

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

National Council of Administration

Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 13, 2013

Springfield, Illinois

The Council of Administration meeting was opened by Commander-in-Chief Perley Mellor at 7:50 PM. Chaplain Kowolski was absent due to sickness therefore substitute Chaplain Alan Russ provided a moment of prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. CinC Mellor thanked everyone for attending and gave general opening comments.

The National Secretary called the roll and recorded the following members of the Council of Administration and Guests as present:

Voting Members Present:

CinC Perley Mellor	Council Member Bill Vieira (Absent)
SVCinC Kenneth Freshley	Council Member Robert Petrovic
JVCinC Tad Campbell	Council Member Steve Hammond (Excused)
Nat. Secretary Eugene G. Mortorff	Council Member Don Shaw
Nat. Treasurer Richard D. Orr	Council Member Donald Martin
Immediate PCinC Donald D. Palmer Jr.	Nat. Quartermaster Danny Wheeler

Non-Voting Members Present:

PCinC Leo Kennedy	PCinC Jim Pahl
PCinC Stephen Michaels (Banner Editor)	PCinC Ed Kreiser

Guests of the Council of Administration:

David Demmy (Nat. Executive Director)	National Chief of Staff Ed Norris
Henry Shaw (Sons of Veterans Reserve)	Jerome Orton, PDC NY
Alan Russ (Nat. Membership-at-Large)	

Brother Orton (PDC NY) presented to the CinC an original certificate concerning a Past Commander-in-Chief which his wife purchased at a flea market and worded: "State of Ohio, City of Columbus, Supreme Court of Ohio, January Term AD 1909. William M. Coffin was duly examined and regularly admitted to practice as an Attorney and Counselor at Law in any courts of record in the State of Ohio." The Commander-in-Chief thanked Brother Orton.

Action: Given to Executive Director for disposition.

SVCinC Ken Freshley spoke to the CofA about his life changes, including his hospitalization and health issues that resulted in other set-backs and time spent helping family members experiencing difficulties. He acknowledged that his ability to keep up with SUVCW responsibilities has been affected. He has asked for help from others, and is sure that his responsibilities will be completed. He is still working on Proceedings and is about 98 percent complete. He stated that

he expected the project will be completed in the new few weeks. The CinC asked him if he has been using his assistants and he said he was and that things are also settling out for him.

JVCinC Tad Campbell indicated that he had nothing addition to his written report previously submitted. From his report, he wished to highlight that he has had 148 membership applications since our Encampment last August.

National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler reported that his assistant has been helping him well.

National Treasurer Richard Orr gave a presentation on where the Order was on our application for IRS 501c3 status. We are moving right along and the paperwork is finished and being signed by himself and the Commander-in-Chief. Most require notarized signatures. We must register with thirty-nine (39) states and Camps/Departments in order to cover the Camps and Departments who will be under us. He reminded us that an SUVCW organization asking for donations through a website, that is considered by tax courts to be a solicitation "worldwide." There is a possibility that by the Encampment, we could announce that we are IRS approved for 501c3. The normal delay is 1.5 years, however, because of our backing, and the fact we are already 501c4, we may be approved much earlier. Two States require a resolution allowing the organization's Treasurer and Commander-in-Chief to sign the State 501c3 application.

A MOTION by Brother Orr, seconded by Brother Palmer, to adopt a resolution authorizing our Treasurer and Commander-in-Chief to apply for Certificates of Charitable Organization for those two States. PASSED unanimously.

He then provided the members on our current budget status and passed out copies of the Consolidated Balance Sheet for the period ending March 31, 2013 and the FY 2012 final audit and management letter. He also provided a report concerning the successful, audit completed by Abraham & Gaffney, P. C. Though successful, the Treasurer is not happy with how long it took (7 months), or the many mistakes requiring correction or attention by the auditor's employees. He is looking into finding a new Auditing firm that can complete the audit in a more timely and professional, manner. A copy of the audit was presented.

He acknowledged confusion that resulted in Department EIN Reports. It is his desire that Camps and Departments NOT send him their IRS 990Ns. He does not need or want them. The report he requires is the Department's Report containing the Camp EINs, and contact information for the members responsible for filing reports to the IRS (normally the treasurer). A discussion on this issue included the possibility of making a "Department EIN Reporting Form" (referred to Plans and Programs) and resulted in asking the Banner to publish a story in the next edition highlighting this report, explaining what is needed and when to submit it to the National Treasurer

ACTION: Treasurer to write an article on EIN reporting requirements for the Spring edition of The Banner.

