

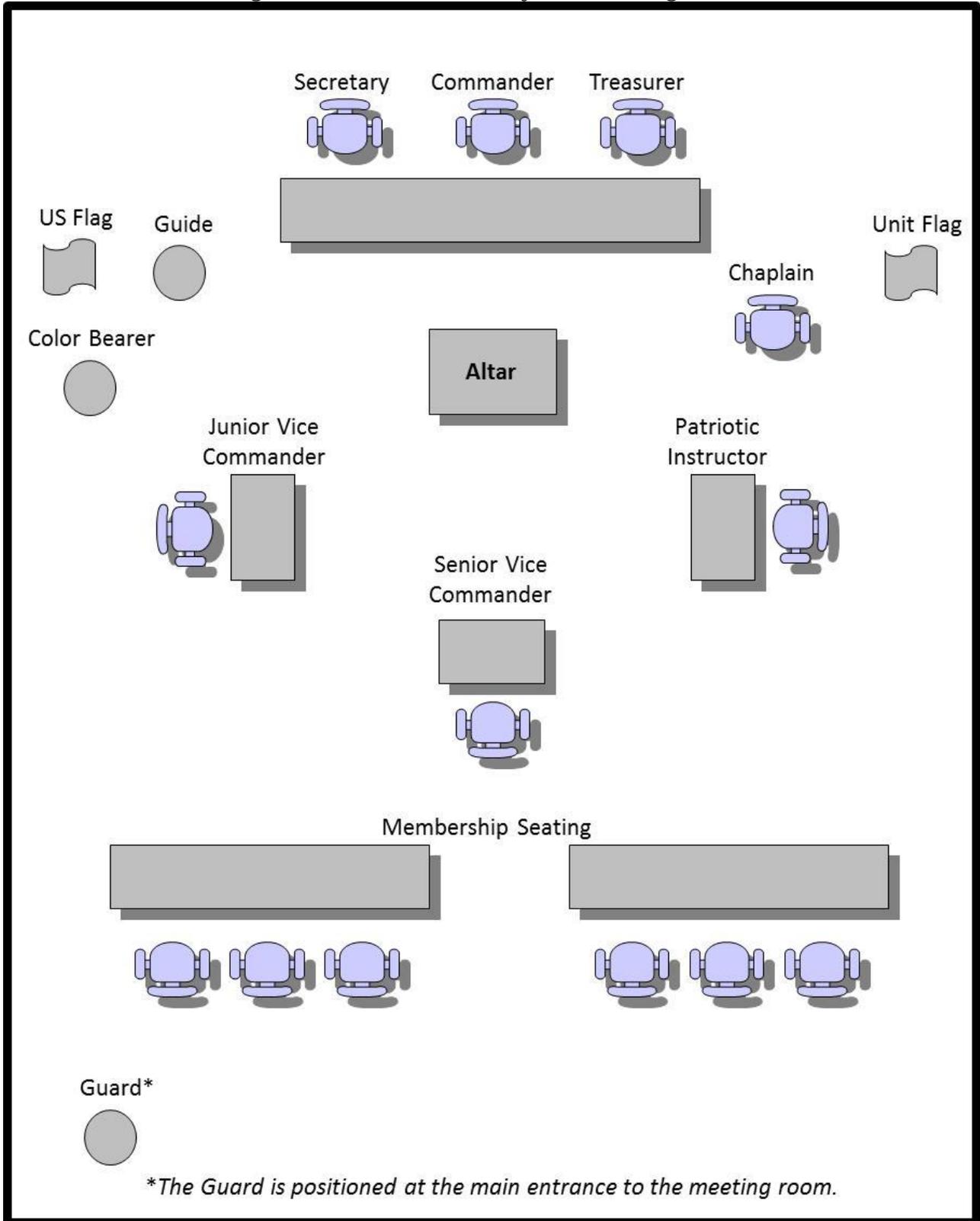
Ritual and Ceremonials



SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE
CIVIL WAR

❧ 2015 Edition ❧

Figure 1. General Plan of the Meeting Room



INITIATION CEREMONY (SHORT FORM)

Commander: Guide, present the candidate(s) at the Altar.

*[This having been done, the Commander gives **three raps** ***]*

Chaplain (*standing in front of the Altar*): You are now at the Altar of the Order of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for obligation and I assure you that in taking this obligation, it will not conflict with any duty you may owe your God, your country, or yourself. If you are willing to proceed, place your left hand on the Bible.

[At this point the Color Bearer has conveyed the Colors to the right side of the candidate(s).]

Chaplain: You will now grasp the standard of the Flag with your right hand, say “I”, pronounce your name, and repeat after me:

(To be used for Members and Associates only) I, _____, | in the presence of the Great Creator | and witnessing members of this Camp, | hereby | voluntarily and solemnly | pledge myself | to support and defend | the Government of the United States of America, | to offer my life | if need be | to preserve the Flag | from being lowered in defeat; | to always observe the day | set aside | by the Grand Army of the Republic | as Memorial Day, | sacred to the memory | of the Union Soldiers Sailors and Marines | of 1861 to 1865 | and do all in my power | to persuade others | to do the same; | to be faithful | in all duties of citizenship, | to be obedient | to the law of the land, | to obey the Constitution and Regulations of this Order, | and to promote actively | its objectives and interests | always and everywhere. | So help me God.

(To be used for Juniors only) I, _____, | in the presence of the Great Creator | and witnessing members of this Camp, | hereby | voluntarily and solemnly | pledge myself | to support and defend | the Government of the United States of America, to always observe the day | set aside | by the Grand Army of the Republic | as Memorial Day, | sacred to the memory | of the Union Soldiers, Sailors and Marines | of 1861 to 1865 | and do all in my power | to persuade others | to do the same; | to be faithful | in all duties of citizenship, | to be obedient | to the law of the land, | to obey the Constitution and Regulations of this Order, | and to promote actively | its objectives and interests | always and everywhere. | So help me God.

*[The Commander at his station gives **one rap**. *]*

Commander: Guide, present the candidate(s) at the Commander’s station.

[Commander displays the Badge of the Order so that candidates may note the explanation of its meaning.]

Commander: I now show you the Badge of our Order. The inscription, “Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,” reminds us of our high estate and our duty to our Country. We are the Sons of Union Veterans. May we prove ourselves worthy of this title. The ribbon is a union of red, white, and blue, the colors of our Country’s Flag. The red signifies the unstinted streams of blood, shed that the blessings of a free government might be our heritage, and that our own blood is pledged to preserve the freedoms and responsibilities we so gladly received. The blue tells us of that true faith and allegiance which our forefathers held to their Country and to each other, and charges us to be mindful of their example. The white represents peace, which with honor, may our Country always enjoy.

The motto, “Preserved by the grace of God,” reminds us that without the over-ruling hand of an all wise Providence, the sacrifices of our forefathers could have afforded nothing, and that God’s favor

alone can secure the preservation of our liberties.

Like the eagle, may we be quick to discover our Country's needs, strong in its defense and swift to carry out the objectives of our Order.

[If available, the Guide pins the Badge on the left chest pocket of the new member.]

May you wear your badge long and proudly, and may it always be a guiding star to you, in the discharge of your duties in private life and as a Son of a Union Veteran of the Civil War.

[The Commander will give the following instruction to the candidate.]

Whenever the United States Flag is passing or being passed in a formal matter, as on parade, members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War not in military uniform will salute the flag by removing their hat or cap. The head dress will be held in the right hand opposite the left shoulder; right forearm against the breast. When not wearing a head cover, the right hand will be placed over the heart. This will not apply when the Flag is flying from a staff, but only when supported by a color bearer. When giving the pledge of allegiance, stand with the right hand over the heart. Members of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War who are United States Armed Forces veterans may render a hand salute. On all occasions when the National Anthem, the "Star Spangled Banner", is played or sung, members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War should stand at attention, with hat or cap removed. Members of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War who are United States Armed Forces servicemen or veterans may render a hand salute.

[The Flag salute will be exemplified, the candidate(s) facing the membership.]

On all occasions when the National Anthem, the "Star Spangled Banner," is played or sung, members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War should stand at attention, with hat or cap removed. When seeking admission into a Camp of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, in case the Camp is in session, you will present your membership card to the Guard at the door when he responds to your knock of three raps at the door. On being admitted approach the Altar and salute the Commander, and on return of the salute take your seat. On rising to speak salute and say "Commander." And in crossing the floor always pass in the rear of the Altar. One rap calls the Camp to order and seats the same when standing; two raps call the Officers and staff to their feet; three raps calls up the entire Camp.

If deep in your heart there lives the love of freedom, and patriotic devotion to the principles and institutions for which your forefather fought, then no personal danger, no selfish consideration, can quench that love and make you ungrateful or disloyal to the Flag of the United States of America.

Let us then entwine each thread of its glorious fabric around our hearts, and catching the spirit that breathes upon us from the battles and the victories of America's sons, let us resolve that now and forever will we stand for that flag and the principles and institutions it symbolizes. It was waved over our cradles. Let us make the high resolve that, unchanged and unstained as it came from the hands of our fathers, it shall wave over our graves.

Commander: Guide, conduct the candidate(s) to the Secretary's desk to sign the Camp's Membership Book and present him (them) again to this station.

[The Guide faces the new members(s) toward the Camp, in front of the Commander's station.]

Commander: Officers and Brothers, I take great pleasure in introducing, Brother(s) _____ bound to us by the sacred ties of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty. Let us give him (them) a Brotherly welcome.

[A short recess is optional. Refer to General Instruction]