



Department President

Susan M. Mertz

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Department Order #1

A great and free country is not merely a defense and protection. For every earnest spirit, it is opportunity and inspiration.

Brevet Major General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain

The 135th Encampment in Williamsport was most enjoyable. Thanks to the site committee for their hard work, and to PNP Faye Carlisle-Thomas for helping to find the venue. Thank you also to Sister Ellen Higgins for another well-done encampment booklet and to PDC Howard Wolfe for wonderful badges with neck ribbons.

Our Memorial Service was beautifully done with love in every detail. The Campfire program on the Underground Railroad was very good. Our Patriotic Instructor, Linda Snook raised enough money to give 111 bus passes to veterans for outpatient clinic visits. The banquet was delicious and our speaker, Scott Mingus was excellent. Dar Alcorn did a great job with our corsages and floral pieces. All of the efforts of our Allied Orders made our encampment very special.

I presented a number of awards to women who have done an outstanding job for our Auxiliary. Sisters Mary Jane Bannon and PNP Faye Carlisle-Thomas received 50-year service awards. Both have dedicated a large part of their lives to keeping green the memory of the Boys in Blue and to keeping our organization healthy. They have driven thousands of miles over the years serving the Auxiliary and have saved both Camps and Auxiliaries from disappearing. We have a strong department because of their efforts.

I also presented three Marie Tepe awards at the banquet. The first award went to Linda Marker of Mt. Union Church Camp, #502. Linda is considered to be one of the backbones of her Auxiliary. She is a noted researcher and has been working on the restoration and digitizing of local GAR records. She manages the website for Mt. Union Church Camp and Auxiliary and documents camp activities with her photography. She is also a shape note singer. Marie Tepe is one of her heroines and she is one of ours.

Judy Wolfe PAP of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin Auxiliary #10 was the second recipient. Judy has been a department officer for many years. She is always willing to do whatever her Auxiliary, Camp, or the Department needs no matter what the challenge. She is in charge of tracking all of the charitable works in the Department which is a complex and formidable task.

The third recipient of the award was our Department Patriotic Instructor, Linda Snook. Linda purchased our raffle items out of her own pocket and has basket raffles at our events across the state. She is a former bookstore owner and has donated many books to our raffles and sales tables. Linda loves history and has lectured at the Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, the Maryland Historical Society, Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, Rupp House, Slifer House, and schools and Civil War roundtables in her area and has taught classes at the Bucknell Lifelong Learning Institute. She is very active in re-enacting and has authored a book, "Not Frail Flowers" about six Pennsylvania women who were Civil War nurses.

I was honored and humbled to be re-elected as your Department President for the term 2018-2019. I congratulate Department Commander Alfred Carty on his election, Sharon Harkcom, the newly elected President for the Daughters of Union Veterans, Darlene Alcorn, President of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. I hope that all of our Allied Orders have a great year. Our National President, Ramona Greenwalt addressed our encampment and swore in our officers. Her Aide, Judy Morgan assisted with and helped to direct our floor work. I wish to thank our Department Officers and Auxiliaries for all of their hard work this past year.

Mary Campbell Auxiliary #16 of Johnstown won the PNP Margaret Atkinson Award and Mt. Union Church Auxiliary #502 of Somerset won the PDP Audrey Long Award which are given for recruitment. Lt. Ezra S. Griffin Auxiliary #10 of Scranton won the PDP Dorothy Kern Award for charitable giving, having contributed \$24,000 plus.

Our Chaplin, Barbara Day will continue to send cards to members who have experienced an illness or loss. She can be reached at 104 Mulberry Pl., Lynchburg, VA 24502.

I am appointing the following members to committees:

Site Committee-Faye Carlisle -Thomas, PNP

Charitable Deeds Committee-Judy Wolfe, PAP

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

By-laws Committee-Margaret Atkinson, PNP

CR&R Committee-Cindy Fox, PNP

Ritual Committee-Anne Sosnowski, PNP

Departmental Awards Committee-Anne Sosnowski, PNP, Betsy Matthews. PDP, and Barbara Indan, PDP

The statistics for these awards are gleaned from your annual reports. If you don't send them you are not eligible.

I hope that you will be able to join us in Gettysburg on Remembrance Day for our annual wreath laying ceremony at the GAR Memorial, the SVR parade, the Past Camp Commanders and Past Presidents banquet and the SVR Ball. Check our website for information on upcoming events.

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

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

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. I hope that the rain and humidity will soon be a thing of the past.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Susan Mertz,

Pennsylvania Department *President*

2018-2019 Roster of the Pennsylvania Department Officers

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

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