

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ONE HUNDRED FORTY-THIRD

ANNUAL NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT



OF THE

SONS OF UNION VETERANS

OF THE CIVIL WAR

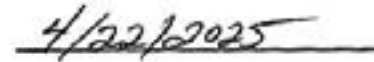
Lexington, Kentucky
August 1-4, 2024

Approvals

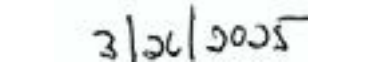
Regulations, Chapter V, General Regulations, Article XVII, Proceedings

The proceedings of each Encampment, when approved by the outgoing and incoming Commander-in-Chief, when published, become the official record of that Encampment.


Peter J. Hritsko, Jr. Commander-in-Chief 2023-2024


Date


Kevin L. Martin, Commander-in-Chief 2024-2025


Date

Library of Congress

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National Encampment Proceedings compiled by John C. Vander Meulen, PCC, and Michael L. Lance, PDC.

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National Officers and Committee Rosters

National Elected Officers

Commander-in-Chief	Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., PDC
Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief	Kevin L. Martin, PDC
Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief	Kevin P. Tucker, PDC
National Secretary	Daniel W. Murray, PDC
National Treasurer	D. Michael Beard, PDC
National Quartermaster	Robert J. Welch, DC

Council of Administration (Voting)

Council of Administration (Outgoing CinC)	Bruce D. Frail, PCinC
Council of Administration (2024)	Joseph S. Hall Jr, PDC
Council of Administration (2024)	Shane L. Milburn, PDC
Council of Administration (2025)	Robert R. Payne, PDC
Council of Administration	Brian C. Pierson, PCinC
Council of Administration (2026).....	Roderick J. Fraser, Jr., DC

Council of Administration (Non-Voting)

Banner Editor	James B. Pahl, PCinC
National Signals Officer	Timothy McCoy, PDC

National Headquarters

Executive Director	David W. Demmy, Sr.
Assistant Executive Director	Susan W. Mitchell

National Appointed Officers

National Aide-de-Camp	W. Faron Taylor, PDC
National Organization Expansion Officer	John T. Buckler
National Chaplain	Jerome W. Kowalski
National Chief-of-Staff	James T. Crane, PDC
National Civil War Memorials Officer	Walter E. Busch, PDC
National Color Bearer	Shane L. Milburn, PDC
National Counselor	Donald E. Darby, PCinC
Assistant National Counselor	Ken L. Freshley, PCinC
Banner Editor	James B. Pahl, PCinC
Blue Book Coordinator	James B. Pahl, PCinC
National Eagle Scout Coordinator	Michael A. Spaulding, PDC
National GAR Highway Officer	Peter J. Hritsko, CinC
National GAR Records Officer	Dean A. Enderlin, PDC

National Graves Registration Officer	Henry C. Duquette, PDC
National Guard	Edward J. Dowd
National Guide	John M. Huffman, Jr., PDC
National Historian	Gary L. Gibson, PDC
National Liaison to Cathedral of the Pines	Perley Mellor, PCinC
National Liaison to MOLLUS	Ken L. Freshley, PCinC
National Membership-at-Large Coordinator	Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC
National Parliamentarian	James B. Pahl, PCinC
National Patriotic Instructor	Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
National Signals Officer	Timothy McCoy, PDC
National Legislation Officer	Daniel R. Earl, PDC
Washington DC Representative	Roger Leturno, PDC
National Webmaster (Home)	Robert R. Payne, PDC
National Webmaster (Quartermaster Store)	Ken L. Freshley, PCinC
National Webmaster (Memorial University)	Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
National Webmaster (Monuments & Memorials)	Sumner Hunnewell, PDC
National Webmaster (Graves Registration Database)	Henry C. Duquette, PDC
Assistant National Secretary, Dept-at-Large Secr./Treasurer	James B. Pahl, PCinC
Assistant National Secretary (Proceedings)	John C. Vander Meulen
Assistant National Secretary (Proceedings) Aide	Sumner Hunnewell, PDC
Assistant National Treasurer 1	James B. Pahl, PCinC
Assistant National Treasurer 2	Michael A. Paquette, PCinC
Assistant National Treasurer 3	Danny L. Wheeler, PCinC
Assistant National Quartermaster	Brian J. Mexin
National Battlefield Preservation Officer	Edward J. Norris, PCinC
National ROTC Coordinator	Brian J. Mexin

2023-2024 National Committee Rosters

National Committee on Program & Policy

Chair (<i>ex officio</i>)	Kevin L. Martin, PDC
Member	Robert R. Payne, PDC (2026)
Member	Benjamin J. Frail, PDC (2025)
Member	W. Faron Taylor, PDC (2024)
Member	Leo F. Kennedy, PCinC (2027)

National Committee on Civil War Memorials

Chair (<i>ex officio</i>)	Walter E. Busch, PDC
Member	Mike Flynn, DC
Member	Dean A. Enderlin, PDC
Member	Kevin P. Tucker, PDC
Member	Jay Rarick, PDC
Aide	Tom Gaard
Aide	Dale E. Crandell, PDC

National Committee on Communication & Technology

Chair	Timothy McCoy, PDC
Member	Ken L. Freshley, PCinC
Member	Robert R. Payne, PDC
Member	John C. Vander Meulen
Member	Sumner Hunnewell, PDC
Aide	Henry C. Duquette, PDC

National Committee on Constitution & Regulations

Chair	Donald E. Darby, PCinC (2025)
Member (<i>ex officio</i>)	Bruce D. Frail, PCinC
Member	Shane L. Milburn, PDC (2025)
Member	Alan L. Russ, PDC (2024)
Member	Daniel R. Earl, PDC (2024)

National Committee on Encampment Credentials

Chair	Daryl V. VerStreate Jr., PDC
Member	Walter E. Busch, PDC
Member	Thomas J. Brown, PDC
Member	Cameron Lowery

National Encampment Site Committee

Chair	Michael A. Paquette, PCinC
Member	James T. Crane, PDC

National Committee on Fraternal Relations

Chair	Brian C. Pierson, PCinC
Member	John M. Huffman, Jr., PDC
Member	Frank C. Avilla, PDC
Member	Michael D. Rusk
Member	Jerome W. Kowalski

National Committee on Grand Army of the Republic Post Records

Chair	Dean A. Enderlin, PDC
Member	Glenn B. Knight, PDC
Member	Jeffery L. Vaillant
Member	Ernest E. Blevins
Member	Walter E. Busch, PDC
Aide	D. Brad Schall, PCinC
Aide	Robert J. Wolz, PCinC

National Committee on Graves Registration

Chair (<i>ex officio</i>)	Henry C. Duquette, PDC
Member	Tom Mueller (2024)
Member	William E. Fisher, Jr., DC (2024)
Member	David Tschanz (2025)
Member	Dennis J. Duffy (2025)

National Committee on History

Chair	Gary L. Gibson, PDC
Member	Robert J. Wolz, PCinC
Member	Gordon R. Bury II, PCinC
Member	Ernest E. Blevins
Member	Daryl V. VerStrete Jr., PDC

National Committee on Lincoln Tomb Observance

Chair	Robert M. Petrovic, PDC
Member	Jerome W. Kowalski
Member	Nicholas H. Kaup
Member	Robert Welch, DC

National Committee on Membership

Chair	Kevin P. Tucker, PDC (JVCinC)
Member	John T. Buckler
Member	All Dept & Camp-at-Large JVCs

National Military Affairs Committee

Chair	Ken L. Freshley, PCinC (2026)
Member	Donald E. Darby, PCinC (2025)
Member	Shane L. Milburn, PDC (2026)
Member	Alan J. Teller, PDC (2025)
Member	John M. Huffman, Jr, PDC (2025)
Member	Donald L. Martin, PCinC (2025)

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National Committee on Civil War Grant Fund

Chair	Shane L. Milburn, PDC
Member	Joseph S. Hall Jr., PDC
Member	Brian C. Pierson, PCinC
Aide	Walter E. Busch, PDC

National Committee on eBay Surveillance

Chair	Terry McKinch, PDC
Member	James R. Dixon
Member	George E. Maple Jr., PDC
Member	Jeffrey Graf, PDC
Member	Gary A. Ward, PDC
Member	Larry A. Williams, PDC

National Committee on Scholarships

Chair	Donald L. Martin, PCinC
Member	John M. Huffman, Jr., PDC
Member	Brian D. McManus, PDC
Member	Garry W. Brewer, PDC
Member	Ken L. Freshley, PCinC

National Committee on Promotions & Marketing

Chair	Kevin P. Tucker, PDC
Member	Roderick J. Fraser, Jr., DC
Member	David Jones, PDC
Member	W. Faron Taylor, PDC
Member	Michael A. Spaulding, PDC
Member	D. Michael Beard, PDC
Aide	William E. Johnson, Jr.
Aide	John C. Vander Meulen

National Committee on Vision & Planning

Chair	Donald D. Palmer, Jr., PCinC
Member	Leo F. Kennedy, PCinC
Member	D. Michael Beard, PDC
Member	David Jones, PDC
Member	Henry C. Duquette, PDC
Member	Michael A. Spaulding, PDC

National Committee on Real Sons & Daughters

Chair	Jerome L. Orton, PDC
Member	E. Donald Wilt
Member	Dennis St. Andrew, PDC
Member	Jerome W. Kowalski
Member	D. Michael Beard, PDC

National Special Committee on Social Media Management (2024)

Chair	Benjamin J. Frail, PDC
Chair	Robert R. Payne, PDC
Member	John C. Vander Meulen
Member	Barrett E. Young
Member	George A. Huttick, PDC

National Special Committee on Veterans of Wars of the United States (2028)

Chair	Dexter A. Bishop, PDC
Member	Robert J. Welch, DC
Member	James T. Crane, PDC
Member	Roderick J. Fraser, Jr., DC
Member	Lloyd D. Lamphere, Jr., PDC

National Special Committee on Headquarters Planning (2026)

Chair	Bruce D. Frail, PCinC
Member	William E. Fisher, Jr., DC
Member	David W. Demmy Sr.
Member	Dane A. DiFebo, PDC
Member	Bryan Sigmund

National Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the United States of America (2026)

Chair	Ben Black Jones II, PDC
Member	Ben Hobbins
Member	Brian C. Pierson, PCinC
Member	Mark A. Hale, PDC
Member	Sumner Hunnewell, PDC
Member	Bruce D. Frail, PCinC
Aide	Benjamin J. Frail, PDC

National Special Committee on Memorial University (2027)

Chair	Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
Member	Stephen A. Michaels, PCinC
Member	Kent A. Peterson, PDC
Member	John C. Vander Meulen
Member	Bruce D. Frail, PCinC
Aide	Todd Bryda

National Special Committee on Fundraising (2027)

Chair	Dave K. Hann, PDC
Member	Donald E. Darby, PCinC
Member	Kevin P. Tucker, PDC
Member	Donald L. Gates, PDC
Member	D. Michael Beard, PDC

National Special Committee on Reviewing Membership Qualifications (2024)

Chair	Donald E. Darby, PCinC
Member	Bruce D. Frail, PCinC
Member	Timothy M. Kolb, PDC
Member	Ben Block Jones II, PDC
Member	Kevin P. Tucker, PDC
Member	Donald E. Darby, PCinC

National CinC Appointed Committee on Chaplain Affairs

Chair	Jerome W. Kowalski
Member	All Department Chaplains

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr.

Commander-in-Chief

2023-2024

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr. of Vermilion, Ohio, was elected Commander-in-Chief at the 137th National Encampment of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* in Nashua, New Hampshire on August 5, 2023. He is the 18th Ohioan to serve as Commander-in-Chief, and the second Commander-in-Chief of Ohio to be elected at Nashua, New Hampshire.

Brother Hritsko is the son of Peter J. Sr. and Rosemary Hritsko. His father was a U.S. Army Combat Soldier during World War II, serving in the European Theater as part of the 4th Infantry Ivy Division and 70th Infantry Trailblazers Division. Brother Hritsko graduated from Lorain Admiral King High School in 1977.



CinC Peter J. Hritsko, Jr.

After graduation, Brother Hritsko attended Lorain County Community College until a job opened up at U.S. Steel, where his father and grandfather worked and retired as Engineers. He followed his new career path as a third generation steel worker - which eventually came to be 44 years at U.S. Steel, USS/Kobe Steel Co., and Republic Steel Co. in Lorain, Ohio. Currently, he has the same position and works in the Mechanical Maintenance Department with Arcelor Mittal Cleveland Ohio, now called Cleveland Cliffs. Cleveland Cliffs is the largest flat-rolled steel company and raw materials in the United States, and is U.S. owned.

In 2006, Brother Hritsko became a member of *James A. Garfield Camp #142, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* in Cleveland, Ohio. His membership is through his great-great-grandfather, 1st Lt. Elijah Hayden, Commander of *Co. H, 8th O.V.I.*, who led the skirmish line during Pickett's Charge, and was killed in action on July 3, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The monument to the 8th O.V.I. was placed not far from the Albert Woolson monument. Elijah's body was brought back to his hometown of Elyria, Ohio two weeks after the battle, and buried in Ridgelawn Cemetery in Elyria. *Elijah Hayden GAR Post #49, Grand Army of the Republic* of Elyria was named after him.

As a member of the *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, Brother Hritsko served as Junior, Senior and Camp Commander for four years, and was on the Camp Council for eight years.

At the Department level, from 2009 to present, Commander-in-Chief Hritsko has served in the positions of *G.A.R. Highway Officer*, Council, Junior and Senior Vice-Commander, and was elected Ohio Department Commander for 2016.

At the National level, Commander-in-Chief Hritsko has served as *G.A.R.* Highway Officer since 2013 to present, a full three-year term as an elected member of the National Council of Administration, and as Junior and Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

Since 2010, Commander-in-Chief Hritsko has also been a member of the *Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR)*, *Ohio Naval Brigade*, as a Petty Officer, and as of March 26, 2021, was promoted to serve as Adjutant Ensign Officer of the *Ohio Naval Brigade*.

He is also a member of the *Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS)*, having served five years as Senior Vice-Commander and Past Commander of the Ohio Commandery for two years. In addition, he is Past National Council-in-Chief of *MOLLUS*, and currently a Companion of the *Michigan Commandery*.

Commander-in-Chief Hritsko is married to his wife, Judy, and they have one adult son, Patrick. Judy is active in the local *ASUVCW*, where she is a Past President of the *Eliza Garfield #142 Auxiliary* of Cleveland, Ohio. She additionally serves as National Junior Vice-President of *Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States (DOLLUS)*. Peter and Judy Hritsko enjoy and share many of the same interests.

"I'm honored to keep Elijah's memory alive, and for all the memories and friends made through the years being involved with the Sons - and the path it has led me in Sons of Union Veterans to serving as Commander-in-Chief."

2024 National Encampment

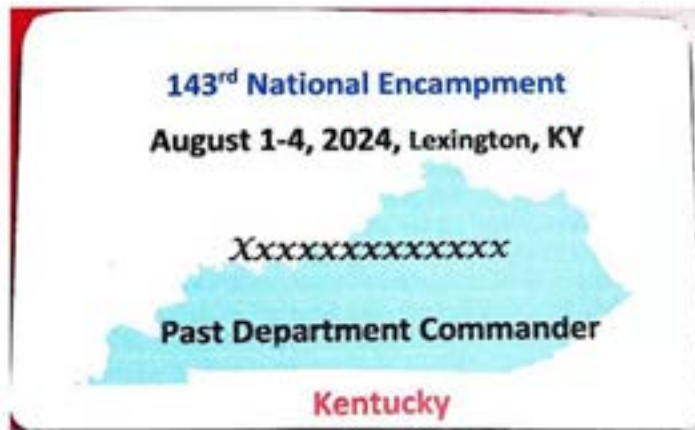
Ribbons, Badges, Programs, Etc.

**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Name Tag and Ribbon

The name tag with attached ribbon was given to all Brothers who attended the National Encampment.

NAME TAG



RIBBON



**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Badges

Below are images of the National Encampment Badges.

**DELEGATE BADGE
Obverse**



**DELEGATE BADGE
Reverse**



**SOUVENIR BADGE
Obverse**



**SOUVENIR BADGE
Reverse**



**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Joint Memorial Service Program

**143rd National Encampment
of
The Allied Orders
of the
Grand Army of the Republic**

**Joint Memorial Service
8 a.m. Friday August 2, 2024**

**Lexington, KY
Campbell House**



Peter J. Hritsko, SUVCW Commander in Chief

Sue Freshley, ASUVCW National President

**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Joint Memorial Service Program

(continued)

Processional/ Introduction of Officers

Judy Hritsko, ASUVCW National Personal Aide
James Crane, National Chief of Staff SUVCW

Invocation- Jerome Kowalski, National Chaplain

Prayer- Shari Milburn, National Chaplain ASUVCW

Draping of the Charter and Lighting of Candles

Shari Milburn, National Chaplain ASUVCW

Jerome Kowalski, National Chaplain SUVCW

Sue Freshley, National President ASUVCW

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr. SUVCW

Nearer my God to thee

"Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee;
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone
down, Darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
Yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to Thee;
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

There let the way appear, steps unto
heaven; All that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
Angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to Thee;
Nearer, my God, to Thee,

Then, with my waking thoughts bright with
thy praise, Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
So by my woes to be nearer, my God, to Thee;
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly, still all my
song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee; Nearer, my
God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Joint Memorial Service Program

(continued)

Reading

Shari Milburn, National Chaplain ASUVCW

Scripture

Jerome Kowalski, National Chaplain SUVCW

Eulogy

PCinC Eugene Mortorff, by PCinC Mike Paquette.

Reading and Prayers

Shari Milburn, National Chaplain ASUVCW



**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Joint Memorial Service Program

(continued)

<u>Dept</u>	<u>Deceased Name</u>
California & Pac - NV HI	
	Campbell, Howard Dale
	Kadlec, Robert J
	Dunphy, Kurtis Frederick
	Kennelley, Christopher S
Chesapeake - VA WV DE MD	
	Mortorff PCinC, Eugene G
	Reynolds, Albert A
	Hawley, Charles Benjamin
	Kottemann, Richard H
	Wachob, James Roy
	Winkler, David
Colorado & WY - ID MT UT	
	Buvinger, William Edward
	Parrott, Gary Eugene
Connecticut	
	DeForest, Robert W
Florida	
	Beyer Sr, Richard Paul
	Elam, Dwight Donald
Georgia & South Carolina	
	Wozniak, Raymond Lawrence
	Miller, Robert J
	Wozniak, Raymond L

**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Joint Memorial Service Program

(continued)

<u>Dept</u>	<u>Deceased Name</u>
Illinois	Wayne Crosby Close Jacobsen, Robert Hales, Dana R Kinney, Lionel L Jones, Preston Michael Wildermuth, David C Barr Jr, James Falvy
Indiana	Reed, Neil L Robinson, Jack Ray Prebeck, Michael Alan Lancaster, Ivan D
Kansas	Bradley, James E Taylor, Loren L
Kentucky	McLaughlin, Arthur Lee Lucas, Tracy Orbach, Robert
Maine	Runnels, Charles A
Massachusetts	Kemp, Eugene Elliott Rhodes, Bruce Emory Stephen Twining
Michigan	Giegerich, William Ware Sible Sr, Lamont Gene Willett, Dale Edward Willett, Dale Edward Culbert, Mark Anthony Danes Sr, Richard E

**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Joint Memorial Service Program

(continued)

Missouri [includes Arkansas]

Taylor III, Emmett P

National Members at Large

Fidler, Douglas K

New Hampshire

Duckoff, Richard Perkins

New Jersey

Wiley, Norman

Jordan, Matthew J.

Atno, Winfield Joseph

Freese Rev., Fredric Allan

New York

McFarland, Warren C

Gable, Walter James

Cooney, Paul F

Keough, Robert P

North Carolina

Gibson, Edward Charles

Ohio

Nagel, Raymond C

Haudenschild, Richard Ivan

Litzenberg, James Allan

Lynch, Fredric Chatfield

Graham, Tim

Pennsylvania

Edwards, Thomas L

Schmincke PDC 05 06, Eric J

Snyder, David Wenger

Long, Richard R

Hart Jr, John M

Mostoller, Earl James

Klinepeter PCC, David J

Achorn Jr, George S

Houston, Leon W

Purcell, Timothy Patrick

Farr Jr, Alfred Lester

Cashin, Daniel John

**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Joint Memorial Service Program

(continued)

Pennsylvania

Owen, Arnold C
Miller, Robert J
Inman, Donald Robert

Rhode Island

Normand, Stephen C

Southwest - AZ NM

Fox, Charles Jay
Parker, Reginald Paul
Irwin, Robert Burl
McCarthy, Eugene Victor

Tennessee incl MS

Crain, Steven Lee
Fidler PHD USAF Ret, Douglas Kevin

Texas includes LA

Bierman, Michael Eugene

Wisconsin & Minnesota

Thielmann, John Walter
Minnick, Glenn Franklyn
Keith, Samuel Martin

ASUVCW

<u>Dept</u>	<u>Sister</u>
PA	Norma Reese
CHES	Ellie Leonard
NE	Barbara Creed
IA	Deb Bailey Carr

**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Joint Memorial Service Program

(continued)

The Vacant Chair

We shall meet, but we shall miss him. You'll be one vacant chair. We shall linger to caress him while we breathe our evening prayer. When a year ago we gathered, Joy was in his mild blue eye; But a golden cord is severed, and our hopes In ruins lie.

Chorus.

We shall meet. But we shall miss him. There will be one vacant chair.
We shall linger to caress him, While we breathe our evening prayer.

True, they tell us, wreaths of glory, evermore will deck his brow,
But this issues the anguish only, Weeping o'er the heartstrings now.
Sleep today O early fallen! In thy green and narrow bed; dirges from the pine and cypress mingle with the tears we shed.

Extinguishing of candles

Sue Freshley, National President ASUVCW
Peter J Hritsko, Commander in Chief SUVCW

Encampment Instructions

James Crane, National Chief of Staff SUVCW
(please stay seated until Guest Speaker is finished)

**2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky**

Challenge Coin

Obverse

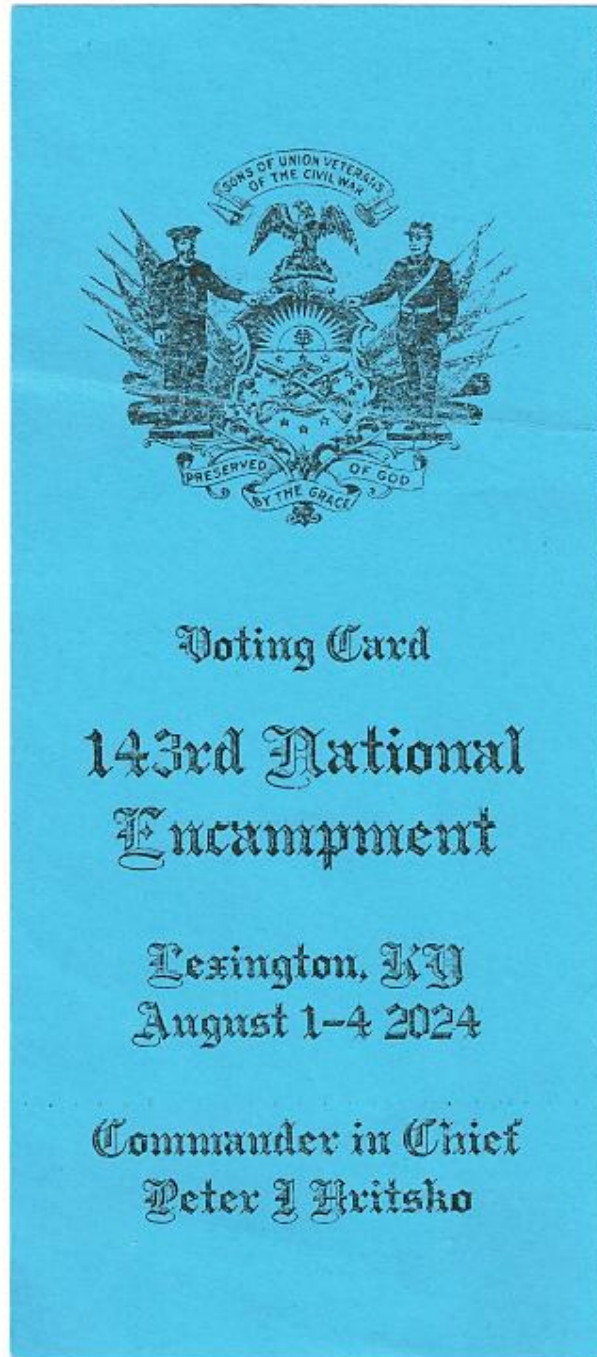


Reverse



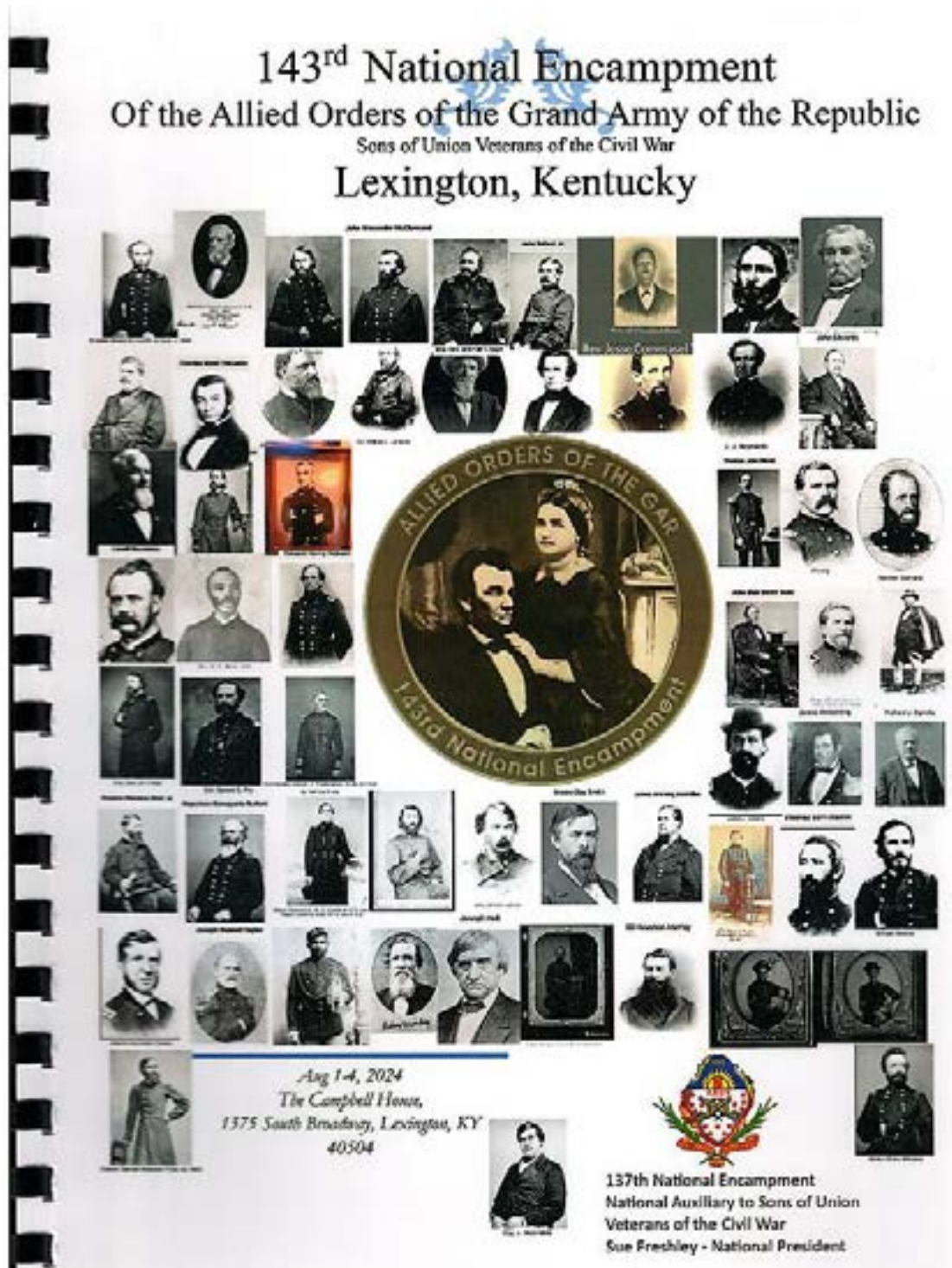
2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky

Voting Card



2024 National Encampment
Lexington, Kentucky

Program Book



143rd National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Lexington, Kentucky – August 1-4, 2024

143rd National Encampment Transcript

First Session - Friday Morning

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Officers and members of the 143rd Annual Encampment of the National Organization, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, will now come to order.

I appoint the following Brothers as Encampment officers: Brother John Huffman will be the Guide; Brother Ed Dowd will be the Guard; Brother Past Commander-in-Chief, James Pahl will be the Parliamentarian.

Guide, determine if all present are entitled to remain. Color Bearers, assist on the right.

All right. Thank you.

The National Secretary, Brother Murray, will call the roll of officers of the Encampment.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Commander-in-Chief, Peter Hritsko.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Kevin Martin.

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Kevin Tucker.

Kevin P. Tucker Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Secretary, Daniel Murray. Present.

National Treasurer, Michael Beard.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Quartermaster, Robert Welch.

Robert Welch, National Quartermaster

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Council of Administration, outgoing CinC, Bruce Frail.

Peter J. Hritsko Jr. Commander-in-Chief

Excused.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Council of Administration, Roderick Fraser.

Roderick J. Fraser, Jr., Council of Administration

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Council of Administration, Joseph Hall.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Not Excused

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Council of Administration, Shane Milburn.

Shane L. Milburn, Council of Administration

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Council of Administration, Brian Pierson.

Brian C. Pierson, Council of Administration, Past Commander-in-Chief

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Council of Administration, Robert Payne.

Robert R. Payne, Council of Administration

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Banner Editor, James Pahl

James B. Pahl, *Banner* Editor, Past Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Signals Officer, Tim McCoy

[no response.]

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

I mean, do they want me to read all of it?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yep.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Okay.

Executive Director, David Demmy.

David W. Demmy, Sr., Executive Director

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant Executive Director, Susan Mitchell.

[no response.]

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Aide-de-Camp, Faron Taylor.

W. Faron Taylor, National Aide-de-Camp

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Organization Expansion Officer, John Buckler.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Excused

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Chaplain, Jerome Kowalski.

Jerome W. Kowalski, National Chaplain

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Chief-of-Staff, Jim Crane.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Civil War Memorials Officer, Walter Busch.

Walter E. Busch, National Civil War Memorial Officer

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Color Bearer, Shane Milburn.

Shane L. Milburn, National Color Bearer

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Counselor, Donald Darby.

Donald Darby, National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief

I am.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant National Counselor, Ken Freshley.

Ken L. Freshley, Assistant National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Banner Editor, James Pahl.

James B. Pahl, *Banner* Editor, Past Commander-in-Chief

Already here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

All right.

Blue Book Coordinator, James Pahl.

James B. Pahl, Blue Book Coordinator, Past Commander-in-Chief

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Eagle Scout Coordinator, Michael Spaulding.

Michael A. Spaulding, National Eagle Scout Coordinator

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National GAR Highway Officer, Peter Hritsko.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National GAR Records Officer, Dean Enderlin.

Dean A. Enderlin, National GAR Records Officer

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Graves Registration Officer, Henry Duquette.

Henry C. Duquette, National Graves Registration Officer

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Guard, Edward Dowd.

Edward Dowd, National Guard

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Guide, John Huffman.

John M. Huffman, Jr., National Guide

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Historian, Gary Gibson.

Gary L. Gibson, National Historian

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Liaison, Cathedral of the Pines, Perley Mellor.

[no response.]

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Liaison MOLLUS, Ken Freshley.

Ken L. Freshley, National Liaison MOLLUS, Past Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Membership-at-Large Coordinator, Rocky Bartlow

Rocky L. Bartlow, National Membership-at-Large Coordinator

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Co-Parliamentarian, James Pahl.

James B. Pahl, Co-Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Patriotic Instructor, Tad Campbell.

Tad D. Campbell, National Patriotic Instructor, Past Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Signals Officer, Tim McCoy.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Excused.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Excused.

National Legislation Officer, Daniel Earl.

[no response.]

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Washington, D.C. Representative, Roger Leturno.

[no response.]

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant National Web... National Webmaster-Home, Robert Payne.

Robert R. Payne, National Webmaster-Home

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant National Webmaster, Ken Freshley.

Ken L. Freshley, Assistant National Webmaster, Past Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Webmaster-Quartermaster Store, Ken Freshley.

Don Darby, PC-in-C, National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief

He's still here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Yeah, he's still here.

National Webmaster-Memorial University. It was Bruce Frail. Is it...

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Tad Campbell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Tad Campbell.

Tad D. Campbell, National Webmaster-Memorial University, Past Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Webmaster-Monuments and Memorials, Sumner Hunnewell.

[no response.]

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Webmaster-Graves Registration Database, Henry Duquette.

Henry C. Duquette, National Webmaster-Graves Registration Database

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant National Secretary, Department-at-Large Secretary/Treasurer, James Pahl.

James B. Pahl, Ass't Nat'l Secr. Department-at-Large Secr/Treas., Past Commander-in-Chief

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant National Secretary (Proceedings), John Vander Meulen.

John C. Vander Meulen, Assistant National Secretary (Proceedings)

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant National Secretary (Proceedings) Aide, Sumner Hunnewell.

[no response.]

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant National Treasurer, James Pahl.

James B. Pahl, Assistant National Treasurer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Here.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant National Treasurer, Danny Wheeler

[no response.]

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant National Treasurer, Michael Paquette.

Michael A. Paquette, Assistant National Treasurer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Present.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Assistant National Quartermaster, Brian Mexin.

[no response.]

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National Battlefield Preservation Officer, Edward Norris.

Edward J. Norris, National Battlefield Preservation Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Present

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

National ROTC Coordinator, Brian Mexin.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Excused.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Sir, the roll is called.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you.

Brothers, upon what principles is our order founded, and what duties do we inculcate?

Encampment

Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brothers, we meet again as the Sons of Union Veterans in the annual session to review the work of the past and plan for the future. May our conduct and our deliberations be marked by mutual tolerance, fraternal courtesy, keeping in mind our duty to our country, to our Order, and to ourselves. Chaplain Kowalski, will you please invoke the Divine blessing?

[three raps, ***]

Jerome W. Kowalski, National Chaplain

Our Heavenly Father, the High and Mighty Ruler of the universe, who looks down upon the government of men, we earnestly ask Your favor to bless our native land and preserve in purity and integrity it's free institutions for all coming time.

Bless our Order. Grant that it may long exist; that it may continue to be an instrument of great good to all. Give us willing hands and ready hearts to carry out properly its principles and objects. Keep green in our minds the memory of those who sacrificed so much that the life of the nation might be preserved, and deal with them in all things with Your special mercy.

Give us Your aid in conducting the business for which we are assembled, and so bless us that Charity and Justice, Peace, and Harmony shall remain and flow from us. If you agree with me, say, "Amen".

National Encampment

Amen.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Color Bearers, present the colors.

The National Patriotic Instructor, Past Commander-in-Chief, Tad Campbell, will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Encampment

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands; one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

By virtue of the authority vested in me as the Commander-in-Chief, I hereby declare the 143rd Annual Encampment of the National Organization, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, duly open for transaction of such business and may legally and properly come before it. The Guard will admit all Brothers qualified to enter.

The rules of the Encampment are:

Deliberation will be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*. Rules may be suspended by two-thirds vote of the Encampment body presented and voting.

With the exception of the Commander-in-Chief, the Office and Committee Chairmen shall not read their report but shall submit their written reports to that National Secretary when called upon. They shall approach the microphone, identify themselves, state the page in the report package where their report may be found, read any corrections and/or additions to the report.

As a reminder, by the vote of the previous National Encampment, Departments who have failed to submit their written reports are not permitted to give a report on the floor.

While speaking on any issue before the Encampment, no person shall speak more than twice to each issue, each time not to exceed five minutes. Exceptions may be granted by two thirds of the vote of the Encampment body present and voting.

Persons making a motion may answer the question and use up to two minutes to close the debate, which privilege shall not be canceled by action order by the previous question.

The Commander-in-Chief reserves the right to limit the debates on any particular issue, and including, but not limited, designating the maximum number of speakers allowed to speak as to each side of the questions on the floor.

The National Encampment Parliamentarian shall advise the Commander-in-Chief to the Parliamentarian issues and shall maintain the strict neutrality in all matters. The Parliamentarian's advice to Commander-in-Chief will be done privately and is up to the Commander-in-Chief to accept or reject advice when making rules.

The Parliamentarian shall make the ruling... shall not make the ruling. The Parliamentarian may not object to the ruling of the Chair, nor raise the point of order. The Parliamentarian shall not address the National Encampment on merits of any pending questions, and shall not enter into debate. The Parliamentarian never votes, except when a vote is taken by secret ballot.

Cell phones shall be turned off or set onto silent or vibrate. All phone conversations shall take place outside of the Encampment room. There shall not be any personal live stream or video or audio recording in the Encampment room. All discussion will be conducted in the spirit of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

In general voting, please use your voting card. The Commander-in-Chief reserves the right to use other forms of voting, including, but not limited to, private ballot, rising for a call, or roll call voting as he deems appropriate from time to time.

All motions, amendments, substitutes, or other actions initiated from the floor, other than the procedural motions or correction of spelling of the typographical errors, shall be submitted in writing for the minutes of the National Secretary, and the final reading before the Encampment votes on the matter.

Encampment Committees shall only consist... consider matters properly referred to them by the Commander-in-Chief after receiving those items on the floor of this Encampment. Each item must be reported back to the floor of the Encampment with the Committee recommendation to adopt, reject, refer, or appropriate action.

When rising to address the Encampment, use one of the available microphones. Upon being recognized, salute the Chair and announce your name, Department, and National office, if any. The proceedings are being recorded, and it is critical that you identify yourself, and every time that you use the microphone, to help the transcriptionist accurately compile these proceedings.

Any collection for funds from the Special Project Fund or any other funds from the Order are to be submitted in writing to the National Treasurer prior to noon tomorrow. Such requests must include a description of the project, who are chairing the project, and address to which the awards may be sent. All such requests will be presented to the National Encampment for consideration.

Finally, Sister Cher Petrovic is the official photographer. The photographer has a priority over the pictures. Please give her courtesy to allow her to do her job first, and do nothing to interfere with her doing her job. Otherwise, you may take all the pictures you like.

I would like to take a moment to recognize those veterans among us. If you are a veteran or currently serving in the United States Armed Forces, please call if you are able and be recognized of the branch of service as called.

United States Army.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

United States Navy.

Encampment

(applause).

Unknown

Hooyah!

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

United States Marine Corps.

Encampment

(applause).

Unknown

Oorah!

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

United States Air Force.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

United States Coast Guard.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

United States Space Force.

Encampment

(applause).

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Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Our Credential Committee this year is comprised of Brother Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, and Brother Tom Brown and Walt Busch and Dale Crandell. Brother VerStreate, do you have the... oh boy... preliminary reports from the Credential Committee?

Daryl VerStreate, Credential Committee Chairman

Commander-in-Chief, we have 183 registered and present.

Donald E. Darby, National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief

State your name, and your Department and step closer to the mic, please.

Daryl VerStreate, Credential Committee Chairman

Daryl VerStreate, Department of New York. At the moment, we currently have 183 present Brothers for the Convention.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

I appoint the Encampment Committees as follows:

Constitution and Regulations: Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Darby as Chairman, Kevin Tucker, and Past Commander-in-Chief, Michael Paquette.

Resolutions: I have Past Commander-in-Chief, Bob Grimm, Chairman, Past Commander-in-Chief, Ken Freshley, and Alan Russ.

Officers' Report: I have Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Martin as Chairman, Kevin Martin, and Shane Milburn.

Ritual and Ceremonies: Past Commander-in-Chief, Steve Michaels, Chairman, Past Commander-in-Chief, Jim Pahl, and Rod Fraser.

Fraternal Relations: I have Past Commander-in-Chief, Brian Pierson, Chairman, John Buckler, and David Hann.

Our visitation to the Auxiliary will occur tomorrow morning at first break, tentatively 10:30 a.m. before our meeting will reconvene. Please be outside the Auxiliary room, which is in the Blue Bass Ballroom. The following brothers will accompany: Brother James Crane, National Chief-of-Staff; Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Darby, National Counselor; Past Commander-in-Chief Pierson, Fraternal Relations.

We will have National President Freshley of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans... will be meeting with us this... sometime today or tomorrow.

Now, we will go to the proceedings of the Officers' Report. I will entertain a motion that the Officers' Report... the recommendation, be referred to the appropriate Encampment Committee.

Unknown

So moved.

Unknown

Second.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All those in agree, raise your cards, please.

Any nays?

Motion passed.

First off, is the report of the Commander-in-Chief, and therefore, I relinquish control of my presiding office of the meeting to the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief while I present my report.

Donald E. Darby, National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief

Stay there.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

You can stay there.

Brothers, it has been the foremost and greatest honor that you, my Brothers, have bestowed upon me when you elected me to the highest office of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as the Commander-in-Chief last August of 2023 in Nashua, New Hampshire. I did the best to fill the shoes of the past Commander-in-Chief that stood here before me. It has been an enormous duty and fulfillment of enjoyment my ancestors as this is the reason that brings me to the Sons to carry on their legacy.

I am currently still working full time between eight and 12 hours a day in the mechanical field and the steel industry. So it's not... hasn't been an easy task. I feel the Commander is nothing without the support of the Brothers, Council of Administration, Departments, and Camp Officers of SUVCW. So I thank them for their support and encouragement this past year.

During the course of this, as Commander-in-Chief, there has been some changes, issues of General Orders, and many motions that continue to improve our policies as we go.

Regarding to the Kit Carson monument in Santa Fe, Mexico... New Mexico; as of today, the GSA, the General Services Administration, has not accepted our deed of gift. The last I heard from the GSA, it looks like they would take into consideration the possibility of accepting the deed gift from the SUVCW, and at the moment, the monument had been vandalized again and it had been placed in crates and moved from the premises to prevent any more damage, as it's in bad shape.

General Order Number 2, the amendment on membership qualification has passed, 19 Departments in favor, 10 Departments against, one Department did not vote.

Motion 14 was put in effect. It's called a deposit agreement, which allows Camps and Departments to lend objects such as charters and items of collections to be on public display in such museums on loan. Also, it included with a policy of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War regarding National Encampment vendor and display program.

One of the things, as Commander-in-Chief, I had the unfortunate duties of disbanding Camps within the Organization. The list of Camps being disbanded are Colgrove-Woodruff Camp #22;

Henry Wallace Camp #160; Carpenter/Welch Camp #180, Department of Michigan; Warren Camp #44 of the Department of Colorado/Wyoming; as well as revocation of the Charters of the Richard Clark Camp #210, and the Marshall Lester Camp #7 of the Department of New York.

I have signed the form 55 application for the Charters on 7 January 2024 General John Sprague Camp #4, Tacoma, Washington; 29th of 2024, Richard Walter Goode Camp #10, Melbourne, Florida; 16th of April 2024 for the Sergeant William C. Lilly Camp #66, Syracuse, New York; and on the 5th of May of 2024, the Chaplain William Earnshaw Camp #89 of the Miami Valley, Ohio.

I had the pleasure of signing the Charters of newly stated Camps of the SUV: the James A. Garfield #62, Department of Vermont; the Richard Walter Goode Camp #10, Melbourne, Florida; the General John W. Sprague Camp #4, Tacoma, Washington; the Colonel Henry Carrington #3, Casper, Wyoming; the Brigadier General Thomas Lane #5, St. George, Utah; and Chaplain William Earnshaw Camp #89, Miami. I was able to present them... that I was able to present in my Department of Ohio that held in Columbus, Ohio.

I've had the pleasure to travel to several states, attending many different Encampments and events. I would like to thank all the National Officers offering to represent me in the office of the Commander-in-Chief at these Encampments that I was unable to attend due to my work schedule.

I also want to commend Brother and Sisters of the wonderful hospitality shown me... my wife and myself. The most memorable was being at my Department Encampment of Ohio, had my picture taken with the Past Commander-in-Chief Grimm, Darby, Freshley, and Martin and myself that I will treasure. And also had a picture taken with my National appointed Officers, Past Commander-in-Chief Darby, Counselors, National Counselor, and Past Commander-in-Chief Freshley, National Assistant Counselor and James Crane as my National Chief-of-Staff. I'd like to thank them personally for all their dedication and hard work, especially Brother James Crane for putting all these reports together, setting up the meetings, communicating with all the Department Commanders and Secretaries.

Also, I mentioned I would like the pleasure of serving with the National Auxiliary President, Sue Freshley, as we are from the same Department of Ohio, and both members of the James A. Garfield Camp and aligns with Auxiliary 142, Cleveland, Ohio, both National Officers representing the Order at the same time.

Some of the most memorable events I attended was the National Encampment, the Lincoln Tomb ceremony, Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, meeting at the Woolson Monument, giving a few words during the ceremony. As I was speaking, I was able to look forward onto the battlefield where the 8th Ohio Monument stands, represent of the battle of July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of July of 1863, where my great-great-grandfather, First Lieutenant Elijah Hayden, Commander of H Company was a Commander at the scrimmage line on the 3rd.

Unfortunately, he was killed on the third day of the battle, buried in a shallow grave, later arrived home and buried two weeks later after the battle by the men of 8th Ohio and people of his hometown, and buried in Ohio... costing \$125 back then to bring him home and place the headstone. There was a GAR post named after him, the Elijah Hayden Post #49, Elyria, Ohio. I felt the presence... his presence with me that day. It was an incredible feeling that I can't explain, as I felt he was watching over me and pleased to know that I was continuing the memory of the legacy and do what was right in keeping all those who served memories alive.

Also, the once in a lifetime highest point in my term was being at Arlington National Cemetery placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

I would like to acknowledge my wife, Judy, for all her support and interest with the Sons and Auxiliary as she accompanied me to all these events. I couldn't have done it without her support.

Again, Brothers, I thank you for all your support over the year. Brothers, I salute you. I have only one recommendation, and we'll discuss that at a later time. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you, Brothers. I will now take back the gavel and ask for the reports.

Donald Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Senior Vice needs to do some housekeeping first concerning his speech. You need to do some housekeeping. You need to make a motion to do the housekeeping.

The Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief needs to do some housekeeping in regard to the speech that the Commander just gave.

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Kevin Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I make a motion to do the housekeeping.

Encampment

(laughter).

Unknown

To accept the report.

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

To accept the report.

Donald Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You need to have the Encampment accept the Commander-in-Chief's speech or his report.

Just say that.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's all been referred to Committee.

Donald Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah. And to refer to the Committee.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's already been done. That motion was already made and passed.

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Sounds good to me.

Encampment

(laughter.)

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Well done. Well done.

Encampment

(applause.)

Kevin Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Always prepared.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Remember to tell us upon which page your report appears, and only read any corrections and additions.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Kevin Martin.

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief... you just wanted to see me get back up out of my chair again. I'm Kevin Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. My report begins on page 4 if you're going by the numbers in the middle bottom and continues on page 5. I have no changes, additions, or recommendations at this time.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Kevin Tucker.

Kevin P. Tucker, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Junior Vice Commander, Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts. My report is on pages 6 through 9. I do have an update.

I received 10 additional inquiries since submitting the initial report; from the Departments of New Jersey, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Chesapeake, Columbia, and Illinois, along with four which didn't identify with the inquiry.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you very much.

Kevin P. Tucker, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Missed that, sorry. Recommendations: I recommend that the National website membership page, under membership application, in the sentence that reads: *"if you are not able to find a local Camp or Department, further questions regarding eligibility or the application can be directed to the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at JVCinC@SUVCW.org."*

The link to that Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief be replaced with a link to an Internet form with required fields that forces the sender to name the state in which they reside, require their email address, and let us know how they were referred to the SUVCW.

This is critical in determining where to put our efforts. This will assist the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief in knowing which DJVC to put them in touch with, to have the ability to contact with a follow-up email to make sure that they are properly responded to, and have a better idea where our recruiting efforts might be focused to maximize recruiting. The information in that form could be directed to that Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief via email.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you. That will go to the Officers' Report. Going to the Officers' Report.

National Secretary, Dan Murray.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

My report... it starts on page 10 and goes to page 13. There are a couple of corrections or additions.

On page 12, we didn't have the date of rank at time for the George... under charters issued, we didn't have the date of rank for the George Mears Camp #505, Pennsylvania, or the George Cribbs #276 for Pennsylvania, and they're both the 19th of July.

And since then, I have received one application to start a Camp from the Department of Pennsylvania. It's for the... Matson Camp #506, and that application will expire on 8 July 2025.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

National Treasurer, Michael Beard.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Michael Beard, National Treasurer. My report is on page 19 through 26. I have no changes.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Quartermaster, Robert Welch.

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan Council of Administration

Commander? I'd like to point out that...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Who are you?

Robert R. Payne, Council of Administration

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration. I'd like to point out that the numbers that are being used are incorrect. The numbers are actually on the right lower hand corner of the report, not the handwritten number in the middle. So if you're looking for it, the actual number is on the bottom right-hand that corresponds with the index at the front, as well as recommendations page at the back.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you.

Bob Welch, National Quartermaster

National Quartermaster, Bob Welch. I don't have a packet, so I don't know what page my report is on, but I have no corrections or additions.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you.

Council of Administration Member Number One, immediate Past Commander-in-Chief, Bruce Frail. Excused.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief... Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief. I would move, in regard to this report, that at a minimum, paragraphs 3 and 4 of this report be deleted and in the words of Charlie Kuhn, "Strucken".

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's an inside joke. You had to be there.

Stricken from the record for the following reasons: Section 24, page 101 of the C&R states that the Chief-of-Staff shall collect reports from each National Office and National Committee a report of these activities and progress. These two paragraphs do not meet that. If the Brother in question is making a harassment accusation, he needs to follow the grievance process.... what, Article 3(b), page 125 of the C&R.

If he is making charges or wanting disciplinary action, then he needs to follow the discipline section, Article 6, page 125, which says if the Brother of one Department has a problem with a Brother in another Department, he must forward those charges to the Department Commander of the defendant. He has not done that. If in this, as he states, he is going to take civil action, according to Article 24, page 131 of the C&R, he must finish all of his legal actions within the Sons before he can go to an outside civilian trial.

I find that these two paragraphs are one, in violation of the C&R... not in FC&L. And because this report, and all the other reports will be part of the proceedings that goes to the Library of Congress, I don't think we need to have our dirty laundry aired for everyone. That's my motion.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Michael Beard, National Treasurer. I second that motion.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

Being as... all those in favor of having that paragraph restricted...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's two paragraphs.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

... two paragraphs striked out of the report... all those in favor, raise your card, please.

All right.

Any opposes?

Motion passed. Thank you.

Council of Administration Member, Shane Milburn.

Shane L. Milburn, Council of Administration

Shane Milburn, Department of Ohio, Council of Administration. And I have no additions or corrections.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Council of Administration Member, Joe Hall. Not here.

Council of Administration Member, Robert Payne.

Robert R. Payne, Council of Administration

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration. My report's on page 31. I have no additions.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right.

Council of Administration Member, Brian Pierson.

Brian C. Pierson, Council of Administration, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brian Pierson, Department of Georgia/South Carolina and Department of Oklahoma. My report is on page 32. I have no additions, corrections...

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Brian C. Pierson, Council of Administration, Past Commander-in-Chief

... or deletions.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Council of Administration, Roderick Fraser.

Roderick J. Fraser, Jr., Council of Administration

Roderick Fraser, Department of Massachusetts, Council of Administration. I have no corrections or additions, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

And *Banner* Editor, Past Commander-in-Chief, Jim Pahl.

James B. Pahl, *Banner* Editor, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, Past Commander-in-Chief. My *Banner* report can be found on page 35. No additions or corrections. The summer issue should be in mailboxes real soon.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Signals Officer, Tim McCoy. Not present.

Executive Director, David Demmy.

David W. Demmy, Sr., Executive Director

Dave Demmy, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Department. My report is on page 37, and I have one recommendation regarding supplemental ancestral applications.

And presently, there is a \$5 National fee, and many times through the years, the Camps and Departments have complained to me that it costs them a tremendous amount of effort and postings to submit them to National Headquarters. And my recommendation is that we increase the fees for the Camps and Departments at \$5 each.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you. That will go to the Officers' Report, please.

Assistant Executive Director, Susan Mitchell.

National Aide-de-Camp, Faron Taylor.

W. Faron Taylor, National Aide-de-Camp

Commander... Faron Taylor, Department of the Chesapeake, no additions or corrections, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

National Expansion Officer, John Buckler.

National Chaplain, Jerome Kowalski.

Jerome Kowalski, National Chaplain

No changes or additions.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you, sir.

National Chief of Staff, James Crane.

James Crane, National Chief of Staff

Commander... I have nothing to add, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Civil War Memorial Officer, Walt Busch.

Walter E. Busch, National Civil War Memorials Officer

National Civil War Memorials Officer, Walter Busch. I'd like to add... and I'll give a copy to the Secretary after this.

Originally, I was just going to say that I had ten more monuments to add since I've submitted my report. However, since then, talking with Brother Payne from Ohio, our National Webmaster, I've learned that the new software that the program is using is causing problems with the way that all the memorials have been... monuments have been entered.

So when I enter a monument, it says that it will accept up to 128 MB on one file. It's not accepting 17 MB. It's rejecting it. Now, it's still uploading the file, and there is a way that you can get it off the website, but it's not... people would think that it's just an error, there's a dead link, that it's not correct, that it's not connecting. So there are several problems with the website. I consider the website only 50 percent useful even though all the monuments that I've had on record are currently in and on the website. So until the software issue gets fixed, we're going to have problems with it. That's my report.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you.

Walter E. Busch, National Civil War Memorials Officer

And also, if everybody could speak up a little bit... we can't hardly... I have my hearing aids up all the way, and I can't hear back there. So thank you.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you. That will go to the Officers' Report, please.

National Color Bearer, Shane Milburn.

Shane L. Milburn, National Color Bearer

Nothing to add, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief, Donald Darby.

Donald Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

There was nothing to change. I had two opinions that I issued. They're on the website, and if you don't like them, then you have to vote them down, I guess.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you.

National Assistant Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief, Ken Freshley.

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Ken L. Freshley, National Assistant Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief... nothing to add. It stands.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you.

Assistant National Counselor Blue Book, Past Commander-in-Chief, Jim Pahl.

James B. Pahl, Assistant National Counselor Blue Book, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, Past Commander-in-Chief. My report is on page 35. No additions or corrections.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator, Michael Spaulding.

Michael A. Spaulding, National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator

Michael Spaulding, Department of Ohio, National Eagle Scout Coordinator. My report stands as written. And I would just encourage all Departments to actively promote the Eagle Scout program. Thank you. I'm on page 43.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

National GAR Highway Officer.

I will turn the gavel over to the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I have one recommendation on page 40.

It was stated allowing to put together a subcommittee of two to three Brothers, for the future of the GAR highway signs to be incorporated on US Route 6 across America for the time of two years.

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Kevin Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Send it to Committee.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Officers' Report?

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

That would be Officers' Report.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National GAR Records Officer, Dean Enderlin.

Dean Enderlin, National GAR Records Officer

Commander... Dean Enderlin, National GAR Records Officer. My report can be found on page 47. There are no recommendations, and no corrections or additions.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Graves Registration Officer, Henry Duquette.

Henry C. Duquette, National Graves Registration Officer

Henry Duquette, Department of North Carolina, National Graves Registration Officer. My report is on little page 48, large page 42. I have two recommendations.

Number one. The Committee strongly suggests that we develop and publish the attached... and I'll explain that in a minute... website policy statements on the Graves Registration webpages, terms and conditions of service, and privacy policy.

The attached draft proposal has been built from best practices used throughout the online world and has been built from examples found and used by major Internet entities. In addition, we advise looking into the purchase of cyber insurance.

Recommendation number two. The Committee has rewritten the attached headstone policy, and recommends that it be implemented. Because of the size of the attachment, it was agreed that it would not be included in this package. But I have copies here to give to the proper authorities.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right, Henry. Thank you so much. Those recommendations will go to the Officers' Report.

National Historian, Gary Gibson.

Gary L. Gibson, National Historian

Gary Gibson, Department of Michigan, National Historian. My report can be found on page 49, and it has no additions or corrections.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Liaison to the Cathedral of the Pines, Past Commander-in-Chief, Perley Mellor. Not here.

National Liaison to the MOLLUS, Past Commander-in-Chief, Ken Freshley.

National Patriotic Instructor, Past Commander-in-Chief, Tad Campbell.

Tad D. Campbell, National Patriotic Instructor, Past Commander-in-Chief

Tad Campbell, Past Commander-in-Chief, California Pacific National Patriotic Instructor. My report appears on pages 50 through 52 if you're looking at the printed page numbers.

I have one addition... that I have had one more graduate of Memorial University this last week.

And I have one recommendation that appears on page 52. That the Patriotic Instructor's annual forms, namely form 40 for Camps, form 41 for Departments, and form 42 for National, be reviewed by the National Standing Committee on Program and Policy with the following objects: A) abolishment of the forms should it be determined that they are no longer needed, or if it is determined that the forms are still needed, that significant revision of the forms take place to simplify them, and add clearer language and instructions.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you. Both recommendations A and B will be sent to the Officers' Report.

National Membership-at-Large Coordinator, Rocky Bartlow.

Rocky Bartlow, National Membership-at-Large Coordinator

Rocky Bartlow, National Membership-at-Large Coordinator, Department of Kansas. Nothing to add, and no recommendations, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

National Legislation Officer, Dan Earl... Daniel Earl.

Washington, D.C. Representative, Roger Leturno.

National Webmaster, Robert Payne.

Robert R. Payne, National Webmaster

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, National Webmaster. My report's on page 57. And I only have one addition, as they were continuing to work.

We did just get our Monuments and Memorials display correct, and we were working on the mobile and tablet. Some displays we've had some improvements on it, and we're continuing to address those issues as we arrive with them. Thank you.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Assistant National Webmaster, Quarter Store Past Commander-in-Chief, Ken Freshley.

Ken L. Freshley, Assistant National Webmaster, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ken Freshley, Department of Ohio. I did not submit a report because during the year, it was switched over to Bobby Welch because he re-created the website using a different technology. So he's actually the Quartermaster Webmaster.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you.

Assistant National Secretary, Department-at-Large Secretary/Treasurer, Past Commander-in-Chief, Jim Pahl.

James B. Pahl, Ass't Nat'l Secr., Department-at-Large Secr./Treas., Past Commander-in-Chief

Jim Pahl, Department of Michigan. My reports found on... I believe it's 35. Nothing addition, no other recommendations.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Assistant National Secretary (Proceedings), John Vander Meulen.

John Vander Meulen, Assistant National Secretary (Proceedings)

John Vander Meulen, Assistant National Secretary for Proceedings. My report is on page 58. I have nothing to add or change.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief

Recommendations?

John C. Vander Meulen, Assistant National Secretary (Proceedings)

I have recommendations that are in the report, and I'll let them speak for themselves.

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief

You have to read them.

John C. Vander Meulen, Assistant National Secretary (Proceedings)

Oh, I have to read them? Okay, very well. I follow directions. Recommendation number one... a new task going forward for the role that I currently have. Look for places where the personal sidebar comments were accidentally picked up by hot microphones and subsequently included in the transcript. Such comments should be highlighted for review by the Commander-in-Chief and the Past... immediate Past Commander-in-Chief. Their options are (a) remove the comment, (b) leave the comment as is, or (c) footnote the comments as not relevant to the business proceedings.

Recommendation number two. Consider providing the transcriptionist with a copy of the National Encampment reports packet as it can be reviewed whenever she encounters an unclear word or audio recording. This also should allow the transcription to match words, phrases, and terms found in the packet.

Recommendation number three. As a result of consulting with the Chief-of-Staff, Jim Crane, it was determined that the job description for this position, Assistant National Secretary for Proceedings, no longer reflects the scope of work process currently being performed.

Therefore, it is recommended that this position be split into two positions: A) Assistant National Secretary for Recordings; and B) Assistant National Secretary for Transcriptions. New job descriptions for these positions have been reviewed and submitted for approval. Respectfully submitted, John Vander Meulen.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you. All three recommendations will be sent to the Officers' Report.

Assistant, excuse me... National Secretary (Proceedings) Aide, Sumner Hunnewell.

Assistant National Treasurer (1), Past Commander-in-Chief, Jim Pahl.

James B. Pahl, Assistant National Treasurer #1, Past Commander-in-Chief

Past Commander-in-Chief, Jim Pahl. My report's found on page 35. No additions, no corrections, nor recommendations.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Assistant National Treasurer (2), Past Commander-in-Chief, Michael Paquette.

Michael A. Paquette, Assistant, National Treasurer #2, Past Commander-in-Chief

We have a report here in the packet. Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of the Chesapeake. I had submitted to the Chief-of-Staff that I had nothing to report. Is the report different in the packet? So if it's not in the packet, I have nothing to report.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right then. Thank you very much.

Assistant National Treasurer (3), Past Commander-in-Chief, Danny Wheeler.

Assistant National Quartermaster, National ROTC Coordinator, Dan Mexin.

National Battle Flag Preservation Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief, Ed Norris.

Edward J. Norris, National Battle Flag Preservation Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. I could not find my report in the packet... probably because I didn't submit one, and I apologize.

Encampment

(laughter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Well, this concludes the Officers' Report. National Secretary, do you have any communications?

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

No, I don't.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. We'll take the 15-minute break... excuse me?

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. I'd just like to point out these recommendations. There's a page in the back that we saw the recommendations. There's also recommendations on page 23, 43, and 62 for the Officers.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Those recommendations will go to the Officers' Report.

Well, we'll take about a 15-minute break. So be back within 15 minutes.

Chaplain Jerry, will you please.

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

[break]

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Chaplain Jerry, will you please?

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

John C. Vander Meulen, National Assistant Secretary for Proceedings

Commander-in-Chief, John Vander Meulen, National Assistant Secretary for Proceedings. For those of you who have pointed out to me that there are times when it's difficult to hear people speaking, we are doing our level best with the technology to give you a good sound in the house. We're just going to need some human intervention... a little bit.

So please speak directly into the microphone as clearly as you can. Don't be afraid of it... and that will help us a lot. Thank you very much.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We will now move on to the reports of the Standing Committees.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Remember to tell us what page your report appears, and only read any corrections and additions, and recommendations.

National Committee on Program and Policy, Brother Kevin Martin.

Kevin L. Martin, National Committee on Programs and Policy

Commander-in-Chief... Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Kevin Martin. My report begins on, or is on page 61. I do not have any recommendations. But I did want to bring up that during the course of the year, I found that the schedule for the SVR forms and publications was dramatically out of date. So I brought that up to date so that Kevin will have a much better time with. That's it.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you.

National Committee on Civil War Memorials, Walt Busch.

Walter E. Busch, National Committee on Civil War Memorials

Nothing further to report.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you. It was the one previously that he had given... on his Officers' Report... it was the same.

National Committee on Communication and Technology, Tim McCoy.

National Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Darby.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief, Chairman of the Constitution and Regulations Committee. Our report starts on page 63, and I believe goes to 73... yes, goes to 73.

Are we having fun yet?

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

All right. I just wondered. We're going to start, first off, Department of New York, anyone here from the Department of New York?

Okay. Gentlemen, this... we'll start with these because they're not in the book.

The reason they're not in the book... you had a resolution for headstones and medallions available pre-1917. Your resolution was *the Department Commander write a letter to the Commander-in-Chief*. That doesn't fall into our charge.

You had a request for National Park Service to maintain the soldiers' database. Once again, Department Commander, your resolution read, *the Department Commander writes a letter to the Commander-in-Chief*. That again, does not get our attention.

There's a request to paginate pages. If you look at... I'll hand these back to you, but if you look at your... these six or seven resolutions that you sent in, you need to make them look like the resolutions that appear in the book, okay? You need to flesh these out. But the ones that deal with having your Commander write a letter should have went to your Department Commander, not to the National C&R Committee, okay?

Okay. Starting on page 73, or I'm sorry, 63, you have a proposal by the National Treasurer that changes *Section VIII, Monuments and Memorials Grant Fund*, and it goes on to change that heading to *Section VIII, Operating Funds*. It addresses the Permanent Fund, the Headquarter Fund, the Monuments and Memorials Fund, a.k.a., the Preservation Fund, the Life Membership Fund, and adding the 1881 Club polo shirt to be approved for dress at the Encampment.

We went through... the Committee went through all these, and we concur with the change to the C&R, and that was by a unanimous vote.

So is there any discussion? Did you have time to read it? I've only read this three or four times, but are there any changes, any questions? Any questions of the author? And I believe because this is a change to the Regulation or Constitution, we have to do a voice vote on this.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

It can be by card, but it has to be two thirds.

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Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. By... well, not a voice vote, but a by card vote rather than in *ad seriatim*, correct?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Correct.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

And it has to pass by two thirds.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Say again? Two thirds?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

It has to pass by two thirds.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. We have to have a card vote. It has to pass by two thirds, okay.

All in favor of the changes...

Encampment

(chatter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Do I have a second?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

You don't need a second.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You don't need a second?

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Sorry, Commander Darby. I have a big mouth, and I assume everybody knows it. I just had a question at the end of...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Who are you?

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Sorry, Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. We are voting on through E, or is the Chapter 3, Article III, on page 50, I'm sorry, 66... also part of this that we're voting on?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes. That was the Polo club, 1881 Club polo shirt.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

And we're voting on that also?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

The whole shooting match.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

All right. So I...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We have concurred. Do you wish to break it out separately?

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

I do.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. Do we need a second for that?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Is there a second?

Unknown

Seconded.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. So are we good with everything up to the 1881? We can do that once, and then we'll talk about the 1881.

Unknown

Right.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. All in favor, two-thirds majority, of passing basically...

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

No. All in favor of the motion to separate.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. I'm sorry. All in favor of the motion to separate, raise your cards.

Opposed? That passes. So we'll separate.

Now, the motion to accept basically everything on page 63, 64, 65, all in favor, say aye, or I'm sorry... raise your cards.

Opposed?

Two-thirds, vote accepted.

Now, with regard to number two, which is, and I'll read this; *"add the 1881 Club polo shirt to be approved as dress at the Encampment."*

Article... this would be a change to Article, or sorry... Chapter 3, Article III, Section 1, Footnote 72. It says;

"While attending a business session, all Brothers in attendance shall be appropriate male business attire. This attire shall be stipulated by General Order 3, series 2016-27 to include jacket, tie, long pants, and membership badge. Jackets may be removed to prevent overheating, but should be present. Brothers may optionally wear uniforms patterned after the United States Armed Forces uniforms, 1861 to 1865 or current National Encampment polo shirt or 1881 Club polo shirt and long pants if the polo shirt is made available by the National Encampment Host Committee. Membership badges shall also be worn on uniforms and National Encampment polo shirts regardless of what type may be embroidered on the shirt".

