



Florida Division
Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc.
Standard Operating Procedure



FLDIV-SOP #2008-08

Dated November 8, 2008

SOP Title: Division Meeting Protocol And Member Decorum

SUPERSESSSION: This Standing Operating Procedure supersedes Florida Division Policy Letter titled Behavior Policy, dated April 19, 2005.

REFERENCES:

- a. The Constitution of The Sons of Confederate Veterans as adopted on July 1, 1896 and amended in General Convention July 19, 2008 Concord, NC, Article 2.
- b. The SCV Organization Affiliation Policy, paragraph 2.
- c. Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp Procedural Manual as adopted August 4, 2006, amended July 27, 2007 and revised June 2010.

PURPOSE: To establish the policy of the Florida Division Commander for Officers and Staff members while conducting Division Meetings and Public events and the conduct of members at such meetings or events.

APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to all Florida Division Sons of Confederate Veterans sanctioned meetings and those Florida Division members in attendance.

AUTHORITY: By approval of the Florida Division Sons of Confederate Veterans General Executive Council November 8, 2008.

DISCUSSION:

- a. The opening of all Florida Division meetings and public events must be standardized to eliminate distractions that may arise from omission of items covered in this Standard Operating Procedure.
- b. Frequent yet inadvertent omission of some items suggested in the SCV Camp Handbook detracts from the meeting or event.
- c. The pledge of allegiance to the U.S. Flag is frequently the source of some strong differences of opinion and as such creates a major distraction among our members. Much has

been written regarding the origination of the pledge and potentially sinister motives in the wording. In today's environment those possible motives should be long forgotten. Our ancestors adhered to General Lee's admonition in his closing words to his troops at Appomattox, Va. 1865 "I have done the best I could do for you. Go home now, and if you make as good citizens as you have soldiers, you will do well. Goodbye, and God bless you all." All of our members are sworn into the SCV with an oath that includes the following: "I pledge allegiance to the United States of America and to its Constitution and promise to defend it against all enemies. I pledge myself to loyally support the activities of the camp and the Sons of Confederate Veterans whose purpose it is to cultivate, perpetuate, and sanctify the memory of the Confederacy. In so doing, I not only honor my Confederate ancestor, but also affirm my loyalty and devotion to God and country which is so much a part of his character."

d. Understanding that our SCV Constitution declares adherence to the US Constitution. In no way does that equal a requirement that would force any member to recite the pledge of allegiance. The fact is that this issue has been decided when a resolution before the Convention in 1998 in Nashville that would have required members to recite the pledge of allegiance was tabled by unanimous vote of the members present. Various positions expressed by members both PRO and CON; however there is no way such a requirement could be enforced.

e. The pledge of allegiance will be offered for those who wish to recite it; those who hold other beliefs should stand and maintain a respectful composure.

f. Florida Division officers and members must ensure that Division meetings and public events are for the sole purpose of furthering the objectives of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

POLICY:

a. The opening of all Florida Division meetings and public events must be standardized to eliminate distractions that may arise from omission of items covered in this Standard Operating Procedure. In concert with the recommended items provided in the SCV Camp handbook the following items will be included in Division Meetings and Public events.

1. Call to order
2. Invocation
3. Recite* the Pledge to the U.S. Flag
 - I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
4. Salute** to Confederate Flag
 - I salute the confederate flag with affection, reverence and undying devotion to the cause for which it stands.
5. Announcements / Acknowledgements
6. Program
7. Close
8. Benediction

* The meeting leader should use the following at the close of the invocation: "Please remain standing while the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.

** The meeting leader should offer the following for the uninitiated prior to the Salute to the Confederate Flag: We Salute the Confederate Flag with our right hand extended palm up and pointed in the direction of the flag.

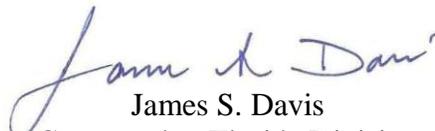
b. Not reciting the Pledge of Allegiance should not be equated with being a poor American nor should it make a person less patriotic. The US Constitution defines our country and its principles, following its meaning is not only basic to being an American, but also characterizes us as Southerners. We must remember that those framers of our country were Southerners and it was those beliefs and principles our Confederate Ancestors fought to defend.

MEMBER DECORUM:

a. Florida Division members shall always conduct themselves as gentleman, reflect professionalism and show respect for others while attending Florida Division meetings or public events. It is not permitted for officers and or members to engage in unlawful conduct, the endorsement of political parties, candidates or promote religious or racial bigotry at official Florida Division functions.

b. While attending any Florida Division sponsored event, Florida Division members shall not become disruptive or abusive to any officer of the Florida Division or other members in attendance. The spreading of falsehoods, half-truths and or character assassination will not be tolerated.

C. Violation of any part of this policy on Member Decorum shall result in the discipline of members in accordance with the Constitution of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.


James S. Davis
Commander, Florida Division