

# HEADQUARTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Honoring the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic &  
The Men from New York who saved the Union from 1861 to 1865

<http://nysuvcw.org>

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## **2023-2024 Department Commanders Annual Report**

It has been a privilege and honor to have served as NY Department Commander. It was a great experience to work with so many talented brothers.

Since the Annual Encampment in May, quite a few Camps have held various activities from dedicating headstones, installing, and dedicating new headstones on unmarked graves, repair and cleaning existing headstones, monuments, dedication of graves, dedicating historic markers of Civil War Medal of Honor recipient, presentations (Civil War, GAR, SUVCW,)

The Department Mid-Year meeting was conducted in October.

Department of NY archivists Leo McGuire, PDC and Brian Castler, PDC have done an exceptional job of inventorying the archives and procuring a place to store the items. A long-term location will need to be determined by the GAR & SUVCW Property & Artifacts Committee for recommendations.

Preserving history is one of our many missions. NYS has roughly 1800 battle flags requiring preservation. CinC Paquette gave the Department approval to lobby for the preservation of these battle flags. The Department is exploring a plan of action on fundraising efforts from corporations and businesses. This will be an ongoing project for the next few years until all have been successfully preserved. In addition, the Department Fundraising Committee was established to help raise funds for the Battle Flags. The success of this committee will be in the report they're submitting. Recommend they become a special committee to continue raising funds for the Department projects.

It was my pleasure to be able to visit some of our Camps doing great work. Camps that I visited were the David G. Caywood Camp #146, Abraham Lincoln Camp # 6 , Col. John B. Weber Camp # 44 in Lackawanna, NY, and Chaplain P. G. Cook Camp # 223 Buffalo, NY.

Participated in camp and SVR ceremony for President Abraham Lincoln Birthday Celebration on February 18, 2024 marking 150 years held in Buffalo, NY. Several local area camps and SVR Units participated in the event.

Efforts are currently under way to start up a new camp in the Syracuse area, and national CofA has approved the paperwork, more on that will be following, from PDC jeff French.

Our present SVC Bill Stump has done an excellent job in fundraising for the department and is well equipped in becoming department commander in May.

Looking forward to the upcoming 141<sup>st</sup> NY Department Encampment in Canandaigua, NY at the American Legion Post.

Yours, in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Edward P. O'Brien,

Department Commander,  
Department of New York, SUVCW