

IG Impressions

Newsletter of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) National Inspector General Spring 2023



By Way of Introduction



Six years ago, I was appointed National IG to implement, manage and direct compliance and conflict resolution programs at the direction of the Commanding General. I also advise the General on issues related to SVR programs and operations, ensuring resources are used effectively and efficiently.

This newsletter is an important tool for me to communicate regularly on these issues. In the last issue, topics included appearance, protocol, and event planning.

We should be in constant recruiting mode, spreading the word about our important work. Our appearance, both in person and online, must always reflect the highest standards, as we honor the “Boys in Blue.” Thank you for your continued dedication to the SVR and its ideals.

--Steve Michaels, Col., SVR

Check Your Badges

I’ve spoken about correct badge wear several times. I spotted the example, shown at right, at last November’s Remembrance Day Ball. Can you tell me what’s wrong with this brother’s choices?

Well, according to Chapter V, Article 6, Section 5 of the SUVCW’s Constitution & Regulations:

- + Only one badge with the Sons’ emblem (“Badge of the Order”) should be worn. The C&R calls these Group A badges. All three of the badges on the top row are Group A badges and are “redundant.”
- + If two or more rows of badges are worn, the top row is the only row which is completely exposed. The drops of successive rows are the only elements that should be seen.



So...in this example, the brother should be wearing only two badges instead of four: one from the top row and his SVR commander’s badge. Please, please take time to review badge wear in the C&R. Let’s ensure our uniforms are correct, especially before entering the public eye and participating in activities with other groups.

How Do Brothers Find You?

When it comes to recruiting SVR members and informing the public, some may think uniforms and word of mouth are enough. However, we should also think internet savviness and better online communication. And we should be policing our virtual image. Here are the numbers:

District Newsletters--Five of our six Military Districts have newsletters posted on the National SVR website. Sadly, ONLY ONE is less than a year old; one is almost eleven years old!

District websites--ONLY TWO of our six Military Districts have websites.

Departments links—Of our 31 Department websites, ONLY FIVE have links to their respective SVR District website or dominant SVR unit. A couple have links to the National SVR website, which ignores the local brothers who are serving and making an impact.

Interestingly, one Department has a link to a non-existent District website, abandoned ten years ago.

This should be as startling to you as it was to me. ALL District Commanders and Public Information Officers should make this a special interest item.



Financial Best Practices

For most units, financial activity is limited to collecting dues at the beginning of each year. For others, fund raising and expenditures take place throughout the year. Regardless, here are some general guidelines:

- + The unit commander may not serve as the unit's treasurer. Check signatories must not be members of the same family or household.
- + Signatories must never sign checks made payable to themselves, their spouse or to members of their household. Checks must not be made payable to "cash."
- + Checks must not be pre-signed. All checks require original signatures. Stamped or electronic signatures are not permitted on checks.
- + If the unit intends to raise funds, the unit should develop and approve an annual budget as a forecasting tool.
- + The unit treasurer will reconcile the unit's checking account with the bank statement at least once monthly.
- + Documentation pertaining to fund raising, donations, investments and expenditures should be retained for three years after filing the IRS Form 990.
- + An annual audit should take place prior to the start of the new unit commander's term.

SVR FORMS DUE

All SVR Units are reminded of the almost endless cycle of annual forms that are due to higher headquarters. While the adjutant or another officer typically complete and forward forms up the chain, it is ultimately the unit commander's responsibility. Each form includes instructions and there's additional guidance in the SVR Regulations. Here is a summary:

SVR UNIT FORMS DUE SCHEDULE

DATE (no later than)	SVR FORM	TO	NOTES
15 JANUARY	3	District Commander	Annual Unit Application
1 APRIL	19, updated roster, District & Nat'l dues	District Commander	Annual Unit Strength Report
30 JUNE-1 OCTOBER	IRS 990N	IRS	e-Postcard
1 AUGUST	2	District Commander	Recommendation for Decoration
As Needed	1A	District Commander	Officer Commission Request

Annual Awards Reminder

Please be reminded that the new SVR Form 2 is used for SVR award nominations. Completed Form 2s, including a narrative justifying the member's/unit's achievements, are forwarded to your respective District Awards Board no later than 1 August. Any Brother having knowledge of an act of service, meriting recognition, may initiate a recommendation for an award. The new form is found on the SVR website.

Did You Know?

In 1863, Delos Bennett Sackett was assigned as the defacto head of the Office of the Inspector General, which until then had not existed. In total, two major generals, seven brigadier generals, 18 colonels, 118 lieutenant colonels, and 149 majors of the regular army served official inspector duty during the Civil War.