



Department News
19-22



Chief of Staff
5



Patriotic Instructor
8-9

THE AUXILIARY VOICE

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



Good tidings to you, dear Sisters and those reading this Newsletter. As we welcomed the new year and all that is to come, I am sure that many of you have taken a moment to think on what a year 2024 has been. Without all of your continued love and support, the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW) would not be where we are today. Thank you to all of you, my amazing Sisters and fraternal community!

With many vitalizing milestones reached, we are poised to honor, protect, remember, and rejuvenate in 2025: to bring more unique experiences and continue innovative activities. Included in these are our Department/Auxiliary at Large Encampments to conduct the business for the benefit of our Order. I encourage you attend an

Encampment as well as to plan to attend and serve as a delegate at the National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in Houston Texas, at the Sonesta Hotel Houston IAH Airport, formerly the Hyatt Regency Houston Intercontinental Airport, August 7-10, 2025. Please take a moment to reflect on the rich history that has shaped our Nation, especially that of the American Civil War and those who fought for the Union of the United States of America. It is key to continue the process which makes our ASUVCW strong and preserves the memory of the "Boys in Blue." We are all called to this task, and you do and will make a difference. In addition to forging and strengthening friendships that will last a lifetime, you will learn how our Order works, participate in the process, contribute to our mission, and make a big difference. We need each and every one of you!

As per the 2024 National Council as well as the National Officers' Zoom Meetings, the following National positions need to be filled for August 2025: Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary. Please consider these valued positions and contact me at president@asuvcw.org with a CC to council1@asuvcw.org with your interest or questions. Again, you can make a big difference!

continued on next page

The 2024-2025 National Committees and members are:

▸ Standing National Committees

- Constitution, Rules and Regulations (CR&Rs): PNP Nancy Hilton (Chair), PNP Ramona Greenwalt, Linda Brown
- Rituals: PNP Ramona Greenwalt (Chair), PNP Denise Oman, PNP Judy Trepanier
- Policy and Procedures: PNP Denise Oman (Chair), PNS Judy Morgan, PDP Rebekah Thomas
- New Auxiliaries: PNP/VP Sue Freshley (Chair), PNP Jane Graham, PNP Linda Kronberg
- Membership: PNP/VP Sue Freshley (Chair), PDP Hope Parker, AP Verna Maleski
- Tech & Comm: PNP Wanda Langdon (Chair), PNP Allison Pollitt, Danielle Vance
- Forms & Documents: PNP Nancy Hilton (Chair), PNS Judy Morgan, AP Julie Huttick
- Remembrance Day: PDP Viola Smithcors
- Charitable Activities: Vicki Weiss (This is to whom you send your Charitable Activity Reports)
- Natl Encampment Site: AP Valencia Reyes (Chair), NP Rosemary Martin, Collen Swafford, Jana Marsh, Jill Schneider

▸ Special Committees

- Fraternal Relations: NP Rosemary Martin
- Female Veteran Liaison Officer: PDP Susan Fallon
- Badges: PNP Sue Freshley (Chair), PNP Rachelle Bursheim, PNP Ramona Greenwalt, PNP Nancy Hilton, PNP Danielle Michaels
- Brochure Update: PNP Danielle Michaels (Chair), Barbara Lynch, Karen Schwarz
- Job Descriptions/Standard Operating Procedures: PNP Danielle Michaels (Chair), Marsha Fetty-Huffman, PNS Judy Morgan
- PNP Mentorship Program: PNP Denise Oman (Chair), PNP Jane Graham; PNP Danielle Michaels
- 501c3 Designation with IRS Obtainment: PNP Nancy Hilton (Chair), Ellen Higgins, Mary Rittel
- Grave Markers: PNP Nancy Hilton (Chair), DP Connie Horning, PDP Rebekah Thomas
- 250th USA 2026: **OPEN** (Chair), Kim Villalva, Sue Fallon
- Mission, Vision, and Planning: AP Julie Huttick (Chair), PNP Allison Pollitt, Lisa Smith, DP Denise Thompson, DP Connie Horning, PDP Hope Parker; NP Rosemary Martin

Make a Difference...

