



THE AUXILIARY VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Greetings Sisters!

Happy New Year! It has long been a tradition to set resolutions or goals for the new year. In fact, this practice is believed to have been started some 4,000 years ago by the ancient Babylonians. My new year's resolution as your National President is to further close the communication gaps we experience within the organization. While our quarterly virtual meetings have made excellent progress in attempting this already, I want to and believe that I can do better. As a start, as National President I will personally be adding a "Did You Know" section that will address commonly misunderstood practices amongst our members to our newsletters. It is my hope to start conversations about our traditions and formalities so that we may continue to improve our organization's practices. I would like to thank the Auxiliary at Large Presidents who attended our latest virtual meeting for inspiring this idea, and I would like to encourage everyone else to please send me any suggestions you have that can help close our communication gaps.

So now that I have shared my resolution, I would like to ask what yours is. What goal are you going to set for yourself and your Auxiliary for 2023? Will you place more efforts into recruiting? Will you attempt more fundraising projects to aid in preserving our history? Will you offer more of your time to speak to the community about the Civil War? Whatever your goal may be, share it. Tell your Sisters what you want to accomplish and help one another to do it. We have all joined the Auxiliary because we love our history, we are proud of our lineage, and we enjoy the freedoms of our country. Let us work together to accomplish our goals and make our beloved organization even stronger in doing so.

I hope that everyone had a very safe and joyous holiday season, and I look forward to continuing our good works in the new year.

In F.. C.. & L..

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Allison Pollitt'.

Allison Pollitt, National President, ASUVCW



Let's talk about the use of the Bible and prayers within our organization's meetings. While the Auxiliary will never presume a member's religious or cultural beliefs, and we pride ourselves on welcoming women from various backgrounds, our organization was founded with Christian practices in mind. Why? Well, let's look at American History, my favorite subject.

Christianity had long been practiced within the United States prior to the Civil War. In fact, Senator James Buchanan from Pennsylvania offered a resolution to the Senate that the US be declared a Christian Nation acknowledging Jesus Christ as America's Savior in 1844. This resolution was rejected but aided in the creation of other proposals that did succeed in later years. In 1864, "In God We Trust" was printed on to American two-cent coins. Congress later approved this motto to be minted onto all gold and silver coins the following year due to the increase in religious sentiment during the Civil War. Even President Ulysses S. Grant weighed in on nationally encouraging Christian practices in 1870 when he declared Christmas to be a national holiday.

With Christianity impacting many of the Federal government's policies, it is not difficult to believe that this directly influenced the traditions and practices adopted by the ASUVCW during its creation in the late 1880's. Over the years, the Auxiliary has altered its ritualistic prayers to be more religiously inclusive and universal. Article V of our Constitution, Rules and Regulations was added stating, "This Order being strictly non-sectarian and non-partisan, the introduction or discussion of sectarian or partisan topics is strictly prohibited in any of its bodies." With this article in place, the verbiage of the prayers used during our meetings has been a strongly debated topic of voting for many years.

The Bible has been utilized as a symbol of truth, justice, and the belief in God throughout the country and history. This is made evident by the swearing in of political offices, witnesses in court, firefighters, police officers, etc. In recent years, a more inclusive approach has been used in these situations by allowing the swearing in to include other published works like The Constitution, the Quran, or the Eastern Orthodox Bible depending on the individual's own religious beliefs.

Most of us who have attended a formal Auxiliary meeting have a general understanding of the purpose of the Bible. The altar is placed in the center of the room and covered with an altar cloth, which must be tri-colored (red, white, and blue) with the blue to be at the top of the altar towards the President's station. Opening exercises must include arranging the altar, prayer, saluting the flag and the American's Creed, while closing exercises must involve attending the altar and prayer. The Bible is also important in ceremonial work such as the initiation of new members, installation of officers and memorial services.

The use of prayer and the Bible are instrumental in our organization's traditions. However, we will continue to strive for inclusivity, and we will always respect the beliefs and practices of all its members. It is highly encouraged for accommodations to be made by our Sisters so that we do not ostracize, offend or exclude anyone despite our continued customary practices.

from the National Treasurer...

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Consider a Life Membership for yourself or someone else! After making a one-time payment, a Sister may become a Life Member. She will remain a member of her local Auxiliary and may provide any additional support she deems fit, but will never be subject to per capita dues again. The cost for Life Membership is as follows:

Under Age 50 = \$350.00
Age 50 – 64 = \$250.00
Age 65 – 84 = \$200.00
Age 85 and above = FREE

The Life Membership Application Form (A15) may be found on the National website at asuvcw.org under Forms/Auxiliary.



PEACE BE WITH YOU



Attention: For those who need prayers, have a special event in their lives, or a special request, please let me know through leaving a message at 301-682-7336 or an e-mail to chaplain@asuvcw.org. Also, if you use Facebook, please feel free to visit and to post on The Chaplain's Corner, ASUVCW to share celebrations or difficulties and requests for prayers.

In review of last year and even years prior, we sometimes did some things that we wish we could do over a different way. This new year of 2023 can be a time of learning, as in looking at and addressing the shadows of the past, asking God for forgiveness and direction, and praying for grace to move forward without repeating the errors of yesterday.

This may cause some anxiety; however, as in Philippians 4, God promises His peace will guard our hearts and minds: “5 Let your gentleness be apparent to all. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think on these things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

So, do not be anxious about anything. Pray. “God has offered us His peace. The reality of peace is that it is not the absence of chaos but the presence of calm within the chaos.” As we journey into the new year, remember God has promised us His peace. “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)



A Prayer of Reflection: Almighty God, sometimes it is hard to pick up the pieces and keep moving forward. We are concerned with the past, what has happened, what we see, and so much which is happening. In the midst of chaos, sometimes it is hard to see Your blessing. Help us to seek Your face in this new year. We pray for your complete peace. Give us faith to know that regardless of what the past looked like, we can start over. Help us to look not around but look up and remember that our hope is not in what is around us, but our hope is in You. Help us to run forward into Your plan and the purpose You have set before us. In difficult circumstances, do not let us be anxious. Help us to pray about everything, leaving it all in Your loving hands as we let Your peace rest in our hearts as we trust in You. This we ask in Thy name. Amen.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rosemary Martin, ASUVCW National Chaplain 2022-2023

from the National Secretary...



2023 AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW) awards scholarships annually of up to \$1000.00 for tuition and books to high school seniors and college students (male or female) contingent upon their enrollment at an accredited college or university (either on campus or online), or a trade or licensed professional school prior to December 31st of the year the scholarship is granted.

The Scholarship Application (Form A16) is available on the National website at www.asuvcw.org. Applications are accepted each year from January 1st to June 30th. Mail all applications to the National President, postmarked no later than June 30.

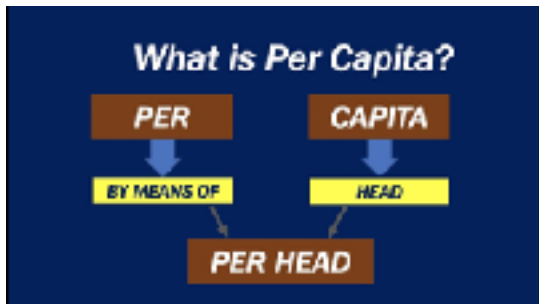
REMINDER — ELECTION AND INSTALLATION

Auxiliary Secretaries, please be sure to fill out the Certification of Election and Installation of Auxiliary Officers (Form A01) and send it to your Department Secretary (or National Secretary if you are an Auxiliary at Large) along with our current membership roster before January 30th.



Department Secretaries, please send your Certification of Election and Installation of Department Officers (Form D01) as soon as possible after your Department Encampments.

REMINDER – PER CAPITA DUES REPORT



The Annual Per Capita Report (Form A02) and per capita dues payment is due to your Department Secretary (or National Secretary if you are an Auxiliary at Large) by April 1st. At the 2022 National Encampment, National dues were raised to \$15 yearly.

Department Secretaries, your Department Annual Per Capita Report (D02) and per capita dues payment are due to the National Secretary on April 15th.

All forms can be located on the National website at www.asuvcw.org

2023 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Department of New Hampshire will be hosting the 2023 National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, August 3 – 6, 2023, in Nashua, New Hampshire. More information to come in the near future.



Submitted by Judith Morgan, National Secretary

Memorial Dedicated to Albert Woolson September 12, 1956

Three thousand men and women from throughout the nation gathered at Ziegler’s Grove Wednesday afternoon to dedicate a statue to “the common citizen soldier, the men who gained no great glory, but did their duty for their nation and then returned to live their humble lives as good citizens of their nation.”

