



**By-Laws**  
of  
**The Department of New York**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**



**Article I**

*Name*

- Section 1. This Organization shall be known as the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

**Article II**

*Department Symbol*

- Section 1. The symbol of the Department of New York shall be a Red Maltese Cross with Gold border, known as the badge of the Nineteenth Army Corps.

**Article III**

*Encampments*

- Section 1. The dates, location and events of the annual Encampment of the Department of New York shall be determined by a committee, known as the Department Encampment Committee, consisting of at least two (2) members/associates of the Department appointed by the Department Commander along with the Department

Commander, the Department Secretary, the Department Treasurer, or the Department Secretary/Treasurer (if such position exists) as ex-officio members. The Department Encampment Committee shall make reasonable efforts to hold the annual Encampment in a different region of the Department each year so as to encourage equal access to the Encampment by members/associates throughout the Department.

Since it is the policy of the Department, if possible, to hold a joint encampment with the DUVCW and other Allied Orders within the Department the Encampment Committee shall meet with the members of the DUVCW, ASUVCW and any other Allied Orders which may exist as Departments within the State of New York and shall seek to reach a consensus in conjunction with the said DUVCW, ASUVCW and said other Allied Orders as to the date and details of the next Department Encampment so as to ensure the participation of as many members of said other Allied Orders as may be possible at said Encampment. This consultation must take place before any arrangements are made and the initial joint meeting (this meeting may be in person or by telephonic or video conferencing) is to occur within 60 days after the conclusion of the preceding Department Encampment. If, after reasonable effort no consensus can be reached, then the final decision as to the date and details of the Encampment shall rest with the Department Encampment Committee. The Encampment Committee shall file a brief report regarding its progress with the Department Commander, the elected officers of the Department and the Department Counselor by September 1 and shall continue to keep them apprised of all further developments thereafter.

The general location of the annual Encampment for the next succeeding year shall be announced at the Department Encampment for the year immediately preceding that Encampment and once announced shall not be changed without the majority consent of the Department Council for good cause shown. The Committee shall finalize the details as to the exact location and date of that Encampment no later than December 1 and it shall be announced by the Department Commander by Department Order and posted on the website within two weeks thereafter. In determining the date of the Joint Encampment, the Committee shall consult with all the elected officers of the Department, the Department Counselor, and the Presidents of the DUVCW and the ASUVCW so as to avoid conflicts if possible.

The Department Encampment Committee shall also be responsible for the planning, coordinating, publicizing, and delegating, all tasks and aspects concerning the holding of the annual Encampment of the Department of New York. It being the policy of the Department of New York to attempt to rotate the responsibilities of any Joint Encampment amongst the Allied Orders in the Department the Encampment Committee may delegate such tasks, including but not limited to the hosting of the Encampment, to one or more of the Allied Orders. In the event the Department is the hosting entity the Department Commander shall have sole authority to execute any Departmental contracts in relation to said Encampment.

- Section 2. The hour of opening each *Encampment* business session shall be fixed by the Department Commander.
- Section 3. The business sessions of the *Department Encampment* will be limited to the Saturday of the Encampment weekend, with Sunday morning available should additional time be required.
- Section 4. The hotel and banquet expenses of the Commander-in-Chief in attending the *Department Encampment* will be paid for by the New York Department.
- Section 5. In addition to the annual Encampment, mid-year meetings of the Department shall be held in October or November and in January or February on dates and at times determined by the Department Commander who must announce the dates no later than September 1 and December 1, respectively. The Department Commander shall consult with the elected Department Officers and Camp Commanders when deciding on the dates. These meetings are intended to monitor progress toward the Department's goals including all actions taken at the most recent Encampment, to adjust plans and budgets as necessary to be submitted to the following annual Department Encampment for such action as a majority vote of those present at said Encampment may decide. No funds of the Department may be disbursed at the Mid-Year Meetings and the Department shall be in no way responsible or liable for any expenses of anyone attending the Mid-Year Meetings. *In order to avoid costs and to provide maximum participation, such meetings shall be conducted by video conferencing.*
- Section 6. The General Grant March shall be the official march of the Department Encampment.