Join a Committee!



If you would like to join any of these committees, please let me know at president@asuvcw.org.

continued on next page

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” – Jane Goodall

I look forward to attending your Department/Auxiliary at Large Encampments and special events. It is a distinct privilege to represent the ASUVCW at these as your National President and to personally meet you and share these experiences with you as we do the work to preserve the history and legacy of the “Boys in Blue.” Together, we can look forward to and build the promising future that lies ahead.

I wish each of you a new year full of peace, joy, health, and happiness.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rosemary S. Martin

ASUVCW National President

from the National Vice President...

Hello Sisters!

Do you remember when you joined our ASUVCW and, after you were initiated, an elder Sister would pin your membership badge? For me, I felt not just happiness, but great pride because our Organization is a charity worth my support & effort. The ASUVCW is currently experiencing a badge crisis. The Supply Officer does not have membership badges for our new Sisters. And we may not have these badges for some time to come for many sad reasons.

Do you, your family, or friends have any badges and/or medals that can be donated or sold back to the ASUVCW for distribution to new Sisters? If you have had the honor of being elected as an officer for your home Auxiliary, Department, or the National ASUVCW you may be entitled to wear the badge for that position, which would free up your membership badge. Perhaps you would consider trading your badge for a badge of the highest office you have held.



Sister, has it come to a time you just don't have the ability to go out & wear that ASUVCW membership badge? Please think of your new Sisters who would love to be presented your membership badge. Speaking at another level, we, as Sisters of the ASUVCW, value our badges. But I ask you, will this badge mean anything to your successors? In my instance, my children have developed interest in other charitable organizations, and have no interest in my ASUVCW badges or ASUVCW memorabilia. Has your Auxiliary or Department begun to collect badges from Sisters who are no longer active or Sisters who are no longer with us? Will you consider donating or selling your badges back

to the ASUVCW?

We need your badges — any condition from pristine to needing a lot of love & rehabilitation. In some instances, we may be able to purchase the badges either you, your home Auxiliary, or Department may have. If necessary, we will send a postage paid mailer to make it easier for you to pass your badge to a Sister who will love it as much as you do.

This is a desperate plea for help Sisters. Please reach out to vicepresident@asucw.org or supplyofficer@asucw.org.

In F., C., & L.,

Sue Freshley

National Vice President, ASUVCW

from the National Chief of Staff...

– DONATIONS REQUESTED! –

As your 2024-2025 National Chief-of-Staff, I'm inviting donations to raise funds for our National Auxiliary. The National ASUVCW depends on these donations for operating expenses. Donations may be made by anyone, but especially each Department and each Auxiliary. If you are able and would like to help the ASUVCW meet our goals, you may send a check made out to the National Organization ASUVCW (and note it "For Chief-of-Staff Fund" in the memo section) to:

Denise Thompson
12308 Catoctin Spring Dr.
Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771

You may purchase a wreath from Wreaths Across America at their website:

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MD0654P. ASUVCW will receive \$5 per wreath. Your donation will go to purchase wreaths for 2025 as usual.

Also, 50/50 drawing tickets may be purchased through the mail and the winner will be drawn Saturday evening, 9 August 2025, at the banquet at National Encampment in Houston, Texas.



You need not be present to win. Once \$1,000 is raised, the pot will start over for the second drawing. Tickets are \$5 for 6, \$10 for 13, and \$20 will get you 31 tickets! You can order now and I will send you your ticket

numbers' confirmation by email. Again, please request tickets/send donations made out to the National Organization

ASUVCW to the above address.

