

# **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

## **National Council of Administration**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Sunday, August 14, 2011**

**Reston, Virginia**

The Council of Administration meeting was opened by Commander-in-Chief Donald Palmer at 8:03 AM. Chaplain Kowalski provided a moment of prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. CinC Palmer 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:**

Commander-in-Chief Donald Palmer  
Senior Vice Perley Mellor  
Junior Vice Ken Freshley  
National Secretary Eugene G. Mortorff  
National Treasurer Richard D. Orr  
Immediate Past CinC Brad Schall

Council Member Don Martin  
Council Member Robert Petrovic  
Council Member Steve Hammond  
Council Member Tad D. Campbell  
Nat Quartermaster Danny Wheeler

#### **Non-Voting Members Present:**

PCinC James Pahl  
PCinC Andy Johnson  
PCinC Leo Kennedy  
Exec Director David Demmy Sr.

#### **Guests of the Council of Administration:**

Don Shaw, National Chief of Staff  
Mike Beard, Chair of SES Committee  
Chaplain Kolwalski  
Mike Paquette (Encampment Host Committee)

-Brother Mortorff read correspondence received since our last meeting: Letter from Department of Rhode Island containing two resolutions to be brought up at the 2012 National Encampment in Los Angeles, CA. (Resulted from CofA meeting Thursday, August 11, 2011)

- Conflict of Interest packages were presented to new CofA members Brothers Don Martin, Steve Hammond and National Chief of Staff Don Shaw. They were requested to read, sign and return the attached forms to the National Secretary. (Done)

**Brother Schall, seconded by Brother Orr, moved to have the embroidered PCinC Badge on the yellow PCinC shirt suffice as wearing an actual SUVCW PCinC membership badge.**

#### **Motion Passes.**

(The previous motion was declared Out of Order by Commander-in-Chief Palmer because it was found to be in violation of the SUVCW Regulations. For the record, Past Commander-in-Chief Schall's original intention in making the motion was for CofA meetings only.)

- An appreciation certificate was presented to PCinC Brad Schall for his service as CinC for the 2010-2011 year.
- CinC Don Palmer welcomed the newly elected members of the Council of Administration.
- CinC Don Palmer desires, and will place, special emphasis on the position of National Camp at Large Coordinator (Eric Peterson). A discussion of the status of some camps at large ensued with emphasis on specifically growing the order.
- New Committees:
  - + Vision and Planning Committee: This is, for now, a temporary committee. One purpose is to enforce the Operating Plan. Hopefully next year it will become a Standing Committee. Membership to be determined.
  - + Special Committee on Juniors: This committee will come up with a more comprehensive program for juniors. Specifically a more active program than we currently have to get juniors more involved in the organization. This may possibly involve joint Aux/Sons interaction between the girls and boys. The 1998 Proceedings had a program proposed by PCinC Orr that was never adopted. Discussion ensued. Membership to be determined.
- CinC Palmer led a discussion on the Vision Surveys tool that were completed by the members during the Encampment. There was significant feedback from the membership and the data will be analyzed by National Chief of Staff Don Shaw. Also put out the surveys for other members in the banner or website.
- The National Member at Large will continue as NMAL Coordinator.
- Results of last year's dues increase – Absolutely no loss in membership as a result of the raising of dues last year. Discussion followed.

**Brother Orr, seconded by Brother Petrovic, moved that internet dues and dues for National Membership at Large not change this year. Motion Passed.**

- There was a discussion on the pros and cons of the Life Member reimbursement amount. CinC Palmer created a subcommittee with the following membership to investigate the Life Membership reimbursement problem and make recommendations for action:

Brad Schall (Chair)  
Tad Campbell  
Don Martin

**Brother Orr, seconded by Brother Schall, moved to keep the Life Member reimbursement this year at \$4. Motion Passes.**

**Brother Mellor, seconded by Brother Hammond, to continue to waiving per capita fees for members serving in War Zones.**

- There was a lively discussion on the purpose and procedures for the issuance of the War Medal based on the lengthy comments by many of our members on the floor of the Encampment. No action taken at this time.

- There was a discussion concerning the nuts & bolts aspects of the Signature Sesquicentennial Events approval process. Discussion centered around the lead time required to get the process accomplished. Would it be possible to cut one of the steps? (i.e. Department Approval and/or the CofA Subcommittee).

**Brother Wheeler, seconded by Brother Petrovic, moved to drop the department from the approval process. Motion passes.**

**Brother Petrovic, seconded by Brother Mellor, moved that to be a SES Signature Event a sponsor must have available, onsite, the medals, stamp and passports. Discussion follows. Brother Orr offered an amendment to the motion, accepted by Brother Petrovic, to remove the requirement of the passports. Original motion, as amended, passes.**

**Brother Orr, seconded by Brother Campbell moved that Signature Sesquicentennial Event applications must be submitted to the SES Committee not later than 90 days before the event. Then the SES committee must have them to the CofA SES Sub Committee within 45 days and then they have 15 days to get it to the full CofA. Motion Passes.**

There was a 10 minute break at 9:30

Reconvened at: 9:45

Unfinished Business:

Next year's Budget (2011-2012) was presented by Brother Orr. He provided a line-by-line explanation of the budget.

**Brother Mortorff, seconded by Brother Wheeler, moved to approve the budget as submitted and explained by the treasurer. Motion Passed.**

There was a short discussion on the utilization of the \$5 member application fee.

**Brother Orr, seconded by Brother Mellor, moved that the application fee be split and that \$2.50 be placed in the Senior Vice CinC fund and that \$2.50 be placed in the GAR fund. Motion Passes.**

**Brother Orr, seconded by Brother Mellor, moved to approve engaging Abrahm & Gafney, p.c., of Michigan to perform the SUVCW annual audit for year ending Jun 30 2011. Motion passed.**

**Brother Petrovic, seconded by Brother Schall, moved that the National Treasurer may expend up to 10 percent more than budgeted in any line item of the budget without additional authorization of the Council of Administration. Motion Passes.**

- There was a recommendation made that the Council of Administration consider the authorization of a Medal for the ladies. Discussion followed focusing on criteria for awarding

such a medal and what the rules would be for receiving it? Various ideas about what such a medal would look like (including a possible image of Mary Walker? Mary Tepe?). This recommendation will be referred to the Programs and Policies Committee. Brother Brian Pierson, Department of Georgia and South Carolina, will submit a draft and design to the Programs and Policies Committee.

- There was a discussion on the high attrition rate of our organization. The value of asking why a member joins, and what their expectations are, were examined. Knowing the answer to these questions may help us analyze and redesign our program to align closer to those expectations. Discussion followed. It was decided that JVCinC Ken Freshley will communicate to Camp JVC's through the Department JVC's to have them ask the two questions discussed to every new member that comes into their Camp and document the responses. For every member that drops from the rolls, the two exit interview questions should be asked.

- The Post Office currently being used by the National Headquarters is being closed. Using the newly assigned Post Office (different geographical location) would not require a change in zip code, but may be more inconvenient. There has always been the ability to send mail to the Headquarters by street address and not use a Post Office box. This would save the organization the cost of maintaining a Post Office box. A discussion on closing the Organizations Post Office Box was held. No action taken at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at: 10:35 AM

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Eugene G. Mortorff, DC, National Secretary, SUVCW