## **Article IV**

### ***Revenue***

- Section 1. The *Charter Fee* for a new Camp shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Such fee, in the form of a check or money order payable to New York Dept., SUVCW will accompany the application for permission to form a Camp.
- Section 2. Each Camp shall pay to the Department, as per capita tax on each and every member on the *Camp Roster*, the sum of at least six dollars (\$6) per year. Life Members shall be exempt from per capita dues assessed by the Department if their life membership was effective prior to June 1, 2023.  
Additional per capita dues may be payable to the Department in order to pay per capita dues owed to the National Organization.
- Section 3. A registration fee shall be assessed against each member/associate attending all or any part of every Department Encampment. The amount of the registration fee shall be set by vote of the Department Council at the preceding Department Encampment based upon the recommendation of

the Encampment Committee. The total amount received at any *Encampment* shall be duly received by the Department Treasurer. Any unused portion of any registration fees shall revert to the *General Fund*.

- Section 4. A Brother appointed yearly by the Department Commander will mail fundraising appeal letters to all brothers of the Department no later than February 1. All funds collected will be turned over to the Department Treasurer with 60 days of receipt. The appointed Brother will provide an appropriate gift acknowledgement letter via mail to those brothers who donated and provide a report on the appeals results at the Encampment the same year the mailing was conducted. All costs undertaken will be approved in advance by the Department Treasurer

## Article V

### *Expenses*

- Section 1. The entire expenses of the Department Commander shall be charged to Organization work and calculated on a yearly basis, not to exceed seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). Said expenses shall not include the hotel expenses for the Department Commander in attending all sessions of the Department Encampment nor shall it include the actual transportation and hotel expenses of the Department Commander in attending the meeting of *the Commandery-in-Chief*.
- Section 2. The Department Commander, if attending all sessions of the *Department Encampment* shall be allowed, hotel expenses. This amount shall not exceed the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- Section 3. The actual transportation and hotel expenses of the *Department Commander*, incurred in attending the meeting of the *Commandery-in-Chief* shall be paid by the Department. This amount shall not exceed the sum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- Section 4. No expenses shall be incurred by any Department Officer, elective or appointive, without the prior consent of the Department Council and only for good cause shown, except as is included in the budget approved by the previous Department Encampment, or as herein otherwise provided.
- Section 5. The Department shall maintain an annual membership in “The Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage, Inc.” at the “Patron” level.
- Section 6. Expenses for officers for purposes of these bylaws shall mean those expenditures incurred on behalf of the Department of New York that are commonly incurred by officers for the purposes of operating a not for profit charitable organization including but not necessarily limited to such items as postage, transportation mileage, tolls, parking, stationary, office supplies, organizational software, long

distance phone calls, or the purchase of organizational forms, documents, promotional material, publications or similar matter from the National Order. The purchase of capital assets, plaques, flags or gifts or similar items for or on behalf of the organization or its members shall not be deemed an officer expense. No expenses shall be reimbursed unless accompanied by a receipt or similar proof of cost.

- Section 7. A fund will be established in the amount of \$500.00 for the Department to award to worthy causes within the State of New York that support the Order's mission to keep green the memory of those who fought to save the Republic. All disbursements will require a majority vote of the Department Council, which will be conducted electronically. The Department is under no obligation to spend the totality of the fund yearly, and the fund will receive an additional deposit of \$200.00 every year from the Department. Should the fund reach zero, all disbursements will be frozen for 3 years or until the amount again exceeds \$500.00. Brothers may specifically donate to this fund,

## **Article VI**

### ***Department Permanent Fund***

- Section 1. The Permanent Fund of the Department of New York shall consist only of monies specifically given or bequeathed to the Department for such permanent fund, and such other monies as may be added thereto by vote of the Department Encampment.
- Section 2. Such funds shall be kept on deposit in one or more bank institutions whose deposits are fully insured to the amount of the deposit, or invested in obligations of the United States.
- Section 3. All monies shall be deposited, and all investments made in the name of the Department.
- Section 4. No part of the principal of any of the funds covered by this Article shall ever be spent other than in accordance with section 6 of this Article, and all monies accruing from interest or dividend shall be held as part of the principal of the fund to which they accrue.
- Section 5. By vote of the Department Encampment or of the Department Council, the income of the funds covered by this Article accruing in the year in which such vote is passed, or any portion of such income, may be transferred to the General Fund and used for the expenses and purposes of the Department, but any income not so transferred shall be added to the principal.
- Section 6. As authorized by section 4 upon recommendation of the Department Treasurer and as approved by at least two members of the Department Council, part of the

principal of the fund may be used from time to time for the sole purpose of purchasing one or more Past Department Commander badges and engraving for presentation to Past Department Commanders of the Department of New York.