We have other items that we will be selling. We have had a beautiful quilt donated. Monetary donations and items for sale/raffle are greatly appreciated and accepted throughout the year. As Chief-of-Staff, I will also hold a sale/silent auction at National Encampment. Hope to see you in Houston, Texas!



from the National Chaplain...

Happy New Year!

What is the first thought that comes to your mind when starting a new year? Putting away the Christmas decorations? Reorganizing your desk? Making a few New Year resolutions? Taking an assessment of your health and scheduling doctor appointments? Because we can't accomplish all at once, making lists and prioritizing usually happens for most of us in the first weeks of the new year.

Anxiety began to make my stomach churn and create a headache. I start to worry — did I plan too much to accomplish? Are the wrong tasks on higher priority? I want to give up; this process is overwhelming! Now what do I do?

As I sat looking discouragingly at my notebook, I realized I forgot to start with a prayer. I stopped what I was doing and asked God to help me in this new year. It was not just a task list, but many other situations can happen in the year when we all will need God's help.

Psalms 55:22; "Cast your burden on the Lord, He will sustain you."

God promises that He will strengthen and support us physically and/or mentally when we pray about the burdens we face. Even if it seems unsurmountable. What a wonderful promise! God is always ready to listen when we pray and invites us to ask for His help.

Auxiliary sisters, in 2024 you have shown your willingness to ask God for blessings; you are faithful in your prayers for each other.

I thank God for you!

God Bless!

Connie Horning, National Chaplain



from the National Press Correspondent...

Greetings Sisters!



I know some of you have been very busy with events but my mailbox could use more mail from the rest of you. Let me share some of these events with everyone. If I duplicate other reports, excuse me.



Our president has been a busy bee, attending events from Virginia to Arizona, including events in Arlington and Gettysburg. And her schedule for 2025 doesn't slow down. She has plans to attend events in Wisconsin, Utah, California, Tennessee, Michigan, Washington, and culminating in Texas at National Encampment.

Our Texas sisters have not only been working toward National Encampment but participated in graveside services honoring Captain Isaac Conroe in Conroe, Texas.

Once again, please share your events with me so I can share them with everyone!

Coleen Swafford
National Press Correspondent

ASUVCW SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The ASUVCW awards a scholarship of up to \$1000.00 to high school seniors and college students (male or female) annually. Applications are being accepted now until June 30th for those meeting eligibility requirements. Please visit the national website at asucw.org under Forms, "Scholarship Info & Application" for details.

Completed applications and references must be sent to:

ASUVCW Scholarship
Rosemary Martin, NP
8209 Skipwith Drive
Frederick, Maryland 21702

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 asucw.org under Forms/Auxiliary.



National Patriotic Instructor

This past Veterans' Day, as I planted my red poppy seeds at my new house, I thought about **Moina Belle Michael**, the American humanitarian who conceived the idea of using poppies as a symbol of remembrance for those who served in World War 1.

Moina was in Germany when WWI broke out in August 1914. She returned to the United States and assisted 12,000 other U.S. tourists who were trying to get back across the Atlantic.



On November 9, 1918, she was inspired by John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields," and she wrote a poem in response to it called "We Shall Keep the Faith." She vowed to wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance for those who served in war. Moina sold silk poppies to raise money to help disabled Veterans. Through her efforts, the red poppy was adopted as a symbol of remembrance for all war Veterans.

In 1948, the 3-cent stamp honored Moina with her image as the Founder of the Memorial Poppy.

I admire her ability to raise money for the Veterans; I'm hoping she'll be my inspiration to raise money for the Patriotic Instructor's Fund! ***Just a reminder, the P.I. Fund raises money for:***

- **Scholarships**
- **Wreaths (for Arlington and other memorial events)**
- **Cathedral of the Pines Burial Grounds – Built as a memorial to American war dead**
- **P.I. Memorial to an organization in the host city**
- **P.I. GAR Hall donation**

Calling all Auxiliaries and Departments – Please add a donation to the Patriotic Instructor Fund to your meeting agendas; any amount will be greatly appreciated!!

