



# THE VOLUNTEER

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

***From Dep't Commander Leo McGuire***

In 35 days I will have attended 11 different Sons' events on eleven different days including trips to Manhattan and Vermont. I did this because I believe in the mission of the Sons, and I enjoy the company of the Department members.

I will try to contact all the camps to visit as many as I can. On each visit, I learn something new.

The biggest problems that I see are, communication and recruiting.

These are my recommendations:

1. At each meeting, ask if there are any address or email changes. Commander Day wants everyone to receive *The Banner*. Use form 30 by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. This will also help Brother Pugsley with his difficult job.

2. Check the National, State and your own camps' web sites once a week to see what is new, if the information is accurate and the site is working properly.
3. List on your site (and the Department web site) at least the Commander, Sr. Vice Commander and Secretary with phone numbers and email addresses.
4. Delegate tasks to others in your camp. Get them involved. Try to make the Secretary's job easier by assigning minor tasks to others.
5. The Camp Commander needs to be informed. All correspondence to a camp should have .cc to the Commander.
6. Any visitor or new member should always have a "camp buddy" sit with them. Never let them sit by themselves. This should usually be the JVC.
7. Try to send newsletters, etc. USPS (snail mail) to those who don't have computers.
8. I am guilty of this, but I will try to do what I ask of others. Please reply - "received" or "thank you" when you get an email so the sender knows you received the email.
9. The plan is to have the 2019 Encampment at Lake George at the Fort William Henry Hotel. It is on the lake and a tour of the Fort is being planned for Friday night. The dates are May 17-19, 2019. It is a resort town and I will try to get other discounts such as the steamboat rides. I would like all camps to send at least one representative. They could come for a nice weekend or just attend the business meeting on Saturday. The least expensive room will be \$ 109.00 a night.

***From Darin Everdyke, Dep't Jr. Vice***

***Recruitment and Retention of Members***

Brothers – In keeping with the duties of the Jr. Vice Commander, and following along with a lengthy discussion at the Department encampment in April, I'd like to start a series on recruiting - and to fold in the topic of member retention as well. At the encampment the fact was mentioned that we have about 450 members statewide. On paper, that is.....

This article is not intended to be a one-time posting, but the beginning of an open ended dialogue between all of us – from the individual Brothers, to the Camps, to the Dep't and National, then all the way back down again. All of us have an equal interest in keeping this organization alive, and all of us have acknowledged the responsibility to our ancestors to do so.

Therefore, I ask you all to consider the following initial points and to send in any others that you can think of, ie., who to target, how to get our name and message out, how to keep wavering members with us and how to draw back into the group those who have left.... Please also think back and recall the following points: How did you get recruited and at what age? What do you like best about the Sons? What do you dislike? What have departing members said about their experience with us?

During a recess at the April meeting I made an observation: that, at age 53, I was almost the youngest attendee. I believe only 2 brothers were younger – Ray Lemay and the young man with the impressive head of hair sitting by the door. This highlighted the fact that we are an old (in more ways than one) organization. As more and more of our brothers leave the Sons, for whatever reason, how do we replace them? Who should we target?

The discussion at the encampment was heavy on the emphasis that we should target our efforts toward young people. The exact age bracket wasn't defined, but likely much younger than the average age of those in attendance.

Commander McGuire and I traded correspondence regarding the idea of beginning a conversation in this newsletter. Here's what he sent as a starter:

I heard you say you were about the youngest at the encampment - you and Ray Lemay are probably it.

I joined the Civil War roundtable hoping to get new members.

I also do the JROTC/ROTC for my camp, but was told we never get new members from there.

I went to the scout headquarters and asked about a genealogy badge hoping it would lead to new members. They wanted me to become an advisor but I don't have the time to do it.

I was a member of the CAP for a short time and they requested uniforms from former service members to outfit the troops. Perhaps we could ask older members to donate their uniforms and equipment when they are finished to supply new people. The problem the CAP had was that as soon as they got their uniforms a lot quit. It is expensive.

I looked into a week camp of civil war activities that my grandsons and I might enjoy. I think it was down south. Young Reenactors are our best bet or maybe JROTC if we could equip them.

