

143rd ENCAMPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, SUVCW

Ithaca, NY April 10-12, 2026

BYLAW CHANGE

Recommend that contingent on the Department Recruitment Medal award resolution being approved; the following is added to the Department Bylaws as follows:

Article XIII
Awards

Section 1. The Department of New York has twelve (12) awards, which are presented at the annual Encampment.

Add the MG Newton Maerin Curtis Medal after K and it will be L and change the rest accordingly after it.

I. The Camp Online Presence Award shall include social media pages and websites as determined by the Department Webmaster and Department Commander.

J. A Department Recruitment Medal will promote brothers within our department to actively recruit new members. The brother is recognized for being issued a Department Recruitment Medal.

Be awarded only at the Annual Department Encampment, except when disability or other excusable reason (decided by the Department Commander) is present.

If awarded to an individual more than once, a Bronze Oak Leaf is attached. The medal will be authorized for any brother who has recruited Ten (10) new brothers in a one-year period.

Medal will be presented by the Department Commander.

K. The James Gordon Bennett Jr. Award, a medal, is presented to the brothers of the Order who donated at least \$500 to the Department of New York in a year

measured by the last day of the last encampment and the first day of the following encampment. All living past awardees will be recognized yearly at the Department Encampment with the singing of “Drunken Sailor” by the assembled brothers before the awarding of each year’s recipients.

L. The Major General Newton Martin Curtis Medal Award is to be established to encourage brothers within the Department of NY to be engaged and involved in SUVCW events at all three levels (Camp, Department, National).

The medal is named after a Past GAR Department of NY Commander who served bravely in the war and received the Medal of Honor. He continued his service in the NYS Legislation and later as a U.S. Congressman. He was the Assistant Inspector for the National State Soldiers Home and involved with the NYS Agriculture Society. MG Curtis was a significant member of the GAR. His Loyalty to serve his country exemplifies the meaning of this award.

Be awarded only at the Annual Department Encampment, except when disability or other excusable reason (decided by the Department Commander) is present.

Awarded only once.

The medal will be authorized for any brother who has engaged in the following requirements for this award for three continuous years:

- 1. Attends all Camp meetings and at least one Camp Event**
- 2. Attends the Department Encampment and an event from another Camp**
- 3. Attends National Encampment or One of National Events being either The Lincoln Tomb Ceremony or Remembrance Day Parade.**

The Camp Level activities will be verified by the Camp Commander via email to Department Commander and Secretary.

The Department Level will be verified by the Department Secretary and the Camp Commander of the event via email to Department Commander and Secretary.

National Level will be verified by a brother overseeing the National Event or encampment via email to Department Commander and Secretary.

Medal will be presented by the Department Commander.

M. The Danny Wheeler, PC-in-C Lifetime Service Award, a medal, presented to a member or associate of the Allied Orders in the Department of New York, who has distinguished themselves through continuous meritorious service over a significant period of time that reaches beyond the Camp level to have an impact across the Department or beyond to the national or international level.

SUBMITTED BY: Jeffrey I. French, Department Commander,
Walter H. French Camp #17