

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

## **National Council of Administration**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**April 16, 2011**

**Springfield, Illinois**

The Council of Administration meeting was opened by Commander-in-Chief Brad Schall at 4:50 PM. Brother Perley Mellor provided a moment of prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. CinC Schall thanked everyone for attending and gave general opening comments, including thanking National Officers for covering Department Encampments that he was unable.

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 D. Brad Schall  
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Donald D. Palmer Jr.  
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Perley Mellor  
National Secretary Eugene G. Mortorff  
National Treasurer Richard D. Orr  
National Quartermaster Danny L. Wheeler

Council Member Alan L. Russ  
Council Member Robert Petrovic  
Council Member Ken L. Freshley  
Council Member Tad D. Campbell  
Council Member William C. Vieira  
Immediate PCinC Leo F. Kennedy

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

PCinC James B. Pahl  
Banner Editor Stephen Michaels (PCinC).  
SVR Commanding Officer Robert E. Grim (PCinC)  
Exec Director David Demmy Sr.

PCinC Keith Harrison  
PCinC Ed Krieser  
PCinC Charles Kuhn

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

Assistant Treasurer Max L. Newman

Mr. Mark Thompson - M&T Pub.

A discussion on outstanding Proceedings was held. Distribution of the Proceedings are: Two copies to the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, One to the SUVCW CinC. 2009 and 2010 are finished. 2001-2003 and 2003-2004 will be submitted in abbreviated fashion with the following information: Date, Place and Officers elected. Missing is 1983 -Schlenker, 1986 - Roberts, 1990 - Corfman, 1993 - Atkinson , 1999 - Johnson, 2002 - Powell. Brother Freshley and Brother Mortorff will prepare abbreviated versions and completed the Proceedings requirement by the Reston, VA CofA meeting.

Motion to disapprove the Las Vegas Calendar by Brother Campbell was seconded by Brother Mellor. Discussion followed focusing mostly on the poor quality. We have turned down things in the past if it has our logo on it and it reflects on the national organization. Motion to disapprove passed unanimously.

Brother Orr discussed general budget items including: The IRS Form 990 has been filed. The Vanguard resolution was resolved. The insurance on National Headquarters needs to be renewed

or we need to take out a new policy. It will be possible with the new policy to extend coverage to the Camp level if they agree to pay a premium.

Brother Orr brought up that the SUVCW needs to develop a sexual harassment policy. Discussion ensued. CinC referred to the Program and Policy Committee to develop a Sexual Harassment Policy for the CofA meeting in Reston, VA.

CinC Schall adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.  
CinC Schall Re-Opened the meeting a 7:50 PM.

Visitor Mr. Mark Thompson, President of M&T publishing spoke on a proposal to publish a commemorative book on the History of the SUVCW, or about any subject that we wish. The retail cost of the book would be \$49.95. The book would include biographies. A committee would be required to work with the publisher in the development of this book. No minimum number of books that would be required to be sold or would the SUVCW have any financial commitment whatsoever. Discussion followed. A recommendation was made that if anyone is willing to work on this program they volunteer to the CinC.

A question that has often come up was that of "Where is the SUVCW National Charter, and why isn't it displayed at our National Encampment." Well, this is now not a problem. A special presentation was made to the CinC of a National Organizational Charter by Brother Petrovic.

Report of the National Treasurer:

- QM Sales tax - we must get a temporary vendors license for the Reston National Encampment.
- QM Sales for the GAR SES coins are going well, and have reordered. Next years image will be the WRC Badge on one side and founder Stevenson on the other side. There will be various changes made on each of the six (6) different coins over the sesquicentennial season.
- We are making 20 cents on the ROTC medals after tax - financially it's a wash, but on the 990, we can list it as a program cost and this appears differently to the IRS.
- Policy on bounced checks - we have been getting an increase in these and each one is a \$30 bank Charge to us. Should we charge this fee to the Department Camp?, or Individual? Motion by Orr sec Russ to impose a fee of 30 on a brother, camp or department whose check is returned for any reason. Failure to pay the fee will remove the brother, camp or department from "good standing" and all that implies. Original Motion was changed to impose a fee "equal to." Motion and second withdrawn. CinC refers this to the C&R Committee for consideration and recommendation at the Reston National Encampment.
- A discussion about Paypal sales and non-payment issues. Does this situation result in a "not in good standing" by the member. This issue is referred to the C&R Committee for recommendation at the Reston National Encampment.