The Elmira CW prison is a good location also. They are always looking for volunteers and I suggested to the two nearest camps to just give an hour or two a day to hand out info. The director said she was willing to give us a spot for brochures and she wished the Elmira camp was still in business. Just some ideas that I had - you are welcome to try anything to get new members.

Commander McGuire has already tried several avenues but with limited success. If we're targeting youth, say, 16-30 years old, what obstacles are we facing? Competing time commitments from school, job, sports, family? Money? Transportation? Lack of awareness that we even exist or what our function is? Lack of knowledge of their own family history and that they may be eligible? Lack of interest?

Looking at our current average age, can we draw something from that? Perhaps the older folks (50+) have the most interest, the most time to devote and fewer competing demands. Should we reconsider our targeting? Our methods? Some of the obstacles for youth would apply here as well, ie. awareness of our existence and our function.

Brothers – There is a lot of material here to think about. Please get back to me with your thoughts and suggestions. I'll compile and include them in the winter edition and in following editions. In the meantime, we can all work on being more visible and getting our message out. Talk to people, show them what we're doing....

Yours..... Darin Everdyke. JVC.

***From Robert Pugsley PDC, Department Secretary***

Dear Brothers,

Greetings from the Office of the Department Secretary. In case you could not make it, our 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment held in Rochester, NY on April 20-22 was a success. Attendance was not quite as high as in previous years but overall it was a success. The Annual Department report was submitted on time this year as it has been for the past five years. I would like to express my gratitude towards those Camps that met their obligation and had had their report into me on time.

However, there are still a few Camps that did not make the deadline and it is not fair to those Camps that took the effort and felt the obligation to do their duty to which they took an oath. A shining example of a Camp that is outstanding in filing their paperwork on time and getting it right is the Phineas Catlin Camp #341. A reminder to those Camps whose fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> that they need to file their 990N. I know I have beat this horse to death but it has become more critical recently and, from my understanding, once it is lost it is time consuming and expensive to have it reinstated. PDC and Dept Treasurer Jeffrey Albanese is much more knowledgeable about this subject than me so if you have any questions, he is a better resource.

Also it is important to send me any changes of address for members. It not only insures that they will continue to receive the Banner, but when we send out the fundraiser tickets for the Department they will receive them. Please send your Form 30s to me, not directly to National.

The National Encampment is coming up in August. If anyone who was voted on as delegate at the Encampment needs a delegate card, please let me know. Anyone can attend and it is worthwhile to go so that you have an opportunity to see fellow Brothers from all over the Country.

Last year I started a program where I sent out letters to Brothers who were dropped, inviting them to return. I had one rejoin. I received numerous "wrong address" letters back. I think the low response was due to the fact that I did not send them out until about 8 months later. I am going to do it earlier this year. If you know of any Brothers in your Camp who were dropped/lost, please send a notice yourselves to invite them back. Conversely if there were some who were dropped that you would not want to see come back, let me know. I received a very vitriolic letter from one member who decided that Abraham Lincoln was Satan in a top hat. Needless to say I won't spend a first class stamp on him.

If throughout the year you have any questions, or need help, please feel free to get in touch with me. I usually respond to my

emails on the weekends because, as many of you know, during the week it can get hectic with other things.

Yours in F, C, and L,

Robert Pugsley, PDC

NY Department Secretary

***From Commander McGuire –***

**From the Department of New York  
Order #5, 2016-2017  
TO ALL NEW YORK DEPARTMENT  
CAMP COMMANDERS:**

It is the job of every camp to complete a **Federal IRS 990N Form every year** in order to affirm their tax-exempt status as a nonprofit organization. The deadline for filing the form, which can only be done online, depends when each camp ends its fiscal year. The deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month five - months after the end of that fiscal year.

Failure to complete this form by the deadline required by law can result in the **revocation of a Camp's charter**, as specified in our National By-Laws.

