

May Patriotic Instruction

Brothers,

The month of May is upon us and many of us will be busy with flagging details and planning Memorial Day Ceremonies that adhere to state and local guidelines that have been put in place due to Covid-19. Because of many of these state and local orders that have been put in place, we as an organization have been forced to become creative in the ways in which we have come together as Brothers, as well as how we can spread patriotism both in and outside of the order. One of the new exciting ways this can be achieved is with through the Podcast.

One may ask themselves, well what is a Podcast? A Podcast is an online audio program, which can be taped, edited and released by normal people without the need of expensive production companies. Once it is edited, the Podcast organizers then release the files to an audio streaming website, such as Spotify or iTunes, for people to download and listen at their leisure. These Podcasts are a great way for us to get our story out as well as preserve the memory of the boys in blue, and in doing so we are not putting anyone's health at risk as they are recorded through online applications like Skype and Zoom. National is proud to say that we have multiple Podcast's lined up with various different programs, the first of which is the Untold Civil War Podcast that are scheduled to air in May.

We have also seen many Brothers setting up their monthly meetings by using these similar applications. For those who are not familiar with these names, Skype and Zoom are online audio and visual meeting applications that allow us to meet to discuss matters of the Camp and Department, but to see each other's faces in this trying time. To be able to visually see the Brothers allows us to have some social interaction during these trying times, as well as to keep the Fraternity alive at all levels. Part of the great thing with these applications is that we can also set up educational discussions and programs with our community organizations with them. We would use the same program that we do in person, just stream it with the application and those logged into the meeting can attend virtually.

Last month I issued a challenge for Brothers to help out in their community and you all did not disappoint. I have been seeing on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter the amazing work Camps and Departments have been doing to help their communities in this time of need. I wanted to highlight one Department and another individual Brother for their great work. The Department of New Jersey has been hosting food drives with other local organizations to help those effected by this pandemic, both financially and those that cannot go to the store due to being under quarantine. In the Department of New York, Br. William "Billy" Stump from Ellis Camp 124 has been activated with the New York National Guard and is on the front lines assisting his community with their needs to get through this pandemic. Please join me in saying "Thank You" and "Huzzah" to these Brothers for their amazing effort! To all Brothers of our order, please keep up all the amazing work you all are doing in your communities, it is making a difference!!!!

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

National Patriotic Instructor