## **Article VII**

### ***Headquarters and Officers***

- Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Department Commander to have exclusive charge of the Organization work of the Department. He shall have the power to employ one or more Department Organizers and to appoint any member of the Department to assist in Organization work. The expenses incurred by the same, outside of those for whom sums are included in the budget approved by the Department Encampment, shall be defrayed from the appropriation allowed the Department Commander for Organization work.
- Section 2. The Department Secretary shall be elected and shall serve for a term of three years.
- Section 3. The Department Treasurer shall be elected and shall serve for a term of three years.
- Section 4. The Department Secretary shall attend to the mailing to and compilation of all reports from Camps and Camp Officers; shall answer all correspondence directed to him for the Department; and shall issue all circulars when received from the Department Commander.

The Department Secretary shall keep on file copies of each member's application, as well as a chronological roster of members based on the date of joining the Order. This roster will include, but is not limited to, name of member, date of joining, Camp, Civil War ancestor and unit or ship served with during the Civil War.

The Department Secretary shall be reimbursed for expenses up to and including four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per year. If serving as a Secretary/Treasurer, he shall be reimbursed for total expenses for both offices of up to five hundred twenty-five dollars (\$525) per year. Evidence of said expenses shall be provided to the Department Council or their designee for approval prior to reimbursement.

- Section 5. The Department Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all his financial transactions and shall deposit all funds in a bank, or other depository, institution or account which has been approved of by the Department Council at least once each month. The Department Treasurer shall also cause an original copy of each banking statement from each Department account to be sent to the Department Commander with a duplicate copy to the Department Treasurer. He shall pay bills when properly audited and approved for payment by the Department Commander. The Department Treasurer shall be reimbursed for expenses up to two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225) per year. Or, if serving as Secretary/Treasurer, he shall be reimbursed for total expenses for both offices of up to five hundred twenty-five dollars (\$525) per year. Evidence of said expenses

shall be provided to the Department Council or their designer for approval prior to reimbursement.

At least one week but not more than 2 weeks prior to the Department Encampment business meeting the Department Treasurer shall transmit to the Department Council Chairman for dissemination to the Department Council copies of all of the Department books and accounts reflecting all financial activity since the prior Encampment. Said books and accounts shall include but necessarily be limited to copies of all Department monthly bank statements for all accounts, check and deposit registers, investment, and CD account statements along with a copy of the most recently adopted budget of the Department and the prior Encampment's Treasurers report and financial statement. In addition, in the event of a Department midyear meeting the Treasurer, if requested by the Council Chairman, shall make available for review by the Department Council at said midyear meeting copies of all monthly bank account statements issued since the prior Encampment.

Section 6. Authorization from the Department Commander must be obtained by the Department Treasurer before any check in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) is written unless said check represents the Department's per capita payment to the National Organization which accompanies the Department's annual report or is in payment of a budgeted contractual obligation of the Department pursuant to a contract signed by the Department Commander for purposes of the Department Encampment or pursuant to a verbal agreement of the Department with the other Allied Orders to share an expense at said Encampment.

Section 7. The elected Department Junior Vice Commander will have responsibility for coordinating the receipt of new Members-at-Large from our National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and our National website recruiting program. Upon his receipt of an approved application and correct payment from our National Order, he will make prompt contact with the new member and welcome him to the Department of New York as a Member-at-Large. This contact may be made in writing, by phone or by e-mail. He will further make the new member aware of the local Camps in his area, and any others that he may be interested in joining, and will make a reasonable attempt to have that new member agree to join a local Camp. If the new member agrees to join a Camp in the Department of New York, then the Junior Vice Commander will forward the application and fees to that Camp, and will follow up to ensure that the member is contacted, elected, and initiated into the Camp within thirty (30) days, reporting said election and initiation to the Department Junior Vice Commander in any convenient manner, and to the Department Secretary in duplicate on Camp Status Form 30 not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. Reasonable exception may be made to the thirty-day limit due to Camps not meeting during holiday or summer seasons. If this is not done, either due to inaction by the Camp or their decision not to admit this new member, the Junior Vice Commander will retrieve the

materials from the Camp and will forward them to the Department Secretary who will report them as Members-at-Large on Form 30. If the new member does not wish to join a New York Camp, then the Junior Vice Commander will forward his application and fees directly to the Department Secretary for enrollment as a member-at-large.

