

March Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

We are starting to see some better weather, which means that we will be in full swing of outdoor activities soon. With that in mind I wanted to write a little bit about something that all Brothers of the Order will need to do regardless of where we are located and that is working with outside organizations. How we work with these groups reflects upon the SUVCW as a whole and we need to remember that in our dealings for a few reasons; one, working well with other groups will help further our mission. Two, it will help the reputation of the Order and open doors for us in the future. Three, this one you probably guessed, it helps foster and encourage Patriotism in our community.

The first two items are pretty similar to each other as having a good reputation will open doors to other organizations for us to work with. However, once those doors are opened, we must do everything in our power to not burn bridges with these new allies. We are not the only group trying to honor the Boys in Blue and working with the Allied Orders, Boy Scouts, VFW, American Legion or even a civilian that wants to help the cause, will help us in this mission. We must embrace these groups and people and show them that we are worthy of the title we carry as the legal heirs to the Grand Army of the Republic. We also never know who is watching when we are doing our work and how influential they may or may not be and those who see our hard work today may become our allies in the future. In the same light, those who we cross may become a roadblock in the future. We cannot let our ego's get in the way of the mission.

That leaves one thing left from our overview and that is how working together with these groups fosters and grows Patriotism. Seeing as we are a Patriotic Fraternal organization it might seem obvious, but I will break it down Barney style so to speak, yes, I just referenced a purple dinosaur. When we work with other groups it is our duty, and I do mean duty as we all sworn an oath to do so, to spread the word of the SUVCW and to Preserve the memory of the Boys in Blue. Those two mission statements should get us talking nonstop to these outside groups during our events like a cross fitter talking to random strangers after a workout. But we cannot do this if we don't have these groups working with us or if we have burnt those bridges. Fostering and growing relationships with other groups will always help our cause, we need to embrace it like I embrace birthday cake...full fledged and not stopping till there's nothing left to embrace. All joking aside having allies in this business will do nothing but help us further our mission, and by furthering our mission we further spread Patriotism. I look forward to seeing all your work this spring and I hope that you all take my words to heart and play nice in the sand box.

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,
Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor.