

OHIO DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR FALL DEPARTMENT ORDERS 2023

Greetings Ohio Sisters!

I hope these Orders find you well and enjoying the beauty of fall! We know the chilly temperatures are on their way, so I hope you find time to take a quiet walk in the leaves or that you get to admire the colors from the warmth of your home. It's hard to believe we are already seeing a change in seasons since our trip to New Hampshire just a short time ago. Hopefully, with the onset of fall, many of our auxiliaries are easing down from a busy time with National Encampment and end of summer activities. Whatever your plans are for meeting in the remainder of 2023, please make sure to get this information to your Auxiliary members--thank you for your help!

I was asked to share my lineage with the Department. While I have a few Civil War ancestors, Sgt. William Elliot Bier is who I joined under several years ago. Sgt. Bier was in the 15th WV Infantry Regiment, Co. A. He was wounded in battle in his right leg but lived to the age of 90. It is always my hope that I can continue to tell the story not only of my ancestors, but of so many who came before us. Preserving and honoring the memory of our Civil War veterans has always been very important to me.

Why I Still Have Hope

I'm guessing that the past struggles over our country's Civil War monuments or busy educational state standards potentially limiting Civil War education for students, for example, may pop up into your occasional conversations with your Auxiliary Sisters or SUV Brothers. And I'm sure there is more that from time to time causes all of us frustration or to lose hope that this time in history will continue to be remembered and honored in the future.

I wanted to share some heartwarming surprises that gave me hope this summer.

A small town held their annual Civil War Day. Our first time there, we had no idea what to expect. No battle reenactments, limited food, and limited displays made this event look small compared to some others that are around or that used to draw massive crowds in years past.

But! This event brought out the town! Numerous community groups and individuals came out to work tents, reenactors were actively engaged in discussions and after President Lincoln recited his Gettysburg Address, Taps was played and muskets from both North and South were stacked in a very moving ceremony as we remembered all who perished in the Civil War.

In addition to the amazing support that was throughout this small event was the moment when I stepped aside from having my photo taken with President Lincoln and I overheard a conversation that made me smile for the rest of the day. A young mother approached Lincoln with her son and told the President that her son had been looking forward to meeting him for days! I watched as the boy,

probably around age 7 or 8, grinned and shook the President's hand. And his smile grew even bigger as Lincoln talked with him and presented him with his "picture" (aka a penny!)

It might not seem like much, but to see this boy so excited to "meet" Lincoln--well, amidst today's competition with video games, cell phones and busy school activities, THAT gives me hope. Just as seeing the town actively support their small Civil War Day gave me hope.

And then there was a larger reenactment that we went to later in the summer. As I was watching the battle and allowing myself to feel and imagine what it could have been like, some people next to me talked rather loudly. One woman asked, "So who are we rooting for anyway in this battle?"

"Who are we rooting for??" Did your mouth just drop at that? Mine did. Someone quickly described the Union and the Confederacy to her. And then another comment as she spotted a woman in uniform on horseback, "They must be short on people today. Women didn't serve." Her party agreed! At this point I stepped in and briefly explained that women did indeed serve. The whole group thanked me and said they had never known that fact.

More hope? Yes. It may seem trivial at times, but Sisters, we help keep the history of the Civil War alive. We keep patriotism as honored and respectful parts of our ceremonies and activities. We gather as a Department and then as a National Organization to work on our organization's mission and needed business. One person at a time, one child at a time, one step at a time...we help make sure that our country's Civil War history isn't forgotten. And that recharges me and gives me the hope I need to serve and strive to move ever forward.

Sisters, what still gives you hope?

Department 2023-2024 Elections & Appointments

It is with a grateful and forward-looking heart that I thank you for the honor of serving as your Department President for the 2023-2024 year. Those also serving who were elected in June at our Department Encampment are listed below: (Note: Some were reappointed and did not need to be elected this year)

Department Vice President - Cindy Hilliard, PDP (Auxiliary #91)
Department Secretary - Nancy Hilton, PNP (Auxiliary #91)
Department Treasurer - Amy Miller, PDP (Auxiliary #108)
Department Council #1 – Judy Morgan, PNS (Auxiliary #108)
Department Council #2 – Sandra Prozak, PDP (Auxiliary #1)
Department Council #3 – Jane Graham, PNP (Auxiliary #91)
Department Chaplain – Shari Milburn, NC (Auxiliary #10)
Department Patriotic Instructor – Chloe Miller (Auxiliary #108)
Department Press Correspondent – Wendy Silvis, PAP (Auxiliary #142)

Those appointed were:

Department Chief of Staff - Judy Brown, PAP (Auxiliary #10)
Department Counselor - Wanda Langdon, PNP (Auxiliary #10)
Department Personal Aide - Shari Milburn, NC (Auxiliary #10)

I also appointed the following chair/committee immediately at the conclusion the Encampment:

Ritual Materials – *Nancy Hilton, PNP (Auxiliary #91), Barbara Lynch, PAP (Auxiliary #10), Judy Brown PAP (Auxiliary #10)

I would like to make the following appointments at this time. If you cannot serve, please contact me so that I might ask another Sister to take your place. Thank you to all of you who agreed to serve!! (Note: Chair is marked with an *)

Department By Laws Revision – *Karen Schwarz (Auxiliary #10), Nancy Hilton, PNP (Auxiliary #91), Judy Brown PAP (Auxiliary #10), Judy Morgan, PNS (Auxiliary #108), Sandra Prosak, PDP (Auxiliary #1)

Budget: *Amy Miller, NT (Auxiliary #108), Ramona Greenwalt, PNP (Auxiliary #91)

Sisters Serving Women Veterans (North) – *Jane Graham PNP (Auxiliary #91), Janet Waffler, PAP (Auxiliary #142)

Sisters Serving Women Veterans (South) - *Jenna Osborn (Auxiliary #10), Kim Villalva, DP (Auxiliary #10)

Liaison to Junior Sisters – OPEN

Fraternal Relations - *Wanda Langdon, PNP (Auxiliary #10), Sue Freshley, NP (Auxiliary #142), Ramona Greenwalt, PNP (Auxiliary #91), Joyce Vogel (Auxiliary #10)

Charitable Deeds - *Nancy Hilton, PNP (Auxiliary #91)

2024 Department Encampment - *Kim Villalva, DP (Auxiliary #10), *Judy Hritsko, PAP (Auxiliary #142), Mary Louise Daley (#142)

Web/Social Media - *Wanda Langdon, PNP (Auxiliary #10), Chloe Miller (Auxiliary #108)

Publicity - *Wendy Silvis, PAP (Auxiliary #142), Carol Jutte (Auxiliary #10)

Elections & Officer Installations

Sisters, prior to your elections, please review our National Constitution Rules and Regulations which can be found on the National Website of the Order. I would love to attend each of your installations and would appreciate knowing the date at your earliest convenience. As many of you know, I have family in NE Ohio and travel north regularly.

Meetings for Department Officers, Chairs & Committees

To help increase communication between the Department Officers & Chairs, I will be holding just a few meetings via Zoom. I will send out the Zoom information prior to the meeting.

Also, if you are a Chair, please make sure to reach out to your committee to introduce yourself and the overall responsibilities of that committee. Even if there isn't a great deal of work to be done right now, please at least make initial contact with your group.

The Auxiliary Voice

I hope everyone has read the most recent *Auxiliary Voice*, sent out by National Newsletter Editor Karen Schwarz. It is beautiful and filled with lots of valuable information! Our own Ohio Sister, National President Sue Freshley has put forth her vision for this year. Sue has also asked for volunteers to serve on various committees. If you haven't yet sent her your interest, please consider how you can best

support our Auxiliary at the National level.

Also, it is not too late to send your National Patriotic Instructor (me) your family's veterans' stories. Throughout November, I will be sharing stories (and photos) on our Auxiliary's National Patriotic Instructor Page. Please help me show the world how much we love and remember our veterans every day, but especially during the month of Veterans Day!

