

Department President
Susan M. Mertz
2721 John St.
Easton, PA 18045-2614
susan.mertz@rcn.com
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Department Orders #1

The best way to predict the future is to create it. Abraham Lincoln

The 133rd Encampment in State College is now a pleasant memory. Kudos to the site committee for an enjoyable stay, and to Sister Ellen Higgins for a well done Encampment booklet. Our banquet was delicious and our speaker was excellent.

I was honored and humbled to be elected your Department President for the term 2016-2017. I congratulate Department Commander John Frantz for following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather who were also Department Commanders. I would also like to congratulate Deborah Schiesser, the newly elected President for the Daughters of Union Veterans. I hope that all of our Allied Orders have a great year. Our visiting National President, Linda Kronberg installed all of our new officers.

At our Saturday night banquet the Sons convened a Court of Honor and awarded three Sisters the prestigious Dr. Mary Walker Edwards medal for meritorious service to the Sons. Medal recipients were Carol Hileman PAP, Cynthia Fox PNP, and myself.

The current situation with our Per Capita reports was discussed at length. We are the largest Department in the country and are the last one to hold our Encampment before the National Encampment. We have the least amount of time to submit our reports to National. This is especially critical when it comes to the Per Capita forms. We have been late the last two years and have been fined. Therefore we will be going back to the method of doing our Per Capita reports several times a year. Our reporting periods will be as follows: the first quarter will cover July, August, and September; the second quarter will cover October, November, and December; the third quarter will cover January, February, and March; and the fourth quarter will cover April, May and June. Reports will be due at the end of the covered period. This change is effective immediately. By adhering to this schedule we will always be one quarter ahead. Our large membership including transfers, addition, and resignations made it too cumbersome to do on an annual basis.

Local auxiliary bylaws were also discussed. National President Linda Kronberg and other PNPs explained that local auxiliary bylaws must conform to the CR & R. Auxiliaries determine local things like meeting time and place, etc.

Our new Chaplain, Barbara Day would like to send cards to members who have experienced an illness or loss. She can be reached at 104 Mullberry Pl., Lynchburg, VA 24502, phone # 434-385-7283. We wish

to offer our condolences to Mary Jo Long, PNP for the loss of her brother, and get well wishes to PDP Margaret Shuttlesworth's son, Doug.

I hope that you will be able to join us in Gettysburg for Remembrance Day, which coincides with Dedication Day this year. Our annual wreath laying ceremony at the GAR Memorial and the SVR parade through downtown Gettysburg are not to be missed. We will again have the Past Camp Commanders and Past Presidents banquet and the SVR Ball in the evening.

Dedication Day events at the National cemetery will include LaVar Burton as the invited guest speaker and the annual USCT wreath laying ceremony. The breathtaking and solemn Illumination will take place later in the evening.

Please support our money officers as often as you can. Cash donations are great and raffle donations are always helpful.

I would like to appoint the following members to committees:

Site Committee-Faye Carlisle-Thomas, PNP

Charitable Deeds Committee, Judy Wolfe

Scholarship Committee- Mary Jo Long, PNP, Faye Carlisle-Thomas, PNP, and Judy Wolfe

By-laws Committee-Margaret Atkinson, PNP

CR&R Committee-Ann McMillin, PDP

Ritual Committee-Anne Sosnowski, PNP

I hope to visit as many auxiliaries as possible so please keep me informed of your events. On the home front, my husband has been battling pancreatic cancer for the past year. The next six weeks will be full of radiation and chemotherapy appointments and after that my schedule should open up.

A temporary roster of elected and appointed officers is attached and can be used until the official roster is completed.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Susan Mertz,

Pennsylvania Department President

Attest:

Margaret Shuttlesworth, PDP

Pennsylvania Department Secretary

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

The recent spate of terrorist attacks at home and abroad have left many parents confused about how to address such topics with their children.

A friend recently commented on the excellent advice that a very young Fred Rogers (of children's television fame) received from his mother when he asked her why bad things happen. She told him not to concentrate on the bad things and bad people. She told him to look for the helpers as they would always be there when bad things happen. And so they were, civilians who put themselves in harm's way to aid the injured, police officers, military personnel, EMTs, doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

From 1861-1865 our ancestors were the helpers, helping to free those of African descent from chattel slavery and holding together a unique and fragile democratic republic that many monarchies and tyrants had hoped would fail.

Let us all honor their legacy by being today's helpers.

2016-2017 Roster of the Pennsylvania Department Officers

Please use this roster as a guide until the official one is printed

President, Susan Mertz, 2721 John Street, Easton, PA 18045-2614

susan.mertz@rcn.com 610-253-0408

Vice President, Laura Kane, 7918 34th Street, Baltimore, MD 21237

drlek03@comcast.net 410-866-2059

Council # 1, Betsy Nightingale, PDP 316 Piersol Rd Friedens, PA 15541

betsy1865@verizon.net 814-445-6025

Council #2, Judy Wolfe, 200 Lake Street Dalton, PA 18413

judywolfe@aol.com 570-563-1063

Council #3, Barbara Indan, PDP 2629 Fillmore St. Philadelphia, PA 19137

bindan@elliscoffee.com 215-535-5324

Secretary, Margaret Shuttlesworth, PDP 3613 Colonial Rd. Harrisburg, PA 17109

Smws72grp@aol.com 717-657-1102

Treasurer, Faye Carlisle-Thomas, PNP, P.O. Box 23, Cogan Station, PA 17723-0023

570-998-2591

Chief of Staff, Cynthia Fox, PNP 1157 Isabella St. Williamsport, PA 17701

sailorcfox@aol.com 570-326-4793

Patriotic Instructor, Linda Snook, 999 Red Bank Rd, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

malynda@dejazzd.com 570-996-0756

Chaplain, Barbara Day, 104 Mulbury Pl. Lynchburg, VA. 24502

mbmcij@gmail.com 434-385-7283

Press Correspondent, Gracee McMillin, 622 N. Pitt St. Carlisle, PA 17013

Membership at Large, Ellen Essenwein, 948 Orr Avenue, Kittanning, PA 16021

civilwarkittanning@yahoo.com 724-664-0736

Personal Aide, Dorothy Kelly, 1089 Pine Ridge, Bushkill, PA 18324

kellydorothy@yahoo.com 570-588-7170

Co-Personal Aide, Marylynn Fleming, Williamsport, PA

Co-counselors, Mary Jo, PNP, and Joe Long, PDC 500 Marcy St. Duryea, PA 18642

570-457-8438

Webmaster, Ellen Higgins, 1731 Shore Road Unit 42, Seaville, NJ 08230-1383

SquirrelOCNJ@aol.com 609-390-2163