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5248.pdf>

## Walter H. French Camp #17 Promotes Civil War History and Patriotism



*F-B PDC Jeff French, Alex Rodriguez carrying American flag, PCC Rob Roshia II far right in first row, and CC Bill Bamann far left in second row in Memorial Day Parade 2018*

CC Bill Bamann committed the Walter H. French Camp to three events in May to promote Civil War history and Patriotism. The first event was on May 11<sup>th</sup> teaching Civil War history to the Gouverneur, NY School 8<sup>th</sup> Graders. CC Bamann and PDC Jeffrey French

did cooking and the foods the soldiers ate during the war. There were reenactors doing Drills and Ceremonies, Medical care and surgery, and firing drills. We had 100 students go through all ten stations. The event was from 8 AM to 3PM and it was successful in teaching the students about the Civil War. Our station had coffee, hardtack, and steaks for demonstration over the campfire. The students were very interested and surprised about what they learned.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> the Walter H. French Camp marched in the Armed Forces Day Parade with our Sisters from the ASUVCW. Present were PDC Jeffrey French, PCC Robert Roshia II, Brothers Alexander Rodriguez and Scott French. Also present was Department of NY ASUVCW PDP Hope Parker and DPI Irene Mahoney. We all marched in the pouring rain and presented arms to the Fort Drum Commander and fellow officers at the grand stand to exemplify our patriotism and support for their service and sacrifice to defend our Country.

On May 28<sup>th</sup> the Walter H. French Camp marched in Copenhagen, NY Memorial Day Parade to display patriotism and to show respect for those who sacrificed their lives in all wars to defend our Country and Freedoms. PDC Jeffrey French carried the Guidon, Brother Alexander Rodriguez carried the American Flag, CC Bill Bamann was the headstone guard at Fairview Cemetery and the

GAR Statue, and PCC Robert Roshia II was on the Firing Team at Fairview Cemetery and the GAR Statue. The French Camp supported the Copenhagen American Legion with their Color Guard, Firing Team, and ceremonies at Fairview cemetery which was part of the parade and the Evergreen Cemetery before the parade.

The Walter H. French Camp #17 and our Sisters from the Department of NY ASUVCW worked together to show our patriotism to our country and the soldiers who served our country, present and past. The tradition that the Boys Blue passed onto us still lives on.



*L-R Alex Rodriguez, PDC Jeff French, PDP Hope Parker, PCC Rob Roshia II, & DPI Irene Mahoney in Armed Forces Day*



***The Shohola monument at Woodlawn Cemetery in Elmira.***

On July 15, 1864 a prison train containing 833 Confederate prisoners of war, mostly captured at Cold Harbor Virginia in early June 1864, and 128 Union soldiers from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Veteran Reserve Corps headed north from Jersey City along the Erie Railroad tracks on their way to the recently opened Elmira prisoner of war camp in Elmira, New York. The train was delayed and arrived in Port Jervis, New York four hours behind schedule. The train then crossed over into Pennsylvania and headed on a single track along the Delaware River. Unbeknownst to the prison train engineer, a coal train was negligently allowed by a Telegraph operator up the line to continue southbound on the same track. At about 2:45PM in the town of Shohola, Pennsylvania on a blind curve

both trains collided. The collision was so severe that the first car behind the engine on the prison train was crushed killing 36 of the 37 men riding it. The collision resulted in the death of approximately 48 Confederate prisoners, 17 Union soldiers and the engineers and firemen of both trains. Scores more were injured. Citizens of both Shohola and of Barryville, New York across the Delaware River arrived to render aid and comfort the wounded. Two of the wounded, Pvt. Michael Johnson of the 31<sup>st</sup> North Carolina and Pvt. John Johnson of the 8<sup>th</sup> North Carolina were taken across the river to Barryville, New York for treatment. The Confederate and Union dead were buried besides the tracks and remained there until they were disinterred in 1911 and reburied under a monument to the train disaster at the site of the Elmira Prison Camp. However, Confederate prisoners Michael and John Johnson succumbed to their wounds several days after the wreck and were buried in the cemetery of the Barryville Congregational Church where they remain to this day.