Col. Fredric Gilbert Bauer, Ridgewood, N.J., National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans, added: “We dedicate today a statue of Albert Woolson. He was the last of the Grand Army of the Republic and he was also the son of a veteran, for he entered the Union Army after his father had been killed while serving with the Union forces. As a son of a veteran, he was national honorary commander-in-chief of the Sons of Union Veterans.

“This statue is in many ways unique. Usually states are dedicated to great and noble men, great military leaders or men who have given their lives for their country.

“Here we have a statue of a man who was none of these things. He was a simple, humble youth who, when his country needed men, went into the army. He never rose to high rank nor did he have the opportunity to do any outstanding deed. When he had completed his service he returned to his home seeking no great position. [H]e worked hard all of his life in humble posts, and rounded out a great span of years as a simple, humble, good citizen of the United States.

“Comrade Albert Woolson symbolizes all the great virtues of the common, ordinary citizen, the citizen who becomes a soldier and then returns to ordinary life.”

High praise was given the National Auxiliary of the Sons of Union Veterans by all speakers “for carrying out the great work of raising the funds and placing this statue here.” Miss Celeste D.

Gentieu, Past President of the Auxiliary and chairman of the National GAR Memorial Fund of the Auxiliary, gave the welcome.

The principal speaker was Major General U.S. Grant 3rd, grandson of the famed Civil War Commander-in-Chief.

“Today we have just dedicated this memorial to the Grand Army of the Republic, in the image of its last survivor, our comrade, Albert Woolson. He will sit her through the ages, the last of the ‘boys in blue,’ a symbol in bronze of our affection for him and our homage to the Grand Army that saved our nation from disintegration. We Sons of Union Veterans and all other organizations affiliated with the GAR owe special thanks to our ever thoughtful and beloved Auxiliary for initiating and carrying out this project.”



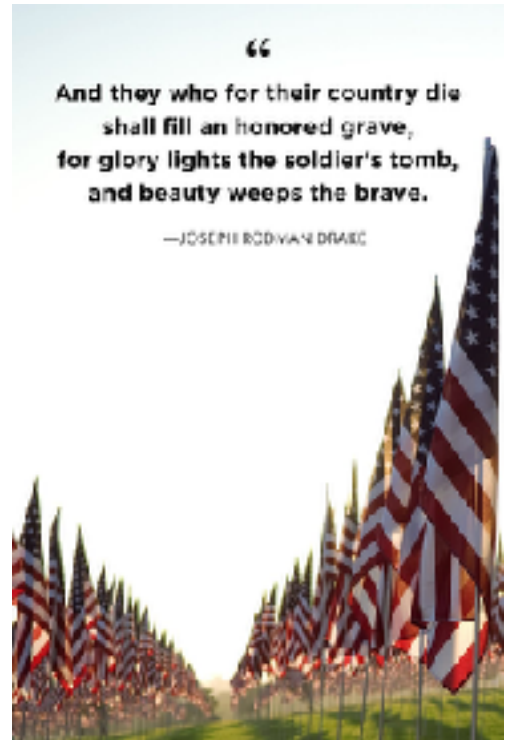
from the National Graves Registration Officer...

Recently I looked through a rack of sympathy cards for what feels to be the fourth time within two weeks. It occurred to me that so many of my family and friends have been through several losses since the first of 2022, let alone the month of December that is supposed to be a joyous time; a time to celebrate.

The more I read the cards, the sadder I became. "All these wonderful, caring people that were lost this year! They really made a difference in the lives around them! I am so weary of all the loss!"

I don't remember my parents or grandparents talking about their feelings of losing their loved ones. I even reflected on my relatives that served in the Civil War; how did they cope? They didn't even have a chance to say goodbye to their loved ones as most of us do.

I then came across a card that was alone in the rack BUT it seemed to speak volumes. I wish I had written it down before I sent it. Since I will not be able to quote it, I will paraphrase —



"The best way we can remember those who touched our lives, is to fully live ours in honor of theirs."

My spirit lifted a bit. Remembering this saying can give me a little brighter way to view the losses of the past year and keep a new perspective on life.

It occurred to me: I am so proud to be part of our Auxiliary! This saying encapsulates the dedication to honoring our Civil War Ancestors. Even though we weren't able to know them personally, they touched our lives by dedicating their fighting for the Union of America.

