

MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING

November 19, 2023

GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00AM (EDT) by CinC Peter J. Hritsko.
2. Chaplain Kowalski gave the invocation.
3. **Voting Members Present:**
 - CinC Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., PDC
 - SVCinC Kevin L. Martin, PDC
 - JVCinC Kevin P. Tucker, PDC
 - National Secretary Daniel W. Murray, PDC
 - National Treasurer D. Michael Beard, PDC
 - National Quartermaster Robert Welch, PDC
 - CofA Member Shane L. Milburn, PDC
 - CofA Member Robert R. Payne, PDC
 - CofA Roderick Fraser, PCC
4. **Voting Members Absent Excused:**
 - CofA Joseph S Hall Jr, PDC
 - CofA Member Brian C. Pierson, PCinC
 - CofA Member Immed. PCinC Bruce D. Frail, PCinC
5. **Non-Voting Members Present:**
 - National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski
 - Ken L. Freshley, PCinC
 - Don Darby, PCinC
 - Edward Norris, PCinC
 - Michael Paquette, PCinC
 - David Demmy, PDC Executive Director
6. **Guests Present:**
 - James Crane, PDC , Chief of Staff

Additions to the written Officers Reports

Brother Bobby Welch said the Certificates need to be looked at this year so they can be fixed, and the copyright issues taken care of. This was referred to Policy and Procedure.

Brother Demmy reported that we have over 6000 members. Last year at this time we had 5300 members. The last time we were over 6000 members was in 2019. We have had 75 new Life Members this year, last year at this time we had 82 new Life Members for the year 2022.

Brother Pahl stated the fall issue of the banner is out. Articles for the winter issue are due by December 15. He also said as the Constitution and Regulations Editor version C of the 2023 National Regulations will be published shortly.

Brother Tucker has two recommendations from the National Committee on Promotions and Marketing. He would like the committee to be renamed as the National Committee on Promoting the Order. Since it involves an amendment to the Regulations it needs to be done at National

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Encampment. This recommendation was sent to the Constitution and Regulations committee. Brother Tucker also made a motion to produce a media guide for Camps and Departments, such as the one Brother Faron Taylor produced for the Department of Chesapeake, that National can use. It was seconded by Brother Payne. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Brother Paquette, Chairman of the National Site committee is going to Houston Texas to check out two hotels. Hopefully the Department of Texas will do the 2025 National Encampment. The Committee will push for a contract by the end of this year or in early January. The Daughters of Union Veterans 1861 – 1865 would like to do the National Encampment in New York with us. The logistics needs to be worked out between the 2 groups. He also stated that many hotels are now wanting meeting room fees; we may be able to negotiate the fees down. The hotel may be willing to give it up but would increase the food and beverage costs. If the meeting room needs to be paid for, we may have to adjust the \$3500 given to the Host Committee upward to help with the costs. This should not impact either Kentucky or Texas. We should also discuss negotiating with the Auxiliary to increase funding for the National Encampment. We are in negotiations with the Auxiliary for costs for Lexington Kentucky. There was also discussion on putting language in the Constitution and Regulations of the responsibilities for the National Site committee if they need to host a National Encampment

Brother Darby, Chairman of the Special Committee on Membership said that so far seven departments have voted on General Order 2. Three Department's voted to support, and four Department's voted against. At the National Encampment it was voted to continue the Committee for one year. If General Order 2 fails to be ratified will the Committee continue? CinC Hritsko said it is up to the National Encampment to decide whether or not to continue the Committee.

Brother Payne stated that he is contacting the Brothers assigned to the different accounts on the Social Media Committee.

Brother Beard of the Fundraising Committee referred to the letter on page 52 in his report and would like the language of the letter approved by the Council of Administration. The letter was approved unanimously.

Old Business

The letter was sent by Brother Pierson in regard to the removal of the Reconciliation Monument at Arlington National Cemetery. Because of time constraints the letter was not reviewed by the Council of Administration. Because the letter was sent in on time, the SUVCW could change its position in the future. The Committee should be more proactive and report to the Council of Administration before sending any more letters.

CinC Hritsko filed the application for a deed of gift from the General Services Administration and is waiting for them to accept it.

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New Business

Brother Norris would like to submit the proceedings between 1979 – 2010 and 2018 forward electronically. A motion was made by Brother Fraser and seconded by Brother Tucker that proceedings be electronically transmitted; all past due and future proceedings be electronically filed with the Library of Congress. It passed unanimously.

It was recommended by National GRO that the SUVCW remove the requirement that in the headstone policy that the Department or National GRO sign off on every headstone request. The Committee voted on it and it will be removed.

Brother Paquette was contacted by a Past Department Commander concerning the oath taken at installation is different at the Camp and Department level. The concern was following lawful orders is missing from one. After discussion Brother Paquette will get the specifics to the P & P committee.

Brother Beard brought up that we had purchased audio equipment last year and also that a video had been taken at encampment. Brother Beard said that the Council of Administration never discussed whether they wanted to videotape National Encampments, whether they wanted to store National Encampments or for how long that should take place. Brother Beard made a motion that we do not videotape National Encampments. Second by Brother Tucker. After discussion a vote was taken, and the motion was defeated. Brother Beard then made a motion that the order be given to him to purchase SD cards for Brother Vander Muelen to record the proceedings. Second by Brother Payne. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved. Refer issues about video recording the National Encampment to Programs and Policy for a policy on video recording.

“About our Organization” info sheet was brought up. After discussing it, it was referred to Marketing and Promotion.

A National Policy on vendors tables is needed for National Encampments. It was referred to Program and Policy.

The Program and Policy committee is also working on the policy for charters that are to be turned over to National. Some Departments are requesting to loan them out. It cannot be done until there is a policy written for loaning them out. Brother Pahl is working with Program and Policy to development legal documents do two different things, One is for loaning items to museums and other organizations for display and the other is a contract with repositories of records; that organization being allowed to display items that are being deposited with them as a repository.

National Officer assignments were given out for Department Encampments.

Brother Fraser made a motion that after consultation with the Eagle Scout Coordinator the Quartermaster be allowed to put a limit on the number of Eagle Scout certificates ordered at one time. Seconded by Brother Welch. The vote passed unanimously.

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Brother Welch would like a branding guide. The CinC directed that Promotions and Marketing work with him in establishing one.

The benediction was given by the National Chaplain.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Murray

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War