

## A Call for Volunteers - Looking for Those Willing to Step-Up and Serve

What is the SCV? If you look at the national website - ***“The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to insuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.”***

Now, let me rephrase that a bit...Who, is the SCV? We are!!! The individual members of the local camps are who the SCV is! While the major news you hear about the SCV might be the national/divisional level it is the local camps and local camp members who are truly the heart of the organization. Now don't misunderstand what I am saying because we as an organization do much that is at the national and divisional levels and that work is vitally important, however, it is at the local camp level where the rubber meets the road so to speak. How does all that work get done at the upper levels, where do the people working at those levels come from, where do the ideas come from, and where does the funding come from...it all starts at the local camps.

If you have been a member for anytime at all now I am guessing that you already know what I have stated in the above two short paragraphs. So, what is the point of me telling you this??? It is simple, without you the camp member being actively involved, we as an organization (on all levels) fail! Things just don't happen by themselves it takes people willing to do the work to make it happen. None of our meetings or events happen without work being put into them by various individuals and often this is done behind the scenes which is what it takes to make it all go off as smooth as possible on any given occasion. We have several open leadership positions that need to be filled within the camp and we are always in need of folks to step up and volunteer to help out at events throughout the year.

The positions of immediate need that we need someone to step up into are that of Camp Quartermaster and an Assistant Master-at-Arms. A Quartermaster is needed to help with the maintenance responsibility of the camp stores (items we sell at events mainly and we do not carry a large inventory by any means so don't let that worry you), this helps to keep good order and accountability for all as designed within our camp by-laws. Our wonderful long time Master-at Arms, David Cole, has recently let us know that he has some responsibilities that will take him away from our meetings for a possibly extended period of time. Currently our Chaplin has been helping our Master-at Arms and will continue to do so but we would like another camp member to also step forward to help out as well in order to ensure we always have someone present at camp meeting fulfilling the role and to be able to allow our Chaplin to continue to fulfill his role and not be over burdened with double duty. Our Master-at-Arms is an important position as he helps to ensure good order and direction, is one of the first to greet members and guests as they arrive, and ensures that we have a quorum of members if there is a need for the camp to vote on a matter.

We also have various upcoming events we can always use volunteers to help with, from setup (which is usually very minor), manning our tables for recruiting and selling of our wares, to helping direct people where to go, to being the event coordinator. The first two events that are coming up soon are our Confederate Memorial Day at the Confederate Cemetery downtown on June 1<sup>st</sup> and Forrest Homecoming Day in Chapel Hill, TN on June 15<sup>th</sup>. We can use volunteers for our Confederate Memorial day to help setup and in greeting/giving directions for arriving guests. For Forrest Homecoming, at which we setup a tent/tables for recruiting/selling, we need some help manning the operation – this is a great event if you have never gone before. There will be a good number of booths/tables selling various items, some great speakers for you to hear, usually a very nice living history demonstration with not only the foot soldiers of the Civil War but the cavalry and the cannons too! And, did I mention the food...they always have some good food available to purchase! I highly encourage you to attend even if you don't wish to help man out table but if you can, please consider volunteering for an hour or so. This will give others a break for lunch and a chance to enjoy the festivities themselves. And don't worry, you won't be left alone without support, an experienced veteran will be there with you to help. So if you can come up and support this fantastic event as this is a big fund raiser for the Forrest Boyhood Home and help your own camp out by volunteering for a bit too!

Fulfilling the Charge is our goal and in that there are great things we can accomplish in the realm of protecting and promoting our Southern Heritage with a camp this size but without members being willing to donate their time and put in the effort nothing is accomplished. We have a large camp, over 110 members and I know we have some wonderfully talented folks amongst us. That being said, if you can and are willing, please step forward and let myself or another of our camp officers know if you can help us out by manning a vacant position or volunteering your time at one of our events. Currently we have a very

small number of individuals who continually rise to the occasion (no matter what it is) and we manage to get the job done. However, the idea is to spread out the responsibility as many hands make light work. With more people involved it also lends to someone always being ready to step in when someone else is unable to be at a meeting or event and it helps to keep anyone from feeling overburdened or burned out as others are sharing the load. Without you, the willing, active, and participating camp member we achieve little, but with you there is so much more that can be achieved!

Respectfully Yours,

***Nick Norwood***

***Camp Commander***



***N. B. Forrest Camp No. 3, Chattanooga, TN***

***Sons of Confederate Veterans***