                      | 1,084,612    |
| Total current assets                                         | 721,715      | 76,418                     | 49,635            | 453,456        | 1,331                        | 141,069              | 1,443,624                           | (60,848)               | 1,382,776    |
| Fixed assets:                                                |              |                            |                   |                |                              |                      |                                     |                        |              |
| Website, furniture, and equipment                            | 64,058       | 12,644                     | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | 76,702                              | -                      | 76,702       |
| Less accumulated depreciation                                | (35,664)     | (12,146)                   | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | (47,810)                            | -                      | (47,810)     |
| Net fixed assets                                             | 28,394       | 498                        | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | 28,892                              | -                      | 28,892       |
| Total assets                                                 | \$ 750,109   | \$ 76,916                  | \$ 49,635         | \$ 453,456     | \$ 1,331                     | \$ 141,069           | \$ 1,472,516                        | \$ (60,848)            | \$ 1,411,668 |
| <b>Liabilities and net assets without donor restrictions</b> |              |                            |                   |                |                              |                      |                                     |                        |              |
| Current liabilities:                                         |              |                            |                   |                |                              |                      |                                     |                        |              |
| Accounts payable                                             | \$ 57        | \$ -                       | \$ -              | \$ -           | \$ -                         | \$ -                 | \$ 57                               | \$ -                   | \$ 57        |
| Due to other funds                                           | -            | 44,325                     | -                 | -              | 1,330                        | 15,193               | 60,848                              | (60,848)               | -            |
| Deferred revenue                                             | 80,689       | 29,948                     | 3,743             | -              | -                            | -                    | 114,380                             | -                      | 114,380      |
| Total current liabilities                                    | 80,746       | 74,273                     | 3,743             | -              | 1,330                        | 15,193               | 175,285                             | (60,848)               | 114,437      |
| Net assets without donor restrictions:                       |              |                            |                   |                |                              |                      |                                     |                        |              |
| Designated                                                   | -            | 2,643                      | 45,892            | 453,456        | 1                            | 125,876              | 627,868                             | -                      | 627,868      |
| Undesignated                                                 | 669,363      | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | 669,363                             | -                      | 669,363      |
| Total net assets without donor restrictions                  | 669,363      | 2,643                      | 45,892            | 453,456        | 1                            | 125,876              | 1,297,231                           | -                      | 1,297,231    |
| Total liabilities and net assets without donor restrictions  | \$ 750,109   | \$ 76,916                  | \$ 49,635         | \$ 453,456     | \$ 1,331                     | \$ 141,069           | \$ 1,472,516                        | \$ (60,848)            | \$ 1,411,668 |

See Independent Auditor's Report.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Combining Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2025

