

Letter of Intent for Council of Administration
Gary L. Gibson, PDC
February, 2025

Brothers,

By this letter I hereby place my name for consideration for the Council of Administration, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at the 144th National Encampment at Houston, Texas.

At the age of 13, while being a nosey kid at my grandmother's house, I found the diary of my great-great grandfather, Sgt. Martin F. Horan, Co. H, 4th Michigan Cavalry. This was the spark that propelled me into a life-long interest in the Civil War. The gift of a 4th Michigan Cavalry reunion ribbon at the age of 15 gave me a new perspective on the war – the veterans in their later years, and the Grand Army of the Republic.

I joined the Order in 1978, at the age of 16, as a member-at-large. The last 46 years have led me on a path from my Camp, to my Department, and to the National Organization.

I attended my first National Encampment in 1988. Over the years I have served in six different appointed National Staff positions under ten Commanders-in-Chief, and on several National Committees. I served on the Council of Administration from 1998 to 2001. During that time, I always advocated that every decision made by the Council must be in the best interest of the Camps.

Of all the challenges our Order faces, none is more important than membership. I like to think outside of the box. The possibilities are endless.

We need to continue to embrace the different types of social media, more so than we have, and strive to take full advantage of all it has to offer. By doing so, we can grow and draw younger, life-long members. I would encourage exploring the idea of maintaining a presence on college campuses. Perhaps to the point of establishing Camps as quasi-fraternities.

I have dedicated my life to this organization. You will find no one more devoted. I humbly ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Gibson, PDC
Department of Michigan