Section 8. The Department Commander shall, in consultation with the Department Secretary, appoint one or more Assistant Department Secretaries, one of whom shall prepare the Encampment Proceedings which, upon review and approval of the Department Secretary, shall be posted on the Department website. All Assistant Secretaries shall assist the Department Secretary as determined by him. The Department Commander may also, if requested by and in consultation with the Department Treasurer, appoint an Assistant Department Treasurer, who shall assist the Department Treasurer in ways determined by him.

In addition to those outlined in the National Constitution and Regulations, the Officers of the Department of New York may include an Eagle Scout Recognition Officer, Archivist, Signals Officer, Guide, Guard, Musician, Color-Bearer, Webmaster, Veterans Home Visitation Officer, Adjutant to the GAR Highway Officer and JROTC Liaison Officer.

Section 9. The Department Senior Vice Commander shall also serve as the Department Public Relations Officer. As Department Public Relations Officer, he shall maintain a list of States, Regional and National media outlets and shall disseminate to said media outlets information about Department of New York and New York Department Camps events, projects and accomplishments that may be of State, Regional or National interest. Department Officers and Camp Commanders shall forward to him on a regular basis, events, projects, and accomplishments for consideration to be disseminated through his office.

Section 10. All elected officers of the New York Department, SUVCW, shall provide a mailing address and if different, a permanent address.

## **Article VIII**

### ***Transfer of Information***

Section 1. The retiring Department Commander shall within ten (10) days after the close of the annual Encampment, forward to his successor all information in regard to prospective Camps and organizational work.

## **Article IX**

### ***Department Council***

- Section 1. The Department Council shall have at least two stated meetings each year, the first of which shall be held immediately after the installation of its members and after the final adjournment of the Encampment. At this meeting they shall organize, electing a Chairman and Secretary, and shall act upon any bills of the Department Officers for allowable expenses, which may be presented to them, in detail and regular form.
- Section 2. The second stated meeting shall be held prior to the Department Encampment. Said meeting shall be for the purpose of a full audit of the Department books and accounts and for the consideration of such other business as may be brought to their attention. Said audit shall include but is not limited to examining copies of monthly bank statements for all Department accounts, check and deposit registers, copies of actual investment and CD account statements if any. In addition, the Department Council shall have a duty to have examined the prior Encampment's Treasurer's report and financial reports and the prior Department Encampment approved budget during its audit process.
- Section 3. The Department Council shall keep a full and detailed record of its proceedings and shall present an Annual Audit to the Department Encampment. This report will be given at the Department Encampment after presentation of, or in conjunction with the Treasurer's report, whichever is most convenient.
- Two members thereof shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. Any additional, special meetings are the subject to the order of the Department Commander or request of the Chairman of the Department Council.
- Section 4. No more than one member of any one camp within the Department shall serve on the Department Council at any one time. A dual member of more than one camp within the Department who seeks election to the Department Council may only be a candidate from his primary or home camp. A dual member of more than one camp within the Department who seeks election to the Department Council and wishes to change his primary or home camp must have that change in effect and reported to the primary camp and the Department Secretary by February 15 of the year he seeks election.

## **Article X**

### ***Committees***

- Section 1. The G.A.R. and SUVCW Artifacts and Property Committee shall consist of the Department Historian, Archivist, Civil War Memorials & Monuments Officer, Counselor, and one additional member of the New York Department. The committee is charged with investigating G.A.R. and SUVCW property possessed by those outside the Order, and to recommend to the Department Commander action which is consistent with the Constitution and Regulations and Policies of the SUVCW.
- Section 2. The Legislation Committee shall consist of at least two members/associates to be appointed by the Department Commander. The Committee is authorized to monitor existing and proposed legislation within the Department which affects the welfare or purposes of the Order, or the United States of America in either a positive or negative way and to inform the Department, its camps and members of the same on a regular basis but no less than twice a year. In addition, it is authorized to request that the Department seek permission to lobby in support of or in opposition to said legislation or proposed legislation in accordance with the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the Order..
- Section 3. Special committees may be created by action of the Department Encampment and shall be for the period of time designated in the creation thereof. Their duties and responsibilities shall be simultaneously defined.