Outline for Fundraising (email) - was introduced by Brother Orr. Discussion followed about other methods of raising funds from donors? CinC Referred to the Committee for Long Term Financial Strategy Committee.

There are numerous typographical and transcription errors in the recently completed Blue Book version of the C&R. We need to make sure the language from the old C&R matches the new one. PCinCs Pahl, Orr and Darby will research, review and take care of.

Based on the Auditor's report, over the last few years funds have not been transferred between accounts for a number of years that are needed to sufficiently fund certain accounts. This is

because of paying items out of the general checking account, then not moving money from the affected accounts. PCinC Kennedy moved, and seconded by Brother Mellor, that the following inter-fund transfers be made to correct this situation. Motion passed unanimously:

1. General Fund	to	Permanent Fund	\$30,188.28
2. SVCinC Fund	to	General Fund	\$20,388.28
3. Civil War Mon. Fund	to	General Fund	\$12,934.76
4. General Fund	to	Civil War Heritage Fund	\$ 244.33

A Motion to adopt a policy that all executed contracts must go to the Commander-in-Chief, Executive Director, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Counselor, and other officer or committee chair involved with that contract was made by PCinC Orr and seconded by Brother Mellor. The motion passed unanimously.

The National Treasurer provided a listing of all SUVCW Camps losing their Federal tax exempt status due to not filing the IRS Form 990. The questions arose (and discussed): Should the CinC place these camps in suspension until they have met Federal reporting standards? Also, are members and the Camp to be considered not in good standing? The CinC will issue a General Order concerning these camps and instruct them on what they need to do.

The SUVCW will not renew with our previous insurance company. A new policy application with Philadelphia Insurance Companies was signed by the CinC at the meeting. This new company will provide an opportunity for Camps and Departments to also to get insurance on an event by event basis by application for a separate fee. The new policy does not cover individual National events so we will now have to get insurance, event by event, for Remembrance Day, Any National Encampments and Lincoln Tomb Event.

A discussion on the proposed Graves Database contract was held. Webmaster Freshley was concerned that the contract did not indicate "work in conjunction" with the current webmaster. Otherwise, brother Freshley agrees and recommends it. He also recommended as item 16 consult with the National webmaster and item 8 also be amended that notification be made to the National webmaster. A recommendation to add item 16 that the contractor consult with the National Webmaster in the execution of this contract. Also, add to item 15 - Contractor will provide their EIN number to the National Treasurer and to spell out the database is the property of the SUVCW and that all intellectual rights also belong to the SUVCW. A re-worded contract is to be sent to the National Counselor for review and mark-up, then redirect the contract to the contractor (Bruce Frail) for rewrite and resubmission.

A license requested was re-submitted by Kennesaw mountain Camp #4 for a License Plate. This was originally received, considered and not approved at the Overland Park CofA meeting because the graphics on the plate were not of sufficient quality. After a review and inspection of the submitted plate, a motion by PCinC Kennedy seconded by Brother Mellor to disapprove the license request for the same reason passed unanimously.

The National webmaster provided correspondence from the Library of Congress. They have selected the SUVCW website for inclusion in the historic collection of Internet materials related to the American Civil War Sesquicentennial. They request permission to collect our website and add it to the Library's research collections. Brother Freshley made a motion that the SUVCW

approve the request from the Library of Congress, seconded by Brother Mellor. Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion was held on the multiple email lists in use to contact the members of the Council of Administration. The primary concern was why we have to have two separate lists for non-voting and voting members. It shouldn't make any difference, and tends to keep the non-voting members out of the loop when discussing motions and other SUVCW issues. The CinC directed the National webmaster to create a single CofA Officers list and that it be used in the future.

A recommendation for a Gold Star award for was discussed based on a letter from the Department of Iowa. A Gold Star Award will not be presented, but the member will be awarded the Distinguished Service Award.