Footnote, the actual footnote is truncated in the Adobe file on the website, and most of this is not there. I took this from Past Commander-in-Chief Paquette's General Order Number 19. I assume there's discussion.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

I move to approve.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I'm sorry, who?

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brian Pierson, Past Commander-in-Chief, Georgia, South Carolina, Oklahoma. I move to approve.

Unknown

I'll second.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We don't have to have a second. Go ahead, Kevin.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I rise in opposition to this. In fact, I think that everything after *United States Armed Forces uniforms 1861 to '65* be stricken.

We are a professional organization. We should all have professional dress, and I don't think polo shirts fit with that for business meetings. They could certainly be for other meetings. But for this business meeting, you look at the other organizations, other heritage organizations around the country, even the Masons, they wear tuxes sometimes. But everybody wears a jacket and tie.

For us to be wearing polo shirts with a medal seems to be less formal, and this should be a formal setting. One of the things that we find when we're talking to people who left the organization, a lot of them think that we are not formal enough. We don't follow our own rituals sometimes.

I think that jacket and tie or Civil War... Civil War-type uniform are the best image for our organization, shows respect to our Brothers here, we're willing to dress up, put a tie on. We're doing important work. We need to look important. I stand in opposition to the motion.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So in your... don't go away. I just want to clarify. So you're in opposition to this. Are you making a motion that everything after 1861, 1865 be taken off? Is that what...

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Second?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Do we need a second to that?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Need a second.

Unknown

Second.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You need a second? Okay. You got a second. All right. Thank you, sir.

We got Brother Harry.

Harry W. Rineke IV, Department of Illinois

I'm up? Commander-in-Chief... sorry, Brother Darby... Harry Rineke, Department of Illinois. In as much as this is already our policy, I agree with adding the 1881 Club polo shirt. And I was really just coming up here to be my typical pedantic self and point out that some of the grammar in that sentence, in the last two sentences of the proposal actually needs adjustment for this to flow correctly.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. Everybody understand what he said?

Encampment

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Go ahead.

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

Walt Busch, Department of Missouri. I would like us to include the words; *and Hawaiian shirt*.

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I didn't see... Kevin jump on that... seconded.

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Or Brother Beard for that matter.

Brother Paquette.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of the Chesapeake. Since this was my General Order, a little background, Brothers.

I took previous guidance from Brother Don Martin's General Order when I put this out. And the major change with mine was stipulating that it be *male* attire, and then, as an assist to the Host Committee, if Brothers wanted to wear something other than a coat and tie or whatever, that they had to be wearing the current polo shirt if it was made available by the Host Committee.

So by the way, Brothers, if you're here in the room wearing a polo shirt other than the one that the Department of Kentucky's has sold, then you're not compliant with this General Order, which is now part of the C&R. So take that under advisement.

I stand in favor of this... the addition of the 1881 Club. I don't think we're going to have masses of Brothers running to become a member of this club just to be able to... masses of Brothers to get out of wearing the recommended attire, based on the expense to get in the 1881 Club. It would be much less expensive to buy the Encampment polo shirt. So I stand in favor of this. I don't see adding the 1881 Club polo shirt is a problem.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Who's next? Who was up there, David or Henry? Okay, Brother, go ahead.

Gary Carlberg, Department of Wisconsin

Gary Carlberg, Department of Wisconsin Junior Vice, and also a Camp Commander of Minnesota. I strongly support the proposed resolution. My Camp has increased by 50 percent this last year.

Encampment

(applause).

Gary Carlberg, Department of Wisconsin

I am a former Army recruiter... a former civilian recruiter. We do not need to drive people away. Give them an opportunity to take pride... get the polo T-shirts available, or T-shirts... and the T-shirts would be inappropriate, but having them. Making this more formal and driving people away from the Encampment is opposite of what we're trying to do. Thank you. But I do... I appreciate the discussion.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So Brother, let me get this correct. You are in support of it as is written currently?

Gary Carlberg, Department of Wisconsin

Correct.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

Brother David.

David K. Hann, Department of New Jersey

Dave Hann, Department of New Jersey, Past Department Commander...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Hang on for a second.

Unknown

Which motion are we discussing? The one that I gave to change this?

Unknown

Yeah. That's what's on the floor.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Well, his motion... yeah, your motion is on the floor.

David K. Hann, Department of New Jersey

Dave Hann, Department of New Jersey, Past Department Commander and Chairman of the Fundraising Committee. Just to let you know, the 1881 Club... these are brothers who have donated \$1,881 to the Order plus donated \$25 per month. They are helping to fund the Order. I think there are less than ten Brothers right now in the 1881 Club, and I think that... first of all, I applaud them for making a donation like that, and anyone who has a polo shirt... I think they should be allowed. Perhaps they will entice other Brothers to join. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother in the back.

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

Dylan Wettstein, Department of New Jersey, Camp Commander. I would just like to say that I support the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and I would approve his idea to cut the section out after it says uniforms of the United States Armed Forces 1861 to 1865. That's all I have.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Just so I understand, you're for Brother...

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

Yes. I am for the Junior...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

He's the Junior Vice?

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. I thought you said Senior. I was getting confused.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

We're getting there. Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. If I could... if you'll indulge me... if I could ask the Brothers here, how many bought a polo shirt for this Encampment? Bought a polo shirt for this Encampment.

How many Brothers bought a polo shirt at this Encampment... from this Encampment?

Hands down. How many brothers are wearing them?

So I don't think we're hurting anybody's fundraising. I bought a polo shirt. An 1881 polo shirt is, you know, shows your pride in this organization, and that you've donated money. We're talking about what we wear at a business meeting. If you wanted to have a medal or something else that showed... that you could wear on your... that's something we've talked about.

But a polo shirt is not business attire, and I think we should formalize things a little bit more, and that was my reason for making the motion in the first place.

Encampment

(laughter).

Don Martin, Department of Ohio, Past Commander-in-Chief

Don Martin, Past Commander-in-Chief. I'm in support of Brother Kevin's motion. And as most of you that know me, I am the last one to really want to put on a tie and a jacket. I'm like, extremely casual.

But at the same time, this is a business meeting, you know. This is not really affecting the Camp. But we also have individuals who do not belong to the Order that attend these meetings. So they are here for a period of time. And so that also is a reflection upon the Order. And so there are a variety of other reasons that the business attire and things were adopted. But I'm not going to go into that whole spiel right now. So... but I stand in support.

Unknown

He already had two.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You only got two.

You have two minutes at the end.

Don Martin, Past Commander-in-Chief

I'll give my remaining time to the Junior Vice Commander.

Encampment

(Laughter).

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I'm also the Chair of the Promotions and Marketing Committee. We've done a series of videos promoting the Order.

Last year, in Nashua, we recorded a bunch of those videos with Past Commanders-in-Chiefs and a lot of them wore polo shirts, and a lot of the interviewers wore polo shirts... and we redid them because they don't look good in public when you're trying to promote the Order... when you're trying to present an image to the public.

So we redid them in jacket and tie with medals. Huge change, huge change. It really presents the Order as a professional organization... shows pride within the organization in wearing business attire.

I just wanted to mention... that's the reason behind all of this... is to get... is to bring us up. We're not the, you know, as someone mentioned in that Council of Administration meeting, we have the most ancestors of any war and the lowest number of members, and we need to get that up. And this is one way. That's my idea. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So basically, you're saying the Brothers that made that film dressed in polos?

Okay, gentlemen. We are...

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of the Chesapeake. So the question I have is... I guess to the Parliamentarian. Since this is in the C&R as a footnote, does this require a two-thirds vote to Brother Tucker's proposal in order to pass?

James Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, National Parliamentarian. In fact, what we're doing is modifying a General Order... it appears, but... so this does not need two thirds... so pass by a majority, a mere majority. And this is, in fact... Mr. Tucker's motion, is in fact, a supplemental motion to the committee report.

Roderick J. Fraser, Jr., Council of Administration

Rod Fraser, Council of Administration, Department of Massachusetts. So I'd like to rise in favor of Brother Tucker's motion. I belong to the Mayflower Society, the Society of the Cincinnati, the Society of Colonial Wars, Society of the War of 1812, and the Sons of the American Revolution.

In none of those organizations do they allow a polo shirt in the business meeting... the annual meeting. For most of those organizations is a jacket and tie. The exception is the Society of Colonial Wars, which is a you must wear a tuxedo, okay? Their meeting is black tie.

So, I do believe that there is a level of professionalism brought about by wearing a jacket and tie. And I think that the Brothers who come to National Encampment, if we asked them to, if we change this and go back to making it a jacket and tie organization, I think they will comply because I think our Brothers do have pride in the organization, and that would be reflected in the wearing a jacket and tie or the Civil War uniform like a lot of the Brothers are wearing. I see nothing wrong with that also. Those are my remarks. Thank you, sir.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Anyone else? Come on down. Line up.

I will point out... I will say one thing... I have a T-shirt or a polo shirt from about every Department Encampment. They really look nice in my closet, and I never wear them. So... but you know, I still contribute to the cause, but that's my two cents. Go ahead, Brother.

Edward J. Manak, Department of Florida

Edward Manak, Delegate to the Encampment, Department of Florida, Senior Vice Commander. From Florida, even though we have the warmest weather, we would be against wearing polo shirts at a National Encampment. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Last one.

John C. Vander Meulen, Assistant National Secretary for Proceedings

John Vander Meulen, Assistant National Secretary for Proceedings. I also happen to be on the Promotions and Marketing Committee. I just wanted to highlight that the video interview of Past Commander-in-Chief, Michael Paquette, is on the National YouTube channel. He did a very, very good job of representing the Order both in terms of his perspective and his coat and tie presentation.

So I fully support... I'm of the opinion that we do great respect to our ancestors by showing this degree of formality in our business meetings... coat and tie. That should be something that's... that we do regularly. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay, gentlemen, get your cards ready. We're voting on accepting Brother Tucker's change to...

basically to this... to what was reported, and we would end or scrub everything after the term 1861, 1865. It does not require a two-thirds majority vote.

All in favor of Brother Tucker's motion to require coat and ties, raise your cards.
Those opposed?

Brother Tucker's motion passes. So you have to wear a coat and tie, gentlemen. I think that Brother Tucker has some for sale.

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Sizes are limited. So all right.

Next, we go to the Department of Massachusetts. They wish to amend the National policy concerning Monuments and Memorials Fund. And if you go through all this, we get down to "therefore be it resolved".

It says that the policy for the Monuments and Memorials Fund be amended to include that grants from said fund may also be used for the preservation of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War historical furniture, decorations, charters, and other important documents. The C&R Committee concurs with this change.

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. I don't believe this is a proper format for the C&R Committee. It's supposed to show the language before and after. Am I not correct? And we have other ones like this as well in here.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I will say this... it was acceptable to the Committee when we put it before it. So I see no reason to challenge it now, and the National Parliamentarian agrees with me, so step up.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

He and I agree.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

And if he and I agree, the exit is that way. Save yourself.

Yes sir, Brother.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah. Brian Pierson, Past Commander-in-Chief...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Say what?

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

... South Carolina and Oklahoma.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

A question. Since we just voted on amending Paragraph 8, which changed or relocated the language on the Monuments Grant Fund, does this or does that impact this, and is this consistent with that?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

It will impact this because I don't... this was written separately from what the Department of Massachusetts... so basically, Department of Massachusetts is changing the Monuments and Memorials Fund by adding the wording of Sons of Union Veterans, the Grand Army... to include *the preservation of the Grand Army of the Republic and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War historical furniture, declarations, charters, and other important documents.*

I think that would be in addition to what you just passed. But they were written separately, two different Departments and a multitude of individuals. So any more discussion? Questions?

Yes, sir. One of the authors of this.

Roderick J. Fraser, Jr., Department of Massachusetts

Rod Fraser, Commander, Department of Massachusetts, Council of Administration. The reason we submitted this was there was a couple of specifically... it wasn't just Massachusetts, but also in the Department of Rhode Island, they had the original GAR Charter for one of the GAR Posts.

We had some old charters in the Department of Massachusetts. But when the Department and the Camps requested money from that Grant Fund to help conserve those, they were denied because the current language does not allow that. So that's why we put this in... to say we should conserve things like that, old charters, you know, possibly furniture from a GAR hall that might still be in effect or something like that. So that's why we submitted this. Thank you, sir.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

B.P., Past Commander-in-Chief again. I would like to see the exact language to be proposed from the Department at Massachusetts. *Therefore, be it resolved*, et cetera, but where would that fit into the previous language, before we go on?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Tell you what, why don't we table this, or we'll come back to this section. If the Department of Massachusetts can come up with a written wording that Brother Pierson wants, we'll run it through at the end. So get out your writing sticks, and have at it. Does that work for you, Brother?

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yep.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. Moving right along, Department of Pennsylvania recommends one.

Recommend that the National Organization know that Form 22 and 49 be updated... needs to be

updated to be in line with the Officers listed in the Regulations, Chapter 1, Article V, Article III, and Article IX; Chapter 2, Article IV, Article VIII, and Article IX.

And that's the extent of my Roman numerals. We refer to the C&R Committee... suggest or recommend that this be referred to the Programs and Policy Committee. Do we have any objections? We will do this one *ad seriatim*. Hit it.

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Also passed.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Recommendation two.

Recommend notifying National Organization about the Officers from the C&R that are not included in the installation Camp Officers original in the Blue Book, and make sure that the officers are in rank according to the regulations, Chapter 1, Article V, Section 4.

Once again, we refer to this to the Program and Policy Committee. We'll do this *ad seriatim*. Is there any objection?

Peter J. Hritsko Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Recommendation passed.

[one rap, *]

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Recommendation three. This is going to require a vote?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

A number of National Camps ago, it was decided not to allow PCCs and PDCs who weren't in the rank after 10 years of service as a Department Camp... or a Camp or Department Secretary/Treasurer to wear the PCC or PDC badge, but they can still use the post-nominal letters.

Recommend that there be a special badge or device for the membership badge in recognition of 10 years' service as a Secretary and/or the Treasurer. We do not... the Committee does not concur with that motion. Any discussion?

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. Again, there's no language for this medal in our C&R. There's no language to be included to add it to the Regulations. Therefore, I don't know how we can make a special badge that's not defined.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Well, we did not concur with it. Are you basically saying...

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Well, I'm saying... you'll have to decide...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Are you basically saying it's out of order because...

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

...it doesn't say how it should be read or how we're going to pay for it?

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

I think it's out of order.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Go ahead, Brother.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of the Chesapeake. I would like to put a substitute motion that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a Committee to investigate this issue of... to investigate the issue of issuing a medal for Past Camp... for Past Camp Secretary/Treasurers and Department Secretary/Treasurers to see if it merits its own medal.

Unknown

Second.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

It does not require a two-thirds vote. We are voting on Past Commander-in-Chief Paquette's secondary motion or its what's now the first motion on the floor.

All in favor of accepting Brother Paquette's motion, raise your cards.

Opposed?

Commander, the prospective Commander-in-Chief... that's number what? ... ten on your list, okay? Now, we're not doing that. So it's passed to go to the incoming Commander-in-Chief.

The Department of Pennsylvania also asked for a SUVCW cadet award eligibility addition. We did not take action on that because it was voted on and approved by the 2023 Encampment. So it was overcome by events.

Department of New York, ... some of the ones that did come through.. background; evidently, with instruction on Form 3 is now six pages. Since the other page... page 4, was added to the instructions for Associates and Junior Associates has been incorrect, and they have met the necessity to complete page 4 of the Oath.

Resolution, paginate Form 3 at the bottom and change the instruction, the application in the membership (indistinguishable) and Associates and say, complete page 1 of 4 only. We, the Committee, suggested this be referred to Programs and Policy.

Any objection?

Good.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Recommendation passed.

[one rap, *]

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Department of New York has three other recommendations... address those. But the wording, 'ask the Department Commander notifies the Commander-in-Chief to take action'. The Committee did not rule on those requests.

Department of Michigan, and Encampment proposes the following amendment to that National Regulations, Chapter 3 Article VI, Section 4(c) proposed additional languages in red. Eliminate the language in 4(c) that is crossed out.

Since we're saving money, and we didn't print this thing in color, you will see on page 69 the actual change or changes that they are requesting. And this is in regard to an elected officer basically not being able to discharge his duties of office. Until he declares contrary, these duties shall be discharged by an appointment of a temporary officer.

And it goes on. Down in 4(c); if the Commander-in-Chief determines the elected National Officer is unable to discharge the duties of his office, or that the National Officer is failing to discharge the duty of his office, he shall notify the Council of Administration. Upon receiving notification, the Council of Administration may... and we're deleting by three-fourths vote of the elected members... appoint a temporary officer to discharge the duty. The temporary acting Officer... a temporary acting Officer shall hold his appointment until such time when the Council of Administration... once again, deleting by three quarters of a vote... restores the effect of the Officer to his duty.

Their additional addition to this is, if the National elected Officer is unable to resume his duties within six months of the Council of Administration vote, in the judgment of the Council of Administration... in that event, the National Officer shall be deemed as to resign from the office. The C&R Committee...

Okay. I'm sorry. I'll go back to that. So I'm just told that there are some other additional language in B on page 68, about halfway down. You'll see the lighter text there was supposed to be red.

If the elected Officer is unable to declare he is now ready to resume office within six months, or the next National Encampment, whichever comes first, in that event, he shall be deemed to have resigned the office.

If this elected National Officer requests an extension beyond six months or to the next National Encampment, the Council of Administration may grant... heavy "may" there, don't have to, such a request... the extension will not exceed six months. The C&R Committee concurs with this. Let me ask the Parliamentarian a question.

If this passes, it's in effect...

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Now.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

...now?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Which means it will affect...

James P. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes (indistinguishable).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. If this passes, this will be in effect now as soon as it passes, which means it will affect the number of offices opened for the CofA... this vote. Okay?

Unknown

Two-thirds vote?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Say again?

Unknown

Two thirds vote?

Unknown

Yes, sir.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes, sir, it is. Okay.

Any discussion? And you're all kind of aware of why this is happening, right?

Okay. We have... what is going on... what is stated in this writing has happened, and it's actually has happened over, what... two years, right, Brian?

Brian C. Pierson, Council of Administration, Past Commander-in-Chief

One and a half. Sorry... Past Commander-in-Chief Pierson. This is a situation that's been going on for about a year and a half. I am the appointee temporarily filling a CofA position because a Brother is unable to fulfill his responsibilities. He notified the Commander-in-Chief of that.

So that's the situation... is... it's been ongoing. There's still another year left on his term after this Encampment. So when it goes into effect, what the Parliamentarian says, it goes into effect now, then...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

There's an opening.

Brian C. Pierson, Council of Administration, Past Commander-in-Chief

... there would be an opening for a vote.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes. There would be another opening. So it's not... we're not going through this as just a drill. This is going to have a real-life effect, okay? The C&R Committee concurs with this. If there's no further discussion, okay?

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I concur with this. I support the change. I feel that if we know that an elected officer can't... is not going to be able to fulfill his duties, and we knew that for a while now, we should be moving people up into those slots. We kind of had a place hold going where people that are trying to move up into the chairs couldn't get anywhere, couldn't have an election until there was another opening.

So I think it's only fair that we be represented, that we elect someone to give their opinion to represent the Organization and not be... and of course PB does a great job. He's an amazing guy, but he's not elected, and we need to make sure that this body wants the person that represents them on the Council. So I agree with this... with this change.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother?

Tony Howell, Department of Alabama

Yeah. Tony Howell from Alabama. Just for the good of the Order and the Organization, I'd just make some comments in the wording in your documents just for the efficiency of a unit's operation.

I had this experience about ten years ago, and one of the things we did was... eliminate for future conflicts... eliminate the wording of "may" and "shall" and just make that "will", so as it becomes more of an order and a directive. So there's no wiggle room or option.

These are things that whoever's in charge for the future elected Officers, they know that hey, this will be the order of how things will be because "may" and "shall", for the good of a professional organization, it puts a Commander in the position of basically being a weak Commander because you've got to make a decision. "May" and "shall" is not making a decision. "Will" is... that is the way it will be, and this is for the good of the Order, for future Commanders, the officers. This is going to make the job so much easier, okay? It's just informational. Thank you.

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

Dylan Wettstein, Department of New Jersey, Camp, Commander. I would just like to ask for clarification. So if this is approved, that means that there will be another opening in the Council of Administration?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Uh-huh.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

It will fill the one year.

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

That will be filling... the one that will come up would be filling the remainder of the term, correct.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

One year.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So it would be a one-year term.

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

Okay. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

In response to the Brother from Alabama; is that correct?

Unknown

That's right, yeah.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

In this case, if you put "will" in there, it means that the CofA has to grant him an extension. By leaving it "may", it gives them the option. They can grant it, or they don't have to grant it, okay? The way it's worded, "may" grant such an extension... if you put "shall" grant, there's no decision-making on the point of the C&R... or I'm sorry, of the CofA. Were you making a motion to change that word to "shall", or to "will"?

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

I think it would be for the good for the organization, yes.

My feedback from my peers is that I should make the motion... it should be "shall" as "will" is, I guess, too definitive.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So are you saying you want it changed to "shall" or to "will"?

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

Shall.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So you want this to say...

Unknown

Paragraph B.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's not National Officer requests an extension beyond six months or to the next Encampment...

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

No. Paragraph B, the last two lines. It's just that when you say "may", it puts the Commander in a very weak position, and as each Commander changes from year to year to year, you know, that's just... that wiggle room is just too wide. You need to be more... in a formal organization like this... I think you need to be more directive about how things are going to be executed and done. So that way, it's like any military organization or law enforcement organization, in my experience, still we're not guessing about things. We're just going to get the mission accomplished because the mission is priority number one, so...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. But once again, we're going...

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

With "shall".

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

And so, the Council of administration "shall" grant such a request, but the extension will not beyond six months. Is that what you're saying you want it to read?

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Is that your motion?

Dylan J. Wettstein, Department of New Jersey

Yes, sir.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. Is there a second for that motion?

Unknown

I'll second right here.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. So first off, we're going to vote on that motion.

Unknown

Oh, discussion, yeah.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Are you commenting on his motion?

Alan L. Russ, Department of Kansas

Yes, sir.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. Go ahead.

Alan L. Russ, Department of Kansas

Yes. I oppose the proposed amendment. Alan Russ, PDC, Department of Kansas. My apologies. I oppose the proposed amendment. "May" in this case allows the Council of Administration to take circumstances into account. If "shall", they're just going to just have to grant the extension that was requested. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

In the back... sir.

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration. I happen to agree with Brother Russ on this. It's in by enforcing an extension, you may as well say that the request is for a year right off the bat.

By leaving this as "may", if there is something that you can say, you know, he's not even able to communicate with us or he is, but we understand that this isn't going to work out that he will be able to resume his duties, gives you the option to not. It actually gives you more command option instead of less command options.

The "shall" just takes it out of the hands of the Council as Administration. It isn't even with the Commander. It's all on the Council of Administration... that they actually have a decision they have to make. By changing it to "shall", there is no decision. It's a done deal. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother Harry.

Harry W. Reineke, IV, Department of Illinois

Harry Reineke, Department of Illinois. I agree with Brother Payne. I agree with Brother Russ. I agree with the motion as originally written and stand in opposition to the proposed amendment thereof.

The "may" actually gives strength to that Council because that Council then has decision-making power. Additionally, strength in compassion is a thing. It allows the Council to be compassionate where compassion is needed. It allows them to stand firm where that is needed. I think that, as written, it is as strong as it can and should be.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother Pahl.

James B. Pahl, Department of Michigan, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of Michigan. And also, for the record, attorney-at-law. I'm the author of this. I brought it up to the Michigan Department Encampment, and had them shepherd it through there to bring it to the National.

The use of the word "may" was very deliberate. It has specific legal meaning, as does the word "shall". The word "shall" is a command. They shall do it. There is no discretion.

The word "may" allows discretion, and that was the intent... that if there is a request for an extension, the Council may consider it and may grant it, or they don't have to grant it. And it gives that the broadest latitude... allows them to take into account circumstances.

So these words have very specific legal meaning, and they were specifically chosen for this amendment.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Everybody get that?

Okay. We have to vote on the Brother from Alabama's amendment to change the word from "may" to "shall".

All in favor, raise your hand.

Those opposed?

It remains as "may". So as written.

Now we're going to vote, and this is going to require a two-thirds majority vote. It will also, just so you know, affect the upcoming election because if it passes, there's going to be an open seat for one-year or one half... one-and-a-half year... whatever it is to fill this void.

All in favor, say aye... raise your hands or cards.

Unknown

Aye.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Opposed?

Motion passes. It is now in effect.

Encampment

(applause).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Department of Rhode Island wishes to make a change to Chapter 3, Article VIII, Section 1, Constitution and Regulations of the National Order.

Has the SUV been updated? You see how it's written now. They wish to go down and add the bold... that 'no more than three Brothers from the same primary Department can serve as voting members on the Council of Administration'. The changes are represented in bold, but it would not affect sitting members of the CofA now.

Four members of the Committee did not concur with this. One member did concur. I believe the reason that the four members did not concur was we already have checks and balances in place for the number of Brothers on the CofA that can actually be from a Department.

The elected members of the CofA that you vote for every two or three years cannot be from the same Department. That doesn't mean that the Senior Vice, the Junior Vice, or whatever... that you cannot have two members from the same Department. It's kind of hard to do, but I guess you could do it.

So discussion or opposing... whatever you want to call it.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department at the Chesapeake. Brother Darby, I agree with the four members. The checks and balances already exist by nature. We have to elect these Brothers into these positions during a National Encampment. So if we pass this, we're going to tie the hands of the National Encampment... that they can't elect three Brothers from the same department to fill, you know, the entire list of the elected positions.

So the Encampment should (indistinguishable) the decision to do this or not do this. I don't see a need that we need to tie the National Encampment's hands.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother Payne in the back.

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration. I actually agree with this... this proposal. It isn't just the five members... or there are four members or five members of the elected Council of the Administration, the Junior Vice, Senior Vice and Commander-in-Chief.

It also includes the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Quartermaster, which there are no checks and balances if those members... you could actually end up with five members from one Department on the Council of Administration without realizing it. It just sneaks up on you.

And that's just kind of a checks and balances for that type of a situation happening. And I realize, you know, what Mike Paquette said... that it's the Encampment votes for it. But what you lose sight of... where everybody's coming from.

And we don't know how long somebody's going to be serving in the three-year terms of what we consider not the Council of Administration, but they're the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Quartermaster... that those particular positions can aggregate into one Department due to people who want to serve in that area. That's just my position. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother Kevin.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I concur with the Committee's recommendation not to pass this. I think that the most difficult jobs in this... in the Council of Administration, or the leadership of this... is Secretary, Quartermaster, Treasurer. Those are the most difficult jobs to fill and require, you know, specific people that really are good at what

they do, and we want to promote that.

I think that allowing or, you know, electing one of those people and having it handicap their Department's ability to elect people, actually handicapping the Encampment's ability to elect people... the most reliable people... for the other jobs would be a negative on having the best leadership that we could get. So I stand opposed to the change, and I stand with the Committee.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of the Chesapeake. So just a question, if I may. To anyone's living memory in this room, have we ever had three brothers from the same Department in that 11 body?

Unknown

Yes.

Michael Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. So how long ago?

Unknown

He's the National Historian that would answer that question.

Unknown

He should know.

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan, National Historian

Gary Gibson, Department of Michigan, National Historian. In answer to Brother Paquette's question, that actually... that situation occurred probably 30 years ago.

We had a... well, we had an issue where one or two Departments were actually sitting on the Council of Administration from the Commander-in-Chief all the way down, and the smaller departments didn't have a chance. And so this rule was put into place to prevent one or two Departments ruling the roost, if you will.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So... Brother Gibson, don't go away.

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan, National Historian

Okay.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I have a question. So you're saying that the current checks and balances we have in place were there to prevent that from happening; is that correct?

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan, National Historian

That is correct.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. So once again, this goes back to the C&R Committee not concurring with this resolution in that the checks and balances already exist?

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan, National Historian

That is correct.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. So anybody else? Thank you, sir.

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan, National Historian

Yep.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

And because you answered a question, at least in this subject, you still have two more trips to the mic. You were just responding.

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I can't believe I said that!

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes, sir?

John Edelmann, Department of Ohio

John Edelmann. I'm Department of Ohio. I have a question, just a question. It's no more than three Brothers from the same primary Department can serve as voting members of the Council. Are there nonvoting members of the Council?

Unknown

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

John Edelmann, Department of Ohio

Okay. That may need to be clarified for those of us that didn't know that.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

The non-voting members are all the Past Commanders-in-Chiefs. We used to get a vote, and then we didn't. We got... what?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

The National Counselor.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We have the National Counselor.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Editor of the *Banner*.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Editor of the *Banner*.

Of the...

Unknown

Executive Director.

Unknown

Washington D.C. Rep.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Signal Officer.

And yeah, the Executive Director.

Unknown

Proceedings people.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah, and the Proceedings people. So there are quite a few people that are non-voting members from... pick it apart and they're scattered all over the place.

Okay. Gentlemen, two-thirds vote. Okay. I guess there's been no changes so we can do this in *ad seriatim*.

Any other negatives?

Hit it.

[one rap,*]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Recommendation passes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. The next one is brought up by the...

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration

Excuse me, Commander.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Hang on.

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration

We had two opposing... Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration. There were two opposing views that were presented on this motion. I presented an option.

He was in favor. I was in favor of the motion as presented. He was opposed to the motion as presented. And therefore, we have an opposition to it.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, National Parliamentarian. When the matter is referred to a Committee, the Committee does not concur, it dies unless someone makes a motion. No one made a motion. Someone stood up and said, 'well, I don't like that'. But you didn't make a motion.

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration

Okay.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

And so there's no motion on the floor to consider.

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration

Then why was it even brought up to the floor?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Because the Committee has to report out things that are referred to it.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. This one is going to sound a little silly. This one was produced by the Council... the, I'm sorry, CofA. Basically... and this comes up in the minutes of the CofA meeting in August of 2022... a motion was made that all elected National Officers be graduates of the Memorial University, and this was referred to the C&R Committee, but was not completed.

All four... four members of the Committee voted no... the person that thought it should not be required to be a member... or a graduate of the Memorial University. One brother concurs with the action.

We have... the members who did not concur with this suggested that it be "recommended", but not a requirement. We have enough Brothers... hard enough time getting Brothers to run for offices, National offices, without requiring something even more.

I'll be quite honest with you; I am not a graduate of the Memorial University. It's as simple as that. But if you want to go question the questions, except for Bob Wolz on the history and the C&R, I've seen some people that passed the Memorial University... I think he cheated. Anyway, no.

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

The (indistinguishable). So what we have now is... before you... to have a requirement for all National officers to be Memorial University graduates.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Brother Darby, Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I support the motion. I think that if you want to lead this Organization, you have to know how the Organization works. I think that everybody that goes through Memorial University, we... obviously, you are a unicorn. There's not very many Don Darbys around.

For the rest of us, we actually had to study these things and understand how things work. One of the things that... one of the mantras that you always say is "read the C&R," and that's kind of what this makes you do, right? It makes you read the C&R and get a grasp of how the Organization works.

We just had a Brother ask, you know, about voting members of the CofA. That would be in that text. That would be part of that Memorial University. I think it can only... it sets a bar, again, for our leadership. You have to at least understand how the Organization works, and especially if they're going to make, you know, judgments on how to proceed from there with the Organization, so...

And we grandfathered...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Is that (indistinguishable)?

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

... we grandfathered Brothers...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Is that a motion, Brother Kevin?

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

I'm just agreeing with the motion that's before us.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Are you making a motion to...

Unknown

No, no, no. It's not a motion.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Yes. I am making a motion to overturn what the Committee said. Sorry, sorry... overturn the Committee's recommendation (indistinguishable).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Is there a second?

Unknown

Second.

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. I'm going to sound like a broken record. There's no language in here that we know what the changes are to the Regulations.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So what is your recommendation?

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's out of order.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Calls for the Commander-in-Chief to make (indistinguishable).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, is it out of order or no?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

It's up to you.

Encampment

(laughter).

Unknown

Flip a coin.

Unknown

No pressure.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Let me ask this, Brother Norris, are you saying it's out of order because there's no when it's going to start? Is it going to affect any of the current people? Are you...

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

No. I don't know what... that has to be in the regulations that it has to... they have to have Memorial University as one of the requirements.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

So what chapter, what article, what section?

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

I don't know. That's why I'm saying it's out of order.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Go back to the mic and say what you just said. The people in the back didn't hear you.

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. So the question became which chapter and, you know, section and et cetera, et cetera, and that's why I think it's out of order. We don't know which section this is going to go into.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Kevin.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Kevin Tucker, Department...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

What did you do, bite your tongue? Last time!

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Yep. Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Now, Brother Darby, like we did with the Department of Massachusetts' motion, could we have a few minutes to table this and have a few minutes to rewrite it and then resubmit?

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Oh, because I let Massachusetts...

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Correct.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Aren't you from Massachusetts? You have to...

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Hey, that's a rumor...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Right.

Unknown

That's a rumor.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Before the Commander rules it out of order because the same... before the Commander rules it out of order, only give us a chance to rewrite it.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I'm not ruling it out of order.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

No, no. I said before the Commander-in-Chief rules it out of order...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

How long do you need?

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Next... at the end of next break.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Well, the end of next break is lunch, right?

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Table it until after lunch.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

What say you, Parliamentarian?

Jame P. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Well, we have to (indistinguishable).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

I'm going to rule it out of order.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

We're done with this, Brother. Are you wanting to talk about anything else?

John Vander Meulen, Assistant Secretary for Proceedings

If we're done, I'm done.

Unknown

Okay. You are done.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

The Department of Missouri... and all this language comes down to Section 9 in regards to the National Counselor. They wish to have it changed... Section 9 changed to *"the National Counselor shall act as a legal advisor to the Commander-in-Chief and the National Order."*

They wish to add, *"the National Counselor shall be an actively practicing attorney in at least one state of the United States and at least one United States District Court."*

The rationale; the position of the National Counselor requires the interpretation of the United States Code, our Orders, Constitution and Regulations, and the application of case law or precedence to guide the Order.

In addition, the position requires the understanding of the law as taught in law schools and the experience of the practice of an attorney to understand the legal issues and their implications to the Order.

The C&R Committee does not concur. I will state that, in the rationale, there is no requirement in the C&R that says the National Counselor is to interpret the United States Code. It does say that we would... be the... would advise the Commander-in-Chief in regard to the C&R.

The Brothers that, in this case, what they're asking... just because you're an attorney doesn't mean you are authorized to practice law in every state of the union. It also, once again, puts a restriction on the Brothers wishing to sit in that place. I'm not an attorney, and I did not stay in a Holiday Inn last night.

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You know, that's... I think we have had many National Counselors that have not been lawyers that have done great work for this Order. And keeping basically, you know... and the thing is, I'm smart enough to know. One, I can read English; two, I'm smart enough to know when I need to get an attorney.

In the case of our Graves Registration database, I ain't touching that with a 10-foot pole. There are people that do laws that, you know, their whole life's work is work, contract negotiations, okay? And so let's... we have to pay for them.

The other question is, is this National Counselor then going to work pro bono on any legal thing that comes before this body? Because that can get damn near expensive if you're working for a law firm and you're doing a bunch of pro bono work. But I digress.

Brother Harry, one more time there into the breach.

Harry W. Reineke, IV, Department of Illinois

Harry Reineke, Department of Illinois. Don, I agree with you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Oh my...

Encampment

(laughter).

Harry W. Reineke, IV, Department of Illinois

And in fact, if it weren't for the fact that I'm already at the microphone, I would have almost nothing to say to in follow-up. I concur with the Committee's recommendation. I concur with everything that Don says.

It says here in this paragraph, the National Counselor advises on the interpretation of our documents, documents of our Regulations, our Constitution, et cetera. And I do think the people

that we elect into the highest offices of this Order understand that when we need real deal legal counsel, we get real deal legal counsel. So I would say that the Committee's recommendation is spot on.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Which of you two were first?

Unknown

He's closer. Let him go first.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes, sir?

William E. Fischer, Jr., Department of Pennsylvania

Bill Fischer, Pennsylvania Department Commander. I agree with the decision of the C&R Committee.

In 1980, I was an Air Force E-4 assigned to the Army's 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. I went to Raleigh for a history conference. That night, I sat at the banquet. A fellow sat down next to me... didn't know who he was from Adam. He said he was an attorney. So I brought up... because at that time, North Carolina was considering just this thing, that the Attorney General in North Carolina needed to be a practicing attorney, and I thought that made sense, being the know-it-all E-4 that I was.

So I asked this attorney, and he said he was against it. So we got into a discussion. It turns out, he was the seated Attorney General of the State of North Carolina.

Encampment

(laughter).

William E. Fischer, Jr., Department of Pennsylvania

His name was Rufus Edmisten. And even though he sounds like a backwards country lawyer, Dukes of Hazard character, about six years before that, he was Deputy Counsel under Senator Sam Ervin's Watergate committee, and he and another counselor hand-carried the subpoena to the White House for President Nixon to turn over the Watergate tapes.

If a guy like that thinks that somebody can be the Attorney General of North Carolina and has a good understanding of the law doesn't need to be a practicing attorney, and he still... he's in his nineties now and he's still practicing in Raleigh. So I agree with the C&R.

Encampment

(applause).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes, sir?

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Robert Amsler, Past Department Commander, Department of Missouri. I move that the Department of Missouri's resolution be passed as, or brought to the floor for a vote as is. And I don't know if you want to take comments now, or do we hear a second (indistinguishable)?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

See if there's a second.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We have to have a second.

Unknown

So seconded.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

The gentleman to my left seconded me.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Discussion then?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah. Go ahead.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Okay. I would note that the first sentence, Sons have... on Section 9, it says the National Counselor shall act as a legal advisor. I would inform this body that it is a felony in 50 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia for anyone to render legal advice who is not a practicing attorney of some bar. And that's where your sentence ends with a period.

As to what it's going to cost, there are more than enough Brothers in this Organization who would probably (indistinguishable) pro bono without a problem. I know my law firm would let me do it, and I believe there was a Brother from Oklahoma last year who was very (indistinguishable) about stuff. He said he would do it. So I think we can find a National Counselor who's an attorney.

And also, I would like to state I was, for 20 years, a 501(c)(3) attorney for a National Organization, actually International Organization, with a multimillion dollar operating budget. You would not believe the number of legal issues that come up, and they will come up for this Organization here.

For instance, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act talks about a whistleblower. I am unable to find that we have a whistleblower policy, something the IRS does check for in 501(c)(3) organizations. Because one has an attorney there who is familiar with some of this stuff, I'm willing to bet that's a brand-new revelation to almost everybody in the room.

So I think that having an attorney who advised the National Commander, the Council of Administration, and everybody... he's going to head off problems and give you options to do that.

And I don't think he gets that from someone who has not been taught how to practice law. So I think it's a benefit only to the Organization to have someone on the Committee pro bono to handle these matters.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother Harry again.

Harry W. Reineke IV, Department of Illinois

Harry Reineke, Department of Illinois. You're (indistinguishable) the whistleblower policy exists on the policies page of the National website. It was adopted by this Organization in March of 2017.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother Pahl.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Doesn't show up on a Google search.

Harry W. Reineke IV, Department of Illinois

Yes, it does.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, Department of Michigan. I'm going to step out of the role as Parliamentarian for a moment. I move to amend... strike "*an actively practicing attorney*" and replace it with "*admitted to the practice of law*". There's a big distinction there. I've been admitted to the practice of law since 1982. I am not an active practicing attorney. For the last 30 years, I've been a Magistrate of the 55th District Court, and I'm prohibited by law from practicing law. I have to sit on the bench.

The language, as proposed by Mr. Amsler, would disqualify me from being a National Counselor, and I've been National Counselor to 15 different Past or Commanders-in-Chief. We've had one other attorney sit in that seat, and that was Don Shaw. He was my National Counselor. Every other of the 40 years I've been in the order, the other 26 have been filled by a Past Commander-in-Chief, and I think it's very well. But anyway, I move to amend.

Unknown

Second.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

I'm willing to accept the amendment. But I wonder, Jim, what if instead of "*actively practicing*" said "*licensed*".

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

I think that's what I said, admitted to the practice of law.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Okay. But that's what you meant by "*admitted to the practice of law*"? Okay. That's... I have no objection to that.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother Martin.

Donald L. Martin, Department of Ohio, Past Commander-in-Chief

Don Martin, Department of Ohio, Past Commander-in-Chief. With that, I'm just going to... I want to speak to the earlier issue so that we're now on a new issue, right? ... with the word change?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

That's what's currently under discussion.

Donald L. Martin, Department of Ohio, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah, so...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. Is there any more discussion in regard to Brother Pahl's change?

Will you state your change again... where it shows up?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes, sir. James Pahl, Past Commander-in-Chief. I would strike from the new language "*an actively practicing attorney*", and replace it with "*admitted to the practice of law*".

Unknown

Do you need a second?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

No. That's been seconded. I'm just restating the motion.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Two thirds, or just a hand vote to make the change?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

It just needs a majority.

Unknown

We're voting on the change.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Are you wishing to talk to his?

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Yes, Brother Darby... Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Those other 40-plus years that the Counselor was not an admitted... the language that you said, "*admitted to the practice of law*" would be negated. That wouldn't... that wouldn't be able to happen anymore. It would have to be somebody that, at one point, was officially admitted to the practice of law, or could Ed Norris still be the Counselor? I'm unclear on that language.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, past Commander-in-Chief. If the language passes, Ed Norris could no longer be considered for National Counselor. Don Darby could no longer be considered for National Counselor. (Indistinguishable) other Past Commanders-in-Chief... it requires an attorney. I'm opposed to the whole idea. But if it's going to be passed, it needs to... we need that change.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

I'm opposed to the whole thing too. However, I don't think we need to change the wording if we're going to be defeated anyways. So I'd stand in opposition.

Unknown

We're changing the wording and we're voting on it.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

I know.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So right now, all we are going to vote on is the change that Jim suggested. Then we're going to vote on the whole thing that I think even with... never mind. The amendment that we're voting for is... Brother Jim brought up to delete "*actively practicing attorney*" to...

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

"Admitted to the practice of law".

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

...change to "*admitted to the practice of law*". That's what we're voting on now. It does not require a two-thirds vote, just a majority vote.

All in favor, raise your card.

Opposed? Okay. We've got two opposed.

Now, we're back to the motion, as amended, which would be that we are requiring the National Counselor to be a person admitted to practicing of law, which means that Mike Paquette, Ed Norris, myself, Bob Grimm, in a group, would no longer be in the running for National Counselor. All in favor of...

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

You've got a...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Oh (indistinguishable).

Donald L. Martin, Department of Ohio, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah. I want to speak to that then. I'm Don Martin, Department of Ohio, Past Commander-in-Chief. And I do oppose this. I agree with the Committee's recommendation.

One of the things you're talking about is a Counselor of the Sons of Union Veterans. Their job is to

know the C&R backwards and forwards. Their daily thing is to make recommendations to the Commander-in-Chief based on our by-laws, based upon the C&R.

So in my experience, any time we've gotten to an outside... where we need an attorney, we have gotten an attorney. So really, if we wanted an attorney, that should be a whole different thing that we do, not make the Counselor be an attorney, because an attorney is not going to know the C&R just because they're an attorney.

Unknown

What's an...

Brian Pierson, Past Commander-in-Chief

I think the... when I got (indistinguishable)...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You're mumbling. Speak up... enunciate.

Brian Pierson, Past Commander-in-Chief

Sorry. I shall enunciate every word clearly. The hangup appears to be over the word legal advisor, as was (indistinguishable) a few minutes ago on that. And as a 501(c)(3), we might be placing ourselves in jeopardy if we say we are actually appointing a legal advisor. Everything else notwithstanding, but to someone to provide legal advice. Is there another word we could use instead of legal that might solve this issue? I don't know.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You could probably just delete the word "*legal*".

Unknown

Yep.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Acting as an advisor.

Brian Pierson, Past Commander-in-Chief

So I would move that we strike the word legal.

Unknown

Second.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of the Chesapeake. The definition of what that legal advice that the National Counselor is supposed to provide is stipulated in the third sentence of that. He shall render advice and interpretations to the National Organization upon request on the issues arising from questions concerning the Order's Constitution and Regulations and on parliamentary matters.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So as I just... as you read that, Brother Michael, are you saying that the guy is not acting in a legal foundation because all he's doing is interpreting the C&R and parliamentary issues which do not require a law degree?

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

That's my understanding of the C&R as it stands right now.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Doesn't that affect... who, Mr. Attorney?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

That's his job, yeah, to render advice on the C&R.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Who's next?

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado Wyoming

As an individual who is at the moment involved in a complaint against a Brother that involves legal issues, I would offer that if you're going to do this at the National level, I have not, and no disrespect to my Department of Colorado colleague that's a National Counselor, but we have a Camp Counselor who is an attorney in the city of West Jordan, okay? He has provided (indistinguishable) Camp.

But if you start at the National level, what are you going to do with your Department and Camp Counselors when somebody like me who needs, in my case, a situation where it moves from just a standard complaint to potentially a legal issue?

I will tell you that I have been well served by Brother Pahl's opinions and any of the past Camp and National Counselors when I've gone to the website and reviewed opinion records to help me in my case.

Specifically, you do, Don... you have served me well in helping me understand my ramifications. You are not a... I just don't understand how we can take this experience that you gentlemen possess, and we simply cast that aside for individuals that may or may not be as well versed. And so I simply do not... I do not endorse this amendment to the C&R for very personal reasons. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

And Brother, I'm still available if you need to talk to me as well.

Encampment

(laughter).

Unknown

Point of order (indistinguishable)...

Kevin Tucker, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief

This is the motion that we are discussing now... whether to change... leave the legal out of that?

Unknown

Yes.

Kevin Tucker, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief

Out of it. So, I don't think that was germane to that. That's all I'm saying.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. What we're discussing now is taking the word "*legal*" where basically it would be the National Counselor shall act as the advisor to the Commander-in-Chief, delete this (indistinguishable) and then go, he shall render advice and interpretation of the National Organization upon request on issues arising on the Order's Constitution and Regulations and parliamentary matters. That's what we're discussing.

Brother Harry, I'm trying to think if you've been up. This is your last time.

Harry W. Reineke, IV, Department of Illinois

New issue.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I'm sorry. You get to start again. This is a new issue?

Harry W. Reineke, IV, Department of Illinois

Harry Reineke, Department of Illinois. I am in favor of removing the word legal. I would just caution everybody because the language of this job description is basically copied and pasted into other sections of our Regulations dealing with Department Counselors and Camp Counselors. And what's good for the goose is good for the gander.

At some point, we're going to have to take those up, and it might have to be next year. You'll have to have a Department, I think, submit that. But we have to. Yeah, I'm okay with removing legal. Just keep in mind that if we do that, this job is not done.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Robert Amsler, Past Department Commander, Missouri. I would stand against removing the word legal because I think...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I can't hear you, Brother.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

I just thought I was speaking loud. I am against removing legal. I think you do want a legal advisor. I really think it's smart to have an attorney up there. So I would keep that.

And I would further state that at one point, it was said if you have legal advice (indistinguishable) modify, but down below, well, it's my legal interpretation... is that it's not correct. That's just an

additional comment because it says he shall render advice on the C&R, which is different from being a legal advisor.

So I would say that if you... that that's the problem. It's not... that second part does not modify the first necessarily. So I stand against removing the word "legal".

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan

Gary Gibson, Department of Michigan, National Historian. The clause that we're discussing where that says legal, it's obvious that it's referring to our C&R through you to a National Counselor. If...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I am the National Counselor. So if you want to...

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan

Well, I beg your pardon.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

If you want to...

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan

The National Counselor. I was going through the Commander-in-Chief to you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Oh, okay.

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan

Thank you. If a Brother shows up in this room in business attire wearing a *GAR* membership badge, is that legal or illegal according to our C&R?

Unknown

Illegal.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You want me to say that off the top of my head? I think it's illegal because he does not have the badge of the Order. He's wearing something that no longer exists.

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan

Exactly. It's illegal according to our Regulations.

Unknown

It's prohibited.

Gary L. Gibson, Department of Michigan

It's prohibited. But it's illegal... according to our Organization for a Brother to do that. I think we're splitting hairs here. Yeah. It's a small "L" and not a large "L". Thank you, Brother.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Robert Amsler. May I just point out for everybody in here that if this becomes an issue in a court for whatever reason, your interpretation of what this advice is not going to be the judge's interpretation because, guess what, if you're talking to somebody who doesn't know anything about our Organization.

So he's going to come at it, and he's going to go through (indistinguishable) and our understanding is that small "L" versus big "L", or however you want to talk about (indistinguishable), he's not looking at it at that point of view. So just remember, whoever interprets our Regulations in a legal standpoint, just looking at it, without any knowledge of what our Organization, that's who he represents.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Go ahead, Brother Hann.

David K. Hann, Department of New Jersey

Dave Hann, the Past Department Commander of New Jersey (indistinguishable). Don't we have a number of attorneys within the Order, and I'm sure if a question came up to the National Counselor, I'm sure that he would be wise enough to pass it along to one of the attorneys.

Because what is happening is, I am the Department Counselor for New Jersey. This is going to cascade down. I'm a retired electrician. I'm not a lawyer. So does that mean now, on the Department level and on the Camp level, they have to be attorneys?

How many Camps have attorneys within their Camp or Department? So I feel that the wisdom of the National Counselor... and I think that they do an outstanding job, if there was a question, they would pass it along to one of the many attorneys that we have within this Order. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Go ahead, Jim. You're next.

James T. Crane, Department of Ohio

Jim Crane, Department of Ohio, Chief of Staff. It's now 12:30. We've been on this for an hour. I'd say we take a lunch break. And if they want to continue with this discussion, that's fine. But I think we beat a dead horse here.

Unknown

Amen.

James T. Crane, Department of Ohio

So that's all I have.

Encampment

(applause).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother in the back.

James. B. McQuire, Department of Rhode Island

Jamie McGuire, Past Department Commander, Rhode Island.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yay.

James B. McQuire, Department of Rhode Island

I second that, and I'm betting with that. We're going around and around. I know for a fact that our Commanders-in-Chief, the Past Commanders-in-Chief, and our Council of Administration, and our National Counselors... if we get into something that requires legal interpretation and legal representation, we will seek the proper counsel if we're ever in that position. So I agree with the interpretation that it's the legal interpretation of the C&R of the National Counselor. Thank you (indistinguishable).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. Brothers, what we're going to do... we're going to go to lunch and that is okay. But we're not going to rehash this after lunch. We're going to go to a vote, okay?

I will say in regard to a history lesson, old Dave Medert was... 1995-'96 came out with... wanted a Committee of Brothers who were attorneys to basically help him in the legal process of this matter. There were a few times that we called upon them... the ones that actually said they were attorneys.

But be that as it may, I can tell you this, if this passes and it filters down to the Departments and the Camps, the State of Ohio will have no legal representation, because with the passing of Past Department Commander Henry Shaw, we have no attorneys in our Department. Nor do we have any Brothers that are any close to do that.

Unknown

Not true. Our secretary's a prosecuting attorney.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. And how long has he been in that Order?

Unknown

15, 16 years.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

That's where we are. You want to go to lunch and take this up again?

Unknown

Illegal.

Unknown

Vote.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You guys don't want to eat, okay. The motion is, as I understand it... the first motion that we're going to deal with is deleting the word "legal".

Unknown

Right.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

All in favor of deleting "legal", raise your cards.

Those opposed?

Okay. The deletion of "legal" is now in effect. Now, we're going to Brother Pahl's change...

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

No. That's already been passed.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Huh?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's already been passed.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's already passed. So now, we're going... so now, we are voting on...

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

The main motion as (indistinguishable).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah. The main motion is amended, which is... oh, shit.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Adding the language...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Adding the language of basically that the National Counselor has to be a person admitted to the practice of law in at least one state in the United States and at least one United States District Court. This would be exactly the opposite of what the C&R Committee came up with. The C&R Committee said not to concur with this.

So you're voting to concur with the change, as made, or you're voting... that would be a yes vote. The no vote would be that you're basically following the C&R Committee's non-concurrence. Okay. Everybody understand that? Any questions on that?

All in favor of supporting the changes or the change to the resolution, as changed, which was Brother Pahl's, raise your hands.

Those opposed, which means you're concurring with the nonconcurrence of the C&R, raise your hand.

That fails. The C&R Committee's thing stands.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Now, are we going to lunch now?

Encampment

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We got more stuff to do.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr. Commander-in-Chief

All right. We're going to go to lunch. We're going to start to reconvene back at 1:30. So Chaplain Jerry, will you please?

[three raps, ***]

Jerome W. Kowalski, National Chaplain

We ask Almighty God to bless us and our food. If you agree with me, say Amen.

Encampment

Amen.

[one rap, *]

Second Session - Friday Afternoon

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Did you all have a good lunch?

And we're still having fun, right?

Unknown

Yep.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah, buddy.

Okay. We've got to backtrack a little bit. Three things, and then we're going to hand out some awards, and then you get to have me back again.

Unknown

Yay.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Lucky you!

Okay. On page 68, the second... right below where it says, "*refer to Programs and Policies*", there is a background about... concerning Form 30. We had skipped over that. And once again, we're referring that to the Programs and Policy Committee, okay?

Now, we're going even further back. As promised, we tabled the Department of Massachusetts' resolution of adding historical furniture, decorative or decorations, charters, and the like. This actually does not appear in the C&R. There's no section that deals with this. There is not a policy that deals with this.

What this actually is... is the wording on top of a form for the application for monies from the grant. So basically, what we're going to do... the Committee, is we're going to refer this to Programs and Policy and for them to take action forthwith.

Now, remember that little fiasco we had for an hour and a half?

Yes, sir? What have you got?

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

That's where the policy is.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. That's... is this what you just came up...

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Yeah...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes, okay.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

The old one had it too.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. I guess there is a change to the... there is a policy. So what I just said changes again. We will go to... it is part of the C&R right now; is that correct?

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

It exists right now. It's the old...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. And it's also in the new section?

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

It's also in the new.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. So this is going to modify the section that Brother Beard talked about, the first one we did.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

(Indistinguishable) it's on 19.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

It starts basically on page 63, 64, 65. You have Monuments and Memorials Fund, Item D, and it runs through... there's seven parts to it.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

This is where it was.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

And that's where it would make the change in there. So basically, it's adding this...

Unknown

So this was Section 8 (indistinguishable)?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

... for use for the preservation of the Grand Army of the Republic and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War historical furniture, decorations, charters, and other important documents. That would be on the actual form where you're asking for your money.

So discussion? Are you coming to speak, sir?

Wayne F. Wehrheim, Department of Illinois

Yes, sir. I'm Wayne Wehrheim, Senior Vice Commander, Camp #67, Peoria, Illinois. And we had to.... since we have our original GAR hall, we had a landmark presentation or a landmark group buy the property. It was the only way we were going to keep it and keep it from being torn down.

So the deal is, they get everything; furniture, pictures on the wall. The only thing that we get are our flags and our charter or charters. But that's all we get. So as far as us trying to save something, it's not going to fly. So I just wanted to bring that up.

Do you have a question for me? Oh, good.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Well, I have a question. Does that mean you're for this change or not?

Wayne F. Wehrheim, Department of Illinois

I haven't given it enough... I haven't taken it under advisement yet.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

Brother Beard.

D. Michael Beard, Department of the Chesapeake, National Treasurer

Michael Beard, National Treasurer. On page 23, the existing language is crossed out and you can see where the existing language is. It's in Section 8, and it says, "*purpose of Memorials, Monuments Grant Fund is to assist Camps and Departments in their acts to refurbish and restore Civil War related memorials and monuments*".

So that's what this (indistinguishable). And we also can't add to this particular one (indistinguishable) the grant is ceiling of \$2,000.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Question. James Pahl, Past Commander-in-Chief as the National... Assistant National Counselor, C&R. So in effect, Brother Darby, what we're doing is asking that this language found on page 67 from Massachusetts, Monuments and Memorials, grants must be used for preservation that... that will amend National Regulations in that Section 8 (indistinguishable) funds, subparagraph (b), and that will be inserted in subparagraph (b) and amend the Regulations in that manner? Is that what I understand is being proposed?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

That's what I understand. Yes, sir.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

I just wanted to make sure I understood.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes, sir?

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

Bernie O'Bryan from Camp #3, Department of Kentucky. I have a question on this. With our Organization giving money for the restoration of various objects, is there a requirement on these objects that they not be sold after we spent the money to refurbish them or repair them? Can anyone answer that question for me or address that issue?

My concern is that our Order would, if it's an object, it's one thing; if it's a monument or something like that; that's going to stay there. But let's say we refurbish a chair or a flag or something, and one of the Departments or whoever asks for it, ends up selling that... our money has gone to their profit. I just want to understand what our grant application says about ownership of the property, and making sure we're not going to indirectly benefit someone from our generosity. Can someone answer that question?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Let me see if I... don't sit down. Let me see if I understand your question. Are you saying that if we make this change, and you have a chair, and you have it restored, are you able to sell that chair; is that what you're basically saying?

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

I'm not saying, I'm asking. I'm asking what... I don't want to put us in a position where we have put money to restore an object and have that object sold. So, and again...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You would then, in my mind, you would be... have to have National's permission to sell any of the equipment... anything the Camp owns. Really, your Camp doesn't own it. If you fold, it comes to us. So you don't really have, in my opinion, you don't have the right to sell anything.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

I am of the same opinion. But this is more because of this... it's more of a question on the grant itself. Are we... are the requirements in the grant process that this has to be objects that are owned by our Order?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

No. You could...

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

Then we could be restoring a GAR chair that someone owns?

Unknown

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes. If you're submitting money or you're... if you're involved in the restoration of an object...

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

... and you're sponsoring that restoration with someone else, like, if you restore a monument, you don't own the monument.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

Correct.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We have paid... Chillicothe, Ohio, Enderlin Camp #73 has restored a Civil War monument.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We don't own the monument. We provided funds for it. The county actually spent the lion's share. Basically, we've given up money so we could get our name as a contributor to the restoration of this monument. But it has to be... for you to get the money, your Camp or Department has to sponsor the activity.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

But there is no requirements in our grant process for objects to be owned by our Order...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

No.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

...in order to get the grant?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Never has been.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

Thank you.

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

Walt Busch, Civil War Memorials Officer. I was just going to stand up here and say I disagree with the (indistinguishable). But I disagree with it for several reasons. I don't think it's thought well enough through.

The gentleman just before me presents a very valid argument. I've got several. If we restore Linn County's GAR photograph in Missouri and spend \$1,000 on it, they can turn around and sell it for \$2,000, or somebody steals it, because I know local Historical Societies... people do steal stuff out of there. And then, two days later, it's on eBay being sold, and we have no control over it. This needs to be thought through.

I also am opposed to it for the simple reason that, to me, I agree that we need to restore GAR halls. I believe that that is a memorial or a monument. When you start talking furniture and some

of these other things, I don't... I just don't like the fact that it seems like a memorials program and monuments program is becoming a dumping ground for everything. And if this is what we want to do, it needs its own separate program, its own separate fund, and its own separate, you know...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

But how are you going to pay for it?

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

Well, same...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

If you're going to establish a new fund, where's the money coming from?

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

Well, I don't want to establish a new fund. I'm just saying if we do this, that that's what it ought to be... donations or whatever. I'm just saying that I disagree with this being in the Memorials Fund.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

You got the guy in the back first. Got one more, Brian.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Yes, Brother?

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado. You know, I watch too much Antiques Road Show, and I have to tell you that fundamentally is just a historic guy. You know, you really run in... I don't support this at all. I mean, the provenance of an item, it's... unless it's clearly established, you could be getting something from Aunt Jemima that was... she said it belonged here, and she gives it to a member of the Camp and it's in not good condition. The Camp spends the money. Now, it becomes the property of the Camp or the Order or the Department.

I'm going to tell you... are Departments and Camps onboard with 4.0 property management of their Camp property? I can speak from personal experience. I inherited zero inventory lists of items, inherited zero property cards for Camp property. So I just... this is just unduly burdensome. Unless you're really 4.0 in terms of how you're administrating property, this just opens it up to all kinds of misinterpretation, whatever. I don't agree with it. Thank you.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander?

B.P., Past Commander-in-Chief. I agree with the last three brothers, especially Brother Walt. I think this is well-intentioned, but there are unintended consequences that could come out of this that have not yet been thought through.

And so I do stand in opposition, too. Yes, I do appreciate Massachusetts for its due diligence upon where to put the language. Now that I've heard it and understand it, again, I don't agree. Keep it... the Monument program unbroken as is. Well done. Sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any other... more discussions?

David Rish, Department of Ohio

Senior Vice Commander, Department of Ohio, Dave Rish. I'm supporting this because our Camp that we're in is in the GAR Hall in the courthouse with the original GAR furniture from when it was built. And we need some restoration.

The seatings... they had leather on them originally. Now, they have Naugahyde, they're rough, they're terrible, but we still use them every meeting. And you know, we'd like to see it restored. So that's going to come out of our Camp funds if we don't have a way to... and we own that because it had gotten away from the courthouse. We found out where it was at and went in and Brothers threw their money in together and we bought it. So the Brothers own that furniture.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

What do you think?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Better say this is the last one.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Last one. Yes, sir?

Phil Solida, Kennesaw Mountain Camp #3

Phil Solida, Kennesaw Mountain Camp #3. Why are we arguing about this when we could solve it easily by just creating a form where in the original donator to the Camp, signs it that they are donating to the Camp, and if they are not donating it to the camp, then the Camp may still restore it. But they don't get ownership. So there's no argument about the situation.

Unknown

Last one from Massachusetts.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. One more.

Roderick J. Fraser, Jr., Department of Massachusetts

Thank you, Commander. Rod Fraser, Commander, Department of Massachusetts. So it's... there is a Committee. There is a Grants Committee, and that's what the Committee does; it reviews the applications, and it says yes, we should give money to this, or no, we should not give money for that.

Yes, you prove that this stuff is worth... it's valuable to the Order, therefore we should conserve it. Or no, your provenance is not good, or your argument is not good, or your documentation is not good, so therefore, the Committee's not going to approve it.

So we have a committee. We have a process. It's just whether or not we want to conserve these things like charters, GAR furniture, and things of that nature. Thanks.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We're going to go to a vote now.

Those who are all in favor, please raise your blue cards.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

The proposal is that you... there will be an addition to the section that deals with Monuments and Memorials Grant Fund... can be amended to include that grants may also, "may", doesn't say "shall", may also be used for the preservation of Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War historical furniture, decorations, charters, and other important documents.

That would be added to the form and also to that section that we just voted on to approve. Now, we're going to modify that this afternoon. So basically, if you vote yes, you are voting for that, the inclusion of those materials as part of something that could receive grant money.

You also have to understand that 501(c)(3) money... the more we give away, it, well, it helps our 501(c)(3) (indistinguishable) capital budget. So 'yes' means you're going to accept it. 'No' means it will stay the way it is, and these items will not be covered under the grant fund.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

This will be by a majority?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

No, two thirds.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Two thirds.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Okay. This will be by two thirds.

Those all in favor of this, raise your blue card, please. Okay. Thank you.

For those who oppose it, raise your blue card.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

You're going to have to take a count.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

Put your cards down. We're going to start from those.

The Guide and the Guard, please.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Well, we need to know how many people are eligible to vote.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Yes. Daryl VerStreate. Is it Walt back there? What are the numbers of those who are able to vote?

Daryl VerStreate, Credential Committee Chairman

190.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

190?

Daryl VerStreate, Credential Committee Chairman

Should be 190.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Please raise your blue cards again that you are in favor of this.

Unknown

Okay. I have 44.

Unknown

Got 44 and 47. 44 and 47.

Unknown

You need the ones that is not here?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You don't need to do it. What's that number?

Unknown

91.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

90 what? 91 votes for? That's not two thirds, so...

Kevin Tucker, Jr. Vice C-in-C

Well, count the nos. Maybe not everybody's in the room.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Count the nos.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Do what?

Kevin Tucker, Jr. Vice C-in-C

You don't know how many is in the room. So count the nos.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Count the no's then.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

And those who are against it, please raise your blue cards.

Unknown

35.

Unknown

And 31.

Unknown

66.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

66, plus how many people were...

Unknown

66 plus 97, 163.

Unknown

163.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

163. So then, you have to have two thirds of 160 plus.

Unknown

You need 106.

Unknown

You got 97.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

It did not pass.

[one rap, *]

Unknown

What's the number?

Unknown

Needed 106 to pass.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

At this moment, we're going to go to the awards.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

First thing I want to do for the awards is... I just want to let you all know that we worked with Brian Pierson on this. I tell you what, he's done a great job. He's really assisted us a lot. Just personally, I want to thank Brian. I mean, you've been doing it for 30 years now, Brian.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma

Yeah, sure.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

It's time to present the annual awards to recognize the good works over the past year and outstanding service to the Order, and the keeping green the memory of the boys in blue.

Brothers, when your name is called, please come to the flags to receive your certificate from the Commander-in-Chief. Once all the certificates are handed out, then I'd say everybody's going to applaud. For the sake of time, we're going to go through this fairly quickly. All right?

The Host Committee; John, Mike, you around? Anyone? We want to thank you guys for what you've been doing. All right. So with that said, we have a Certificate of appreciation. So come up here. If you can come up to the awards area. Mike, I went all over the building looking for you.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Next is Kevin Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Kevin Tucker, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Dan Murray, National Secretary.

Michael Beard, National Treasurer.

Robert Welch, National Quartermaster.

Past Commander-in-Chief, Bruce Frail, who is not here. We will make sure he gets his certificate.

Shane Milburn, Council of Administration.

Gerald Hall's not here. We'll make sure he gets his.

Robert Payne, Council of Administration.

You Michigan guys can (indistinguishable). Would somebody like to come back up and accept his award for Michigan? All right.

Brian Pierson, Counsel of Administration.

Roderick Fraser, Council of Administration.

James B. Pahl, *Banner* Editor, also the Parliamentarian. This is about four other (indistinguishable).

David Demmy, the Executive Director.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you very much.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Robert Payne, if you could stay out there with the Commander-in-Chief, you can accept Susan Mitchell's award.

W. Faron Taylor.

Don Buckler, National Organization Expansion Officer.