An SUVCW proposed investment plan, including brochures and prospectuses was presented. He is proposing we invest our available monies into four (4) different "low risk" bond funds by Lord Abbett:

- Lord Abbett Core Fixed Income Fund
- Lord Abbett Total Return Fund

- Lord Abbett Income Fund

- Lord Abbett Short Duration Income Fund

These will give us a 5 Percent (all things as predicted). Discussion followed, indicating the members preferred a more diversified plan, even if the risk was moderately higher, including individual stocks (such as Disney) that historically provide a handsome return.

A MOTION by Brother Petrovic, seconded by Brother Wheeler, authorizing the National Treasurer to investigate other opportunities, and if found – authorize him to take advantage of the opportunity. PASSED Unanimously.

It was reported in previous minutes that the IRS original 1941 letter authorizing our 501c4 status could not be found. However, our Treasurer, while preparing for our 501c3 status application did run into it and we now have it.

PCinC Jim Pahl volunteered to take on the project of digitizing ALL issues of National Encampment Proceedings into one digital library. He is probably the only individual in the organization hold all of them.

National Secretary Eugene Mortorff had nothing in addition to what was already published in his written report.

National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler discussed the Junior Associate Certificate and indicated there have been requests for a Junior Member Certificate. Discussion ensued in the lines of there is no need for a Junior Member certificate because they can be issued a regular member certificate instead.

He then discussed the JROTC certificates, specifically should the certificates have pre-printed CinC Signatures? Discussion ensued revolving around the merits of this and alternate means of getting signatures on the form.

A MOTION by Brother Petrovic, seconded by Brother Campbell, to not pre-print the signatures, but to send out the blank ones and provide information on persons who can do calligraphy for them. PASSED Unanimously.

Specific changes to the ROTC Certificate Request form were recommended by the National Quartermaster. Discussion followed.

ACTION: Referred to Programs and Policy Committee.

Brother Wheeler also discussed SUVCW Grave Markers being available soon for sale. The mold is being made for coated aluminum markers which will sell for \$18. These should be available through the Quartermaster within 30 days.

Break at 9:35 Reconvened at 9:40 PM

Brother Ed Kreiser discussed the progress of finishing the transcription of the 2012 Proceedings. He is still working on them, but has been delayed due to health concerns. He has been having a difficult time reading due to sight problems caused by fluctuating blood pressure. He is asking for help in finishing them (especially the computer work). Possibly Keith Harrison could help?

ACTION: Brother Jim Pahl will ask Brother Keith Harrison if he could lend a hand on this task.

The Commander-in-Chief made an announcement concerning the committee chairperson of the Vision & Planning Committee resigning due to a difference in agreement with a Sesquicentennial Event decision made by the SES Sub-committee and the Council of Administration. Brother Brian Pierson accepted the Chairperson position. The committee will now move forward.

OFFICER, COMMITTEE and DEPT. COMMANDER RECOMMENDATIONS:
(Paragraphs and page numbers refer to 2013 Springfield CofA Meeting Reports Package)

National Quartermaster Wheeler 2.6.1 Page 9
ACTION: Referred to the Constitution and Regulations Committee

National Executive Director Demmy 2.14.1 Page 13
Currently they use the REGULAR certificate. Brother Wheeler brought a certificate “marked up.” There is no reason to make a new certificate for junior members.
ACTION: Referred to Program & Policies (Junior and Junior Associate Certificates Review)

National Executive Director Demmy 2.14.1 Page 13
ACTION: Referred to Program & Policies

National Chief-of-Staff Norris 3.8.1 Page 15
ACTION: Being Addressed by Brother Pahl’s Special Committee on Regulations

National Chief-of-Staff Norris 3.8.1 Page 15
Brother Orr indicated the reason is they do not have automatic credentials to the National Encampment.
ACTION: Referred to Special Committee on Regulations

National Chief-of-Staff Norris 3.8.1 Page 15
There was a misreading of the regulation. Applies only to elected members – PCinC is an automatic appointment.
ACTION: None required.

National Patriotic Instructor Bates 3.9.1 Page 16
ACTION: Referred to 20/20 Planning Committee (Vision & Planning)

Assistant National Webmaster (Web Ring) Cole 3.27.1 Page 3
ACTION: Resignation accepted and a General Order abolishing the position forthcoming.

National Committee on CW Memorials Busch 4.2 Page 24
ACTION: Referred to Programs and Policies Committee

National Committee on CW Memorials Busch 4.2.1 Page 26

ACTION: Referred to Special Committee on Regulations

National Committee on Comms & Tech Peterson 4.3.1 Page 27

ACTION: Disagree with the assessment. There can be co-chairs.

National Committee on Comms & Tech Peterson 4.3.2 Page 27

ACTION: Referred to Special Committee on Regulations.

National Committee on Fraternal Relations Sayre 4.6.1 Page 29

Much discussion on this as this committee is an ORIGINAL Committee for the SUVCW.

ACTION: Referred to the Constitution & Regulations Committee

National GAR Records Officer Enderlin 4.9.1 Page 30

Brother Orr gave some history (he was an aide to the committee). Brother Freshley indicated there is no problem hosting it. Many comments made on how well this committee worked the task, and constructed the task. This was a true committee effort.

ACTION: A MOTION by Brother Campbell, seconded by Brother ORR that we approve the plan. APPROVED Unanimously.

National Committee on Lincoln Tomb Observance 4.11.1 Page 36

MOLLUS has already concurred on this.

ACTION: Approved.

National Committee on Scholarships Ertel: 4.16.1 & 2 Page 42

ACTION: Referred to the Special Committee on Regulations

Civil War Heritage Defense Fund Kirchner 4.17 & 4.17.1 Pages 43 & 44

ACTION: Referred to the Special Committee on Regulations

Committee on Civil War Memorial Grant Fund 4.18 & 4.18.1 Page 44

ACTION: Referred to the Special Committee on Regulations

Encampment Credentials Committee Busch 5.1.1 Page 45

ACTION: Referred to the Commander-in-Chief.

Encampment Credentials Committee Busch 4.1.2 Page 45

ACTION: Referred to the Special Committee on Regulations

GAR Sesquicentennial Committee Dyer 5.4.1 Page 49

ACTION: Referred to National Webmaster Ken Freshley for action.

Restore memorial Day Committee Peterson 5.6.1 Page 49

ACTION: This is a mixed committee with our Allied Orders. The Commander-in-Chief orders no changes will be made to this Committee at this time.

National Committee on Fundraising Knight 5.8.1 Page 51

ACTION: Commander-in-Chief will take for action separately.

Committee on Vision and Planning LaBrot 5.10.1 Page 51
ACTION: To convert to Standing, it must be done by the Encampment. Referred to Commander-in-Chief for action and he will discuss with Brother LaBrot.

Department of Illinois Jody Switzer 6.7.1 Page 57
ACTION: Already on the internet. Referred to Comms and Technology Committee

Department of Kentucky Bernard O'Bryan 6.11.59 Page 59
ACTION: Already available for a fee. Please contact National Webmaster Freshley.

Department of Missouri Martin Aubuchon 6.15.1 Page 64
ACTIONS:
1-3 These refer to our marketing efforts. Referred to Committee Chair Mark Day
4. No action taken.
5. Currently in process.

Department of Ohio Fredric Lynch
6.21.1 Page 75 **ACTION: Only the Air Force Approves. No Action Taken**
6.21.2 Page 75 **ACTION: No "legal" responsibility. Referred to the Committee**
6.21.3 Page 75 **ACTION: A current plan, and policy, already exists.**
Referred to Brother Bruce Frail

Department of Pennsylvania Rich Essenwein
6.23.1(1) Page 76
ACTION: Recruiting not appropriate as our scholarships are only for current members. Departments can, however, run their own Scholarship programs. Concerning changing the number of scholarships, or the amounts of scholarships, can be adjusted. Referred to the Education Committee.

6.23.1(2) Page 76
ACTION: The National Treasurer will write a story for the Spring Banner.

6.23.1(3) Page 77
ACTION: We already have a blanket policy for National Events. Departments and Camps can get coverage, but they wait to the last minute to complete the paperwork. Departments and Camps must get their requests in early. Costs are reasonable The National Treasurer will write a story for the Spring Banner.

Department of Florida
7.3.1(1) Page 84
ACTION: Done

7.3.1(2) Page 84
ACTION: No action taken.

For the Good of the Order: National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler gave his thanks and appreciation for all the good thoughts and gestures he received while he was under the weather.

Commander-in-Chief Mellor provided his closing comments and our substitute Chaplain Alan Russ provided the blessing.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 PM

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Eugene G. Mortorff, National Secretary, SUVCW