As we begin the New Year, let's consider keeping the essence of this saying on our minds. Let's live our lives constantly honoring those who have made a difference in ours. Especially consider honoring our Civil War Veterans' graves — with registration and beautification.

by Connie Horning, National Graves Registration Officer



Connie & Kim Paul Horning, who belong to Austin Blair #7 SUVCW, at Gettysburg honoring the 7th Michigan

PICACHO PEAK AUXILIARY #1 PHOENIX



“At Remembrance Ceremony”

National President Allison Pollitt visited the Picacho Peak #1 Auxiliary of Phoenix, Arizona for Pearl Harbor Day. Arizona holds the only other officially state-recognized observance ceremony besides Hawaii. During the ceremony, Picacho Peak #1 Auxiliary and the National Auxiliary presented a wreath on behalf of all who perished at Pearl Harbor; 81 years ago. After the ceremony Sister Allison attended a Remembrance Luncheon held by the local DUVCW Tent and was later entertained by Sister Rachel Peak for the last day of her visit. We are so happy to have been visited by our young National President.

Submitted by Avery Franz, Picacho Peak Auxiliary #1, Phoenix, AZ

NP Allison Pollitt and Picacho Peak #1 Auxiliary President Verna Maleski

BANNON-LONG AUXILIARY #10

On September 17th, 2022, Susan Mertz, Past Department President of PA (on right) and Dorothy Kelly Past Auxiliary President (on left), attended The Last Soldier Ceremony for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Monroe County, Stroudsburg PA.

We memorialized the last Union veteran, Private William H. Miller, at the Stroudsburg Cemetary by spreading rose pedals on the graves of all of these men.

In addition, we also paid our respects to Lincoln’s representative recruit, John Summerfield Staples, and the PA Department Commander DiFebo’s fourth great-grandfather, a Civil war Soldier at this cemetery.

It was a wonderful day that we ended with a **pasty picnic** in Stroud Park and talked about the history of the civil war with members of other Camps and Auxiliaries.



Keeping alive the Boys in Blue and perpetuating the memory of the services and sacrifices of the Union⁸ Veterans of the Civil War

To assist the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in all their principles and objects. To perpetuate the memory of the services and sacrifices of the Union Veterans of the Civil War for the maintenance of the Union, particularly through patriotic and historical observances, especially the proper observance of Memorial Day, Lincoln's Birthday.

A few more pictures from our Auxiliary #10:

There are over 100 Civil War soldiers buried at Dunmore Cemetery in Dunmore, PA. Auxiliary 10 attended the annual Memorial Day Observance with Lt. Ezra Griffin Camp 8 during the 122nd Annual Observance at this plot.



Dorothy Kelly, VP
Joyce Keklock, President
Susan Mertz, Patriotic Instructor
Maryjo Long, Treasurer/Secretary



Joyce Keklock, President
Dorothy Kelly, VP
Susan Mertz, Patriotic Instructor
Millie Ryczak, Chaplain
July Esty, member

Submitted by
Dorothy Kelly, PAP Bannon-Long Aux #10, Scranton, PA

LOUISA VOLKER AUXILIARY #215



Christmas Party 2022

On 9 December 2022, the Louisa Volker Auxiliary #215 held their annual Christmas Party alongside the General Thomas C. Fletcher Camp #47 in De Soto, MO. A fine meal was served, and door prizes were handed out to many lucky winners. National President Allison Pollitt was proud to install the newly elected Auxiliary Officers. Congratulations to the dedicated Sisters of this Auxiliary!



A special "Thank you" is extended to Sisters Shari Milburn and Kim Villalva who have graciously agreed to fill vacant roles within the organization. Sister Shari Milburn is now the National Press Correspondent, and Sister Kim Villalva is now the National Chief of Staff.

Both of these wonderful women are from the Department of Ohio. Please assist them with their new responsibilities during this term.

JEREMIAH CLEMENS, ALABAMA CAMP #1

INSTALLATION OF CHARTER OFFICERS

The final requirement for the creation of Alabama at Large Camp #1 of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW) was completed on December 10, 2022. The installation ceremony was held as part of the Croxton Camp #17 December meeting at the Bright Star restaurant in Bessemer. The installation was performed by Department of Alabama Senior Vice Commander, Brother Mark Hubbs.

The officers installed were:

Phyllis Hubbs - President

Mary Anne Garrett - Vice President

Secretary/Treasurer - Janice Granger

Sister Cathrine Alford was separately installed as Council #1 by Department of Alabama Commander Eric Alford at an earlier date.

This is a milestone occurrence as this is the first known SUV Auxiliary formed in the state of Alabama in the organization's 135 year history.

Camp #1 will hold its second annual meeting concurrently with the Department of Alabama SUV Encampment this spring (date TBD).

