

Due to a member's reaction to a recent announcement of the National Policy by the Safety and Re-enactor's Committee. It has fallen upon me to announce the National policy to all members of the Ohio Societies Color Guard and Chapters holding events with Parades. This policy does not mean that we cannot fire our weapons at special events, grave markings or military salutes. Only during parade routes are we restricted. We are to fire with safety in mind at all times. Following guide lines set forth by national for such firings.

Weapons Policy

At no time during a parade activity attended by members of the Ohio Society of the Sons of the American Revolution who are in possession of any type of flintlock musket or rifle discharge that weapon on the parade route. Except to signify the beginning of the parade. Muskets or rifles that will be fired in any ceremonial activity must have attached to them a flash guard. All weapons that will be fired must undergo a safety inspection by a safety officer prior to an event insuring that the weapon is indeed free of powder and ball and that the weapon will not discharge on half-cock.

All muskets/rifles will be considered loaded. They must be carried with the muzzle upright in the vertical position or pointing to the ground. They are not to be carried in the horizontal position. Hands are never to be placed over the muzzle. Muskets will use no more than a 90 grain charge and rifles no more than a 70 grain charge. All cartridges will be maintained in a Proper container.

There several reasons for this policy:

1. At the NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting (2013) it was decided that the National Policy would be no firing of weapons during parades. I confirmed this with National Color Guard Commander Michael Radcliff and from Robert Cunningham who is the NSSAR Safety Officer. This way our Society is in compliance with the National Policy.
2. No member is insured to fire. I will not place myself or any member of our color guard or any Chapter or our Society in a position that a circumstance of events could result in bodily or property damage and end in a lawsuit.

3. It is unlawful to fire a firearm within municipalities without a proper permit and anyone doing so is subject to arrest.

4. At a time when Anti-Gun legislation is being pushed so hard we as members of the SAR must be ever vigilant to keep ourselves from giving any reason to remove our constitutional rights to bear arms.

5. We as members of the Sons of the American Revolution should set an example for others to follow when it comes to firearms. Safety being number one in any NRA or NCC Class. We must promote safety for our members and our audience.

Again this is not an anti- gun rule, it is a Safety rule. To protect our Society from unnecessary problems that could arise from one mistake.