Chaplain Jerry, you're next.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you so much for everything.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Someone to call your name out.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff.

Encampment

(applause).

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Hey, over here.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you, Jim, for everything. There you go.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Take your award with you.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

I'm trying not to do this until last (indistinguishable).

Walt Busch, National Civil War Memorials Officer...

... and Donald E. Darby, National Counselor.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you, Walt.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Michael Spaulding, National Eagle Scout Coordinator.

Dean Enderlin, National GAR Records Officer.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Michael, thank you so much for everything.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Henry C. Duquette, National Graves Registration Officer.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Dean, thank you so much for everything. There you go.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Edward Dowd, National Guard.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you so much.

Edward Dowd, National Guard

It's my pleasure.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

John M. Huffman, Jr., National Guide.

Gary Gibson, National Historian.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you (indistinguishable). Gary, thank you so much for everything.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Perley Mellor, National Liaison the Cathedral of the Pines.

Ken Freshley, National liaison to MOLLUS.

Rocky Bartlow, National Membership-at-Large Coordinator

Tad Campbell, National Patriotic Instructor.

Tim McCoy, National Signals Officer. I don't believe he's here.

Daniel Earl. He's not here either. So we'll have somebody pick up the award. Thank you. I'm sorry, is somebody here from Dan Earl's Department? If you could come up and accept this certificate. Thank you. My bad.

Sumner Hunnewell, National Webmaster and Monuments and Memorials.

John, would you like to pick up? And while you're up there... John Vander Meulen, Assistant National Secretary for Proceedings.

Past Commander-in-Chief, Daniel Wheeler... or Dan Wheeler is not here. New York. Anyone from New York to pick up Danny's award?

Cher Petrovic, National Photographer

That one's for Sumner, I think.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Oh, Sumner.

John Vander Meulen, National Secretary for Proceedings

That's for Sumner? All right.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Then we have one coming for yourself.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Michael Paquette, Assistant National Treasurer.

John Vander Meulen, National Secretary for Proceedings

John Vander Meulen.

Thank you, sir.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Someone from New York?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

New York.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Brian Mexin, Assistant National Quartermaster. I don't know if he's here or not. (indistinguishable) can come up and get his award, that would be great. For some reason (indistinguishable).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Next victim. Michael, thank you so much for everything.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Ed Norris, National Battle Flag Preservation Officer.

Daryl VerStreate, Jr., Chairman, National Committee on Encampments Credentials.

Bob Petrovic, Chair of National Committee Lincoln Tomb Observance.

Gary McKinch, Chair of National Committee on eBay Surveillance.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Bob's coming up?

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

If Gary's not here, would somebody (indistinguishable)?

Don Darby is here, by the way. Don got...

Donald L. Martin, Chair of the National Committee on Scholarships.

Donald D. Palmer, National Chair on Vision and Planning.

I did not say that!

Past Commander (indistinguishable). Actually, golden-haired Murry said nice hair.

Encampment

(laughter and chatter)

Unknown

Not that we're throwing anybody under the bus.

Unknown

Wait. You're talking about Don Martin's hair, right?

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

(Indistinguishable) Don Martin.

(Indistinguishable) Jerome L. Orton, National Committee on Real Sons and Daughters.

Next is Benjamin Frail, National Committee on Social Media and Management. If someone would like to pick this up from Rhode Island.

Dexter Bishop, Chair, National Special Committee on Veterans Reforms of the United States.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Are you picking up for Jerry? Who's picking up for New York for Jerry?

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Can someone from New York come up to pick up Jerry Orton's?

Unknown

Here he comes.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Ben Block Jones, Special Committee on the 250th birthday of the United States of America. He's not here. Can someone from that Department please come up and accept that?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

New York.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Dave Hann, Chair of National Committee on Fundraising.

Cher Petrovic, National Photographer

Do you want to take Bruce's too?

Unknown

Sure.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Brothers, that concludes the certificates of recognition for the gentlemen ... Committees.

Encampment

(applause).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Certificates of recognition are awarded to Jack Mills from Kentucky. Jack, are you here?

No? Okay.

Bruce Fortin, Department of Kentucky.

Kenneth Felton, Department of California.

Cher Petrovic, National Photographer

I don't think Jack Mills is here.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

What's that?

Cher Petrovic, National Photographer

I don't think Jack's here yet.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

Cher Petrovic, National Photographer

I think he won't be here until tomorrow.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

And the last Certificate of Recognition which is awarded is Kent Dorr from the Department of Ohio who, with Jim Houston, has done about 90,000 grave registrations.

Encampment

(applause).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Meritorious Service Awards for Outstanding Service to the Order is awarded to Daniel W. Murray, Past Department Commander and our National Secretary... for meritorious achievement and a superior performance in the accomplishment of the ideals and principles of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War during this period of 1999 until 2024.

Brother Daniel Murray of the Department of New Hampshire is currently serving as National Secretary and has served on the National Council of Administration from 2005 to 2008; National Committee on Civil War Grant Fund, he served from 2005 to 2008; the National Military Affairs Committee, 2004-2005.

He has served the Order for over 25 years as a member of the W. W. Brown, Camp #1, Department of New Hampshire. Brother Murray served as Department of New Hampshire Commander for five terms and is a dual member of the Charles H. Bond Camp #104, Department of Massachusetts.

He served two terms as Department of Massachusetts Commander as well as Secretary/Treasurer and Council Member. He is currently commissioned as Captain in the Sons of Veteran Reserves

and serves as the first military history (indistinguishable). He served as Commander of the New England Regional Association, which includes Brothers from the six New England states.

Brother Dan has served on four National Camp Host Committees, serving as Chairman on two Host Committees in New Hampshire, 2005, 2023 National Encampments; as a member of two Host Committees in Massachusetts, 2008, 2018. All were outstanding events thanks to Brother Murray's leadership and vision.

Brother Murray has organized the Department of Massachusetts Annual Remembrance Day weekend trip for the past 13 years, coordinating lodging, motorcoach transportation, tours and meals for Brothers, sisters, and family members throughout New England.

Brother Murray has been awarded the Roger L. Olsen Award as Brother of the Year for his outstanding service to the Department of Massachusetts twice.

Encampment

(applause).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

This next one will be final. MSA with Gold Star is presented to David Demmy, Sr. David, you have to come up.

Brother David Demmy, Department of Pennsylvania has been the Executive Director since 2008 when he took over the operations at SUVCW Headquarters. He learned on his own, as there were no handbooks or job... the responsibilities in written form.

Over the following years, Brother Demmy has created computer filing cabinets to share information so it can be readily available. One of the major accomplishments was to create a mailing list for the *Banner*.

(Indistinguishable) many steps involved in the National database to perform (indistinguishable). This event started David Demmy to create a collection of written duties and job responsibilities for Headquarters. He created a monthly and quarterly reports and rosters that he took from his experiences while in the U.S. Army.

In Commander-in-Chief Don Martin's term, Brother David convinced him that he should have someone trained to do his job in case something happened to him. As Commander-in-Chief, Gene Mortorff was asked to assist at Headquarters, and he did.

That finally came to fruition in June of 2016. He was injured and needed to have surgery on his spine. Since he could not drive, he talked to Brother Mortorff a couple of times a day from home, answering all the queries, incomplete reports, and tough questions. After a couple of weeks, Brother David asked Gene to pick him up, which he did.

David Demmy has gone above and beyond, streamlining Headquarters' offices. During COVID, he was kicked out of the Headquarters by museum management. He was told to leave in five minutes. Actually, I believe that was ten or 15 minutes. So they were looking to close the building down. It was impossible for him to do his duty, but David never missed a beat. Operating... he was in office and... hard to get work done when you're limited with the files.

David Demmy, congratulations.

Encampment

(applause).

Unknown

Hip! Hip!

Encampment

Huzzah!

Unknown

Hip! Hip!

Encampment

Huzzah!

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Too bad you were not in the Navy. We would have taken you in the Navy. Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Darby said that.

Encampment

(laughter).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

You ought to hear him. He said he gets blamed for everything.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

That's true.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

We have two other gentlemen that we're giving an MSA with Gold Star. I don't believe Don Benson or Phil Signor are here, right? ... from Columbia? But we'll make sure they get these, ... send them out. Is anybody here from that Department by any chance? Okay.

Moving along. Meritorious Service Award for outstanding service to the Order is John Buckler, Department of Kentucky. John, thanks for all this. I know you guys worked...

John Buckler, Department of Kentucky

I don't think I deserve it, but...

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

That's what most everybody says... they don't deserve it.

John Huffman, Department of Ohio.

Encampment

(applause).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Don, did you find Mike Flynn yet, or is he taking a nap?

Unknown

John?

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

No, Mike Flynn. No. Don't be so shy. Don Darby does not bite.

Cher Petrovic, National Photographer

Yeah, he does.

Encampment

(laughter and chatter).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Mike, thanks for everything.

The National Aide Award... for recruiting more than five new members is Howard Black, Commander, Department of Maine.

David R. Medert Award... the Brother who recruits the most members is awarded to Bob Moody, Department of Kentucky. Department Commander, would you like to come up and (indistinguishable)?

All right, Michael.

The Chaplain William Corby Award is presented to Chaplains who have faithfully served their Brothers. Joseph Kessler was the first. Is Joseph here?

Nope?

Douglas Jones... is Doug here?

Nope?

So if anybody belongs to the Department, if you could come up and accept the award for both those gentlemen.

The Augustus P. Davis Award... I'm sorry... the Augustus P. Davis-Conrad Linder Award is awarded to the Department with the greatest number of new members. This year's award is to the Department of Pennsylvania. Is the Department Commander here?

Great job.

Encampment

(applause).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

U.S. Grant Cup is awarded to the Department with the greatest percentage increase in membership. This year's award is to the Department of Columbia. And I do not...

Cher Petrovic, National Photographer

There's nobody here from that.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Anyone here from that?

Cher Petrovic, National Photographer

No.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

So we'll make sure that they get what they need.

The Under Forty Award... not an award for guys like me... presented for... the Under Forty Award is awarded to the Department with the greatest number of new members under the age of forty. This year's award is to the Department of Pennsylvania again.

Encampment

(applause).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

The Marshall Hope Award Department level... is awarded to the Department with the best newsletter. This year's award is to, *Tales from the GAR*, Department of Ohio... Don Martin's.

Encampment

(applause).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

The Marshall Hope Award... at the Camp level... is awarded to the Camp with the best newsletter. This year's award is to *The Harriet Lane*, - Lieutenant Commander Edward Lea, USN, Camp #2, Department of Texas.

Encampment

(applause and chatter).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

The Horace Greeley... is the Department level... I'm sorry, is awarded to the Department with the best website. This year's award is to the Department of North Carolina. Any Brothers here from North Carolina? Want to make sure they get...

Unknown

Henry Duquette's here.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

I thought there was somebody here from...

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Here's Henry. Here he comes.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Oh, there he is.

Henry Duquette, Department of North Carolina

That was just amazing. Thanks.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

The Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief Award is awarded to the most outstanding Camp in the order. This year's award is to the Colonel Robert Gould Shaw Camp #54, Department of Massachusetts.

Encampment

(applause and chatter).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

The Elmer (Bud) Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to a Brother with more than 30 years of sustained outstanding service to the Order. This year's award is given to David Martin, Department of New Jersey.

I had to tell you, he's been a member for 45 years, I believe... David Martin has. I think he's written a couple of books from what I read, and so on and so forth, so...

Encampment

(chatter and applause).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

The Founders' Award is the highest award presented by the SUVCW to persons or organizations who are not eligible to be members, but who have served the Order. This year, it's presented to Chris Allen, President, Michigan's GAR Hall, Memorial Hall and Museum, and accepting will be Jim Pahl, Past Commander-in-Chief.

Encampment

(chatter and applause).

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

I thought I was finished, but I'm not.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Not yet.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

The David Medert Award is presented to the Department of Maine.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Howard Black.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Howard Black?

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Howard Black. I'm sorry, we had a typo on some. It's my fault.

Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, Past Commander-in-Chief

Nope, my fault.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

Michael Beard is going to do a presentation for the 1881 Club.

D. Michael Beard, Department of the Chesapeake, National Treasurer

Michael Beard, National Treasurer. In the back of your book, you'll see this ad for the 1881 Club. 1881 Club members have given \$1,881 to the SUVCW. Contributions can be made as a one-time contribution made over a three-year period.

To remain a Club member, the individual must continue donating at least \$25 a month. These donations are added to the Permanent Fund (indistinguishable). It means that money is not spent. It's put into stocks for the purpose of growing for the future of the Order.

So we've had Tim McCoy, Mark Day and Michael Paquette receive their medals, and Alan Russ and Brian McManus received their medals this year at their Department Encampments. So I would like to invite up (indistinguishable) Kevin Martin, Cliff Alexson, and Michael Rudger.

Encampment

(applause and chatter).

D. Michael Beard, Department of the Chesapeake, National Treasurer

I forgot to mention, they get this nifty polo shirt that they "can't" wear at the Encampment.

Encampment

(laughter and applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Gentlemen, we're going to take about a ten-minute break. So Jerry, would you please?

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

[break]

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Back to where we were heading. Okay? I have two more things in which to consider, and then, Brother Pahl is going to stand up here and get things thrown at him.

Going back to the National Counselor issue... what happened was, we voted to take out the word "illegal", and then we verbally...

Unknown

Legal.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

... or "legal", I'm sorry.

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We voted to take that out as an amendment to this thing that's written here that was voted down. So when that was voted down, so was the amendment to that. So Brother Norris is going to put us on the straight and narrow with a motion with notice question. We're going to go right to a vote.

Go ahead.

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. I make a motion that we change Section 9 of the Regulations with the National Counselor... the first sentence to read, *"the National Counselor shall act as the advisor to the Commander-in-Chief of the National Organization."*

Unknown

Seconded.

Encampment

(laughter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Those in favor, please raise your blue cards.

Those... put your cards down. Those who oppose it, raise your blue cards.

Passes.

[one rap, *]

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

One more...

Yes, sir?

Unknown

Commander, point of order. How can we have a motion with no discussion?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We had a discussion when it was first voted on.

George A. Huttick, Department of Tennessee

But you... oh, sorry,... George Huttick, Department of Tennessee, Past Department Commander.
But you significantly changed it with what just happened, with no discussion.

Unknown

It changes the (indistinguishable).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You want to go back and have a discussion?

Unknown

No.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. Parliamentarian, state it.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, National Parliamentarian. Do you recall when the Commander-in-Chief was announcing the rules of an Encampment... he reserves the right to limit discussions? That's what he just did. We've debated the snot out of this this morning. So that's what happened.

George A. Huttick, Department of Tennessee

Clarification. The section now reads, *"the National Counselor shall act as the advisor to the Commander-in-Chief of that National Organization"*, stop. That's not what just got said.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

They just took out that one word.

George A. Huttick, Department of Tennessee

No. What the motion was ... this now reads (indistinguishable).

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. I made the motion. I clearly state the first sentence should read. We're not changing any of the other wordings.

Unknown

That's correct.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Even with that, he is still limited to the length of the discussion. We said no discussion, and we went to vote. So that's how he does that. Okay?

Next thing, Department of New Jersey had a resolution to create a *Banner* yearbook. This is on page 71.

Bryan Sigmund, Department of New Jersey

Bryan Sigmund, Department of New Jersey, Junior Vice Commander. The resolution here is not what was voted upon at our Department Encampment. It's half of it. And therefore, we must withdraw this resolution.

My apologies to all the Brothers... all the Brothers who came on a Zoom meeting on Monday and discussed this and gave a lot in support. But unfortunately, we'll have to see it next year and submit this the proper way, the way it should be.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Right.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes. They've (indistinguishable)...

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

The Department of New Jersey...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

... withdrew.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

...withdrew their offer of the resolution.

[one rap, *]

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Now, Brother Pahl has some issues that came up last year, and were dropped off, and once again, we dropped them off here. So he's going to read those to give you a break from me. And tomatoes are for sale in the back corner.

Encampment

(laughter).

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, Past Commander-in-Chief, Member of the National C&R Committee. We apologize, Brothers. These items were inadvertently left out of our report.

Number one is called at Article II, Membership, to omit Sections 1 and Section 2. Article... this talks about the Brother of a Camp who shall vouch for the applicant's eligibility and moral character... it shall then be referred to a committee of three of which the Brother recommending shall not be one for investigation and report.

The committee shall make careful investigation of facts set forth in the application and shall recommend election or rejection of the applicant. The motion is to add the following language: *"said investigation shall include a search through the state sex offender registry list and such other criminal conviction searches that can be conducted without cost to the Camp."*

The second section: *"a rejected applicant shall not be eligible to apply for membership until six months have elapsed after such rejection."*

And the motion is to add this language: *"If the applicant is rejected due to a conviction of an infamous or heinous crime, he shall be ever rejected for membership."* And the Committee proposes adoption of this language.

Unknown

Second.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

(Indistinguishable) a second.

James P. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Any discussions? Any discussions?

Yes?

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

You know, people can be convicted wrongly, and things can be overturned. I think there should be some provision there.

Unknown

Who are you?

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

Yes. I am Bernie O'Bryan. I (indistinguishable) before, but now again... Bernie O'Bryan from Camp 3, Department of Kentucky. (Indistinguishable) it says the word "permanent" if you have a conviction. What if the conviction is overturned? Those things need to be considered before you permanently ban someone.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

That would be up to the investigating committee.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

But you've already said the permanent ban,... "permanent".

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

If there's a conviction.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

Okay. But what if the conviction is overturned. They've already permanently been banned.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

He's no longer convicted. He's removed from that status.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

But they're still permanently banned. You're not hearing me.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's up to the Camp to determine that, as they determine appropriately.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

But it doesn't say...

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes. You're correct, it does not.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

Well, I respectfully disagree with your interpretation.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Robert Amsler, Past Department Commander, Department of Missouri. I stand against this because you have not defined what "particularly heinous" and the other words you used is meant to convey.

I mean, if someone is convicted 20 years... if they were convicted 20 years ago when they were 18 of burglary; they are now 40; it's a third degree burglary; no weapons; are you going to put them in the same boat as a murderer? I mean, there's no guidance here of what constitutes a particularly heinous crime.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

This term is defined in the Regulations as any crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year, and it doesn't matter whether it's last week or 30 years ago. If they've been convicted, and it's not been overturned, not been expunged, they are ineligible for membership.

Wayne F. Wehrheim, Department of Illinois

Wayne Wehrheim, Senior Vice Commander, John Bryner Camp, Peoria, Illinois. Especially if someone's convicted of a heinous crime, and the gentleman brought up a good point, you can be convicted of a non-forcible felony.

Example, the U.S. Supreme Court just ruled on the (indistinguishable) case where a man 30, 35 years ago misused a (indistinguishable) stick in the state he was in, arrested him and charged with a felony. How much of a heinous crime is that? I'm speaking out loud. But I'm just saying that I

agree totally with that gentleman behind me... that you have to look at each and every one. Now, if it's a 'forcible' felony, yeah, I'm tracking it.

But also, as a retired cop, I recall when the City of Detroit was hiring police officers who were convicted of felonies, as long as they weren't forcible felonies... now, because you had to hire cops from the city limits. Thank you.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

I served as an officer right outside Detroit, and the joke in the department was that... that's the first thing you (indistinguishable) police applicants is how to expunge their record.

But we're not changing the rules of eligibility, because all we're requiring is that the committee, in their investigation, check those registers. That's it. This does not change any of the rules currently in place.

Wayne F. Wehrheim, Department of Illinois

I apologize. I must have interpreted what you said incorrectly.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

Andrew Johnson, Department of the Chesapeake

Andrew Johnson from the Department at the Chesapeake. I went to get a *Black's Law Dictionary* to determine that heinous crimes typically involve some sort of extraordinary personal injury or death. Prominent heinous crimes include murder, forcible rape, sexual molestation, aggravated felonious assault, robbery, (indistinguishable) similar serious injury or death resulting... not usually burglary or shoplifting. These are serious, serious crimes involving injury to persons... just for a reference.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. We'll take a vote.

Those all in favor, please raise your blue cards.

All right. Put your cards down.

Those who oppose this, please raise your blue cards.

It passes.

[one rap, *]

Edward Dowd, National Guard

Commander, we have a representative from the Auxiliary. She's the Patriotic Instructor. She has two guests, and they were wishing to address this Encampment, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Let them in.

[three raps, ***]

Encampment

(clapping)

Kim Villalva, Auxiliary National Patriotic Instructor

Let them sit.

[one rap, *]

Unknown

Thank you.

Kim Villalva, Auxiliary National Patriotic Instructor

Yeah, sorry. I figure you might... you all might want to sit.

Thank you so much, Commander Hritsko, Brothers, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War for your kind welcome. My name is Kim Villalva. I am that National Patriotic Instructor for the Auxiliary. And part of my job, a favorite part of my job, is to find a nonprofit organization in the area of our Annual Encampment. And part of my fundraising responsibilities are that we will make a donation then to this nonprofit that is selected for the year.

My ancestor... one of my Civil War ancestors, was Sergeant William B. Beier. He was with the 15th West Virginia Infantry. He was wounded in the leg, and unfortunately discharged. The photo I have of him... he is standing in a West Virginia farm where he had returned, and he lived to the age of 90 without a part of his leg. He has the long white beard, very classic Civil War veteran photo.

Ever since that day when I learned who my veteran was, I was very intrigued by this area that I saw in the photograph, and I started doing a lot of research about the Appalachian Region. And what I discovered was going on in our own backyard here in America really, really pulled at my heart. And so we have a heart and a caring for our people.

And so when I found this organization called, Christian Appalachian Project, and the work that they do here, and the immense impact they do, I knew that was the organization that we were selecting. So thank you for listening to them for just a couple quick minutes. I have Sarah James and Justin Kitts here with me. And so I will turn it over to them.

Encampment

(applause).

Sarah James, Christian Appalachian Project

Thank you, gentlemen, so much. It's a privilege for me to be here. I've actually been to one of your reenactments, and I have this picture emblazoned on my memory: the battle's over, the soldiers have fallen all across the field, it's quiet. And I guess it was a bugle that was blown, and someone shouted out "resurrect", and everybody did, and it was really, really cool.

Encampment

(laughter).

Sarah James, Christian Appalachian Project

My name is Sarah James, and I'm the Church and Relations... or Church and Community Relations

Officer for Christian Appalachian Project. I have the good fortune of having Justin. He's our Foundations Officer, and he's also my manager. So I'm grateful to have him with me today.

I am so glad that Kim thought of us, and that you all thought of us, because thinking of Christian Appalachian Project... to think of us is to think of 48 percent of children in McCreary County in the State of Kentucky that live below the poverty line, is to think of over 4,000 people that came through our food pantries just last year alone, is to think of the hard-working Appalachians that you all remember in the news, the floods in 2022 that came through, and they just stood back and watched their houses fill with floodwaters.

That's who you're thinking of when you think of Christian Appalachian Project. We're the largest nonprofit organization serving Appalachian Eastern Kentucky counties. The Appalachian Regional Commission has designated 38 of the 54 Appalachian Eastern Kentucky counties as distressed. And this means that they are in the bottom ten percent nationwide in unemployment and poverty rates.

CAP directly services 11 of these 38 counties. Our mission at CAP is to bring hope, to transform lives, and to share the love of Christ through service. We do this at CAP through focusing on several... nine service priorities, food, and security. And as I mentioned, we have our food pantries.

Last year, we repaired 300 homes. A third of those were those homes that were damaged by the flooding. Youth development, counseling, family advocacy. We have two summer camps for young children each summer, and the list just goes on.

Our change model is that we know that a very trustworthy person once said the poor you will always have among you. But we always want to be there as well... CAP does, to eliminate the daily stressors that people who are living through generational poverty experience every day... because life is hard enough, right... when things are going okay? But when you're also dealing with this kind of situation, even some small event can just take away the last bit of hope that you might have.

So CAP is there on the ground, and we are... there's three advantages of partnering with CAP that I'd like to share with you today. The first is our culture. We have a culture of faith. Justin and I meet with our co-workers every morning before we begin in our office here in Lexington, and we literally pray for our participants, and we ask God every day to make our work fruitful, to connect those who have a need with those who have, and let us maybe be the mediator in between.

We have a culture of service. All of us employed at CAP go right out with the other volunteers and work in all of our programs. We are a culture of compassion. We build relationships with our participants.

And then, our advantage is that our outreach is comprehensive. And the best way for me to explain is... is to tell you a story.

There was a grandmother who had a cancer diagnosis, and she called CAP and all she wanted was a case of Ensure dietary supplement going through treatments. She had her middle-aged daughter living with her. She also had had, unfortunately, a cancer diagnosis and the daughter had two young girls living there.

So with that one knock on the door by our CAP people, they were able to make their home safe, warm, and dry and, prior to that, it was none of those things. They were able to give vouchers for

back-to-school supplies and clothing for the young girls. They saw to it that the ladies were taken to doctors' appointments. They eventually also gave... we were able to do mental health counseling for the young girls.

So there are just so many things, and that's one of the beauties of working with CAP because so many of us, you know, might want to feed the hungry or, you know, work on disaster relief and home repair. CAP does all of these things.

So when you partner with CAP, you're able to really just spread out, you know, your wings in all kinds of directions that really make a difference for people. So how you can join CAP's community of care? Financial support, of course. Volunteering... anyone here from the State of Kentucky or Ohio or Tennessee, come volunteer with us. And even if you're... we have volunteers that come from all over the country.

So bring your civic organizations, bring your churches, and come and we have all kinds of volunteering opportunities that you can help us out with. Most importantly, if God brings Christian Appalachian Project to your mind, pray for us and ask Him, as we do, that he will continue to increase our mission and continue to use us to reach Appalachia. Thank you so much again for your time. We really do appreciate it.

Encampment

(applause).

[three raps, ***]

Encampment

(clapping)

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. We'll continue where we left off.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

Edward J. Krieser, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief... may I say something?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

Edward J. Krieser, Past Commander-in-Chief

Rather than putting something to impact the budget, which is going to be pretty tight, I move that we pass the hat. Do something that brings back the tradition that we used to do where we support the local community where we hold our National Encampment, and pass the hat, and give the proceeds to this organization.

Unknown

Second.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Before we get to hat passing, where's the money going? Tell me where the money is going.

Edward J. Krieser, Past Commander-in-Chief

Those ladies.

Unknown

Christian Appalachian Project.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Where is the money going? Answer that question.

Edward J. Krieser, Past Commander-in-Chief

The Christian Appalachian Project.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We can't hear you. Get to the front.

Edward J. Krieser, Past Commander-in-Chief

Christian Appalachian Project.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. If you missed the first running up of that, it's the Senior Vice of the Auxiliary as part of her mission to get money for this. So basically, the money is going to the Auxiliary as their project this year. That's what the first lady in the white dress was talking about, okay?

So you need to understand where your money is going. If we are supporting the Auxiliary's charity donation, and that's what you want to do, fine. Or are you just giving it directly to the second lady? I want to know which one you're wanting to do it to.

Edward J. Krieser, Past Commander-in-Chief

Well, was the lady in the white dress asking us for money, or was the lady in the black dress asking us for money?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

The lady in the white dress actually came in as part of, as I understand it, it was her as the Senior Vice?

Unknown

Patriotic Instructor.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Or is that... as their Patriotic Instructor, it's one of her ways to get so much. She's required to raise X number of dollars in her position as National Patriotic Instructor. That's where the money was going - unless you're changing it.

Are you saying pass the hat and give it directly to the second lady, or are you funneling it through the Auxiliary's National Patriotic Instructor so they can make the \$3,000 commitment that they have to make?

Edward J. Krieser, Past Commander-in-Chief

If they have a \$3,000 commitment, let them do it. This is... I'm proposing to do this separately. They came here to talk to us.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Well, one or the other. Either you're going to vote for it to go to the Auxiliary's National Patriotic Instructor, which is what the first lady was talking about, or you're passing the hat for the money to go directly to... from us directly to the lady who spoke second?

Edward J. Krieser, Past Commander-in-Chief

My motion was directly to them.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. That's all I wanted. I wanted clarification on where the money was going so that everybody knew where it was going, okay? That's all.

Stephen A. Michaels, Department of Wisconsin, Past Commander-in-Chief

Past Commander-in-Chief, Steve Michaels, Department of Wisconsin. I think you're confusing two fundraisers and you're amalgamating them together. That Patriotic Instructor, as well as a couple of the other National officers, raise money for their National organization so they have money as a National organization to spend during the year.

This is a separate item for the National Patriotic Instructor. This is her project. She's promoting this particular organization. Now, in previous years, we've had someone in here with Paws for Veterans, or whatever that organization is from... her pet project for this year, seeking support from the Sons of Union Veterans, which we have generously done.

So you're trying to combine... or you're mistakenly combining these two things as one entity. It's two separate things. She's not asking for money to support the Auxiliary; she's asking for money to support this project that she has adopted for this year. Thank you.

Bryan Sigmund, Department of New Jersey

Bryan Sigmund here, Vice Commander of the Department of New Jersey. I would suggest that we pass the hat to give to the Auxiliary earmarked for this charity.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Are you motioning to amend?

Unknown

Second.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

You can make that as a friendly amendment.

James Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

No. It has to be a motion to amend. There is no such thing as a friendly amendment.

Edward J. Krieser, Past Commander-in-Chief

I will not accept it as a friendly amendment because that reduces the amount, then, that the Auxiliary pledged.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We have a motion and a second.

Edward J. Krieser, Past Commander-in-Chief

At the same time, I could just stand at the door at the next recess and collect it that way.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah, let them go. If they want to pass the hat, that's fine.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Those who are in favor of giving the money, raise your blue cards...

...to the Auxiliary, and they can give it to whoever they want to give it to.

Unknown

No. That wasn't the motion... was to give it directly to the organization...

Encampment

(chatter).

Unknown

Directly to the organization.

Encampment

(chatter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Okay. So rephrase. Those who are in agreement of giving the money directly to the organization, raise your blue cards.

Okay. Thank you.

Those who oppose, raise your blue cards.

Well, we're going to... it's kind of hard to tell. We're going to go to a votes of the cards and so please stand and those who are in favor of giving to the organization, please raise your blue cards again.

Unknown

I have 40.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You had how many?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

For those who oppose, please raise your blue cards.

Unknown

27.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

It has passed.

[one rap, *]

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Pass your hat.

Encampment

(chatter).

Edward Dowd, National Guard

Commander, the National Patriotic Instructor was here to offer answers to questions to give clarification, but we were in the middle of a vote, so it was kind of tough to bring it up. It's already done.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

It's already done. It's passed.

Unknown

Are we done?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We're passing the hat.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Pass the hat.

Unknown

So I can get the Chaplain's hat and I'll use mine. All right. Here we go.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. James Pahl, from the C&R Committee again. The next thing... amend Chapter III, Article IX, Special Committees. Section I currently reads: *Special Committees may be created by acts of that*

National Encampment and shall be a period or core period of time designated by the creation thereof.

We propose to add the following sentence: *If the period of time is not designated, then the period shall be for one year.* And the Committee moves for adoption.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion? Seeing no discussion, please raise your blue cards if you're in favor.

Those opposed to it, please raise your blue cards.

Passes.

[one rap, *]

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Amend Chapter III, Article IV, Proposed Dues, Section 10. And this section would read: *The Honor Roll donation of \$10 or more. Each new donation shall be listed one time in the Banner, space permitting at the discretion of the editor. It is not an ongoing list of every donation that has been made. The Honor Role Fund is a donation to the Permanent Fund, and this comes under the Regulations for the Permanent Fund.* The Committee recommends approval.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

Those who are in favor, raise your blue cards.

All right. Thank you.

And for those who oppose, raise your blue cards.

All right. It passes.

[one rap, *]

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Next... National Regulations, Chapter III, Meetings, Article III by proposing a new Section 7: *All resolutions and recommendations for consideration at a National Encampment must first be approved by resolution of a Department Encampment at regular meeting, except procedural recommendations of a National Officer may still be presented in its Annual Report.*

Resolutions and recommendations that would amend the Constitution and Regulations must still be filed as provided for in Article or Chapter IV, Article and Section II of these Regulations. All other resolutions be forwarded to the National Secretary at least 30 days prior to the opening of the National Encampment. And the Committee recommends approval.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

All those in favor, please raise your blue cards.

All right. Thank you.

Those who oppose it, please raise your blue cards.

Passes.

[one rap, *]

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Motion to amend the National Regulations, Chapter V, Life Membership Program, Article VIII. A new proposed section... a new proposed 2024 Life Member Program.

This is a sliding scale based on age. And if passed, the Life Membership application for those who are up to 29 years of age would be \$1,090; from 30 to 39 years of age, Life Member would be \$990; 40 to 44, \$905; 45 to 49, \$830; 50 to 54, \$740; 55 to 59, \$655; age 60 to 64, \$565; age 65 to 69, \$480; age 70 to 74, \$390; age 75 to 79, \$300; age 80 to 84, \$225; and age 85 and up, \$145.

The Committee supports and reports this out for your approval with this notation that an actuary was consulted, and these are how these numbers were come up with.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

Those who are in favor, please raise your blue cards.

All right. Thank you.

Those who oppose it, please raise your blue cards.

Pass.

[one rap, *]

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

I hope we can consider the next three housekeeping items, then we're done.

To amend Chapter III, Article VII, old section 34: *All officers of the National Organization shall promptly turn over to their successors all property of the National Organization in their possession, taking the receipts there from.*

The new proposed would add three words: *All Officers and Committee members of the National Organization shall promptly turn over....* and that Committee recommends adoption.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

Those who are in favor, please raise your cards. Thank you.

Those who oppose, please raise your cards.

Pass.

[one rap, *]

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Amend Regulations Chapter I, Camps, Article V. A new proposed section, Section 9: *All Officers and Committee members of a Camp shall promptly turn over to their successors all the property of the Camp in their possession, taking their receipts therefore.* The Committee recommends adoption.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

All those in favor, please raise your blue cards. Thank you.

Those who oppose, raise your blue cards.

Pass.

[one rap, *]

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

I guess the next one... amending Chapter II, Article IV, proposed new Section 6: *All Officers and Committee members of a Department shall promptly turn over to their successors the property of the Department in their possession, taking receipts therefore.*

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

Please raise your blue cards if you're in favor. Thank you.

Any of those who oppose, please raise your blue cards.

Pass.

[one rap, *]

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Final one. Motion to amend Chapter I, Article XI, Section 3 which currently reads: *Each Camp must purchase all officials supplies from National Headquarters.*

The recommendation is to change that language; *Departments, Camps, and Brothers must purchase all Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War branded merchandise from National Headquarters, or from the Departments and Camps which receive permission from the National Organization to sell branded merchandise.* And the Committee recommends approval.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

Please raise your blue cards to approve this. Thank you.

And now, any of those who oppose, raise your blue card.

Pass.

[one rap, *]

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

That concludes... believe it or not, the Committee report on Constitution and Regulations.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right.

We'll go to that National Encampment Site Committee, Past Commander-in-Chief, Michael Paquette.

Michael Paquette, National Encampment Site Committee, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief and Chairman of the National Encampment Site Committee. My report is on page 74, printed number 74. I have two additions.

I mentioned that we were in the process.... in my report... of completing the audiovisual contract for this Encampment. It was signed on the 25th of July. Hence, we have microphones and mixer and the rest for this meeting.

And the second addition is, I was approached yesterday by the Department of Tennessee, and they are considering, seriously considering, putting in a proposal for holding the National Encampment in 2026.

I have no recommendations.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Committee on Fraternal Relations, Past Commander-in-Chief, Brian Pierson.

Brian C. Pierson, National Committee on Fraternal Relations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brian Pierson, Past Commander-in-Chief. My report is included on Officers Report, on page 32. No additions or corrections.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Committee on GAR Post Records, Dean Enderlin.

Dean Enderlin, National Committee on GAR Post Records

Commander... Dean Enderlin, Department of California Pacific. I chair a National Committee on GAR Records. Our report, I believe, you can find on page 75. I do have one addition, some late-breaking news that I wanted to share with the Encampment, and that is that we have been aware that the Department of Tennessee GAR records were in a collection. It was a large collection, and it has recently been scanned and made available digitally.

In the process of adding that information to our records catalog, we have done, I believe... we will have a record of just about every GAR member in the State of Tennessee as well as a significant

addition to the membership in the States of Alabama and Georgia. So we've been looking for ways to expand the GAR record programming in the South. This is going to be a major (indistinguishable). I just wanted to make the Encampment aware of this development. Thank you.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

National Committee on Grave Registrations, Henry Duquette.

Henry C. Duquette, Committee on Grave Registrations

Henry Duquette, Department of North Carolina, Graves Registration Officer, National Graves Registration Officer. I gave my report earlier in an Officers' report (indistinguishable), but I do want to add that I've had a lot of questions so far today.

I'll rewrite the Graves Registration system. We're making progress. It's slow, and we had (indistinguishable) in the progress, and we are solving some technical issues and cleaning up our records as we go along.

It's a massive undertaking, but we are pleased to say we're moving along. We don't yet have any (indistinguishable), unfortunately. So we had some health issues with the developer, and it's supposed to be (indistinguishable). So that's my report.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Committee on Civil War Memorial Grant Fund, Shane Milburn.

Shane Milburn, National Committee on Civil War Memorial Grant Fund

Shane Milburn, Department of Ohio. No additions or corrections.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Committee on eBay Surveillance, Terry McKinch.

Okay.

National Committee on Scholarships, Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Martin.

Donald L. Martin, National Committee on Scholarships, Past Commander-in-Chief

Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Nothing to add, sir. My report's on 82.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Committee on Lincoln Tomb Observance, Robert Petrovic.

Robert M. Petrovic, National Committee on Lincoln Tomb Observance

Bob Petrovic, Department of Missouri. There's no changes.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Committee on Promotion and Marketing, Kevin Tucker.

Kevin P. Tucker, National Committee on Promotion and Marketing

Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. My report is on page.... pages 83 through 85. I do have some addendum to that.

Correction on the dates of the podcast, the eight episodes... Episodes 457 through 465, these (indistinguishable) that were published on Sundays beginning May 26th and running weekly (indistinguishable) scheduled August 4, 2024 episode.

Advertisements are a permanent part of the episodes we sponsored... will be heard by anyone accessing them in their archive at civilwarpodcast.com, or on Spotify or other podcast publishers going forward. As I mentioned in my report, there are two ad spots per episode... this one at the start of the episode.

[audio]

"Founded in 1881, the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War is a congressionally chartered charitable fraternal organization that preserves the history and legacy of the Union Veterans who fought during the Civil War to save the Union and end slavery. You can join a national network of men who form lifelong bonds, honor their heroic ancestors, and promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism in their communities."

"The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War accepts both descendants of Civil War veterans and non-descendants. Visit them today at www.SUVCW.org, or email them at join@SUVCW.org."

"The views, information, or opinions expressed in this podcast are solely those of the individuals involved, and do not necessarily represent those of the SUVCW."

Kevin P. Tucker, National Committee on Promotion and Marketing

Halfway through the episode, listeners will hear a second commercial. Go ahead.

[audio]

"This episode of the podcast is sponsored by the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. Do you have an interest in the Civil War? Founded in 1881, the SUVCW is a congressionally chartered charitable fraternal organization that preserves the history and legacy of the Union Veterans who fought through the Civil War to save the Union and end slavery. The National Headquarters of the SUVCW is located at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania."

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The views, information, or opinions expressed in this podcast are solely those of the individuals involved, and do not necessarily represent those of the SUVCW."

Kevin P. Tucker, National Committee on Promotion and Marketing

I have a few recommendations.

The Committee recommends that its name be changed to better reflect our mission and the work it's charged with. We recommend the *National Promotions and Marketing Committee* be renamed *National Committee on Promoting the Order*.

The Committee recommends that the webmaster add a feedback mechanism for anyone opening the membership page on our National website so he can obtain better methods on where prospective members are hearing about our Order.

And the Committee recommends raising our advertising budget... this is going to be tough, to \$10,000. This past year, we spent \$5,000 to advertise on the Civil War and Reconstruction industry podcast which is less than .005 percent of our National budget. The national average in spending on advertising for a 501(c)(3) corporations is between five percent and 15 percent of their total budget.

We propose bringing our current spending from less than .005 percent to up near one percent of our total budget. This increase would allow the funding to expand exposure and recruitment to the public for the Organization.

For example, *Family Tree* magazine, a media outlet focused on genealogical research, has a number of friends website, newsletter, and social media advertising offerings at relatively affordable rates which would put our name in front of genealogical researchers who might want to know about how to join the Order. On behalf of... of the National... the rest of it is... that all of our recommendations.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

I rule the first recommendation out of order due to the fact that it has not been submitted within the 30 days that allows for it to be...

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

To the C&R.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

...to the C&R Committee. All right.

The second one would be a Committee recommendation... the webmaster add a mechanism for anyone opening the membership page on that National website so can be obtained better metrics on whether prospective members are hearing about the Order.

Any discussion?

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, National Webmaster. Only there's a little issue with that as when you open up the membership, that is also the direct link to all the different Departments. So there's a little bit of... we'll have to... we can try to do this.

There's a whole lot of different things than just opening up the... when you click on the membership links, it takes you to the Departments, all... to go to Departments which could just be

somebody from Tennessee coming over to look... to see the context if it passes. It's nothing to do with membership, but that's how we link through the website.

So there's got to be maybe something else that you'd be looking for besides just simply clicking on the membership link. I don't know what all you're looking for, and that would be a long discussion. But if this is to happen, it's going to take a little bit longer discussion (indistinguishable).

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado. A year ago, I stood here as a... with my colleague, and we made a proposal from our Camp... this assemblage recommending sponsorship at RootsTech 2024, which occurred last February. So unfortunately, we will not be able to make that same request again this year.

But I am pleased to report that at that event... that we ended up actually being able to be there in person... was RootsTech 2024. We had made a reservation pending the outcome of this Encampment. That recommendation, or that request... which was referred to Committee by Commander-in-Chief, Bruce Frail... it was advised to be reviewed.

We respected that. That's fine. When we reported that to RootsTech 2024 a couple weeks later, they offered the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War a free booth pro bono to facilitate the opportunity; I think more to see that we had that opportunity would we look for future opportunities.

We submitted a report and a follow-up of our matrix from that three-day event in Salt Lake City, Utah that occurred in March. We sent the people that signed up at that... they were from all over the country, to the various departments that responded favorably to our communication with them that we had people that had reached out.

And we have had, and I don't have the data... I know that from our Department, we have at least one person who joined the Order as a result of our efforts there. We gave them the brochures. We distributed over 400 brochures, business cards. I did not have enough of the Order's YouTube channel things that I could've given out. We had almost 100 sign-ups.

So we had given data to evaluate for the price if this was an effective... remember, there was thousands of people there at the Salt Lake Convention Center. Three million people asked us for RootsTech landing page, and when you sponsor to that website that... the Order is on there for a whole year. People can go back, and they remember seeing us there and go (indistinguishable), you know, and then go to the RootsTech website and they can get information... membership information.

I just want to make sure that the opportunity was... that the Encampment knew that we (indistinguishable). In fact, the *Family Tree* magazine that Kevin is referring to... they were right next to us. They were right next to us and set up the whole three days and we had good interaction with them. But we had thousands of people literally walk by our booth. Thank you all.

James P. McGuire, Department of Rhode Island

Jamie McGuire, Past Department Commander, Rhode Island, former National Signals Officer. I just want to echo Webmaster, Robert Payne's thoughts on the sort of capture of that data. Yes, it's super important, and something as far the member asking to vote on it right now?

My opinion... that it should probably be further studied, rather than take actual away the other because, you know, Brother Payne, you know... whoever the current webmaster, or the next webmaster is going to be, this would be more just saying that the switch there is going to have to be research involved. So that goes to contact or... I agree with brother Payne.

Michael Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of the Chesapeake. We've been taking these other recommendations from Committees and sending them to one of the appointed committees or to a current committee. So there's not a need for... I don't believe there's a need to vote on this. At this time, it needs to be referred to the appropriate committee.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

It's referred over to the P&P Committee. Let them study and see what they come up with between the next Encampment for the incoming Commander, and also refer to the Council of Administration.

Okay. The Committee recommends raising our advertising budget to \$10,000. This past year, we spent \$5,000 to advertise in the Civil War Reconstruction... a history podcast, which is less than five percent of our National budget. The national average for spending on advertising for a 501(c)(3) corporation is between five percent and 15 percent of the total budget. We propose bringing our current spending from the less than five percent up to one percent of our total budget. I will refer this to the P&P Committee. I mean... excuse me, the Council.

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander... Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. The Committee's asking for two different things. One is a doubling the budget... \$5,000 to \$10,000. The other is taking a budget of 5/1000ths of a percent and bring it up to one percent. So I don't know which numbers they really want. It should be clarified.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Well, it's up to them to look over.

Okay. The National Committee on History, Gary Gibson.

Gary L. Gibson, National Historian

Gary Gibson, National Historian. The Committee report was included with the Historian's report. Thank you.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

National Committee on Membership, Kevin Tucker.

Kevin P. Tucker, National Committee on Membership

Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Nothing (indistinguishable).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

National Military Affairs Committee, Past Commander-in-Chief, Ken Freshley.

Ken L. Freshley, National Military Affairs Committee, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, first I have to apologize to the Encampment, Commander-in-Chief, Commanding General. I did send in my report back in mid-July, but I failed to verify (indistinguishable) records. So it just made it into your packets. But being the Military Affairs Committee, I figured I would try to summarize my report (indistinguishable).

Thank you. Basically, the Military Affairs Committee is a committee that the SUV assigned to work with the SVR Guide (indistinguishable). These are the people that assigned... by the Commanding General, ... all of the appointments and so on and so forth.

So a couple of quick things. We are holding our Remembrance Day this year. It will be on the 16th of November. We're still having it at the Eisenhower Hotel. There will be late summer (indistinguishable) overall the difference of reservations.

Let's see... also, there was some SVR General Staff promotions. Lieutenant Colonel Shane Milburn was promoted to the rank of Colonel, effective 1 July. Also, he was appointed to the position of Deputy Commander of the SVR... again, effective July 1st.

Promotion of Lieutenant Commander, US Navy, Ken Freshley to the rank of Captain, effective July 1st. Also appointed to the position of the Adjutant General, Sons of Veterans Reserves, effective July 1st.

And then, the last, but not least, we had to vote to reappoint the members of the Committee. I was reappointed as the Chair, expiring in 2026; Shane Milburn, expiring in 2026; and John Huffman, expiring in 2025. That's my report, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Committee on Vision and Planning, Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Palmer.

Donald D. Palmer, Jr., National Committee on Vision and Planning, Past Cmdr-in-Chief

Don Palmer, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of Missouri, Committee Chair. I'm going to apologize as well. There is no report in the booklets. The rigors of my day job recently made it such that I completely lost track of time in this endeavor. However, I would like to make a couple of comments, if I have permission to do so?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Yes, you do.

Donald D. Palmer, Jr., National Committee on Vision and Planning, Past Cmdr-in-Chief

So basically, the Vision and Planning Committee... most of the activity centers around planning cycles and (indistinguishable) those planning cycles, most of the activity is around data gathering, pulling information from the Departments through the Committees and looking for trends. And over the past year, the trends generally have been good. However, there is one red flag item I'd like to bring to your attention.

I'd also like to thank Brother Enderlin for capturing this progress in the GAR Records Committee within the context of our 2030 plan. That type of reporting makes our job, again, much easier.

So, red flag item relates to our growth goal in the membership category. We have a membership goal of 8,000 members by the year 2030. That included a three percent increase in membership gains each year, as well as a five percent reduction in the number of (indistinguishable).

But for the past two years, since the establishment of the 2030 plan, we noticed a five percent drop in membership. And thinking about... that number may not be a big deal, but there's a more telling statistic. This is the first multi-year reduction in membership that we've had in the last 35 years.

Over the 1990s, we saw 110 percent increase in membership. In the 2000s, a more modest 15 percent increase, and in the teens, pretty much remained flat with slight rises and increases and decreases each year. But now, we're seeing a trend that showing a major... it's looking like a major decrease.

We don't know whether that's just an aberration or whether it's a long-term trend. I bring that up as something that needs some attention in coming up with a comprehensive plan for membership growth.

You've heard about information coming from the Brother of the Wisconsin ... at his Camp. There's a significant increase in their membership, and you've seen the awards presented today for membership. But we would like to capture some of those best practices and see what we come up with for a comprehensive plan for that.

I know in the engineering world, we have what's called holy grails of technology, and these are technologies that we may pursue over a long period of time knowing they're going to be game changers. But we just can't quite get there.

And I know, coming up with tactful membership growth strategy is the holy grail for nonprofit organizations and fraternal societies. There have been sporadic successes, but I know all of these organizations want to see major growth, and that's a tough challenge. So I bring that up for awareness. The Committee has no recommendations. Thank you.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

National Committee on Real Sons and Daughters, Jerry Orton.

We're going to jump ahead, so... we're going to go to the SUVVCW Charitable Foundation report. We'd like to hear the report from that Sons of Union Veterans Charitable Foundation by Brother, Past Commander-in-Chief, Robert Grim.

Robert E. Grim, Sons of Union Veterans Charitable Foundation, Past Commander-in-Chief

I'd like to take just a few minutes and tell you about the work that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charitable Foundation has been doing. I had the privilege at Fort Mitchell here in Kentucky back in 2003, when I was Commander-in-Chief, to appoint the first Board of Directors. Thanks to the work of the late Henry Shaw... Judge Henry Shaw... we were able to get the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War chartered in the State of Ohio as a nonprofit charitable organization, 501(c)(3). And over the years, we've raised money to work with Civil War restoration of memorials and monuments and that sort of thing.

We have a Board of Directors of eight people, and a President... or Chairman of the Board is Rob Petrovic, from Missouri back here. One of the fundraisers that we do to get money for the Foundation is selling merchandise, and Bob is the Camp man that's doing that.

The Vice Chairman of the Board is Tom Schmitt. Is Tom here? Yeah, stand up Tom, so they can see who you are. The other members of the Board... Don Darby over here and let's see, Alan Teller. Where's Alan? Yeah, stand up Alan, so they can see who you are.

And over here, we have James Houston, (indistinguishable) James. He's a member of the board. Not only is he a member of the Board, but he's the secretary/treasurer of the Board. And I'm on the board as well. And we have two other members that are not here, Mark Day and Shawn Cox.

Now, since we were created in 2003, the Board has raised enough money that we've been able to give grants exceeding \$100,000. The three ways that we raise that money is selling merchandise back here, accepting donations, and we have three levels of medals that we distribute to those people who make donations. You get a bronze medal for a certain amount. Then you get a silver medal for a certain amount. And you get a gold medal for a certain amount. Then we have a super medal for those people that have donated more than \$5,000. And we have at least one of those people who has donated far in excess of the 5,000, Michael Spaulding. Stand up Michael, so they can see what a \$5,000 man looks like.

Encampment

(applause).

Robert E. Grim, Sons of Union Veterans Charitable Foundation, Past Commander-in-Chief

The other source of revenue is through the Smile Amazon program. Many of you use that program and you're familiar with it. But in case you're not... if you buy something on Amazon, rather than go to Amazon.com, go to Smile.amazon.com. Takes you to the same website, buy the same merchandise, except it gives you an opportunity to give to a charity. And the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charitable Foundation is on that. And if you click onto that, the Foundation gets a small percentage of what your purchase might be, and that's a source of income for us.

And due to the health of James Houston, who has been a member of the Board... he was one of the original members at that point in 2003, along with Bob Petrovic. Those two guys are original members of the Board. And due to his health, he's had to give up his post as secretary/treasurer.

Now keep in mind, the secretary/treasurer is an extremely important post. Not only does he have to file reports with the State of Ohio dealing with the corporation, but he does the minutes, he does all the investing for us, and he's just been an absolute workhorse for us. But his health has gotten to the point where he can't do it anymore.

So we've decided to retire him and place Shawn Cox, the Past Department Commander in Ohio as the new secretary/treasurer of the Foundation. And because of the great work that Jim has done... 21 years he's been secretary/treasurer, and those of you that have served as Department or Camp secretaries, you know what kind of job you do... his job is about twice that... 21 years at that. So today, we'd like to recognize Jim with a special certificate. Jim, if you'd stand up

Encampment

(applause and chatter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. We're going to move on to the reports of the Special Committees.

Special Committee on Reviewing Membership Qualifications, Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Darby.

Donald E. Darby, Special Committee on Reviewing Membership Qualifications, Past CinC

Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Darby. I have nothing further to report.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Special Committee on Fundraising, David Hann.

David K. Hann, Special Committee on Fundraising

Commander. I'm on? Okay. I have one addition to the report... is the one new member for the 1881 Club, Michael Reither; am I saying that right? ... from the Department of Georgia and South Carolina. We thank him for joining the 1881 Club - and for all the 1881 Club members... sorry about the health insurance.

Encampment

(laughter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Special Committee on Headquarters and Planning, Past Commander-in-Chief, Bruce D. Frail.

Special Committee on Social Media Management, Benjamin J. Frail.

Special Committee on Veterans of Wars of the United States, Dexter Bishop.

Dexter A. Bishop, Special Committee on Veterans of Wars of the United States

Dexter Bishop, Department of Massachusetts, Past Department Commander. There are no additions or retractions from the report. We have three recommendations. The first one is; The National Special Committee on Veterans of the Wars of the United States be made into a standing committee.

Recommendation two; That the National Special Committee on Veterans of the Wars of the United States becomes the approving authority for the military medal and war service medal.

Three, recommendation; That the Committee keep a database of those Brothers approved to wear the medals. That is our report.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Recommendation one and two are out of order. For those that hear, recommendation one and two are out of order. Recommendation number three will be sent to the incoming Commander-in-Chief... the new incoming Commander-in-Chief. Thank you.

Encampment

(chatter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Then also, I'm going to call on the Special Committee on National Memorial University, Past Commander-in-Chief Campbell.

Tad D. Campbell, Special Committee on National Memorial University, Past Cmdr-in-Chief

Yes, Commander-in-Chief... Tad Campbell, National Patriotic Instructor. We have nothing to report other than the Memorial University is working, and we're going to work this coming year to expand the various courses that we have. And I encourage everybody to sign up.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Special Committee on the 250th Birthday of the United States of America, Ben Block Jones.

All right. We're going to reconvene for today, and we'll see you back...

Unknown

How much money did we raise by passing the hat?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

\$1,340.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

... and we'll reconvene tomorrow around 9 o'clock. So Chaplain Jerry... oh, excuse me, one announcement, please. Those... after this is done, the Department of Illinois will gather for pictures next to the flags after this is done. Thank you.

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Commander, just a point... something that has happened with the Department of Michigan... Robert Payne, Department of Michigan. Our Department Commander ended up in the hospital down here last night. He's got a procedure on his heart probably in the next hour. But he's stable, and just prayers for him please, Chaplain. Thank you.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Just a minute. Hold on.

James T. Crane, National Chief-of-Staff

I think some of you gentlemen want to ask... talk to you guys about getting dinner tickets. And actually, we got that approved. Robert Amsler, Brother Mank, Brother Sears, Henry Duquette, Philip Solida, and Michael Peter. I guess you have your girlfriend.

Unknown

That's all. You guys can see the Kentucky gentlemen. You guys can go ahead and make... get even with those guys in the back.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Michael Beard, National Treasurer. Bobby Welch moved us off of PayPal into a system called Square, and he's got a little machine back there. We know how much we've sold. We know who

we sold it to. We know what we sold, and how many collected cash. Special round of applause for Robert Welch...

Encampment

(applause).

[three raps, *]**

[one rap, *]

Third Session - Saturday Morning

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

I'm going to call upon Brother Rob Payne to please give us an update on the Department Commander of Michigan.

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Good morning, Commander. Robert Payne, Department of Michigan. I just talked to our Department Commander. He is currently still in the hospital across the street. He's attempting to secure a flight home for major surgery on his heart. That's still up in the air. He's got to talk to his cardiologist over here yet. But his prayers would be appreciated. They did attempt a procedure last night, and it failed, and they don't know if they're going to attempt one again or just proceed to major surgery. Thank you very much.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Chaplain Jerry.

Jerome W. Kowalski, National Chaplain

Along the same lines, I want to tell you that the Almighty answers prayers. I've been praying for my wife and the bleeding from her colon has stopped. She's still going to have a colonoscopy, but the prayers work. She's getting better.

Number two, we're praying for the head of the Department of Michigan. We're praying for Ron, Ron Paquette, who's in hospice. If you have someone that you would like to be prayed for, please write their name down on a piece of paper and give it to me, and I promise you I will pray for them, okay?

Oh, and if you consider it to be Ten Commandments, not ten suggestions, at 7 o'clock tomorrow, there will be a church service to pray for the Allied Orders.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Moving on to the reports of the Commander-in-Chief's appointed committees.

Commander-in-Chief appointed Committee on the Candidate Credentials, Daryl VerStreate.

Daryl VerStreate, Committee on Candidate Credentials

Daryl VerStreate, Past Department Commander, New York. At the moment, we have preregistered 210 Brothers. We have been reaching out to the Departments that are present to move alternates to delegates. If you haven't already heard from us... if you're eligible, you will be reached out to. Or if you have any questions, contact us before elections so they can run smoothly.

Commander, is there anything else you'd like me to report on? I mean, I can go through all the delegates if you want now, or do you want me to go with that later?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We'll go over that later.

Move on to the Commander-in-Chief Appointed Committee on Chaplain's Affairs... Chaplain Kowalski.

Jerome W. Kowalski, National Chaplain

No report.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Then we'll move on to the Commander-in-Chief's Appointed Committee on Memorial University... Past Commander-in-Chief, Tad Campbell.

Tad D. Campbell, Committee on Memorial University, Past Commander-in-Chief

Nothing else to report, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Moving on to the Department reports. Since no... all the reports that were sent in, there were no recommendations. And we thank you for your time and your efforts and all your hard work. So we'll save some time.

We'll move on to the next item. We'll move to the Encampment Committee reports. We'll hear from the reports of our Encampment Committee.

Number one... Constitution and Regulations will be done by Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Darby.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

The only... Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief, Chairman of the Encampment C&R Committee on this go around. On page 152, which is the very last page in this booklet, there is a recommendation that came in late from the Department of Pennsylvania. They are recommending the inclusion of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. We see no action to be taken by us. We refer this to the incoming CofA for their words on it, or how they want to handle that. That's our recommendation.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objections?

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Pass.

Resolutions... Past Commander-in-Chief, Bob Grim.

Robert E. Grim, Resolutions Committee, Past Commander-in-Chief

Bob Grim, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of Ohio. The Resolutions Committee for the Encampment has received no resolutions that require action.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Officers' Report... Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Martin.

Donald L. Martin, Officers Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Martin. We have a number of Officer reports. So I can either read each of these recommendations in its entirety, or we can go through it the quick way. Preference?

Multiple Brothers

Quick way!

Donald L. Martin, Officers Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

That's what I thought. Okay. On page 8, Commander-in-Chief; this recommendation has already been addressed by the Council of Administration.

This next one is from the Junior Vice Commander, and it is on page 14. To this membership recommend it go to the P&P Committee. We'll talk to these individuals about what (indistinguishable).

Quartermaster...

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Whoa, wait. He has to...

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Oh, sorry, yeah.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

... go through each one, and ask if there's any objection.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objections?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

The Quartermaster's Report; he has... the first three items are all recommendations to the CofA. So we recommend that these first three items go to the CofA. His report is on 27 and 28. He recommends Council... just three different things, 27 and 28.

Recommend... the first one is *recommend Council approve the production and sale of a miniature war service medal*. Again, this is for Council.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objections?

Being none.

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

The second is... *recommend Council approve a production and sale of a service bar.*

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Three... *recommend Council approve the upgrade of the Quartermaster's Store from the free version to a plus version of Square Billing, and so forth.*

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Number four is a bylaw recommendation... *strike 5/8-inch in width and replace it with 11/16-inch in width.* The Committee does not concur.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objections?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Executive Director's; *due to the cost of spinning off different things the ancestral or ancestor supplement, he recommends that it go from \$5 fee to a \$15 fee... \$5 the Camp keeps, \$5 Department keeps for their shipping and handling.* And we concur.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

What page is that?

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Page is 37.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Next recommendation is from Civil Wars Memorial, and it's on page 42.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Civil War Memorials is requesting, due to all the information that he has... personal files, he's recommended that *the National Webmaster create a cloud/FTP system for the use of this Committee and the Grants Committee*. I've talked with the National Quartermaster and also with Brother Walt, and kind of conclude that we should send this to the Communications and Technology Committee. That is the recommendation.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

One is the... excuse me... the GAR Highway, page 46... and he recommends *a subcommittee of two to three Brothers*. So this would be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief. That is our recommendation.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Grave Registrations, page 48. In the first item, they're asking for a website policy statement. As this is a policy, we recommend it go to the Programs or the P&P Committee.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

The second one is... concerns a headstone policy. And once again, we recommend it go to the P&P Committee.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Patriotic Instructor on page 52. Okay. This is concerning the forms... Form 40, for Camp reports; 41 for Departments; 42 for National reports. The Patriotic Instructor is suggesting that we do one of several possibilities.

One is to abolish the forms altogether, or to do a significant revision of these forms. The

Committee concurs with item B, a revision of the forms, and we suggest that be sent to the P&P Committee.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief. It's my understanding that you're concurring with item B, but not item A, the abolishment of the forms; is that correct?

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

That is correct.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. That's all I wanted clarification on. Thank you.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Any objections?

[one rap,]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

The last one is three recommendations from the Assistant National Secretary on Proceedings, page 58.

Item 1 addressed comments and things that are picked up during Encampments. So these are things that aren't necessarily about business, but other things that are picked up.... excuse me.

He has three possible options that it presents. One would be remove the contents entirely; B is leave the comments as is; and C is to footnote the comments that are not relevant to the business proceedings. The Committee concurs with item B.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Object.

Michael Beard, National Treasurer. I would prefer the other option where they were removed. These mics are live. Individuals don't realize that when they're standing... they come up here, they talk to one or two of us and say things which are not part of the official proceedings, and they should not be the final proceedings. And I so move.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Go-ahead.

Unknown

Second.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Go ahead, Mike.

Michael A. Paquette, Department at the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of the Chesapeake. Since we've gotten these GoPro cameras and additional things that are being picked up, I know when I went through my proceedings from two years ago, there were all kinds of sidebars, especially me at the podium talking to, as a sidebar, with the National Counselor for suggestions.

I believe that the Commander-in-Chief should have the discretion on which one of those things should be removed, and not automatically leave it up to the gentlemen who are producing the proceedings. I believe that the Commander-in-Chief and the Senior Vice that are reviewing those proceedings should have final say on what stays in and what doesn't.

So I don't know if I can override his substitute motion. Call to the Parliamentarian or... because this is discussion on both of the previous ones.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, National Parliamentarian. Brother Beard did not make a substitute motion. He objected to a report and made a motion. You can do a substitute motion, substituting your version for his. If the Encampment approves that, fine. If not, then we're back to Brother Beard's motion.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Right. So I would like to make a substitute motion that discretion on what should remain in the proceedings to be determined by the Commander-in-Chief whose proceedings it is, and the incoming Commander-in-Chief or the Current Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Unknown

Second.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Don Darby, National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of Ohio. What brought some of this about... for years, we have had sidebar conversations. And I can tell you the transcriptionist, Wendy, at one time, said 'tell Jim Pahl to shut up'.

Encampment

(laughter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Anyway, what I would suggest, and I will make this as an amendment to... and the other problem that we had this year, or the last year, was that one of the reviewers was wanting the sidebars to remain. And basically, what that sidebar equated to... was the sidebar was stepping all over the incoming Commander-in-Chief's acceptance speech. I mean, every other word, it was. And he was

demanding... the one person was demanding that those things stay in.

The other reviewer was saying no, it was a personal conversation between two individuals not addressed to the Encampment. And I would make the motion to permit the... not the person we're paying to transcribe it, but the recorder to be able... my view is if the speaker is not recognized by the Commander-in-Chief to speak, whatever he's saying in a sidebar has nothing to do with this group, okay? I mean, it's as simple as that. It keeps it simple that the recorder can delete that stuff because it's not addressed to you guys. It's between here. So, I would make an amended motion to Past Commander-in-Chief Paquette's, whatever he came up with, before accepting it.

Encampment

(laughter).

John C. Vander Meulen, National Assistant Secretary for Proceedings

Commander, John Vander Meulen, National Assistant Secretary for Proceedings...

Unknown

I'll second it.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Don, what's your motion again?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You've got a second over here. Yeah, so I made a motion, and he seconded it.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

What is your motion?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Whatever... he made a motion... please repeat it PC-in-C Darby.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

My motion was to permit... unless the Commander-in-Chief has recognized a speaker, it does not have to be included in the proceedings because the conversation is not directed to you folks; it's between me and him or the Commander-in-Chief and whoever, that it's not addressed to the body so it should not have to be in there, and to allow... it would allow the recorder to delete that stuff before it goes to the transcriptionist, okay? It will also save you money because she gets paid by the page. So, the more transcript, the more sidebars she types in, the better she gets.

Does that get you what you want to know, Jim?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

And it was seconded.

John C. Vander Meulen, National Assistant Secretary for Proceedings

Commander-in-Chief, John Vander Meulen, National Assistant Secretary for Proceedings. I thought it might be helpful just to add a little bit of clarification to the recommendation. The way it is worded, gives... assumes that it made its way... a sidebar comment that is picked up by an open mic, made its way to the transcriptionist, and she did her job, and she included it in the transcript.

So, we're reviewing the transcript, what do you do with it It's simply providing back to the Commander-in-Chief and the immediately preceding Commander-in-Chief, options. What can you do with it? You can delete it. You can leave it alone. Or you can footnote it. It's up to the Commander, the two people that have to ultimately sign off on the report at the end of the day, okay? I just wanted to offer that clarification. Thank you.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of the Chesapeake. I understand what your intent is, Brother Darby. But I would prefer that... well, in my case, I know I would prefer to have the final call on what gets deleted and what doesn't. If the recorder highlights and has a recommendation on something that be deleted to make it easier for the Commander-in-Chief to go in and edit and make that decision.

But I believe if it's the Commander-in-Chief's proceedings, he should have the final say on what goes in and what doesn't. I don't believe a recorder is going to always have the experience to know what's relevant to the conversation or not. And I believe the Commander-in-Chief should retain control over what gets deleted or not.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Question, Commander-in-Chief... Past Commander-in-Chief, which Commander-in-Chief gets the final say? In this case, this last year, one reviewer was saying it has to stay in; the other reviewer is saying no. So who decides?

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

So the two of them would have to work it out. But whoever's proceedings it is for the Encampment that they presided over should have the final call. And if they can't... if they can't come to an agreement, then I believe it would have to go to the Council of Administration where those issues are settled. But the bottom line is, I don't believe that the recorder should have the authority to delete anything without another set of eyes to verify that the appropriate things are being deleted.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

All the way in the back.

