

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



National Council of Administration Meeting Minutes

10 August 2008

Boston, MA



The Council of Administration meeting was opened by Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert at 8:00 am. The opening prayer was offered by National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll of Council of Administration was called, with the following recorded as present:

Voting Members Present

- Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert Council Member Perley Mellor
- Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Leo F. Kennedy Council Member Henry Shaw
- Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief James S. Hanby Council Member D. Brad Schall
- National Secretary Donald D. Palmer, Jr. Council Member Robert Petrovic
- National Treasurer Max L. Newman PCinC Charles E. Kuhn, Jr.
- National Quartermaster Danny L. Wheeler
- **Council Member Eric Schmincke was excused due to situations at home**

Non-Voting Members Present

- Washington, D.C. Representative Andrew Johnson PCinC Elmer F. Atkinson
- Executive Director Lee F. Walters PCinC Donald E. Darby
- PCinC Charles W. Corfman PCinC James B. Pahl
- PCinC Edward J. Krieser PCinC Richard D. Orr
- PCinC Stephen A. Michaels

Guests of the Council of Administration

- National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski
- PDC Bill Vieira – Dept. of Rhode Island
- PDC Gary Gibson – Dept. of Michigan
- PDC Michael Beard – Dept. of Maryland

Commander-in-Chief Dave Medert opened the meeting by reading a letter from Executive Director Lee Walters tendering his resignation effective 30 September 2008. Brother Walters recommended David Demmy from the Department of Pennsylvania as his replacement. Motion by PCinC Charles Kuhn, second by National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler, to authorize the Commander-in-Chief to advertise the job opportunity. **Motion passed.**

Commander-in-Chief Medert issued the new password to the Council of Administration for the Electronic Boardroom for the 2008-2009 administrative year.

Commander-in-Chief Medert raised a question about the 150 th Council and whether or not the SUVCW should consider joining....or if this Order can join another organization. PCinC Richard Orr indicated that the SUVCW is a founding member of another organization, so there is a precedent.

Commander-in-Chief Medert initiated a discussion about the long range planning initiative and the need to move faster than the two-year deadline recommended by Executive Director Lee Walters. PCinC Charles Kuhn volunteered to serve on committee. PCinC Kuhn was subsequently tasked by the Commander-in-Chief to chair the committee and appoint committee members. PCinC Jim Pahl noted that the first order of business for the committee should be to identify needs and requirements for a new headquarters facility.

The Commander-in-Chief brought up an item discussed at the pre-Encampment Council of Administration meeting associated with reviewing web links for Internal Revenue Service compliance. The Commander-in-Chief forwarded this to the Communications and Technology Committee for action, being of the opinion that it is more appropriate for this committee to handle this action than the National Counselor.

Commander-in-Chief Medert reviewed actions required of the Program and Policy Committee. These included: (1) updated policy regarding the BANNER to be submitted to the Constitution and Regulations Committee by the November Council of Administration meeting; (2) development of a certificate for Associates for review at the November Council meeting; and (3) update Forms 22, 27, 35 and 49 to require copies be sent to the Executive Director and the National Treasurer. National Treasurer Max Newman noted that tax forms must be submitted to the IRS by 31 March. Given this, the Commander-in-Chief tasked the Program and Policy Committee to submit recommendations on updated forms by 01 October.

Commander-in-Chief Medert announced that PCinC Robert Grim was appointed chairman of the Constitution and Regulations Committee. The committee was tasked by the Commander-in-Chief to develop a table of contents for the Constitution and Regulations. PCinC's Richard Orr and Jim Pahl volunteered to develop a list of keywords to support this activity.

Based on the recent attempt at the National Encampment to appeal disciplinary action, Commander-in-Chief Medert noted that there is a need to review the section in the Constitution and Regulations on the appeals process. PCinC Jim Pahl responded that he authored this section and left it somewhat vague intentionally and noted that, in his opinion, the process works. He also acknowledged that, having recently witnessed a case work through the process, the time might be right for a review.

