

OHIO DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR WINTER DEPARTMENT ORDERS 2025

Greetings Ohio Sisters!

I hope all of you are well and staying healthy this winter! Ohio is one of the states facing a massive surge of flu and other respiratory illnesses. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you are in need of prayer or any help if you fall ill. It's never fun to be sick, and especially if we have extra worries on our minds.

Why I Still Have Hope

Last year when I first became Department President, I began my very first Ohio Department Orders with this topic. I think most of us would agree that hope is the best of things no matter the challenges we are facing as individuals, sisters, auxiliaries, or even as a country.

From ongoing struggles over the future of our country's Civil War monuments, busy educational state standards potentially limiting Civil War education for students, or finding new and fresh ways to discuss and honor those who fought in the Civil War in an at times divisive society, we may find ourselves questioning what we as an Auxiliary do or what we *should be doing*, as far as it relates to the Civil War and this significant time in our nation's history.

Just recently, I learned that a very successful annual Civil War event that I attend, may be facing its last year this year. Why? Lack of attendance? Lack of interest? Lack of funding or resources? No, no and no.

The reason? Because some of the sponsoring organization's leaders may want to go in a different direction. That's it. Despite the massive success of this event as defined by renowned speakers, a sold-out crowd and energized and thoughtful discussions throughout, this event may be closing due to "moving on" from this topic.

Does this mean that the Civil War is no longer a viable topic in today's world? I do not believe that for one minute. It does mean though, that for those of us who belong to organizations such as the ASUVCW, we may need to find new and creative ways to honor and to remember. More than ever, history needs to be remembered and taught. The struggles, the sacrifices, the shared experiences that all of those in the past endured deserved to be remembered. These stories still have a place and will continue to have a place in the future—for both adults and youth.

But key to that is for organizations like ours to continue pressing forward, to continue seeking out opportunities to do what we do best—to remember and honor the Boys in Blue, to encourage patriotism as we reflect on and share lessons from the past, especially when we remember and support our veterans.

I'm a big proponent of brainstorming and thinking out of the box. As we move forward, we may need to find new ways of doing things—still adhering to our mission while at the same time keeping pace with the ever-changing world.

Most importantly, we must find a way to hold on to hope. And yes, that means even if our auxiliaries are aging, if we meet less frequently or via zoom rather than in person, if we don't attend as many Civil War or historical events as an auxiliary like we used to, or if we are facing any number of challenges. Our mission calls to us and we must always find a way to serve it.

After a rough last two weeks with losing my father-in-law, I recently attended the Annual Lincoln Dinner sponsored by the Lincoln Society of Dayton. After I introduced our keynote speaker, Ohio Department Commander Steve Ball of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I sat down to enjoy his presentation about Lincoln and Civil War Music.

As he went through the history of the various songs he sang, he got to the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Commander Ball goes through a fascinating history of this song, including its different iterations. Julia Ward Howe first heard the song in November 1861 as “John Brown’s Body” and rewrote it the very next day. What she penned would go on to become the most popular Civil War song of its time. President Lincoln first heard it in the fall of 1862 and added it to his list of favorites.

Think about these words as you image soldiers marching through the mud, on roads to their next battle...as they carried heavy mental, emotional, and physical loads.

*Mine eyes hath seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.*

*Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*

*I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on.*

*Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*

*I have read a fiery Gospel writ in burnished rows of steel;
 "As ye deal with My contemners, so with you My grace shall deal";
 Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with His heel,
 Since God is marching on.*

*Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*

*He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
 He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
 Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet;
 Our God is marching on.*

*Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*

*In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
 With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:
 As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free;
 While God is marching on.*

*Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*

What a powerful reminder of hope echoing through the footsteps of the soldiers as they marched into uncertainty, while clinging to hope in their nation and their cause. As I listened to Commander Ball sing during the Lincoln Dinner, I felt that familiar tug of hope—a beautiful anchor to hold on to.

Sisters, we are approaching America's Semiquincentennial which celebrates 250 years of our country. The Civil War was a pivotal part of that history and so our Auxiliary is a part of this story as well! Our National President, Sister Rosemary Martin, has designated a committee at the National Level for this. While our upcoming Department Encampment will be held in June 2025, ahead of the actual 250th year, I will be planning a small pre-Semiquincentennial project for our Ohio Department. If you would like to work on this committee with me, please let me know. Beyond that, it is up to the next Department President to potentially establish a committee for 2026, if she wishes to.

Bottom line as we head into a time to celebrate and reflect on our country's history while we strive to uphold the mission of our Auxiliary? Keep holding on to hope. Talk about where we have made a difference in the last 250 years—including sharing stories of those sisters who came before us. Select a challenge or two that your auxiliary may be facing and ask each other, what is something we haven't tried yet? What else can we do to help? Who might we collaborate with on a project or program?

And don't forget to reach out to your Ohio sisters, connecting with each other can bring smiles, heartwarming conversations and support, and even new ideas that may motivate us to try something new.

Sisters, what still gives you hope?

Even if it's just a small action here and there—may we all find ideas that will continue to recharge us to continue serving our Auxiliary with heart and energy throughout 2025.