Randal Burd, Jr., Department of Missouri

Randal Burd, Past Department Commander, Department of Missouri. I would suggest whether you have the Commander-in-Chief make the final say or recorder or whoever, I would say that if given that it is a sidebar conversation, I would say that the conversation is not included unless you have the consent of everybody taking part in the conversation. Like whoever the conversation was with that, the two individuals, or whatever, if it's not part of the proceedings, that they should both consent before it's included in the proceedings. Thank you.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I stand in support of Brother Darby's motion. I think the official record of this Encampment is what we're talking about, and a sidebar is not that. When the Commander calls on someone, they're speaking to the Commander, they're being recognized by the Commander, that should stay in.

Sidebar things, you know, Jim wants to discuss something with Mike without being recognized by the Commander-in-Chief is not really part of the official proceedings of this Encampment. And before we had recordings, it was the Secretary's writing notes about what was happening. You would never get that in there.

So I think we have to be mindful about what we're recording. And despite the great jokes that Darby tells, we could leave those out of the record. And so I stand in support.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Robert Amsler, Past Department Commander, Department of Missouri. I would say that my years working with the Missouri legislature, sidebars are never included in any official transcripts of the legislature because they are not recognized by the Chair to speak, and they are not adding anything to the discussion.

So I think that I don't care who does the final editing, but as far as I think it ought to be is if it has anything to... if the person is not recognized to speak, that should not make it into the official transcript we file with Congress.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Payne.

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration. I agree with Brother Paquette, who in portion agrees with Brother Darby about the sidebars... that the sitting Commander-in-Chief at that time of the Encampment, at the end of this Encampment when you are no longer the Commander-in-Chief, Brother Hritsko, it's Brother Martin's whose name has... that's why he has to sign this agreement. He's part of it. So, it definitely needs to be the sitting Commander-in-Chief's final say what goes... what can be deleted.

We can't leave that to the recorder to determine what was and what wasn't acceptable when it's getting transcribed. We can look at it, and he can say, that was a sidebar, that comes out, as opposed to everything is in there or who's going to decide what the sidebar is when the recording is typed up.

And that's why I agree with Brother Paquette that he needs the... the sitting Commander-in-Chief needs the overview, not just the recorder or the transcriptionist to decide what goes in and what goes out. Thank you.

Edward Dowd, National Guard

Commander, I have been asked to inform you that the Auxiliary to the Sons is here to bring greetings.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

In a few minutes.

Edward Dowd, National Guard

In a few minutes?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Yes, please.

So those who are in favor of the Past Commander-in-Chief's recommendation...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Well, there's two Past Commanders-in-Chief.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Yeah, I'm sorry... Past Commander-in-Chief Darby.

Those in favor of PC-in-C Darby's motion... will PC-in-C Pahl... can you read what he has stated?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes, sir. James Pahl, National Parliamentarian.

Brother Darby's motion is that if the Commander-in-Chief has not recognized the speaker, then that item is not to be included in the proceedings.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

So those who are in favor of this motion, please raise your blue cards.

All right. Thank you.

Any of those who oppose?

Passes.

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Past... oh, there you are.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You have those two recommendations that follow.

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. Second recommendation; the same Secretary for Proceedings, page 58, *is consider giving the transcriptionist a copy of the National Encampment report packet; therefore, they can match*

words, phrases, and terms found in the packet.

The big concern for us was if we do that, is it going to incur extra costs, or is that going to affect the by-page if they have to refer to the packet and so forth. Therefore, we did not concur.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All those in favor?

Any objection?

Seeing none...

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report , Past Commander-in-Chief

The last one then is a recommendation for a change of job description. Job descriptions are something the P&P would handle. Therefore, we recommend giving this to the P&P.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief, National Counselor. Could I add, I guess, an addendum to it going to the Committee... whoever you said it should go to... with the inclusion of Brother John being in on the discussion on how his job description should be written? Would you accept that, sir?

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report , Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes, we would.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

All right. Do we need to have a vote on that, Jim, or no?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Are you making a motion, or did you just provide a suggestion to the Committee?

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah, we're just giving the Officers' Reports, and our suggestion go to Committee.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

And I'm suggesting that the Committee include Brother John in the writing of his job description.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

That's just a comment, yup.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report , Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander, that concludes our report.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Okay.

Encampment

(applause).

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

I'd like... well, Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. I'd like to point out there were Officer Recommendations on page 23, 43, and 62 that were not addressed.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We'll get back to that one shortly. We're going to allow the Auxiliary National President and so forth come in, please.

[three raps, ***]

Encampment

(clapping)

Danielle Michaels, Nat'l Historian, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

I'm short. Where's the gavel?

[one rap, *]

Danielle Michaels, Nat'l Historian, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

I'm amazed at the crowd. Good job, gentlemen. Good job.

As the National Historian, Past National President, I get to write articles about the past, and I get a lot of my information through proceedings. And reading what happened 100 years ago, it was so lovely to read the communication between the Sons and the Auxiliary. We call each other Brothers and Sisters, but they really exemplified through their actions Brother and Sister.

While reading that... that year they claimed almost 1,900 new members in the Auxiliary for a total of 29,000 Auxiliary members in good standings. And their comment, the comment of the President was that eventually, we're going to get this task of fulfilling the principles of the GAR.

100 years later, we have that task. We own it because we don't have our ancestors here, and we look at what we do and scrutinize, does it follow the principles of our Order? Now, the numbers with the Sons were much greater as well. I have no idea how big. But if we were 29,000, it must have been in the hundreds for the Sons.

And yet, your number's lower too. So you still have to do same principles, but with fewer hands to do it. And as a Sister, talking to my Brothers, I'm saying if you don't have an Auxiliary, you need one. You don't even have to try to start the Auxiliary. Let us do that work for you. But you need help because you want to do the best, and by doing the best, then you're fulfilling the principles.

So again, I'm recruiting. I'm asking you to help us with the recruiting. We will... we will go on from there. You don't need to lift anything beyond giving us the names. But also, for the Brothers that have an Auxiliary around, don't forget to ask them to help you out. We are not in different corners. We should be in the middle of the room working together. And as Jerry says, if you believe in that, say Amen, because I believe it.

Multiple Brothers

Amen.

Danielle Michaels, Nat'l Historian, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

So, all you have to do is ask. We can't read minds. So at least give us a task to help out. Otherwise, we feel as outsiders, and we're not, you know. We carry the same responsibility. So get rid of the division lines. We won't make division lines, and we will work as family. Thank you for your time.

There's one more thing. When the Brothers used to come in for greetings to the Auxiliary, the Auxiliary would sing, *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*. I won't do that today.

Encampment

(laughter).

Danielle Michaels, Nat'l Historian, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

But the meaning is there. You're sweet enough to be our Brothers. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Sue Freshley, President, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Good morning, Brothers. I'm even shorter than Danielle. So I'll try to make eye contact as I can. I want to let you know I value each of you. I see each of you. I hear each of you. We, as your National Officers, are servants of our Orders. We are servants to our Sisters and our Brothers. We are all equal. We are under the Allied Order. We are all children of the Allied Orders. We need to come together. The way forward is together. If we do not adopt these standards, you will see your roles diminishing without replacements.

Young people today... they want different things from an organization, and we must evolve. This is not to say we're going to throw aside our rituals, our beliefs, our mission statement. But what we're going to do, and I hope you Brothers will support us in this, is to reach out to these younger people and say, we are an Organization that works together, the Brothers and the Sisters, and this is the way we should approach things. I know I'm a bit of a rebel when it comes to this, but you have Sisters who are your allies, and we want to help you. We want to contribute. We want to help you gain members as we would ask you to help us gain members and perpetuate our Orders.

Thank you very much for your time. And by the way, the camp fire last night was absolutely lovely. Thank you for the good time. Thank you for the gifts. I will cherish these forever. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Rosemary Martin, Nat'l Vice President, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

As in the nineteenth century, how do you do, dear Brothers? How do you do?

Multiple Brothers

How do you do?

Rosemary Martin, Nat'l Vice President, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

I am Rosemary Martin, ASUVCW National Vice President. I too come to you today with greetings from the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. First, I wish to acknowledge two Brothers from the Colorado Wyoming Department who have helped the ASUVCW grow in membership. Garry Brewer, is he here today?

Unknown

No.

Rosemary Martin, Nat'l Vice President, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

No? Brought in five new Sisters in Colorado.

And Ken Jacobsen, is he here? There he is in the back. Brought in five new Sisters, with a sixth Sister. And due to this, his wife is now forming a new ASUVCW Auxiliary-at-large in Utah.

Encampment

(applause).

Rosemary Martin, Nat'l Vice President, Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Since it is the time of the Olympics, I wish to share a story with you, and maybe some of you have heard this. On Facebook, there was a photo of Jim Thorpe where he was wearing different socks and shoes. This was not a fashion statement. It was the 1912 Olympics, and Jim Thorpe, a Native American from Oklahoma, represented the U.S. Track and Field.

On the morning of his competitions, his shoes were stolen. Luckily, Jim Thorpe ended up finding two shoes in a garbage can. That was the pair that he was wearing in this photo, with him showing himself ready to race in the race.

But one of those shoes was too big. So he had to wear an extra sock. So he had an extra sock and two mismatched shoes. Wearing these shoes and the extra sock, Jim won two gold medals that day.

This is a perfect reminder that we do not have to give up and to resign to the excuses that hold us back. So what are you going to do today and each of the following days? Whatever you woke up with this morning, stolen shoes or a leaky roof over your bathroom, a rough start to your day, et cetera, don't let it stop you from running your race for the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic.

You can experience more life if you overcome the excuses and honor, protect, remember, and rejuvenate our Order. You can have reasons, or you can have results, but you can't have both.

So please remember though, that you are not alone in this race. Through all this, we, your Sisters of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are here to support you, our cherished

Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in your endeavors, your mission, and your objectives.

Dear Brothers, may we all strive to keep running no matter what the problem with our shoes may be, or life, your ASUVCW Sisters are here to help you find those missing shoes. And we also appreciate your helping to us to find our missing shoes. Thank you so much for supporting and working with us.

Encampment

(applause).

[three raps, ***]

Encampment

(clapping)

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander, this is Don Martin... sorry, Don Martin, Past Commander-in-Chief, and I want to finish off the Officers' Reports. So, we have an Officer Report... is on page 23. So, this is right, on page 23, 24, 25, 26... is that right, Brother Beard?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

No.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

No. Are you looking at the numbers in the middle of the page?

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Looking at the printed numbers.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

The right bottom...

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

These are changes to the C&R... recommended changes.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Those were already done by the C&R Committee.

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. So this is handled then?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's all done, yeah.

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. All right. So those are the things that were on item number 23.

Then moving on to page 43, the Eagle Scout Certificate. As the Boy Scouts of America change their name to just... or to the Scouts, so they're Scouts, no longer Boy Scouts, the recommendation is that we follow suit and, in all of our things, to change it to Scouts or scouting. That's on page 43.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I don't see a recommendation there.

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

Scouting of America.

We recommend this be given to the P&P Committee.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any objection?

[one rap, *]

Donald L. Martin, Officers' Report, Past Commander-in-Chief

And then, finally, page 62 is the same recommendation that was made at 42, and this body's already addressed that recommendation. And that concludes our report, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

All right. We'll take a break, and we'll be back here at 10:10.

Yes, go ahead.

Andrew Johnson, Department of the Chesapeake

Can you hear me?

Okay. Good morning, Brothers.

Multiple Brothers

Good morning.

Andrew Johnson, Department of the Chesapeake

Something I wanted to bring up yesterday and we didn't get a chance.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Who are you?

Andrew Johnson, Department of the Chesapeake

Oh, I'm sorry, Andrew Johnson, Department Commander, Department of the Chesapeake. Something I would have hoped to have brought up yesterday, and we got busy and it didn't happen.

I noted yesterday was August 2nd. On August 2nd, 1956, Albert Woolson, the last Union soldier, died, and I just wanted to take a second to remember him and recognize that fact that I think we should. I just ask the indulgence of that... that we take a moment to remember him. That was it.

Bruce E. Fortin, Department of Kentucky

Commander, Bruce Fortin, Department of Kentucky, the Host Committee. I would just like to make a quick announcement to those that did not get a name tag or did not preregister; we have those ready for you.

We also have T-shirts and polo shirts still available for sale. We also have the Encampment medals, if you are interested, for sale. And please do not forget our Bourbon raffle. Everything is right out here by the Barrel Room. Thank you very much, Commander.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

[three raps, ***]

[one rap,]

[break]

[three raps, ***]

[one rap,]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We've got to finish up these Rituals and Ceremonies.

Past Commander-in-Chief Steve Michaels.

Stephen A. Michaels, Past Commander-in-Chief

Past Commander-in-Chief, Steve Michaels, Chair of the... what was that again?

Encampment

(laughter).

Stephen A. Michaels, Past Commander-in-Chief

Rituals and Ceremonies. I have no recommendations were submitted to the committee.

Thank you to my fellow committee members, Brother Pahl and Brother...

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Well, we're going to present some charters to the newly formed Camps.

Oh, sorry, Chaplain Jerry.

Jerome W. Kowalski, National Chaplain

Commander-in-Chief, Chaplain Emeritus Jerry Kowalski. I'm no longer able to walk from the Chaplain's chair to open the Bible. So I've asked a substitute that is a cheap imitation of the real thing.

Encampment

(laughter)

Jerome W. Kowalski, National Chaplain

Harry Reineke's been forced to take my place there. I'm not leaving. I'm not going anywhere, but I have to remain seated.

Second, there is at the round table a book of days that is going to be given to the Department Commander of Michigan whose got a similar health situation to what I have, and he's in the hospital nearby. If you'd like to sign it and put your wishes on it, after you fill out the first page, the top of each page in the days book will hold just about everybody in the room. Thank you, sir.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

The Commander-in-Chief is going to present three charters that we had done, two for the Department of Pennsylvania. Do we have a representative?

Oh, Bill Fischer, Commander Bill Fischer. Would you come up? And that's the Cribbs Camp, #276. And we also have one for the George W. Mears Camp #505 from Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Encampment

(applause).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

And a representative from the Department of New York? And this is for the Sergeant William C. Lilley, Camp #66 out of Syracuse, New York.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Now, the floor is open for the introduction of unfinished business. Is there any unfinished business to be brought before this body?

Donald L. Gates, Department of Texas

Commander-in-Chief, Don Gates, Past Department Commander, Department of Texas. I'm ask... I'm bringing up at this time a question, not a proposal. I just wanted to get some information regarding a committee assignment that I didn't hear the results of.

Last year at this time, I was... let me back up. In 2022, I was a member of the Membership Committee. We were addressing various issues, one of which was the issue... so-called cousin's issue. And we made a report to the Encampment in 2023 of what our findings were, and part of that findings was regarding... regarding that issue.

However, at the Encampment, that report was forwarded to a committee, and I came up to speak because I didn't understand why... because I thought we had gotten the report in early enough for it to be considered before the Encampment... but apparently not.

In any case, it was referred to committee. But this year, I was waiting to hear what the committee said about it, and as far as I can tell, the committee didn't do anything, or there was nobody involved in (indistinguishable) the report and what happened with that... with the recommendation from the past committee. And so I'm just asking now to find out what was the status of that action.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother, were you on the Membership Committee, or was it something from your Department?

Donald L. Gates, Department of Texas

Commander-in-Chief, Don Gates, Past Department Commander, Department of Texas. Commander-in-Chief Darby, yes, I was on the committee. It was the Committee on Membership. I was on the committee with... my Committee Chair was Brother Martin, our Senior Vice Commander. And also on the committee was a member from Arizona by the name of Conrad. The three of us reviewed the issue that I was talking about and voted on it and came up with a conclusion, which was included in the report. It was submitted to the 2023 Encampment.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

And what was your conclusion? What did...

Donald L. Gates, Department of Texas

We believed that the reinstatement of the definition regarding bloodline... and it made an amendment to the term bloodline... in the Constitution and the Charter should be removed from the Regulations, and also then the note in the section... I think it was Note O, should also be removed.

And if I may extend... may I... if I go to explain further, as we heard yesterday, Past Department Commander or Past Chairman or Past Commander-in-Chief Don Darby, not Don Darby... Don Palmer, talked to us about the fact that while as in the 90's and the early 2000's, our growth... we were growing as an organization. We were flat for a while, and now we're in decline.

And as our sisters talked to us this morning about they can help us add more members... one of the major reasons we opposed that definition was because it acts as a barrier, because it tells most people who are actually descendants, who are actually collateral, being of bloodline, who are blood descendants, that they can't be members, but they can be Associates along with people who have no blood relationship (indistinguishable) in the Order. And so that was our basic reasoning on that. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Did the Encampment vote to accept your recommendation?

Donald L. Gates, Department of Texas

The Encampment never saw our recommendation because our recommendation was referred to committee.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, according to the transcript of those proceedings, the Commander... the incoming Commander-in-Chief was to form a special committee to investigate the ramifications, and it had to also do with documentation an applicant had to present with identification, according to the minutes. I don't think the special committee was ever formed.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So basically, it fell through the cracks?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Yes. Yes, sir.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Is that correct, Jim?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

That's what I'm seeing... is... it was to the incoming CinC... was to form a special committee to... there was something that needed... let me read it one more time. Kevin Martin was the (indistinguishable). There were a total of eight recommendations.

Encampment

(chatter).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So basically... Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief, National Counselor. It appears that your eight recommendations... it appears that it fell through the cracks. The special committee that you guys requested for the incoming Commander-in-Chief... it never got formed.

We could... there's two ways we could do this. We could rehash or have Brother Pahl reread the eight recommendations, and vote on it here, or we can have this sent to the incoming Commander-in-Chief to form that special committee and to have the committee basically report forthwith and expedite your answer.

Donald L. Gates, Department of Texas

Commander-in-Chief, for my part, I would be willing to accept either option. I just... my intention... my goal is to see that this issue be aired, and aired fairly and justly, and a proper solution be brought to it because it benefits the Order. And that's my only interest. So I'm not particular which way we go, one way or the other. I can't speak for Brother Conrad or for Senior Vice Commander Martin, but that's my opinion... my opinion on it. Thank you, sir.

Tad D. Campbell, Department of California, Past Commander-in-Chief

Tad Campbell, Past Commander-in-Chief, National Patriotic Instructor. I move that this Encampment direct the incoming Commander-in-Chief to appoint the said special committee as was the desire of the previous National Encampment.

Unknown

Second.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

And any discussion?

Those all... all those who are in favor of that motion, please raise your blue cards.

Thank you.

Those opposed?

Passes.

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any other unfinished business?

All right. We'll go to the floor now for introduction of new business. Is there any new business to be brought forth before this body?

Harry W. Reineke, IV, Department of Illinois

Commander-in-Chief, Harry Reineke, Past Department Commander of Illinois. Real quick, before I get into my actual business; one of my Brothers pointed out that I have been incompletely representing myself this weekend. So for the sake of full disclosure, I am Past Department Commander of Illinois, Past National Officer, and sometime member of the Department of the Chesapeake.

Encampment

(laughter and applause).

Harry W. Reineke, IV, Department of Illinois

Now, while I get to my note here, I stand before this body to correct an historic wrong. Last year at the National Encampment, our dear Brother, Bob Wolz, was granted by this Encampment the rank of Honorary Past Commander-in-Chief. However, he was not granted the right to wear the badge.

Four times prior to Brother Wolz, this Order has granted men that rank. The first was our founder, A.P. Davis in 1883.

Then in 1899, the year after A.P. Davis died, Colonel R. M. J. Reed, who organized in Philadelphia was granted that same title.

In 1939, Horace Hammer, a long-standing National Secretary was also granted that rank.

And in 1956, shortly before his passing, Albert Woolson was made on Honorary Past Commander-in-Chief of our Order.

In three of the four cases, those men were given the right to wear the Past Commander-in-Chief's badge, the exception being Albert Woolson. My understanding is it was recognized he was approaching the end of his life, and would not be attending any of our events. So at least the Order gave him the cash value of a badge of \$100.

With this said, I think this body was amiss in not granting the right to wear that Past Commander-in-Chief's badge to Honorary Past Commander-in-Chief Bob Wolz.

Therefore, I move that Brother Bob Wolz of Ohio, Honorary Past Commander-in-Chief, be given the right to wear the Past Commander-in-Chief's badge, and that the line item in the budget for Past Commander-in-Chief's badges be doubled in the coming year in order that we might pay for it.

Multiple Brothers

Second.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

All those in favor, please raise your blue cards.

Those... put them down... those opposed, raise your cards.

All right.

Passed.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Bob, can you please stand up?

Encampment

(applause).

Robert J. Wolz, Department of Ohio

Commander, as a Commander-in-Chief, I am extremely humbled. You know I wasn't at last year's Encampment. I probably would have argued against it.

Encampment

(laughter).

Robert J. Wolz, Department of Ohio

I'm very honored that my Brothers have, I guess, recognized 60 years. When I joined this Order... I think some of you have heard this story before... but when I joined the order, I was the only dark-haired boy in a sea of gray, and I attended my first National in 1968.

The funny thing was, some of our Past Commanders-in-Chiefs were so thrilled to see any young man. I've seen several young men today, or in the last couple of days. That's wonderful. Anyway, I was this young man that was attending National, and they said it is your task to carry our story into the future, and that's why two books were written so that our history will indeed be preserved forever.

I thank you for the honor you've bestowed on me. I can't say enough. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Commander, Robert Payne, Department of Michigan. Last year, there was a motion on the floor about getting out these Officer reports and recommendations prior to the National Encampment, and there were some mix-ups in the way it was read back... changed the way of the original intent.

So I move that all Officer, Committee, and Department reports for the upcoming National Encampment shall be posted to the National Website, SUVCW.org, and made available no later than 14 calendar days prior to the start of the National Encampment.

Unknown

Second.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of the Chesapeake. I'd like to add to that motion that the National Secretary send a notification out to the Department Secretaries so we can advise our Brothers that the proceedings and the reports have been posted because that actually happened this year that the reports were posted, but nobody knew they were out there.

We need to... so my addition would be that the National Secretary, in addition to what Brother Rob Payne proposed, that the National Secretary notify Department Secretaries that the reports have been posted.

Unknown

Second.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

I just want to comment on that. The National Secretary was voted on last year... they asked the National Secretary 14 days prior... the National Secretary would send it. It wasn't to be posted on the website. That was not what was voted on last year, just to make it clear.

Somebody sent me the whole thing. So I did send it out to whoever requested it or who requested it from me, and I did send it out to the persons who requested it. But in that... from the transcript of last year, it said this Secretary was to send it out if requested.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, Michael Paquette, Past Commander-in-Chief. This is not an accusation of someone failing to do a job this year.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

No, I...

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

I know that the reports were posted. But if we don't notify the Departments that they're out there, Brothers aren't going to know, and then access them before getting to the Encampment.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

I wasn't taking that position. I'm just saying that it wasn't part of it.

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Sir, Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration. And that's why I said there were some mix-ups. The initial motion was to make available for download online or make available online. And when it was read back, the wording changed and therefore changed the definition of what was available.

And after much discussion with Brother Darby, we and the Commander... we had to remove them from the website because posting them was outside of what was voted on. But that's coming down to why it's very important to make sure you have your motions written down and handed to the Secretary so that... that last year, it wasn't, and it was read back by the person who proposed the motion different than it was originally read.

It was up there for about a week, and then I was asked to remove it because it was outside of the purview of what was voted on. That's why it came down for those of you who did see it out there for a little bit and it came down... and that's why. It was not meant at anything. It was just a misunderstanding on what the actual wording was. Thank you.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Robert Amsler, Past Department Commander, Department of Missouri. I'm the guy who made that motion. I remember what I said. It was to be made available for download by the Brothers on the National website two weeks, and I accepted a friendly amendment from somebody who said they wanted more time to get ready... to get it up there before the Encampment, three weeks.

So I was the one who made the motion. It was seconded and passed. It was supposed to be available for download. Because you said... you guys talk about how much it's going to cost to make it available. Put it on the website.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Brother Commander, Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. The caveat is, as we went through this year, we deleted some passages of some reports for being, you know, not (indistinguishable), not friendly. You know, we made some corrections. Putting it on the website gets it out there for everybody in the world to see, as opposed to, you know, requesting that the reports be sent to somebody.

Would it be wiser to have a link requesting that the... notify everybody that the minutes are available for download via email, or however you're going to do it, and in an Order, whatever... however you're going to do it, and then just give a link rather than put it on the website?

It just worries me that people are going to see something bad going on within the Order before we have a chance to correct it.

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice... still Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

For now, one way or the other, we just need to take into account if we're going to be doing this to the, whoever the Host Committees are... to not print as many copies, you know, because that's

going to be... I know it's going to be a little difficult to figure out what percentage as we get going with it. But we do need to take that, I think, into account so that they're not spending more money than they need to.

Mike Todd, Department of Kansas

Commander-in-Chief, Mike Todd, Past Department Commander, Department of Kansas. I want to resubmit. I spoke briefly with Past Commander Darby and Past Commander Martin. I have made an amendment this year, or request to amend the scholarship qualifications.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother, we already have a motion on the floor. We have to deal with that first.

Mike Todd, Department of Kansas

Yes, sir.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Let us get through that, and then...

Mike Todd, Department of Kansas

Certainly.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

... you get your shot.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Michael Beard, National Treasurer. The Department books are printed by National. It's an expense that we have in our budget, and we arrange for the printing and pickup. It's the... James Crane is the one that picked them up this year on the way to the Encampment, and they cost us \$2,300.

Encampment

(chatter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We're going to vote on Past Commander-in-Chief Paquette's amendment. All those in favor of his amendment...

Encampment

(chatter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

PC-in-C-Pahl ... could you read that back first?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, Parliamentarian. The amendment is that the National Secretary send notice to the Departments that the reports packet has been posted.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All those in favor, raise your blue cards.

Thank you.

Those who oppose, raise your blue cards.

Passes.

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Now, we're going to go back to Robert's... Brother Robert Payne's motion. Can you please read that?

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Basically, that the report packet be posted to the National website at least 14 days prior to the National Encampment for downloading purposes.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

All those who are in favor, please raise your blue cards.

Thank you.

Those who oppose?

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Pass.

Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief, National Counselor. Just so we're clear on what happened just now... is Brother Robert wanted to be able to post on the Internet 14 days prior to the Encampment the officers... the reports. With the addition of Past Commander-in-Chief Mike Paquette that the National Secretary would notify everybody via email, however, smoke signals, or Department Secretary... that the reports are now online and available for review.

So that's what's going to happen, okay? So, I know we voted twice, but don't get... because we voted twice... your thing should have been included... Mike's things should have been included with the recommendation of Brother Robert. So that's where we are. So that's it.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Under the new business?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

I move that the National Encampment reports posted to the website for the Encampment be removed from the website on the day of the Encampment.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Do we have a second?

Unknown

Second.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Robert Amsler, Department of Missouri, Past Commander. I don't see why we don't leave the packet up for anybody to download any time they get here.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

The response to that... the packet becomes part of the official proceedings, and the official proceedings get posted to the website. And any corrections made, like we did on this one, the official version will reflect those corrections. And this was just temporarily put out there for the enjoyment of those who come to the Encampment. So that's what I have in mind.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr., Department of Missouri

Well, my thought is that a lot of people, or at least my (indistinguishable), I think there's others like me, carry around an iPad, and being able to just download it to get your copy would put a dent in... so I don't see why you wouldn't want to make it available for people to download it on iPads or their phones or whatever device they want to use, which is what you're preventing if you take it down.

Encampment

(chatter).

Alan L. Russ, Department of Kansas

Alan Russ, PDC, Department of Kansas. You know, the previous motion, they'll have 14 days to download it. This one, it will be before they get here. If they get here without it, they still have the paper copy. And if all else fails, and they want electronic and they don't have it, somebody will share it with them.

George A. Huttick, Department of Tennessee

George Huttick, Past Department Commander, Department of Tennessee. Well, I seconded it. I agree with Brother Beard and Brother Russ. It's there for our convenience before the Encampment so we can pre-read it. If we need to download it at that time, download it. But once we get here, the official proceedings start and where there shouldn't be extraneous dirty copies, draft copies out there. We should go to the current clean copy and it comes out at the proceedings. So it's our own due diligence. We're adults. Download it. We're using technology by now. Thank you.

Bernard B. O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky

Bernie O'Bryan, Department of Kentucky, Past Department Commander. I think the easiest thing for us to do is just put on the document that this is a temporary or pre-version, or words to that effect, somewhere on the document. Then it doesn't matter how long you leave it out there or if you take it off because there will be some notification on there that says this is not the official... or this is a preliminary copy. And then, yeah, draft or whatever term that you use. It seems like this question is (indistinguishable). Thank you.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Past Commander-in-Chief Pahl, could you rephrase the recommendation, please.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, National Parliamentarian. The motion was to remove the packet from the website on the day of the Encampment.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All those in favor, raise your blue cards.

All right. Thank you.

Those who oppose, raise your blue cards.

All right. We're going to go for a count.

All those in favor, please raise your blue cards.

Encampment

(chatter).

Unknown

61

Unknown

56

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

56?

Unknown

Yeah.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

117

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Yeah. There's 210 registered.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Those who oppose it, please raise your blue cards.

It passes.

[one rap, *]

Mike Todd, Department of Kansas

Mike Todd, Department of Kansas, Past Department Commander. I stand before you today to ask... make a recommendation, again, that I did at the 2023 Encampment in New Hampshire... submitted the document for the recommendation. Apparently, that's not submitted appropriately. I only copied one individual, Past Commander Martin, that I was informed now that I need to submit that to more members, and I have that list provided by Past Commander Darby.

For everyone's knowledge of this, this is regarding the SUVCW Form 12 for the scholarship application that we award each year. Currently, Form 12 states that the scholarship is for high school seniors and college students contingent upon their enrollment in an accredited four-year college or university.

My proposal is presented to allow these scholarship recipients to include additional educational institutions to accommodate a wider variety of desired career paths in use of this scholarship. The proposal is that the accredited four-year now be accredited four-year or two-year college, university, or vocational school, institute, trade school, or technical school.

And so I'd ask this body to vote on that... to amend that scholarship application to allow that the scholarship recipient to attend one of those other types of institutions.

Unknown

Second.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Any discussion?

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration. I know that the P&P Committee was just updating that form, and I believe it was. It's ready to go to the Council of Administration for approval. I think we did those changes already because those were recommended by Brother Martin or Brother PCinC Don Martin. So I think we've already gotten that taken care of. But Kevin would have to... Brother Kevin Martin would have to confirm that.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

I rule out of order for the fact that the documentation had not been given to the Secretary.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Past Commander-in-Chief Don Darby, National Counselor. Brother Payne, did you... I was listening to two different conversations... did you say the P&P had already updated it to include the trade school addition into that?

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Brother, Robert Payne, Department of Michigan, Council of Administration. We were just working on it, and it was backed and approved by P&P, but had not made it to Council of Administration for approval. We had just did Form 12 a week and a half ago, if I remember right, and I'm looking to go to Kevin Martin for confirmation of it that we had...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

But the question is did it include the trade school?

Robert R. Payne, Department of Michigan

Yes. There was a trade school named in that if I remember... just typing it up. I just don't have my computer with me to pull it up to verify that. But I do believe we did that change. That's why I was asking Brother Martin, who was on the committee, who might know better... or Brother Taylor. He may remember.

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Kevin Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. I do... we did update recently the Form 12, and I do think that we had the technical schools in it as well.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So basically, the Brother that just made a recommendation... his recommendation has been overcome by events because it's already taken care of... is that correct?

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Correct.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You got what you wanted, Brother. We just (indistinguishable).

Mike Todd, Department of Kansas

Again, Mike Todd, the Department of Kansas, Past Department Commander. I appreciate that effort and that information. Where can we see what the language is? Is it already on the webpage or... where is it at?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

It hadn't been approved by the Council yet. That's kind of a...

Unknown

It's in the works.

Mike Todd, Department of Kansas

Okay.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

It's coming.

Mike Todd, Department of Kansas

All right. Thank you. Appreciate it. Thank you very much.

Steven Williams, Department of Michigan

Commander, Steve Williams, Department of Michigan. I'm also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and this fall is the National SAR Leadership Conference in Louisville, and they have just published requests for other organizations who would like to put a recruiting table at that fall Leadership Conference to contact them. It costs \$60 for a table. So obviously, since it's in Louisville, it would behoove the Department of Kentucky to consider helping staff this or bringing in some of the Auxiliary ladies to sit there and draw attention to both the Auxiliary and the SUVCW.

So I'm a member of both, and I would be there during that. So I could help at the table sometime... certainly not all the time. It's just something for the Department of Kentucky and the National Society to consider doing because they do this twice a year. There's a spring Leadership Conference and a fall one. So I would imagine that if we're serious about recruiting new members... SAR members from all over the country are attending.

So it's not just for recruiting for the State of Kentucky, certainly across the Ohio River and Indiana and other... it goes by states. So it would behoove the National Society to consider doing this as a good recruiting tool for the whole country. Thank you.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Don Darby, Past Commander-in-Chief, National Counselor. Are you making a motion, Brother, or are you just presenting that for the good of the Order?

Steven Williams, Department of Michigan

Sitting over there, I take exception to people talking 20 feet behind the microphone and not being able to be heard.

So this is not a motion. I'm just tossing out the information for the Department of Kentucky, National Society to consider. There is probably some committee that would be the appropriate place that has to think about this and decide either to not do this (indistinguishable). If you want to do it, great. If not, it's okay. Same thing for...

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So basically, you brought this for the good of the Order, correct?

Steven Williams, Department of Michigan

Correct.

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado

Ken Jacobsen, the Department of Colorado Junior Vice Commander. Now, that Brother that just made that... was bringing that up... I have to add that last year at RootsTech 2024, the SAR has never attended that conference. GAR has always been there, Society of 1812 is, Mayflower Society. They showed up, the National Office. They had people from the states assigned there to help (indistinguishable) and the SAR were surprised at the results of that kind of foot traffic going through.

I make the motion that the National Organization support the Department of Kentucky in their efforts to facilitate that with support from... in other words, that that Order help pay for that \$60 fee and they coordinate... that the members that are within the area that want to go support this.

I make a motion that we support that. If it's that close, we don't have another year to wait for the opportunity. We have to act, I think, in a proactive way to these opportunities and establish some level of presence at these events. And if it's \$60 to advertise, I mean, my gosh, if you hand out 100 brochures, you've got 60 sign-ups, what's the matrix with which you decide if 60 bucks is worth it. Thank you.

Unknown

Second.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Brother Commander, Michael Beard, National Treasurer. We were having a sidebar. I didn't know what (indistinguishable)... Oh, this event in Kentucky. Generally, those events are (indistinguishable) worthy, and the SUVCW should be there all the time. \$60 should not be beyond the means of the Department of Kentucky, and it's in their backyard. I would suggest they get in.

Mike Flynn, Department of Kentucky

Mike Flynn, Department of Kentucky Commander. The Department of Kentucky will definitely consider going to this. We... half of our members are also SAR members. So having said that, the \$60 for Kentucky is not an issue.

David K. Hann, Department of New Jersey

Dave Hann, Past Department Commander, New Jersey... someone who has done these types of events... they're great to do. If I may make a friendly suggestion to my Brothers from Kentucky, do not do it in uniform for the simple reason the general public confuses us with reenactors. So if you're going to do it, I would say the... with polo shirts. I'm not being funny. I'm being serious.

With, you know, properly dressed attire, but something that will say the Sons on it... your medals because the general public, as that lady said yesterday when she came here to talk about well, I've seen you guys, you reenactors and they blew a horn and you all resurrected. That is the thought from the general public. They think we're reenactors. And they think that thought by our uniforms. So it's just a friendly suggestion to do it in a suit, something. If you want to have one Brother there in uniform to explain it, that's a great idea. But I just wanted to make that friendly suggestion. Thank you.

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado

Ken Jacobsen, Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander. I'd like my time back for a second to amend my comment. I... you're absolutely right. My point, no disrespect to the Department of Kentucky, 60 bucks, yes. But I will say this; that when I ordered brochures from the National Organization for our RootsTech, we paid... we incurred... it was quite a bit of shipping involved in that. The wooden tokens, the wooden nickels, Rod Fraser hooked me up with some of those cards for... it's the stuff like that if the Department of Kentucky is going to do that, that's where the National Organization can finance. If they make the request to whoever's appropriate, that should be provided. And if it's no cost, then that should be done.

And I will say that RootsTech 2024 had Brothers comment about, I don't know how many times, people were coming up to us and they were confusing us with reenactors. I take that as a major hit on our part (indistinguishable) because we were all typically in appropriate 1861 or (indistinguishable) attire.

I think about if I was to revisit that, we would not do that, and I would take that Brother's recommendation because I think that created a disconnect. So I would concur with that. But I would like to maybe amend that proposal that we have support from the National Office to the Department with some promotional materials (indistinguishable). Thank you.

Donald L. Martin, Department of Ohio, Past Commander-in-Chief

Don Martin, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of Ohio. I'm in opposition with the Brother... excuse me, in opposition to what the Brother just stated in the fact that this is, yes, it is help to the Sons overall, but this is also something going on with the Department of Kentucky. And if we are at the national level financing the Department of Kentucky, are we going to finance all the Department events.

And so I don't think that's a road we should go down. I think that a certain, again (indistinguishable) above. So if the Department's doing this, then the Department should pick up most of the costs. So these things are available basically for shipping.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Can I get the motion again?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

There was no motion.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

The Brother back there made the motion that... Brother, come up and state your motion because you said twice, I make a motion, and then you amended it.

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado, Junior Vice Commander. Based on some other follow-up, I retract my motion in fairness because the Department of Kentucky brought up the (indistinguishable). We can manage 60 bucks. All I'm going to amend is... and make a motion that National provide promotional materials. As the one Brother said, if we start doing that, you know, what's the National Organization for? But you've got guys out there at Department (indistinguishable) that are taking the initiative.

We have the Marketing and Promotions Committee. We have (indistinguishable) recommended to promote the Order. And what is going to be the support from the National office to the Departments that want to do this to support it, but say they have no way to finance?

But that stuff... that's free. It should be facilitated in some way that they make the request... it's made available to them. If they can afford the 60 bucks, sure, but I paid a lot of money for postage on those brochures.

Now, if you're saying to us, tough luck, you pay for the shipping... but if it's... if I'm there at a

national event promoting the National Order... that's what that Brother from the SAR was saying. This is a national event that they have all over the nation for people there. Are you saying that the Kentucky event is only a limited group for people there in Kentucky that are going to do that? But I'm going to drop my motion, but I ask... I withdraw the recommendation. Thank you.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Due to the fact that he put on that motion, it's a dead motion.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Does the second get withdrawn? There was a second, right?

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yeah, he had a motion and a second. Who seconded the Brother's motion? Let's start with... do you withdraw your second?

Unknown

I withdraw my second.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

So it's dead.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Brother Commander, Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. So just for a soapbox moment... we have a ground up organization. The work of this Order happens at the Camp level, then the Department level, then the National level.

When he asked: what's the purpose of the National Organization?... it is to support the work of all of those levels of the Organization. It's not to pay for their ideas that they might have. They have to make it happen just like all of us do at the Camp level, at the Department level, and at the National level.

So I understand the Brother's sentiment in that, like every idea that you have, the National Organization cannot feasibly pay for and... nor should it. It has to be the judgment of the people that are working that exact event. So yeah, \$60 wasn't a lot, raise \$60 in each Department. If shipping is an issue, you figure it out. (Indistinguishable) I would just remind it's a... we're a ground up Order.

D. Michael Beard, National Treasurer

Michael Beard, National Treasurer. National does a lot. For instance, this Encampment is insured by National... National policy. Any time any Sons' group meets anywhere, we're the ones that provide the general liability. All you need to do is get a certificate from me.

It's pamphlets. I don't know why it was decided, but we decided to give those to any Camp or Department who ordered them. They pay for the shipping.

Last year, I believe we decided that the Boy Scout certificates were free. So we're not even charging postage on those. They ask for the Boy Scout certificates, we send them.

The ROTC medal program... we voted on National taking the burden on that. We're spending about seven or \$8,000 a year on the ROTC medals.

So there are a lot of programs in which National does pay and it benefits the Camps and the Departments. All right? Sermon over.

Ed Dowd, National Guard

Commander, I have Jennifer Ambs, Director of Sales Campbell House Hotel, who wishes to address our Encampment today.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

I'll allow it.

[three raps, ***]

[one rap,*]

James T. Crane, National Chief of Staff

Now, we've been doing this for a couple years, and you know, we always thank the people that we work with here. I mean, it's hundreds of hours. Do you agree, Mike? So I mean, you do it, you become friends, right. And I thought, you know what, we're going to do something different. So I had Jennifer come down. I don't know how many hours we had, but she's the Director of Sales, and Jennifer, we appreciate everything you did. So would you like to say a couple words?

Jennifer Ambs, Director of Sales, Campbell House

Good morning..

Multiple Brothers

Good morning.

Jennifer Ambs, Director of Sales, Campbell House

Welcome to Lexington. We are so excited to have you. Thank you for being here enjoying this wonderful weekend with us. I am only one of many wonderful staff and Associates of this hotel that are trying to ensure you have a wonderful weekend. I am speaking on behalf of them as well as our General Manager, Jim Marino.

If there's anything we can do to assist you through the rest of the weekend, please let us know. We would love to have you again in the future. So please let us know how we can help. Have a nice weekend. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

On behalf of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, we would like to present this bouquet of flowers to you.

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We're going to proceed to go to lunch. Be back by 12:30. And also, those who are the members of the MOLLUS, please come up here at the flags after when we break for lunch.

Harry Reineke, Acting Chaplain

We just moved Brother Jerry (indistinguishable)... moved out of the hospital, and we need to see Assistant Pastor (indistinguishable). Going by ambulance to be checked out at the hospital for shortness of breath and other type of modalities (indistinguishable). Thank you.

Donald L. Martin, Department of Ohio, Past Commander-in-Chief

Yes. Could Steve Bigelow please come up here to the mic when we're done... when you dismiss, please... from the Department of Arizona.

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

The Department of the Chesapeake will take a group picture when they break for lunch.

Thank you.

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

[lunch break]

Fourth Session - Saturday Afternoon

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

Harry W. Reineke, IV, Department of Illinois

Commander-in-Chief, Harry Reineke, Past Department Commander of Illinois, Member of Chesapeake, et cetera. Chaplain Jerry is being treated across the way at St. Joseph's Hospital. Brothers had to make contact with his wife, JoEllen. She has requested that we continue to think about Jerry and pray for him. And as soon as anybody in the communication circle has any information, we are absolutely, absolutely planning to update the Brothers.

Taylin Allen, Department of Indiana

Taylin Allen, Department of Indiana. On our lunch break, I visited Jerry over at the hospital, and he wanted to let everybody know that he is praying for us, and that he's offering his pain and discomfort for the success of the Encampment.

Encampment

(laughter and chatter).

Unknown

That's Jerry.

Taylin Allen, Department of Indiana

I did promise him that I would do the prayer for him and our Brother Steve, Department of Michigan, also in the hospital. So everybody, please remove your caps.

[one rap, *]

Taylin Allen, Department of Indiana

Father in Heaven, Holy and Righteous Art Thou. All praise and glory is yours for you have called us to share your love. Bless Brother... Bless Brothers Jerry and Steve that they may bear their ailments in union with you. Restore their health and grant them your favor. In the name of God, our Lord. And if you agree with that, Amen.

Encampment

Amen.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Anything good for the Order?

James T. Crane, Department of Ohio

A note from the Kentucky Host Committee, Commander-in-Chief. Jim Crane, Department of Ohio. They have limited dinner tickets available now, and I think some have already gave your names. So they need to see Todd Early because we do have, like, six available or maybe ten. We're not sure. It's somewhere in that vicinity if you're looking for dinner tickets tonight. That's all, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

David K. Hann, Department of New Jersey

Commander-in-Chief, Dave Hann, Department of New Jersey, Past Department Commander and Provost Marshal for the Sons of Veterans Reserve. How many here have been to Remembrance Day?

Encampment

(show of hands).

David K. Hann, Department of New Jersey

How many wish they could go to Remembrance Day?

Encampment

(show of hands).

David K. Hann, Department of New Jersey

(Indistinguishable) it's a great time, and I'm going to put up a long misconception, as long as you are in a suit and tie, no polo shirts...

Encampment

(laughter).

David K. Hann, Department of New Jersey

... with a badge of the Order affixed, you can watch. We have a beautiful banner that we've bought, and I would really like to have Brothers in suits march behind that banner so we can just dispel the myth that we are a reenacting organization. Come on down.

I'm a Provost. Yes, I'm in gray for that day, but I'm (indistinguishable), but come on down. It's a great time. What the money you pay is... you see all the groups marching.

But remember this, Brothers, this is our event. We put it on, not reenactment groups, not historical societies. We put it on. It's been going on for 68 years. It is the largest Civil War parade in the United States.

I am humbled and blessed to be a part of this, and I'm honored to be a part of it. It's our birthright. I have ancestors that fought against. The day is the biggest point of pride. In keeping with Past Commander-in-Chief, Don Darby, who is a big fan of Christmas, Remembrance Day is my Christmas. I look forward to it every year. It is November 16th. Come on down. It's great fellowship with wonderful Brothers. Our Sisters are there. I am telling you; you'll be glad that you went. Thank you very much.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

The gentleman... the Brother in the back.

Robert Aubuchon, Department of Missouri

I'm Rob Aubuchon, Department of Missouri with Arkansas. Back in April, I think it was, Rob Amsler and I went out to the Missouri State Capital. He litigated for Ulysses S. Grant Day for the State of

Missouri, so now it's been official. You'll have a hard time finding it online, but it's official. April 27th will be Ulysses S. Grant Day in the State of Missouri. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Gary Carlberg, Department of Wisconsin

Sir, Gary Carlberg, Department of Wisconsin, Junior Vice. I had one thing for the good of the Order with a caveat that is not a discussion point. I just want to share this. I don't want this to become a committee in the (indistinguishable)... quick discussion. Let's not beat the dead horse.

Bottom line is, my Organization had a 50 percent increase in one year. I was encouraged to share what's the biggest tidbit of information that might be of interest to everybody in this room.

One thing that we did different is we... I go to basically every single roundtable in the state and give an update every year. They really don't care too much that we have all these last soldier ceremonies, and they're kind of not happy when we talk about, in our case, we've added over 4,800 names to the database in the last two years.

But what goes over really well is when we talked about 200 headstones placed for Civil War soldiers in our (indistinguishable). I get a lot of people that like it. They want to do it.

And the other thing that I draw them to the table on is we offer to do an on-the-spot research for their relatives, wherein you could run a symposium on things like that. They love it. They want to find out where their relative is, and I get a flock of people to my booth that I've never had before. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

John Schneider, Sr., Department of Texas

My name is John Schneider, Sr., Past Department Commander, Department of Texas and Louisiana. For the good of the Order, I'm inviting everyone to come to Houston next year. We're going to have a great National Encampment.

Our theme is Treue der Union... True to the Union... honoring those who were in the State of Texas and elsewhere in the South who stayed true to the Union, and gave their lives fighting for the Union.

Please come to Houston. We'll give you a grand time. It will be a great event for everybody. Please come. Thank you, sir.

Encampment

(applause).

Michael B. Reither, Department of Georgia

Sir, I am Michael Reither, Past Department Commander, Georgia and South Carolina. For the good of the Order, I want to share that my son, Mark Rowell, who is a 2023 scholarship winner had a perfect 4.0 in his engineering classes last fall. He's represented us proudly. It was a good investment. Thank you to this Organization.

Encampment

(applause).

Donald D. Palmer, Jr., Department of Missouri, Past Commander-in-Chief

As a fellow engineer, I congratulate you, sir. Don Palmer, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of Missouri, also Department of Missouri Programs Chair.

I just wanted to mention that this fall, the Department of Missouri is going to be having a series of programs to commemorate the 160th Anniversary of Price's Raid. For those of you not familiar with Price's Raid, in 1864, the Confederates made one last attempt to take Missouri and move it to the Confederacy. General Sterling Price led a massive raid into Missouri that lasted three months in the fall of 1864.

What the Department's going to be doing, is have the individual Camps coordinate these events. We have a series of four events over the course of the fall. The first event is September 27th, commemorating the Battle of Pilot Knob, which was the first engagement to that raid.

The second event will be October the 13th, which is actually a daylong seminar with local historians. It will be at the Secretary of State's Archives in Jefferson City.

The third event will be on October 20th... or 19th, excuse me, commemorating the battle of Westport in Kansas City, which was the largest engagement of the raid.

And the final event will be a week later on October 26th, the Battle of Newtonia, which was the last engagement before the Confederates moved from the state.

As part of this, there will be commemorations... each event honoring the soldiers that were killed and wounded there. Past Department Commander Gary Scheel has done an excellent job pulling together the Roll of Honor for the entirety of the Price's raid, and that included all of those killed and wounded in each battle.

And so those Brothers, primarily from Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, and Colorado who had soldiers that actively participated in that engagement will be honored. So we invite all of you, including.... especially those who had representation from their states, join us during the fall event.

And just to promote a positive aspect of it, we are not calling it a commemoration of Price's raid, we are calling it the commemoration of the Union Victory in Missouri. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado

Ken Jacobsen, Department of Colorado, Senior Vice Commander. Gentlemen, I'd like to share that I received a phone call here just last week from a gentleman that was in a rest home in Boise, Idaho. And he called me specifically because I had, through our Camp in Idaho, gone to a very remote county in Central Idaho to place a GAR marker for three veterans... or correction, Union veterans in that cemetery. Two of those gentlemen were not known by the local veterans, so they were very pleased that we identified them.

There was another veteran that was in a remote area of the county that was in a pasture so-to-

speaking, and he had a veteran's marker as is appropriate. And this was his great-grandson. And we had local media... and he was calling me specifically because he got my number through the ad through the paper and asked and made the request that we ensure that his ancestor receive the GAR marker at that remote cemetery.

Gentlemen, that is what this is all about. This is what brings the greatest satisfaction to me personally... is when you have somebody call that is a descendent of our forebearers that gave their lives and serving in another (indistinguishable), and it is the most fulfilling, satisfying feeling that you can do to honor an ancestor's... a veteran's ancestor by doing that.

I just wanted to share, and it really reminded me of why I am a part of this Organization and why it gives me passion to do that. Thank you very much.

Encampment

(applause).

Roderick J. Fraser, Jr., Department of Massachusetts

Rod Fraser, Commander, Department of Massachusetts, Council of Administration. Brothers, we have an official Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War YouTube channel. So if you have not yet gone to the YouTube channel, please go, please subscribe, please watch our videos.

And when your Department does something, or your Camp does something, and you videotape it, please send it in to the Promotions and Marketing Committee so we can get it out there. The more people who view our videos and the more videos we have on there, that will encourage YouTube's algorithms to set those videos up for people who are looking for Civil War related topic videos, and that might help us.

This is part of our goal to reach younger people, right? ...to come to the Order who frequent YouTube. Although, I'm not younger, and I frequent YouTube... but you get the picture, right?

So please, send us videos. Please subscribe. Please share it. On the table up here, I'll leave a bunch of these cards and they have the YouTube (indistinguishable) on it, and also to articles on the back. You can just scan with your phone and take it right there. So thank you. Commander, thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. We're going to move on to the nomination of officers. Before we can do that, we need a report from the Credentials Committee allowing who is able to vote, and how many delegates.

And also, those of the Host Committee... Mike, could you please bring the Host Committee in here for this, please?

Encampment

(chatter).

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

All right. We will... Daryl VerStreate, Past Department Commander, Credentials Chairman,

Department of New York. I won't entertain any questions while I'm up here. If you don't agree with something, I would ask you to go back in the room and see Walt Busch so I can get through this report. And we can get things adjusted if need be.

Alabama: Commander-in-Chiefs, zero; Past Commander-in-Chief, zero; Past Department Commander, one; delegate, one. Wait a minute. Back up here. Department Commander, one; PDC, one; delegate, five - delegate strength based on the report by total present, available votes, seven.

California: one PC, Past Commander-in-Chief; three PDC; one delegate - delegate strength, 14; total for all votes, five.

Chesapeake: one Past Commander-in-Chief; one Department Commander; one past... five Past Department Commanders, seven delegates - 13 based on the (indistinguishable); total votes 14.

Colorado: one PinC; two delegates - six delegate strength; total all votes present, three.

Florida: PDC, one - delegate strength, six; total all votes present, one.

Georgia: Department Commander, one; PDC, three; delegate, two - strength, six; total all votes present, six.

Iowa: Department Commander, one; PDC, one; delegate, one - strength five; available votes present, three.

Illinois: Department Commander, one; PDC, four; delegates, seven - delegate strength based on (indistinguishable) 12; present, 12.

Indiana: Department Commander, one; PDC, six; delegates, ten - delegate strength, ten; total all votes present, 17.

Kansas: Department Commander, one; PDC, six; delegates, one - strength would be eight; present, eight.

Kentucky: Department Commander, one; PDC, eight; delegates, five; alternates, six - delegate strength, five; present... present to vote, 14.

Massachusetts: PCinC, Past Commander-in-Chief, one; Department Commander, one; PDC, three; delegate, two - delegate strength, eight; present to vote, seven.

Maine: PDC, one; delegate, one - strength, four; present to vote, two.

Michigan: Past Commander-in-Chief, one; Department Commander, one; PDC, six; delegates, seven - strength 16; available to vote and present, 15.

Missouri: Past Commander-in-Chief, two; Department Commander, one; Past Department Commander, six; delegates, one - delegate strength, nine; present to vote, ten.

North Carolina: delegate, one - strength, five; present to vote, one.

Nebraska: PDC, two - strength, four; present to vote, two.

New Hampshire: PDC, one; delegate, one - strength, four; present to vote, two.

New Jersey: one PDC; two delegates - strength would be 12; present to vote, three.

New York: one PDC; three delegates - strength, 19; present to vote, four.

Ohio: one Commander-in-Chief; five Past Commander-in-Chiefs; PDC, six; nine delegates - strength, 16; 21 present to vote.

Oklahoma: one Past Commander-in-Chief; one Department Commander; two PDCs - delegate strength, three; present to vote, four.

Pennsylvania: one Department Commander; three delegates - strength, 24; present to vote, four.

Rhode Island: Past Commander-in-Chief, one; PDC, one; delegate, one - strength, six; present to vote, three.

Southwest: three delegates - strength is six; three present to vote.

Tennessee: one Department Commander; one PDC... three PDCs; five delegates - strength of five; voting present, nine.

Texas: one Department Commander; four PDC; six delegates - strength is eight; available to vote, 11.

Vermont: one PDC - delegate strength, four; available to vote, one.

Wisconsin: one Past Commander-in-Chief; one Department Commander; two PDCs; five delegates - nine present to vote.

I will leave it... if there's any questions or concerns, please come to the back of the room where they can be addressed. I will give a copy of this to Jim Pahl. Don Darby, you want (indistinguishable) so you guys can share it up here.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

I just have one question, what's the total number of candidates available to vote?

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

We had 210 preregistered here and available to vote at the present time? If any of you have had anybody go home that I don't know about, please go back there and let me know so we can take them off here, so when we get to voting, all the numbers come out right.

Walter E. Busch, Registration Committee

Walt Busch, Past Department Commander, Missouri, Registration Committee. I would suggest just call... asking each state by roll call how many they have present at this time.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Okay. I can run right through and do that. It might take a second.

Walter E. Busch, Registration Committee

I do know that at least one or two have gone.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We're going to need to know the total number of delegates who are here to vote.

Walter E. Busch, Registration Committee

That's what I'm saying. I think each state needs to poll their number of delegates, and tell us how

many they've got. We know how many that have registered with the Encampment, but we don't know who's left and who's here.

I happen to know that one of Missouri's is gone, and I happen to know that one other one just said that one of their delegates was gone, so...

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

All right. When I call up your department, if one representative could stand up and tell me how many people are here to vote so I can write that number down.

Let me go get you a rough number so you've got it. So when we vote, if anybody leaves, we're going to have to get another number and do it again.

Walt... I'm going to give him a rough number in a few minutes. And that... when we get ready for elections, we're back to this again. That way if things change, we're doing it once.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

That sounds good.

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ed Norris, Department of Massachusetts. Are we going to lock the doors now?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

No. We have to...

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

We shouldn't be getting up, giving the final count until...

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

No, until the end.

We'll now move to nominations. This is just for nominations, and the delegates will have time to discuss any contested office prior to the election.

Nominations are open for the office of Commander-in-Chief. The Secretary will call the roll of Departments for the purpose of making nominations for the Commander-in-Chief.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Alabama?

Mark E. Hubbs, Department of Alabama

Mark Hubbs, Department of Alabama. We have no nominations.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of California and Pacific?

Donald E. Darby, National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief

Pass for the Department of the California and Pacific.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Chesapeake?

W. Faron Taylor, Department of the Chesapeake

Commander, I am Faron Taylor, Past Commander of the Department of the Chesapeake. Thank you for this opportunity. Brothers, forgive me if rather than depend on extemporaneous speech, I took to the written word. There are times when clarity of message is paramount. This is one of those times.

We're now at the particular place in our Encampment where we formally shift our focus from the works we have collectively accomplished over the past year to those individuals who will lead us into the future. In short, our intention is by process (indistinguishable) in depth and rightly so.

But I also feel it appropriate to take advantage of this important moment to express personal gratitude for the efforts of those Brothers whose term of service is rapidly coming to a close, and this broad expression of appreciation can no better manifest itself than to say thank you to our Commander.

Brother Peter, I am sure you feel that while each day may have been long, the year itself was very short. Regardless, your steady leadership over these past 12 months can be summed up with the seemingly simple, such poignant and unforgettable phrase that every warrior cherished hearing when their term of service came to a conclusion, "Soldier, you have done your duty". My mother and father taught me that any time is the right time to tell someone thank you. This is a right time. Brothers, please join me in saying thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you very much.

W. Faron Taylor, Department of the Chesapeake

So why am I here? I remember now.

Encampment

(laughter).

W. Faron Taylor, Department of the Chesapeake

When our Senior Vice Commander asked me if I would briefly state to his nomination, I demurred. This, I told him, was a special honor that my memory was reserved exclusively for Past Commanders-in-Chiefs, not a common Past Department Commander. He said to me, "you're not common". I told him the jury has not yet rendered that verdict.

Anyhow, I accepted with the caveat, be careful what you ask for, Kevin, because from me, you're certainly going to get it. So in keeping with his request for brevity, I paired this down from my original hour and a half...

Encampment

(laughter).

W. Faron Taylor, Department of the Chesapeake

...to just 90 minutes.

Encampment

(laughter).

W. Faron Taylor, Department of the Chesapeake

So here it comes. When you look at the delegation from the Department of the Chesapeake, here's what you see. Rather than a cobbled together collective of Brothers who gather maybe once or twice each year, what you really see is a tight, close-knit group of Brothers who regularly operate much more like a well-oiled can.

This is not a thought, it's genuine. And again, the level of commitment is year-round. Brother Kevin Martin was instrumental in helping lay that foundation for all of this, and he continues to actively and enthusiastically support our mission and goals.

When the Department launched its highly successful leadership development program, Brother Martin met with each and every participant to offer encouragement and mentorship. He spoke to them of successes, a few disappointments, and more importantly how to avoid those pitfalls. That, my Brothers, is what leaders do.

And for years, we have seen what this leader does on the National stage. When people see problems, Brother Kevin sees opportunity. How does he seize these opportunities? He's an organizer. He's a consensus builder. He surrounds himself with like-minded talent. He never asks for more than what he knows a Brother can deliver. And most often, they produce even more than they themselves thought possible. I've come to realize he knew well ahead of time that they would.

How does this happen? It's not complicated. Brother Kevin simply has the gift, and the time has now come for our Order to be the grateful recipient of that gift at its highest levels. Now, while I would dearly love to see all of us rise together and place his name into nomination by acclamation, I would never wish to run afoul (indistinguishable) your passage in *Roberts Rules of Order*.

Encampment

(laughter).

W. Faron Taylor, Department of the Chesapeake

We don't want to take this special moment... and further, as much as I want to formally place his name into nomination, my reverence for the traditions of our Order that I hold so dear demand precedent. So at this time, I would like to yield my remaining time to Past Commander-in-Chief Tad Campbell to say the words we all long to hear.

Brother Tad...

Tad D. Campbell, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Tad Campbell, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of California and Pacific. While Faron said that we have to really rely on precedent, this is, in fact, rather unprecedented that our own Department allows another Department to nominate their Brother. So I thank Brother Faron, and I thank the Department of the Chesapeake for the honor.

If you know Brother Kevin Martin, there is little about his participation and qualifications that I, nor Brother Faron, could teach you. If you don't know him, just look at his resume that's been distributed around the room. You'll plainly see that Kevin is a steadfast, dedicated, and a hard-working member of our Order. That cannot be denied.

As Kevin became active in the Organization, and rose through the officer ranks, he counted among his mentors several late greats of our Order, including Past Commanders-in-Chief Charlie Kuhn, Eugene Mortorff, and Andy Johnson, as well as 80-year member, Chuck Odell. Kevin listened, watched, and learned from these men and today he strives to carry on their ideals and dedication.

I have personally known Kevin for 16 years, and today, I count him among my best friends. Ten years ago, he served as my own National Chief of Staff. And let me tell you, not only was he organized and efficient, but he knew the meaning of the phrase, "other duties, as assigned".

Encampment

(laughter).

Tad D. Campbell, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

I have the utmost confidence in Kevin's abilities, and you should too. Therefore, I proudly place in nomination for Commander-in-Chief, the name of my friend and Brother, Kevin L. Martin.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Martin, if elected, will you serve?

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Do you currently hold any other office in the Order?

Kevin L. Martin, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

No, I do not.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Are there any other nominations?

Oh, okay, I'm sorry. I'm ahead of myself.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

The Department of Colorado and Wyoming?

Department of Colorado and Wyoming

We have no nominations, sir.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Florida?

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Department of Florida

No other nominations.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Georgia and South Carolina?

Department of Georgia and South Carolina

That Department of Georgia and South Carolina passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Illinois?

Department of Illinois

The Department of Illinois, pass.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Indiana?

Department of Indiana

The Department of Indiana passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Iowa?

Department of Iowa

The Department of Iowa passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kansas?

Department of Kansas

Kansas passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kentucky?

Department of Kentucky

The Department of Kentucky... pass.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Maine?

Department of Maine

The Department of Maine passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Massachusetts?

Department of Massachusetts

The Department of Massachusetts passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Michigan?

Department of Michigan

The Department of Michigan passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Missouri?

Department of Missouri

Department of Missouri passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Nebraska?

Department of Nebraska

Department of Nebraska passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Hampshire?

Department of New Hampshire

New Hampshire passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Jersey?

Department of New Jersey

The Department of New Jersey passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New York?

Department of New York

The Department of New York passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of North Carolina?

Department of North Carolina

The Department of North Carolina passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Ohio?

Department of Ohio

The Department of Ohio passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Oklahoma?

Department of Oklahoma

Department of Oklahoma passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Pennsylvania?

Department the Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Rhode Island?

Department of Rhode Island

Department of Rhode Island passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

The Department of the Southwest?

Department of the Southwest

The Department of the Southwest passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Tennessee?

Department of Tennessee

The Department of Tennessee passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Texas?

Department of Texas and Louisiana

The Department of Texas and Louisiana... pass.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Vermont?

Department of Vermont

The Department of Vermont passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

And the Department of Wisconsin?

Department of Wisconsin

Department of Wisconsin passes.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

[one rap, *]

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, I move that as there is only one nominee, that the Secretary be ordered to cast one vote, and the election be done, and also for any future one candidate quorums.

Unknown

Second.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All those that are in agreement, raise your blue cards.

Thank you.

Any opposed?

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Passes.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Nominations are open for the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. The Secretary will call the roll of Departments for the purpose of making nominations for Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Alabama?

Department of Alabama

Alabama defers to Massachusetts.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Massachusetts?

Edward J. Norris, Department of Massachusetts, Past Commander-in-Chief

Ed Norris, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of Massachusetts. It is my proud honor to nominate Kevin Tucker to the position of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Kevin is a life member. He's been 28 years of active service. He's one of the few in the Department of Massachusetts that really keeps our Department running. His service is unbelievable.

He's currently serving a two-year term on the Council of Administration. He's the Commander of the First Military District. Well, you know some of these... Chairman of Promotions and Marketing; Chairman of the Membership Committee.

He's won the MSA, the Gold Star Award for his service to this Order. He also has held every position that's available at the Camp and Department level.

You've probably all been out to at least two of the Massachusetts, the recent ones, the National Encampment Committee, National Encampment. Kevin's been instrumental to getting those going. His dedication is unbelievable. He understands this.

He's the great-grandson of Private Charles E. Elwell. He's an Air Force veteran. He was a crew chief for F-4s and F-16s, and currently he's an information technology director, and he provides a lot of guidance to our National Order in the technology field.

Again, it's my pride and honor to nominate Kevin Tucker, for Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Tucker, if elected, will you serve?

Kevin P. Tucker, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

I will, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Do you currently hold any other office in the Order?

Kevin P. Tucker, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

I do not.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of California and Pacific?

Department of California and Pacific

That Department of California and Pacific passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Chesapeake?

Department of the Chesapeake

Chesapeake passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

The Department of Colorado and Wyoming?

Department of Colorado and Wyoming

The Department of Colorado and Wyoming passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Columbia?

Department of Columbia

[no response].

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Florida?

Department of Florida

No other nominations.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Georgia and South Carolina?

Department of Georgia and South Carolina

Georgia and South Carolina passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Illinois?

Department of Illinois

The Department of Illinois pass.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Indiana?

Department of Indiana

The Department of Indiana passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Iowa?

Department of Iowa

The Department of Iowa pass.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kansas?

Department of Kansas

Kansas passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kentucky?

Department of Kentucky

Kentucky passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Maine?

Department of Maine

The Department of Maine passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Michigan?

Department of Michigan

The Department of Michigan passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Missouri?

Department of Missouri

The Department of Missouri passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Nebraska?

Department of Nebraska

Department of Nebraska, if they could, passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Hampshire?

Department of New Hampshire

New Hampshire passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Jersey?

Department of New Jersey

The Department of New Jersey passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New York?

Department of New York

The Department of New York passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary
Department of North Carolina?

Department of North Carolina
North Carolina passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary
Department of Ohio?

Department of Ohio
Ohio passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary
Department of Oklahoma?

Department of Oklahoma
Department of Oklahoma passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary
Department of Pennsylvania?

Department the Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Department passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary
Department of Rhode Island?

Department of Rhode Island
The Department of Rhode Island passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary
The Department of the Southwest?

Department of the Southwest
The Department of the Southwest passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary
Department of Tennessee?

Department of Tennessee
The Department of Tennessee with Mississippi passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary
Department of Texas with Louisiana?

Encampment
(laughter).

Department of Texas and Louisiana

We both pass.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Vermont?

Department of Vermont

The Department of Vermont passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

And the Department of Wisconsin?

Department of Wisconsin

The Department of Wisconsin with Minnesota passes.

Encampment

(laughter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

[one rap, *]

Encampment

(applause and chatter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Nominations are now open for the office of the National Secretary... for the purpose of making a nomination for the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Alabama?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Oh, excuse me, I went ahead of myself.

Nomination is open for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. The Secretary will cast the call for the Department for the purpose of making the nomination for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Alabama?

Department of Alabama

Alabama defers to New Hampshire.

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Department of New Hampshire

New Hampshire defers to Kevin Tucker.

Kevin P. Tucker, Department of Massachusetts

Kevin Tucker, Department of Massachusetts, soon to be Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, but presently Junior. I want to put into nomination the name of Daniel W. Murray, Past Department Commander, Department of New Hampshire. He's a dual member in the Department of Massachusetts.

As we saw earlier, Daniel is an MSA with Gold Star recipient at this Encampment. The Commander-in-Chief saw fit to award him with that. He was the Department Commander for New Hampshire from 2002 to 2004, 2005 to 2007, and 2012 to 2013.

He's currently the National Secretary. He's on the National Council of Administration, National Civil War Memorials Grant Fund, and the Military Affairs Committee.

At the Massachusetts Department level, he was Department Commander twice. He's a recipient of the Olson Award as the most outstanding Brother in the Department. He has served on three National Encampment Committees, chairing two of them, including National, I guess... I'm sorry, four, chairing two of them, the last one in Nashua as most of you may have attended. He does a great job.

He is so organized. I can't even tell you how dedicated and detail oriented he is. He's the adjutant for the First Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve. He was the Regional Commander for the New England Regional Association two times.

He is an Army veteran. He serves on his town of Allentown Council for three terms, and he's a retired Federal Postal worker and one of my closest friends. I can't tell you what... I remember first meeting Dan at National Encampment. We had the Massachusetts delegation off to the side. We also had three New England guys together, even though some of them don't want to come, went over and asked Dan if he would want to sit with us, and he kind of went, 'no, I'm all right'. So... but we won him over eventually, and he has become so integral to the running of both the Departments, especially the Department of New Hampshire, which he does almost single-handedly runs and almost single-handedly ran the 2005 National Encampment with his wife.

So... great pleasure to have my good friend, my close friend, named in nomination, Daniel W. Murray.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Murray, if elected, will you serve?

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Yes, I will.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Do you currently hold any other office in the Order?

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

I believe I am the Patriotic Instructor for the Department of New Hampshire.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

California and Pacific?

Department of California and Pacific

The Department of California and Pacific passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Chesapeake?

Department of the Chesapeake

The Department of the Chesapeake representing Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and D.C. passes.

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

The Department of Colorado and Wyoming?

Department of Colorado and Wyoming

The Department of Colorado and Wyoming passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Florida?

Department of Florida

No other nominations.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Georgia and South Carolina?

Department of Georgia and South Carolina

Department of Georgia and South Carolina passes, sir.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Illinois?

Department of Illinois

The Department of Illinois passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Indiana?

Department of Indiana

The Department of Indiana passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Iowa?

Department of Iowa

The Department of Iowa passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kansas?

Department of Kansas

Department of Kansas passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kentucky?

Department of Kentucky

Kentucky passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Maine?

Department of Maine

The Department of Maine passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Massachusetts?

Department of Massachusetts

Massachusetts passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Michigan?

Department of Michigan

The Department of Michigan passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Missouri?

Department of Missouri

Department of Missouri with Arkansas passes.

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota?

Department of Nebraska

Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Jersey?

Department of New Jersey

The Department of New Jersey passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New York?

Department of New York

The Department of New York passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of North Carolina?

Department of North Carolina

North Carolina passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Ohio?

Department of Ohio

The Department of the great State of Ohio passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Oklahoma?

Department of Oklahoma

Department of Oklahoma passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Pennsylvania?

Department the Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Rhode Island?

Department of Rhode Island

The Department of Rhode Island passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

The Department of the Southwest?

Department of the Southwest

The Department of the Southwest, representing the glorious states of Arizona and New Mexico, passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Thank you.

Department of Tennessee?

Department of Tennessee

The Department of the University of Tennessee with Mississippi, without the University of Alabama, passes.

Encampment

(laughter, chatter, and applause).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Texas?

Department of Texas and Louisiana

Louisiana and the Republic of Texas, pass.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Vermont?

Department of Vermont

The Department of the Green Mountain State of Vermont passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

And the Department of Wisconsin?

Department of Wisconsin

The Department of Wisconsin with Minnesota passes.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

Are there any other nominations?

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Nominations are open for the office of National Secretary. The National Secretary will call the roll of Departments for the purpose of making a nomination for the National Secretary.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Alabama?

Department of Alabama

Alabama defers to Kansas.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kansas?

Department of Kansas

My name's Thomas Schmitt, Past Department Commander, Department of Kansas. I have the distinct honor and privilege today to formally nominate Past Department Commander Alan L. Russ of the Department of Kansas to fill the open National SUVCW Secretary position.

I have known Alan since I joined the SUVCW Organization 25 years ago. And during that time, I've served in many capacities with Brother Russ, including the Department National Encampment Committee for the Department of Kansas for the National Encampment of 2010, which some of you might remember.

I do not... it didn't take me long when I first got involved with the SUVCW to figure out that Alan Russ was one of the foundation blocks and guiding lights of the Department of Kansas. Over the years, most everyone in the leadership positions in the Department of Kansas comes to know, eventually, if they have a C&R or a P&P question, just get with Alan, and he'll guide you in the right direction.

As you can see by the resume that was handed out... I'm not going to go through it all... that he's served in lots of positions both at the Camp level, at the Department level, and the National Organization.

And those of you that are Secretary/Treasurers at any level, listen to this. He's been Secretary/Treasurer of the Department... he was Secretary/Treasurer of the Department of Kansas for 14 years. He still currently is Secretary, add four more years onto that!

He's been a member Nationally of... a National member at large starting... he was on there about 23, Chief of Staff one year nationally, on the C&R for six years, National Secretary 2013 through 2016, and again, to fill in from April of 2022 through August of '22. As I mentioned just a minute ago, he's already served in the National Secretary position previously.

By electing a Past Department Commander who is also a life member of this Organization to this position, there will be a seamless transition from Brother Daniel Murray to Alan Russ. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Russ, if elected, will you serve?

Alan L. Russ, Department of Kansas

Yes, sir.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Do you currently hold any other offices in the Order?

Alan L. Russ, Department of Kansas

Department Secretary.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you.

Alan L. Russ, Department of Kansas

It's a lifetime position.

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of California and Pacific?

Department of California and Pacific

Department of California and Pacific passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Chesapeake?

Department of the Chesapeake

The Department of the Chesapeake passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

The Department of Colorado and Wyoming?

Department of Colorado and Wyoming

The Department of Colorado and Wyoming passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Florida?

Department of Florida

No other nominations.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Georgia and South Carolina?

Department of Georgia and South Carolina

Sir, the Bulldog state, along with our Gamecock allies passes.

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Illinois?

Department of Illinois

The Department of Illinois passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Indiana?

Department of Indiana

The Department of Indiana passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Iowa?

Department of Iowa

The Department of Iowa passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kentucky?

Department of Kentucky

Kentucky passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Maine?

Department of Maine

The Department of Maine passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Massachusetts?

Department of Massachusetts

The Department of Massachusetts, home to the 2024 Abraham Lincoln Award, passes.

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Michigan?

Department of Michigan

The Department of Michigan, the home of the 2023 football champion Michigan Wolverines, passes.

Encampment

(applause and chatter).

Unknown

Whoa!

Department of Michigan

Glad to hear that from my Brother from Ohio!

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Missouri?

Department of Missouri

The Department of Missouri and Arkansas, passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Nebraska?

Department of Nebraska

Department of Nebraska, if they could, passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Hampshire?

Department of New Hampshire

New Hampshire passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Jersey?

Department of New Jersey

The Department of New Jersey, home of the Jersey Devils, be passed.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New York?

Department of New York

The Department of New York passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of North Carolina?

Department of North Carolina

Department of North Carolina, the Tar Heel state, passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Ohio?

Department of Ohio

The Buckeye State of Ohio, and the home of the first Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Jacob Parrott, passes.

Unknown

Oooh, top that!

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Oklahoma?

Department of Oklahoma

Department of Oklahoma, and the Indian Nations, passes.

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Pennsylvania?

Department the Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department, recipient for the last four years for the Under 40 Award, passes.

Unknown

Yay!

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Rhode Island?

Department of Rhode Island

The Department of Rhode Island, with Leo, passes.

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

The Department of the Southwest and Arizona and New Mexico?

Department of the Southwest

The Department of the Southwest, the location of the grandest of canyons, passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Tennessee?

Department of Tennessee

The Volunteers of Tennessee, without whom the State of Texas would not exist...

Multiple Brothers

Whoa!

Encampment

(applause).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Texas, it's your turn.

Encampment

(laughter).

Department of Texas

Remember the Alamo!

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Vermont?

Department of Vermont

The Department of Vermont passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

And Department of Wisconsin?

Department of Wisconsin

The Department of Wisconsin with Minnesota, but without the Vikings, passes.

Encampment

(laughter).

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Congratulations!

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Any other...

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

The nominations are open for the Council of Administration. There are three seats that are open. Number one seat will be a three-year term; number two seat will be a three-year term; and the third seat will be a one term... one year term.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Alabama?

Department of Alabama

Department of Alabama, your (indistinguishable) Department, defers to Ohio.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Ohio?

Robert E. Grim, Department of Ohio, Past Commander-in-Chief

Bob Grim, Past Commander-in-Chief, Department of Ohio. It's my honor to nominate a good Buckeye for another term for the Council of Administration, Shane Milburn, seated up here in front of you. Shane is a Past Camp Commander and Past Department Commander of Ohio.

He has risen through the ranks of the *Sons of Veterans Reserve* from being a Unit Commander, received the Unit Citation twice. He holds the Distinguished Service Medal from the Sons of Veterans Reserve, and he has risen to the rank of Deputy Commander of the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

Not only that, but as you look at him, you can tell that he's a man of great repute, a man of great distinction, and a man who should be continued on the Council of Administration. And in real life, he's a deputy sheriff, and he's a former Marine.

Unknown

Oorah!

Robert E. Grim, Department of Ohio, Past Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Milburn, if elected, will you serve?

Shane L. Milburn, Department of Ohio

Yes, I will.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Do you currently hold any other office in the order?

Shane L. Milburn, Department of Ohio

I currently serve on the Council of Administration. I am the Secretary of Henry Casey Camp #92, and the Junior Vice Commander of William T. Sherman Camp #93. And after today and yesterday, I'm the one holding the clicker.

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of California and Pacific?

Department of California and Pacific

Department of California and Pacific passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Chesapeake?

Department of the Chesapeake

The Department of the Chesapeake passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

The Department of Colorado and Wyoming?

Department of Colorado and Wyoming

The Department of Colorado and Wyoming yields to our Brothers of Missouri.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Missouri?

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

Walt Busch, Past Department Commander, Department of Missouri. I'm pleased to be the third person that Dale asked to nominate him today.

Encampment

(laughter).

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

The first one was Don's hair, but there's not enough hair product there to say yes. The second one was my tie. My tie also refused (indistinguishable).

Dale Crandell has been a Past Department Commander of Missouri. And unlike many of us who are only allowed one term, he was allowed two terms.

He was also responsible for leading a very successful, very quick fundraising effort for restoring the GAR monument (indistinguishable). He led the 1916 GAR National Encampment marker, restore (indistinguishable) marker for the 1916 GAR National Encampment in Kansas City.

He is also a member or former member of the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps. He is an adjunct professor at the University... I'm sorry, Missouri State University, Capitol Technology University, and Northcentral University.

He is a Senior Project Manager, Associate Director, of AT&T Department of Real Estate, and he is a doctor... excuse me, he has a doctorate in engineering at George Washington University, but he refused to answer the question why they always put garbage trucks next to playgrounds.

Encampment

(laughter).

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

But I think now (indistinguishable) Dale and I have had our differences in the past, but he is an excellent person. He works very hard in the Organization. He has developed several of our manuals. He's helped me out on several occasions, and I can't think of anybody else I'd rather disagree with sometimes than him. We always end up getting along afterwards. I nominate Dale Crandell.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Crandell, if elected, will you serve?

Dale E. Crandell, Department of Missouri

Yes, sir, but I was only running for the one year. If we...

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

No. We're still at the three-year term.

Dale E. Crandell, Department of Missouri

(Indistinguishable).

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

Walt Busch, forget what I said.

Encampment

(laughter and applause).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Florida?

Department of Florida

Department of Florida, the Sunshine State where woke comes to die, no other nominations.

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Georgia and South Carolina?

Department of Georgia and South Carolina

The Department of Georgia and South Carolina passes

Encampment

(chatter).

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

James Pahl, National Parliamentarian. Brothers, we're only going to go through nominations for Council once. If you're a nominee for Council, this is the time to do it.

And then, once we determine who the nominees are, if we need to vote, we'll go through and vote for three years, whoever's left, vote for the other three years, what's left, left, left, vote for the one year.

If we only have three, and they can work out between themselves who gets what, then we don't need to vote. We're all done. We have two. We're going to go start beating on people to get a third. But we're only going to go through nominations once.

Multiple Brothers

Hear, hear.

Encampment

(chatter).

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

Walt Busch, Department of Missouri. Remember everything I just said!

Encampment

(laughter and applause).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

All right.

Department of Georgia and South Carolina?

Department of Georgia and South Carolina

Once again, we pass.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Illinois?

Department of Illinois

Illinois passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Indiana?

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Department of Indiana

The Department of Indiana passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Iowa?

Department of Iowa

The Department of Iowa passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kansas?

Department of Kansas

Kansas (indistinguishable) to Kentucky basketball, passes.

Encampment

(laughter and chatter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kentucky?

Mike Flynn, Department of Kentucky

Mike Flynn, Department of Kentucky. I have a nomination. I'm nominating John Buckler. He's currently the Junior Vice Commander of the Department, Camp Commander, Camp #5. He's a National Expansion Officer currently.

He's the host and chairman of this event. Thirty-four years' service with the U.S. Post Office, and just an all-around go-getter. Thank you.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Buckler, if elected, will you serve?

John Buckler, Department of Kentucky

Yes.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Do you currently hold any other office in the Order?

John Buckler, Department of Kentucky

The Kentucky Department Junior Vice Commander, Camp #5, Kentucky Department Commander, and currently still the National Expansion Officer.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Thank you.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Maine?

Department of Maine

The Department of Maine passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Massachusetts?

Department of Massachusetts

The Department of Massachusetts passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Michigan?

Department of Michigan

The Department of Michigan passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Nebraska?

Department of Nebraska

Department of Nebraska, if they could, passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Hampshire?

Department of New Hampshire

New Hampshire passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Jersey?

Bryan Sigmund, Department of New Jersey

Bryan Sigmund, Junior Vice Commander, Department of New Jersey. I'm here to nominate David Hann. I'll tell you a little bit about him.

He's been in this Order for 35 years. In that 35 years, he's made a lot of relationships, a lot of great friends, and earned a lot of respect. He's also chartered a Camp about 30 years ago in South Jersey, and he grew that Camp to being one of the (indistinguishable) Camps in this Order, and I'm proud to have been recruited in that Camp and consider myself very lucky.

He's also the Provost Marshal. You've seen him at Gettysburg. He's the guy who organizes it and gets that (indistinguishable). He's also been involved with fundraising for the Order, and he's done an excellent job, and he's been outstanding at that.

A lot of people... we've all had... we've all had positions that have opened in our Camps and

Departments and we've all heard people talk about who we're going to, you know, nominate for these positions. And I've always heard words like 'earn' and 'deserve'. And I never liked those terms, earn and deserve. I like to say that, you know, he deserved to have a piece of cheesecake after fasting for a week. And you earn for your families because they need your support.

But what we need is... we need commitment, sacrifice, and what do we have to offer? These are the things that we need to look for when we're looking for leadership. Since we're in the business of getting a pound of flesh to serve for the Order, it would be easy for me to offer, as New Jersey, to bring a pig out... a prized pig, and I can just stand aside and say, look, and it would speak for itself.

So instead, I have to come up here and I have to make a case for Dave Hann, and I'm proud to recognize him. We know David's... we know his resume. We know the hard work and things like that. But I'm here to tell you about his integrity and his humility. I never heard him say a bad word about anybody. If he has any criticism, it always starts with a kind word about that person, and that is something I've always admired and looked up to.

And the integrity comes from him doing something. When he says he's going to do something, he does it. And a lot people say 'words ain't worth squat', right? It's all about what you do.

Well, when you say what you mean and follow up on that, your words do matter, and that's important for leadership because you can't do everything. You need to be able to delegate things. You need to be able to... when you say something, there's no question that you mean what you say, and that's the stuff that's important, and that's why also I'm up here proud to nominate David.

If New Jersey wanted to send... we heard earlier in the Encampment yesterday, if New Jersey wanted to send somebody up to self-serve for New Jersey, then it would have to bring someone else up here to nominate because I will not do that, and David would have no part of it either. So I nominate David Hann, and I thank you very much. God bless you.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Hann, if elected, will you serve?

David K. Hann, Department of New Jersey

I would be honored to serve.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Do you currently hold any other office in the Order?

David K. Hann, Department of New Jersey

Camp Secretary, Francine Camp #7.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Nominations... oh....

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

Excuse me, Walt Busch, Department of Missouri. In all of the confusion of who's voting or how we're voting, you never asked if Dale what offices he served or if he wishes to serve.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

I did ask him that.

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

You asked if he would serve, and he said he thought it was... there was confusion on whether it was one or three years.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We're doing it altogether.

Walter E. Busch, Department of Missouri

Yeah. He never said that he was willing to serve, and he also never said...

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

I will ask again... Brother Crandell, if elected, will you serve?

Dale E. Crandell, Department of Missouri

Yes, I will.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Do you currently hold any other office in the Order?

Dale E. Crandell, Department of Missouri

I'm currently a Department Secretary/Treasurer and a Camp Secretary/Treasurer.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New York?

Department of New York

The Department of New York has no other nominations.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of North Carolina?

Department of North Carolina

North Carolina passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Oklahoma and Indian Nation?

Department of Oklahoma

Department of Oklahoma, and the Indian Nations, passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Pennsylvania?

Department the Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Rhode Island?

Department of Rhode Island

The Department of Rhode Island passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

The Department of the Southwest?

Department of the Southwest

Southwest passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Tennessee?

Department of Tennessee

Chip Huffman, Commander, Department of Tennessee, believe it or not, passes.

Encampment

(laughter).

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Texas with Indiana?

Department of Texas

Indiana?

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Louisiana.

Department of Texas

Louisiana! Okay.

Uh, we pass.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Vermont?

Department of Vermont

The Department of Vermont passes.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

And Department of Wisconsin?

Department of Wisconsin

The Department of Wisconsin passes.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. That will close the nomination of officers. We need the Credentials to give us the tally of the selection.

All right. We're going to take a break for about ten minutes. So be back at 2:20.

Donald E. Darby, National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief

Sit down.

Unknown

Be seated.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Just a reminder, if you're not back by 2:20, the doors will be closed and locked and you will not be able to come in.

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

[break]

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We will now proceed with the elections of officers. The Guards have secured the doors, allowing no one to enter. No one will be barred from leaving... will be barred from leaving the room. If you do leave, you will not be allowed to reenter until the elections are completed.

Credentials Committee, would you please read the list of departments with their voting strength?

Daryl VerStrete, Chairman, Credentials Committee

I'll have one person... a representative of each Department, stand up and tell me what your Department people... voting members are here in the room, not outside the room.

Alabama?

Department of Alabama

Six.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

California?

Department of California

Five.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Chesapeake?

Department of Chesapeake

Chesapeake has 14.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Colorado?

Department of Colorado

Three.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Florida?

Department of Florida

Florida, one.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Georgia?

Department of Georgia and South Carolina

Georgia and South Carolina, six.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Iowa?

Department of Iowa

Iowa, two.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Illinois?

Department of Illinois

Nine.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Indiana?

Department of Indiana

Indiana, 15.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Kansas?

Department of Kansas

Kansas, eight.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Kentucky?

Department of Kentucky

13.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Massachusetts?

Department the Massachusetts

Seven.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Maine?

Department of Maine

Two.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Michigan?

Department of Michigan

13.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Missouri?

Department of Missouri

Missouri (indistinguishable).

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Ten.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

How many?

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

North Carolina?

Department of North Carolina

One.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Nebraska?

Department of Nebraska

Two.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

New Hampshire?

Department of New Hampshire

New Hampshire, two.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

New Jersey?

Department of New Jersey

New Jersey, three.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

New York?

Department of New York

Four.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Ohio?

Department of Ohio

We've got 19, plus... well, 20 counting the Commander-in-Chief.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

So you have 20 voting members?

Department of Ohio

20.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Oklahoma?

Department of Oklahoma

Three.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Pennsylvania?

Department of Pennsylvania

Four.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Rhode Island?

Department of Rhode Island

Three.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Southwest?

Department of the Southwest

Southwest, three.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Tennessee?

Department of Tennessee

Nine.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Texas?

Department of Texas

11.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Vermont?

Department of Vermont

One.

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

Wisconsin?

Department of Wisconsin

Four.

Encampment

(chatter)

Daryl VerStreate, Chairman, Credentials Committee

The potential delegates here in the room is 184 going by the tally we were just given.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

Okay. I'm good.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We will now proceed with elections for the Officers.

Secretary, please call the roll of the Departments.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

All right.

Department of Alabama?

Department of Alabama

I'm not sure what we're doing, sir, what we (indistinguishable).

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

We're voting.

Unknown

On what?

Encampment

(chatter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Okay. I'll give you guys... we're going to have ten minutes for a caucus. You guys decide who you want to vote for. They're going to be all three together and the winner of that one will be to that seat, and the second one will be to the second, and third, whatever, will be.

All right?

Gentlemen, go to your caucus between the Departments and decide who you want.

Donald E. Darby, Committee on Constitution and Regulations, Past Commander-in-Chief

You cannot leave the room.

Unknown

Commander?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Nobody is allowed to leave the room.

Unknown

Could we get Brother Pahl to go through that process for...

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Yes.

Unknown

... the people in the back... being their first time here.

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brothers, after we caucus, we're going to go through a round of voting for one position on the Council. Once that is determined who it is, we'll get an opportunity to caucus again.

Then we'll go through another round of voting for the second three-year term on the Council. Once that is determined, we'll have two candidates left.

We're going to get a chance to caucus again, and we'll go through a third series of votes for that one-year term that is a vacancy to be filled. And if we have a question?

Randal Burd, Jr., Department of Missouri

Randal Burd, Past Department Commander of Missouri. What if the guy that wins the first round wants the one-year term?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

This is a three-year term for... two open seats for a three year term, and one seat for a one year term.

Encampment

(laughter and chatter).

James B. Pahl, National Parliamentarian, Past Commander-in-Chief

Keep that in mind if you're casting your vote. You know who's (indistinguishable) for what.

Encampment

(chatter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Everybody caucus.

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Go ahead and caucus.

[Pause]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right. Now, we will proceed with the election. Will the Secretary please call the roll of Departments.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Alabama?

Department of Alabama

The Department of Alabama casts six votes for Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of California and Pacific?

Department of California and Pacific

The Department of California and Pacific passes five votes for Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Chesapeake?

Department of the Chesapeake

The Department of the Chesapeake cast 14 votes for Brother Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Colorado and Wyoming?

Department of Colorado and Wyoming

Colorado and Wyoming cast its three votes for Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Florida?

Department of Florida

Florida casts one vote for Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Georgia and South Carolina?

Department of Georgia and South Carolina

The Department of Georgia and South Carolina, six votes for John Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Illinois?

Department of Illinois

Department of Illinois, all nine for Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Indiana?

Department of Indiana

The Department of Indiana votes 15 for Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Iowa?

Department of Iowa

Iowa casts two votes for David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kansas?

Department of Kansas

Kansas casts eight votes for Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kentucky?

Department of Kentucky

Kentucky has 13 votes for John Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Maine?

Department of Maine

Two votes for Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Massachusetts?

Department of Massachusetts

Massachusetts casts all seven votes for Brother Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Michigan?

Department of Michigan

Michigan casts all 13 votes for Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Missouri?

Department of Missouri

Ten votes for Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Nebraska?

Department of Nebraska

Two votes for Brother Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

New Hampshire?

Department of New Hampshire

New Hampshire casts two votes for Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Jersey?

Department of New Jersey

New Jersey casts three votes for Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New York?

Department of New York

Department of New York casts four votes... votes for Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of North Carolina?

Department of North Carolina

North Carolina cast one vote for Brother Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Ohio?

Department of Ohio

Department of Ohio casts 20 votes for Brother Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Oklahoma?

Department of Oklahoma

Oklahoma has three votes for Shane Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Pennsylvania?

Department of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania casts four votes for Brother Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Rhode Island?

Department of Rhode Island

Rhode Island casts three votes for Brother Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Southwest?

Department of the Southwest

The Department of the Southwest casts three votes for Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Tennessee?

Department of Tennessee

The Department of Tennessee casts nine votes for Brother Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Texas?

Department of Texas

Texas, 11 for Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Vermont?

Department of Vermont

Vermont, one for Milburn.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

And Department of Wisconsin?

Department of Wisconsin

Four votes for Shane Milburn.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Shane, you have been elected as Council of Administration for three years.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We will now take a five-minute caucus for the next set of elections.

[one rap, *]

Encampment

(chatter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We'll proceed with the second round of votes for a three-year term.

Secretary, please call the roll of Departments.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Alabama?

Department of Alabama

Department of Alabama casts three votes for Buckler and three for Hann.

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Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of California and Pacific?

Department of California and Pacific

The Department of California and Pacific casts five votes for Brother Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Chesapeake?

Department of the Chesapeake

The Department of the Chesapeake votes 13 votes for Brother David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Colorado and Wyoming?

Department of Colorado and Wyoming

Department of Colorado and Wyoming cast three votes for Brother Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Florida?

Department of Florida

Florida, one vote for Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Georgia and South Carolina?

Department of Georgia and South Carolina

The Department of Georgia and South Carolina casts all six votes for Brother John Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Illinois?

Department of Illinois

Department of Illinois, all nine for Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Indiana?

Department of Indiana

The Department of Indiana votes 12 votes for Hann, three votes for John Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Iowa?

Department of Iowa

Iowa votes two votes for David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kansas?

Department of Kansas

Kansas votes eight for Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kentucky?

Department of Kentucky

Kentucky, 13 for Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Maine?

Department of Maine

Two for David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Massachusetts?

Department of Massachusetts

All seven votes for David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Michigan?

Department of Michigan

Michigan votes all 13 votes for David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Missouri?

Department of Missouri

Missouri with Arkansas casts ten votes for David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Nebraska?

Department of Nebraska

We cast two for Brother Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Hampshire?

Department of New Hampshire

New Hampshire casts two for David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Jersey?

Department of New Jersey

New Jersey votes three for David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New York?

Department of New York

Department of New York casts all four votes for Brother David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of North Carolina?

Department of North Carolina

North Carolina casts one vote for Brother Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Ohio?

Department of Ohio

Department of Ohio casts one vote for Buckler, and 19 votes for Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Oklahoma?

Department of Oklahoma

Department of Oklahoma, three votes for David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Pennsylvania?

Department of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania casts four for Brother Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Rhode Island?

Department of Rhode Island

Rhode Island casts three votes for Brother David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Southwest?

Department of the Southwest

Southwest votes for three for Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Tennessee?

Department of Tennessee

Tennessee votes nine votes for Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Texas?

Department of Texas

Texas, 11 for Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Vermont?

Department of Vermont

Vermont, one for David Hann.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Wisconsin?

Department of Wisconsin

Wisconsin casts four votes for David Hann.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

David Hann is the newly elected member of the Council of Administration for three years.

Encampment

(applause).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brothers, we will take another five-minute caucus and...

Unknown

Ten?

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Five.

Encampment

(chatter).

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

All right, ten.

Encampment

(laughter and chatter).

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Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We will then proceed with the election of the one-year term.

Secretary, please call the roll of the Departments.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Alabama?

Department of Alabama

The Department of Alabama casts six votes for Crandell.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We didn't hear.

Donald E. Darby, National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief

You say three votes?

Unknown

Six.

Unknown

Please go to a microphone.

Unknown

For Alabama?

Department of Alabama

Yes.

Donald E. Darby, National Counselor, Past Commander-in-Chief

Six?

Unknown

No, three.

Unknown

Three for Crandell.

Unknown

No, six.

Multiple Brothers

Six.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

California and Pacific?

Department of California and Pacific

California and Pacific casts their votes for... five votes for Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Chesapeake?

Department of the Chesapeake

The Department of the Chesapeake casts 13 votes for Brother Dale Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Colorado and Wyoming?

Department of Colorado and Wyoming

Department of Colorado and Wyoming casts three votes for Brother Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Florida?

Department of Florida

Florida, one vote for Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Georgia and South Carolina?

Department of Georgia and South Carolina

Georgia and South Carolina, six votes for Brother John Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Illinois?

Department of Illinois

Department of Illinois, all nine for Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Indiana?

Department of Indiana

The Department of Indiana casts seven votes for Crandell, eight votes for Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Iowa?

Department of Iowa

Iowa casts two votes for John Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kansas?

Department of Kansas

Kansas votes five for Crandell and three for Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Kentucky?

Department of Kentucky

Kentucky, 13 votes for Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Maine?

Department of Maine

Two for Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Massachusetts?

Department of Massachusetts

Massachusetts casts seven votes for Brother Dale Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Michigan?

Department of Michigan

Michigan casts 13 votes for Brother Dale Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Missouri?

Department of Missouri

Ten votes for Mr. Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Nebraska?

Department of Nebraska

One for Crandell, one for Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Hampshire?

Department of New Hampshire

New Hampshire, two votes for Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New Jersey?

Department of New Jersey

Two votes for Crandell, one for Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of New York?

Department of New York

Department of New York casts all four votes for Brother Dale Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of North Carolina?

Department of North Carolina

North Carolina casts one vote for Brother John Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Ohio?

Department of Ohio

Department of Ohio casts 13 votes for Brother Crandell, six votes for Brother Buckler, and one abstention.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Oklahoma?

Department of Oklahoma

Department of Oklahoma, two votes for John Buckler, and one for Dale Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Pennsylvania?

Department of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania casts four for Brother Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Rhode Island?

Department of Rhode Island

Rhode Island casts two for Buckler, one for Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of the Southwest?

Department of the Southwest

Southwest, three for Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Tennessee?

Department of Tennessee

Tennessee casts two votes for Dale Crandell, seven votes for John Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Texas?

Department of Texas

Texas, 11 for Crandell.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Department of Vermont?

Department of Vermont

One for John Buckler.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

And Department of Wisconsin?

Department of Wisconsin

Wisconsin casts four votes for Brother Crandell.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Crandell is the newly elected Council of Administration...

Encampment

(applause).

Donald E. Darby, National Counselor

Yeah, you can unlock the door. You can give them a break if you want. We're going to do installation...

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

We have completed elections. We'll un-bar the doors. We'll take a ten-minute break, and then we'll reconvene back to the proceedings of the... starting with the officers.

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

[Break]

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Brother Tom Brown. Would you please come forward?

Thomas J. Brown, Department of Wisconsin

Past Department Commander, Tom Brown, Department of Wisconsin. I gave a phone number of the hospital to Jerry's wife, JoEllen. And she called and her daughter talked to the ER nurse... said that Jerry's in stable condition right now.

Encampment

(applause).

Thomas J. Brown, Department of Wisconsin

... be released and (indistinguishable). She said that the doctor... it was up to the doctor's discretion. So any time... she's got my phone number. She's going to text me and let me know, and I'll let everybody else know.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Before we proceed... can you hear me?

Before we proceed to the installation of Officers, we'll have to do some housekeeping matters to take care of. I will accept a motion from the floor that the Encampment Committee be discharged with the thanks of the Encampment, and that the Credentials Committee be allowed to submit its final report within 48 hours.

Multiple Brothers

So moved.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Any discussion?

Motion passes.

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Next, I would like to accept a motion that a letter of appreciation be drafted by the National Secretary and sent to the Host Committee and thanking them for their outstanding job.

Multiple Brothers

So moved.

Encampment

(chatter).

[one rap, *]

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., Commander-in-Chief

Passes.

I hereby turn over the gavel to our Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief Paquette.

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief Hritsko, I am relieving you of the command of the National Organization. On behalf of the Officers, I convey to you their thanks for the manner in which you have discharged your duties. I trust that in surrendering the command of the National Organization, your interests in the welfare of this Order will not cease.

Having received the highest honors which your fellow members can confer upon you, your continued commitment will point the way for others who will serve the Order. Please be seated to my right.

Commander-in-Chief-Elect, are you prepared to announce your staff appointments?

Kevin L. Martin, Commander-in-Chief Elect

I am.

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

If so, the Guide will hand your list to the Secretary.

All right, the Secretary has it.

Secretary, call the roll of Officers Elect, and staff appointees who, as their names are called, will rise.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Commander-in-Chief, Kevin Martin;

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Kevin Tucker;

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Daniel Murray.

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

You can be seated.

Daniel W. Murray, National Secretary

Thank you.

Secretary, Alan Russ;

Treasurer, Michael Beard;

National Quartermaster, Robert Welch;

Council of Administration, outgoing CinC, Peter Hritsko;

Council of Administration, Roderick Fraser;

Council of Administration, Shane Milburn;

Council of Administration, David Hann;
Council of Administration, Robert Payne; and
Council of Administration, Dale Crandell;
National Chief of Staff, Brian Horgan;
Banner Editor, James Pahl;
National Signals Officer, Tim McCoy. He's not here.
Executive Director, David Demmy;
National Aide-de-Camp, Deputy Chief of Staff, Faron Taylor;
National Aide-de-Camp, Eric Atkisson;
National Aide-de-Camp, Tim Sedmak;
National Aide-de-Camp, Dave Pyne;
National Aide-de-Camp, Nathaniel Horgan;
National Chaplain, Douglas Jones;
National Civil War Memorials Officer, Walter Busch;
National Color Bearer, Shane Milburn;
National Counselor, Michael Paquette;
Assistant National Counselor, Donald E. Darby;
Blue Book Editor, James Pahl;
National Eagle Scout Coordinator, Michael Spaulding;
National GAR Highway Officer, Peter Hritsko;
National GAR Records Officer, Dean Enderlin;
National Graves Registration Officer, Henry Duquette;
National Guard, Lee Stone;
National Historian, Gary Gibson;
National Liaison to Cathedral of the Pines, Perley Mellor;
National Liaison to MOLLUS, Jeffry Burden;
Parliamentarian, James Pahl;
National Patriotic Instructor, Tad Campbell;
National Signals Officer, Jamie McGuire;
National Legislation Officer, Daniel Earl;
Washington, D.C. Representative, Roger Leturno;

National Webmaster-Home, Robert Payne;
Assistant National Webmaster, Ken Freshley;
National Webmaster-Memorial University, Bruce Frail;
National Webmaster-Monuments and Memorials, Sumner Hunnewell;
National Webmaster-Graves Registration Database, Henry Duquette;
Assistant National Secretary Department at Large Secretary/Treasurer, James Pahl; Assistant
National Secretary for Proceedings, John Vander Meulen;
Assistant National Secretary for Proceedings Aide, Michael Lance;
Assistant National Treasurer, James Pahl;
Assistant National Treasurer, Danny Wheeler;
Assistant National Treasurer, Michael Paquette;
Assistant National Quartermaster, Ken Jacobsen;
National Battle Flag Preservation Officer, Edward Norris;
National ROTC Coordinator, Ken Jacobsen.

Sir, the roll is called.

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Thank you, Brother.

[three raps, ***]

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brothers, these are your regularly chosen Officers for the next term. If any Brother has any valid reason why any of them should not be installed, let him now speak or forever hold his peace.

[one rap, *]

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brother Huffman, please act as Guide and present these Brothers before the Altar for installation.

Encampment

(chatter).

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Officers, you have been selected to positions of great honor and trust. With the Commander-in-Chief, you will be responsible for the financial and material prosperity and interests of the National Organization, and the members of this Encampment confidently expect that your discharge of the duties and responsibilities resting upon you will be conspicuous for zeal, ability, and good works.

I trust that you appreciate the great confidence placed in you and that you will remember that upon the manner in which you discharge the duties of your respective offices will depend very largely for success or failure of the administration of the National Order.

Are you now willing to pledge solemnly to the faithful performance of your several duties?

Officers (in unison)

I am.

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

You will each raise your right hand, place your left hand on the Bible or the brother in front of you, and repeat after me using your name where I do mine. I...

Officers (in unison)

I...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Michael Paquette.

Officers (in unison)

(officers' names).

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...having been regularly chosen...

Officers (in unison)

...having been regularly chosen...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...as an officer of the National Organization...

Officers (in unison)

...as an officer of the National Organization...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War...

Officers (in unison)

...Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...hereby renew...

Officers (in unison)

...hereby renew...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...the sacred obligation...

Officers (in unison)

...the sacred obligation...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...given at the time of my initiation...

Officers (in unison)

...given at the time of my initiation...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...and in the presence of Almighty God...

Officers (in unison)

...and in the presence of Almighty God...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...and the members of this Encampment here assembled...

Officers (in unison)

...and the members of this Encampment here assembled...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...do furthermore...

Officers (in unison)

...do furthermore...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...solemnly and sincerely...

Officers (in unison)

...solemnly and sincerely...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...promise and declare...

Officers (in unison)

...promise and declare...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...that I will...

Officers (in unison)

...that I will...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...to the best of my ability...

Officers (in unison)

...to the best of my ability...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...in word and deed...

Officers (in unison)

...in word and deed...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...and without fear or favor...

Officers (in unison)

...and without fear or favor...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...faithfully...

Officers (in unison)

...faithfully...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

honestly...

Officers (in unison)

...honestly...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...and impartially...

Officers (in unison)

...and impartially...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...perform all the duties of the Office...

Officers (in unison)

...perform all the duties of the Office...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...upon which am I about to enter...

Officers (in unison)

...upon which I am about to enter...

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

...so help me God.

Officers (in unison)

...so help me God.

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

You may lower your hands.

[one rap, *]

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Encampment, attention.

Guide, conduct the Officers to their respective stations, acting Officers vacate.

John Huffman, National Guide

Sir, the order has been obeyed.

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Guide, conduct the Commander-in-Chief to this station.

John Huffman, National Guide

Sir, it's my honor to present the Commander-in-Chief of this National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, by the votes of the members of this Encampment, you have been elected to the highest honor within their gift. Your election to this honorable position is an evidence not only of their regard and appreciation of your work and ability as a Son of Union Veteran of the Civil War, but it is an assurance that your conduct of the affairs of the Order will be characterized by faithful, earnest, and conscientious devotion to the responsibilities resting upon you. Grave trusts and grave cares await you, and to their faithful performance, I now most solemnly direct you.

[three raps, *]**

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

As no work of this nature can be a success without the assistance of the Divine Provider, the Chaplain will ask His assistance and guidance.

Harry W. Reineke, IV, Acting Chaplain

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we humbly ask Your blessing upon these Brothers assembled for installation. Grant them Your wisdom that they may daily perform the duties of the office into which they are to be installed, with the knowledge that Thou Art ever watching over them.

Keep them in good health, that they will not falter on the way. Bless them with Your great mercies that they might be competent to administer the many problems that will confront them. Bless

their every action in Your name, through the mediation of Your Blessed Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Multiple Brothers

Amen.

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, your Officers are now at their respective stations, and I am about to place you in full control. But first, I give to your care the Charter of the National Organization. Prize it for the privileges it bestows, and guard it sacredly for the filial heritage it represents.

Next, I place in your care the Ritual of our Order, and a copy of the Constitution and Regulations for the government of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, both of which I advise you to study with care, to be true to its principles, and faithful to its teachings.

Lastly, you will receive this gavel, the emblem of your authority. One rap, [one rap,*], calls the Encampment and seats... calls the Encampment to order and seats the same when standing. Two raps, [two raps, **], calls the Officers to their feet. Three raps, [three raps, ***], calls up the entire Encampment.

And now, by the virtue of the authority invested in me as the Installing Officer of the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I hereby declare the Officers of this National Organization legally elected and installed and qualified to enter upon the discharge of their several duties for the term ending August 2025, or until their successors are regularly elected, qualified, and installed.

And now, I am pleased to present you with the Badge of the Office of Commander-in-Chief.

It's okay. Just put it on him. You can give him a hug.

Encampment

(applause and chatter).

Michael A. Paquette, Installing Officer, Past Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief, assume your command. Be true to your vow, faithful to your trust, unflinching in your loyalty, and rule with civility, impartiality, and firmness. And may your administration be successful.

[one rap, *]

Encampment

(applause and chatter).

Encampment

(applause).

Kevin L. Martin, Commander-in-Chief

Good afternoon, Brothers.

Multiple Brothers

Good afternoon.

Kevin L. Martin, Commander-in-Chief

This is quite an honor, trust me. One thing I noticed when I moved up here, and looking around, now I know why Darby always insists on sitting up here. This is quite a view from up here!

First and foremost, I want to thank all of you for the vote of confidence to elect me as your next Commander-in-Chief. I am truly honored. I stand before you today because of two great men. Unfortunately, since they have both passed, neither of them could be here today, but they are here in spirit.

These two gentlemen were my father, Richard L. Martin, and my mentor, Charles Odell. In 1998, my father found an article in our local newspaper announcing a Camp meeting for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Antietam Camp #3 in Frederick, Maryland. And we decided to check it out.

Our Camp Commander was Chuck Odell. Chuck was a World War II veteran and served under several administrations in Washington, D.C. It was Chuck who challenged me to become active in our Department, and also invited Rosemary and I to attend the first National Encampment in his hometown of Peabody... Peabody, as he would say it, Massachusetts in 2008. Since then, we have attended every Department of the Chesapeake and National Encampment.

Over the years, I have been educated and counseled by many of the Brothers across the country, especially my home Department of the Chesapeake, including Past Commander-in-Chief, Andy Johnson, Past Commander-in-Chief, Eugene Mortorff, Past Commander-in-Chief, Mark Day, and last, but not least, Past Commander-in-Chief, Michael Paquette, also Past Department Commander, Faron Taylor.

I am also so fortunate to have met and worked with many Past Commander-in-Chiefs across the country who have each shared their time and experiences with me over the years. It was Past Commander-in-Chief, Eugene Mortorff, who nominated me for being elected as the Department of Chesapeake Secretary/Treasurer, which started my path through the Department chairs.

Through these positions, I truly learned a great deal about our Organization, and I met and became friends with Brother David Demmy, the Executive Director. Countless times over the years, David has educated me on the proper way to do things, especially properly completing annual paperwork. It has been a privilege to meet so many great Brothers and Sisters from across the country.

A huge thank you to everyone who invited Rosemary and I to a wide range of meetings, events, or just fellowship or fun get-togethers. Also, a special thank you to Past Commander-in-Chief, Tad Campbell, who gave me my start in National as his Chief of Staff. I wonder if he still regrets it.

Encampment

(laughter).

Kevin L. Martin, Commander-in-Chief

And last, but certainly not least, I need to recognize my wife, Rosemary Martin. From day one, she has been a tremendous supporter and asset to our Camp and Department. She has been by my

side every step along the way. She has traveled with me across the country, including Department Encampments as well as local and National events.

She has received Mary E. Walker Awards at both the Department and National levels. She is currently, and I have to correct this now, she is currently now the ASUVCW President.

Encampment

(applause).

Kevin L. Martin, Commander-in-Chief

Over the next year, I promise to honor my predecessors who have imparted their knowledge, friendship, and wisdom to me and do my best to ensure that our great Organizations stay strong for all of our Brothers and Sisters in the Allied Orders. There's still much work for us to do.

The commitments to the health and vitality of our Order, our successes, will also be incumbent upon you, my Brothers, at the Camp and Department level. One of my favorite quotes is by Helen Keller, who stated, *"alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much"*.

But today really isn't about us in this room, it is about our ancestors who fought, served, and in many cases sacrificed their lives to save our Nation. By their example, we realize the true meaning of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. Again, thank you all for this awesome honor.

Encampment

(applause).

[three raps, ***]

[one rap, *]

Encampment

(chatter).

Kevin L. Martin, Commander-in-Chief

Before I do that, Jim Crane would like to give us a few announcements.

James T. Crane, Department of Ohio

Most of the people in this room who know this... it's old hat. So what happens when he hits that gavel three times, that means everybody leaves, right?

Encampment

(laughter).

James T. Crane, Department of Ohio

So the guys out here that have the tables can set this up for dinner, they need as much time as we can give them. So if you're not doing anything, we'd ask you to just go out and talk. I think the bar may be open, but whatever. But we'd appreciate the help.

Todd Early, are you in here? Do you have anything left to sell like shirts... not shirts, but meals.

Todd Early, Department of Kentucky

Sir, we have about four meals.

James T. Crane, Department of Ohio

Four meals he has left to sell. They have shirts still. The Bourbon raffle is out there if you want to take part in that, and that's about it for me. Thank you, Commander-in-Chief.

Kevin L. Martin, Commander-in-Chief

Thank you.

Okay.

Now, what everybody's waiting for. It's been a long two days. There being no further business to come before the National Encampment, we will proceed to close.

[three raps, ***]

Kevin L. Martin, Commander-in-Chief

You will give attention while the National Chaplain asks the blessing of God on our deliberations.

Harry W. Reineke, IV, Acting Chaplain

Our Father in Heaven, we pray you will deal with the events of this meeting as you deem proper and fitting. Please answer the heartfelt prayers of each one of us as permitted in Your perfect will.

Preserve us in health, strength, and integrity while we remain here. And when our mission on earth is ended, take us to a better world. Amen.

Multiple Brothers

Amen.

Michael A. Paquette, Department of the Chesapeake, Past Commander-in-Chief

Brothers, before we run out the door, we need all the National Officers up here for a photograph with the National Photographer.

Kevin L. Martin, Commander-in-Chief

I tried to get out of it, but... okay.

Brothers, we are about to leave this Encampment to retire to our respective homes. Let us regulate our conduct so to bring honor and credit upon the great patriotic organization we represent. May we be faithful in our vows, mindful of our duties, and exhibit towards each other an unbroken Fraternity, a tender Charity, an unswerving Loyalty.

Color Bearer, attend the Altar and Station Banners.

Attention!

I now declare the 143rd Annual Encampment of the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, duly closed.

[one rap, *]

Encampment

(applause and cheers).

END OF PROCEEDINGS

Encampment Attendees by Department *(Total 208)*

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Alabama	Alford, Eric D.				X		
Alabama	Howell, Tony					X	
Alabama	Hubbs, Mark E.			X			
Alabama	Martin, Scott					X	
Alabama	McEuen, Marshall					X	
Alabama	Osborne, Guy					X	
Alabama	Sanderson, Joseph					X	
California & Pacific	Avila, Frank C.				X		
California & Pacific	Campbell, Tad D.		X				
California & Pacific	Doyle, Stephen E.				X		
California & Pacific	Enderlin, Dean A.				X		
California & Pacific	Malaznik, Linn					X	
Chesapeake	Atkinson, Eric					X	
Chesapeake	Beard, D. Michael				X		
Chesapeake	Bonning, Steve					X	
Chesapeake	Johnson, Andrew			X			
Chesapeake	Horgan, Brian				X		
Chesapeake	Martin, Kevin L.				X		

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Chesapeake	Matthews, Clay					X	
Chesapeake	Mumper, James					X	
Chesapeake	Mumper, Wesley B.					X	
Chesapeake	Paquette, Michael A.		X				
Chesapeake	Slagle, Lawrence E.					X	
Chesapeake	Stone, Lee D.				X		
Chesapeake	Taylor, W. Faron				X		
Chesapeake	Vance, Larry					X	
Colorado & Wyoming	Adkins, Lee					X	
Colorado & Wyoming	Barker, James M.				X		
Colorado & Wyoming	Jacobsen, Ken					X	
Florida	Manak, Edward J.					X	
Georgia & South Carolia	Born, Richard					X	
Georgia & South Carolia	Bryja, James			X			
Georgia & South Carolia	Hale, Mark A.				X		
Georgia & South Carolia	Reither, Michael B.				X		
Georgia & South Carolia	Miller, William H.				X		
Georgia & South Carolia	Solida, Philip					X	

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Iowa	Boeck, Charles			X			
Iowa	McGuire, Don R.				X		
Iowa	Rittel, Daniel F.					X	
Illinois	Gunderson, Gary				X		
Illinois	Higginbotham, Ryan					X	
Illinois	Lyon, James L.				X		
Illinois	Kaup, Jeffrey					X	
Illinois	Kaup, Nicholas H.					X	
Illinois	Kowalski, Jerome W.					X	
Illinois	Lasseigne, Lee					X	
Illinois	Limbach, Raymond					X	
Illinois	Reineke IV, Harry W.				X		
Illinois	Wehrheim, Wayne F.					X	
Illinois	Welch, Robert			X			
Illinois	Westlake, Steven J.				X		
Indiana	Adams, William R.				X		
Indiana	Allen, Taylin					X	
Indiana	Beck, Michael W.				X		

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Indiana	Beckman, Joseph					X	
Indiana	Beckman, Timothy J.				X		
Indiana	Hoesli, David J.					X	
Indiana	Hutchinson, Dennis C.				X		
Indiana	Hyer, Ronald					X	
Indiana	Kolb, Bruce R.				X		
Indiana	Leickly, Frederick					X	
Indiana	LeMaster, Travis J.					X	
Indiana	Mauldin, Jeffrey A.					X	
Indiana	Robinson, Harold					X	
Indiana	Schmitt, Thomas L.			X			
Indiana	Smith, III, Herbert W.					X	
Indiana	Swarts, Jonathan				X		
Indiana	Teller, J. Alan				X		
Kansas	Bartlow, Rocky L.				X		
Kansas	Fisher, Conrad M.			X			
Kansas	Hummel, Richard					X	
Kansas	Lafferty, Roy A.				X		

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Kansas	Melcher, Kent M.				X		
Kansas	Schmidt, Thomas E.				X		
Kansas	Russ, Alan L.				X		
Kansas	Todd, Mike				X		
Kentucky	Buckler, John					X	
Kentucky	Carter, Doug					X	
Kentucky	Clifford, Stephen				X		
Kentucky	Cramer, Walter						X
Kentucky	Downey, Timothy H.				X		
Kentucky	Early, Todd					X	
Kentucky	Flynn, Mike			X			
Kentucky	Fortin, Bruce E.				X		
Kentucky	Griswold, Thomas B.						X
Kentucky	Hughes, James						X
Kentucky	Kalbfleisch, John B.				X		
Kentucky	Kiger, James C.				X		
Kentucky	Latham, William T.						X
Kentucky	Lima, Dick					X	

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Kentucky	Martin, John					X	
Kentucky	Mills III, John A.				X		
Kentucky	Obryan, Bernard B.				X		
Kentucky	Shifflet, Irvine						X
Kentucky	Stivers, Lyndon						X
Kentucky	Witt, John A.				X		
Kentucky	Wood, Eugene D.						X
Massachusetts	Bishop, Dexter A.				X		
Massachusetts	Dupre, John J.				X		
Massachusetts	Fraser, Jr., Roderick J.			X			
Massachusetts	Lewis, Charles W.					X	
Massachusetts	Norris, Edward J.		X				
Massachusetts	Smith, Albert					X	
Massachusetts	Tucker, Kevin P.				X		
Maine	Bonney, James W.					X	
Maine	Bonney, Larry B.				X		
Michigan	Aurand, Dale L.				X		
Michigan	Brennan, William A.				X		

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Michigan	Denney, Richard W.					X	
Michigan	Dowd, Edgar J.					X	
Michigan	Gibson, Gary L.				X		
Michigan	Kimble, David W.					X	
Michigan	Lamphere, Jr., Lloyd Dean				X		
Michigan	Lamphere, Sr., Lloyd D.					X	
Michigan	Martin, Steven S.			X			
Michigan	Pahl, James B.		X				
Michigan	Payne, Robert R.				X		
Michigan	Shull, Ronald G.					X	
Michigan	Townsend, Robert					X	
Michigan	Williams, Steven					X	
Michigan	Worley, Charles 'Chuck' L.				X		
Missouri (w/Arkansas)	Alsop, Glennon				X		
Missouri (w/Arkansas)	Amsler, Jr., Robert J.				X		
Missouri (w/Arkansas)	Aubuchon, Robert			X			
Missouri (w/Arkansas)	Burd Jr., Randal				X		
Missouri (w/Arkansas)	Busch, Walter E.				X		

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Missouri (w/Arkansas)	Crandell, Dale E.				X		
Missouri (w/Arkansas)	Krieser, Edward J.		X				
Missouri (w/Arkansas)	Palmer, Jr., Donald D.		X				
Missouri (w/Arkansas)	Palmer, John					X	
Missouri (w/Arkansas)	Petrovic, Robert M.				X		
North Carolina	DuQuette, Henry C.					X	
Nebraska (w/Dakotas)	Hadley, Paul J.				X		
Nebraska (w/Dakotas)	Surman, John				X		
New Hampshire	Lamson, Roger					X	
New Hampshire	Murray, Daniel W.				X		
New Jersey	Hann, David K.				X		
New Jersey	Sigmund, Bryan					X	
New Jersey	Wettstein, Dylan J.					X	
New York	Henry, III, Phurriott					X	
New York	Neiss, Jr., Roland D.					X	
New York	VerStreate, Daryl				X		
New York	Wolczanski, Jason					X	
Ohio	Crane, James T.				X		

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Ohio	Darby, Donald E.		X				
Ohio	Davis, Jonathan C.				X		
Ohio	Denbow, Carl J.					X	
Ohio	Edelmann, John					X	
Ohio	Edelmann, Thomas					X	
Ohio	Freeman, D. Scott					X	
Ohio	Freshley, Kenneth L.		X				
Ohio	Grim, Robert E.		X				
Ohio	Hopkins, Kelly					X	
Ohio	Houston, James H.				X		
Ohio	Hritsko Jr., Peter J.	X					
Ohio	Huffman, Jr., John M.				X		
Ohio	Martin, Donald L.		X				
Ohio	Milburn, Shane L.				X		
Ohio	Rish, David					X	
Ohio	Rose, Charles					X	
Ohio	Smith, Michael					X	
Ohio	Spaulding, Michael A.				X		

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Ohio	Villalva, Alex					X	
Ohio	Wolz, Robert J.		X				
Oklahoma	Anderson, Clint A.				X		
Oklahoma	Handley, Terry D.			X			
Oklahoma	Kennedy, Jeffrey D.				X		
Oklahoma	Pierson, Brian C.		X				
Pennsylvania	Demmy, Jr., David W.					X	
Pennsylvania	Demmy, Sr., David W.					X	
Pennsylvania	Fischer Jr., William E.			X			
Pennsylvania	Peter, Michael					X	
Rhode Island	Davis, Lawrence					X	
Rhode Island	Kennedy, Leo F.		X				
Rhode Island	McGuire, James P.				X		
Southwest	Bigelow, Steve					X	
Southwest	Bouchard, Scott					X	
Southwest	Clark, W. Mark					X	
Tennessee (w/Mississippi)	Burke, Gary					X	
Tennessee (w/Mississippi)	Corey, Steve					X	

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Tennessee (w/Mississippi)	Downs, Michael P.				X		
Tennessee (w/Mississippi)	DuBrucq, David M.				X		
Tennessee (w/Mississippi)	Holmes, Rich					X	
Tennessee (w/Mississippi)	Huffman, Chip			X			
Tennessee (w/Mississippi)	Huttick, George A.				X		
Tennessee (w/Mississippi)	Sears, Christopher					X	
Tennessee (w/Mississippi)	Wright, Tom					X	
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Elliott, William M.					X	
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Gates, Donald L.				X		
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Lance, Michael L.				X		
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Phillips, Timothy M.			X			
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Pourreau, Daniel B.					X	
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Reynolds, Larry J.					X	
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Riley, Robert G.					X	
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Schneider, Sr., John E.				X		
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Schulze, Stephen D.				X		
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Swafford, William					X	
Texas (w/Louisiana)	Vander Meulen, John C.					X	

Encampment Attendees by Department

<i>Department</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>
Vermont	Amsden, Bruce				X		
Wisconsin (w/Minnesota)	Brown, Thomas J.				X		
Wisconsin (w/Minnesota)	Carlberg, Gary					X	
Wisconsin (w/Minnesota)	Coveney, Jerome					X	
Wisconsin (w/Minnesota)	Daley, David D.					X	
Wisconsin (w/Minnesota)	Drought, Gerald					X	
Wisconsin (w/Minnesota)	Graf, Jeffrey				X		
Wisconsin (w/Minnesota)	Koenecke, Robert F.			X			
Wisconsin (w/Minnesota)	Michaels, Stephen A.		X				
Wisconsin (w/Minnesota)	Scott, Kirby A.					X	
Totals		1	14	16	79	91	7

<i>Members Present</i>	<i>Dept.</i>	<i>CinC</i>	<i>PCinC</i>	<i>DC</i>	<i>PDC</i>	<i>Del.</i>	<i>Alt.</i>	<i>Total Potential Delegates</i>	<i>Deleg. Present</i>	<i>Can Move</i>	<i>Voting Present</i>
7	AL	0	0	1	1	5	0	5	7		
5	CA	0	1	0	3	1	0	14	5		
14	CH	0	1	1	5	7	0	13	14		
3	CO	0	0	0	1	2	0	6	3		
1	FL	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	1		
6	GA	0	0	1	3	2	0	6	6		
3	IA	0	0	1	1	1	0	5	3		
12	IL	0	0	1	4	7	0	12	12		
16	IN	0	0	1	6	10	0	10	17		
10	KS	0	0	1	6	1	0	8	8		
20	KY	0	0	1	8	5	6	6	14		
7	MA	0	1	1	3	2	0	8	7		
2	ME	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	2		
16	MI	0	1	1	6	7	0	16	15		
8	MO	0	2	1	6	1	0	9	10		
1	NC	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	1		
2	NE	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	2		
2	NH	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	2		
3	NJ	0	0	0	1	2	0	12	3		
4	NY	0	0	0	1	3	0	19	4		
22	OH	1	5	0	6	9	0	16	21		
4	OK	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	4		
4	PA	0	0	1	0	3	0	24	4		
3	RI	0	1	0	1	1	0	6	3		
3	SW	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	3		
9	TN	0	0	1	3	5	0	5	9		
11	TX	0	0	1	4	6	0	8	11		
1	VT	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1		
9	WI	0	1	1	2	5	0	0	9		
208	Totals	1	14	16	79	91	6	244	201		
Pre-registered: 210											



Reports

143rd National Encampment of the SUVCW

Lexington, Kentucky

August 1-4, 2024

Including

Reports of Elected National Officers

Reports of Appointed National Officers

National Headquarters Reports

National Committee Reports

Reports of Department Commanders

Supplementary Information

Commander-in-Chief

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr.

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Commander-in-Chief Report

During the course It has been the foremost and greatest honor that you , my brothers have bestow upon me when you elected me to highest office of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as the Commander-in-Chief last August of 2023 in Nashua, New Hampshire.

I did my best to fill the shoes of the Past Commander-in-Chiefs that stood here before me. It has been an enormous duty and fulfillment of enjoyment honoring my ancestors as this is the reason that brings me to the Sons to carry on their legacy. I am currently still working full time working between 8-12 hours a day in the mechanical field in the steel industry, so it has not been an easy task, I feel the Commander is nothing without the support of his Brothers, Council of Administration, Departments and Camp Officers of the SUV CW so I thank you for your support and encouragement this past year.

During the course as Commander-in-Chief there has been some changes; issues of General Orders and many motions as we continue to improve our policy as we go. Regarding the Kit Carson Monument in Santa Fe, New Mexico as of today the GSA (General Services Administration) has not accepted our Deed of Gift. The last I heard from the GSA it looked like they will take in consideration the possibility of accepting the Deed Gift from the SUV CW and that the monument has been vandalize again and has been placed into a crate and remove from its premises to prevent any more damage, as it's is in bad shape.

General Order #2 (Amendment) on Membership Qualification Ratification has PASSED. 19 Departments in favor, 10 Departments against it and 1 Department didn't vote.

Motion 14 was put into effect . It's called , Deposit Agreement which allows camp and departments to lend objects such as charters and items of a collection to be on public display such as in museums on loan. Also included was Policy of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Regarding the National Encampment Vendor/Display Program.

One of the things as a Commander-in-Chief is having the unfortunate duties of disbanding camps within the organization. The list of camps being disbanded are; Colgrove-Woodruff Camp #22, Henry Wallace Camp # 160 and Carpenter-Welch Camp # 180 Dept of Michigan. Warren Camp #44 of the Dept. of CO/WY and well to the revoking of the Charters of the Richard Clark Camp# 210 and the Marshall Lefferts Camp #7 of the Dept. of New York.

I have signed the Form 55 Application for Camp Charter on 7 January 2024 Gen. John W. Sprague Camp #4, Tacoma, Washington, 29 January 2024 Richard Walter Goode Camp #10 Melbourne, Florida, 16th April 2024 for the Sgt. William C. Lilly Camp #66 Syracuse, New York and on. 5 May 2024 Chaplain William Earnshaw Camp #89 in Miami Valley, Ohio.

I have the pleasure of signing the Charters of the newly started camps of the SUV CW: the Gen. James A. Garfield Camp #62 Department of Vermont, the Richard Walter Goode Camp #10 Melbourne, Florida, the Gen. John W. Sprague Camp #4 Tacoma, Washington, the Col Henry Carrington #3 Casper Wyoming, the Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Kane #15 Saint George, Utah and the Chaplain William Earnshaw Camp #89 Miami Valley, Ohio that I was able to present in person at my Department of Ohio held in Columbus, Ohio.

I've had the pleasure to travel to several States attending many different Encampments and events. I would like to thank all the National Officers that offered to represent me in the office of the Commander-in-Chief at these Encampments that I was unable to attend due to my work schedule. I also want to commend all Brothers and Sisters of the wonderful hospitality they showed to my wife Judy and myself.

One of the most memorable was being at my Dept. Encampment of Ohio. Having a picture taken with PC-in-C's Grim, Darby, Freshley and Martin any myself that I will treasure and also had a picture taken with my National Appointed Officers, PC-in-C Darby National Counselor and PC-in-C Freshley National Assistant Counselor and James Crane, PDC National Chief of Staff. I would like to thank them personally for all the dedication and hard work especially Brother James Crane for putting all these reports together, setting up meetings and communicating with all the Dept. Commanders and Secretary's. Also I mentioned I had the pleasure of serving with National Auxiliary President Sister Sue Freshley as we are from the same Dept. of Ohio and both members of the James A. Garfield Camp and Eliza Aux #142 Cleveland, Ohio both National Officer's representing the order at the same time.

Some of the most memorable events I attended was the National Encampment, Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, Remembrance Day in Gettysburg being at the Woolson Monument giving a few words during the ceremony and as I was speaking I was able to look over onto the Battlefield where the 8th O.V.I Monument stands representing the battle on the July 1st, 2nd and the 3rd of July 1863 where my great-great-grandfather, 1st Lieutenant Elijah Hayden, Commander of Co H was in command of the skirmish line on the 3rd. Unfortunately, he was killed on the 3rd day of the battle, buried in a shallow grave, later to be brought home and buried 2 weeks later after the battle by his men of 8th OVI and the people of his hometown Elyria, Ohio costing \$125.00 back then to bring him home and place a headstone. There was a GAR Post was also named after him called the Elijah Hayden Post 49 Elyria, Ohio. I felt his presence with me that day. It was a incredible feeling that I can't explain, As I felt he was watching over me and pleased to know that I would continue the memory of his legacy and do what was what is right keeping all those whom served memory alive. Also, the once in a life time highest point of the term was being at Arlington National Cemetery placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider on Veterans Day and again Memorial Day.

I would like to acknowledge my wife Judy for all her support and interest with the Sons and Auxiliary as she accompanied me to all these events, I couldn't have done this without her support . Again Brothers, I thank you again for all your support through this year. Brothers I salute and thank you. I have one recommendation to present:

Recommendation 1: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Awards and Recognition Policy.

The list of all Awards and Recognition Policies need to be sent out by the Brother in charge of having these awards made up for the brothers of whom are going to received them. When emailing them with the list of all awards and reminding them prior to due date to all Department Commanders and he needs to communicate with all camp commanders within their Departments. The information that needs to be sent out knowing that these awards haves rules and time frames prior to the National Encampment.

All information regarding the Awards and recognition need to be change to May 15th instead of May 31. This will allow to have all these awards done in time for the National Encampment This gives the Council of Administration two weeks before the dead line to be able to vote on a Brother receiving the Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star and having more time to finalized all the awards. Making sure that these Brothers that are submitting their requests have proper Forms fill out, such as Form 17 Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr.

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief - Kevin L. Martin, PDC

I actively performed the duties associated with being the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief including leading the Program and Policy (P&P) Committee. I monitored and participated in all discussions and votes (both in-person and virtual (Zoom) Council of Administration meetings) associated with issues and questions coming before the Council.

I participated in the following SUVCW related events:

- Participated in the post National Encampment COA meeting in Nashua, New Hampshire.
- Participated in the Joint Antietam #3 Meeting at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland, 10 September 2023.
- Spoke at and toured Monocacy National Battlefield with the SUVCW Department of the Chesapeake Leadership Group, 16 September 2023.
- Participated in the ASUVCW Funeral Ritual Service in Hydes, Maryland for Department of the Chesapeake Antietam Auxiliary #3 Sister Ellie Leonard, 23 September 2023.
- Attended the Military of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS)/Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States (DOLLUS) Gettysburg Congress in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 14 October 2023.
- Attended Funeral Mass for DOLLUS Past National President Florence Stanley in Georgetown, Washington D.C., 17 October 2023.
- Attended the National Veterans Day Ceremony and wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery, Virginia, 11 November 2023.
- Attended the Antietam Camp and Auxiliary #3 Dinner at the Schmankerl Stube Restaurant in Hagerstown, Maryland on Veterans Day, 11 November 2023.
- Participated in the Gettysburg Remembrance Day SVR Breakfast, Woolson Monument Ceremony, Parade, and the SVR Civil War Ball, 18 November 2023.
- Participated in the Gettysburg Council of Administration meeting on 19 November 2023.
- Attended and supervised the annual Antietam National Battlefield Illumination setup in the North Woods, 2 December 2023.
- Attended the ASUVCW Department of the Chesapeake Civil War Christmas at the Carriage House Inn, Emmitsburg, Maryland, 10 December 2023.
- As Camp Commander, led the Joint SUVCW/ASUVCW Antietam #3 Meeting, elections, and installation on 7 Jan 2024 at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland . A new Camp Commander was elected and installed.
- Attended the Lincoln Birthday Events sponsored by MOLLUS and the LBNCC at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC on the weekend of 11- 12 February 2024.
- Represented the SUVCW by laying a wreath at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C., 12 February 2024.