## **Article XI**

### ***Reports***

- Section 1. The Department Treasurer shall make, in his annual report, a detailed account of the transactions of the year; shall render a budget of estimated income and expenses of the *Encampment* and for the ensuing year, including those of the Department Officers, and which shall not be exceeded except by unanimous approval of the Department Council; shall state in detail any assets and liabilities of the Department, and shall give an inventory of the Department property, including all supplies on hand.
- Section 2. A summary of the annual reports of the Department Secretary and Department Treasurer shall be published in the next Department Order.
- Section 3. The Department Encampment proceedings shall be published within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the Encampment not to exceed one hundred and eighty (180) days. Distribution of Encampment Proceedings shall include one copy for each brother in attendance, as well as one copy to each Camp in good standing

within the Department via the Camp Secretary; said distribution may be made via email or other electronic means. In addition, at least one copy shall be retained with the Department Secretary and one written copy provided to the Department Archivist for Department Records. A copy of the Proceedings shall also be published on the Department Webpage.

Section 4. Upon the passing of a New York Past Department Commander, a full-page memorial will be placed in the Journal or Yearbook distributed at the next Department Encampment.

Section 5. The Department Commander shall declare any Camp that does not submit a correct camp annual report and/or the appropriate per capita payment to the Department Secretary by April 30<sup>th</sup> of that calendar year to be “not in good standing.”

Camp reports that are submitted incomplete or that contain inaccuracies deemed to be significant by the Department Commander, Department Secretary, or Department Treasurer, will be returned to the submitting Camp for correction. If the report is not corrected and resubmitted to the Department within thirty (30) days of the date it was originally due, the report will be deemed unsubmitted.

Any Camp, which has not submitted to the Department Secretary a correct Camp Annual Report or the appropriate per capita payment or a correct Certification of Election and Installation Report by April 30<sup>th</sup>, shall not be allowed representation at the ensuing Department Encampment.

Section 6. The Department Commander shall copy Department Officers and Camp Commanders when filing his regular reports with National.

Section 7. Annual Reports to the Encampment of Department Officers, Committee Chairs, and Camp Commanders which are submitted to the Department Commander and the Department Secretary shall be due three weeks prior to the Encampment. When submitting, email copies must be sent to all Department Officers and Camp Commanders.

## **Article XII**

### ***Change of Name and Location***

Section 1. Upon the formation of a Camp, there shall be issued to it a Charter, which shall be signed by the Department Commander, attested by the Department Secretary, and approved by the Commander-in-Chief. The Charter Fee for the new Camp shall be fixed at twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) which fee shall be paid to the Department and shall accompany the application for the Charter.

## **Article XIII**

### *Awards*

- Section 1. The Department of New York has twelve (12) awards, which are presented at the annual Encampment.
- A. The Oliver P. Clark Recruitment Award is a certificate presented to the brother who recruited the most new brothers during a particular calendar year as reported by the Department Secretary. Winners will also have their names, Camp and year of their award permanently listed on the Department website.
  - B. The PDC John G. Kernan Cup is a certificate presented to the Camp who recruited the most new members during a particular calendar year as reported by the Department Secretary. Winners will also have their Camp and year of their award permanently listed on the Department website.
  - C. The Department Patriotic Instructor's Award will be presented to any and all Camps that meet criteria as outlined by the Patriotic Instructor.
  - D. The Joseph S. Rippey PC-in-C Memorial Award for Outstanding Service will be awarded to a deserving Brother in the New York Department at the discretion of the Department Commander. In further recognition of their service to the Department, the winners of this award will have their names and the year of the award permanently listed on the Department website.
  - E. The Department Junior Vice Commander's Growth Award will be awarded to each Camp in the New York Department which has demonstrated a net increase in membership and has made its annual report and payment no later than the date specified in Regulations.
  - F. The Oliver Norton-Gustav Schurmann Musician's Award is to be awarded at the discretion of the Department Musician.
  - G. The Graves Registration Recognition Award is to be presented to the Individual that registers the most graves with the National Graves Registration officer. Camps or Individuals will report their graves registration activities to the Department Graves Registration Officer.
  - H. The Camp Newsletter Award for the Camp newsletter judged best by the Department Commander and Department Newsletter Editor, who both must be included in the circulation of the newsletter for it to be considered.
  - 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 by being issued the Department Recruitment Medal. The medal shall be presented by the Department Commander at the Department Encampment except when disability or other excusable reason (decided

by the Department Commander) exists. 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 five (5) new brothers in a calendar year.

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 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. Except when automatically authorized it must be recommended by a Camp Commander or an elected Department Officer in writing to the Commander, Department of New York, SUVCW and be approved by the Department Council. The medal will automatically be authorized when a brother has served as an elected or appointed officer of the Department for a continuous period of 20 years or more or if a brother is awarded by the National C-in-C the Bud Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award.

The medal shall be presented by the Department Commander at the Department Encampment except when disability or other excusable reason decided by the Department Commander exists.

