

Department of Rhode Island
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Headquarters, East Providence, RI



“FINISH THE WORK”

Department Commander's Order No. 1
Series 2019-2020

April 13, 2019

Brothers, a week ago you elected me Commander. I am truly honored and humbled by all your support. And I am very proud to be your 98th Department Commander. Thank you, Brother McGuire, PDC, for badging me! Our 135th RI Encampment went very well. Having CinC Don Shaw there to install me was an honor as well. I believe what we showed him made him proud of us, and recognize us as being one of the most important Departments in all of the SUVCW. That is who we are. And being good hosts, we are carrying on the traditions of the RIGAR in terms of hospitality, too!

But a week has gone by now, and there has already been so much activity that has kept me busy and prevented me from getting to this first important Order. On top of that, our Brother Mike Stewart has experienced a sudden loss in his family. We all express our deepest condolences for him at this distressful time, and wish him the quickest return of healing and recovery.

Congratulations to and announcing the following duly elected Officers for the 2019-2020 session:

Commander: Scott A. Reese, PCC
Sr. Vice Commander: Joseph S. Hall, Jr., PDC
Jr. Vice Commander: Joseph R. Faiola, PCC
Secretary: Benjamin Frail, PDC
Treasurer: Stephen E. Hackett, PDC
Council: Jamie P. McGuire, PDC
Council: Leo F. Kennedy, PCinC
Council: Geoffrey Gardner, PCC

I gladly appoint the following Brothers to these offices as required by our Department Bylaws:

Chief of Staff: Geoffrey Gardner, PCC

Counselor: Leo F. Kennedy, PCinC

Chaplain: Alan W. Head

Patriotic Instructor: Michael J. Stewart, PCC

Graves Registration Officer: Jamie P. McGuire, PDC

Archivist/Historian: Bruce Frail, PDC

Monuments and Civil War Memorials Officer: Benjamin Frail, PDC

GAR Highway Officer, ROTC & Eagle Scout Coordinator: John A. Conner, PCC

Signals Officer: Jamie P. McGuire, PDC

Color Bearer: Mike Alves, PCC

Guide: Darryl McCaffrey

Guard: Mark J. Brelsford

I appoint the following Brother as an Assistant per the C&R:

Assistant Secretary: John Duchesneau, PCC

The following Brothers are appointed per my authority and as per Department Bylaws:

Assistant Signals Officer for Social Media: Benjamin Frail, PDC

Aide to Graves Registration Officer: Dave Hanos, CC

Aide to Archivist/Historian: Peter Sarazin

Aide to GAR Highway Officer, ROTC & Eagle Scout Coordinator: Ray Frandsen

Brothers will assist each other in their appointed positions as practicable as possible.

Also per Department Bylaws, I wish to appoint a Brother to a special position, never before used in the Department. This Brother's responsibilities will ensure the effectiveness of Department Officer's Meetings. The nature of this position requires a high level of orderliness, time management skills, house keeping skills, and excellent camaraderie. The use of trowels, spades, or picks for compliance are optional:

Sergeant-at-Arms: Doug Dwyer

Brother Doug will be guided by information furnished to him from appropriate sources.

I appoint the following committee at this time:

Bylaws Committee

This committee is established to review the Department Bylaws annually. The committee is empowered to review the Bylaws, and will decide on matters whether or not to recommend changes to the Bylaws, either proposed by the committee or by submission to the committee from the Department. The procedure is as follows: if after first review the committee members unanimously recommend no changes to the Department Bylaws, then the Chair may have the committee meet electronically via email communication for the duration of the appointment. Upon such time that a review for action is determined by the committee, then the committee shall convene to devise recommendations. Reports shall be filed as necessary, but minimally an annual report will be submitted to the Department Secretary by April 1, 2020. The committee shall expire at the 2020 Department Encampment. It shall be chaired by the Department Counselor. The Bylaws Committee will consist of:

Counselor, Leo F. Kennedy, PCinC (Chair)
Camp 3 Representative: Geoffrey Gardner, PCC
Camp 1 Representative: Dave Hanos, PCC
Camp 7 Representative: Jamie P. McGuire, PDC
Camp 12 Representative: Joseph S. Hall, Jr., PDC

Additional committees as needed will be established and announced through separate Department Commander's Orders.

For our recent Encampment I had additional material prepared to deliver to the Department. However, in the interest of keeping the meeting moving along and to be as brief as possible, I curtailed many of my talking points. This Order will also serve to review and clarify my positions for the coming 2019-2020 term. My concepts were also included in my announcement letter for office that was released in February.

The first point I make is we (RI SUVCW) are a Department in good standing in the Order. Rhode Island SUVCW is extremely well represented at the National level. This is undeniably the result of most of the active Brothers in the Department, our Past Department Commanders, and especially the efforts of our Immediate Past Department Commander, Jamie McGuire. They all deserve tremendous credit for what they have accomplished. To follow in these footsteps is a super task, and is quite daunting to me. I was content to lead from the middle. But my pride in and respect for maintaining our reputation could not hold me back from accepting a chance of leading this Department. Without equivocation, I know that I want to continue the traditions set before us. That is why our motto will be, in Lincoln's own words, "**Finish the Work.**" Let this be our call to service, to the memory of the Boys in Blue, to ourselves, and to our Nation, which is in desperate need of Patriots such as ourselves.

With so many great accomplishments behind us, we must now look forward to future projects.

As I stated briefly at the Encampment, and upheld in my announcement letter, I am proposing that we move to incorporate a strategic planning process that I am calling our **2020 Vision**. While I was unaware that this term had been used previously at the National level when I introduced it back in February, it nevertheless encapsulates what I feel is the focus we are to have at this time, to reevaluate our processes and programs, in order to get the most out of our resources. The Department staff will take a look at all we do with the goal to expand our visibility, influence, and recognition, for all the right reasons. One of the models used in the business world for this is Plan, Do, Check, Act. I will be open to ideas and opinions as to how to proceed on this. I am merely a health scientist, after all. As with all we do, the details of this process from our Department meetings will be shared with all Camp personnel via current communicative methods. For now, know that we all can contribute to make this Department the “stand-out” in all of the Sons.

Lastly, but not leastly, I will repeat what has been said before me: I am open to communications from all Brothers as to issues and solutions of all concerns. I will not ask you to change your style, but I will ensure you that my responses are met with rational and measured thought. I will make rounds to Camps as is expected of the Commander. Treat me as you would any Brother. I know I am in Rhode Island, even though I am not from Rhode Island! Strange that a “shore boy” from Ocean County would wind up in the Ocean State and be part of a terrific group of men who share the common ideals of fraternity, charity, and loyalty.

Thanks for all you do to support our Department and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

So Ordered on the 13th day of April, 2019,

Scott A. Reese
Commander, Department of Rhode Island
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:
Ben Frail, PDC
Secretary

