

Debutante Planning Guide

Sons of Confederate Veterans, International Convention Planning Committee, March 2013 (revision 3)

Lee Millar, Chief of Protocol

A long and honored tradition of Southern society is the formal presentation of eligible young ladies to society. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, to help instill a positive memorable impression of Southern style and to encourage the maintenance of this heritage and these traditions, includes a debutante presentation and other related functions in the activities of the annual SCV Reunion.

Each Debutante will be formally presented in a ceremony immediately following the Banquet, and prior to the Grand Ball.

These guidelines shall govern the established debutante events and serve as minimum requirements for the Debutante functions. Additional activities, with approval of the Convention Planning Committee, may be added if desired.

Section A. Debutante

1. Qualifications:

A Debutant must be a descendant of a Confederate soldier, never been married or had a child(ren), cannot be engaged, must be between 16-23, be sponsored by a camp or division, and has not been previously presented at a NATIONAL SCV reunion.

It is not required that the father have Confederate lineage, just the deb. In a past case a deb's father was a first generation American, and his parents came from Germany. The mother was from the South and had Confederate ancestors. Dad was an associate member of the camp that was sponsoring her and the brothers were members of the SCV. In another case the dad was not even in the picture for whatever reason and the pastor was the one who had recommended the young lady to participate. If there is a question in this regard, please talk to the Chief of Protocol to make sure there is not a problem with the issue.

2. Registration

The Host Committee will encourage such eligible area young ladies to participate and encourage other area camps to sponsor a deb. The formal deb presentation should not be undertaken if there are not at least two debs.

The committee shall set a minimum fee of \$50.00 for the debutante registration fee, which fee shall go strictly for supporting debutante activities. A higher fee may be set if desired, but the HC should not presume to profit from the debutante activities. A low fee is recommended in order to encourage our young ladies to participate.

It is anticipated that the costs of the debutante activities will far exceed this registration amount and this Reunion feature is simply a required expense for the HC. These costs include, but are not limited to, providing for bouquet, goody bag, special gift (usually pearls), deb luncheon ticket and banquet ticket, and at least one picture from the photographer (and usually the group picture is donated.)

The committee will create a registration form and set an appropriate registration deadline and will include this information in the ads and announcements for the Confederate Veteran, and on a page on the host website.

The deb will fill out and submit the registration form which needs to show her pertinent information (name, address, phone, email, etc) and the number of family members who will attend with her. These other family members will have to actually register separately and pay for any ticketed events that they also wish to attend (i.e. Banquet). The deb should also indicate who her escort shall be for the Presentation and also the Confederate ancestor she wishes to honor.

3. Debutante Narrative.

The deb will write a brief biography of herself with pertinent information that she and her family would like placed in the Deb souvenir booklet, and this should be something that the young ladies are proud of. A shortened version of this bio will also be read by the Master of Ceremonies (MC) at the Saturday night presentation.

The Deb Narratives will be compiled by the Host Committee Debutante Chairwoman, and when completed, a copy of the narratives should be sent out to the debs to be checked and re-checked for accuracy. The chairwoman, with the Host Committee, will coordinate the printing of the Deb Program souvenir booklet. It is recommended that the narratives and photo be printed in the order in which the debs themselves get registered for the Reunion, so as to reward punctuality, (and not necessarily alphabetically). A copy should also be given to the MC and to the SCV HQ Archives.

At the deb luncheon it would prove helpful to have the MC come at the end to make sure that the shorter presentation narrative is correct and the pronunciation of names is right. This is a crucial part of the process. The deb and her family must be satisfied with the narrative and pronunciations. If this is messed up, parents can get very irate.

The shortened deb narrative to be read at the Presentation will consist of name, age, parents, residence (city, state), school/college attending, ancestor (w/ rank, unit), sponsoring camp, name/relation of escort.

The following is an example:

Miss Margaret Ann "Meg" Millar is the eighteen year old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Lee Millar from Memphis, Tennessee. Meg is a freshman at Austin College in Dallas, TX. She honors her Confederate ancestor, Col. John S. Mosby, 43rd Partisan Rangers, "Mosby's Rangers", Virginia Cavalry. Meg is sponsored by the N. B. Forrest SCV Camp #215 of Memphis, Tennessee. Meg is escorted by her father, Lee Millar.
Miss Margaret Ann "Meg" Millar...

Section B. Debutante Events Chairwoman

The Chief of Protocol will, with approval of the CIC, choose a person to serve as deb chairwoman or deb coordinator, and assistant(s), to supervise the functions of the participating debutantes. This person should be familiar with deb activities at previous Reunions and have some knowledge of 1860

Chairwoman Duties:

- When the deb registration form and fee (if assessed) is received, a welcome letter discussing all the debutante details is sent. This letter should reiterate the dress requirements for everyone again and can also include many other smaller details, like if a particular local hairdresser is going to give a percentage off for debs who use that salon. A deb event schedule, if finalized, should be attached. An additional

- At the Ball, make sure the debs are danced with the entire night

Note to Chairwoman: All of these items, above, and following, should be pre-planned and the entire Deb process needs to be worked on in some fashion all year prior to the Reunion. It is recommended that everything be in place no later than Jan 1 of the Reunion year so that the girls can be notified of the deb activities schedule because it takes time for the girls to find a modern dress or have a period dress made for any special activity during the Reunion.

Photographer: it is requested that whatever photographer is employed/contracted/donated for the banquet that he/she can not only do the deb pictures but can also stay for the ball to do

important that the escort makes sure that the deb does not trip, fall or embarrass herself in any way. The MC also goes over their narrative to ensure that his name pronunciation and facts are correct.

Dance Rehearsal:

A dance class for the debs and their escorts should be scheduled sometime during their activities. Many of the dads and uncles may exhibit a bit of awkwardness because they hadn't waltzed in about 25 years. The dance class serves as a refresher so that they don't feel embarrassed when they are the center of attention in the opening waltz with their girl. This also familiarizes the girls, and escorts, with the period 1860 dances, such as the Reel, Promenade, Polka, etc so that they are comfortable and confident when dancing during the Ball.

Banquet and Presentation:

Banquet Seating:

The Chairwoman will work with the Chief of Protocol to ensure that the debs and family members have the proper reserved seating for their party on the center aisle tables (the presentation aisle). The chairwoman and COP should meet the day prior to the Banquet/Ball to review all details. Make sure that the debs are seated and settled prior to the grand procession of officers. Work with the Chief of Protocol and the caterer so that the deb

up) the chairwoman is to line up the debs with their escorts, and in the correct order, and ensure that everything goes smoothly when they are being announced. Tip: It is important to keep the girls calm and laughing. Remind them to not lock their knees and to smile. It is very nerve-racking for many of them because they are not used to being in front of people.

When the MC starts the Presentation ceremony, he may give a brief history of the deb presentation but it is not required. The first deb is to step forward with her escort to the designated spot. Once her narrative is started, she is to start walking slowly and elegantly to the second designated spot in front of the CIC and his wife or date. The deb is to bow to the CIC and he designates if she is to turn to the right or left of him to line up in the front of the room. So on and so forth for the other deb couples. After all have entered and are facing the crowd (society) the debs will be instructed by the MC to all bow and are thus

Keep in mind that there is limited time for this as the debs must be dressed and lined up for the Presentation at the conclusion of the awards.

The main thing that is essential to the deb

Attachment A: Suggested Master of Ceremonies Introduction of the Debutante Presentation

DEBUTANTE PRESENTATION

It is an honor to act as Master of Ceremonies for the [host city] Reunion Sons of Confederate Veterans Debutante Presentations for the year 20??

I would ask that we rise for a brief word of prayer from Chaplain in Chief ???

In a world that delights in attacking the culture of all traditional Western Christian Society it is refreshing that a venerable institution such as the debutante presentation has survived into the 21st Century, yea even thrived.

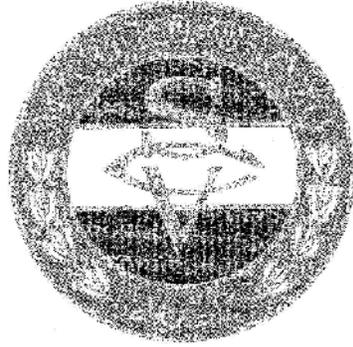
The word

THE BALL COMMITTEE EARNESTLY THANKS : [chairwoman ??]

[if the Ball is in a different room, then the MC announces that the dinner is adjourned and is reconvened in the ballroom. When all are present in the ballroom the MC resumes the deb ceremony by announcing the Deb waltz]

And now the DEBUTANTE

Attachment B: Suggested Debutant Program Booklet, Back Cover



The 20?? SCV National Reunion Committee wishes to thank the debutantes, their sponsors, their families, their friends and their supporters. Without these lovely southern young ladies and the people they hold most dear, an event such as this is impossible.

The 20?? SCV National Reunion Committee wishes to acknowledge Cassie Barrow and her work with the debutantes. Her diligence and tireless effort made this a labor of love. The Committee also wishes to thank the honorable Kirk Lyons as Master of Ceremonies for the Debutante Presentation and the 52nd Regimental String Band for the music and dance for the Grand Ball.

The 20?? SCV National Reunion Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank the [Host] Camp #?? Ladies Committee. Their thoughts, creativity, support and love of the Southern Cause made the difference.

[host] Camp #?? Ladies Committee
Melanie Patterson
Kathy Corley
Debria Beatey
Judi Forbes
Linda Boshers