

# **Zoom Council of Administration Meeting**

## **March 10, 2024**

Meeting opened at 7 PM. Present at the meeting are:

Voting members C of A:

CinC Peter Hritsko

SVCinC Kevin Martin

JVCinC Kevin Tucker

Treasurer Michael Beard

Secretary Daniel Murray

Quartermaster Robert Welch

Council Robert Payne

Council Shane Milburn

Council Rod Fraser

Council Bruce Frail

Non-voting members C of A:

PCinC Tad Campbell

PCinC Don Darby

PCinC Mark Day

PCinC Ken Freshly

PCinC Stephen Michaels

PCinC James Pahl

PCinC Michael Paquette

Guests:

Jim Crane PDC, Chief of Staff

David Demmy PDC, Executive Director

Susan Mitchell, Assistant Executive Director

The meeting opened with the Chairman of the National Site Committee Michael Paquette discussing forthcoming National Encampments. The next two Encampments in 2024 and 2025 are all set. Respectively they will be in Lexington Kentucky and Houston Texas. The Department of New York was looking at hosting the 2026 National Encampment but has backed out. New York is an expensive state and the best the committee could come up with was \$142 a night per room and the hotel also wanted \$10,000 food and beverage along

with \$2500 to cover the meeting room space. They also wanted \$4100 for AV equipment. With 150 to 160 attendees at the banquet and the SVR breakfast it should cover the food and beverage costs. Once you add in \$4000 for the cost of Encampment badges the host committee would be starting with a \$10,000 deficit to make up. Brother Paquette does not think that the Host Department should cover all of the increased costs and a lot of the smaller Departments probably could not afford to host a National Encampment. He did not think that the \$3500 was inadequate to cover costs and National should pick up the AV and meeting room expenses. He said National negotiates the contract and the Host Committee has no say in what is in the contract.

Brother Pahl brought up how will National raise the money so that more can be given to the Host Department. Discussion ensued on whether National should go to a national chain of hotels and procure a better deal for meeting space. If National picks the place where the Department in that state hosts the National encampment. Ten years ago, multiple Departments would compete to host a National Encampment, now we are lucky if we can get one. An inquiry has been made from the Department of Tennessee about hosting a National Encampment. Hopefully that will be 2026.

Brother Paquette also said we need to reassure the Department's that they will not be on the hook if they go into the red. Discussion ensued on how to cover costs and if National runs it, how are they going to get enough personnel to pull it off. There was talk of raising the registration fee as right now it does not cover the cost of the report packets that are handed out. Nothing needs to be decided tonight but things might change in the next 3 to 5 years and we should be prepared. A discussion will eventually be needed with the Auxiliary about increasing their monetary donations.

Brother Kevin Martin, Chairman of the Policy and Procedures Committee presented the deposit policy agreement and a National policy for vendors at the National Encampment. After presenting the deposit policy agreement, discussion ensued on the wording of the policy and after the revisions, will be presented back to the C of A to vote on. They also would like a form number for this agreement. After discussion on the national policy for vendors at National Encampments, revisions were suggested and when they are done, it will be presented to the C of A for a vote.

Commander Hritsko would like to know the status on General Order 2. The Secretary said there are six Departments who have voted for acceptance and four against.

The bankruptcy of Drupal was discussed. Brother Pahl did not get a response from a bankruptcy attorney in Michigan. Commander Hritsko will form a committee to deal with the Drupal bankruptcy. Brother Frail made a motion for the committee to have \$1000

available to secure a retainer for an attorney, if needed. It was seconded by Brother Payne. The vote was unanimous with 10 yeas.

Good of the Order- Brother Mark Day has asked us to pray for his wife who is in the hospital with pancreatitis.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Murray  
National Secretary  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War