- Represented the Commander-in-Chief at the Florida Department Encampment in Sarasota, 17 Feb 2024.
- Attended Antietam Camp and Auxiliary #3 meeting on 10 March 2024 at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland.
- Participated in National SUVCW Zoom Council of Administration Meeting, 10 March 2024.
- Represented the Commander-in-Chief at the Department of the Chesapeake Encampment on 5-6 April 2024 in Ellicott City, MD.
- Served as the Master of Ceremonies at the Lincoln Death Day Ceremony, 13 April 2024.
- Attended the SUVCW luncheon with keynote speaker, Gene Salecker, at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois, 13 April 2024.
- Provided remarks on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief at the 8. F. Stephenson Memorial Ceremony, Petersburg, Illinois, 13 April 2024.
- Participated with Antietam #3 at the America 250! History Fair on the Carroll Creek, Frederick, Maryland, 28 April 2024.
- Participated in the Joint Antietam #3 Meeting at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland, 19 May 2024.
- Attended GAR Church Service in Lansdowne Christian Church (Hull Memorial), Maryland, 28 May 2024.
- Attended PCinC Eugene Mortorff's funeral, Dugan Funeral Home, Bendersville, Pennsylvania, 7 June 2024.
- Participated in the Last Union Veteran Ceremony in Frederick County, MD, 23 June 2024.

It has been an honor to represent our great organization as the SUVCW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief during the 2023-2024 term. Thank you all for your support!

At this time, I have no recommendations.

Report of the Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief

July 10, 2024

Brother Commander-in-Chief,

As of July 10, 2024, I have received and administered a total of 71 membership application queries. Below are the number of inquiries broken down by Departments and dates received. Inquiries where the applicant's state of residence was known were referred to the appropriate Department's Junior Vice Commander. Where no state of residence was given, I emailed the applicant and asked that they send me this information, so that I might refer them to the appropriate DJVC. I did not receive a reply in the cases noted under "None given", below.

<u>Department</u>	<u># of Inquiries Gettysburg</u>	<u># of Inquiries Springfield</u>	<u># of Inquiries Lexington</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alabama	1	0	0	1
Arkansas	1	0	0	1
California & Pacific	1	1	0	2
Chesapeake	2	1	1	4
Colorado & Wyoming	0	1	0	1
Connecticut	1	0	1	2
Columbia	0	1	0	1
Florida	1	2	1	4
Idaho	0	1	0	1
Illinois	1	1	0	2
Kansas	1	0	1	2
Kentucky	0	1	0	1
Massachusetts	0	0	1	1
MATL	0	1	0	1
Michigan	0	1	0	1
Missouri	0	2	0	2
New Hampshire	0	0	1	1
New Jersey	1	0	0	1
New York	2	0	1	3
Ohio	1	1	0	2
Oklahoma	0	0	1	1
Pennsylvania	0	2	0	2
Rhode Island	0	0	1	1
Southwest	0	1	0	1
Tennessee	4	2	0	6
Texas	0	3	0	3
UK	0	1	0	1
Wisconsin	0	1	0	1
None given	4	6	11	21
TOTALS	21	30	20	71

It has been my great honor to have been elected by the 2023 National Encampment to this office and I assure you that I have made every effort to live up to the trust they have placed in me.

Among the many Camp and Department activities I participated in over the past year, the following are some of note:

- I have monitored and participated in all online discussions and voting of the Council of Administration for the past year.
- On August 6, 2023, I attended the Council of Administration meeting in person at Nashua, New Hampshire.
- On August 14, 2023, I performed a presentation on Medal of Honor recipient Captain John G. B. Adams, which aired on Lynn, Massachusetts Cable TV.
- On August 25, 2023, I attended a National Encampment Site Committee tour and meeting at the Hyatt Hotel in Rochester, New York.
- On September 16, 2023, I attended a virtual meeting of the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2, Department of Texas' monthly meeting.
- On September 17, 2023, as Commander of the 1st Military District, SVR, I participated in a Cemetery Rededication ceremony at Clark's Cemetery in Gloucester, Massachusetts.
- On September 18, 2023, I performed a presentation on Union General William Francis Bartlett which aired on Lynn, Massachusetts Cable TV.
- On September 18, 2023, I performed a presentation on President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, which aired on Lynn, Massachusetts Cable TV.
- On October 22, 2023, as Commander of the First Military District, SVR, I participated in a Headstone Rededication ceremony for Major Thomas W. Osborn at Hillside Cemetery in North Adams, Massachusetts.
- On November 5, 2023, as Commander of the First Military District, SVR, I participated in the Department of Massachusetts annual ceremony honoring Union General Benjamin F. Butler at Hildreth Family Cemetery in Lowell, Massachusetts.
- On November 9, 2023, I attended a dinner for the Charlestown Veterans Committee in support of the restoration of the Abraham Lincoln Post# 1 Grand Army of the Republic Hall in that section of Boston, Massachusetts.
- On November 16- 19, 2023, I attended the Department of Massachusetts Annual Remembrance Day Weekend Trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. While in the area, I participated in a tour of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, the annual Remembrance Day SVR Breakfast, the Remembrance Day ceremonies at Gettysburg National Battlefield and Cemetery, the Remembrance Day parade and the Council of Administration meeting.
- On November 24, 2024, I participated in a virtual meeting with United Kingdom Camp No. 10 concerning issues with similar organizations being perceived as having an association with the Camp.

- On December 9, 2023, I participated in hosting the Department of Massachusetts Annual Christmas Party for Disabled and Homeless Veterans at the Chelsea Soldiers Home in Chelsea, Massachusetts.
- On December 12, 2023, I performed a virtual presentation over Zoom on Civil War soldiers' Christmas observances during the Civil War for the National Society of Daughters of the Union.
- On February 11, 2024, I hosted the Department of Massachusetts Annual Abraham Lincoln Birthday Brunch in Wakefield, Massachusetts.
- On March 10, 2024, I participated in a virtual Council of Administration meeting over Zoom.
- On March 15 -17, I attended the Department of Tennessee Annual Encampment in Brentwood Tennessee, where I represented the Commander-in-Chief and performed the Installation of Department Officers.
- On April 1, 2024, I was the guest speaker at a dinner where I performed a presentation on the Emancipation Proclamation and Gettysburg Address for the Boston Baptist Social Union in Needham, Massachusetts.
- On April 5 -7, 2024, I attended the Department of California and Pacific Annual Encampment in Laughlin, Nevada, where I represented the Commander-in-Chief and performed the Installation of Department Officers.
- On April 12 - 14, 2024, I participated in the SUVCW Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony events in Springfield, Illinois. While in the area, I attended the spring Council of Administration meeting and the annual Benjamin F. Stephenson Monument Ceremony in Petersburg, Illinois .
- On April 20, 2024, I was a guest speaker at a virtual meeting of the Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp No. 2, Department of Texas' monthly meeting.
- On April 25, 2024, I attended a virtual meeting of the Department of Tennessee National Encampment Host Committee.
- On April 26 - 28, 2024, I attended the Department of Massachusetts Annual Encampment in Wakefield, Massachusetts. where I represented the Commander-in-Chief and performed the Installation of Department Officers.
- On May 3 - 5, 2024, I attended the Department of Texas with Louisiana Annual Encampment in Houston, Texas, where I represented the Commander-in-Chief and performed the Installation of Department Officers.
- On May 17, 2024, as Commander of the First Military District, SVR, I participated in a ceremony honoring Union Sgt. William H. Camey, the first African American Medal of Honor recipient, in New Bedford, Massachusetts.
- On May 18, 2024, I performed Honor Guard duties as part of the opening of the National Society of Daughters of the Union's annual National Congress. Later that evening, I attended the NSDU Banquet.
- On May 30, 2024, I performed a presentation on the Emancipation Proclamation for the Council on Aging at the Topsfield Senior Center in Topsfield, Massachusetts.

- That same evening, as Commander of the 1st Military District, SVR, I participated in a virtual meeting with the 1st Rhode Island Artillery Company, SVR.
- On June 1, 2024, I participated in the ongoing restoration of the Grand Army of the Republic plot at Lakeside Cemetery in Wakefield, Massachusetts.
- On June 8, 2024, as Commander of the First Military District, SVR, I participated in a headstone dedication ceremony for Hugh Cook in Rutland, Massachusetts.
- On June 16, 2024, I, once again, participated in the ongoing restoration of the Grand Army of the Republic plot at Lakeside Cemetery in Wakefield. Massachusetts.
- On June 27, 2024, I performed a presentation on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address for the Council on Aging at the Topsfield Senior Center in Topsfield, Massachusetts.
- On June 28, 2024, I attended a virtual meeting of the Department of Tennessee National Encampment Host Committee.
- On June 29, 2024, I, once again, participated in the ongoing restoration of the Grand Army of the Republic plot at Lakeside Cemetery in Wakefield, Massachusetts.

Recommendations: I recommend that the National web site Membership page, Under Membership Application, in the sentence that reads, "If you are not able to find a local Camp or Department, further questions regarding eligibility or the application can be directed to the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at jvcinc@suvcw.org.", the link to the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief be replaced with a link to an internet form with required fields that forces the sender to 1.) Name the state in which they reside, 2.) Require their email address, and 3.) Let us know how they were referred to the SUVCW.

This will assist the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief in knowing which DNC to put them in touch with, have the ability to contact them with a follow up email, to make sure they were properly responded to, and to have a better idea where our recruiting efforts might be focused to maximize recruiting. The information in that form could be directed to the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief via email.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Kevin P. Tucker, PDC

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

National Secretary Report

MINUTES.

I prepared and submitted Minutes for the following Council of Administration meetings:

- August 16, 2023 - Post Encampment Nashua, NH
- November 19, 2023 - Gettysburg, PA
- March 10, 2024 - Zoom meeting
- April 13, 2024 -Springfield, IL

MOTIONS VIA ELECTRONIC BOARDROOM.

Motion 1 - Passed September 18, 2023

A motion was made by Brother Fraser and seconded by Brother Martin that the Charter of the Sons of Veterans of the USA, William L. Buchanan Camp #177, Indiana, PA, chartered April 25, 1914 be loaned to the Historical Society if it will be put on display and if they will sign a written contract regarding the terms of the loan and ultimate ownership of the artifact.

Motion 2 - Passed, September 23, 2023

A motion was made by Brother Bobby Welch and seconded by Brother Joseph Hall that upon favorable review of the Council that the Quartermaster Store be moved to the Square E-Commerce platform.

Motion 3 - Passed September 26, 2023

A motion was made by Brother Welch and seconded by Brother Pierson that the insignia be replaced with the Logo on the Publication 70.

Motions 4 - Passed September 28, 2023

A motion was made by Brother Payne and seconded by Brother Murray that we secure an agreement with Drupal Connect to update our current site to Drupal 10.

Motion 5 - Passed October 5, 2023

A motion was made by Brother Welch and seconded by Brother Payne that "the SUVCW authorize the current ROTC Medal for all Cadets Corps program to include the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, the Civil War Air Patrol, the Young Marines as well the JROTC, ROTC and NDCC currently on Form 7; that Form 7 be updated to show the changes; and that the title of Form 7 be changed to "Cadet Award Application".

Motion 6 - Passed October 15, 2023

A motion was made by Brother Frail and seconded by Brother Payne that "Whereas, all the changes, rights and confidentiality subjects that were discussed during the Council of Administration meeting (pre and post National Encampment, August 3rd and 6th 2023 in Nashua, New Hampshire), have been made and agreed to by RahnTech. As such and as stated above, I make a motion to accept this contract between RahnTech and the SUVCW." This motion concerns the Graves Registration Database

Motion 7 - No call for vote - On November 8, 2023, the Federal Government had already decided on removal. A motion was made by Brother Pierson and seconded by Brother Frail that we accept the

invitation to be a consulting party about the Confederate Memorial Removal in Arlington National Cemetery.

Motion 8 - Passed unanimously November 19, 2023 at CofA meeting Gettysburg.

A motion was made by Brother Hall and seconded by Brother Welch that the missing proceedings of our Order not held by the Library of Congress be immediately transmitted so we will be in compliance with our own Constitution and that action be completed not to surpass the deadline of March 1, 2024.

Motion 9 - No Second

To make changes to the Official, SUVCW Monument Protection Policy.

Motion 10 - Failed December 6, 2023

A motion was made by Brother Tucker and seconded by Brother Milburn that " After the 2024 Photographer Retainer Agreement is completed, all future photography services at our annual National Encampment be the responsibility of the Host Committees, and that they be given a budget of \$700 for this purpose, and that all future photography services at our annual Lincoln Death Day events and annual Remembrance Day events be the responsibility of the Sons of Veterans Reserve, and that they be given a budget of \$700 for this purpose.

Motion 11 - Failed January 18, 2024

A motion was made by Brother Frail and seconded by Brother Hall" to put together specifications for a transcriptionist to transcribe our audio, and if needed, our video records of our Annual National Encampment for the purpose of compiling our National Encampment Proceedings. These specifications should then be put out for bid, just as was done for our graves registration database contract.

Motion 12 - Passed January 29, 2024

A motion was made by Brother Beard and seconded by Brother Frail that " the CofA give permission to the BG Joseph Bailey SUVCW Camp #5 of the Department of Texas/Louisiana to use the SUVCW Logo on the State Marker of the proposed monument for the Battle of Sabine Crossroads. This is a onetime use only to the Camp. "

Motion 13 - Passed February 6, 2024

A motion was made by Brother Beard and seconded by Brother Frail that " the CofA approve the Form 49 (corrected) submitted by the P&P Committee."

Motion 14 - Passed March 25, 2024

A proposal for a Deposit Agreement and Loan and Deposit Policy was presented by the P & P Committee and a motion was made by Brother Martin and seconded by Brother Tucker " to accept the attached Policy documents as recommended by the Policy and Procedures (P&P) Committee."

Motion 15 - Passed March 25 ,2024

A proposal Regarding the National Encampment Vendor/Display Program was presented by the P&P Committee and a motion was made by Brother Martin and seconded by Brother Payne " to accept the attached Policy document as recommended by the Policy and Procedures (P&P) Committee."

Motion 16 - Passed May 8, 2024

A motion was made by Brother Welch and seconded by Brother Payne to approve the new membership certificates, Commendation Certificates and Patriotic Award (flag) Certificate.

Motion 17 - Passed May 23, 2024

A motion was made by Brother Payne and seconded by Brother Beard to approve Veach Camp #30 request to use the SUVCW on T-shirts meant for members of the Camp.

Motion 18 - Passed June 19, 2024

A motion was made by Brother Beard and seconded by Brother Frail that "Specifically: that the SUVCW define bullying, harassment, and intimidation within the Order as any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical act that a member exhibits toward another member more than once, and that behavior creates an intimidation, threatening or abusive environment for the other member. Bullying includes electronically transmitted forms; "cyber bullying" occurs when a member conveys his message through the internet (email), or a cell phone (text messaging or voice), personal digital assistant (PDA) or another wireless device. Bullying may also be a verbal face-to-face confrontation over a period of time. P&P should consider words to this effect be added to the National Policy on Harassment as well as adding a new section to the C&R under Chapter IV Discipline Article 2 "Sixth: Conduct unbecoming a Brother toward another Brother of the Order" and the addition of subparagraph (d) to Article 3 of the Discipline section of the C&R referring to the National Policy on Harassment. The addition of this language defines Bullying and also could be charged under Article 1, Fourth, Fifth and the additional new Sixth subparagraphs."

Motion 19 - Passed June 20, 2024

It appears that TeeRudd is selling an SUVCW t-shirt without permission of the SUVCW. They have sold SIX so far. A cease-and-desist letter needs to be sent to them. A motion was made by Brother Frail and seconded by Brother Payne, "that the eBay committee and/or the National Counselor investigate this claim and if needed, authorize either to send a cease-and-desist letter to the person/company listed on the eBay site."

CAMP/DEPARTMENT CHARTERS

Charters Issued: The following charters have been issued by Commander in Chief Hritsko since the National Encampment:

- (2023-04) Maj Gen James A Garfield Camp 62, Department of Vermont. Date of Rank: October 1, 2023.
- (2024-01) Gen John W Sprague Camp 4, Department of Columbia. Date of Rank: January 7, 2024.
- (2024-02) Richard Walter Goode Camp 10, Department of Florida. Date of Rank: January 31, 2024.
- (2024-03) Brig. Gen Thomas L. Kane Camp 15, Department of Colorado and Wyoming. Date of Rank: March 23, 2024.
- (2024-04) Col Henry B Carrington Camp 3, Department of Colorado and Wyoming. Date of Rank: March 23, 2024
- (2024-05) Chaplain William Earnshaw Camp 89, Department of Ohio. Date of Rank: May 6, 2024.

- (2024-06) Sgt William C Lilley Camp 66, Department of New York. Date of Rank: May 16, 2024.
- (2024-07) George W. Mears Camp 505, Department of Pennsylvania. Date of Rank: July, 2024.
- (2024-08) George A. Cribbs Camp 276, Department of Pennsylvania. Date of Rank: July, 2024.

Charters Revoked: The following charters have been revoked by CinC Hritsko since the National Encampment:

- August 20, 2023 - Colgrove-Woodruff Camp #22 Department of the Michigan.
- October 4, 2023 - Richard Clark Camp #210, Department of New York.
- November 14, 2023 - Henry Wallace Camp No. 160, Department of the Michigan.
- April 16, 2024 - Carpenter-Welch Camp #180 of the Department of Michigan.
- May 1, 2024 - Colonel Marshall Lefferts Camp #7, Department of New York.
- June 17, 2024 - Francis E. Warren Camp 44, Department of Colorado/Wyoming.

Active Applications: The following applications for permission to form a Camp are currently active.

- William Bumgarner Camp 33. Department of Indiana. Expires 26 September, 2024.
- Maj. Gen. Edward O.C. Ord Camp 3, Department of Texas. Expires 12 December 2024.
- Spicely Camp 252. Department of Indiana. Expires 28 May 2025.

Expired Applications: The following applications for permission to form a Camp expired on the date indicated.

- Gen. Luther Stephenson Camp 512, Department of Massachusetts. Expired September 15, 2023.

I attended the 2024 Department Encampments on behalf of the Commander in Chief:

- Kansas-April 6th in Lecompton, KS
- Nebraska -April 20th in Seward, NE
- Vermont - May 18th in East Calais, VT
- Maine -June 15th in Fairfield, ME
- Pennsylvania -June 28th – 29th in King of Prussia

Respectfully Submitted

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Daniel Murray, PDC

National Secretary

Treasurer's Report 2024 Annual Encampment

1. Fund Status at June 30, 2024:

- a) General Fund: The fund had a \$11K operating surplus this year, primarily due to unrealized gains in the investment portfolio. Fund Balance is \$670,000.
- b) Headquarters Fund: The fund had a \$13K operating deficit. The fund currently receives \$8 per capita dues for each member and revenues from its investments. Fund Balance is \$659. This fund continually loses money.
- c) The Permanent Fund received \$11K in donations this year and did well in the stock market with unrealized gains of \$40K. Fund Balance is \$408,000.
- d) Preservation Fund (AKA Monuments and Memorials Fund). This fund receives \$1 per capita for revenue. It has not spent what has been allocated for several years and as accumulated a \$42K surplus. Fund Balance is \$42,000 (this is a paper balance, as the fund's only asset is what it is owed by the General Fund).
- e) Life Fund. The fund received \$22K in life member fees this year. Fund Balance is \$111,000.
- f) The Lincoln Fund. The fund lost \$852 to run the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony. Fund Balance is a negative \$1,328.

- 2. **Recruiting and Finances** - Until our Endowment Fund produces significant revenue, we rely on our members - dues and donations - as the primary source of revenue. We must continue our focus on increasing membership. We are the oldest heritage organization and our ancestor pool exceeds 2 million. We have 5,795 dues paying members. The Mayflower Society has an ancestor pool of 110 and they exceed 30,000 members. They have their own headquarters building in Plymouth and they bought the First Church in Plymouth for its Tiffany windows featuring the Pilgrims. The same is true for SAR, DAR, & Jamestowne - they all have significantly smaller ancestor pools than us and all hover around 30,000 members. We can't blame our small membership on the Civil War - the SCV & the UDC both have 30,000 members. The resulting difference is stark. We will collect \$191,000 in dues this fiscal year while the SAR collects \$1,500,000.
- 3. **Merrill Lynch Account**. For the 2023 calendar year, we earned 10 percent on our investments with Merrill Lynch (including capital appreciation). Our balance at June 30, 2024 was \$1,153,126. We have \$450K in CDs earning at least 5 percent. The remainder of our funds are invested in moderate risk equity stocks. We can expect to earn \$21K in interest and \$15K in dividends in fiscal year 2025.
- 4. **Bank of America Account**. We added Quartermaster Bobby Welch as a signatory to the Quartermaster Checking account (and removed former QM Lyons).

5. **1881 Club.** The club currently has seven members, Mark Day, Tim McCoy, Michael Paquette, Kevin Martin, Brian McManus, Linn Malaznik, and Alan Russ. For calendar year 2023, the members contributed \$11,506 to the SUVCW.
6. **Form 990.** The IRS fined us \$1,400 for claiming we filed our 2021 return late. We appealed and the IRS withdrew the fine. We filed our 2023 Form 990 in December. The IRS has yet to post the 2023 return to its website.
7. **Camp/Department 501(c)(3) Status.** In accordance with IRS Publication 4573, Group Exemptions, the National Organization controls the status of its subordinates. I file a report each year using the Forms 11 to add, delete and report all of our subordinates. I will provide any camp or department wishing to prove its 501 (c)(3) status with a letter addressed to any prospective donor. This also applies to SVR units and military districts. Thus far this year I provided such letters to the following:
 - a) Irish Brigade Camp #4
 - b) Department of Kentucky
 - c) Nash-Hodges Camp #43
8. **New Camps and SVR units.** I add each new camp and SVR unit during the year with a faxed letter to the IRS. So far this year, I have faxed letters for:
 - a) Barnard Camp #2
 - b) Sprague Camp #4
 - c) Garfield Camp #62
 - d) Gettysburg Blues
 - e) Farragut Camp #5
 - f) Lilly Camp #66
9. **State Registrations.** Labyrinth, Inc., is currently filing our annual state registrations in the 36 states that require registration for charities that raise money within the state. We do not file in the District of Columbia {too expensive}. The other states either do not require us to register or we are exempt. I, and the CINC, have signed the necessary forms, including have a notary sign when required. This contract cost us \$9,035 this fiscal year.
10. **Grants.** \$6,905 in grants awarded as follows:
 - a) \$1,200 to Legion of the West Camp #7 for work on Richard D. Mobley monument.
 - b) \$1,500 check to Bryner Camp #67 for the 1866 Civil War Memorial at the Springdale Cemetery in Peoria, Illinois.
 - c) \$205.67 check to the Humboldt Camp #9 for the 1823 McClurg Walking Stick at the Humboldt Historical Society in Humboldt, Kansas.

- d) \$2,000 to BG Bailey Camp #5 for the Union Forces Marker in Marshfield, Louisiana.
- e) \$2,000 to General Fletcher Camp #47 for the Louisa Volker Monument in Potosi, Missouri.

11. Donations.

- a) This fiscal year the Permanent Fund is receiving monthly donations from Brothers Mark Day, David Demmy, Clay Hoffman, Timothy McCoy, Michael Paquette, Alan Russ, & Danny Wheeler.
- b) The General Fund, through Brother David Hann's efforts, received \$6,055 for the Remembrance Day.

12. Bonds. Our \$49K in Series EE matured in January and no longer earn interest. It took me 12 business days to get the appropriate paperwork in the Treasury's hands to cash the bonds and deposit the cash in our bank. They have sent me an email saying it can take up to 20 weeks to process our request to transfer our money to our bank. Let that sink in. The bonds are a Permanent Fund asset. Once we get the cash, we will purchase medium risk equity investments.

13. TechSoup. I have merged our GoDaddy and TechSoup Microsoft 356 license accounts. Our monthly cost will go from \$44 to \$10. We also go from four licenses to 10.

14. Zoom. I have extended our Zoom account for one year using a half off coupon from TechSoup. I also upgraded. We have two licenses and our meetings can go on as long as we want. I hold one license and James Crane holds the other.

- a) I set up two zoom meetings for the CINC.
- b) I had one zoom meeting with the Department Treasurers - only two attended.

15. QuickBooks. I have migrated the General Fund to QuickBooks online. Unfortunately, QuickBooks would not let us replace our 2018 Desktop version. They stopped supporting the 2018 version last year. The migration was successful. I have left the other funds on the desktop. Oddly, I could keep the books for all six funds using the desktop version, but not the online version - I would have to purchase six separate licenses. QuickBooks has told me there is a way to do fund accounting using the one account. Sometime in the future I will explore migrating the other five funds.

16. Square. Quartermaster Welch has moved our Quartermaster Store from PayPal to Square. A much better system. Square and QuickBooks can communicate. Brother Welch and I linked the two and now Square sales transactions are automatically recorded in QuickBooks saving us both a great deal of time and paper.

17. Financial Statements for fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Our auditors, Coulter & Justus, LLC, have issued our statements with a "clean opinion." I have provided the US House of Representatives Judicial Committee with a copy of our statements as required by our Charter. A copy is included as an attachment to the encampment annual reports.

18. Form 1099NEC. I filed our 1099NECs with the IRS and sent copies to our contractors for their returns.

19. **2023 Contributions.** I mailed acknowledgement letters to all our donors for their use in filing their income tax returns.
20. **Lincoln Tomb Ceremony.** I prepared the annual report on the finances of the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony for the MOLLUS & SUVCW Commanders. This year's ceremony had revenues of \$1,775 and expenses of \$2,627.27, resulting in a loss of \$852.27.
21. **Council of Administration.** I attended and participated in the Council meetings held in Nashua, Gettysburg, and Springfield.
22. **Capital Campaign.** I have coordinated with the Fund-Raising Committee to continue our capital campaign to increase our Permanent Fund. The committee bought two ads in the National Encampment program book to promote fundraising.
23. **Insurance Certificate.** I arranged for the following certificates of insurance.
- a) Gettysburg Remembrance Day (City).
 - b) Gettysburg Remembrance Day (School District).
 - c) Gettysburg Remembrance Day (State).
 - d) Pvt. John N. Eckes Camp #10, Winfield, KS camp meetings at the Cowley County Historical Society.
 - e) Col. G.L. Willard Camp #154 Monument Preservation Work.
 - f) Schuyler F. Smith Camp #193, Department of New York, for leasing space in the Spencer GAR Hall.
 - g) Admiral Farragut Camp# 5 for color guard at the Tampa Bay Rays.
 - h) Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill, Camp #4, Department of Kansas, ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery.
 - i) Moses Baldwin Camp #544 monthly meetings at fire house.
 - j) Admiral Farragut Camp# 5 for Christmas Day Parade.
 - k) Dept. of Georgia and South Carolina Department Encampment at the American Legion Post 233.
 - l) SVR Lincoln Tomb Ceremonies.
 - m) E. F. Dutton Camp #49 in Sycamore, Illinois monthly meetings at the DeKalb County History Center.
 - n) Major Sullivan Ballou Camp #3 headstone celebration.
 - o) Irish Brigade Camp #4 National Memorial Day Parade.
 - p) Sheridan Camp #2 for ceremonies at West Aurora Cemetery.
 - q) Col. Francine Camp #7, to clean up cemetery in Gloucester City, NJ.

24. Proposed Budget for FYE 2025:

INCOME

Donations to General Fund	\$7,000
Dividends on Investments	15,000
Interest on Investments	<u>21,000</u>
Total Donations and Investments	\$43,000

Quarter Master Sales	\$52,000
QM Cost of Sales	<u>45,000</u>
Net Quarter Master Sales	\$7,000

Program Income

Supplemental Fees	\$150
Banner Subscriptions	75
Lincoln Tomb Luncheon	700
National Encampment Registration Fees	2,000
Charter Application Fees	250
Per Capita Dues	191,235
New Member Fees	2,500
Reinstatement Fees	<u>350</u>
Total Program Income	197,260

Total Income	\$247,260
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EXPENSE

Administrative Expense

CINC Expense	\$15,000
Nat. Secretary Expense	5,000
Nat. Treasurer Expense	5,000
Nat. QM Expense	5,000
CINC Representative Expense	6,000
JVC Expense	500
Banner Editor Expense	<u>5,000</u>
Total Administrative Expense	41,500

Contract Services

Accounting and Tax Prep Fees	\$7,000
Audit Fee	19,800
Brokerage fees	7,000
State Certifications	9,000
Rent	<u>10,320</u>
Total Contract Services	53,120

Operations

Executive Director	\$21,000
Assistant Ex Director	12,000
Ex & Assistant Travel	6,000
Insurance	4,200
Office Expense	1,500
Software	2,100
Proceedings Transcription	1,900
Bank Fees	600
Postage	\$2,200
Telephone & Internet	4,400
Web Site	6,750
Contingency	<u>4,000</u>
Total Operations	66,650

Program Expense

ROTC Medal Program	\$6,800
Life Member Reimbursements	300
Grants	15,000
Scholarships	5,000
National Encampment Site Committee	3,500
National Encampment Host Committee	3,500
National Photographer	3,000
National Encampment Printing	2,700
National Encampment Awards	2,200
Sons of Confederate Representative	300
Promotions and Marketing Committee	5,000
Fund Raising Committee	2,000
Memorial University	1,500
Grant's Tomb	250
Woolson's Monument	100
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier	500
Fraternal Relations Committee	1,000
Cathedral of the Pines	100
Graves Registration	12,200
Banner	56,000
Lincoln Memorial Ceremony	300
Remembrance Day	12,000
Lincoln Tomb Ceremony	<u>2,800</u>
Total Program Expenses	136,050

Total Expense **\$297,320**

Projected Income (Deficit) **(\$50,060)**

25. Proposed changes to the National Regulations. I have recommended to the C&R committee the following two changes to the Regulations.

1. Rename Chapter III National Organization, Article IX Finances Section 8 from Memorial/Monument Grant Fund to "Operating Funds" with the following language:

Section 8. Memorial/Monument Grant Fund

- a) ~~The purpose of the Memorial/Monument Grant fund is to assist Camps and Departments in their efforts to refurbish and restore Civil War related memorials and monuments. The following procedure provides some general guidelines as to how to apply for a grant and establishes standards on how grant submittals will be evaluated.79 (Last Veteran Grave Markers are not eligible for grants from the Monuments Grant Committee. DIR 137th, 38. © 1881-2022, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, A Congressionally Chartered Corporation. As amended through the 141st National Encampment August 2022, Grand Rapids, Michigan Annotations amended through the 138th National Encampment August, 2019, Independence, Ohio.~~

~~b) Procedure~~

~~(1) Any SUVC\1/ Camp or Department may request money from this fund.~~

~~(2) All requests will be handled individually on its own merit.~~

~~(3) Only one request from one entity (Camp or Department) can be accepted per monument or memorial. The request must include pictures, and documentation as to appraisals and written estimates for the necessary work.~~

~~(4) Assessment form (CM\1/ #61) must be submitted with the application.~~

~~(5) The maximum grant for any one project shall be \$2,000.00 (Two Thousand Dollars). If principle and interest remain in the fund after all grant applications are considered after April 30, the Council of Administration may grant additional funds to one or more grant recipients of up to 75% of the fund or to make grants of up to 75% of the fund to the one or more civil war sites under the auspices of the National Park Service, Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense for preservation of civil war monuments.~~

~~(6) A Memorials Grants Committee consisting of three elected Council of Administration members including the Commander in Chief, Senior Vice Commander in Chief, Junior Vice Commander in Chief, National Secretary, National Treasurer and National Quartermaster shall review the grant applications, determine which are worthy of support, which meet the criteria established for the grants and approve the grants within the limits specified in Chapter 111, Article X, Section 16.~~

Section 8 Operating Funds.

- a. **General Fund.** This fund is used to account for revenues and expenditures related to the normal day-to-day operations of SUVCW; excluding expenditures to operate the National Headquarters, pay grants, and those revenues and expenses of running the annual ceremony held at Lincoln's Tomb. The fund also accounts for monies given or bequeathed for a specific purpose, most notably for the operation of the SUVCW Scholarship Program and the Annual Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
- b. **Permanent Fund.**
 - i. This is the SUVCW's endowment fund established for perpetual support of the Order and is described in Article VIII of the Constitution.
 - ii. The fund accounts for monies that have been given or bequeathed to the National Organization that have not been designated for a specific purpose by the donor, and such other monies as may be added thereto by vote of the National Encampment or the Council of Administration.
 - iii. This fund also accounts for Life Membership fees received prior to August 15, 1996 (member numbers 001-599). The Permanent Fund may (at the discretion of the National Treasurer) annually distribute, for each aforementioned Life Member, interest and principal equal to the National Per Capita assessment then in effect for brothers of the Order to the National General Fund. The fund pays the annual reimbursement to each aforementioned Life Member's camp upon the camp's application in an amount set by the Council of Administration.
 - iv. The fund's monies shall be kept on deposit in one or more bank institutions whose deposits are fully insured to the amount of the deposit, or invested in obligations of the United States, or in the securities or mutual funds of corporations or trusts located in the United States, which securities are listed or admitted to trading privileges on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange or NASDAQ.
- c. **Headquarters Fund.** This fund is used to record all transactions to operate the SUVCW headquarters. The General Fund annually transfers a per capita amount determined by the Council of Administration to operate the fund. Monies remaining in the fund after each year are left in the fund to establish a permanent headquarters.
- d. **Monuments/Memorial Grant Fund (aka Preservation Fund).** The Council of Administration created this fund in 1999 to assist Departments and Camps of the Order in the preservation, maintenance, and defense of Civil War monuments

and memorials. The General Fund annually transfers a per capita amount determined by the Council of Administration to operate the fund. Camps and Departments will follow these procedures to apply for a grant.

These procedures also establish standards on how grant submittals will be evaluated. (Footnote: Last Veteran Grave Markers are not eligible for grants from the Monuments Grant Committee. DIR 137th, 38. © 1881-2022, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, A Congressionally-Chartered Corporation. As amended through the 141st National Encampment August 2022, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

- i. Any SUVCW Camp or Department may request money from this fund.
 - ii. All requests will be handled individually on its own merit.
 - iii. Only one request from one entity (Camp or Department) can be accepted per monument or memorial. The request must include pictures, documentation as to appraisals and written estimates for the necessary work.
 - iv. Assessment form (CMW #61) must be submitted with the application.
 - v. The maximum grant for any one project shall be \$2,000 (Two Thousand Dollars). If principal and interest remain in the fund after all grant applications are considered after April 30, the Council of Administration may grant additional funds to one or more grant recipients of up to 75% of the fund or to make grants of up to 75% of the fund to the one or more civil war sites under the auspices of the National Park Service, Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense for preservation of civil war monuments.
 - vi. A Memorials Grants Committee consisting of three elected Council of Administration members excluding the Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and National Quartermaster shall review the grant applications, determine which are worthy of support, which meet the criteria established for the grants and approve the grants within the limits specified in Chapter 111, Article X, Section 16.
 - vii. The Memorials Grants Committee will submit the approved grant to the National Treasurer for payment.
- e. **Life Member Fund.** The 2012 National Encampment established this fund to account for Life Members with numbers 600 and higher.
- i. The fund's monies shall be kept on deposit in one or more bank institutions whose deposits are fully insured to the amount of the deposit, or invested in

obligations of the United States, or in the securities or mutual funds of corporations or trusts located in the United States, which securities are listed or admitted to trading privileges on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange or NASDAQ.

- ii. Annually, for each Life Member with a number 600 or higher, the National Treasurer shall transfer from the fund to the General Fund, interest and principal equal to the National Per Capita assessment then in effect for brothers of the Order.

- 2. Add 1881 Club Polo shirt to approved dress at Encampments:

Chapter 111, Article III, Section 1, footnote 72 - While attending any business session of the National Encampment all Brothers in attendance shall be in appropriate male business attire. This attire shall be as stipulated by General Order #3, Series 2016-2017 to include jacket, tie, long pants and membership badge. Jackets may be removed to prevent over heating but should be present. Brothers may optionally wear uniforms patterned after United States Armed Forces uniforms 1861-1865 or the current National Encampment polo shirt or 1881 Club polo shirt and long pants if a polo shirt is made available by the National Encampment Host Committee.

Membership badges shall also be worn on uniforms and the National Encampment polo shirt regardless of what may be embroidered on the polo shirt.

NOTE: the actual footnote is truncated in the adobe file on the website and most of this is not there – I took this from CinC Paquette's General Order# 19.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty

D. Michael Beard
National Treasurer

National Quartermaster Report

National Encampment, Lexington, KY

Brothers,

A full year has passed since I was elected, and what a year it has been. On the 1st of October, The Quartermaster Store was migrated over to the Square Ecommerce platform and shipping was moved to "Pirate Ship", an online shipping broker for companies that print their own shipping labels. There have been a few speed bumps along the way, but for the most part this was a well-received transition.

New and updated Certificates have been added to the inventory, templates created and added to the online store so Brothers can print directly onto the certificates, as well as the ability for the 11x14 certificates to have information printed onto them in-house.

There have been a few vendor hiccups with supply chain issues, and our flag vendor has been less than prompt with their service, but we continue to move forward in a positive direction.

The sales summary for the year is as follows:

1 Oct 2023 - 30 Jun 2024

Traditional (Non-Square) Orders:	70
Traditional Sales:	\$6,846.00
Square Online Orders:	607
Square Online Sales (Net Total):	\$37,916.50
Total Orders:	677
Total Sales:	\$44,762.50
Total Shipments:	676
Shipping Charges:	\$3,938.49 (this is \$1,889.45 below the retail cost)

Recommendations

- Recommend Council approval for the production and sale of a miniature War Service Medal.
- Recommend Council approval for the production and sale of a service bar, for the War Service Medal that says "Expeditionary"
 - This would cover those Brothers who have received the following medals
 - Armed Forces Expeditionary
 - Navy Expeditionary
 - Marine Corps Expeditionary
 - Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon **With Gold Frame**
 - If approved, update pg. 2 of Form 5

- Recommend Council approval to upgrade the Quartermaster Store from the free version to Plus version of Square billed annually at \$348.00. This upgrade will allow for:
 - Better analytical tools
 - Customer accounts
 - Personalized ordering
 - Advanced item settings
- Bylaw recommendation - Ch. V, Article VI, Section 2(c) - Strike 5/8 inch in width and replace with 11/16 inch in width.
 - This will conform to modern ribbon attachment brass findings.

While I absolutely love doing this job, I must step away at the end of my term and I will not be seeking re-election at the 144th National Encampment.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby Welch, PCC". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Bobby Welch, PCC
National Quartermaster

Council of Administration Member #1
Outgoing Past Commander-In-Chief
10 July 2024

It is my honor to submit the following report on the activity of the Outgoing Past Commander-In-Chief. I have taken part in as many segments of this position as my health, scheduling and funding would allow.

I believe that we as an Order need to demand transparency in every area of the SUVCW, including an accurate and detailed record of the actions of the Council of Administration members during meetings. We have the ability to record every word of all of our CofA meetings, this should be done, and those recordings should be posted for every one of our Brothers to hear/read.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Respectfully submitted In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Bruce D. Frail, PCinC

Council of Administration Member #1

The final two paragraphs of this report were stricken from the record during the 143rd National Encampment.

Shane L. Milburn, PDC
Council of Administration

Attended the post Encampment CofA meeting in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Attended Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and participated in the Woolson Monument Ceremony as well as marched in the parade carrying the Commander-in-Chief Colors.

Attended the Council of Administration meeting in Gettysburg.

Participated in the ZOOM Council of Administration meeting in March.

Attended and participated in the Lincoln Tomb Observance by placing a Wreath on behalf of the National Organization of the Sons of Veterans Reserve in Springfield, Illinois.

Attended the Council of Administration meeting in Springfield.

Chair of the Civil War Monuments and Memorials Grant Committee with fellow members Joe Hall and PCinC Brian Pierson. Brother Walt Busch offered guidance when requested.

I have voted on all online issues that have come before the CofA except for one.

Other SUVCW related activities:

Participated in Wreaths Across America, joining Camp Members in placing Wreaths at 4 different cemeteries in Fayette, Clinton and Highland Counties in Ohio.

Re-elected Camp Secretary of Casey Camp #92 and Junior Vice Commander of Sherman Camp #93, Department of Ohio.

Commander of Co. C, 20th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve.

Participated in two Memorial Day Ceremonies: Bloomingburg (Fayette Co.) and Lees Creek (Clinton Co.), Ohio.

On May 19, 2024, participated in a Civil War Headstone dedication in Miami County, Ohio.

Continued to carry out duties as the Adjutant General of the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Shane L. Milburn, PDC

Council of Administration Member Report

July 1, 2024

It has been a pleasure serving the Order this past year as a member of the Council of Administration.

- I have attended all in-person Council Meetings and every Virtual Meeting I was available for.
- I have been an active participant in the meetings.
- I have been an active participant on the P&P Committee.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Robert R. Payne, PDC

Council of Administration

Council of Administration Annual Report

9 July 2024

Commander, Brothers,

I have the honor to submit the following report:

1. The Grant Cup has been refurbished. A new base is being made with up-to-date plaques (through 2023) with the names of the award recipients. Annual award trophies, streamers, and plaques have been procured.
2. Per CinC Hritsko's direction, I provided the SUVCW's comments to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) prior to the removal of the monument. The comments are summarized as follows: a recapitulation of the SUVCW's mission per our Congressional Charter (36 USC §200301); a statement regarding our national policy on monument protection; a statement of concern over the removal, to wit, that it appears to have been a rushed decision, that it risks disturbing or damaging graves in the vicinity and that any plans include risk mitigation to safeguard them; that it could result in an eyesore in the hallowed grounds of ANC in which thousands of Union soldiers and sailors are buried and that any removal plans include measures to ensure the beauty and dignity of the site; and that the final disposition ensures the preservation of the monument. As we know, the monument was removed a short time later. One of the corollary intents of providing these comments was to demonstrate and ensure that the SUVCW is recognized as a valuable participant in such matters.

3. I am continuing to work on having a 3' x 5' replica CinC flag produced for PCinCs, should they desire one, at no cost to the Order. Continued quotes have been cost prohibitive, and I am researching other vendors for a quality product at a reasonable price point.
4. I had the honor to represent CinC Hritsko at the Department of Georgia & South Carolina's, Oklahoma's, and Colorado & Wyoming's annual encampments and submitted a report of each encampment. The newly elected Department Commander of Colorado and Wyoming is dealing with the issues he inherited in a very fair and judicious manner.
5. As I am currently temporarily filling the Co A position of a duly elected Brother who is unable to discharge the duties of his office per CC&R (Chapter III, Article VI, Section 4 (b) and (c), p 85), upon the request of the CinC at the April 2024 CofA meeting in Springfield, IL, I reached out to the Brother to learn whether he intended to either resign his position or resume his duties when he is able to do so. The Brother responded through his representative that he intends to retain his CofA position until his term expires at the 2025 National Encampment and resume his duties when able.
6. I have participated in CofA online discussions and votes, and serve on the USA 250 committee, which is preparing commemorative medals and challenge coins. I also serve as Fraternal Relations and am happy to report that all appears well with the Allied Orders. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve the Order, CinC Hritsko, and Chief-of-Staff Jim Crane in whatever small way I could.

In F C & L,

Brian C. Pierson, PCinC

**Fraternal Relations Annual Report
9 July 2024**

Covered in CofA report, para. 6.



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Roderick J Fraser Jr.

Council of Administration

162 Fiat Ave., Cranston, RI 02910 Tel: (617) 201-0105

Email: rjfraserjrusrn@gmail.com



Subject: National Council of Administration Annual Officers Report 2024

I am honored to serve this order as a member of the Council of Administration. Since the 2023 National Encampment in Nashua, NH last August, I have performed the following on behalf of the SUVCW:

- I participated in the 2023 Remembrance Day activities in Gettysburg, including a guided tour of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia with the Sons of Veterans Reserve Breakfast and the Woolson Monument ceremony, and I marched with the Sons of Veterans Reserve in the Remembrance Day Parade.
- On November 19, 2023, I attended the Gettysburg Council of Administration meeting.
- I voted electronically on all business before the Council of Administration since that meeting.
- I continued in my role as the National SUVCW YouTube channel administrator. We are now up to 390 subscribers and have 48 videos posted.
- I serve on the National Promotions and Marketing Committee. In that position, I coordinated the SUVCW sponsorship of the Podcast "The Civil War and Reconstruction; a History Podcast".
- I attended a meeting of the National Special Committee on Veterans of Wars of the United States.
- I completed the work at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Boston, MA that refurbished the cannon and cannon bases of the Gen. Charles Russel Lowell GAR Burial plot.
- I attended the Department of Massachusetts 24th Annual Lincoln Birthday Brunch on Sunday, Feb 11, 2024. The keynote speaker was John D. Warner, Jr., author of "Riders in the Storm: The Triumphs and Tragedies of a Black Cavalry Regiment in the Civil War." Video posted to YouTube channel.
- The Department of Massachusetts conducted our annual memorial ceremony honoring Union General Benjamin Franklin Butler at the Hildreth Family Cemetery, where we were joined by community members and descendants of General Butler.
- On March 10, 2024, I attended a Council of Administration Zoom meeting.
- I had the honor to represent Commander-in-Chief Peter Hritsko at the following annual Department Encampments:
 - Department of Connecticut - April 13.
 - Department of New York - May 2-3.
 - Department of New Hampshire - April 20.

- I was honored to be elected Commander of the Department of Massachusetts at our Annual encampment.
- I sent the Camp 54 American flag to Beaufort National Cemetery where they flew the flag for 54 minutes in honor the Col. Robert Gould Shaw and the men of the 54th MA Infantry buried there. They were killed in the second battle of Ft. Wagner.
- I attended the National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865 112th Annual Congress in New Bedford. I served as the 1st Military District, SVR, color guard at the event.
- Along with the First Military District SVR, I attended and participated in a Ceremony of Rededication for Clark's Cemetery in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The rededication came after years of hard work reclaiming the cemetery from overgrowth and negligence.
- I represented the SUVCW in my capacity as Commander of the Department of Massachusetts at the Annual Memorial Day Service at the Massachusetts National Cemetery. I brought greetings from the SUVCW and read Past CinC Logan's General Order No. 11.
- Along with my Brothers of the Elisha Dyer Camp No. 7 Dept of RI, I flagged the graves of Union soldiers in the Pocasset Cemetery for Memorial Day.
- I attended the unveiling and dedication of the new exhibit at the New England Civil War Museum that displays the wartime uniform of Sgt. Seth Plumb, and the GAR uniform of his brother, Will Plumb. Brought back together after 160 years, they present the lives of "The Two Brothers", with two fates, two experiences, but one united story. Seth was killed in action.
- Along with the First Military District, SVR, I attended and participated in a headstone dedication for Private Hugh Cook of the 40th Massachusetts Infantry, who is buried at Goose Hill Cemetery in Rutland, Massachusetts. Private Cook was in an unmarked grave, but with the assistance of Willie Grout Camp 25, the Rutland Historical Society, and Brother William Stump, Commander of the Dept of NY, the Veterans Administration provided a headstone.
- I continue in my roles as:
 - Junior Vice Commander, Gov. Elisha Dyer Camp No. 7. Dept of Rhode Island.
 - Editor of the Department of Massachusetts Newsletter, "Clarion Call."

Submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty



Roderick J. Fraser Jr.
Council of Administration
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Editor of *The Banner*

To the Council of Administration and the Delegates to the 143rd National Encampment

Submitted June 19, 2024

As I submit this report, the Spring issue is in final stages of layout and should be released to the printer shortly. All deadlines remain unchanged.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Assistant National Secretary / National Co-Parliamentarian

To the Council of Administration

Brothers are reminded that the 12th Edition of Robert's Rules of Order is the latest edition.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Assistant National Secretary / Department-At-Large Secretary/Treasurer

To the Council of Administration

We have two Camps in the Department at Large: the Ensign John Davis Camp #10 located in London, England and the Pvt. Robert F. Dodd Camp 4 in Canada. Other Canadian Camps are being discussed.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Assistant National Treasurer

To the Council of Administration

Nothing to report.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Report of the Assistant National Counselor - C&R

To the Council of Administration

With the recent publication of the Proceedings of the 142nd National Encampment, I will be annotating the National Regulations and publishing the 2024 edition of the C&R once the appropriate approvals have been received. By the time of the Encampment, this should be completed.

Respectfully submitted in fraternity, charity and loyalty,

James B. Pahl, PCinC

Editor - *The Banner*

National Co-Parliamentarian

Assistant National Secretary - Department at Large Secretary/Treasurer

Assistant National Treasurer

Assistant National Counselor - C&R

REPORTS
OF
APPOINTED NATIONAL OFFICERS

Report of the National Signals Officer

During the past year, SUVCW's Signals Corps has continued to play a vital role in raising the public profile of the Order via our social media accounts. Collectively, and as detailed in the report of the National Special Committee on Social Media, SUVCW is daily reaching nearly 16,000 followers (more than 3,000 more than at the time of the 2022 National Encampment) with quality information that presents how the National organization, Departments, Camps, SVR, and the Allied Orders are preserving the history and legacy of the heroes who saved the Union during the Civil War. SUVCW also maintains a YouTube account that has almost 400 subscribers.

Social media continues to demonstrate its strengths as a vehicle for attracting new members, with Brothers who are managing our various social media accounts reporting a continuous flow of membership inquiries via our social media accounts, with more than a dozen such inquiries forwarded to relevant Camps during the past year. Other general informational requests about SUVCW were also regularly received during the past year.

The National Signals Officer expresses his gratitude to the dedicated and talented group of Brothers - Ben Frail, George Huttick, Bill Stump, and Barrett Young - for their dedication in maintaining our various social media accounts. I also applaud the work of the National Webmaster, Br. Rob Payne, for his commitment to maintaining the National website as the single-most important public-facing source of detailed information about SUVCW. It has been the honor and pleasure of the National Signals Officer to maintain our "X" (formerly Twitter) account. We take this opportunity to applaud the Camps and Departments across our Order that have responded to our requests to share audio and visual materials for dissemination on the National website and social media platforms. We also encourage all Camps and Departments to do the same.

There are no recommendations. The National Signals Officer hereby endorses the recommendation of the National Special Committee on Social Media.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Timothy S. McCoy, PDC, PCC
National Signals Officer

National Aide-de-Camp - Patriotism Report

August 1, 2024 - Lexington, KY

Nothing to report.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

W. Faron Taylor, PDC

National Aide-de-Camp - Patriotism

National Chaplain Report

Brothers,

I have prayed for everyone this past year, God Bless !!!!

For the Allied Orders, In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty

Chaplain Emeritus Jerry

National Chief-of-Staff Report

Brothers,

I have completed all requests of me by the Commander-in-Chief, Peter J. Hritsko, Jr.

I have enjoyed working with all of the Council of Administration, National Appointed Officers, Committee Chairs, and Department Commanders. Thank you for fulfilling my requests on writing your Reports to the Commander-in-Chief and to the Council. You have made my duties easier to fulfill in getting these Reports to them on a timely basis.

It was an honor for me when CinC Hritsko asked me to be his Chief-of-Staff. I expected nothing, but received a lot in return accomplishing my daily duties. From a perspective of a Chief-of-Staff, you get to see all the interactions of all the Brothers who make up this wonderful Organization that our forefathers tasked us with many years ago. We do this work in the Departments, Camps, and National positions, to honor our ancestors who fought and died in the Civil War. That is evident with speaking with many of you. God bless all of you fine gentlemen who make this Order what it is on a daily basis. I offer only a simple "Thank You" for honoring our Ancestors.

James T. Crane, PDC

National Chief of Staff

National Encampment Site Committee

05July2024

**National Civil War Memorials Officer
and
The National Committee on Civil War Memorials
Combined Report**

Committee Members:

Walt Busch, PDC (Chair); Mike Flynn; Dean Enderlin, PDC; Kevin Tucker, PDC; and Jay Rarick, PDC.

Aides: Tom Gaard and Dale Crandell, PDC

On July 5, 2024, I added the last of the files that I currently have to the national monuments database. This consisted of approximately 2,200 files. I am still processing about 42 monuments from my own travels.

This next year I will be developing a data input manual for the Monuments database so that the training of select state and camp monuments officers can do data entry themselves. Besides my committee, I would like to thank the National Committee on Civil War Grant Funds (Shane Milburn, PDC; Joseph Hall, Jr, PDC; & Brian Pierson, PCinC) for all their work this past year.

A quick run down by state for monument files currently in the database:

Outside the US	6	Maine	10	Oregon	10
Alabama	2	Maryland	6	Pennsylvania	44
Arkansas	43	Massachusetts	56	Rhode Island	39
Arizona	8	Michigan	230	South Carolina	2
California	65	Minnesota	3	South Dakota	1
Colorado	7	Mississippi	8	Tennessee	21
Connecticut	6	Missouri	556	Texas & LA	6
Delaware	1	Nebraska	7	Utah	4
Florida	5	New Hampshire	30	Vermont	1
Georgia	23	New Jersey	9	Virginia	28
Hawaii	1	New Mexico	1	Washington	16
Idaho	10	New York	50	Washington DC	6
Illinois	155	Nevada	6	West Virginia	1
Indiana	30	North Carolina	12	Wisconsin	38
Iowa	457	North Dakota	2	Wyoming	3
Kansas	18	Ohio	72		
Kentucky	17	Oklahoma	5		

In addition to these files there are various monument catalogs online and links to monuments on websites in many states.

Recommendation: Currently about 25GB of monument files exist on my google drive. These consist of redacted files that go online, and the original unredacted files. We need the original files still, in case the National Committee on Civil War Grant Funds or other members doing research on various monuments need phone numbers and e-mails to contact persons concerning FORM 62 submissions o. These need to be moved to a cloud or FTP service that can serve as a backup to what we currently have online.

The chairmen of the National Civil War Memorials Committee and the National Committee on Civil War Grant Funds should be the access points for these files.

Therefore, I recommend the National Webmaster create such a cloud/FTP system for the use of this committee and the Grants Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Busch, PDC

National Civil War Memorials Officer

National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator

August 2, 2024, Lexington, KY

Since a recent change to Form 14, all Eagle Scout Certificate requests come directly to me. I forward these to the appropriate Department Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinators (DESCC) and follow-up to make sure all requests are processed. Not every Department has a DESCC, so I have sent out 18 certificates to the new Eagle Scouts personally.

Since the beginning of my term in August 2023, I have processed 126 requests from 24 Departments, and 15 more requests where the Department was unknown. These certificate requests have come from 107 male Eagle Scouts, 11 females, and 8 unknown. (This is not the total of all certificates issued, as some applications have gone directly to the DESCCs.) A list of all Departments that I handled requests for is below.

California and Pacific	6	Massachusetts	5
Chesapeake	9	Michigan	9
Colorado and Wyoming	1	Missouri and Arkansas	2
Columbia	3	New Hampshire	1
Connecticut	3	New Jersey	11
Florida	4	New York	13
Georgia and South Carolina	3	Ohio	7
Illinois	2	Pennsylvania	7
Indiana	3	Southwest	2
Kansas	3	Tennessee and Mississippi	3
Kentucky	2	Texas and Louisiana	3
Maine	1	Wisconsin and Minnesota	8
		Unknown	15

I am also the DESCC for Ohio, and I have personally presented 3 certificates, including one to my grandson, and forwarded 4 more to other Camps in my Department (or directly to the Scout as appropriate).

The Boy Scouts of America is changing its name to Scouting America. I have discussed changing the SUVCW Eagle Scout Commendation Certificate to reflect this change. I recommend the next NESCC to follow-up on this during their term of office.

Thank you and I remain,

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Michael Spaulding, PDC

National Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator

National G.A.R. Highway Officer Report

I had the pleasure serving as the National Grand Army of the Republic Highway Officer. The GAR Highway Signs are located along US Route 6 . Here is the list of Department G.A.R. Highway officers I have. The Dept. of California & Pacific, Charles L. Beal; Dept. of Illinois, Wayne Wehrheim; Dept. of Indiana, William R. Adams; Dept. of Iowa, Dan Rittel; Dept. of Massachusetts, George E. Maple; Dept. of New Jersey, Bruce Sirak; Dept. of New York, Matthew Hereford; Dept. of Ohio, Peter J. Hritsko; Dept of Pennsylvania, Dane A. Defebo. The response from six Dept.

GAR Highway Officers Reports for this 2024 National Encampment are listed below.

1. **Department of California & Pacific** - Recap: From 2019-2020, I determined the Latitude and Longitude coordinates on all GAR Highway signs and one plaque in the States of California and Nevada. Because the GAR Highway extends over 500 miles in length through the two States, this was a solution to be able to check on the status of the existing signs and plaque on a yearly basis with the updated Google Earth imagery.

In March 2024, I was able to verify the signs/plaque using Google Earth imagery. I see that the GAR Highway sign along State Route 6 when coming into the State of Nevada from the State of Utah was still missing, that was initially reported in 2023.

I did also verify by driving by the GAR Highway sign on southbound Interstate 5 at State Route 14 overpass (California) last July that the sign is now missing, confirmed by Google Earth imagery dated October 2022. I reported the missing sign in August 2023 via email to the CalTrans employee responsible for road signage in Los Angeles County, but I have not received reply from him.

The GAR Highway sign is missing on State Route 14 near the town of Mojave. There are two GAR Highway signs at this location, only the southbound shoulder sign is missing. The wood post that held the sign is still there. Email from CalTrans received on March 19, says a new sign has been installed. The email also reports that this is the most stolen sign - usually 1-2 a year stolen by sign collectors.

I have been in contact with the CalTrans employee responsible for road signage for Kern, Inyo and Mono counties in California. From last year's correspondences with him, he said currently there is road construction along a portion of Highway 395. Upon completion of that road project, he said that there will be new GAR Highway signs installed along that portion of the roadway with another sign to be set at the California/Nevada State border when you enter California from Nevada. He also reported another missing GAR Highway sign at the Kern/Inyo County lines. He said CalTrans crews have it on their "to do list" to install a new sign. My photographs, historical data, and databases can be found at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/z2cju58vkgxg6v/AADVyUSWjwXq0M--zHG50VONa?dl=0>

Charles Beal, PCC

GAR Highway Officer

2. **Department of Indiana** - As of June 1, 2024, all GAR Highway signs are posted in proper locations in accordance with Indiana Law. That law requires that a GAR Highway sign be placed at all locations where a Federal or State highway intersects US 6. All GAR Highway signs are new, or like new condition and are provided by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). US 6 is administered by two different Regional INDOT facilities. The eastern half is maintained by the Fort Wayne Regional office and the western half by the La Porte Regional office.

Since my last report for the 142nd National Encampment, there have been no issues or changes to the condition and location of GAR Highway signs across Indiana. All continue to be in excellent shape. I wish to thank Department Commander, Brother Tom Schmitt for his help, as he continues to drive the eastern portion of Indiana's US 6 and provides updated reports on the condition of GAR Highway signage. It is with great pleasure I announce that GAR Highway signs proudly proclaim US 6 as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway across the Hoosier State of Indiana.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Adams PDC

GAR Highway Officer Department of Indiana

3. **Department of Iowa** - The River to River Retro Road Trip is organized by the Historic US 6 Iowa Association, of which I am on the Board of Directors. We print a tour book that we hand out during the road trip that lists the route and stopping points for everybody as well as some sponsorship advertising. This past year the Department of Iowa placed an advertisement in the tour book for the SUVCW, and had printed in the book some information about the GAR Highway. The cost of the ad was \$40.

I continue to promote the SUVCW and GAR Highway via my Facebook page, "Grand Army of the Republic - Iowa", where I have 964 followers. I'm not sure how many of those followers are real, or bots.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Daniel Rittel, PCC

G.A.R. Highway Officer

4. **Dept. of Massachusetts** - I am sorry Brother Peter, I have no report this year and asked to not be appointed this year.

George Maple

5. **Dept. of Ohio** - In the month of June 2024, I had the opportunity to check on all the signs in Ohio. The two signs in Vermilion, 2 signs in Lorain, 3 signs in Sheffield Lake, 2 signs in Avon Lake, 2 signs in Bay Village, and one sign in Downtown Cleveland at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, are in excellent condition. The County of Lorain in the State of Ohio, there is a sign in every city of this county. It appears since the covid, the cost of the signs/supplies have gone up significantly and I'm in the process of trying other vendors to help keep the signs affordable. So far, haven't found a vendor yet for the signs. Also, would like to place a QR label on each of the new signs and current signs so that anyone can scan it and tell the history and information regarding their GAR Highway signs. I will be sending out letters to the city of Vermilion Township, Huron, Sandusky and Lakewood. Will follow up with my progress with the other cities I mentioned in the sentences above.

Peter J. Hritsko

Dept. of Ohio GAR Highway Officer

6. **Dept. of Wisconsin** - Nothing to Report

Robert Koenecke, DC

Recommendation: Allowing to put together a subcommittee of 2-3 Brothers for the future of the GAR Highway signs to be incorporated on US Route 6 across USA for time frame of 2 years.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Commander-in-Chief

Peter J. Hritsko

National GAR Highway Officer

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

National G.A.R. Records Officer

2023-2024 Report

It has been an honor to serve as your National GAR Records Officer for the 2023-2024 administrative year. This is my fourteenth consecutive term in this appointed office.

Our GARrecords.org website continues to perform well, serving as a resource for researchers and others interested in the GAR. The online submission form proved to be particularly useful this year, with public institutions, SUVCW Brothers, and private researchers all sharing their knowledge of collections of GAR records throughout the country. National Webmaster Robert Payne also forwarded a number of inquiries that he received via the SUVCW National website.

Between those messages, emails sent directly to the National GAR Records Officer at records_gar@suvchw.org, and submissions received via the online form, it has been a very busy year. The unprecedented volume of communications that I received during the pandemic has leveled off a bit, presumably now that people are back to focusing on other matters in life. I'm still dealing with a backlog, but I'm catching up!

The number of known and uniquely named/numbered GAR Posts identified in our catalog rose to 10,888 this year. This is an increase of fourteen Posts since last year's report. The additions were in multiple states in which I'd been focusing research this past year. I expect to see more additions and corrections as research continues. There are undoubtedly still dozens - if not hundreds - of Posts yet to be identified, particularly those that existed prior to 1879.

More details regarding our program are presented in the annual report of the National Committee on GAR Records.

Recommendation: No Recommendations.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Dean A. Enderlin, PDC
National GAR Records Officer

**Combined report of the
National Graves Registration Officer
And
National Committee on Graves Registration.
August 1 - 4, 2024 Lexington, KY**

As of today, we have 886,561 records in the database, of which 837,447 are active and 49,114 have been deleted as duplicates or false records. The number of deleted records reflects the various clean-up efforts that several Departments have undertaken this past year. Congratulations to all those who have participated in these clean-up efforts.

We have 1,745 registered accounts; 1,641 submitters, 100 administrators, and 4 root accounts. Very few of the submitter accounts are active at this time. Only 13 have logged in since 1/1/2024. Before implementation of the new system, all inactive accounts will be deleted.

Work on the Graves Registration Rewrite Project continues as previously reported. A copy of the current database and server code (PHP) and web pages have been copied to Digital Ocean and testing is ongoing. The license for Server207 has been renewed for another year to assure that we can back out of Digital Ocean if needed.

Testing has uncovered a few problems due to the new level of PHP not being as forgiving as the old version. That code has been rewritten. Ken Rahn is in the process of incorporating the new fields into the DB and preparing prototypes of the new input form. Concurrently, the committee is working on building the many new dropdown menus needed for the add and search functions.

State of Service and State of Burial are complete, and Branch is nearing completion. Cemetery County is now ready for review. Minor adjustments have been made to the record prototype and have been turned over to Ken. This process has exposed many errors in the current DB that will need to be cleaned up.

Next up is the task of building Cemetery City and Cemetery Name. Ken is working on a script which will be used to clean up and populate both the Cemetery and Service fields from existing records. I am in communication with Brother Dean Enderlin about using his GAR Post spreadsheets to build dropdown lists.

The Committee is starting to compile policies and procedures for the new fields to be incorporated into the new Guidebook and Instructions, and has started a task list for remaining work. Overall, the project is slightly behind schedule, but we hope to be able to make up the time during the coming months.

Recommendations:

1. The Committee strongly suggests that we develop and publish the attached Website Policy Statements on the Graves Registration web pages: Terms and Conditions of Service and Privacy Policy. The attached draft proposal has been built from best practices used throughout the on-line world and has been built from examples found in use by major Internet entities. In addition, we advise looking into the purchase of Cyber Insurance.
2. The Committee has rewritten the attached Headstone Policy and recommends that it be implemented.

Respectfully Submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Henry Duquette, PDC

National Graves Registration Officer



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIAN

GARY L. GIBSON, PDC
2339 HARMON AVE. KALAMAZOO, MI 49004
269-345-3827 GLGSIUVCW@AOL.COM

Report of the National Historian
National Encampment, 2024

July 9, 2024

Commander-in-Chief Hritsko, Officers, Delegates & Brothers;

I wish to thank the Commander-in-Chief for appointing me to this office. It has been a very rewarding year. Four articles pertaining to our heritage were submitted to The Banner this term:

1. Flags of Our (Founding) Fathers
2. The Grand Army Badge: Protect it at All Costs
3. The Origin of Memorial Day - On the Local Level
4. The National Association of Naval Veterans

Several requests for information pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic were answered in a timely manner. I particularly enjoyed working with Brother Stephen Law of the Department of Pennsylvania, pertaining to the several different designs of GAR grave flag holders. Whenever I receive an inquiry from someone not a member of one of the Allied Orders, I always make it a point to encourage them to consider applying for membership.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Gary L. Gibson, PDC
National Historian

National Patriotic Instructor Report

August 2-3, 2024 - Lexington, Kentucky

The Commander-in-Chief appointed me National Patriotic Instructor mid-term (February 2024) to fill a vacancy. Since I am the fourth person to hold the office during this term, I have endeavored to improve organization and consistency over the past few months.

