Commander’s Corner

Please let me introduce myself to you as the 63rd Commander-in-Chief of MOLLUS. It is an honor to have been selected and installed at our annual congress held in Philadelphia on October 12. I was first admitted to the ranks of our most distinguished Order in 1999 and have served in a variety of capacities at the state Commandery level in Pennsylvania serving two terms as its Commander. In addition to serving as National Quartermaster, I have served as Chancellor-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I look forward to the next two years and can assure you that we have a vital and engaged executive committee. As the executive committee has planned to hold quarterly meetings, we will be sending your Commander minutes of these meetings to keep your officers abreast of our workings on behalf of the Order.

I sincerely hope to see as many as possible at next year’s congress that will again be held in Philadelphia on the weekend of October 16-18, 2020. As per our constitution and bylaws, we are obliged to hold the congress in Philadelphia, the birthplace of the Order, every third year. Please reserve the weekend of October 8-10, 2021 when the congress will be held in Cleveland, Ohio and note April 2022 for the observance of the 200th birthday of President U.S. Grant.

Two upcoming events that I would bring to your attention in hope of generating some participation from you are as follows: Lincoln Birthday ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial on February 12, 2020 preceded by the annual D.C. Commandery banquet on February 11th. Please note that Commandery-in-Chief will not be conducting a mid-winter meeting in February. (A mid-winter meeting has never been required in our constitution and bylaws). Also of significance is the Lincoln Death Day observance in Springfield, IL on April 18, 2020.

Remember The Loyal Legion Memorial Fund
And Help Preserve Our History

Please help preserve Civil War History for future generations when you contribute to the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund.

Among American hereditary orders, none stands more proud in its unwavering allegiance to the Republic and its ideals than the Loyal Legion. Founded in sorrow as the nation reeled from the death of Abraham Lincoln, it has stood the test of time and remains true to its promise to remember and honor.

The Loyal Legion Memorial Fund, through its financial support of various initiatives, helps provide the means by which our Order lives out its promise. When you read the Loyal Legion Journal... when you attend the annual Lincoln ceremonies in Washington D.C. and Springfield, Illinois... when organizations like the American Battlefield Trust save blood soaked land from being developed, or the Abraham Lincoln Foundation in Philadelphia mounts a new museum exhibit... when you see our historical documents being identified and preserved... you are seeing how the Memorial Fund can affect our world for the better. Your support of the Memorial Fund is crucial to its mission.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Memorial Fund. Gifts from Companions, Dames, and friends are crucial to maintaining the health of the Fund in these uncertain times, and especially as we face the threat from those who want to erase our history and identity. Your generosity means the Fund will remain a vibrant resource for our Order’s present and future.

Please send your donations to:
Loyal Legion Memorial Fund
C/O Jeffry C. Burden, Trustee
905 N. 37th Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Contact Companion Burden with any questions at:
richburd6165@yahoo.com
or (804)426-1355
If you have never been to this event, I highly recommend it for the opportunity to pay respects to President Lincoln at his tomb.

We had a very productive congress last month where over 30 Companions attended the business meeting and we had over 50 attendees at the banquet Saturday evening. We had the pleasure of awarding the Hayes Cup to Past Commander-in-Chief Jeffry Burden (VA). Also recognized was the Ohio Commandery for winning the Grant and Daugherty-Thompson Cups which are awarded each year for greatest percentage increase in new hereditary Companions and largest number of new hereditary Companions respectively. Also recognized with the Lincoln Medal for recruiting at least three new companions were: Keith D. Ashley (OH), Robert J. Wolz (OH), John Huffman, Jr. (OH) and Ryan B. Weddle (NY), a two-time recipient. I hope you will take the time to read all the reports submitted to the congress which will be available shortly on our website.

One of the most significant actions of the congress was the approval of the changes to the constitution and bylaws as distributed to your state Commander in June. The documents have been updated on our website and I encourage you to review the changes. While not a change to the constitution and bylaws, the practice of having the Chancellor-in-Chief distribute rosettes to new members is being ended. The intent has always been to have each Commandery induct new members and to bestow the rosette at whatever occasion presents itself at the state level. Rosettes are available for purchase from the quartermaster.

A significant challenge to the executive committee at this time is the restoration of the publication of the Loyal Legion Historical Journal. As you no doubt have observed, we’ve missed publication of the last two issues. We are hopeful of getting a new editor appointed and resuming our publication schedule.

Another significant action by the executive committee was the approval of a contract to construct a new website. The contract has been executed and we hope to have a replacement at www.loyallegion.org by this Spring. We should all thank Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison (MI) for his outstanding work on behalf of the Order for creating and maintaining our current site. Bravo Keith!

As the executive committee reviews the elected and appointed committee member selections, I would ask that if invited, you lend your services to the committee(s). We need active, functional committees to move forward with the business of our Order. Your interest and assistance is always welcomed and appreciated.

In closing, I invite you to communicate with myself and the other members of the executive committee: Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief – Rob Pollock (OH), Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief – Mike Bates (DC), Recorder-in-Chief - Gary Grove (PA), Treasurer-in-Chief – Lee Tryon (CT), and Registrar-in-Chief – Adam Flint (PA) as I hope to strengthen the ties between the state Commanderies and the Commandery-in-Chief while reaching out to all Companions for the good of our most distinguished Order.

D.C. Commandery To Host 2020 Lincoln Birthday Event

The District of Columbia has announced that they will host the 2020 Lincoln Birthday event. On Tuesday February 11th, there will be a tour of the George Washington Masonic Temple and Museum and a Banquet. On February 12, activities will include the placing of a wreath at the Lincoln Memorial, and a LBNCC Luncheon.

Please note, the MOLLUS Board of Officers will attend this event, but the Commandery-in-Chief will not be conducting a mid-winter meeting in February.

Please see the included for more details, schedules, registration information and Registration Form.
Commander In Chief Joseph Coleman places a wreath at the Woolson Monument at Gettysburg.

MOLLUS AT GETTYSBURG REMEMBRANCE 2019

Participants L to R: Ken Freshley (OH), Jim Crane (OH), Pete Hritsko (OH), Kevin Martin (DC), Hobie Kistler (PA), Unidentified, Jan Davis (DOLLUS), Judy Hritsko (DOLLUS), Ellen Higgins (DOLLUS), Joe Coleman (PA), Linn Malaznik (CA), Paul Davis (MI), Jim Knight (PA), Garry Grove (PA), Paul Lader (PA), Will Forbes (PA), David Scott (PA)