



Office of the National President
Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War



Diane Mellor
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Without Change, There Would Be No Butterflies!

General Order #3
Series 2013-2014
September 27, 2013

Sisters:

As some of you may know, the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans has temporarily suspended the recruiting of junior members.

The Federal Government has passed new guidelines with dealing with the protection of minors under the age of eighteen (18) years of age. Several states have followed suit. This has placed our organization in a vulnerable position to law suits for not taking proper action to safeguard minors.

Since all of these states have different guidelines and since several of our departments (i.e. CA/PAC and Chesapeake) consist of more than one state, the ASUVCW must find a way to also incorporate into our By-Laws a policy regarding the protection of our young ladies within the organization. The wording must be worked on, should it meet the harshest of State Laws (PA) or go with the Federal Law and then let individual departments decide on whether to enforce their States requirements? This is a question that will take much research.

There are many organizations that have dealt with this in the past. Many of them (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.) already have training in place for those dealing with minors. Our organization is amongst those that only deal with minors in a very minimum capacitation, and will need to be dealt with a little differently.

After consulting and receiving opinions of my Councilor and Council members and carefully considering the impact to our junior's program, I have come to the following decision.

In order to protect our youth and our order, I am asking that active recruiting of minors be held to a minimum. That each Department enacts a ruling that a parent or guardian be present and accompanies minors at all times. That a parental signature slip releasing the Order from liability be signed and witnessed at the time of recruitment. I ask that a parental signature slip for all junior members be added to their files.



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I will set up a committee to follow the actions of the SUVCW and to look into how we can best protect our order. I further order that every step be taken to protect those Junior Members and to comply with your State Laws dealing with Child Protection, until such time as the committee can present their report at National Encampment to the Sisters of the Order.

I know some of you will disagree, some will think I didn't go far enough and some will think I overstepped my bounds. This is a situation that needs careful deliberation within the Departments on how to handle the situation. Please discuss this matter at your local and department levels.

Our youth are our greatest asset, and the future of the Auxiliary, we must take steps to guard them with utmost care and love.

Ordered this 26th Day of September, 2013

Diane M. Mellor
National President
Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Patricia Bures
National Secretary
Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War