

What does it mean to be “active” in regards to the SCV and your Southern Heritage?

I for one will not pretend to answer that question for you the individual but what I will do is make two simple requests of you. First, whatever you think it is to be “active”... do it! And second, don’t disparage your fellow compatriot who is being “active” doing whatever they feel is within their own definition of the term “active”. If we as members are not going to be active in keeping the charge of our own organization no one else will that is for sure!

With all of the attacks upon not only our own Southern Heritage but American Heritage as a whole we can’t just sit by and say or do nothing any longer. So what can you do? Be “active” is what you can do! Please make sure you understand me. No, I am certainly not suggesting any sort of violent response in any way, this type of behavior makes us no better than those who purport such actions and want to tear down monuments and erase or try and rewrite the narrative of history. As a member of the SCV you can take a stand by being “active” in whatever way being active is to you! We all have our own individual ideas of what it is to be active but many just don’t do it and are instead inactive. If to you being active means attending camp meetings, enjoying fellowship with your fellow camp compatriots, and furthering your own education of our Southern Heritage via the information offered and the programs by all means please keep doing it! There is nothing wrong with that. However, I ask you to take the next step with the knowledge and information you have gained...**USE IT**... talk to your family, friends, and neighbors at any opportunity you have. Let them know you are proud of your Southern Heritage and what we the SCV are all about. There is a ton of misconception and misinformation out there about whom and what we are. If we don’t help to educate others about ourselves I can guarantee you that those who stand against us certainly will and the picture they paint is a narrative that only supports their own biased point of view. Please don’t forsake an opportunity to share your heritage and information about the SCV when you have the chance.

When you do share the message about the SCV and your Southern heritage be aware that there are those out there who will not receive your message in a positive light no matter what. Sadly this is just a fact of life. Be ready for this reaction and just move on. Instead focus on those who are willing to listen to you, and please likewise, be ready to listen to them too. When someone asks questions, be ready to give an honest answer. If you don’t know the answers don’t worry. Don’t be afraid to say “I don’t know” but I can ask someone who will know and get you that answer ASAP! Again I implore you to be active in whatever way you can and see fit to do so. If nothing else we are all able to write a letter or place a phone call and let your elected governing officials know where you stand and you would appreciate their support for our Southern History. Just this past week we were notified of a couple of pieces of legislation proposed within the Tennessee House and Senate that seeks to do away with the SCV motor vehicle tags. When things like this come along we can all take a stand very easily by reaching out to our state congressmen/women and senators letting them know your stance on the issue. This is certainly a great way to be active!

The second part of my message today is many of our members choose to be “active” in their own way and get criticized by others within our own ranks. This is a subject I brought up with the Army of Tennessee Commander Jason Boshers, who was the guest speaker recently at our Lee-Jackson Dinner Banquet. We have many who choose to criticize instead of looking the benefits of what we as whole are doing. We cannot be divided from within and expect success. As I mentioned earlier we all have our own definition of what it is to be “active”. Don’t let your own personal bias get the better of you! Just because someone is doing something that you personally don’t want to do or be a part of don’t belittle them for their efforts. Instead look at the positives of what they are doing and how they are keeping the charge in their own way. I will give you an example of what I am talking about...while I am not one who believes we need to be down on the courthouse square marching and waving the flag as I don’t necessarily believe this is the most productive thing we can get doing. Why do I feel this way you might ask, let me explain. It might draw some attention yes, but most likely the attention it would draw would be in the form of negative press and publicity which would do more harm than good. Now, hear me when I say that, as there may be a time when it is needed and it would be a good course of action for us to take. Now on the other hand, we have several members who have been flagging in the area as of late. They have done a wonderful job! They have chosen good locations, been well prepared for any responses they might receive (both the good and bad) and have had positive interactions with the public at large and law enforcement. They have talked to folks, handed out information, and helped to further the charge in a positive manner. While not everyone is willing to participate in the flagging there is no need to ridicule those who are, instead thank them and say job well done!

Again, hear me out here...there are those times when someone does something that hurts our organization and casts us in a negative light...this is the time to let that person know what they are doing and how their actions are perceived. Ninety-nine percent of the time I would say they had no intention what so ever of causing any damaging results and were instead doing what they thought was a good thing. If you see something like you don’t think is a good thing, talk to the individual, if you don’t feel comfortable doing it, let your camp leadership know so they can speak with that person!

Once more, my message is simply this, don’t just sit on the sideline, complain, criticize, and do nothing. Instead, “be active”!!!

Looking forward to seeing you at our next camp meeting on February 26, 2019. Respectfully Yours,

Nick Norwood
Camp Commander



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