UPCOMING DAYS TO REMEMBER:

Martin Luther King Day – January 20 – Some of my favorite quotes of this remarkable man:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that."

"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."

"We will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope."





President’s Day – February 17 – Until the mid-1970s, February 22, George Washington’s birthday, was celebrated as a holiday, and February 12, Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, was a holiday in some states. Today, the two are combined for Presidents’ Day on the third Monday in February.



National Medal of Honor Day – March 25 was established by the United States Congress as National Medal of Honor Day that honors the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients of our great nation.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day – March 29 – The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017



was signed into law by 45th U.S. President Donald J. Trump, designating every March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This special day joins six other military annual observances: Air Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Navy Day and Veterans Day.

Rebekah Thomas, National Patriotic Instructor

2025 National Encampment

The Sarah Emma Seelye Auxiliary invites you to the Lone Star State for the 2025 National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic to be held in Houston, Texas on August 7 -10, 2025. The hotel is Sonesta Hotel Houston IAH; 425 North Sam Houston Parkway East; Houston, TX



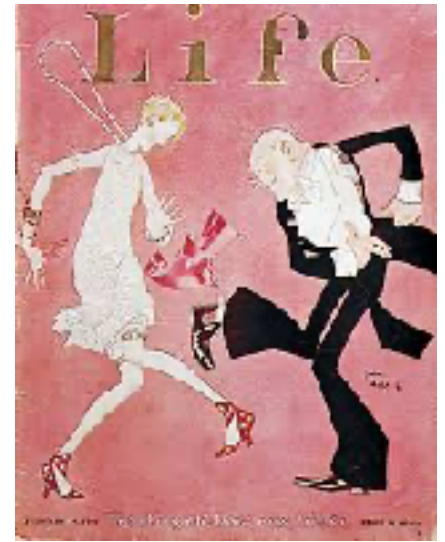
More information will be made available in the future.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Vali Reyes, AP



National Historian

In 1925, our sisters were experiencing a change in the political, entertainment, and economical arena. The growth of change was due to the aftermath of World War 1. The industrial boom came from the auto industry, construction, and industries providing consumer goods. The growth created jobs which increased spending by consumers purchasing autos, homes, clothing. This paved the way for a higher standard of living. Entertainment and clothing changed along with the music — Jazz. Known as the “Roaring Twenties”, with the flapper dresses and zoot suits, the flapper culture epitomized the fashion of short skirts, bobbed hair and social affairs.



The end to the Civil War was only sixty years in the past. The Boys in Blues numbered only in the several thousand. So much had occurred since their era. Their sons, daughters, and grandchildren were now in control of the events.

1925 started with the dogsled run to Nome — carrying serum, a diphtheria antitoxin to address the pandemic. Our country stepped in to assist in the medical crisis as Alaska was not yet owned by the United States.

Once again medical assistance was required following the March Tri-State Tornadoes that swept through Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana in a destructive path of 235 miles. 695 lives were lost and another 2,027 were listed as injured.



The “Trial of the Century, Scopes Trial or Monkey Trial”, all dealt with the Darwinian Evolution Controversy and how it was dismissed in the classrooms.

The city of Chicago renamed the Municipal Grant Park Stadium to Soldier Field to honor the fallen soldiers killed in combat during World War 1.

F Scott Fitzgerald wrote *The Great Gatsby*.

Chrysler Corporation was founded.

In Europe Benito Mussolini declared himself the dictator of Italy.

Hitler published *Mein Kampf* or “My Struggle,” while also creating the SS (Schutzstaffel, the dreaded elite guard of the Nazi regime).

Now a hundred years later, our 2025 history is yet to be written. How are we interacting with the current issues? How are we fulfilling our obligations as a member? How do we honor our Boys in Blue 160 years later?



