

Hello Brothers,

Over the past few months, I have read many of your Form 40s and Form 41s and there has been a common theme on them. That theme was that the Annual Camp and Department Patriotic Forms (Form 40 & Form 41) and the role and scope of the Patriotic Instructor Position are not well explained. The next couple of instructions, I will focus on these items in hopes to better define this position for you. Many of my previous instructions have focused on ways in which we can spread Patriotism within and outside of the order, through social media, presentations on the Civil War, the GAR and the SUVCW, and also helping out in our community. These are all amazing ways in which we can spread Patriotism inside and outside of the order.

Now the question is, why? Why is it important to spread Patriotism and pride of one's country? In my eyes, spreading Patriotism ensures two things; first, that we remember where we came from as a country. In doing so, we remember how much better we have it in the United States currently, than our Ancestors did when they were creating and molding this amazing country. She is far from perfect, but Lady Liberty has afforded many of us opportunities that our Ancestors never had. The 2nd reason we must spread Patriotism is that we honor those that have sacrificed so much to create this better society and country for us to live in, and with our continued Patriotism, for our children and grandchildren to live in.

Now that we have answered the why, the all important How? How do we spread Patriotism, how do we fulfill our roles as Camp, Department and National Patriotic Instructors? The basic answer to this is that we ensure that people remember why this country is great through our actions and that we, as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, take pride in being American. One way we can do this is quite simple, and that is properly displaying the American Flag and educating those on how to properly display the Flag. Displaying the Flag outside our own homes, and doing it properly, fills the actions speak louder than words mantra. We cannot preach on how to spread Patriotism if we do not listen to our own words.

Another way in which we can spread Patriotism is ensuring that our Brothers know some of the simple things. It surprises me how many people in this country, that have been Americans their whole lives, do not know what the stars and stripes on the Flag represent. They do not know how to properly fold the Flag, or what days the Flag should be at half mast for. It starts in our own backyard, we need to ensure that our own Brothers know what the significance behind the colors of the Flag, and what each fold represents. I ask you to review these two websites that give you some facts on the Flag and what these mean and why they are important, and share them with our Brothers, especially the younger Brothers of the order: [Flag Day Facts](#) [The Meaning Behind the 13 Folds](#)

I would love for the Brothers of the order to create educational displays and presentations for the communities on the importance of the Flag and what all of it means, this way we, as Americans and as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, can help ensure that sacrifice of the Boys in Blue is never forgotten.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail, PDC

National Patriotic Instructor