My Theme as Ohio Department President 2023-2024

I've been thinking about this idea for some time now. Every time I pondered something going on within our Auxiliary, it led me right back to what I feel is very important to all of us at this time—and that is our own department. ***“All About Ohio”*** is what I've chosen as my theme and what will guide what I do for you as I serve this year as your president. What does *All About Ohio* mean or include? Here's just a bit about this theme:

- Who are we as a Department? What does Ohio Department value? What does Ohio Department hope for?
- What are our current strengths? What are our current challenges? What are goals we need to set to maximize our strengths and to address our challenges—both now and in the future?
- Who are our Ohio Auxiliaries? What are the unique strengths of each? How can we get to know each other better? How can we help each other more?
- How does Ohio Department best contribute to the National organization overall? Where can we find new ways to serve or how can we make sure that we continue to provide our skills and dedication as we move forward?
- What was Ohio's role in the Civil War? How can we as Auxiliaries continue to tell Ohio's story in new, creative, and easy ways--especially stories of those soldiers who served in the Civil War that were from Ohio?

These are just a few examples of how I am using this theme to guide our work this upcoming year. Please feel free to share your thoughts about any of the above or any additional ideas you may have!

Ohio Department Mini-Survey

Speaking of ideas, your feedback matters! Attached to these orders, please find a Mini-Survey for the Ohio Department. I would like to have completed surveys returned to me by **November 30th**. You may print and write your responses by hand then mail to me or you may add your responses digitally and then email to me. Please don't feel that you must answer every question or elaborate in detail if time is an issue, I am just grateful for the feedback as I continue to plan our year. EVERY sister has a voice so like I said at the beginning of these Orders, please make sure every sister reads and responds, thank you for your help! While individual responses will be kept confidential, a summary of results will be shared with Ohio Department.

Mid-Year Gathering Planning

Continuing with my goals for this year, I would love to have a mid-year gathering for Ohio Department. While it will not be exactly “mid-year” it gives us a chance to come together prior to Department Encampment in June. No official business will be conducted. This is simply a way for us to

come together, get to know each other better, talk, share our dreams, learn, and have some fun. Surprises too! The survey asks for your thoughts on timing for the gathering. Right now, we are aiming for possibly holding it in Columbus and around early March. Stay tuned for more information.

Fundraising and Ohio Sisters

Fundraising is often a topic that isn't at the top of our to do list, but I'm asking that we all keep it in mind this year. As we discussed at our last Department Encampment, and additionally at National Encampment, the Auxiliary is struggling not only to raise funds but also to find leaders in those areas. Ideally, fundraising is something we all should do on a regular basis to support the National organization. Any idea and any amount can be of tremendous value to next year's fundraising goals for both Department and National. Are you someone who has things that you'd like to donate but aren't able to travel or do you not know of places to sell your items? Or are you someone who goes to places where items can be sold, but you don't necessarily have things you can make or sell? Please reach out to me and I will help you find the way to contribute your talents!

And as you know, we have Ohio sisters currently serving in fundraising positions as well—Sister Judy Brown is our Ohio Department Chief of Staff, Sister Chloe Miller is our Ohio Department Patriotic Instructor, and I am our National Patriotic Instructor. If you have spare change or exceed your local Auxiliary's fundraising goals for this year, please send along those funds to the Dept COS, Dept PI, and National PI. Together, Ohio sisters can continue to support one another in these vital roles for the Auxiliary!

Official Department of Ohio Headquarters for 2023-2024

Ohio Department's Headquarters is hereby established at 5250 Marshall Road, Dayton, OH 45429.

I love talking with my Ohio Sisters! Please feel free to reach out to me at any time. I currently have two phones so feel free to call or text on either. Email is always a good way to reach me as well.

Phone: 512-680-8729 (primary); 937-559-1531 (secondary); kdanisk@yahoo.com (email)

As we approach the busy holiday season, please keep our Ohio sisters in your prayers. Many continue to struggle with various health issues and other important challenges as well. Remember to honor our Veterans on November 11th. Share what you do with our Department Press Correspondent, our National Newsletter Editor, etc.

I wish each of you a very Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season! I look forward to seeing you soon!

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Kim Villalva
Ohio Department President

attest: Nancy G. Hilton, PNP
Ohio Department Secretary