***The Auxiliary Voice* – Winter Edition**

If you haven't caught up with National Auxiliary news and happenings in a while, be sure to read the Winter Edition of the *Auxiliary Voice*. Ohio's own Sister Karen Schwarz always does such an amazing job putting it together, thank you, Karen!

Sister National President, Rosemary Martin, has posted this year's National Standing and Special Committees and many Ohio sisters are serving in various positions. Thank you sisters for serving! If you haven't had a chance yet to read this edition of the *Auxiliary Voice*, please find it on our national website.

Ohio Department Appointments

Again, thank you, sisters, for serving at the Department level. Whether you are holding an elected or appointed positions, the more sisters we have actively engaged in our Department, the more we can support each other and our beloved Auxiliary. Thank you!

Department By Laws Revision – *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) - * Kim Villalva, DP (Auxiliary #10), *Jenna Osborn, AP (Auxiliary #10),

Liaison to Junior Sisters – OPEN

Fraternal Relations - *Kim Villalva, DP (Auxiliary #10), Barbara Lynch, PAP (Auxiliary #10), Sue Freshley, PNP (Auxiliary #142)

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

2025 Department Encampment - *Kim Villalva, DP (Auxiliary #10), *Judy Hritsko, PAP (Auxiliary #142), Shari Milburn, PAP (Auxiliary #10)

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

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

Note: Chair is marked with an *

Remembering and Honoring Lincoln on His Birthday – February 12th

Sisters, how did your Auxiliary acknowledge and remember President Abraham Lincoln in honor of his recent birthday on February 12? It doesn't matter if you held an event, made a social media post, or just shared thoughts with fellow sisters and brothers, please find a way to remember Lincoln sometime this month.

When we come together with our SUV brothers, and with our auxiliary sisters, especially, to honor our 16th president, it is such a wonderful way to connect outside of our regular meetings, daily business, and responsibilities. Take advantage of this time to honor Lincoln by participating in conversation and fraternity with your sisters and brothers.

Ohio Mini-Zoom Gathering Meeting on Feb. 22

You are cordially invited to **our upcoming OPTIONAL Ohio Gathering via Zoom, which is set for Saturday, February 22**. No official business will be conducted. Attendance is optional and is not mandatory.

This is simply an informal opportunity for us to come together and discuss Ohio Department issues and ideas identified in last year's Ohio Department Survey. Sister Anthony O'Connell will host our Ohio Department Zoom Gathering. The time for this event is at 3:00 PM and will last approximately one hour. So again, this is simply a chance for any interested Ohio sister to check in and discuss ideas and issues. Please be sure to share with your Auxiliaries. I will send out the zoom link the week of Feb. 16. If you plan or hope to attend, please RSVP with me at kdanisk@yahoo.com.

2025 Ohio Department Encampment

This year's **Ohio Department Encampment will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025**. Again, this year we will be at Clintonville Woman's Club, 3951 N High St, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

PDC Huffman has once again extended a warm welcome to the Auxiliary to join the Sons for our Department Encampment. He is coordinating the Dept. Encampment efforts for the SUV and he has been wonderful to communicate with about this.

Registration for the Encampment, luncheon, and other details will be sent later but will very much follow what we have done in the past.

2025-2026 Elections – Department and National

It may seem a way off but if you use a planning calendar for your Auxiliary meetings, please be sure to build in the appropriate time to nominate any interested sisters interested in an Ohio or National Officer position.

If your Auxiliary wishes to present a candidate for any of the elected offices at the Department Encampment, your Auxiliary may submit a written endorsement to be read during the communications portion of the meeting. This informs the other members that the Sister you are nominating has the backing and support of her Auxiliary. All endorsements must be voted on at a regular Auxiliary meeting and signed by the Auxiliary president (or Vice President if the endorsement is for the President).

The same holds true for Auxiliaries who wish to endorse candidates to run for National office. These endorsements will likewise be read during the communications portion of our meeting and acted upon. If the vote is favorable, the Department Secretary writes a Department Endorsement, and both endorsements are sent to the National Secretary prior to the required date.

Sisters, please consider how you can best serve the Auxiliary in the 2025-2026 year. We must continue to grow leaders and to encourage leaders at all experience levels to serve. The future holds so many opportunities for us as an Auxiliary. I want to sincerely thank those willing to consider being nominated to serve for the 2025-2026 year.

Fundraising

Fundraising for our Auxiliary is always needed. 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 our fundraising goals for both Department and National. And when we all pull together to support those who have offered to serve in our fundraising positions, we are able to focus our efforts on a common goal.

My hope is that with spring eventually on the way, your Auxiliary can find at least one fundraiser to hold to raise funds to send along for our Department and National projects. Thank you in advance, especially, for supporting our Dept COS and Dept PI. Together, Ohio sisters can continue to support one another in these vital roles for the Auxiliary!

Prayers

As always, please continue to keep our Ohio sisters in your prayers. Please direct any specific prayer requests to our Department Chaplain.

My father-in-law, George Villalva, Jr., passed away recently due to traumatic injuries he sustained in a bad fall. His memorial will be held in Texas at a later date. Thank you for keeping our family in your prayers.

Thank you to all of you for your efforts to keep our Auxiliary moving ever forward. Your time, energy and commitment are deeply appreciated.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Kim Villalva
Ohio Department President

attest Nancy G. Hilton, PNP
Ohio Department Secretary.