Brother Orr made a presentation on a Cemetery managed by a GAR related organization. This cemetery and monument has been discussed in a previous CofA meeting. After discussions with the organization, the SUVCW will reserve our right to the monument, but give up our rights to the land. This includes our ownership of the two canon tubes at the monument. A motion to authorize the CinC to execute the quit claim deed to the GAR Society Plot in Hermosa Cemetery with a restriction on the disposal of the GAR Monument was made by PCinC Orr and seconded by Brother Russ. The Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve an request for a Sesquicentennial Signature Event from Meade Camp #5, Department of Maryland he SES for the Defense of Washington was made by PCinC Kuhn and seconded by Brother Russ. The Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion ensued about what the SUVCW should do with the original paperwork related to application for, and approval of, Sesquicentennial Signature Event paperwork. CinC Brad Schall will look into what the proper disposal of the original paperwork should be.

Other ongoing issues on the SES Event program were discussed:

- SES Medals can be bought by anyone - you don't have to attend an event. However, to buy in bulk rate, you must have a signature event. PCinC Wheeler explained how the medal program works as a fundraiser for the Department and Camps.

- Another issue was units only allowing uniformed members to participate in an event (parade). It was decided that This problem needs to be dealt with locally.

- Should a Memorial service be allowed to be a SES Signature Event? Discussion followed. No formal changes will be made to the directions. - It will be up to the CofA SES Sub-committee to make their recommendations and the COA to approve or disapprove by vote. A motion to approve Programs and Policies revised Application Form for Civil War memorial/Monuments Funds was made by Brother Petrovic, seconded by PCinC Wheeler. One point of discussion was where to send the funds if granted as there was no place on the form for an address. (This will be corrected). The motion passed unanimously.

A lively discussion on The Banner's policy to publish a full page for SUVCW Auxiliary activities. PCinC Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Brother Mellor, to allow The Banner editor to manage the banner. The CinC referred this issue to committee - not vote taken.

A discussion on placing time deadlines for issuing The Banner advertising for certain events. The primary complaint is that The Banner is published two (2) months later than they used to be and don't match national events. PCinC Michael will look into this and make a recommendation.

PCinC Wheeler discussed the impact of increasing postage on the Quartermaster Store. He made a proposal to increase postage from 3 to 5 dollars to cover the tracking costs. The purpose is to reduce complaints of mailing materials in a timely fashion. No proposal is necessary as the National Quartermaster already has authority to raise postage rates as necessary.

Brother Petrovic discussed funding for Lincoln Tomb Day. He, and others, suggested we not make a donation to the Tomb right now because it will go right to the state with no guarantee any of it will support the Tomb. There is a new "foundation" for the tomb that keeps the money at the tomb. A lifetime membership is \$500. Brother Petrovic, seconded by Brother Orr, made a motion to donate \$500 from the GAR fund to purchase a SUVCW lifetime membership. The motion passed unanimously.

Brother Petrovic made an announcement that the SUVCW Foundation now has SUVCW grave markers available for sale at \$20.

PCinC Kuhn made an extensive review of the Remembrance Day event and the problem of meeting the Town of Gettysburg new fee structure for sponsoring the annual SUVCW sponsored parade there. The Town now charges a fee for this activity in the borough that can be as high as 130 percent of city costs. PCinC Kuhn wants a "drop dead" date from the CofA that he can use with the Gettysburg merchants for them to come up with \$1000 showing their commitment to cover the cost of the Borough fees. A motion was made by Brother PCinC Orr, seconded by Brother Petrovic that if we don't have a legally binding agreement with the merchants of Gettysburg to cover all costs of the parade, and they become the applicants of the permit, by the 1st of July, 2011, that we do not have the parade in the Gettysburg borough. The motion passed unanimously.

PCinC Kuhn asked for guidance, or an opinion, on Camps/Departments sponsoring Boy Scout units. No one present knew of any reason why they can't.

Motion by Brother Petrovic, seconded by Brother Vieira to deny approval to digitize the 61 Memorial Officer's forms. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Council, Commander-in-Chief Schall asked Brother Mellor to provide a closing prayer and subsequently adjourned the meeting at 12:26 AM.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Eugene G. Mortorff, DC, National Secretary, SUVCW