



# Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War

Office of the Commander-in-Chief

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General Order #22  
SERIES 2013-2014  
15 June 2014

Brothers,

1. **HISTORY**

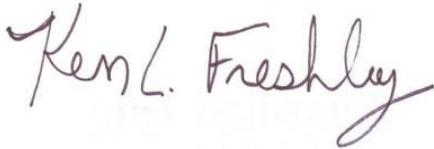
In Accordance with SUVCW Constitution Chapter I Article V Section 2b (page 4 of the SUVCW C&R annotated) the **past General Order #3:**

**“Effective immediately, and with the approval of the Council of Administration, the recruitment program for members, under the age of 18, Juniors and Junior Associates is hereby suspended until the next immediate National Encampment in August 2014. This action is taken to permit the Order to assess State/Federal mandates/laws and promulgate policies for the protection of the youth within our Order, as well as the Order itself. As stated in the “Background” above, the Statutes of the Federal law and some States have passed the Order by without action on our part. This suspension will permit the Order to establish a committee to ascertain what actions we are required to have in place to comply with the aforementioned Federal/State Laws, it will also provide the upcoming encampment with wording to better protect our youth. Regarding this issue, Departments and Camps will, at a minimum, comply with all State laws dealing with Child Protection until such time as the Order can complete this task. Consideration should be given having parents or legal guardians attend meetings and events.”**

2. The committee of attorney members have reviewed many different policies regarding our youth. This committee supplied a report and a recommendation to the CofA at the Spring 2014 meeting.
3. Therefore and I am issuing this General Order #22 to rescind the previous General Order #3 and I will have a written policy that will be presented to the National Programs and Policy or the C&R Committee prior to the 2014 Encampment where such wording can be enacted.
4. This General Order #22 also resumes the acceptance of new Junior and Junior Associates membership applications.
5. Here are the initial objectives of the policy that all Brothers should use as **MINIMUM** requirements for having Juniors and Junior Associates in our Camps and at our events.
  - A. **All Brothers under the age of 18 years of age should be accompanied by a parent or person designated as a Guardian (Grandfather, Brother over the age of 18 years, or Uncle) when participating in ANY SUVCW activity.**
  - B. **At no time will a non-related Brother be permitted ‘one on one’ contact with a Brother under the age of 18. Any interaction with a Brother under the age of 18 must include at least two (2) Brothers over the age 18 at all times.**

- C. Any Brother who witnesses or suspects in good faith any type of physical, mental or sexual abuse of any member under the age of 18 will immediately report such suspicion to local authorities first and local Camp and Department Commanders immediately.
  - D. Every Brother over the age of 18 who may have contact with a Brother under the age of 18 should complete training related to protecting children from abuse of any type. Free training is available from the Boy Scouts of America at <http://www.myscouting.org> , You will need to create an account, then select the Training, E-Training, then choose the youth protection training. It takes about 30 minutes to complete. Upon completion, you will be able to print a certificate along with a wallet-size certification card which is good for a period of 2 years. While this training is not a requirement, it is highly suggested that it is completed to be used as a tool to protect our youth and Brothers.
  - E. Ultimately, all Brothers also need to comply with all applicable Local and State laws pertaining to child abuse.
6. I also want to thank all the Brothers for the understanding and conformance of the previous General Order #3 and for the hard work of the Committee who performed the tireless research on this issue.

Ordered this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.



**Ken L. Freshley**  
**Commander-In-Chief**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

**Attest:**  
**Alan Russ, Secretary, National Order**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**