|                                                          | General Fund | National Headquarters Fund | Preservation Fund | Permanent Fund | Lincoln Tomb Observance Fund | Life Membership Fund | Interfund Eliminations | Total        |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Change in net assets without donor restrictions:</b>  |              |                            |                   |                |                              |                      |                        |              |
| Revenues without donor restrictions:                     |              |                            |                   |                |                              |                      |                        |              |
| Per capita dues                                          | \$ 131,306   | \$ 41,762                  | \$ 5,346          | \$ -           | \$ -                         | \$ -                 | \$ -                   | 178,414      |
| Life member fees                                         | -            | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | 16,557               | -                      | 16,557       |
| Registration and application fees                        | 4,890        | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 4,890        |
| Quartermaster sales                                      | 43,753       | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 43,753       |
| Shipping and handling                                    | 8,290        | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 8,290        |
| Banner subscriptions and advertising                     | 36           | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 36           |
| Donations                                                | 10,894       | -                          | -                 | 11,702         | 1,100                        | -                    | -                      | 23,696       |
| Lincoln tomb observance                                  | -            | -                          | -                 | -              | 1,025                        | -                    | -                      | 1,025        |
| Other                                                    | 21,855       | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | (21,087)               | 768          |
| Total revenues without donor restrictions                | 221,024      | 41,762                     | 5,346             | 11,702         | 2,125                        | 16,557               | (21,087)               | 277,429      |
| Expenses:                                                |              |                            |                   |                |                              |                      |                        |              |
| Officer allowances and per diem expense                  | 37,390       | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 37,390       |
| Executive director and assistant executive director      | -            | 28,000                     | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 28,000       |
| Cost of quartermaster sales                              | 36,914       | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 36,914       |
| Shipping and handling                                    | 9,505        | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 9,505        |
| ROTC program                                             | 2,217        | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 2,217        |
| National encampment                                      | 8,334        | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 8,334        |
| Rememberance Day expenses                                | 13,716       | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 13,716       |
| Banner                                                   | 57,947       | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 57,947       |
| Website                                                  | 22,688       | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 22,688       |
| Lincoln tomb observance                                  | -            | -                          | -                 | -              | 2,124                        | -                    | -                      | 2,124        |
| Life member payments to camps                            | -            | -                          | -                 | 4,087          | -                            | 17,292               | (21,087)               | 292          |
| Awards, grants, and scholarships                         | 6,630        | -                          | 2,000             | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 8,630        |
| Accounting and professional fees                         | 37,471       | 523                        | -                 | 4,925          | -                            | 1,282                | -                      | 44,201       |
| Office, telephone, and postage                           | 5,035        | 8,400                      | -                 | 327            | -                            | -                    | -                      | 13,762       |
| Rent                                                     | -            | 10,320                     | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 10,320       |
| Insurance                                                | 4,587        | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 4,587        |
| Committee expenses                                       | 14,226       | -                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 14,226       |
| Depreciation and amortization                            | 7,169        | 201                        | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 7,370        |
| Miscellaneous expense                                    | 70           | 2                          | -                 | -              | -                            | -                    | -                      | 72           |
| Total expenses                                           | 263,899      | 47,446                     | 2,000             | 9,339          | 2,124                        | 18,574               | (21,087)               | 322,295      |
| Change in net assets without donor restrictions          | (42,875)     | (5,684)                    | 3,346             | 2,363          | 1                            | (2,017)              | -                      | (44,866)     |
| before net realized and unrealized investment income     |              |                            |                   |                |                              |                      |                        |              |
| Net realized and unrealized investment income            | 44,122       | 7,667                      | -                 | 43,163         | -                            | 17,099               | -                      | 112,051      |
| Change in net assets without donor restrictions          | 1,247        | 1,983                      | 3,346             | 45,526         | 1                            | 15,082               | -                      | 67,185       |
| Net assets without donor restrictions, beginning of year | 668,116      | 660                        | 42,546            | 407,930        | -                            | 110,794              | -                      | 1,230,046    |
| Net assets without donor restrictions, end of year       | \$ 669,363   | \$ 2,643                   | \$ 45,892         | \$ 453,456     | \$ 1                         | \$ 125,876           | \$ -                   | \$ 1,297,231 |

See Independent Auditor's Report.

| Lincoln Tomb Observance Fund |                                                                                                                 | 6/26/2026                                                |                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Statement          |                                                                                                                 |                                                          |                   |
|                              | 2025                                                                                                            |                                                          | 2026              |
| Income                       |                                                                                                                 |                                                          |                   |
|                              | MOLLUS Contribution \$1,100.00                                                                                  | MOLLUS Contribution                                      | \$1,100.00        |
|                              | Lincoln Luncheon (VFW) \$1,135.00                                                                               | Luncheon Revenue                                         | \$1,144.00        |
|                              |                                                                                                                 | (Includes Rosette Sales)                                 |                   |
|                              |                                                                                                                 | Interest                                                 | .11               |
|                              |                                                                                                                 | 60 @ \$5.00-50/50 Raffle                                 | \$300.00          |
|                              | <u>\$2,235.00</u>                                                                                               |                                                          | <u>\$2,544.11</u> |
| Expense                      |                                                                                                                 |                                                          |                   |
|                              | Luncheon \$750.00                                                                                               | 64 @ \$16.00 ("No shows", results \$ losses, tax & tip). | \$818.14          |
|                              | Speaker \$120.00                                                                                                | (Cost of one lunch)                                      | \$11.00           |
|                              | Wreaths \$80.55                                                                                                 |                                                          | 0.00              |
|                              | Musicians \$800.00                                                                                              |                                                          | \$800.00          |
|                              | P/A System \$75.00                                                                                              | (Donated '26)                                            | 0.00              |
|                              | Chair Rental 0.00                                                                                               | (New expense '26)                                        | \$300.00          |
|                              | Ribbons & Rosettes \$149.75                                                                                     | (+ quantity)                                             | \$330.00          |
|                              | Programs \$259.00                                                                                               | (+ quantity)                                             | \$299.00          |
|                              | 50/50 Raffle Winner .00                                                                                         |                                                          | \$150.00          |
|                              | VFW Hall Donation .00                                                                                           |                                                          | \$100.00          |
|                              | Wire Wreath Stands (2) .00                                                                                      |                                                          | \$14.90           |
|                              | Tomb Permit .00                                                                                                 |                                                          | \$25.00           |
|                              | Door Prize .00                                                                                                  |                                                          | \$28.00           |
|                              | Blank Meal Tickets .00 (Reusable)                                                                               |                                                          | \$112.50          |
|                              | <u>\$2,234.30</u>                                                                                               |                                                          | <u>\$2,988.54</u> |
| Notes:                       |                                                                                                                 |                                                          |                   |
|                              | 1. Increases in ribbons, rosettes and program costs are based upon larger quantities ordered from 2025 to 2026. |                                                          |                   |
|                              | 2. Savings of \$275.55 from 2025. (No wreath, P/A, or speaker expenses 2026.)                                   |                                                          |                   |
|                              | 3. Lunch orders accepted on a prebook ONLY basis in 2027. No extra meals available.                             |                                                          |                   |
|                              | Nick Kaup, PDC, Chair, Lincoln Tomb Observance Committee                                                        |                                                          |                   |

## Consolidated Recommendations from the Reports

The below recommendations is the summary of what was submitted in reports. For the full recommendation and all details see the report of the Officer, Committee, or Department Commander making the recommendation.

### Commander in Chief

1. I recommend that the National Standing Committee on eBay Surveillance be renamed the National Standing Committee on E-Commerce Surveillance, and that its job description be expanded to include all e-commerce platforms allowing the reselling of items.
2. I recommend that the National Standing Committee on Real Sons & Daughters be dissolved.
3. I recommend that in the SUVCW Regulations, Article X Standing Committees Section 1., the words “Life Membership Investment” be removed from the listing of National Standing Committees and that the current Committee be dissolved.
4. I recommend that the National Special Committee on Headquarters Planning title be changed to National Special Committee on Headquarters Technology and Operations and that the search for relocation of SUVCW Headquarters be removed as a function of the Committee.
5. I recommend that the National Special Committee on Memorial University be designated as a National Standing Committee of the Order and be redesignated as the National Standing Committee on Memorial University.
6. I recommend that the chairmanship of the National Standing Committee on Memorial University be established as a separate appointment, independent of the office of National Patriotic Instructor.
7. I recommend that the SUVCW National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the United States of America be renewed for seven years, through the National Encampment in 2033.
8. I recommend that the National Council of Administration retain exclusive authority to approve all official graphic representations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, including, but not limited to, the organization's official logos, seals, coat of arms, badges, emblems, headers, and other official identifying marks, and that once approved by the National Council of Administration, these official organizational graphics may be incorporated into commemorative, educational, promotional, and patriotic artwork created by the National Organization, Departments, Camps, or individual Brothers without requiring further approval by the National Council of Administration, provided that the official organizational graphics themselves are not altered, distorted, or modified, the graphics are used in a respectful manner consistent with the purposes and principles of the Order, and the resulting artwork does not imply an official policy, endorsement, or position of the National Organization beyond the inclusion of the approved organizational graphic.

### Junior Vice Commander in Chief

1. Proposed amendment to the regulation Chapter III Article X Section 1 – Strike the word “and” before Vision and Planning and insert “and Graphics and Branding” at the end of the sentence. Insert a new Section 21 and renumber the following sections accordingly Section 21. The National Graphics and Branding Committee, a Sub-Committee of, and reporting to, the Programs and Policy Committee, shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, and protecting the visual identity, public image, and official trademarks of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War of the United States.

### National Quartermaster

1. Special committee, chaired by the elected Quartermaster, with minimum of two Assistant Quartermasters and no more than five full members on the committee, as the other members of the committee. The term of the special committee would be the same as the term of the elected Quartermaster. The committee's name would be the National Special Committee for the National Quartermaster Store. The committee would conclude at the end of its fifth year (2032) or upon being made a standing National Committee.

**Council of Administration Robert Amsler**

The SUVCW approve up to \$5,000.00 for the marker for the Last True Son, William “Bill” Pool. The marker design will be furnished at the CofA meeting.

**Council of Administration Roderick Fraser**

The National Awards and Recognition Policy be updated to include the Abraham Lincoln Good Citizenship Award.” We currently sell the lapel pin and certificate through the National Quartermaster store, however there is no guidance on the award.

**Executive Director David Demmy**

1. Form 49, page 5 -- relocate last subject regarding the check mark ☒ to the bottom of page 4 and potentially eliminate page 5 or keep it for overflow data. 99% of 2026 Form 49s had no data on page 5 other than the checkmark. Page 5 is a waste of a sheet of paper and adds the extra work of printing and scanning of it at Headquarters.
2. Add ROTC Officer as a permanent position on Form 49. It will benefit the national ROTC Officer and the ROTC committee. Likewise, add the Assistant Treasurer position along with the existing Assistant Secretary position.

**Assistant Executive Director Douglas McMillin**

If it has not already been done, it is recommended that the Council of Administration create a “Headquarters Technology Replacement Fund”. With sufficient funds and the authorization to rapidly replace the computers at headquarters without requiring a vote to replace the computers in the case of catastrophic failure of the units.

**National Graves Registration Officer Henry C. Duquette**

1. That a search be undertaken immediately to find an SUVCW Brother/Volunteer with the skills and dedication to complete the Graves Registration System upgrade (should the current developer not be able to complete the project) and/or to maintain it in the future.
2. That additional funding be made available to vet and contract a freelance developer for all future maintenance of the system.

**National Historian Gary Gibson**

That the Committee on History be discontinued. This committee has not functioned as such for several years. As we currently do not have a repository for the retaining of any original documents, artifacts, etc., gathering of same is not feasible.

**National Patriotic Instructor Jefferey French**

1. The NPI is no longer the Chairman of the Memorial University or in charge of the Memorial Certificates and pins. The issuance and presentations of the Memorial University certificates and pins should be accomplished by the Memorial University Committee. This will require a change to the C&R.
2. The NPI should focus on Banner articles, monthly patriotic instructions, and promote patriotism on our social media sites by posting items related to patriotism and acknowledge brother doing good work on social media. This will require a focus on patriotism and not the University.
3. The NPI has permission and given access to post on National Social Media sites as an administrator.
4. Camp, Department, and National Patriotic Instructors have their own PI YouTube accounts to do video PI Instructions for the brothers.
5. The NPI creates an award to present to the best DPI at National Encampment. Criteria will be developed and approved at National level before sharing with the DPIs.

**National ROTC Coordinator, Roger LeTurno**

- Standardize Program Title: Update the official title to “Cadet Award Program” to better reflect the inclusion of JROTC, CAP, and other deserving cadet organizations.

- Improve National Outreach: National should send Department Coordinators a list of schools in their area of responsibility with ROTC/JROTC programs.
- Streamline Logistics: Pre-position an adequate supply of medals and certificates with each department by January, based on their projections. Furthermore, the award certificate should be modified to include a blank line for "type of award" reducing the need for multiple certificate versions.
- Enhance Communication: Implement regular (e.g., quarterly) online meetings with all Department Cadet Award Coordinators to ensure alignment on processes and timelines.
- Establish Financial Policy: The National Organization must establish a clear policy and process for reimbursing Department Coordinators for shipping and other program-related expenses.
- Support New Coordinators: A comprehensive welcome packet and "best practices" guide should be created and distributed to new coordinators to outline roles, responsibilities, and timelines.

#### **National Committee on Program & Policy, Daniel Murray, PDC**

1. Recommendation 1. Regulations, Chapter III, Article IV. Add the jobs that are not currently on the list of National Officers.
2. Recommendation 2. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII. Replace Section 23 with Cadet Awards Coordinator. Section 28 already covers the National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator
3. Recommendation 3. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII. Replace Section 34 with National Parliamentarian.
4. Recommendation 4. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII. Add New Section 35, The Liaison to the Cathedral of Pines.
5. Recommendation 5. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII. Renumber old Section 34 as new Section 36.
6. Recommendation 6. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X. Ebay Surveillance is listed under Section 1 but has no corresponding job description. Add new Section 22 for the committee's job description.
7. Recommendation 7. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 1, to read as amended at the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment – Change name of Promotions and Marketing Committee.
8. Recommendation 8. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 19 to read as amended in red at the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment on Promotion of the Order
9. Recommendation 9. Regulations, Chapter II, Article VIII., Section 3 amend job description of Department Counselor
10. Recommendation 10. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII., Section 9 amend job description of National Counselor.
9. Recommendation 11. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 1, That the National Special Committee on Memorial University be made a standing committee.
10. Recommendation 12. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII. Add New Section 37, job description of Committee on Memorial University.
11. Recommendation 13. Regulations, Chapter III Article X Section 1 that a permanent committee be formed and called National Graphics and Branding Committee, and add Section 21 job description of Graphics and Branding Committee.
12. Recommendation 14. Renumber Chapter III Article X old Section 21 as new Section 23.

#### **National Committee on Constitution & Regulations, Donald E. Darby**

- Recommendation 1: Regulations Chapter III, Article IV. Add the jobs that are NOT currently on the list of National Officers.
- Recommendation 2. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII. Replace Section 23 as it is redundant. Section 28 covers National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator.
- Recommendation 3. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII. Replace Section 34.
- Recommendation 4. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII. Add New Section 35.
- Recommendation 5. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII. Renumber old Section 34 as new Section 36.



Recommendation 6. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X. Ebay Surveillance is listed under Section 1 but has no corresponding job description. Add new Section 22 for the committee's job description

Recommendation 7. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 1, to read as amended at the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment

Recommendation 8. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 19 to read as amended in red at the 144<sup>th</sup> National Encampment

Recommendation 9. Regulations, Chapter II, Article VIII, Section 3 to be amended

Recommendation 10. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII, Section 9 to be amended

Recommendation 11. Regulations, Chapter III, Article X, Section 1. That the National Special Committee on Memorial University by made a Standing Committee.

Recommendation 12. Regulations, Chapter III, Article VII. Add New Section 37

Recommendation 13. Chapter III Article X, Section 1 Strike the word "*and*" before Vision and Planning and insert *and Graphics and Branding*" at the end of the sentence.

Recommendation 14. Renumber old Section 21 as new 23.

**National Committee for the Promotion of the Order, Roderick Fraser**

The Committee budget of \$11,500 be approved for FY 2026-2027.

**National Committee on Real Sons & Daughters, Dale Crandell**

Maintain the committee until all know real sons and daughters have passed.

**National Committee on Life Membership Investment, D. Michael Beard**

The Life Membership Investment Committee be deleted from the list of standing committees.

**National Spec. Committee on Veterans of Wars of the US, Dexter A. Bishop**

Article VI Badges and Metals Section 3 change to allow any Brother who has served honorably in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States or a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) nation serving with the Armed Forces of the United States.

**National Special Committee on Memorial University, Jeffrey French**

Our committee recommend that the Memorial University become a Standing Committee.

The incoming CinC keeps the current members and Aides to the Memorial University as it is right now.

**National Special Committee on Fundraising, Dave Hann**

Strike the following as duties from the committee:

- "Development of a Grant Writing Campaign that would target outside organizations, foundations, and corporations. The type of grant would depend on the grantor as most grants must support a specific project"
- "Development of a Wall of Honor section within the website to honor all of those who support our fundraising."
- 

**National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the USA, Roderick J. Fraser**

- The Committee be provided a budget of \$1500.00 to cover cost of America 250 flag streamers and proclamations for the 250th Birthday of America.
- The Committee be extended until 2030. The Committee was appointed for five year ending in 2026.
- The Committee recommends developing a new color version of the SUVCW Flag Certificate that incorporates the America 250 logo and SUVCW 250 Eagle logo.



### **National Special Committee on Social Media Management, Benjamin Frail**

- We request a \$1000.00 budget for the National Special Committee on Social Media.
- Update the National Social Media Policy.

### **Department of Alabama**

The SUVCW Departments of the Southeast propose that a Task Force be formed to investigate ways to improve operational efficiency, to enhance communications overall and to reduce costs across The Order. The Task Force would evaluate ways to reduce or eliminate all manual processes and unnecessary transmissions of information in favor of electronic processes wherever possible at the Camp, Department and National levels within The Order.

### **Department of Georgia and South Carolina**

- Resolution Concerning Adding Assistant Department Secretary and Assistant Department Treasurer Positions to the Charter, Constitution & Regulations.
- The SUVCW Departments of the Southeast propose that a Task Force be formed to investigate ways to improve operational efficiency, to enhance overall communications and to reduce costs across The Order.

### **Department of Iowa**

- In the Order's ongoing efforts to provide support to the Departments and Camps in increasing membership, it is recommended a nationally coordinated effort to promote the order and drive membership be reimaged and coordinated.
- A committee should be convened to explore options to reach out to public, corporate, and national and regional institutions to raise awareness of the Order and drive membership.
- To reduce the time and cost of delivery of our Order's certificates, it is recommended the National Quartermaster provide S.U.V.C.W. certificates online at no cost to Camps.
- The S.U.V.C.W. should create an S.U.V.C.W. ball cap with a gold S.U.V.C.W. and laurel embroidered badge on a dark blue, black, or (department) red hat that could be effectively used to promote the Order and help Departments and Camps raise operating capital in the execution of their mission.
- It is recommended Camps be allowed to offer approved ball caps and other items like coffee cups, mouse pads, and other appropriate items to raise funds. To avoid the need to manage sales tax, National should find partners willing to work with the

### **Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas**

Change the wording of the oath.

### **Department of New York**

The Department of NY recommend National look into maximizing our Forms to be sent digitally.

### **Department of North Carolina**

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### **Department of Oklahoma**

Recommend the Establishment of Memorial Memberships

### **Department of Tennessee with Mississippi**

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across The Order.

DRAFT