Danielle Michaels
National Historian

Real Son and Brother William Pool 100 Years Old

January 13, 2025 Bolivar, MO. Our last living Real Son and Brother William Pool celebrated a special birthday on January 13, 2025 by turning 100 years old. Brother Pool is the son of Charles Parker Pool, born March 27, 1844, in Harrison County, Virginia. His father served in Company "D" of the 6th West Virginia Volunteers in the American Civil War and was shot in the left leg which had to be amputated above the knee.

Of great importance, Brother Pool is the last remaining son of a Union veteran who holds membership in our Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). Brother Pool also is a WWII U. S. Army Veteran who served in the European Theater of Operations and fought at the Battle of the Bulge.

Brother Pool's 100th birthday milestone is a reminder of our connection to all of those who put their lives on the line for the cause of the Union and which binds us together as Sisters and Brothers. By recognizing Brother Pool's 100th birthday, we can demonstrate our deep respect and admiration for all who served.

It is understood that Brother Pool enjoys receiving mail. Please consider sending a card or cards, even belated ones, to wish him well on his 100th Birthday to:

Brother William Pool
Parkview Health Care
119 W. Forest St., #114B
Bolivar, MO 65613



Real Son and Brother William Pool

Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance

Mast of the USS Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona

December 7, 2024 Phoenix, Arizona. ASUVCW National President Rosemary Martin placed a wreath that was handmade by Sister Verna Maleski, near the mast of the USS Arizona from WWII in Phoenix, Arizona in remembrance for Pearl Harbor Day. Sister Rachel Peak of the Picacho Peak Auxiliary #1 also placed a wreath. In addition, Verna Maleski placed a wreath for another Allied Order of the Grand Army of the Republic. A program was held that told of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, the sinking of the USS Arizona, and the start of WWII for the United States of America. All veterans and United States service personnel also were given special recognition.



National President Rosemary Martin with the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans (ASUVCW) wreath hand made by Sister Verna Maleski.



National President Rosemary Martin in front of two cannons with the USS Arizona mast in the background. The two cannons are from the USS Arizona signifying the start of WWII for the United States of America and the USS Missouri signifying the end of WWII.



The program started with a flyover by five biplanes, four streaming smoke.

SUVCW Commander-in-Chief and ASUVCW National President Joint Testimonial

October 26, 2024 Frederick, Maryland. The Department of the Chesapeake Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW) held a joint Testimonial Luncheon with dinner entrée selections for Commander-in-Chief (CiniC) Kevin Martin and National President Rosemary Martin, at the restaurant, *Dutch's Daughter*. Around 40 Brothers, Sisters, and guests attended this fun and heartwarming event.

The Welcome and Greetings were given by SUVCW Chief of Staff Brian Horgan, ASUVCW National Chief of Staff Denise Thompson, and Department of the Chesapeake Senior Vice Commander Arthur C. "Clay" Matthews. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a Blessing by SUVCW National Chaplain Doug Jones. The luncheon was followed by an Introduction of Dignitaries by Chiefs of Staff Brian Horgan and Denise Thompson. Many who attended provided a wide variety of Testimonials from moving to comical. CinC Kevin Martin and National President Martin spoke after Closing Remarks. The Testimonial closed with a Benediction by Chaplain Doug Jones.



Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin providing remarks while National President Rosemary Martin prepares to give her remarks.



There was very good representation for the ASUVCW. Front Seated L to R: Past National President (PNP) Jane Graham, PNP Nancy Hilton, National President Rosemary Martin, PNP Ramona Greenwalt. Back Row L to R: Stephanie Tucker, Holly Taylor, Ellen Higgins, and National Chief of Staff Denise Thompson.