Memorial University - Much of my time since taking this office has been involved with Memorial University. I had to quickly become familiar with ClassMarker, the online portal through which classes are presented and participants graded.

I received an ample supply of Memorial University recognition pins, but the blank Memorial University graduation certificates that I received were, in my opinion, of inferior quality (low resolution, fuzzy in appearance, and difficult to read), and not something that a Brother would be proud to hang on his wall.

In addition, I was not provided with any sort of template to facilitate printing upon these blank certificates. Therefore I redesigned the Memorial University certificate, using the existing certificate as a model. These are now printed one at a time as needed from a template, with the graduate's name and date customized for each printing. The Commander-in-Chief graciously supplied me with a digital copy of his signature for use on the certificates. The certificates are printed using a color laser printer, which uses toner, rather than ink, and therefore will neither run nor smear.

Finally, I secured a supply of premium parchment paper certificates on which to print. These activities have resulted in higher quality certificates worthy of the effort expended by the graduate, as well as representing Memorial University and the SUVCW.

In addition, I secured a supply of mailing tubes for sending Memorial University certificates and pins to the graduates. This greatly reduces the chances that the certificate will become damaged during shipping.

A database was needed to track graduates, along with the date(s) they were contacted, and when their certificates and pins were mailed. I established such a database using Microsoft Excel, which can now be passed along to my successor for consistency. Because of the frequent turnover in the office during the first half of the term, I contacted prior graduates to ensure they had received their certificates and pins. Several had not, and were sent the missing items. Since taking the office I have sent out twelve certificates and pins to graduates.

Reporting - I received Patriotic Instructor reports on Form 41 from the following Departments: California and Pacific, Chesapeake, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska (with the Dakotas), Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas (with Louisiana), and Wisconsin (with Minnesota).

Only 17 of the 31 Departments submitted a Form 41, which is just 55% of the Departments. There is certainly room for improvement.

As for the reports that were received, there were clearly significant issues with completing the form correctly. Particularly obvious examples include the following:

Question 1: *How many Civil War history education events conducted to included Patriotism, Americanism, and Civic Responsibility?* One Department reported that 48 Brothers participated with a combined time of .5 hour (30 minutes). If correct, then each participating Brother spent just 37.5 seconds at the event!

Question 5: *Memorial Day participation?* One Department reported that only one (1) Brother participated, but then he put in a total of 432 hours! If correct, that equates to 18 straight days and nights, or 54 full 8-hour work days!

The instructions on the reporting forms for all levels of Patriotic Instructor need to be improved and clarified. Providing examples of how to complete the form properly might go a long way toward increasing accuracy as well.

It has been claimed that the Patriotic Instructor's reporting forms are needed in order to document charitable activities and contributions for IRS purposes. Last year, during the 141st National Encampment at Nashua, New Hampshire, National Treasurer D. Michael Beard asserted that the IRS neither asks for, nor requires the information reported on these forms. This assertion was echoed by Brother Theodore "Ted" Phillips, a CPA in the Department of New York, who works with a number of non-profit organizations and currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer for the American Kennel Club, a national non-profit that is nearly as old as the SUVCW.

If the data recorded on these forms is not needed, and no one does anything with the information, then why are we creating "busy work" for the Patriotic Instructors? The Form 42 that I submitted for this office took several hours to complete, was for a reporting period (January-December 2023), during which I did not even hold the office, and was based on inaccurate statistics from only half of the Departments in the Order. How is this valuable? A recommendation regarding this situation appears at the end of this report.

Patriotic Instruction - I composed the following patriotic writings for the national organization:

- "Voices of Patriotism" articles for *The Banner*.
 - Spring 2024 (Fill the Need)
 - Summer 2024 (The American Flag)
- Monthly Patriotic Instructions:
 - March 2024 (Patriotic Instructor Duties)
 - April 2024 (Patriots' Day)
 - May 2024 (Memorial Day)
 - June 2024 (Flag Day)
 - July 2024 (Preservation)
 - August 2024 (National Encampment)

The monthly patriotic instructions were sent to all Departments and posted to the National Patriotic Instructor's page of the national website.

Other Activities - SUVCW activities in which I have personally participated include the following:

- Council of Administration Meeting, Virtual - March 10.
- Regular Camp Meeting, Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Virtual - March 23.
- 138th Annual Encampment, Dept. of California and Pacific, Laughlin, Nevada - April 6.
- Council of Administration Meeting, Virtual - May 22.
- Memorial Day Ceremonies (2), Los Gatos Memorial Park, San Jose, California - May 27.
- Special Camp Meeting, Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Virtual - June 21.
- Independence Day Parade, Monterey, California - July 4.

Recommendation - That the Patriotic Instructors' annual forms, namely Form 40 for Camps, Form 41 for Departments, and Form 42 for National, be reviewed by the National Standing Committee on Program and Policy with the following objects:

- a. Abolishment of the forms, should it be determined that they are no longer needed, or,
- b. If it is determined that the forms are still needed, that significant revision of the forms take place, to simplify them and add clearer language and instructions.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Tad D. Campbell, PCinC

National Patriotic Instructor

National Membership-at-Large Coordinator Report

June 25, 2024

I filed the NMAL 990-N report with the IRS on January 23, 2024 and sent Form 11 to the National Treasurer as well. I completed and sent Form 35 for the NMAL before the due date.

I have also received correspondence and have provided help for brothers of the NMAL as they have requested it, usually on general questions of the Order and searching for ancestral information.

I attended my camp's Memorial Day observance on May 25 at Topeka Cemetery in Topeka, Kansas, and I do plan to attend the National Encampment in Lexington in August.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC

National Membership-at-Large Coordinator

National Legislation Officer Annual Report

Report as of 9 July 2024

The duties of the National Legislation Officer are to keep Brothers apprised of legislation affecting the welfare of the Order, or the Constitution, or welfare of the United States. To that extent, this report is an *overview* of relevant federal legislation.

Below is a summary list of federal legislation that has been introduced during both the first and second sessions of the 118th Congress (**from 9 January 2023 through 8 July 2024**), relevant to the purpose and objects of the Order. During this period, I have reviewed over 16,100 federal bills and resolutions. Unless otherwise noted below, each measure is awaiting action in a House or Senate Committee.

Due to the vast quantity of continuously changing legislation, a *limited amount* of State legislation is researched and reported on by Assistant National Legislative Officer Steve Hammond (PDC). His report follows this federal legislation summary, below.

Departments are encouraged to monitor legislation in their respective states and local government jurisdictions (G.O. #6 Series 2016-2017) and contact the National Legislation Officer or Assistant National Legislation Officer about issues of interest and to assist with further review and/or advice.

*Brothers may be particularly interested in legislation below that is denoted with an **asterisk (*)** and in **bold print**.*

BATTLEFIELDS, MONUMENTS/MEMORIALS, AND HISTORIC AREAS

- ***H.R.1248/S.573** - The "Confederate Monument Removal Act" is a bill that would require the removal of all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol. [Related bills.]
- ***S.1100** - This bill provides statutory authority for the inclusion of certain emblems on headstones or markers furnished for veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such headstones or markers may include an emblem from a list established by the VA (e.g., skill or combat badges), an emblem of belief, or no emblem.
- H.J.Res.76/S.J.Res.35 - This would redesignate the Robert E. Lee Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery as the "Arlington House National Historic Site." [Related bills.]
- ***S.3251** - The "Lincoln Home National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act." This bill would expand the boundary of the historic site, while providing greater accessibility.

MISCELLANEOUS PATRIOTIC AND RELATED LEGISLATION

- *H.R.51/S.51* - The "Washington, D.C., Admission Act," providing for the admission of the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth. [Identical bills.]

- *H.R.865* - To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service.
- *S.273*- The "United States Colored Troops Congressional Gold Medal Act" to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service.
- *S.568*- This bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury to redesign \$20 Federal reserve notes to include a likeness of Harriet Tubman.
- *H.Res.444* - Calling on all Americans on this Memorial Day, 2023, to honor the men and women of the Armed Forces who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.
- *H.Res.455* - Expressing support for Black service members this Memorial Day who gave their lives to protect and defend the United States at home and abroad despite facing racism in the Armed Forces and systemic inequities on United States soil.
- *S.Res. 236* - A resolution honoring the 125th anniversary of the Rough Riders in the *Spanish American War* and designating June 2, 2023, as "National Rough Rider Day."
- *H.R.4003* - The "Let Freedom Sign Act." This bill would prohibit any regulations on the singing of the National Anthem on any federal property as long as it doesn't interfere with the flow of official business.
- *H.R.4010* - This bill is known as the "Woman on the Twenty Act of 2023" and would require \$20 notes to include a portrait of Harriet Tubman.
- *H.Res.505* - Recognizing 19 June 2023 as this year's observance of the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.
- *H.R.4124* - This bill would limit the flags that may be displayed on Federal buildings or grounds.
- *H.R.4137/S.2001* - "Make American Flags in America Act of 2023" would require certain flags of the United States to be made in the United States. [Identical bills.]
- *S.1973* - The "All-American Flag Act." This bill would require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States for use by the Federal Government with certain exceptions.
- *S.1985/H.R.4196* - A bill to prohibit the flying, draping, or other display of any flag other than a flag of the United States at public buildings. [Identical bills.]
- *S.2001/H.R.4137* - A bill to require certain flags of the United States to be made in the United States. [Identical bills.]

- *S.Res.252* - This resolution celebrates the 246th anniversary of the creation of the flag of the United States and expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance. It was agreed to by unanimous consent in the Senate on 14 June 2023.
- *S.Res.263* - A resolution commemorating 19 June 2023 as "Juneteenth National Independence Day" in recognition of 19 June 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States. This was agreed to by unanimous consent on 21 Jun 2023.
- ***H.Res.656** - A resolution Honoring John Brown's relentless endeavors in his pursuit of liberty for all human beings, his unyielding opposition to the institution of slavery, and his significant role in the abolition of this monstrous crime against humanity.
- *S.Res.365* - A resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- ***H.Res.855** - Recognizing the service of all District of Columbia veterans, condemning the denial of voting representation in Congress and full local self-government for veterans and their families who are District of Columbia residents, and calling for statehood for the District of Columbia through the enactment of the Washington, D.C. Admission Act (H.R. 51 and S. 51), particularly in light of the service of District of Columbia veterans in every American war.
- *H.Res.859* - Honoring the service and sacrifice of America's veterans on Veterans Day, 2023.
- ***H.R.7378** -The "Frederick Douglass Congressional Gold Medal Act." This bill would award, posthumously, a Congressional Gold Medal to Frederick Douglass in recognition of his contributions to the cause of freedom, human rights, and the abolition of slavery in the United States.
- *H.Res.1146* - Recognizing the enduring cultural and historical significance of emancipation in the Nation's capital on the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's *signing* of the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act, which established the "first freed" on 16 April 1862 and celebrating passage of the District of Columbia statehood bill in the House of Representatives.
- *H.Res.446/H.Res. 1249* - Recognizing on Memorial Day, 27 May 2024 the denial of full participation in their Government through statehood by active duty servicemembers, National Guard members, reservists, veterans, and their families who are residents of the District of Columbia. [Identical bills.]
- *S.Res. 732* - A resolution celebrating the 247th anniversary of the creation of the flag of the United States and expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance. [Passed in the Senate by unanimous consent on 13 Jun 2024.]
- *H.R. 8766* - To allow for cemetery flags to be displayed in an upright position directly adjacent to the grave sites of deceased members of the Armed Forces or veterans. [Bill text not available at the time of this report preparation.]

- *H.Res.1312* - Expressing support for the designation of July 2024 as Veterans Appreciation Month.
- *S.4610/H.R.8800* - A bill to designate the bald eagle as the national bird. [Bill text not available at the time of this report preparation.]

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- *H.J.Res.40* - Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit voting in Federal, State, or local elections by individuals who are not citizens of the United States.
- *H.J.Res.73/S.J.Res.34* - Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving Congress power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. [Identical bills.]
- *S.Res.49* - This is a resolution designating 16 Dec 2023 as "National Wreaths Across America Day." [Passed in the Senate by unanimous consent on 6 Dec 2023.]

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Daniel R. Earl, PCC

National Legislation Officer

9 July 2024

Webmaster Report

August 2023 -August 2024

Brothers,

It has been a pleasure being the National Webmaster this past year. The National Site has provided a good platform for information about our order.

1. Updated the operating system from Drupal 9 to Drupal 10. This has caused some issues which we are currently working on. They include:
 - a. Some display issues in the Monuments and Memorials area. This is still being addressed.
 - b. Some Display issues when utilizing a small platform laptop, tablet, or phone, in Landscape mode, which causes a menu display which is hard to read. It is being addressed by our programmers.
 - c. I discovered an inability to post a file link as the only item on a page. I addressed this issue by just using a normal Link.
2. Continued to post all General Orders as they are sent out.
3. In April, I was given 250 digital editions of The Banner, dating back to 1916, These have all been posted and are available on the Banner Editions page of the website.
4. Updated and maintained the National Encampment, The Remembrance Day, and The Lincoln Tomb Ceremony pages as information has become available.
5. Corrected issues which have been pointed out by Brothers, when it is in my capabilities.
6. Forwarding email communications received through the National Website to the appropriate Officers.
7. Worked to maintain an updated National Officers list.
8. Continue to post updates to National Policies.
9. Continue to Post Minutes for the CofA meetings.
10. Continued to monitor and update email re-directs for the National Officers.
11. Posted updated Forms, Policies, National Patriotic Instructions, and Banners as they have been provided.

Robert R. Payne, PDC
National Webmaster

Assistant National Secretary For Proceedings

2024 National Encampment, Lexington, Kentucky

I used the new recording/public address system to make audio recordings of the 2023 National Encampment in Nashua, NH. Video recordings were also made of the Encampment. The audio recordings were sent to the Transcriptionist. She indicated the quality of the audio files were much better than those of the previous year. She produced a professionally written transcription of the business proceedings.

Brother Sumner Hunnewell served as an Aide in the process of reviewing the transcript and preparing the final Proceedings report. In some places where spelling and punctuation needed attention, the *Constitution and Regulations, Rituals and Ceremonies*, and *National Encampment Reports Packet* were consulted before corrections were recommended. Dialect and colloquialisms were maintained.

Knowing that a verbatim copy of the National Encampment deliberations must be ensured, great care was taken to safeguard the integrity of this requirement during the review process. In some places where the Transcriptionist could not determine a word or phrase, she inserted the term, "Indistinguishable."

In such cases, I went back to the audio and video recordings to see if the correct word or phrase could be identified - a process that produced the correctly spoken word or phrase approximately 25% of the time. Such corrections were noted for review and approval.

In cases where a word or phrase appeared questionable, e.g., "Quick Claim Deed" vs "Quit Claim Deed," a review of the audio/video recordings was conducted to determine which word or phrase was uttered, and where successful, a suggested correction was submitted for correction approval.

Sumner Hunnewell produced a 711-page Proceedings Report that was approved by the C-in-C and PC-in-C. This report is viewable on the National website.

Going forward, I have three recommendations:

Recommendation #1:

New task going forward - look for places where personal side-bar comments were accidentally picked up by a hot microphone and subsequently included in the transcript. Such comments should be highlighted for review by the C-in-C and PC-in-C. Options are:

- (a) removal of the comments,
- (b) leave the comments as is, or
- (c) footnote the comments as not relevant to the business proceedings.

Recommendation #2:

Consider providing the transcriptionist with copies of the *National Encampment Reports Packet* as it can be reviewed whenever she encounters an unclear word in the audio recording. This also would allow the transcription to match words, phrases, and terms found in the Packet.

Recommendation #3:

After consulting with Chief of Staff Jim Crane, it was determined that the job description for this position (Assistant National Secretary for Proceedings) no longer reflects the scope of work processes currently being performed. Therefore, it is recommended that this position be split into two positions, i.e., (a) Assistant National Secretary for Recordings and (b) Assistant National Secretary for Transcriptions. New job descriptions for these two positions have been submitted for approval.

Respectfully submitted In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

John C. Vander Meulen, PCC

Assistant National Secretary for Proceedings

Assistant Quartermaster / ROTC Coordinator Report

August 1 - August 4, 2024, Lexington, KY

I am caught up on requests for ROTC award packages as of June 21, 2024. I have been communicating with National Quartermaster Bobby Welch regarding lessons learned from this year, so that the next assistant quartermaster can hit the ground running. Following the National Encampment in Lexington, Kentucky, I will transfer the remaining inventory and return the quartermaster debit card.

I want to thank the Commander-in-Chief for the appointment to this position for the 2023-2024 term, the National Chief of Staff for his counsel and help during the supply chain issues this past year, and especially the National Quartermaster for his guidance and support. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the Order and to get a "glance behind the curtain" at how the national organization functions. My thanks to everyone who takes the extra steps to make the magic happen at camp, department and national levels.

My suggestion for the ROTC program is two-fold: first, at least charge for the cost of the medal and mailing expense; second, restrict ordering of award packages to SUVCW camps and/or departments. I believe this is how MOLLUS conducts their ROTC awards program. This would make the orders more manageable and would also tie the program more closely with the brothers of the Order (rather than just a source of a free award for a school with no apparent attachment to the local SUVCW).

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Brian Mexin

Assistant National Quartermaster / ROTC Coordinator

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS REPORTS

Executive Director Report

It is my honor to continue to operate national headquarters along with Assistant Executive Director, Susan Mitchell.

The 2024 annual reports season had some hiccups, but we worked out any missing records with the Department Secretaries. One Department did not submit their annual report Form 35 in a timely fashion and the Commander in Chief was requested to suspend that department.

Many queries to <https://suvchw.org/contact/feedback> are forwarded to headquarters by our national webmaster. Since the Council of Administration April meeting in Springfield, Illinois, I have answered over 50 such queries ranging from missing banners, notices of address changes, where can I find a SUVCW form, how many grandchildren are there of Civil War veterans, and what time will the Remembrance Day parade begin?

Of note, recently the 27,000th individual named brother was added to our nearly 40-year-old national database. As of the end of fiscal year 2023/2024, our active personnel strength is:

• Associate	423
• Combat Zone Service	6
• Jr. Associate	1
• Junior	66
• Life Member	610
• Member	4,762
• Real Son	1
Total:	5,869

One recommendation:

Brothers who desire to report additional ancestral information to National must complete a new Form 3 with a \$5.00 fee for each supplemental report of a Civil War ancestor. Due to increased costs of postage, photocopying, and handling, it is recommended that the fee be increased to \$15.00 for each submission of a supplemental ancestor application Form 3. And that the camp may keep \$5.00 and the department keep \$5.00 fee for their handling. And subsequently, all supplemental ancestor applications must be reported from camp to department to headquarters.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

David W. Demmy, Sr.

Executive Director

Assistant Executive Director Report

August 4, 2024, Lexington, KY

The following is a summary of how I spend my time at headquarters in Harrisburg, PA.

Scanning projects: The last few months I have been able to scan and develop a database for the storage of Banners and Charters stored at headquarters. I scanned over 250 copies of the Banner newsletter, which are now available on the SUVCW website for research purposes. Banner hardcopies are stored in binders on David Demmy's office bookshelf. I also completed scanning all department and camp charters that have been sent to headquarters (approx. two hundred). After digitizing and being added into the database, the paper charters are stored and labeled using lignin and acid-free museum quality materials, and deposited in our storage space. I repurposed or discarded old, decaying framing and storage materials.

2024 Seasonal work: I am responsible for the scanning, naming, and database storage of Form 35 departmental packets, Form 27 camp reports, and Form 49s. Even with missing 11 days due to an unexpected medical event, I worked with David Demmy to enter and process part of the above-listed yearly paperwork. I maintain the membership files, mail out all international Banners, and complete research on various requests from members or David Demmy.

Daily Ongoing work: 15 trips to the post office, 2 trips to Staples for supplies. I have personally processed 103 Form 3s, 455 Form 30s, 5 deaths, 16 new Lifetime memberships, prepared 11 deposits for the National Treasurer, as well as prepared 5 monthly credit card expense reports. I located, identified, and secured extra copies of all membership filing cabinet locks; we have duplicate keys to all membership filing cabinets.

In my spare time: I have been experimenting with scanning old, damaged, and faded local charters, enhancing their image quality, and making reprints for display purposes. By storing the originals in acid and lignin free museum quality storage boxes, they will not be exposed to further environmental damage from sunlight, temperature, and humidity fluctuations; while a vivid, colorful copy can be displayed.

Future Projects: I need to continue the ongoing thinning and splitting of membership files for ease of use. I am making permanent professional labels for the boxes in our storage area. David Demmy and I need to enter all Form 22s submitted with 2024 seasonal paperwork.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Susan W. Mitchell

Assistant Executive Director, Headquarters in Harrisburg, PA

NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Committee on Program and Policy (P&P)

Kevin L. Martin, PDC

The P&P Committee met multiple times throughout our 2023-2024 term. The committee addressed several Form corrections and revisions, all of which were approved by the Council of Administration. These revised Forms were:

- Form 27 - Camp Annual Report
- Form 30 - Camp Status Report
- Form 35 - Department Annual Report

Form 12 - Scholarship Application has been approved by the P&P Committee and is in the process of being sent to the Council of Administration.

The Schedule of Reviewing SUVCW Forms and Publications was also brought up-to-date.

In addition, we created two new policies: 1) the National Encampment Vendor/Display Policy, and 2) the Deposit Agreement and Loan and Deposit Policy which were approved by the Council of Administration. A special thank you to PCinC Jim Pahl for his advice in the construct of the Loan Agreement Policy.

The committee is currently addressing how bullying will be incorporated in our National Policy on Harassment.

It was a pleasure to work with P&P Committee members PDC Faron Taylor, PCinC Leo Kennedy, PDC Ben Frail, and special thanks to PDC Robert Payne for his abilities to make the actual Form changes.

At this time, I have no recommendations.

National Civil War Memorials Officer And The National Committee on Civil War Memorials (Combined Report)

Committee Members

Walter Busch, PDC (Chair)

Mike Flynn

Dean Enderlin, PDC

Kevin Tucker, PDC

Jay Rarick, PDC.

Aides

Tom Gaard

Dale Crandell, PDC

On July 5, 2024, I added the last of the files that I currently have to the national monuments database. This consisted of approximately 2,200 files. I am still processing about 42 monuments from my own travels. This next year, I will be developing a data input manual for the Monuments database so that the training of select state and camp monuments officers can do data entry themselves.

Besides my committee, I would like to thank the National Committee on Civil War Grant Funds (Shane Milburn, PDC; Joseph Hall, Jr, PDC; and Brian Pierson, PCinC) for all their work this past year. A Quick Run Down By State for Monument Files Currently in The Database:

Outside the US	6	Indiana	30	New Jersey	9	Tennessee	21
Alabama	2	Iowa	457	New Mexico	1	Texas	6
Arizona	8	Kansas	18	Nevada	6	Utah	4
Arkansas	43	Kentucky	17	New York	50	Vermont	1
California	65	Maine	10	North Carolina	12	Virginia	28
Colorado	7	Maryland	6	North Dakota	2	Washington	16
Connecticut	6	Massachusetts	56	Ohio	72	Washington DC	6
Delaware	1	Michigan	230	Oklahoma	5	West Virginia	1
Florida	5	Minnesota	3	Oregon	10	Wisconsin	38
Georgia	23	Mississippi	8	Pennsylvania	44	Wyoming	3
Hawaii	1	Missouri	556	Rhode Island	39		
Idaho	10	Nebraska	7	South Carolina	2		
Illinois	155	New Hampshire	30	South Dakota	1		

In addition to these files there are various monument catalogs online and links to monuments on websites in many states.

RECOMMENDATION: Currently, about 25GB of monument files exist on my google drive. These consist of redacted files that go online, and the original unredacted files. We need the original files still in case the National Committee on Civil War Grant Funds or other members doing research on various monuments need phone numbers and e-mails to contact persons concerning FORM 62 submissions.

These need to be moved to a cloud or FTP service that can serve as a backup to what we currently have online. The chairmen of the National Civil War Memorials Committee and the National Committee on Civil War Grant Funds should be the access points for these files.

Therefore, I recommend the national webmaster create such a cloud/FTP system for the use of this Committee and the Grants committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Busch, PDC

National Civil War Memorials Officer

Proposed changes to the National Regulations.

Proposed by National Treasurer

1. Rename Chapter III National Organization, Article IX Finances Section 8 from Memorial/Monument Grant Fund to "Operating Funds" with the following language:

~~Section 8. Memorial/Monument Grant Fund~~

~~(a) The purpose of the Memorial/Monument Grant Fund is to assist Camps and Departments in their efforts to refurbish and restore Civil War related memorials and monuments. The following procedure provides some general guidelines as to how to apply for a grant and establishes standards on how grant submittals will be evaluated. Last Veteran Grave Markers are not eligible for grants from the Monuments Grant Committee. DIR 137th, 38. © 1881, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, A Congressionally Chartered Corporation. As amended through the 141st National Encampment August 2022, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Annotations amended through the 138th National Encampment, August, 2019, Independence, Ohio.~~

~~(b) Procedure~~

~~(1) Any SUVCW Camp or Department may request money from this fund.~~

~~(2) All requests will be handled individually on its own merit.~~

~~(3) Only one request from one entity (Camp) or Department) can be accepted per monument or memorial. The request must include pictures, documentation as to appraisals and written estimates for the necessary work.~~

~~(4) Assessment form (CMW #61) must be submitted with the application.~~

~~(5) The maximum grant for any one project shall be \$2,000.00 (Two Thousand Dollars). If principle and interest remain in the fund after all grant applications are considered after April 30, the Council of Administration may grant additional funds to one or more grant recipients of up to 75% of the fund or to make grants of up to 75% of the fund to the one or more civil war sites under the auspices of the National Park Service, Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense for preservation of civil war monuments.~~

~~(6) A Memorials Grants Committee consisting of three elected Council of Administration members excluding the Commander in Chief, Senior Vice Commander in Chief, Junior Vice Commander in Chief, National Secretary, National Treasurer and National Quartermaster shall review the grant applications, determine which are worthy of support, which meet the criteria established for the grants, and approve the grants within the limits specified in Chapter III, Article X, Section 16.~~

Section 8 Operating Funds

- a. **General Fund.** This fund is used to account for revenues and expenditures related to the normal day-to-day operations of SUVCW; excluding expenditures to operate the National Headquarters, pay grants, and those revenues and expenses of running the annual ceremony held at Lincoln's Tomb. The fund also accounts for monies given or bequeathed for a specific purpose, most notably for the operation of the SUVCW Scholarship Program and the Annual Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

b. Permanent Fund.

- i. This is the SUVCW's endowment fund established for perpetual support of the Order and is described in Article VIII of the Constitution.
- ii. The fund accounts for monies that have been given or bequeathed to the National Organization that have not been designated for a specific purpose by the donor, and such other monies as may be added thereto by vote of the National Encampment or the Council of Administration.
- iii. This fund also accounts for Life Membership fees received prior to August 15, 1996 (member numbers 001-599). The Permanent Fund may (at the discretion of the National Treasurer) annually distribute, for each aforementioned Life Member, interest and principal equal to the National Per Capita assessment then in effect for brothers of the Order to the National General Fund. The fund pays the annual reimbursement to each aforementioned Life Member's camp upon the camp's application in an amount set by the Council of Administration.
- iv. The fund's monies shall be kept on deposit in one or more bank institutions whose deposits are fully insured to the amount of the deposit, or invested in obligations of the United States, or in the securities or mutual funds of corporations or trusts located in the United States, which securities are listed or admitted to trading privileges on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange, or NASDAQ.

c. Headquarters Fund. This fund is used to record all transactions to operate the SUVCW headquarters. The General Fund annually transfers a per capita amount determined by the Council of Administration to operate the fund. Monies remaining in the fund after each year are left in the fund to establish a permanent headquarters.

d. Monuments/Memorial Grant Fund (aka Preservation Fund). The Council of Administration created this fund in 1999 to assist Departments and Camps of the Order in the preservation, maintenance, and defense of Civil War monuments and memorials. The General Fund annually transfers a per capita amount determined by the Council of Administration to operate the fund. Camps and Departments will follow these procedures to apply for a grant. These procedures also establish standards on how grant submittals will be evaluated. (Footnote: Last Veteran Grave Markers are not eligible for grants from the Monuments Grant Committee. DIR 137th, 38. © 1881-2022, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, A Congressionally-Chartered Corporation. As amended through the 141st National Encampment August 2022, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

- i. Any SUVCW Camp or Department may request money from this fund.
- ii. All requests will be handled individually on its own merit.
- iii. Only one request from one entity (Camp or Department) can be accepted per monument or memorial. The request must include pictures, documentation as to appraisals and written estimates for the necessary work.
- iv. Assessment form (CMW #61) must be submitted with the application.

- v. The maximum grant for any one project shall be \$2,000 (Two Thousand Dollars). If principal and interest remain in the fund after all grant applications are considered after April 30, the Council of Administration may grant additional funds to one or more grant recipients of up to 75% of the fund or to make grants of up to 75% of the fund to the one or more civil war sites under the auspices of the National Park Service, Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense for preservation of civil war monuments.
 - vi. A Memorials Grants Committee consisting of three elected Council of Administration members excluding the Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and National Quartermaster shall review the grant applications, determine which are worthy of support, which meet the criteria established for the grants and approve the grants within the limits specified in Chapter III, Article X, Section 16.
 - vii. The Memorials Grants Committee will submit the approved grant to the National Treasurer for payment.
- e. **Life Member Fund.** The 2012 National Encampment established this fund to account for Life Members with numbers 600 and higher.
- i. The fund's monies shall be kept on deposit in one or more bank institutions whose deposits are fully insured to the amount of the deposit, or invested in obligations of the United States, or in the securities or mutual funds of corporations or trusts located in the United States, which securities are listed or admitted to trading privileges on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange or NASDAQ.
 - ii. Annually, for each Life Member with a number 600 or higher, the National Treasurer shall transfer from the fund to the General Fund, interest and principal equal to the National Per Capita assessment then in effect for brothers of the Order.

2. Add 1881 Club Polo shirt to approved dress at Encampments:

Chapter III, Article III, Section 1 footnote 72

While attending any business session of the National Encampment, all brothers in attendance shall be in appropriate male business attire. This attire shall be as stipulated by General Order #3, Series 2016-2017 to include jacket, tie, long pants and membership badge. Jackets may be removed to prevent overheating but should be present. Brothers may optionally wear uniforms patterned after United States Armed Forces uniforms 1861-1865 or the current National Encampment polo shirt **or 1881 Club polo shirt** and long pants if a polo shirt is made available by the National Encampment Host Committee. Membership badges shall also be worn on uniforms and the National Encampment polo shirt regardless of what may be embroidered on the polo shirt.

NOTE: the actual footnote is truncated in the adobe file on the website and most of this is not there - I took it from CinC Paquette's General Order # 19.

C&R Committee concurs with this change.

Department of Massachusetts resolution to Amend National Policy concerning Monuments and Memorial Fund

This would amend Section 8 of Finances Page 107 of the C&R

WHEREAS United States Code title 36. Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies and Organization, Part B, Organizations Chapter 2003, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 36 USC 200301 (202), 200302. Purposes states, "To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865; to assist in every practical way in the preservation and making available for research of documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members ... " and

WHEREAS The Constitution of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Article II. Purpose and Objects: states "To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union 1861-1865; to assist in every practicable way in the preservation and making available for research of documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the republic and its members ... " and

WHEREAS The SUVCW National website states "The purpose of the Monuments and Memorial Grant Fund is to assist Camps and Departments in their efforts to refurbish and restore Civil War related monuments and memorials." And

WHEREAS the National Committee on Civil War Memorials has ruled that the current policy of the SUVCW does not allow for the use of Monument & Memorial Grant Fund grants for the preservation of Grand Army of the Republic halls, Grand Army of the Republic and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War historical furniture, decorations, charters and other important documents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the policy of the SUVCW concerning the Monuments and Memorial Grant Fund be amended to include that grants may also be used for the preservation of the Grand Army of the Republic and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War historical furniture, decorations, charters and other important documents.

****C&R Committee concurs with this change.**

Department of Pennsylvania Recommendations

Recommendation 1.

Recommend that the National Organization know that Form 22 and Form 49 need be updated to be in line with the officers listed in the Regulations Chapter I, Article V, Article VIII and Article IX and Chapter II, Article IV, Article VIII and Article IX.

****Refer to Programs and Policy Committee.**

Recommendation 2.

Recommend notifying the National Organization know about the officers from the C&R that are not included in the Installation of Camp Officers ritual in the blue book and to make sure that the officers are in rank order according to the Regulations, Chapter I, Article V, Section 4.

****Refer to Programs and Policy**

Recommendation 3.

Background: A couple of National Encampments ago it was decided to not allow PCCs and PDC who earn their rank through 10 years of service as a Camp/Department Secretary Treasurer, to wear the PCC/PDC badge but they could still use the post-nominal letters.

Recommend that there be a special badge or device for the membership badge in recognition of 10 years as secretary or treasurer.

****C&R Committee did not concur.**

Department of Pennsylvania asked for the SUVCW Cadet Award eligibility addition. This matter was voted on by the 2023 Encampment, so the C&R Committee did not take action.

Department of New York

Background: With instructions, Form 3 is now 6 pages. Since the oath page (page 4) was added, the instructions for Associates and Jr. Associates have been incorrect in that they omit the necessity to complete page 4 {Oath}.

Resolution: 1. Paginate Form 3 at the bottom and change the instructions of the application in the Membership Type Section for Associates and Jr. Associates to say, "Complete pages 1 & 4 only."

****Refer to Programs and Policy**

Background: Everything on Form 30 is copied from membership Application, Form 3, so the Form 30 is a total duplication. It is unnecessary. If anyone needs or wants another copy of the applicants' information, they can make another copy of Form 3.

Resolution: That the Department of New ask National to eliminate the requirement that a Form 30 be used when processing the applications of new brothers.

**** Refer to Programs and Policy.**

The Department of New York had three other Resolutions but the wording was such that it asked the Department Commander to notify the CinC to take action. The C&R Committee did not rule on those requests.

Department of Michigan

The Department of Michigan, in Encampment assembled, proposes the following amendment to National Regulations, Chapter III, Article VI, Section 4c. Proposed additional language in **Red**. Eliminate language in 4c that is ~~crossed out~~.

Recommendation:

Chapter III, Article VI, Section 4

{b) Whenever an elected officer of the National Organization declares to the Commander-in-Chief

and the Council of Administration that he is unable to discharge the duties of his office, and until he declares to them the contrary, such duties shall be discharged by the appointment of a temporary officer serving in an Acting capacity, appointed by the Council of Administration. **If the elected officer is unable to declare he is now ready to resume office within six (6) months or the next National Encampment, which ever occurs first, in that event, he shall be deemed to have resigned from office. If the elected National Officer requests an extension beyond six (6) months or the next National Encampment, the Council of Administration may grant such a request, the extension not to exceed six (6) months.**

c) If the Commander-in-Chief determines that an elected national officer is unable to discharge the duties of his office or that a national officer is failing to discharge the duties of his office he shall notify the Council of Administration. Upon receiving such notification, the Council of Administration may ~~by three fourths (3/4) vote of its elected members~~ appoint a temporary acting officer to discharge the duties of that office. The temporary acting officer shall hold his appointment until such time as the Council of Administration ~~by three fourths (3/4) vote of its elected members~~ restores the effect officer to his duties. If the elected national Officer is unable to resume his duties within six (6) months of the Council of Administration vote, in the judgement of the Council of Administration, in that event, the National officer shall be deemed to have resigned from office.

**** C&R Committee concurs.**

Department of Rhode Island

That Chapter III, Article VIII Section 1 of the Constitution and Regulations of the National Order SUVCW be updated from:

That Chapter III, National Organization, Article VIII Council of Administration
Section 1 (A) The Council of Administration shall consist of the Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Quartermaster, and five (5) elected members of the Council of Administration and the Immediate Past Commander-in-Chief.

To:

Chapter III, National Organization, Article VII, Council of Administration
Section 1 (A) The Council of Administration shall consist of the Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Quartermaster, and five (5) elected members of the council of Administration and the Immediate Past Commander-in-Chief. **(No more than 3 Brothers from the same Primary Department can serve as voting members of the Council of Administration).**

Changes represented in BOLD. This update to the Constitution and Regulations of the National Order SUVCW would not affect sitting members at the time of its passing.

****4 Members of the C&R did NOT concur. One member concurred.**

Council of Administration

Based on minutes of a CofA meeting 14 August 2022 a motion was made that all elected National Officers be graduates of the Memorial University. This was to be referred to the C&R committee but was not completed.

****4 Members of the C&R committee did NOT concur. One member concurred.**

Department of Missouri

Whereas the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a federally chartered corporation; and

Whereas in addition to the federal charter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have a constitution and regulations for the government of the organization; and

Whereas the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War from time to time may require the services of an attorney and counselor when actions, issues, or proposals involve the provisions in the Order's governing documents and the proper interpretation of the provisions or other issues touching on the organization itself; and

Whereas the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War must keep abreast with policies and best practices for charitable organizations in practice good government; and

Whereas the Officers, elected and appointed and the Council of Administration would benefit from the advice of an attorney and counselor; and

Whereas an attorney trained in the interpretation of laws, charters, constitutions, and regulations and educated in legal matters including *stare decisis*; and

Whereas the position of national counselor is the equivalent of the position of a general consul or vice-president of legal affairs, a position held by an attorney in a corporation

Resolve that Chapter III, Article VII, Section 9 of the national regulations be amended to add after the first sentence: The National counselor shall be an actively practicing attorney licensed in at least one state of the United States and at least one United States District Court.

Section 9. The National Counselor shall act as the legal advisor of the Commander-in-Chief and the National Organization. **The National Counselor shall be an actively practicing attorney in at least one state of the United States and at least one United States District Court.** He shall render advice and interpretation to the National Organization upon request on issues arising from questions concerning the Order's Constitution and Regulations and on parliamentary matters. He serves as a non-voting member of the Council of Administration. The National Counselor shall prepare and submit annually to the Editor of The BANNER (for publication in The BANNER) a listing of all opinions and interpretations regarding the Order's Constitution and Regulations rendered by the National Counselor.

Rationale: The position of national counselor requires interpretation of the United States Code, our Order's Constitution and Regulations, and the application of case law and precedent to guide the order. In addition, the position requires an understanding of the law as taught in law schools and experience by the practice of law to understand current legal issues and their implication on the Order.

**** The C&R Committee does not concur**

Department of New Jersey

Resolution to create "The BANNER YEARBOOK

Now therefore, be it resolved;

Whereas the currently quarterly publication of "THE BANNER" offers limited space for stories and activities from Camps and Departments nationwide:

Whereas many valuable stories are condensed or excluded due to space constraints.

Whereas there is a desire to create a comprehensive yearly publication in the form of a digital yearbook to capture the unpublished works of the entire Order each year;

Whereas there is a growing sentiment that the SUVCW needs to publish and archive more information about the Order and its activities for current public awareness and genealogical research for our future descendants

Resolved that the National SUVCW shall establish a wholly new or special 5th Edition of "THE BANNER" each year to be published digitally;

Further Resolved, the editor shall not bear the sole responsibility for crafting the SUVCW yearbook in its entirety. Instead, each participating section is entrusted with the task of submitting their respective content fully edited and in the proper publishing format. This resolution aims to alleviate the editor's workload and facilitate the seamless inclusion of sections in the yearbook. The editor, however, maintains responsibility for the inclusion of the material submitted to "THE BANNER" that remains wholly unused or condensed by at least 50%, the placement of new advertising, cover art selection. Overall organization, compilation, digital publication processes, and the communication of pertinent announcements regarding deadlines and editorial requirements.

Further Resolved that the Yearbook will include.

- All submissions sent to "The BANNER" that were wholly unused or condensed by at least 50%, unless rejected for reasons deemed unintelligible, inappropriate, or blatantly lacking factuality by the editor.
- A dedicated section for each Department to submit from the Department Commander, their newsletters over the past year, any special content, or National Encampment material meeting a reasonable deadline set by the editor.
- Messages from the National Officers and Committee Chairs, meeting a reasonable deadline set by the editor.
- A section for the Commander-in-Chief, meeting reasonable deadline set by the editor.
- A section on the SVR, meeting a reasonable deadline set by the editor.
- A Section for each of the Allied Order, meeting reasonable deadline set by editor.

- A section for the Council of Administration and its members meeting reasonable deadline set by editor.
- An additional Section for anything the editor deems appropriate or necessary.

Further Resolved that the editor decides the Order of the content "Spaces" within "The BANNER Yearbook.

**** The C&R Committee does not concur.**

Sons Of Union Veterans of the Civil War Calculation of Life Time Dues - Key Assumptions and Inputs 2023

Prepared by: Jeffery J. Smith, FCAS, MAAA, CPCU

2023 Annual National Costs Per Member	\$33.00	Current National Dues Level
Annual Inflation Rate (See Note 1)	3.50%	10-Year Treasury Rate (Proxy for Long Term Inflation)
Rates in force Period (Years)	3	Assumes these rates will be updated every 3 years
Annual Investment Rate From Funds	4.50%	2 Year CD Rate (Investment Policy of SUVCW)
Over-all Selected Attrition Rate	9.5%	Based on Age Group Selections
Actual Average Attrition Rate	8.0%	Based on Actual Averages

Age	Life Membership (Calculated)	Life Membership (Proposed)
20-29	\$ 1,088	\$ 1,090
30-39	\$ 990	\$ 990
40-44	\$ 905	\$ 905
45-49	\$ 826	\$ 830
50-54	\$ 740	\$ 740
55-59	\$ 652	\$ 655
60-64	\$ 563	\$ 565
65-69	\$ 476	\$ 480
70-74	\$ 386	\$ 390
75-79	\$ 298	\$ 300
80-84	\$ 221	\$ 225
85+	\$ 146	\$ 145

National Encampment Site Committee

Commander-in-Chief

The following report is submitted on behalf of the National Encampment Site Committee (NESC).

The contract with the ASUVCW for the 2025 National Encampment in Houston, TX was signed by the CinC and National President on 26 May 2024.

The host hotel for the 2024 National Encampment has recently withdrawn its contract with ITA Audio Visual Solutions. We were provided with contact information for the new A/V company, Encore, on 8 July. Brothers John Vander Meulen, Jim Crane, and I will be working diligently over the next two weeks to lock in a new contract for audio visual (A/V) support for the upcoming National Encampment in Lexington, KY.

In March, the NESC expressed concerns to the Council of Administration in March regarding the escalating costs for A/V support. We have collected the following information on A/V costs for consideration:

• Reston, VA	(2011)	\$2,220
• Milwaukee, WI	(2013)	\$830
• Richmond, VA	(2015)	\$1,350
• Grand Rapids, MI	(2022)	\$632
• Nashua, NH	(2023)	\$1,962
• Lexington, KY	(2024)	\$2,343
• Houston, TX	(2025)	\$1,172 (Using SUVCW A/V equipment supplemented with hotel equipment)
• Rochester, NY	(projected for 2026)	\$4,140
Average cost 2011- 2022:		\$1,258
Average cost 2023 - 2026 (post COVID):		\$2,404

The cost for A/V support has at least doubled since 2022. Additionally, we are being asked to pay a fee for SUVCW and ASUVCW meeting rooms. We have been able to avoid this cost up through 2025, but it is just a matter of time before it becomes unavoidable. The NESC will develop recommendations over the next 6 months and present them to the Council of Administration for consideration on how address these new costs.

The committee currently has no recommendations.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Michael Paquette, PCinC and James Crane, PDC

National GAR Records Committee

2023-2024 Report

Progress Report and Accomplishments for the 2023-2024 Administrative Year

GAR Records Blog: Since December 2019, our committee has been using an invitation-only blog on Blogger as a forum for communication outside of email. Previously, we had been using a group on Yahoo! which was discontinued as a service in 2019. The Blogger site continues to serve as our archive for reports.

Department GAR Records Officer: Since the adoption of the revised SUVCW Form 49 in March 2020, we have seen improving results in the number of Departments reporting the appointment of a GAR Records Officer. The office is now a line item on the form, even though it has been in existence since 2004. Almost all Departments are now using the updated form. Twenty-one Departments (68%) reported the appointment of a Department GAR Records Officer this year, up significantly from last year's 55%.

Special recognition is due to the Department of the Columbia and the Department of New Hampshire for their outstanding efforts in locating GAR records this past year. The Department of the Columbia, under the guidance of Department GAR Records Officer Loran Bures, PDC, is making progress toward locating and assembling a full set of Journals of Proceedings of GAR Department Encampments within their jurisdiction. They have also facilitated efforts to digitize and make available some of these rare volumes for free public access online. The Department of New Hampshire had a remarkable year, thanks to the efforts of Department GAR Records Officer John S. "Steve" Dow. Over the course of the last couple years, he has located and negotiated the purchase of large collections of New Hampshire GAR charters and other records. Most of these items were in the hands of private sellers. He posts his remarkable finds regularly on the Department of New Hampshire Facebook page.

The following table shows the status of Departments who have and have not confirmed their GAR Records Officer (as of July 2024). Our thanks go to all the Departments who have filled the office!

Status of Departments with a Named GAR Records Officer			
Department	Reported Form 49	Department	Reported Form 49
ALABAMA	Joel S. Mize	MISSOURI	Walter E. Busch, PDC
CALIFORNIA & PACIFIC	David A. Davis	NEBRASKA	Marc Witkowski
CHESAPEAKE	(Vacant)	NEW HAMPSHIRE	John S. "Steve" Dow
COLORADO/WYOMING	James M. Barker, PDC	NEW JERSEY	Dylan Wettstein
COLUMBIA	Loran T. Bures, PDC	NEW YORK	(Vacant)
CONNECTICUT	Matthew Vallier	NORTH CAROLINA	(Vacant)
FLORIDA	Roger Heiple	OHIO	Richard A. Davis, PDC
GEORGIA & SOUTH CAROLINA	Hamilton Jansen	OKLAHOMA	Mike Rusk
ILLINOIS	Brian Conroy	PENNSYLVANIA	(Vacant)
INDIANA	Bruce R. Kolb, PDC	RHODE ISLAND	Bruce Frail, PCinC
IOWA	Daniel F. Rittel	SOUTHWEST	David A. Swanson, PDC
KANSAS	(Vacant)	TENNESSEE	(Vacant)
KENTUCKY	(Vacant)	TEXAS	Michael L. Lance
MAINE	(Vacant)	VERMONT	(Vacant)
MASSACHUSETTS	(Vacant)	WISCONSIN	John R. Decker, PDC
MICHIGAN	Gary L. Gibson, PDC		

Status of Previous National Encampment and Administrative Actions Relating to GAR Records:

There are currently no pending actions that need to be addressed.

GAR Records Project Five-Year Plan (2022-2027):

The National Committee on GAR Records is guided by an action plan, which is considered by the National Encampment every five years. The current plan was presented by our committee to the 141st National Encampment, and approved. Progress toward each of the action items is presented below.

- 1) Routinely manage the GAR Records website (www.GARrecords.org) and online GAR Records Catalog. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**
- 2) Continue to expand the GAR Records website content to include:
 - a. Separate historical summaries for individual GAR posts, including but not limited to meeting locations, dates of muster and disbandment, details of consolidation with other posts, and any other noteworthy facts. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**
 - b. Links to other SUVCW web pages (Camps and Departments) containing GAR Records information. **[STATUS: Links are added upon request, or when links of interest are discovered by the National GAR Records Officer.]**
 - c. Links to other online resources of interest, such as digitized library collections. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**
 - d. Relevant bibliographic references. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**
- 3) Continue to encourage and assist SUVCW Departments and Camps in developing and/or expanding their respective GAR Records programs. Support actions to include:
 - a. Preparation of a handbook to provide guidance in searching for and cataloging GAR records. **[STATUS: Sections of the handbook are in preparation, but no progress was made this year.]**
 - b. Providing personal guidance, as needed, to Department GAR Records Officers and other individuals when needed. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**
- 4) Expand public awareness and involvement in the GAR Records Program. Actions to include:
 - a. Creation and/or participation in an online forum or message board that is specific to the topic of GAR records. **[STATUS: The "Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)" group on Facebook currently serves this function, although it is unofficial. It is an invitation-only group co-administered by committee member Bob Wolz, while others on our committee are members. Brother James R. Hanby is also an administrator.]**
 - b. Encouraging local libraries, museums, genealogical and historical societies, veterans' organizations, and other holders of GAR records collections to index and publish the contents of their collections. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**

- c. Support efforts (both within the SUVCW and external to our organization) to digitize and make publicly available collections of GAR records. **[STATUS: Ongoing.]**

Vision 2030 Strategic Plan Response:

In its report to the 2022 National Encampment, the National Committee on Vision and Planning summarized strides toward achieving the goals of the "Vision 2020" strategic plan, and proposed new goals for the current

"Vision 2030" strategic plan. Under the heading of Research, it was noted:

During the 2010's, the GAR post records project completed listings for all GAR posts in 50 states, the District of Columbia and international posts, and documented at least one record for approximately 20-25% of the posts in the database. However, in the states of the former Confederacy, only 3% of the posts had at least one record documented. [141st National Encampment Committee Reports, p. 70].

Tracking metrics were added in our existing spreadsheets in August 2023 to help measure progress toward achieving the "Vision 2030" goals. A table summarizing the goals, status at the beginning and end of this administrative year, and target date is presented below.

Initiative	Goal	Status August 2023	Status August 2024	Target Date
GAR Post Records	At least one record documented for 40% of GAR posts in database.	39%	46%	Aug. 2030
	At least one record documented for 10% of GAR posts in states of the former Confederacy (11 states: AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, and VA).	4%	4%	Aug. 2030

Note: The above metrics do not include GAR departmental collections in which the contents have not been individually described. Large, uninventoried collections of GAR materials, such as those in Massachusetts and Ohio, are examples.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Dean A. Enderlin, PDC, Chairman

Civil War Monument and Memorials Grant Fund

Shane Milburn, Joe Hall and Brian Pierson

The following Grant request were received:

Humboldt Camp #9, Department of Kansas requested a reimbursement of \$205.67 for supplies used in restoration work performed on an 1823 McClurg Walking Stick Cannon located at the Humboldt Historical Society. This request was approved.

Bryner Camp #67, Department of Illinois, submitted a request to receive \$1500.00 in matching funds to place a descriptive plaque cast to detail the story of Peoria first Civil War Monument, affectionally known as "The Shaft." This request was approved.

March to the Sea Camp 135, Department of Michigan, requested \$2000.00 for repair of the 11th Michigan Infantry Monument at the Chickamauga National Military Park. The Statue of Col. William Stroughton sustained significant damage due to a storm, where a tree limb broke both hands and the sword. This request was denied due to the fact that monies received by the National Park Service would go into a general fund and it is not guaranteed that the money received would go to fix the 11th Michigan Infantry Monument. The Committee is not opposed to giving money to the NPS after all requests for Grants have been approved, provided there is still budgeted money in the fund.

Fletcher Camp #47, Department of Missouri requested \$2,000.00 for the erection of a new monument in honor of Louisa Volker, the first female telegraph operator west of the Mississippi River. She was at Mineral Point and warned Union Forces at Pilot Knob of approaching Confederates in the fall of 1864. She remained at her post after the Confederate Forces cut the telegraph lines, defending her sister and herself with a pistol as important buildings and bridges were destroyed. Volker was recognized by the U.S. Congress for her military service as a telegraph operator. This request was approved.

Bailey Camp #5, Department of Texas and Louisiana submitted a request for \$2,000.00 to place a memorial plaque, dedicated to Union Troops who fought in the Battle of Sabine Crossroads on the outskirts of Mansfield, Louisiana on April 8, 1864. This request was approved.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Shane L. Milburn, PDC

Chair, Civil War Monument and Memorials Grants Fund

National Committee On eBay Surveillance Report

Brothers, I have completed multiple searches for Union, Spanish American, Womans Relief Corps (WRC) and other grave related items for our Allied orders.

This Is what I send to the eBay Vendors for GAR markers

Grand Army of the Republic, GAR grave markers are taken from honorably discharged Union Civil War Veterans. It is illegal in some states to sell these artifacts unless they are new and unused. Consider donating them to the local Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) so that it can be returned to a GAR grave.

I report these grave markers to eBay.

Grand Army of the Republic, GAR grave markers, are taken from honorably discharged Union Civil War Veterans. It is illegal in some states to sell these artifacts unless they are new and unused.

Other Veterans Grave Markers

Grave markers are taken from honorably discharged Veterans. It is illegal in some states to sell these artifacts unless they are new and unused. This was obviously taken from a grave. Consider donating it to the local Veterans organization so that it can be returned to a Veterans Grave.

I use other similar statements about the WRC, etc.

There is Michigan Law, and it states.

MARKERS FOR VETERANS' GRAVES

Act 63 of 1915

AN ACT to provide for the furnishing of suitable flag holders and United States flags for the graves of veterans who served In the armed forces of the United States for the marking and designation of the graves for memorial purposes; and to provide a penalty for the removal or destruction of the flag holders and United States flags when placed.

History: 1915, Act 63, Imd. Eff. Apr. 20, 1915; - Am. 1979, Act 142, Imd. Eff. Nov. 8, 1979; - Am. 1988, Act 263, Imd. Eff. July 15, 1988

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Deed of conveyance also give us the right for charters from past GAR Posts. I will also pursue this action and see what we as an organization can do. Thank you, Brother Rob Payne, PDC for leading me to this probability.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty

Terry McKinch, PDC

Department of Michigan

Patriotic Instructor

National Committee Scholarships Report

Aug 2024 National Encampment, Lexington, KY

I wish to thank Brothers Garry W. Brewer, PDC, Brian McManus, PDC, John M. Huffman Jr., PDC, and Ken L. Freshley, PCinC, for their assistance and work on this committee.

The Scholarship Committee received 7 applications this year. One was disqualified for lack of following application instructions: not signing their application, not placing reference phone numbers on the application form, and a reference not signing the envelope seal of their reference.

From the remaining 6 applicants, we are pleased to announce the following selectees to each receive a \$2,500 SUVCW Scholarship.

Brother George Huttick, Fort Doneslon Camp 62, Dept. of TN to attend Tennessee Tech. Univ.

Brother Titus Benfield, MG Judson Kilpatrick Camp 7, Dept. of NC to attend Liberty Univ.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Donald L Martin, PCinC, Chair

Garry W. Brewer, PDC

Brian McManus, PDC

John M. Huffman Jr., PDC

Ken L. Freshley, PCinC

Lincoln Tomb Observance Committee

July 1, 2024

The host hotel for 2025 is the Ramada Springfield North, 3281 Northfield Dr, P# 217-523-4000. The hotel offers free parking, free continental breakfast and complimentary shuttle service. The luncheon program and meal will be decided on by the end of October. The band contract will be signed in December. The ribbons and programs will be done by March. The permit for the Tomb will be signed by March.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Petrovic

Chairman

Lincoln Tomb Observance Committee

National Committee on Promotions & Marketing

Brother Commander-in-Chief

The National Committee on Promotions and Marketing has been diligently working on various initiatives to communicate the mission and activities of our Order to the public. Here's are the results of those efforts for the past year:

Complete Inventory of Committee Controlled Assets: The Committee conducted an inventory of all audio and video equipment under its care. Many of these devices and accessories were disbursed across the country by past Committees, and it was felt that an asset inventory was in order, so that we can identify and best utilize the equipment purchased by the order.

Department/Camp Media Guide: This document, initiated by Committee Member W. Faron Taylor, PDC, provides instructions and templates for crafting effective press releases. It was designed to help ensure consistent professional messaging and best practices for proper garnering of media attention to our public events. The link to this guide can be found at suvchw.org/handbooks-and-guidebooks.

About Our Organization Flyer: This document is a revision of the original "About Our Organization" handout crafted by Past Commander-in-Chief Steve Michaels. It is intended as a printed and/or digital introduction to the Order, designed to inform the public about the mission, organization, publications and history of our Order. It continues to be intended to be distributed at public events, printed and mailed out to the public, electronically shared via email or social media or distributed in advantageous locations, in order to reach a wide audience. A link to this document can be found at suvchw.org/forms/about-our-organization.

Video Documentaries and Interviews: These videos were written, performed, recorded and edited by Committee Aide John Vander Meulen, CC:

"An interview with Past Commander-in-Chief, Michael Paquette" - part of the series of on-going efforts to preserve the history our Order by interviewing all Past Commanders-in-Chief.

"Why We Remember" -Remarks made by Brother Vander Meulen at the 2024 Commemoration Ceremony of the Battle of 1863 Galveston.

"Caring for the Headstones of Union Civil War Veterans" - conducted at a G.A.R. plot in the Washington Cemetery in Houston, Texas.

"Finding Margaret Carroll" - the story of Brother Vander Meulen's great-great-grandmother who became a widow when her husband died as a Union soldier during the Civil War.

"A Solemn Pledge" - recording of elected and appointed National Officers taking the oath of office from the 2023 National Encampment's Installation of National Officers ceremony.

These videos were recorded performed and edited by Committee Member Roderick Fraser, DC:

"2024 Lincoln Birthday Brunch" - Department of Massachusetts' annual President Abraham Lincoln Brunch featuring author Dr. John D. Warner, Jr. making a presentation on his book,

"Riders in the Storm: The Triumphs and Tragedies of a Black Cavalry Regiment in the Civil War".

"Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54, Dept of Mass. Mt Hope Cemetery project" interviews conducted as Brother perform restoration work at the Grand Army of the Republic plot at Mount Hope Cemetery in Boston.

"Pvt. Hugh Cook 49th MA Infantry Headstone Dedication" ceremony for the dedication of a new headstone for a New York Union Veteran in a small rural cemetery in Rutland, Massachusetts.

These videos are powerful tools for storytelling and provide a deeper understanding of our Order's mission and impact. They allow for personal narratives and insights to be shared with both our Brothers and the general public.

Sponsorship of Civil War History Podcasts: Committee Member Roderick Fraser, DC, negotiated a contract to sponsor eight episodes of *"The Civil War & Reconstruction: A History Pod Cast"* with a 30 second advertising spot at the beginning of each episode and a 60 second advertising spot midway through them. This podcast averages 16,000 downloads per episode.

The advertising representative, LIBSYN Ads, offered us a price of \$345 per spot for sponsorship of the 16 spots, but Brother Fraser was able to negotiate, and they agreed to, \$280 for the 30 second spots and \$345 for the 60 second spots, and average of \$312 per spot, or \$5,000 total for the contract, saving the Order over 10% of the contract.

The eight episodes we sponsored were published on Sundays, beginning on May 12, 2024 and ran weekly until July 7, 2024. Our advertisements are a permanent part of the episodes we sponsored, and will be heard by anyone accessing them in their archive at **civilwarpodcast.org**, or on Spotify and other podcast publishers, going forward.

Podcasts are hugely popular and provide a platform to discuss topics in depth. As of July 7, 2024, "The Civil War & Reconstruction: A History Pod Cast" had broadcast its 462nd episode. By the SUVCW sponsoring this podcast, word of our Order is reaching the most interested and relevant audience concerned with our mission and works. The Civil War & Reconstruction: A History Podcast, as mentioned, can be found at <http://civilwarpodcast.org> or wherever listeners source their podcasts.

Recommendations:

The Committee recommends that its name be changed to better reflect our mission and the work it is charged with. We recommend the "National Promotions and Marketing Committee" be renamed "National Committee on Promoting the Order".

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The Committee recommends that the webmaster add a feedback mechanism for anyone opening the Membership page on the National web site, so we can obtain better metrics on where prospective members are hearing about our Order.

The Committee recommends raising our advertising budget to \$10,000. This past year, we spent \$5,000 to advertise on *"The Civil War & Reconstruction: A History Pod Cast"*, which is less than .005% of our National budget. The national average for spending on advertising for 501(c)(3) corporations is between 5% and 15% of their total budget. We propose bringing our current spending from less than .005% to up near 1% of our total budget.

This increase would allow for funding to expand exposure and recruitment to the public for the organization. For example, FamilyTree Magazine, a media outlet focused on genealogical research, has a number of print, website, newsletter and social media advertising offerings at relatively affordable rates, which would put our name in front of genealogical researchers who might wish to know about and join our Order.

On behalf of National Promotions and Marketing Committee Members D. Michael Beard, PDC, Roderick Fraser, PDC, David Jones, PDC, Michael Spaulding, PDC, and W. Faron Taylor, PDC, as well as Committee Aides William E. Johnson, Jr. and John Vander Meulen, we thank you for the opportunity to serve the Order, and for your trust and confidence in each of us in carrying out the important work of the committee.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Kevin P. Tucker, PDC, Chairman

National Committee on Promotions and Marketing
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW Fund Raising Committee

It is an honor to make the following report. The committee has met via Zoom and is working on the tasks assigned to it.

The letter that was drafted by the Committee for the Capital Campaign was sent out to well over 100 different major corporations. With each letter that went out we included the Capital Campaign letter, a brochure about the order and a Self-addressed envelope. So far, we haven't got much of a response, as we have only heard back from one Company with no donation. We hope to hear back from more companies but as of right now it is not looking too promising.

We found a grant that possibly the Graves Database Committee could use. Heard nothing from them whether they wish to pursue it or not.

Remembrance Day:

It seems that our largest expenditure is Remembrance Day in Gettysburg. This year the total expense was \$7,927.59. We were able to raise \$7,021.25 leaving a balance of \$776.34. We have started to raise money for the 2024 parade and have raised \$1,260.00 so far. We hope to raise more, and have had an active Facebook campaign as well as getting the word out to the various Gettysburg merchants.

On June 24, I traveled to Gettysburg and dropped off 61 packets to various merchants about donating to the Remembrance Day Parade and set up on July 6-7 at the Daniel Lady Farm in hopes of raising more money to offset the cost of the parade.

This past Remembrance Day we set up a table at the Gettysburg Heritage Center which many of you might remember as the Gettysburg Wax Museum. We set out a donation jar, brochures about the SUVCW, wooden nickels, information about Remembrance Day 2024, flyers about the fund-raising committee and a Remembrance Day non logo tee-shirt. We plan to do the same thing this year.

Fund Raising ideas in the process:

1881 Club: As of this report we have seven Brothers who have joined the 1881 Club. A special medal has been made and will be presented to these Brothers and they will also be given a special polo shirt with the logo of the 1881 Club. For more information, please visit <https://suvchw.org/1881club>.

- PCinC Mark Day - 2023
- PDC Tim McCoy - 2023
- PCinC Michael Paquette - 2023
- PDC Kevin Martin - 2023
- PDC Brian McManus - 2023
- Linn Malaznik - 2023
- Alan Russ - 2023

We do have one idea and that is to place a one-page ad in the Banner letting Brothers know about what funds they can donate to. We would like to do this in one issue per year as we know space is limited. The only other option would be a direct mailing of donation campaign for our roughly 6,000 brothers.

To be honest the only way to really generate funds is to increase membership in the SUVCW. While we have a tee shirt that was made available to the public at the Remembrance Day parade it seems that generosity comes from within our order.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the members of this committee, Don Gates, PDC, Kevin Tucker, PDC, Michael Paquette, PCinC, Jeffery French PDC, Michael Beard, PDC and Gary Carlberg CC, for their ideas and their wise council. It is an honor to serve with these Brothers.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Dave Hann, PDC

Chairman

National Special Committee on Headquarters Planning

10 July 2024

It is my honor to submit the following report on the activity of the National Special Committee on Headquarters Planning. As of this year we have completed Phase One of our two Phase Plan. Phase One has dealt with the re-organization of the current National Headquarters.

It was determined to institute an Internship program; this began as an unpaid internship. Which was changed to a paid internship after the generous donation of a Brother who wishes to remain unknown. The design of the internship was to train the intern in the operation of the National Headquarters, research at the National Archives, digitization of records, and the development of an archives system at the SUVCW National Headquarters.

From this internship, it was determined that a sub-contracted position be created, that of the Assistant Executive Director. This position was developed and a job description was created and sent out as part of an application process to fill this position. It was determined that the best candidate for the office was Susan Mitchell, the current intern at that time.

Since this position was created and filled, Mrs. Mitchell, has digitized all the past forms which were overfilling our available space within the National Headquarters. She has also provided assistance to the Executive Director to be able to process all incoming forms and documents in a timely manner and on schedule with no backlog as in years past. She has also developed a storage system which can be used for the next three years.

We are now able to start on the second phase of the two Phase Plan, that of the long term development of our current National Headquarters or the relocation of our National Headquarters to suit our needs for the future.

A detailed outlook of the second phase of this plan will be provided at the upcoming National Encampment as a continuation of this report. I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their work in the above work and look forward to working with them in the future.

Respectfully submitted In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Bruce D. Frail, PCinC

Chairman, National Special Committee on Headquarters Planning

National Special Committee on Social Media

Brothers,

I would like to thank all of the Brothers who day in and day out administrate our various social media accounts, without their help, we would not be able to keep our social media footprint as large as it is. We are currently live on the following applications:

- **Facebook**
 - 9,852 Likes. 10,249 Followers.
 - Primary Administrator: Br. George Andrew Huttick.
 - Secondary Administrator: Br. Ben Frail.
 - Account Name: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - National Organization.
- **Instagram**
 - 1,718 Followers.
 - Primary Administrator: Br. Ben Frail.
 - Secondary Administrator: Vacant.
 - Account Name: National Organization SUVCW.
 - Account Handle: @suvchw_national.
- **Twitter**
 - 1,305 Followers.
 - Primary Administrator: Br. Tim McCoy (National Signals Officer).
 - Secondary Administrator: Br. Ben Frail.
 - Account Name: SUVCW National HQ.
 - Account Handle: @SUVCW.
- **Reddit**
 - 1,782 Followers.
 - Primary Administrator: Br. Bill Stump.
 - Secondary Administrator: Br. Ben Frail.
 - Account Name: r/SonsofUnionVeteransCW.
- **LinkedIn**
 - 409 Followers.
 - Primary Administrator: Br. Barrett Young.
 - Secondary Administrator: Br. Ben Frail.
 - Account Name: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

I am proud to say that all 5 social media platforms have obtained more followers since the Gettysburg CofA meeting. We have also assisted in introducing over a dozen candidates to local Camps, or respective local level organizations of the Allied Orders . We have no recommendations at this time.

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,

Br. Ben Frail, PDC

Chairman

National Special Committee on Social Media

Special Committee on Veterans of Wars of the United States

In developing possible Recommendations, we request the support of the incoming Commander in Chief by issuing a General Order requesting that each Department Commander request of their Camps a list of their work with Veterans.