Commander-in-Chief Medert announced the formation of the following two Special Committees:

- **Education and Leadership** – tasked with developing programs and/or material to assist those moving through Camp and Department leadership positions. Those appointed to the committee include PCinC Robert Grim (chair), PCinC Jim Pahl, and PCinC Steve Michaels.
- **Digest** – follow up on Constitution and Regulations Committee recommendations at the National Encampment to incorporate rulings into the Constitution and Regulations as applicable. Those appointed to the committee include PCinC Jim Pahl (chair), PCinC Richard Orr, PCinC Don Darby and Council Member Henry Shaw. Also appointed as Aides to the committee were Gary Gibson from the Department of Michigan and National Historian Robert Wolz.

On the subject of Department Encampments, the Commander-in-Chief urged the Departments to let Chief of Staff Brad Schall know dates and locations as soon as possible so he can lay out his schedule for next year.

Internet application fees – Motion by PCinC Charles Kuhn, second by Junior Vice Commander James Hanby, to keep the internet application fee at \$41. **Motion passed.** PCinC Kuhn followed this action with a motion that dues for those members serving in harms way be waived. Second by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Hanby. **Motion passed.**

Membership-at-Large dues – Motion by National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler, second by PCinC Charles Kuhn, to keep the dues at \$31 per year. **Motion passed.**

Life Member reimbursement – Motion by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief James Hanby, second by PCinC Charles Kuhn, to keep the pre-1996 Life Member reimbursement at \$6. **Motion passed.**

National Secretary Don Palmer brought up the need to review merchandise licenses and noted that he received requests for renewal from most Camps and Departments having had licenses over the past two years. He also received feedback from those organizations not wishing to renew their licenses. Motion by PCinC Charles Kuhn, second by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief James Hanby, to approve the requests from those having had licenses for merchandise over the past two years that wish to renew. **Motion passed.**

PCinC Charles Kuhn announced that the Department of Pennsylvania wishes to obtain a license to produce a banner. An example was presented to the Council. Council Member Robert Petrovic noted that this request conflicts with a banner produced by McCormick Camp #215 in the Department of Missouri that was approved at the 2007 post-Encampment Council meeting. National Secretary Don Palmer noted that a request for renewal was not received from the Camp. Council Member Petrovic offered that the Camp is relatively new and may not have understood the process. PCinC Kuhn, in a demonstration of fraternity, deferred to the McCormick Camp should they decide to continue with the license. Council Member Petrovic volunteered to meet with the McCormick Camp to find out if they intend to renew and report back to the Council of Administration.

PDC Michael Beard from the Department of Maryland presented information on Virginia's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and a request for the SUVCW to join at a cost of \$150 per year.....or if the organization maintains membership through the sesquicentennial, at total commitment of around \$1000. This topic was discussed at length, with inquiries about interest in other state sesquicentennial commissions and the existence (or lack thereof) of a National

sesquicentennial commission. PCinC Kuhn noted that even if other states follow suit, Virginia's would likely be the largest due to their role in the Civil War. PCinC Jim Pahl recommended that the Order take a closer look as there is no urgency to act now. Motion by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief James Hanby, second by National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler, to commit \$150 and join the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission for at least one year. **Motion passed.** National Treasurer Max Newman noted that the \$150 would come out of the Contingency Fund.

PCinC Charles Kuhn passed a letter from the DUVCW to the National Secretary for filing. PCinC Kuhn also inquired about sending a copy of the National Officer and Committee report package from the National Encampment to Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief R. Michael Givens from the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Lt. CinC Givens was impressed with the compilation and wanted to share it with his leadership. Since the reports are a matter of public record, the Council of Administration voiced no objections.

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief James Hanby reported that he received an e-mail from a member of the North Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission stating a desire to have a Union monument on the Bentonville battlefield. There are currently five Confederate monuments located on the battlefield. Commander-in-Chief Medert requested that this inquiry be passed on to the new chairman of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and to the Department of North Carolina for action.

PCinC Richard Orr announced that the records from the National Counselor have been passed on to the Executive Director to take back to the National Headquarters in Harrisburg, PA.

With no further business to come before the Council, Commander-in-Chief Medert asked National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski to provide a closing prayer and subsequently adjourned the meeting at 9:25 am.

Respectfully Submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Donald D. Palmer, Jr., PDC

National Secretary, SUVCW



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