The restaurant venue, Dutch's Daughter, was very nice. Some of those who attended were: 1st Row seated L to R - SUVCW Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Dan Murray, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kevin Tucker, Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin, ASUVCW National President Rosemary Martin, PNP Nancy Hilton, PNP Ramona Greenwalt, PNP Jane Graham, L to R Back row: Fred Bird, PDC Roger Leturno, CC Karl Woodcock, DJVC Eric Atkisson, PDC Jay Rarick, SUVCW National Chaplain Doug Jones (in front of PDC Jay Rarick), PDC Lee Stone, National Chief of Staff Brian Horgan, DSVC Clay Matthews, PCC Charles Bogino, PDC George Tommy Chapman, Ellen Higgins, John Carberry, National Chief of Staff Denise Thompson, PCinC Michael Paquette, Nancy Spannaus, Ross Schwalm, Ed Spannaus, and John Moore.

Veterans Day

Arlington National Cemetery

November 11, 2024 Arlington, Virginia. ASUVCW National President Rosemary Martin and National Personal Aide 1/Chief of Staff Denise Thompson attended the morning National Veterans Day Observance at the Memorial Amphitheater at the Arlington National Cemetery. They were also joined by SUVCW officers. They saw the Parade and Dismissal of Colors, the Arrival and Departure of the Official Party, and heard the United States Air Force Band and the Singing Sergeants. They listened to a Prayer for Veterans. They also heard the Introduction of Guests, Welcome Remarks, and then Co-host Remarks. The guest speaker, The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States, gave “A Veterans Day Address.”

This was followed by Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) participating in wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. National President Rosemary Martin and Personal Aide 1/Chief of Staff Denise Thompson represented the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War with the ASUVCW wreath.



National Personal Aide 1/Chief of Staff Denise Thompson (L) and National President Rosemary Martin (R) at the Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater awaiting the President of the United States



Personal Aide 1/Chief of Staff Denise Thompson and National President Rosemary Martin in line for the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



National ASUVCW President Rosemary Martin and National Personal Aide 1/Chief of Staff Denise Thompson at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



National Personal Aide 1/Chief of Staff Denise Thompson and National ASUVCW President Rosemary Martin with the ASUVCW wreath



SUVCW PDC Roger Leturno, SUVCW PCinC Michael Paquette, ASUVCW National President Rosemary Martin, ASUVCW National Personal Aide 1/Chief of Staff Denise Thompson, and SUVCW PDC George Tommy Chapman



Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865, and Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW) behind the SUVCW and ASUVCW wreaths

Photo Credits: Merle Stromberg, PDC George Tommy Chapman, and PCinC Michael Paquette

Gettysburg Remembrance Day

ASUVCW National President Participates

November 16, 2024 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. ASUVCW National President Rosemary Martin attended the Gettysburg Remembrance Day events. This time-honored tradition commemorates

President Abraham Lincoln’s dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery on Nov. 19, 1863 and remembers the 3,512 Civil War soldiers interred there, as well as the Union Soldiers who gave their lives at the Battle of Gettysburg.

National President Rosemary Martin started the day by attending the installation of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) James A. Garfield Camp of Baltimore, Maryland by SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin at the Gettysburg National Battlefield Maryland Monument which was followed by a memorial ceremony to honor Past Commander-in-Chief, Eugene Mortorff.

Also in the morning was the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Albert Woolson Monument where National President Rosemary Martin participated in the wreath laying.

The next event was the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade where National President Rosemary Martin and Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin rode in a carriage with “President Lincoln.” The day ended with the Sons of Veterans Reserve Original Gettysburg Remembrance Day Ball. National President Rosemary Martin and Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin started the ball by leading the Grand March.



ASUVCW National President Rosemary Martin and SUVCW Commander in Chief Kevin Martin felt honored to ride in the carriage with “President Lincoln” (Tom Wright) in the Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade.



National President Rosemary Martin after the wreath laying at the Albert Woolson Monument. It was very windy as evidenced by the golden ASUVCW flag on the back right.



Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin and National President Rosemary Martin during the Grand March at the Original Gettysburg Remembrance Day Ball.



National President Rosemary Martin, “Santa Claus” Brother Bob Dowler (in Civil War suit as per Civil War period caricaturist and editorial cartoonist Thomas Nast), and Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin. “Santa Claus” gave out candy.



ASUVCW National President Rosemary Martin and SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin posed for the photographer that was set up to take formal pictures.

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Sister Anthony O’Connell Chapter



Despite the bitter cold weather in Cincinnati on January 11, Sister Anthony O’Connell held its Installation of Officers — on Zoom. Not everyone could be present but the new officers from left to right, top to bottom: Wanda Langdon, PNP, Chaplain; Karen Schwarz, Secretary; Wanda Leaman, Historian & Trustee #1; Jenna Osborne, President; Judy Brown, Treasurer; Barb Lynch, Patriotic Instructor; and Kim Villalva, Department of Ohio President & SAOC Counselor.

Jenna, Kim, and the rest of the Chapter are beginning plans to host a Spring Tea for like-minded organizations to get together to discuss their various activities and plans to increase awareness of our mutual goals.



SAOC Patriotic Instructor, Barb Lynch, attended the Lincoln Statue Dedication in Dayton, Ohio.



Kim Villalva, SAOC member and Dept of Ohio President, gave a talk to the Dayton Lincoln Society.

2024 Wreaths Across America

On December 14, 2024, the Sister Anthony O’Connell Auxiliary, Dept of Ohio, joined with several other groups for the seventh year to honor and remember, and place Christmas wreaths on the graves of Veterans in historic Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was a cold day!

A crowd of approximately 300 were in attendance this year. A record 780 wreaths were sponsored which allowed more than 80% of the Civil War headstones in Section 21 (the Civil War section) to receive a wreath.

Auxiliary President, Jenna Osborn, is the Location Coordinator of Spring Grove. In addition to Ohio Dept. President Kim Villalva, other Auxiliary members in attendance included Barbara Lynch and Judy Brown. New this year was the Young Marine Corps.



**Barb Lynch, Patriotic Instructor & Jenna Osbourne,
President, SAOC**



Denny & Judy Brown, Treasurer SAOC



**Wanda Leaman, Civil
War reenactor and
member, SAOC**

What One Member Can Do with An Idea...

Susan Fallon, PDP, Wisconsin, organized a patriotic event on October 26, 2024 and functioned as emcee. As a veteran herself, this was important to her. It was the first time that all five of the Allied Orders were at the same event at the same time ever in Wisconsin. All of the Orders wanted to honor a Civil War Veteran who was denied Veteran Rites when he died 126 years ago. Susan said it took less than 3 months to organize and accomplish. Her church was also involved. Susan's son supplied a sound system. The event started with the SUVVCW and others marching in, followed by the National Anthem and speeches.



Department of Michigan

Frances Finch #9 Chapter

The Sisters of Frances Finch #9 ASUVCW, Department of MI participated in three events last quarter.

Wreaths Across America - Oakwood Cemetery

On December 14th, 2024, the Sisters of Frances Finch #9 ASUVCW, Department of Michigan placed wreaths at the GAR plot #241 at Oakwood Cemetery in Traverse City, MI and conducted a ceremony.



Sisters of Frances Finch #9, the Brothers of Robert Finch Camp #14 SUVCW, and other guests.



Sisters AP Lorraine Aurand, PAP Dorothy Rongey, PAP Lisa Smith, and a guest.



PAP Dorothy Rongey & PI Deb Downey. Not pictured is AP Lorraine Aurand.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

On November 15th, 2024, we rang bells for the Salvation Army.



Wreaths Across America - Maple Hill Cemetery

On December 14th, 2024, the Sisters joined General Orlando M. Poe Camp #444 and other veterans' organizations in placing 480 wreaths at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac, MI. The Marie Therese Cadillac DAR Chapter organized the event. The picture is of the Washington GAR Post #444 Plot in the cemetery.