The collected information should be forwarded to Brother Dexter Bishop, Chair, at genord9@comcast.net.

We, the members of the Special Committee on Veterans of Wars of the United States, support and offer for consideration of the following Recommendations:

1. **Recommendation:** That the National Special Committee on Veterans of Wars of the United States be made into a Standing Committee.
2. **Recommendation:** That the National Special Committee on Veterans of Wars of the United States become the approving authority for the Military Medal and the War Service Medal.
3. **Recommendation:** That the Committee keep a database of those Brothers approved to wear the Medals.

In F, C&L

Dexter Bishop, Chair

Jim Crane, PDC, Member

Roderick Fraser, CofA, Member

Lloyd Lamphere, Member

Bobby Welch, DC, Member

REPORTS
OF
DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

Dept. of Alabama Report

July 10, 2024 Huntsville, AL

The Department of Alabama has remained active with our five camps. Since our last report, our camps have participated in twenty Union grave identification and markings, four patriotic ceremonies (in Uniform) and two parades (in Uniform.) The Croxton camp has led the Department in ROTC medal presentations, despite a severe shortage of medals and certificates from National. The camp created its own design and medal as a stop gap. The Department may adopt the same medal for the 2025 school year.

Our Taylor Camp #53 has located two USCT graves in Decatur Alabama. Neither of these veterans have VA markers and the camp will work with the cemetery owners to have those markers emplaced. The camp is working with the history Department of Calhoun Community College where the graves are located to research these soldiers.

Our Spencer Camp #67 has continued its program of finding and marking the graves of former Department of Alabama GAR Commanders. Three have been identified and marked as of this time. Spencer Camp is also assisting other local NGOs in establishing the Historic Byler Road trail in western Alabama. The Byler Road was the first public road built after statehood in Alabama and was routed through the center of Union sympathetic citizens in this state. The road was used extensively by both Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War. A Department General Order officially endorsed the Historic Byler Road effort.

Three of our camps held a joint meeting and recruiting fair at Cullman Alabama on May 11th, 2024. Cullman is the center of the loyalist area of central Alabama. There are many descendants of the 1st Alabama Cavalry (US) in that area.

All of our camps participated in Memorial Day observances this year. The Pvt Richard Taylor camp honored the eighteen USCT veterans that are interred at Glenwood Cemetery. Glenwood is Huntsville, Alabama's historic African-American cemetery and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Department of Alabama Encampment was held on March 23rd, 2024 in Millbrook, AL. Brother Michael Beard was in attendance. The following officers were duly elected during the 4th Annual Department of Alabama Encampment, held on March 18th, 2023 at Millbrook Alabama.

Commander Mark Hubbs	(Taylor)
Sr. Vice-Commander Tony Howell	(Croxton)
Jr. Vice-Commander Scott Martin	(Spencer)
Secretary/Treasurer Marshall McEuen	(Croxton)
Council #1 Howard Poarch, PDC	(Croxton)
Council #2 George Lauderbaugh	(Wilson)
Council #3 Joe Sanderson	(Spencer)

Additionally, the Commander appointed the following Officers. Other appointments may be forthcoming.

Patriotic Instructor Thurston Norris	(Spencer)
Graves Registration Scott Martin	(Spencer)
Historian Richard Blanton	(Taylor)
GAR Records Joel Mize	(Spencer)
Counselor Ben Jones	(Croxtton)
Eagle Scout Eric Alford, PDC	(Wilson)
Chaplain Bill Morgan	(Farragut)

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty

Mark E. Hubbs
Commander
Dept of Alabama

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST (DSW) REPORT

Apr 1 - Jun 30, 2024

- The Yavapai County Board of Supervisors nominated Commander Tim Prater to receive the Yavapai County Memorial Day Proclamation on behalf of the citizens and Veterans of Yavapai County to include the SUVCW. The proclamation was presented to Commander Prater on May 15, 2024, in Cottonwood, AZ. In return, Commander Prater visited and presented copies of the proclamation to Prescott area VFW and American Legion organizations.
- On May 26, 2024 (the day prior to Memorial Day), General U.S. Grant Camp sponsored for the third straight year, a clean-up event of Historic Citizens Cemetery, Prescott, AZ. SUVCW/DUVCW Brothers & Sisters plus DAR ladies and other volunteers participated in the event to prepare the cemetery for the May 27th Memorial Day Observance. On Memorial Day, General U.S. Grant brothers marched the procession honoring our fallen brothers. 50+ union veterans are buried at this cemetery. Commander Tim Prater was honored to recite the Gettysburg Address to the gathering of 200 attendees.
- Picacho Peak Camp and R.H.G. Minty Camp participated in 2024 Memorial Day activities, including grave decoration and parade participation.
- PDC David Swanson attended the observance of Memorial Day at Camp Navajo - the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery. As in years past, Brother Swanson recited the Gettysburg Address.
- PCC Dale Enlow attended the observance of Memorial Day at the Prescott National Cemetery, Prescott, AZ. As in years past, Brother Enlow recited the Gettysburg Address.
- DSW submitted its annual Eagle Scout Report to National for the time period 7/1/23 - 6/30/24. A total of 18 certificates/patches were awarded for this reporting period. This compares to only 2 certificates/patches presented for the previous period 7/1/22. - 6/30/23. This represents an 800% increase.
- Brother Eugene McCarthy, Past Chaplain, General U.S. Grant Camp No. 3, passed away on 6/27/24. A Memorial Service will be held on 7/13/24 at the General U.S. Grant Camp quarterly luncheon.
- Brother John Lyons presented 5 SUVCW Flag certificates during this reporting period. A total of 16 Flag certificates were presented since January 2024.
- **DSW membership as of Jun 30, 2024:**
 - **Total DSW members: 119** (includes dual/triple members)
 - Picacho Peak Camp No. 1: 57 (primary 56)
 - R.H.G. Minty Camp No. 2: 21 (primary 16)
 - General U.S. Grant Camp No. 3: 41 (primary 36)
 - Life Member: 1

- On May 4, 2024, General U. S. Grant Camp held the "Last Soldier Ceremony" of Yavapai County at Mountain View Cemetery, Prescott, AZ. Honors paid to Union Veteran William Cooper by members of Grant Camp and Cooper's dependents from Skull Valley, AZ. Mr. Cooper was born Nov 17, 1846, in Indiana. His family moved to Kansas. Oct 10, 1861, he enlisted as a Private with Co I, 6th Kansas Cav. He then served briefly with the 3rd Kansas Inf. For the rest of the war he served in Co E. 14th Kansas Cav, where they were fighting Quantrill's Raiders (including Jessie James). He was discharged on Jun 25, 1865. William Cooper passed away from pneumonia in September 1939 in Prescott, AZ.

Department of California and Pacific, Stephen E. Doyle, PDC

The Department of California and Pacific currently has 14 camps, with 11 being in California and 3 being in Nevada. All 14 of our camps were able to conduct Memorial Day services, with at least 3 camps conducting Veterans Day services and 3 camps participating in Wreaths Across America services.

Our current membership is 321 Brothers, adding 43 Members and losing 82, with a Net Loss of 39 Members. The majority of the Losses were due to "Drop-General Discharge" (40) and "Honorable Discharge" (24). The overall aging of the Brotherhood has also been a factor.

The 138th Department of California and Pacific's Annual Encampment was held on April 6, 2024 in Laughlin, Nevada, with 29 Brothers in attendance. Department Commander Steve Doyle was the Presiding Officer and Brother Kevin P. Tucker, Junior Vice C-in-C, presided over the installation of Department Officers. The Re-election of Department Officers included: Department Commander, Stephen E. Doyle; Department Senior Vice Commander, Dr. Wayne L. Eder; Department Junior Vice Commander, Owen R. Stiles, and Secretary/Treasurer, Randy Dhindsa. Brothers at the Encampment elected a Committee to Explore the Possibility of Hosting a National Encampment.

The Department Eagle Scout Commendation Coordinator reported 19 Eagle Scout Commendation requests, and these included three lady Eagle Scouts at their Court of Honor where over 400 people attended.

Brother Mike Emett, of Camp 18, successfully registered 725 Civil War Soldiers graves during 2023 and reached a Lifetime Achievement of registering 7,500 Civil War Soldiers with the National Data Base. Also, Brother Charles Beal, of Camp 17, registered 342 Civil War Soldiers' Graves with the National Data Base for 2023.

On September 16, 2023, Camps 24 and 04 worked in conjunction with a local mortuary to conduct a graveside ceremony for a previously unmarked grave for United States Colored Veteran, Pvt. Henry L. Barnett. The ceremony included the installation of a Veteran's Administration headstone, local city officials from the Santa Cruz area, and a female Black Command Sergeant Major, who spoke about the contributions that Black Soldiers had made during the Civil War. The Ceremony was a mix of the Old and New. Per the GAR Ritual of 1909, a wreath of evergreens (a symbol of undying love of our Comrades), was placed at the headstone, along with a wreath of Grapevines (a symbol of Honor and Victory). A Bundle of White Roses was placed by "Camp Sister of the Day", Denise Keplinger, who wore the required white dress. The modern part of the ceremony included an Honor Guard detail from a local National Guard Unit, a military Gun Salute, Folding of the American Flag, and the Playing of Taps.

Best Wishes for Commander-in-Chief Hritsko for a successful and productive Encampment.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Stephen E. Doyle, PDC

Commander

Department of California and Pacific, SUVCW

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER REPORT

Department of the Chesapeake

Fredericksburg, Virginia

July 3, 2024

As the newly elected Department Commander, I have communicated with my past and present officers and Council, and completed and submitted the required documentation and reports to the National Office.

I have issued Department Orders to provide pertinent and timely information to Brothers of the Order, and posted information regarding Department activities and events to the Department Facebook page, and web site page.

The Brothers of the Department have participated in numerous recruiting efforts, living history presentations, reenactments, Eagle Scout Certificate presentations, tours, and field talks.

A strong representation was present at the funeral of our Past Commander-in-Chief, Eugene Mortorff in June, and were well-received by his family, and other mourners.

Members of the order marched as a SUVCW color guard in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., and also provided a color guard with the current Commander-in-Chief on Memorial Day, at Arlington National Cemetery.

I joined with Past Commander-in-Chief Michael Paquette, and Brothers of local Camps, the 'Ladies, U.S. Army music, and a U.S Air Force Color guard, for a Decoration Day remembrance ceremony in Arlington Cemetery. Afterward, another small ceremony and wreath-laying was conducted at the Tomb of the Civil Wars Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery.

Brothers of the Department of the Chesapeake are looking forward to attending the upcoming National Encampment, in Lexington, Kentucky.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty

Andrew W. Johnson, PCC

Commander

Department of the Chesapeake

SUVCW

Department of Florida Report

July 1, 2024

The Department of Florida has been very active this past year. The Department encampment was held in Sarasota Florida in February. Brother Kevin Martin SVC Nat. was kind enough to attend the encampment. We elected officers for 2024-25. We heard reports from the Florida camps to learn they have been busy recognizing ROTC graduates and eagle scouts.

The camps have also participated in Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

Wreaths across America has also been a focus of the Florida camps.

I have received reports of camps cleaning headstones and making improvements in Union cemeteries.

Members of the Department have participated in various parades throughout Florida.

The Department will be sending brother Edward Manak to the national encampment in August.

The Department is proud to announce the formation of a new Camp in Melbourne, Florida. The new Camp is Richard Walter Goode Camp #10. This Camp will allow us to expose the SUVCW to potential new members on the east coast of Florida.

Unfortunately, I had to suspend the L. L. Mitchel Camp #4 in Saint Cloud for failure to submit the Camp's form 27. That camp faced an issue with a secretary who was not keeping records appropriately. The Camp treasurer has been working with the Department secretary to remedy this issue and is very close to coming off suspension. The Camp commander has plans to replace the secretary.

I have been monitoring an issue with Camp #3 in West Palm Beach and Camp #2 in Fort Meyers. These camps are working with the IRS to resolve problems with their 501(c)(3) status. The Camps have been unable to file their annual postcards as they are not listed on the site. The Camps have informed me that they have worked with National and have secured an IRS representative who is assigned to assist them to remedy the issue.

Respectfully submitted, I remain in Fraternity, Charity, and loyalty,

Timothy E. Campaign DC

Department of Florida

Department of Illinois Report

National Encampment, Lexington, KY

Brothers,

It was with a feeling akin to reverence that I accepted the honor of being elected Department Commander at the 141st Annual Encampment of the Department of Illinois held at Aurora on May 18, 2024. Since being elected, I hit the ground running and the Department has forged a relationship with the Department of Illinois, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was able to set up a recruiting booth at their 105th Annual Convention in Springfield, IL. We will continue to do this annually as well as work with other VSOs to do the same at their annual conventions.

On the 1st of June we were able to secure from a local American Legion, that was selling their building, the Post Charter, Flags, Gavels, Bible and assorted records of Columbia Post No. 706, Illinois Grand Army of the Republic. These items will be turned over to the GAR Museum in Aurora, IL for display and safe keeping. The flags, having been hanging from their poles in a cabinet for more than 90 years, are in bad shape and are falling apart. They will be documented and then stored in archival boxes before being turned over to the museum.

On the 23rd of June, Sheridan Camp No. 2 dedicated a headstone for James Claggett, a US Navy Landsman who for over 90 years lay in an unmarked grave in Blue Island, IL. Mr. Cleggett's story was brought to the Camp's attention by Gina Denham, an English woman, who was researching Mr. Claggett for her book 'The Landsman and the Lieutenant'. When she found out that he did not have a headstone, she reached out to Camp 2, and they immediately went to work to get a proper marker for Mr. Claggett. Several of the local camps and myself were in attendance for the dedication.

As of the last Annual Report, the Department has 11 Camps and a total membership of 270. We will work diligently to increase our numbers this coming year as well as work on the programs that define who we are as an organization with an emphasis on completing the Last Soldier Project in IL.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty



Bobby Welch, PCC

Department Commander

Department of Illinois

Department of Indiana

The Department of Indiana has a membership of 219 brothers, these are divided over eight camps. We are happy to report that we have two new camps coming on board within the department.

A lot of work is being done by members of the Department to honor three civil war nurses from the state of Indiana. There will be a plaque and a dedication ceremony for each nurse at her gravesite or at some appropriate location where this will be permitted. The first of which will be unveiled and dedicated on her birthday in October on the birthday of the nurse.

All camps have held headstone cleaning days and ceremonies for the dedication of new headstones and monuments.

The Department had one brother attend the Lincoln tomb ceremony in Springfield, Ill. on April 13th.

The Departmental mid-year encampment was held April 27 at the Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette, Indiana. The meeting took place in the Commandants Home. This is a civil war era style building that was put up by the Grand Army of the Republic in 1898. This is a very appropriate place for the department to meet and we are planning to meet there next year. The Department voted to give a considerable donation to the Veterans Home for the care and maintenance of this historic building.

All of the Department camps held some type of ceremony on Memorial Day.

The work on the last soldier project is almost completed with only a few Indiana counties left.

Many of the Department of Indiana camps participated in educational programs with other groups, educating younger people and recruiting new members.

Submitted by:

Thomas L Schmitt, Commander Department of Indiana
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Report of the Department of Iowa For the 2024 National Encampment

Membership in the Department of Iowa is currently 110 Members (including 18 Life Members) and 2 Junior Members. There are five (5) Camps in the Department and all are now in good standing. We were pleased to welcome Brother Bobby Welch, National Quartermaster, to our Department Encampment, this past April 20th, at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum located on the grounds of Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. We thank Brother Welch for his attendance and for his dedicated service to the Order.

Since our report to the 2023 National Encampment, our Department, its Camps, and Members continue to represent the SUVCW and do the work of the Order with great dedication and exuberance. Included here is a summary of just some of the activities of the Department of Iowa this past year.

- Department members attended and took an active part in two (2) programs with the Missing in America Project to recognize and honor veterans buried at the Clarinda Mental Health Institute and the Independence Mental Health Institute. Together, 28 veterans, including several from the Civil War, buried at these facilities were finally recognized and honored for their service.
- The combined work of several Brothers in the Department led to the marking of more than 20 Civil War veteran's graves across the State of Iowa this past year and they have submitted applications to the VA for many more. In addition, graves of other American veterans and a WRC member were marked with assistance from members of the Department. Several Civil War Nurses buried in Iowa were also identified this year.
- Department members volunteered or worked to educate the public about the Civil War and the G.A.R. Special recognition goes to:

Frank Hanna of Dodge Camp #75 for his continued hours of service donated to the State Historical Museum in Des Moines where he dresses in Civil War uniform and talks with visitors in the museum's Iowa in the Civil War exhibit.

Joshua Dyer, PCC, of Dodge Camp #75 is a school history teacher and has encouraged his students to work on a Civil War veteran biography project in his county and also spent a day with his students cleaning gravestones of Civil War veterans.

- Mitchell Camp #206 completed their project to mark the grave of Henry Rose last October. They continue to work on a project to mark the site of Camp Union/Franklin, a Civil War camp in Dubuque, Iowa. They have received permission from the property owner to place a historical marker and are hoping to have the marker in place sometime this fall. Mitchell Camp is also trying to organize a Civil War Roundtable in the Dubuque area.

- Many in our Department have participated in local Veterans Day ceremonies, Memorial Day ceremonies and other civic events related to honoring our veterans. Brothers from Dodge Camp #75 read the names of the "Last Union Veterans" of each county during a Veterans Day program in Des Moines. Brothers of

Mitchell Camp #206 participated in a "Welcome Home" event for Honor Flight veterans returning to Dubuque from visiting their memorials in Washington D.C.

- Many other members have worked to raise awareness of the SUVCW. Members have presented at genealogical society meetings and events and have also participated in local community festivals and parades across the State. Members have contributed to news stories and magazine articles about their efforts.

Other items to mention:

The website that Department Memorials Officer, Tom Gaard, had created to catalog the various Civil War & G.A.R. monuments across the State of Iowa, was in danger of losing its host and therefore was merged into our Department website (iowasuvcw.org) this past year. Special thanks go to Department Signals Officer, Danny Krock, PDC, for his time to make the transition and keep Brother Gaard's valuable resource available.

The Department was alerted in late May by Brother James Dixon to a Minutes Book from Lyman Post #502, Department of Iowa G.A.R., that was listed for auction on eBay. Our Department G.A.R. Records Officer, Dan Rittel, along with other members of the Department determined the Department should work to acquire the book. Brother Rittel made contact with the seller (an SUVCW member!) who wanted to keep the auction going to avoid eBay account problems. Rittel bid on the item and was successful in winning it. The Lyman Post Minutes Book is now in the custody of Brother Rittel while we determine where best to deposit it. It should be noted that most of the Department of Iowa G.A.R. Post records (including Charters, Minutes Books, etc.) were acquired by the State Historical Society and are housed in the archive at the State Historical Museum Research Center in Des Moines where they are accessible to the public for research purposes.

On a sad note, we recently lost a dear Sister of the Kinsman Camp ASUVCW. Debra Carr passed away on June 6. Debra was the wife of Past Department Commander Michael Carr of Kinsman Camp #23. Mike and Deb were married at the Department Encampment in Waterloo in 2018. Debra joined the Kinsman Camp Auxiliary and served for a time as Treasurer of the Kinsman Auxiliary. She will be missed.

Charles Boeck, PCC, Department Commander

Daniel Rittel, PCC, Department Secretary

Department of Kentucky

Mike Flynn, DC

The Department of KY includes four camps and membership of approximately 100 brothers. The department has participated in a variety of activities, all to honor our ancestors who wore the Union Blue.

Rather than focusing on individual camp activities, I will highlight some.

1. National Encampment was a main focus of the department officers.

John Buckler - Host Chairman	(Jr. Vice Commander)
Bruce Fortin - Program Book	(Sec/Treasurer) PDC
Todd Early - Banquet Reservation	(Sr. Vice Commander)
Jack Mills - Polo Shirts, Medals	(Historian) PDC
Mike Fynn - Vendor Tables	(DC)
John Buckler - Tours	(Jr. Vice Commander)

2. Ky Department Encampment was held in Hodgenville, KY, the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. C-in-C Peter Hritsko installed the department officers. Chief of Staff Jim Crane was also in attendance.

3. Department Officers and camp highlight of activities:

- A. Wreaths Across America
- B. Memorial Day services
- C. Tombstone dedications
- D. Cemetery cleaning, tombstone cleaning and re-setting
- E. Veterans Day Service
- F. Medal of Honor Service
- G. Juneteenth Services
- H. Attending National Encampment in New Hampshire
- I. 160th Anniversary of Gettysburg Address, Mt. Zion Church, Richmond, KY
- J. Color Guard Events
- K. Vote on G.O. #2
- L. ROTC Awards
- M. Eagle Scout Awards
- N. Sultana victims and survivors services

These highlights are only a portion of actual camp activities. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

6/2024

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Roderick J Fraser Jr.

Department Commander

162 Fiat Ave., Cranston, RI 02910

Email: rjfraserjrusrn@gmail.com

Subject: Department of Massachusetts Annual Report 2024

It is my honor and privilege to present this, my first report as Commander of the Department of Massachusetts. The Department of Massachusetts has been very active over the past year and continues to gain members, this year resulting in a net gain.

I have appointed PDC Dexter Bishop as Department Camp Organizer and he is working with two groups who wish to start Camps in Gloucester and Topsfield, Massachusetts.

Over the past year, the Department of Massachusetts Brothers conducted the following business:

- Participated in the 2023 Remembrance Day activities in Gettysburg including a guided tour of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia with the Sons of Veterans Reserve Breakfast and the Woolson Monument ceremony and marched with the Sons of Veterans Reserve in the Remembrance Day Parade.
- Camp 54 completed the work at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Boston, MA that refurbished the cannon and cannon bases of the Gen. Charles Russel Lowell GAR Burial plot.
- Held the 24th Annual Lincoln Birthday Brunch on Sunday, Feb 11, 2024. The keynote speaker was John D. Warner, Jr., author of "Riders in the Storm: The Triumphs and Tragedies of a Black Cavalry Regiment in the Civil War." Video posted to YouTube channel.
- Conducted our annual memorial ceremony honoring Union General Benjamin Franklin Butler at the Hildreth Family Cemetery, where we were joined by community members and descendants of General Butler.
- Held our Annual Department Encampment Lakeside Inn, Wakefield, MA April 26th & 27th. The number of Brothers attending increased from 2023. Elections were held and the following Brothers were elected:
 - Roderick J. Fraser: Department Commander
 - John Wilder: Senior Vice Commander
 - Rev. Peter Preble: Junior Vice Commander
 - John Dupre: Secretary/Treasurer
 - Council: a. Kevin Tucker b. Dexter Bishop c. William Naughton

- The following brothers were appointed to office.

a. Patriotic Instructor:	George Maple
b. Chaplain:	Dexter Bishop
c. Graves Registration Officer:	William Naughton
d. Historian:	Rev. Peter Preble
e. Civil War Memorials Officer:	Kenneth London
f. Eagle Scout Coordinator:	Michael Terry
g. Councilor:	Kevin Tucker
h. GAR Highway Officer:	George Maple
i. ROTC Officer:	Albert Smith
j. Guide:	Charles Lewis
k. Communications Officer:	Ronald Glidden
l. Department Quartermaster:	John Wilder
m. Guard:	Henry Buckley

- A group of Brothers including myself attended the National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865 112th Annual Congress in New Bedford. The 1st Military District, SVR, served as color guard at the event.

- At the invitation of the National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865, we participated as color guard for a wreath Laying at the Grave of Sgt. William H. Carney Friday, May 17, 2024, in New Bedford, MA. Sgt. Carney was a member of the GAR and a soldier in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. Born as a slave, he was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1900 for his gallantry in saving the regimental colors during the Battle of Fort Wagner in 1863. Because his actions preceded those of other medal honorees, he is the first African American Medal of Honor recipient.

- Brothers of the Department and the First Military District SVR, participated in a Ceremony of Rededication for Clark's Cemetery in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The rededication came after years of hard work reclaiming the cemetery from overgrowth and negligence.

- Department Archivist Brother John Wilder, In conjunction with Department Historian, Peter Preble, has made great progress on the Department Archives. After receiving a donation of a large collection of annual proceedings of the WRC Department of Massachusetts, they were compiled with the records already in our collection and all were digitized. Thanks to a budget granted by the Department, a number of early Camp photos as well as a matching GAR Post Commander medal and photo all from Massachusetts have now been acquired for our archives.

- Under the leadership of Brother Ronald Glidden of Camp 54, we have a new redesigned website at www.suvmass.org.

I created two new Departmental Awards to encourage Recruiting:

- **PDC Stuart H. Chambers Award for Camp Recruiting** - This Award is named in honor of past Department Commander Stuart H. "Chip" Chambers (October 9, 1946 - February 3, 2021). Chip passed away while in office serving as Department Commander. After taking office as Department Commander, Chip challenged all Brothers to recruit one new member. This award will be given to the Camps that report a net positive gain in members over the previous year defined as more gains than losses from the previous year as reported on Form 27. The award will be a special flag streamer that can be flown from the Camp's colors.
- **Governor John Albion Andrew Award for Individual Recruiting** - This award will be presented to the Brother who recruits the most new Brothers in one year defined as the period of time between Department Encampments. If there is a tie between Brothers, each of the Brothers will be presented the award. In addition to the award recognition, the awardee will also receive a one-year print and online subscription to "The Civil War Monitor" magazine.
- Richard J Tucker received recognition for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout from Camp 15 on 6/2/24 in Barre, MA.
- Willie Grout Camp 25 Received a Veteran's Heritage grant from the State Historic Records Advisory Board, which combined with a previous grant from the Department of Massachusetts, allowed the original 1897 charter of the camp to be conserved by the Northeast Document Conservation Center along with an early 1930s copy.
- General George L. Hartsuff Camp 50 participated in the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Rockland, entering a float in the parade. Several members rode along engaging the public and bringing attention to our cause. The feedback has been extremely positive, not only for describing who we are, but also what we do.
- General George L. Hartsuff Camp 50 supported a Civil War Encampment and Battle at our namesake park- Hartsuff Park - to bring attention to the history of our brave soldiers. Although shortened by the forecast of thunderstorms and lightning, it was an amazing success and calls to do it again have already begun.
- The L. A. Tifft Camp 15 Brothers SVC William Cote, Gene Theroux, Major Steven Sawyer USA ret, Robert Howe, and Thomas Howe spent the past year working in various cemeteries in cities/towns documenting, resetting, cleaning, repairing and obtaining new gravestones.

Memorial Day 2024

- The Department of Massachusetts and the 1st Military district SVR Lead the parade of Veterans organizations at the Annual Memorial Day Service at the Massachusetts National Cemetery. As Department Commander, I brought greetings from the SUVCW and read Past CinC Logan's General Order No. 11.

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- The L.A. Tift Camp 15 performed a service at Island Pond Cemetery in Ludlow, MA on Sunday, May 26 followed by assisting the Commonwealth of Mass and the Friends of Quabbin at their service for the 4 lost towns at Quabbin Park Cemetery. On Monday, May 27, 2024, Camp 15 led the Memorial Day Services as well as provided the host Color Guard for the Town of Belchertown at their Memorial Day service.

Veterans Day

- Willie Grout Camp 25 participated in the annual Worcester Veterans Day Parade. The parade was almost doubled in length from previous years. Brothers Bruce Stone, PCinC Ed Norris, and PDC George Maple marched in the second position behind the Marine Corps League. The United States Marine Corps celebrated its 248th birthday the day before. It was the 70th observance of the day by the Worcester Veterans Council, and the 104th observation of Armistice Day, the day World War I ended.

Grave Dedications: The Department conducted the following Grave Dedications over the past year:

- Willie Grout Camp No. 25 rededicated the grave of Ira Cote, 4th Vermont Cavalry at the Notre Dame Cemetery in Worcester, Massachusetts. A descendant of Ira had found his grave in disrepair and reached out to the camp for assistance in having it reset. On the 16th of March, Brothers George Maple, Daniel Anderson, Cole Anderson and Matthew Sargent rededicated the grave with members of the family present and with help from members of the allied orders.
- The Lewis Tift Camp 15 participated in a headstone rededication for Major Thomas W. Osborn at Hillside Cemetery in North Adams MA on Sunday, October 22nd. Thomas Osborn was a US Senator. Born in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, he moved to New York in 1842, graduated from Madison University in 1860, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1861. With the advent of the Civil War, he enlisted in the Union Army and rose to the rank of Colonel in command of Battery D, 1st Regiment, New York Light Artillery. After the war, he moved to Florida, commenced the practice of law and was appointed assistant commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees and Freedmen for Florida, (1865-66). He was appointed register in bankruptcy in 1867 and was a member of the Florida State constitutional convention in 1868. In 1868, he was elected as a Republican to the United States Senate and served until 1873. Not a candidate for reelection, he served as United States commissioner at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. In 1876, he moved to New York City and resumed the practice of law until his death at age 65.
- Willie grout Camp No, 25, along with the First Military District, SVR, conducted a headstone dedication for Private Hugh Cook of the 40th Massachusetts Infantry, who is buried at Goose Hill Cemetery in Rutland, Massachusetts. Private Cook was in an unmarked grave but with the assistance of Willie Grout Camp 25, the Rutland Historical Society, and Brother William Stump, Commander of the Dept of NY, the Veterans Administration provided a headstone. PVT Cook died in a fire attempting to retrieve his pension paperwork from a house fire.

- L.A. Tifft Camp 15 held Gravestone Dedication services for First Lieutenant Lyman F. Hooker and Sergeant David Benson Furber at Pine Hill Cemetery at 140 W. Silver St. in Westfield, MA on Saturday, June 22nd. The following Brothers and Sisters were assigned:
 - o Commander: Gene Theroux
 - o Chaplain: Barbara Davis
 - o First Brother: Christopher Collins
 - o Second Brother: Robert Howe
 - o Third Sister: PDP Mary Ellen Seiffert
 - o Color Guard: Nathaniel Knight, PCC Joseph A. Nadeau, Timothy Barnes, William Cote
 - o Bugler: PCC Edward T. Knight
 - o Photographer: PDP Mary Catherine Knight
- General Darius Nash Couch Camp 26 (Taunton) Commander Michael Rice and SecretaryTreasurer Van Jabagjorian participated in the GAR Plot Dedication Ceremony at Oak Grove Cemetery in Falmouth, Massachusetts on June 10th. Brothers Rice and Jabagjorian marched in the procession to the plot. In lieu of the full dedication ceremony with an honor guard, Commander Rice set up a chair with a kepi and greatcoat and recited "The Vacant Chair" followed by providing a formal reading to dedicate the plot. Immediately following the dedication ceremony, the procession passed by the grave of Falmouth's last surviving GAR member, Andrew W. Davis. William Gould Memorial Dedicated in Dedham, MA.
- The town of Dedham, MA dedicated a statue to William B. Gould, an escaped slave who joined the US Navy during the Civil War. He also served as Commander of the Charles W. Carroll Post 144 of the Grand Army of the Republic. Through the work of the Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp 54, the project received a grant from the SUVCW National Civil War Memorial Fund. The Department could not attend the dedication as it was held on Memorial Day and the Department and Camps were engaged in other Memorial Day activities.

Private George Duggan Memorial Dedication

- The First Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve participated in a dedication of a monument to Private George Washington Dugan, "the only native colored man who went to the Civil War from Concord," in Concord, Massachusetts on Saturday, July 15th. Dugan was listed as "Never accounted for" after the battle at Fort Wagner, and his name was left off of the Concord Civil War Monument, where men from Concord who were killed in action were engraved.

ROTC Awards - The Department worked with four ROTC Units to present awards. We are working to increase this number next year. The four units are:

- North Quincy High School; Mass 841st AFROTC Program Quincy, Mass.
- Dept of Military Science ARMY ROTC Mass Institute of Technology Medford, Ma

- South Boston ROTC EXCEL High School Roxbury, Mass.
- John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science, Roxbury, Mass.

Additionally, Department Commander John Dupre' presented Cadet Sergeant John Walsh of Hudson, MA with the SUVCW ROTC Award on August 19, 2023, on behalf of Camp 25 Commander Matty Sargent. Cadet Walsh is a student at Norwich University in Northfield, VT and is contracted with Marine ROTC.

Eagle Scout Awards - We distributed ten Eagle Scout Recognition Certificates in the period 1 July 2023 through 30 June 2024. They were as follows:

- Sumner James Jordan
- Landen James Jorgensen
- Satoshi Conway
- Zachary Chad Brigham
- Alex Matson
- John Mitchell
- Renby Fernald
- Aush Aggarwal
- Ryan Christopher Moran
- Brian Miller

Submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty



Roderick J Fraser Jr.
Council of Administration

Department of Michigan

Steven S. Martin, DC

Current Membership and Camp Status

As of the Annual Report dated May 2nd, 2024, the Department of Michigan had a total of 377 Members, including Associates and Junior Members. As of June 26th, 2024, we currently have 360 Members. Over the last two years, the Department of Michigan has unfortunately closed three camps. The closures came as the camps began aging out. The Department of Michigan currently has 20 Camps, which includes a Camp-At-Large. We currently are assisting a Camp that has been under suspension for a period in restoring their camp standing .

Department Encampment For 2025

The Department of Michigan Encampment Committee has already secured the date and location for the 141st Department of Michigan Encampment, which is listed on the Department of Michigan SUVCW web page.

Graves Registration Officer and Editor of the Michigan Messenger

It is with great sorrow that I report the Department of Michigan long time Graves Registration Officer and Editor of the Michigan Messenger, Richard Danes, PCC passed away June 22nd, 2024. Brother Danes served the order for many years. As of June 29th, 2024, I have appointed two brothers to fill each position. Brother David Smith, PDC, and new Editor of the Michigan Messenger. Brother Charles Worley, PDC and new Graves Registration Officer.

Keith G. Harrison Award

The Department of Michigan Bylaws were amended at the 140th Michigan Department Encampment to include the latest award. The Keith G. Harrison Most Outstanding Social Media On-Line Presence Award. The award will be given to the Camp that has the best visual aesthetics and design of the website, functionality of the website, inclusion of interesting information, ease of contracting the Camp social media channels, new features, etc.

Outreach Committee

The Department of Michigan has included in the Bylaws an Outreach Committee. This standing committee's purpose is to cultivate activities related to the Outreach needs of the Department of Michigan, including liaison with Civil War Roundtables, genealogy clubs, veteran's organizations and other such organizations, for our mutual benefit.

Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas

April 1 - June 30, 2024

It has been a busy year for the Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas. Some of our members also belong to the First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry Civil War reenacting unit and together we cover a lot of ground . This includes living history presentations, parades, Civil War reenactments, demonstrations, working with museums to promote Civil War living history. This gives us an opportunity to speak with the public and recruit. Also our ROTC program is very active and has covered numerous schools. Listed below are our events that our members participated in from April 1st until June 30th of this year:

April 6, 2024 - Fort Donelson exhibit at the Nebraska National Guard Museum in Seward Nebraska.

April 12- 14, 2024 - Civil War camp and muster at Fort Atkinson in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska.

April 20, 2024 - Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas Department Encampment at the Guard Museum in Seward, Nebraska.

April 26-28, 2024 - Civil War reenactment in Galena, IL with First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry.

Listing of ROTC Schools covered in Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota:

Chadron State College - Army	After April 20, 2024
Creighton University - Army	TBD
University of NE Kearney - Army	TBD
University of NE Lincoln - Army	April 18, 2024
University of NE Lincoln - Navy	April 18, 2024
University of NE Lincoln - USAF	April 18, 2024
University of NE Lincoln - USMC	April 18, 2024
University of NE Lincoln - Space Force	April 18, 2024

Omaha Public Schools Junior ROTC

North High School - Army	April 18, 2024
Northwest High School - Army	April 17, 2024
Bryan High School - Army	After April 20, 2024
Burke High School - Army	After April 20, 2024
Central High School - Army	After April 20, 2024
South High School - Army	April 16, 2024
Benson High School - Army	After April 20, 2024
Westview High School - Army	April 17, 2024
Buena Vista High School - Army	After April 20, 2024

Other Omaha Area High Schools Jr. ROTC

Boys Town High School - US Army	After April 20, 2024
Bellevue West High School - USAF	After April 20, 2024
Papillion LaVista South HS - Navy	April 18, 2024
Plattsmouth High School - USAF	After April 20, 2024

Bellevue East High School - USAF	April 17, 2024
Millard South High School - USAF	After April 20, 2024

South Dakota Jr. ROTC

Washington High School - USMC	After April 20, 2024
Douglas High School - USAF	After April 20, 2024
Central High School - Army	After April 20, 2024
Roosevelt High School - USAF	After April 20, 2024

South Dakota ROTC

Black Hills State University - Army	After April 20, 2024
South Dakota Tech University - Army	After April 20, 2024
South Dakota State University - Army	April 10, 2024
South Dakota State University - USAF	April 10, 2024

North Dakota ROTC

North Dakota State University - USAF	After April 20, 2024
North Dakota State University - Army	After April 20, 2024
University of North Dakota - Army	After April 20, 2024
University of North Dakota - USAF	After April 20, 2024

North Dakota Jr. ROTC

Fargo South High School - USAF	After April 20, 2024
Minot High School - USAF	After April 20, 2024
Grand Forks High School - Army	April 4 , 2024
Devil's Lake High School - Army	After April 20, 2024
Red River High School - Army	April 4 , 2024
Grand Central High School - After	April 20, 2024

May 15, 2024 - Last Union Veteran of the County dedication for Jefferson C. Meyers 33rd IA Infantry Co. A by members of Harrison Camp #53-2.

May 31 - June 2, 2024-Civil War reenactment in Hopkinton , IA

June 14 - 16, 2024 - 160th anniversary Battle of Carthage Missouri Civil War Reenactment.

June 22, 2024 - SUVCW / SAR dedication for Gilbert Cole 29th IA Infantry Co. E in Beatrice Nebraska.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Keith Rockefeller

Department Commander

Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Headquarters, Department of New Hampshire

Michael C. Shklar, Dept. Commander

PO Box 807, Newport, NH 03773

On behalf of the Department of New Hampshire, I respectfully submit the following Quarterly Report, as requested. This quarter features, as usual, the beginning of the "campaign season" as very little happens this far North during the (many) winter months. Steel heel plates and frozen water are a bad combination.

The Department held its annual encampment on April 20, 2024. All camps were represented and Br. Frazier from the Department of Massachusetts represented the National Organization. The meeting was pleasant and cordial, and as all matters were acted on unanimously, the only point of difference was the lunch order from Moe's Subs. A number of Brothers seem to plan on attending the National Encampment so the Department will be represented.

All Department reports have been filed. Department Secretary Dow deserves an immense amount of credit for his perseverance, and his efforts succeeded in clearing up a years-old problem of correcting membership rolls. General Halleck and Secretary Stanton would be proud of him.

Members of the Department attended the ceremony at General Grant's Tomb in New York City on April 28, helping out the 2nd Military District, the Department of New York, and Oliver Tilden Camp. It was a grand event, as usual. A wreath was presented on behalf of the Department.

Memorial Day events were observed in Fremont, New Hampshire., Salem New Hampshire, Woodstock, VT., Manchester, New Hampshire and Lebanon New Hampshire (my own camp, Major McKinley #9 is based directly on the Vermont border, and therefore attends events nearby)

There will, of course, be events on the Glorious 4th, but there was an early parade in Hanover Center, NH on June 29 which is being attended by members of the Department.

Plans are being made by Camp 10 and Camp 9 to engage in a talk in conjunction with the Peterborough Players (a professional theatre) in Peterborough NH for a play entitled "Ben Butler" about the events at Fortress Monroe and the classification of enslaved persons as "contrabands". They have asked for our help with proper costuming and props, and a meeting occurred on June 16. It is hoped that a post-show talk by uniformed members will get the order some badly needed public visibility (and perhaps even some recruits).

We do anticipate a rather active summer, as the region continues to move forward and fairs and other events resume. I do not anticipate a truly "normal" year, as events even for the Glorious 4th have not yet resumed as the advance planning required could not be accomplished given the uncertainties prevalent during the last months.

In F, C, and L,

Michael C. Shklar, Department Commander

Report of the New Jersey Department

Dear Brothers,

It is an honor to make this report. The current strength of the New Jersey Department is 271 Brothers, with all our Camps maintaining very active events. Here are just some of the activities our Camps are involved in.

Camp 4 - President James A. Garfield Camp - is the oldest Camp in our Department is busy recruiting new members.

Camp 7 - Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp.

- September 16th Brothers helped at the Woodstown Church Cemetery to reset gravestones damaged during a recent storm. Many of these stones are those of USCT veterans.
- October 15th was the Annual Country Living Fair held at Historic Batsto Village. This is the 30th year that the Camp has participated in it and we spoke to a number of prospective members.
- On November 11th we participated in a GAR marker installation and dedication for Pvt. Peter Joseph Schwickerath of the 23rd New Jersey Infantry. We were honored to have members of the family in attendance.
- November 18th, we had a great turnout at Gettysburg for Remembrance Day. The parade was led by PDC Dave Hann serving as on staff of the SVR as Provost Marshall, with the rank of Lt. Colonel and PDC Fred Mossbrucker now serving as Deputy Provost Marshall with the rank of Captain.
- On December 4th, the Camp delivered over 150 toys for the Toys for Tots program. This year we selected the Gloucester County Marine Toys for Tots as we have several Brothers from Gloucester County.
- On May 10th, we participated in the annual Confederate Memorial Day service at Finns Point National Cemetery. We do this in conjunction with Private Pool Camp #1505 Sons of Confederate Veterans. This joint ceremony honors both the 136 Union soldiers serving as prison guards, and the 2,436 Confederate POWs that died at nearby Fort Delaware. Our SVR unit provided Brothers for the rifle salute.
- Wednesday May 22nd the Camp helped to place flags at Egg Harbor City, Greenmount, and Oak Grove Cemetery. Brothers from the Camp placed well over 300 flags.
- On May 27th the Camp participated in the annual Hammonton Memorial Day parade, and our SVR unit provided Brothers for the rifle salute.
- On Thursday May 30th, we held traditional Memorial Day services at Greenmount Cemetery. This is the 33rd year that we have done this, and we hold the event rain or shine.

Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon Camp #10

- The Camp began a new cemetery cleanup project at Ambury Hill Cemetery, a cemetery of forgotten veterans of the United States Colored Troops. A committee was formed to work on the project.
- Dylan J. Wettstein was elected as CC, Bryan Sigmund as SVC, and Morell Wolf PCC as JVC. Robert Wilhelm PDC was reelected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer.
- The Camp worked diligently in its project at the Cemetery and, after gaining permission from the property owners, set out to host a cleanup and restoration event at the cemetery in cooperation with Francine Camp #7.
- The Camp was also notified of two forgotten veterans in a nearby abandoned cemetery in Springtown, who were John Dean and Howard Hall, runaway slaves who enlisted in the 45th USCT and 22nd USCT respectively.
- At the headstone event, the two Camps joined together and collaborated and cleaned well over fifteen headstones in Ambury Hill, and the two USCT Veterans in nearby Springtown. The Camps were also delighted to be joined by Robin Winrow of the Bethel AME Church who gave the party a tour of the building, the same building where Harriet Tubman had lived for a few years. The event ended in a great success.
- On May 29th, Patricia Wilhelm PDP, the Chaplain of Cornelia Hancock Auxiliary 10, placed a new GAR Grave Marker and Flag on the grave of a previously unmarked civil war veteran, Joshua Nickerson (her great-grandfather), a member of Co B, 33rd, Massachusetts Infantry and a Past Commander of Shin Post #6 GAR, buried in Port Norris Cemetery just before Memorial Day.

Camp 17 - Major General George Armstrong Custer Camp

- Custer Camp continues on the signage of GAR post across various parts of NJ in the Camps boundaries along with Kearny Camp and Winfield Scott Camp.
- Custer Camp has also started a new campaign to get shirts, hats and jackets made to promote the order in public view.
- Custer Camp had its Memorial Day service at the Fairview Cemetery in Middletown NJ. Starting with a Memorial service at the 29th NJ monument at the entrance of the cemetery, then onto the Arrowsmith Gar post 61 plot. PCinC Grand Army of the Republic Nevins final resting place was saluted as we progressed to our final stop of Revolutionary war veteran's graves.

Camp 20 - Major General Phillip Kearny Camp

- The regular camp meeting was held on May 11 at the Abraham Clark SAR House Museum.
- Camp members and officers attended the annual New Jersey Department Encampment on June 8.

- A sign unveiling ceremony was held memorializing the location of the former Brig. Gen. Paul GAR Post #101 in Westwood at the current American Legion / VFW post. The event was well attended by members of both posts, town officials, and the town's historic commission.
- We have finalized plans for a sign placement and ceremony at the former GAR post #17 in Carlstadt to be held in September.
- Kearny Camp presented seven ROTC/JROTC metals to cadets.
- Camp members participated in Memorial Day events, flag ceremonies, wreath-laying, placement, and veterans' grave decoration at 12 cemeteries: Fairmount in Newark (formal ceremony), Holy Cross and Arlington in North Arlington, East Ridgelawn in Clifton, Rosedale in West Orange, First Presbyterian, Westfield, Fairview in Middletown, George Washington in Paramus, Hollywood in Union, Springfield Methodist Church, East Hanover Cemetery, and Restland in East Hanover.
- Members also participated in the clean-up activity at the Castner-Compton Cemetery in Bridgewater.
- Work continues on graves registration with significant progress at the Westwood Cemetery.

Camp 73 - Major General Winfield Scott Camp

- Brother Robert Meyer PDC was awarded the Legion of Honor pin upon his selection to the Legion Of Honor, Chapel of the Four Chaplains. Brother Robert was recognized for his many works of charity and service, not only for the SUVCW, and SAR, but for Veterans and the community too.
- Winfield Scott Camp had a cemetery clean up on 5-11-24 and plans to follow up with a 2nd during the summer months.

Camp 82 - James S. Stratton Camp

- We performed at Philadelphia's Laurel Hill Cemetery for the traditional Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday, May 26. After performing a concert, we honored the graves of General Meade as well as 2 recently discovered graves of Civil War soldiers. A ceremony was held to honor them at the Silent Sentry memorial.
- We performed in the Glassboro, NJ Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 27.
- We performed in the Malvern, Pa. Memorial Day parade on Sunday, June 2.
- We performed in the Evesham Twp. July 4 parade.
- We performed in the Cape May, NJ Independence Day parade on Saturday, July 6.

Camp 100 - President Abraham Lincoln Camp

- Has been meeting and are planning a few events including a presence at the Monmouth Battlefield recruiting on behalf of the Sons.

Camp 104 - Sergeant Hiram W. Pursell Camp

- Has been busy doing many patriotic events and recruiting on behalf of the Sons.
- On June 8th, the New Jersey Department met for the 142nd year. The following Brothers were elected:
 - Frank Tomasello from Francine Camp# 7 was elected Department Commander,
 - Peter Lindsay from Kearney Camp 20, as Department Senior Vice Commander,
 - Bryan Sigmund from Francine Camp# 7 as Department Junior Vice Commander, and
 - Dr. David G. Martin PDC from Lincoln Camp #100 as Secretary/Treasurer

We were honored to have Past C-in-C Mike Paquette in attendance, who provided us with his wise council and installed our new Officers.

One of the tasks that is planned for my administration is to identify and mark the last Civil War Veteran in each county in New Jersey and to make sure that they are marked.

In closing it is an honor to serve my Department and the Sons.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Francis A Tomasello Jr.

Commander

Department of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO ENCAMPMENT REPORT

June 24, 2024

The 2023-2024 Department of Ohio encampment was held on June 1, 2024. Encampment officiated by Department Commander John Huffman Jr. In attendance was CinC Peter Hritsko.

The Department of Ohio consists of 15 camps with 387 members. Present at the encampment were 47 Brothers representing 12 of the camps.

Memorial was held for departed brothers. The department lost the following:

Randall Staley	Sherman Camp 93
Fredric Lynch PDC	Sherman Camp 93
Richard Haudenschild	Sherman Camp 93
Tim Graham PDC	Garfield Camp 142
Raymond Nagel PDC	Lytle Camp 10
James Litzenberg	Parrott Camp 33

CinC Peter Hritsko was introduced and briefly addressed the encampment.

The encampment approved the continuation of the "Department Monument and Memorials Fund" and dictated that any funds remaining each year will roll over to the next year. Interest from the permanent fund and designated donations will also comprise the fund. A committee will be formed year 2024-2025 to review and update this article.

Steve Ball was elected the Department of Ohio's new Commander. Commander Ball is a Lifetime Member of the Order, and a dual member of Dennison Camp #1, and Enderlin Camp #73. He has served as Dennison Camp Commander, Patriotic Instructor, and Chaplain.

Stephen W. Ball

Department Commander

Department of Ohio

Department of Oklahoma

Terry D. Handley, DC

Current Membership and Camps Status

As of the Annual Report dated May 25, 2024, the Department of Oklahoma has 41 Members including Associates. The Department of Oklahoma currently stands at 3 Camps. All camps have regular meetings and conduct events and ceremonies in communities around the state.

Department Encampment

The Department of Oklahoma Encampment was held on May 11 , 2024 at the Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor's Center. Department Commander, Terry Handley, and all the Department Officers were installed for the year 2024-2025 by PCinC Brian "BP" Pierson. During the Encampment, Mrs. Lana Cooper was presented with the Dr. Mary Edwards Walker award.

Special Committee's Review of Membership Qualifications Report

It was proposed and approved at the Department Encampment that the following amendment be recommended: Add a single definition of the qualification for membership in the SUVCW in the "Constitution of the Order," rather than inserting numerous qualification descriptions throughout the Constitution of the Order. "For the purposes of this Constitution, and all regulations, orders, and other official acts of the National Organization, Departments, and Camps, "male" shall be defined as a person who was biologically male at birth and identifies as a male."

Ceremonies, Events, and Presentations

During the past year, the members of the Department conducted several ceremonies in conjunction with the DUVCW Sisters of the Department of Oklahoma.

Brothers provided Honor Guard for Memorial Day ceremony at the Union Soldiers Cemetery on May 29, 2023.

Brothers attended the dedication of Honey Springs Battlefield July 15, 2023.

Brothers assisted the Sisters of the DUVCW with their National Convention held at the Embassy Suites in Oklahoma City.

Brothers provided Color Guard, Escorts, and assisted with tours of the 45th Infantry Museum, July 18 - July 23, 2023.

Brothers of the Department attended the Seventh Annual James Caster Symposium on the Civil War at Randall University, Moore, OK October 4, 2023.

Brothers conducted education with dozens of visitors about Civil War history at the Oklahoma Department SUVCW display at the Folklife Festival at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City on October 21, 2023.

Brothers conducted Remembrance Day ceremonies at cemeteries in Oklahoma City and Tulsa which were held in collaboration with the Sisters of the DUVCW on November 18, 2023.

Wreaths Across America in conjunction with the Oklahoma City Regents Council of the DAR and the Oklahoma City SAR. Placed 120 wreaths placed and 3 volley salute fired by a combined Sons of Veteran Reserve Co. L 3rd Indian Home Guard and Sons of the American Revolution firing team on December 16, 2023.

Brothers dedicated 5 Union Veterans Graves at the Gower Cemetery (a small family cemetery) in Arcadia, Oklahoma and placed GAR flag markers and fired three (3) volleys. May 6, 2023.

Pennsylvania Department 2024 National Encampment Report

I was honored to be elected as Pennsylvania Department Commander on 29 June 2024, and congratulate now-PDC Dane DiFebo on his service as commander for the past two years.

Despite the PA Dept facing many challenges since the pandemic, including losing 200 Brothers over the past two years to a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the 2022 National per capita increase, the department remains steadfast in its commitment to honoring our Boys in Blue, those who saved the United States from 1861 to 1865. PA Dept strength as of 29 May 2024 stood at 561 Brothers.

On a particularly positive note, I anticipate receiving at this National Encampment two charters for new Dept camps, one in southwest PA and the other in north central PA, and in early July I signed off on Forms 51 and 52 for another new camp to form, to be based in Valley Forge. Once these three camps are chartered, the PA Dept will have 26 active camps. This is a visible demonstration that Dept Brothers are getting out into their communities, and beyond, to share with the public that the sacrifices made during the American Civil War remain relevant and worthy of remembrance. Often, such work is conducted with Sisters from PA's Allied Orders.

Dept Brothers regularly participate with outside organizations such as the American Battlefield Trust, National Civil War Museum, Gilder Lehrman Institute, History Camp, Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute, Wreaths Across America, George Meade Society, GAR Civil War Museum and Library (Philadelphia), Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum (Pittsburgh), the GAR Memorial Assn Museum and Library (Scranton), and National Park Service units in PA, among others. But focus remains centered on our camps' home and surrounding counties, particularly to perform ceremonial, remembrance, and graves work, as well as recognizing outstanding youth through SUVCW's Eagle Scout and Cadet Award programs.

Notable activity during 2023-2024 includes:

- Holding a Special Encampment to address "membership qualifications."
- Last Veteran ceremonies for Huntingdon, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Montour Counties, making 16 Last Veterans recognized among 67 PA counties. Several more are in the works for 2024-2025, and another 24 potential Last Veterans have been identified but need more research to confirm their status.
- At least 39 Eagle Scouts were recognized with Eagle Scout certificates, with some camps not reporting their efforts.
- The PA Dept and its camps are actively engaged in supporting the Cadet Award for ROTC, JROTC, and NDCC units, and have started to make connections with the 60+ Civil Air Patrol, USN Sea Cadet Corps, and Young Marine units in the Commonwealth.
- Gen Thomas Camp 19 annually holds a 30 May Memorial Day remembrance service at the GAR Plot in Lancaster Cemetery.

- PA Dept Graves Registration Certificates of Achievement were presented to ten camps or individuals for outstanding graves-related work. Particularly notable:
 - **Davis Camp** performed 2,000+ hours on graves activities: adding nearly 1,000 new PA entries to our database along with scores in other states, 24 new vet headstones, worked with the SUVCW Find- A-Grave team on PA issues, and assisted cemetery associations in identifying Civil War vets buried in their cemeteries.
 - **Gen Thomas Camp 19** is working with the Lancaster Cemetery Assn to raise funds to rehabilitate the Reynolds family plot, which includes Gen John F. Reynolds and his brother, Adm William Reynolds, and hosted a registered American Battlefield Trust Park Day event cleaning the Greenwood Cemetery GAR plot.
 - **John T. Crawford Camp 43** continues to replace missing, damaged, or illegible Civil War vet headstones, leads local Memorial Day activities, and continues to sponsor the Kittanning "Wall of Flags," this year honoring 104 local vets, first responders, and others who have been positive influences in the community.
 - **Pvt Silas Gore Camp 141** continues its efforts to photograph and geocoordinate record every Civil War vet in Bradford Co., PA.
- The PA Dept has purchased a Zoom Pro account for virtual dept officer/council meetings and for the Dept Cmdr. to host meetings with camp Cmdrs./Sec'ys.

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.

William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC
Commander

Department of Tennessee Report to National Encampment

August 1-4, 2024 Lexington, KY

On June 27, 2024, I issued Department Order #5 authorizing George Huttick, PDC to begin the formation of a new Camp in Savannah, TN in the vicinity of the Shiloh Battlefield. Much interest has been developed in this area. The Camp is tentatively using the moniker of Pittsburg Landing Camp #61 during its Organizing Stage with George Huttick as Camp Organizer.

The Department is actively working with a possible Camp Organizer for a Camp in Mississippi. This would be the first Camp in Mississippi if it comes to fruition.

Activities:

- The Fort Donelson Camp was asked to be a consulting partner for the National Endowment for the Humanities regarding Section 106 Consultation Invitation for the Vanderbilt University Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research award, RFW-292005-23, titled:

"Descendant-led Excavation at the Reconstruction-Era Black Civil War Veteran Community at Bass Street, Fort Negley Park".

This process was approved on October 19, 2023 by Commander-In-Chief Peter J. Hritsko Jr.

- On June 18, 2024, the National Endowment for the Humanities provided us with a Final Draft Copy of the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement which was forwarded to Commander-In-Chief Peter J. Hritsko Jr for comments or concerns.

The Department continues to research the possibility of hosting a National Encampment with a target date of the 2026 Encampment. George Huttick has been appointed as Chairman of the Host Committee and has appointed several Sub-Committees to work on various aspects of this project. Several Zoom Meetings with Committees and interested Department Members have been held with great success. We are optimistic that this goal can be reached.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Chip Huffman

Commander

Department of Tennessee (with Mississippi)

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department of Texas and Louisiana

2024

Commander-in-chief Hritsko and members of the Council of Administration, it is my privilege to present this report of the Department of Texas/Louisiana for the first half of 2024.

General James J. Byrne Camp 1

Camp 1 is in a period of transition and searches for its identity. The Camp's home will be split between Fort Worth and Bell County to better accommodate its demographics.

The camp observed Memorial Day at the GAR monument in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth, followed by a visit to the grave of its namesake in Pioneer's Rest Cemetery.

Graves Registration Officer Todd Wilber continues his successful search for Federal graves in North Texas not included in our database.

The camp is led by commander Butch Durham. They are experimenting with alternate Zoom and live meetings. The great distances for which Texas is famous present a major challenge to Camp 1.

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lea Camp 2

Camp 2 counts 105 members and meets the 3rd Saturday of each month.

The camp annually commemorates the Battle of Galveston where their namesake lost his life. At this year's rendition eleven other patriotic hereditary organizations participated, after which the Brothers indulged in a monument restoration.

The Camp stayed quite busy, with appearances twice on Memorial Day, Wreaths Across America, and Juneteenth.

The camp website continues to expand its coverage with an ancestor page and links to other historical information.

Camp 2 maintains two Facebook pages - one for members only, and one for public access.

Their award winning Camp newsletter, The Harriet Lane, is published quarterly.

SVC Dan Pourreau began a project to commission and fund a historical marker for the GAR lot in Washington Cemetery.

Future plans include:

- Grave marker installation for Captain Mahlon Davis of Co A, 21st Infantry, USCT
- Graveside ceremony for Capt. Isaac Conroe
- Veterans Day
- Wreaths Across America.

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp 5

Camp 5 participated in Memorial Day services at Oakwood Cemetery in Louisiana.

They moved their meeting location to Marshall, Texas, to better meet the needs of camp members.

One Army cadet at Northwestern State University in Louisiana was presented with the Order's ROTC award.

Four Eagle Scouts were presented with the SUVCW Commendation.

The Camp caused a plaque to be made, which they later installed, to honor Union forces at the Battle of Sabine Crossroads April 8-9, 1864.

Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth Camp 18

Camp 18 regular meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. They have featured:

- 10 Patriotic Instructor presentations
- 2 speakers on Civil War topics
- Election of 7 new members
- Election and installation of a full slate of officers.

The Camp has participated in Wreaths Across America and the Medal of Honor parade in Gainesville, Texas.

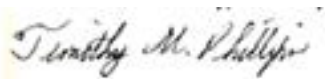
They are selling commemorative medals as a fundraiser.

A New Camp - is in the formation process in San Antonio under the direction of Camp Organizer Blair Rudy. Stay tuned for updates as the process moves along.

The Leadership Staff Roundtable begun under Commander Michael Lance continues via Zoom on the 4th Thursday evening of each month. It has been a source of great good in facilitating acquaintance of numerous members and in getting much work done. This is especially true in planning for the 2025 National Encampment at Houston. One thing in particular the Roundtable has helped bring about is the program of awarding certificates of appreciation to military veterans.

The Department is excited about hosting next year's National Encampment. The planning committee, led by Bro. John Schneider, is working hard on all the logistics, tours, and fund raisers required. Treue der Union!

Respectfully submitted 6/29/2024



Timothy Phillips, Commander
Dept. of Texas/Louisiana
SUVCW

Department of Wisconsin

Sir,

As Commander, I installed officers at several Camps this year, some via zoom. I have given 2 civil war presentations at 2 different schools and continue to clean headstones at several cemeteries. I am also on the Burlington, Wis. Cemetery board. I help with maintaining the cemetery doing repairs, straightening headstones and cleaning them.

I attended our Department mid-winter meeting. Also, the Lincoln tomb ceremony in April. I attended the Cavalry cemetery event on May 27, and our Camp 15 Honor Guard, of which I am a member, fired muskets.

Our Camp 15 continues to do restoration projects at the Lafayette church.

I did several electrical repairs at the Walworth County Veterans Museum, and also at the historic Sharon Town Hall building on the fairgrounds.

I have been assisting the SAR with installation of a plaque, and planting a tree honoring a Rev. War veteran, Aaron Smith, in the city of Burlington, Wis.

I attended a dedication for several civil war soldiers grave sites with Camp 1 in Milwaukee. The Graves were unmarked and Camp 1 got new flat government plaques for them. Good job Camp 1!

I was asked to be Department Commander for another term due to the passing of our SVC, Sam Kieth.

I attended the Department Encampment at Boscobel GAR hall and was reinstalled as Department Commander by our National Commander. All positions in our Department are filled at this time.

The Camp 15 Honor Guard will have a float at the Waterford Lions Club parade on the 4th and we will fire muskets during the parade. It's always a big hit with parade goers. And afterward, we have a Camp 15 picnic at brother Dave Daley's farm.

I will install officers again this year at various Camps in our Department and continue the work of the Order.

Department Commander Robert Koenecke.

REPORTS

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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National Patriotic Instructor Report
Recommendations Page Guide

Financial Statements

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

*Year ended June 30, 2023
with Independent Auditor's Report*

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Financial Statements

Year ended June 30, 2023

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Independent Auditor's Report

Council of Administration
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc. (SUVCW) (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2023, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of SUVCW as of June 30, 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under GAAS are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of SUVCW and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about SUVCW's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

Council of Administration
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of SUVCW's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about SUVCW's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Council of Administration
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The combining statements of financial position and activities are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Coulter & Justus, P.C.

Knoxville, Tennessee
October 31, 2023

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2023

Assets

Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 167,782
Accounts receivable	96
Inventory	35,052
Prepaid expenses	22,676
Total current assets	<u>225,606</u>

Certificates of deposit	394,131
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Investments, at fair value:

U.S. Savings Bonds	48,264
Common stocks	407,080
Mutual funds	205,636
Total investments, at fair value	<u>660,980</u>

Fixed assets:

Website, furniture, and equipment	72,617
Less accumulated depreciation	(31,961)
Net fixed assets	<u>40,656</u>

Right of use asset, net	19,788
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,341,161</u>

Liabilities and net assets

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 4,736
Deferred revenue	158,577
Current portion of operating lease liability	10,033
Total current liabilities	<u>173,346</u>

Operating lease liability, less current portion	9,755
Total liabilities	<u>183,101</u>

Net assets:

Without donor restrictions:

Designated	500,867
Undesignated	657,193
Total net assets	<u>1,158,060</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 1,341,161</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Statement of Activities

For the year ended June 30, 2023

Revenues:	
Per capita dues	\$ 144,200
Life member fees	38,700
Registration and application fees	5,820
Quartermaster sales	40,393
Shipping and handling	6,410
Banner subscriptions and advertising	60
Donations	68,350
Lincoln tomb observance	1,710
Other	3,322
Total revenues	<u>308,965</u>
Expenses:	
Officer allowances and per diem expense	31,062
Executive director and assistant executive director	31,000
Cost of quartermaster sales	26,795
Shipping and handling	10,131
ROTC program	5,981
National encampment	8,320
Printing and Remembrance Day expenses	14,738
Banner	52,911
Lincoln tomb observance	2,958
Life member payments to camps	1,081
Awards, grants, and scholarships	16,272
Accounting and professional fees	34,790
Office, telephone, and postage	19,080
Rent	10,320
Insurance	4,104
Depreciation and amortization	3,990
Miscellaneous expense	5,832
Total expenses	<u>279,365</u>
Change in net assets without donor restrictions before investment income	29,600
Net investment income	32,523
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	<u>62,123</u>
Net assets without donor restrictions, beginning of year	<u>1,095,937</u>
Net assets without donor restrictions, end of year	<u><u>\$ 1,158,060</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended June 30, 2023

Cash flows from operating activities	
Change in net assets	\$ 62,123
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities	
Depreciation and amortization	3,990
Net investment income	(32,523)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:	
Accounts receivable	512
Prepaid expenses	(2,128)
Inventory	1,913
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	4,577
Deferred revenue	50,956
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>89,420</u>
Cash flows used by investing activities	
Purchases of fixed assets	(17,444)
Purchases of certificates of deposit	(400,000)
Net sales of investments	364,965
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(52,479)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	36,941
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>130,841</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 167,782</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2023

1. Description of Organization

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc. (SUVCW) is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1881. SUVCW was incorporated by an Act of Congress on August 20, 1954.

The purpose of SUVCW is to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of The Republic and the men who saved the Union between 1861 and 1865; to assist in every practicable way in the preservation of and availability of documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of The Republic and its members; to cooperate in doing honor to all who have patriotically served our country in any war; to teach patriotism and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our Country, and the love and honor of our flag; to oppose every tendency or movement that would weaken loyalty to, or make for the destruction or impairment of our constitutional union; and to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, of equal rights, and of impartial justice for all.

Membership in SUVCW is limited by an act of Congress to male, blood relatives of persons who served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865, as soldiers or sailors of The United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service, and of such state requirements as were called into active service, and were subject to orders of United States General Officers between those dates, and were honorably discharged from such service or who died in service.

SUVCW consists of Camps, Departments, and the National Organization. The National Encampment of the National Organization has the supreme power and authority of the Order of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. These financial statements include only the activities of the National Organization. SUVCW is classified as an organization exempt from income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) as a public charity. SUVCW has a group exemption that covers its Camps and Departments. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been included in the accompanying financial statements.

SUVCW is governed by a twelve (12) member Council of Administration. The National Encampment elects all Council of Administration members to oversee and administer the day-to-day operations of SUVCW.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

SUVCW reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following classes of net assets:

Net assets without donor restrictions – Includes revenue and donations received without donor-imposed restrictions.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Basis of Presentation (continued)

Net assets with donor restrictions – Includes revenue and donations, if any, subject to donor-imposed stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets and where the restriction is not met within the same fiscal year. When a donor restriction expires in a subsequent fiscal year, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the Statement of Activities as net assets released from restrictions. Donor restricted gifts are classified as unrestricted if the restriction expires in the same fiscal year.

Basis of Accounting

SUVCW uses the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

Fund Accounting

The accounts of SUVCW are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Under fund accounting, resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, fund balances and activity are classified as net assets with or without donor restrictions in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The following funds are used by SUVCW:

General Fund

This fund is used to collect revenues and disburse funds for expenses related to the normal, day-to-day operations of SUVCW.

National Headquarters Fund

This fund is used to account for funds to establish a National Headquarters. The National Headquarters is located within the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Headquarters will be used for the National Executive Director's office and to store records. