



THE VIVANDIÈRE

Newsletter of Kady Brownell Tent #36 DUVCW
<http://www.kadybrownelltent36duvcw.org>

SUMMER 2020

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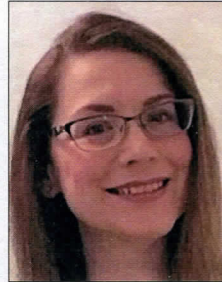
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Kathleen Powers-Vermaelen

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Sisters,
What a year 2020 has been so far. I hope and pray that your families are and will continue to be well as we navigate the uncertainties of this stressful time.



A quick glance at our Tent Officers sidebar confirms that I've again taken on the role of SVP. Although I'm considered an "acting president," being SVP means only that I may "fill in" for an absent president. I am unable to set an agenda and lead the tent toward meeting it, as only an elected president may do.

When I was asked to consider being president in 2015, I was appropriately wary. I'd never served in a top role before, and I didn't know if I had what it took to do more than support someone in that position. Even so, I wanted to build our tent membership, and I realized that being president would allow me to bring this agenda to the forefront. With a healthy amount of cautious optimism, I accepted the role.

What I didn't expect was the tremendous support I received. When I expressed a desire to publicize the tent, Sister Kathleen Wyer-Lane arranged a *Newsday* article that generated several new prospective member leads. When I needed to book my first tent luncheon, Sister Janice Guy worked with Sister Laura Congleton to get the deposit and then went to the restaurant to book it. When I needed help filling out the president's report, Sister Eileen Sleckman walked me through it. No one ever told me that she was too busy or that I was on my own in figuring things out. This uncommon level of cooperation is what made the experience so positive.

As I'm presently a national officer in ADEAW and hold positions in several other organizations, I can't also take on the top role myself right now—but I know that someone in this tent can.

I'm certain one of you is, just like I was, sitting on a mental fence, considering it. Maybe you think we should participate more in local events. Perhaps you think we could do more at our veterans' hospitals or work more on preserving local history. If this sounds like you, now is your time to shine!

We need a sister with fresh ideas to lead us forward. We need someone brave enough to say *Okay, I'll give this a try*. We need someone who trusts our tent to fully support and assist her as needed. We need you, Sister President-to-Be—and we need you now.

Please contact me (or any officer) using the information in the left sidebar. Any one of us would be grateful to hear from you.

In F, C and L.,
Kathleen Powers-Vermaelen
SVP, Kady Brownell Tent #36



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The first virtual New York Department Convention was attended by sixteen DUVCW sisters on June 6, 2020. Screenshot/L. Congleton



NEW YORK DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 2020

The past year began on an optimistic note but has ended in a way none of us could have imagined. Due to COVID-19, the onsite New York Department Convention, originally planned for Suffern, was cancelled. Both Federal and NYS officials mandated that larger group events be prohibited as our country focused on ending the effects of the virus. Thankfully, National gave us a once-only opportunity to meet as a group via video conferencing. I am pleased to say that attendance far exceeded what we had expected with 19 participants, including 9 Tent members. Laura Congleton, who is a member of our Tent as well as the Department's Webmaster, took the lead in setting up the meetings and did an awesome job. I am grateful that National leadership allowed us the opportunity to meet as a virtual group this year.

A great deal of business was covered at Convention in a short time. I'm pleased to announce that Tent # 36 Kady Brownell received recognition and a certificate for acquiring the highest number of new members in 2019. We also voted on and approved a new Department Bylaw that relates to the American Civil War Memorial in Waterloo, NY. Susan Berardi of Tent # 56 led us in prayer and a touching memorial service for those Sisters who passed away over the previous year. We voted for a slate of new Department officers for 2020—2021. I am pleased to announce that Nicolle Beatty is taking over as Department President for the coming year. Perhaps a most welcomed surprise is that next year's Convention will likely take place in Suffern, giving members of our Tent an opportunity to participate onsite in a location not too far from home.

For information about any of the above please refer to General Orders # 1 which will be forthcoming.

— Sister Mary F. Cordato, PDP



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Lauren Guarneri
Victoria Guarneri
Michael Lynch Fox, USN

HISTORICAL TREASURES: OUR DEPARTMENT RECORDS



Pictured above are just a few of the historical treasures found in the boxes that Sisters Barbara Giaimo and Eileen Sleckman picked up at the Roscoe Diner (see p. 4). Sister Eileen reports: "Among the records are original applications going back probably to the start of the Department, membership and treasury records from closed Tents, and information on the Real Daughters, of whom the organization took care. There are about five boxes to go through, a lot of original applications." We plan to meet, once we're able, to go through the boxes and scan records before shipping the originals to our headquarters in Springfield, IL. If you're interested, please email Sister Eileen so she can put you on her "Records Party" list. Photo/Sister Eileen Sleckman, PDP

OUR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Saturday, September 12, 2020

11:00 AM

12th Annual Civil War Weekend,

Islip Grange, Sayville, NY

(If the event is cancelled, we'll meet virtually.)

SUBMIT TO THE VIVANDIÈRE!