For more than 15 years the Colonel Ellis Camp 124 of the SUVCW Department of New York has participated, in conjunction with the Shohola Railroad and Historical Society, in a ceremony at the gravesides of John and Michael Johnson remembering the Great Shohola Train Wreck. On July 15, 2018, the 154<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disaster, the Colonel Ellis Camp along with the Shohola Railroad and Historical Society once again met in the old cemetery in Barryville to commemorate the events of that day long ago where both Union and Confederate soldiers met their fate far from their homes and any battlefield. With more 60 people in attendance the observers heard remarks from Jeffrey Albanese, PDC on behalf of the Ellis Camp, SUVCW, from George Fluhr, the Pike County Pennsylvania Historian, Luanne Storms from the Shohola Railroad & Historical Society and

Patrick McCullough, Past Camp Commander of the Archibald Gracie Camp #985 Sons of Confederate Veterans. Children laid flowers on the Michael & John Johnson's graves, as well as other veterans from both the Union army and Revolutionary War buried in the small cemetery. After a closing prayer and taps the participants were invited to an open house at the Shohola Railroad & Historical Society Caboose across the river in Shohola, Pennsylvania.



***Picture by Maryellen Albanese at the gravesite of Confederate soldiers Michael & John Johnson (no relation to each other) and depicts PCC Bruce Crandall of the Ellis Camp 124 SUVCW on the right and PCC Patrick McCullough of the Archibald Gracie Camp 985 SCV on the left along with some children who attended the event.***



***From John Portanova PCC***

Congratulations to Joseph Ruocco Andrew Sapina and Jake Fenniman of BSA Troop 310 Brooklyn, NY, Fort Hamilton for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

On Saturday June 23rd they were presented certificates at their Court of Honor by PCC John Portanova of the Capt. Oliver Tilden camp 26, SUVCW. John is the Eagle Scout coordinator for greater New York Council of the Boy Scouts of America.



Color Guard (Memorial Day, May 28) at Gerald Solomon National Cemetery, Saratoga)

*Left to Right:*

- Robert Keough (Son & USNLP)
- Richard Straight
- David Dziewulski (Son & USNLP)
- Vince Jockimo
- Brian Castler
- Leo McGuire

USNLP -United States Naval Landing Party

**PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE  
NEEDS REPORTS FOR PRIOR  
ENCAMPMENTS**

In order to reconstruct missing proceedings of the Department of New York, SUVCW the Department Proceedings Committee is seeking copies of Officer and Camp reports for the 2011 Department Encampment held in Albany, N.Y., the 2012 Department Encampment held in Newburgh, N.Y. and the 2013 Department Encampment held in Ithaca, N.Y. If you have any of these reports please forward them to: Jeffrey Albanese, PDC, 19 Gregory Drive, Goshen, N.Y. 10924 or email them to [jalb@frontiernet.net](mailto:jalb@frontiernet.net)

***The Winter '18 edition of The Volunteer will be published on or about December 1. The submission deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send contributions to [wiseacres1@frontiernet.net](mailto:wiseacres1@frontiernet.net)***



## Department of New York

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



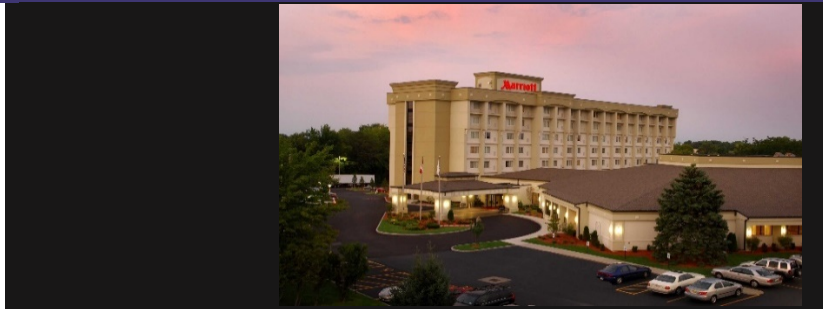
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JR. VICE COMMANDER- Darin Everdyke, PCC  
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TREASURER- Jeffrey Albanese PDC  
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SPRING2018

# THE VOLUNTEER

Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

136<sup>th</sup> Encampment - Department of New York-  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War May 17-19,  
2019 in Lake George at the Fort William Henry Hotel



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GAR HIGHWAY OFFICER- Matthew J. Hereford PCC  
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