The medal shall be awarded only once per individual and need not be awarded annually unless it is automatically authorized.

In recognition of the significance of this award the winners of this award will have their names and the year of the award permanently listed on the Department website.

## **Article XIV**

### ***Associates***

Section 1. The Department of New York accepts Associates as a class of membership, as provided in the Constitution and Regulations of the Order.

Section 2. The Department shall admit into the Department and permit its camps to admit all classes of Associates, including Junior Associates, as defined and recognized by the National Constitution and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

## **Article XV**

### ***Newsletter***

- Section 1. The Department Newsletter the “Volunteer” shall be issued to the membership at least three times a year. The editor will e-email a copy in pdf format to all Department officers and camp secretaries. The latter will forward a copy to each of his camp members by e-mail or, for members who do not use email, printing and mailing a copy is suggested. Upon receipt, the Department web master will post a copy to the Communications page of the Department Website.

## **Article XVI**

### ***By-Laws***

- Section 1. Alterations, amendments, or deletions to these By-Laws shall be made only at a regular session of Department Encampment, and by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. All proposed alterations, amendments or deletions to the bylaws must be received either in writing or electronically by the Department Secretary and Department Commander no later than 60 days prior to the Encampment and shall thereafter be published on the Department website as soon as practicable but not later than 10 days prior to the Encampment. Alterations, amendments, or deletions received less than 60 days prior to said Encampment cannot be considered until the next succeeding Encampment. The 60-day notice requirement may be waived at the Department Encampment upon two-thirds vote of those voting members present and entitled to vote.”
- Section 2. These By-Laws of the Department of New York, and any amendments or additions thereto, shall go into effect immediately after their adoption and approval by the Commander-in-Chief.
- Section 3. The Department Encampment may adopt Departmental Policies relating to certain activities of the Department or its camps concerning, but not necessarily limited to, the use or operations of the Department Website or Department Newsletter. Said policies shall be consistent with and shall not violate the Constitution, Regulations and Policies of the National Order and shall be published on the Department website.

## **Article XVII**

### ***Members, Associates, Juniors, and Junior Associates under the Age of 18***

- Section 1. The Department of New York and its Camps shall comply with all the Rules, Regulations, and Orders of the National Organization in regards restrictions

established for the monitoring of Brothers under the age of 18 while interacting within the Department of New York and its Camps. They shall include as a minimum the following:

A. All Brothers under the age of 18 years of age shall be accompanied by a parent or person designated as a Guardian (Grandfather, Brother over the age of 18 years, Uncle, or legally appointed guardian) 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 of 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 is strongly encouraged but not required to complete training related to protecting children from abuse of any type. (Training is available at no cost online from the Boy Scouts of America through their Youth Protection Training 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.)

E. All Brothers shall comply with all applicable Local and State laws pertaining to child abuse.

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

### **Organization**

- Section 1. The Department shall be constituted and remain constituted as provided by the Constitution and Regulations (C&R) governing the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and shall be known as the DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR. The department is organized as an unincorporated association under the laws of the State of New York. The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

## **ARTICLE XIX**

### **Activities Not in Furtherance of Exempt Purposes**

- Section 1. No part of the net earnings, if any, of this unincorporated association, shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the unincorporated association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes described in section 501(c)3. No substantial part of the activities of the unincorporated association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the unincorporated association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these by-laws, the unincorporated association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an unincorporated association exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an unincorporated association, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)2 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

## **ARTICLE XX**

### **Separation, Dissolution and Disposition of Assets**

- Section 1 In the case of surrender or forfeiture of the Department Charter, all Department property and assets shall be turned over to the National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War via the Department Commander of the affected Department acting as his duly authorized representative to collect and hold all such property in trust for the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, an organization exempt from taxes under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Section 2 All property of the Department shall be held for the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, as a charitable trust that is held and used for the purpose for which the Order exists. Any such transfer or disposal within six months of disbandment or surrender of the Department Charter without the written consent of the National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is prohibited. The property and funds of the Department shall not be divided among its members.
- Section 3 In the event the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, no longer exists, said property and funds shall revert to the benefit of the first and

any remaining organization of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic or in their absence, to the State archives of New York.

Section 4 Notwithstanding the above language, upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose.



Department Commander

14 April, 2026

Date



Commander-in-Chief

14 April 2026

Date

Attest



Department Secretary

Revised and Approved by the 143rd Encampment of the Department of New York  
Ithaca, New York – April 11, 2026