Department of Pennsylvania
Delegate-At-Large Report of the 2026 National Convention

The 135th National Convention of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 was held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois on July 22-26, 2026. This was the convention of our National President Carol Comp from Oklahoma.

Our gathering started with the announcement of Verna Maleski, PNP, who fell at the St. Louis airport and broke her hip while she was traveling to Springfield for the convention. Lucky for her she had her great dependable travel buddy, Avery, with her to help her and he stayed with her the whole time. Airport security helped get the ambulance and had them transferred to the hospital. She had a partial hip replacement and she and Avery headed home to Arizona a week later. They were unable to attend the convention.

The Grand Opening was held Wednesday, July 22, 2026 and welcomed by the Springfield Illinois convention chairs Norma Fiedler PNP and Linda Holzhousen, DP. The seating of national officers was provided by the Illinois Camp 4 SUVCW and the posting of colors was provided by the Civil Air Patrol Springfield Composite Squadron IL 306.This was followed by the President's Reception.

Thursday, July 23, 2026 was our first day of business meetings. There were officer and committee reports given and regular orders of business taken care of. The sites committee report for the national convention in 2027 was given and approved. The dates will be July 27- August 1, 2027 and held at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania with Mary Morris Husband Tent 58 hosting along with help and support from other Pennsylvania tents. The group rate per room will be $149.00 with breakfast included for a two-person room occupancy. The American Revolution Museum in Philadelphia is a recommended touring visit while in the area but no bus will be provided. This will be for individual transportation only. There will be a group tour of Valley Forge National Park but details are still being worked out. This national convention was approved.

There were 273 inquiries about DUVCW membership in the past year, 2025-26.

The Memory Banquet was held on Thursday evening and welcomed by the National Chief of Staff, Cathy Hollar and National Assistant Chief of Staff, Elizabeth Courtney. The program speaker was Marcea Lynne Hall Oetting, National Patriotic Instructor, as she did a character tribute of Mary Todd Lincoln.

Friday, July 24, 2026 was the second day of our business meeting and the first day for officer nominations for election. Once again, many officer and committee reports were given during this morning meeting. The afternoon was a fun and relaxing day with workshops and entertainment filled with refreshments. The workshops consisted of Convention Protocol and Floor Work, Website and Google Worksheets, Cemetery Preservation and Historical Restoration, Engaging Newsletters. Historical time travel was with President Abraham Lincoln, General Ulysses S. Grant, and Mrs. Lincoln Fights Back. The Illinois Department Open House celebrated 100 years of Route 66 featuring a half hour program with an Elvis tribute artist.
Friday evening finished up the day with the Open Houses. Open houses were provided by Missouri, Michigan, Florida, California/Nevada, New York and Ohio.

Saturday, July 25, 2026 Today we did a second round of officer nominations in the morning meeting session and the election of officers in the afternoon meeting session. Officer and committee reports continued today. The first-time national convention attendees were recognized and there were 30 new people. There were 4 registered duvs but only three attended. The other girl was sick and unable to attend.

Other convention information: Recommended Bylaw changes;
Article V, Section 2. Eligibility of National Officers page 30
Passed with a vote of 85

Article V, Section 3C page 32 passed with 87 votes

Article VI, section 7 A and D page 45, National Register
Passed with 89 votes – one word changed from mail to provide.

Appendix page 174 It was recommended that Yorktown National Cemetery be replaced with San Antonio National Cemetery in Texas. The Yorktown is not receiving wreaths and any sent there, they are requesting the DUVCW to pay for shipping to return the wreaths to us. It was approved to drop the Yorktown cemetery.

A voted change was made in the wording to an entry in the ritual with much controversy.

Our tent 58 brought home the George W. McVeigh Award for the tent over three years old with the greatest increase in membership, excluding transfers and reinstatements.

The Credentials report was approved with the following number of members in attendance.
Thursday -110; Friday – 114; Saturday – 119.

Saturday evening was the All States Banquet in which only one state, Florida, performed a skit. Of course they took home the LuLu.

Our guest speaker program was presented by Rosemary Connolly who shared slide photographs and spoke about Widows and Orphans.

Sunday, July 26, 2026

We finished up today with the Granddaughter's breakfast, worship service and the memorial service. We had a total of 75 ladies who were remembered at our memorial service.

Sunday morning business meeting started with a moment of silence with the announcement of the unexpected passing of Sally Redinger, PNP, Michigan. She had every intention of attending the convention before going into the hospital from a fall two weeks prior. Her twin sister, Sue, was at the convention and kept us updated on her condition through communications with her niece. Sue was in the best place possible among our group of sisters and Sally would have wanted her to be there. Sally and Sue had just turned 80 on July 16. If you knew Sally, you knew a great woman and friend. She was always the first one to meet and greet new members attending the national convention every year. If you did not have the pleasure of knowing Sally, you have missed the friendship of a great person.

Sunday morning we were able to finish up with our business meeting and install our new officers for the next year.
The new officers for the new year of 2026-2027 are the following:
National President – Jan Davis, Michigan
Sr. Vice President – Sandy Millan, PNP, Pennsylvania
Jr. Vice President – Lori Walmack, Oklahoma
Chaplain – Marcea Oetting, Florida
Treasurer – Jan Rynerson, Indiana
Registrar – Susan Berry, Texas

Patriotic Instructor – Jill Gallinger, California/Nevada

Our 135th national convention came to a close with the installation of new officers.

Our regular Sunday evening dinner out was at a local Chinese Restaurant as this event was started by Carole Morton, PNP, California/Nevada many years ago.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty
Sharon Coosaboon
Department of Pennsylvania
Delegate-At-Large