If in your travels you've visited a fort, discovered a monument or attended a lecture, we'd like to know about that, plus anything else you have that is Civil War-related. Please email your submissions to kpvermaelen@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

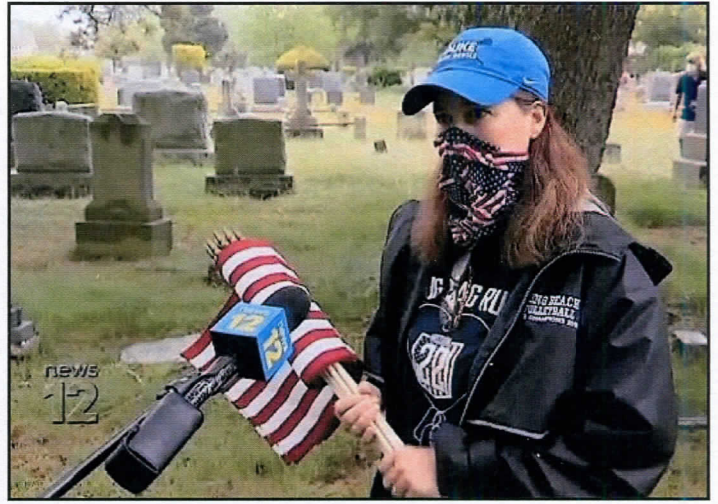
MEMORIAL DAY 2020



The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 made honoring our veterans challenging, but we were not deterred! Whether we ventured out to carefully join in socially-distanced activities or stayed home to observe the continuing quarantine, we strove to remember our fallen heroes in a new and different ways.



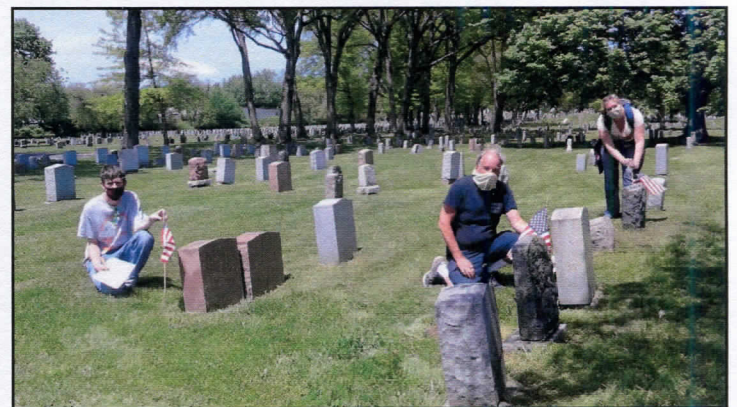
PATCHOGUE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES: Village Trustee Sue Brinkman (mother of Sisters Olivia & Victoria) hosted a Facebook Watch Party on May 25 featuring speakers such as U.S. Congressman Lee Zeldin, NYS Senator Monica Martinez, and Suffolk County Legislature Deputy Presiding Officer Robert Calarco. *Screenshots/Facebook*



Sister Lynn Pace Dean joined Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and others in placing flags on the graves of veterans at Babylon Rural Cemetery after the National Cemetery Association decided to cancel the usual flag-placement activities. Visit [News12](#) to see the clip. *Screenshot/News12*



Sister Kathleen Vermaelen joined the SGAR and local Boy Scout troops in placing flags on the graves of veterans at Lakeside Cemetery, Cedar Grove Cemetery, and St. Francis De Sales Cemetery in Patchogue on Saturday, May 30. Pictured is the headstone of Corporal Samuel L. Conklin of the 12th NY Infantry, Co. D. *Photo/Kathleen Vermaelen*



"On May 16th the weather was perfect to place flags at Veterans' graves for Memorial Day. Charlie White, who started the project in 2017, worked with St. Michael's Cemetery to allow six people to place the flags. I placed 50 myself. They'll stay up through the summer." *Pictured l. to r.: James Maxham (Boy Scouts leader), Charlie White & Sister Leslie Wickham*

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Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



NYDUVCW ROAD TRIP: Sisters Barbara Ulrich-Giaino and Eileen Sleckman, PDP, met with Sisters Roberta Comerford and Caren Cleveland, PNP, at the world-famous Roscoe Diner to receive New York Department records.

(Photo above c/o Eileen Sleckman; Screenshot on rt./Laura Congleton, PDP)



NEW DEPARTMENT BOARD: Nicolle Beatty, President; Caren Cleveland, SVP; Susan Berardi, JVP; Ruth Ann Williams, Chaplain; Pauline Novick, Patriotic Instructor; Lynne Dolan, Treasurer; Dorothy Prentice, Registrar; Mary Cordato, Historian & Eileen Sleckman, Secretary.



Find us on
Facebook

VISIT "[KADY BROWNELL TENT #36 DUVCW](#)"
AND CLICK THE **LIKE** BUTTON. IT'S THAT EASY!

ON THE WEB & IN THE NEWS

- ◆ [Small Groups of Volunteers Place Flags at Graves of Fallen Heroes](#) (News 12)
- ◆ [Introducing Civil War Stories](#) (Fold3)
- ◆ [Did Lincoln Really Matter?](#) (*The New Yorker*)
- ◆ [Last Person to Receive a Civil War Pension Dies](#) (*Wall Street Journal*)
- ◆ [Ulysses S. Grant](#) (History.net)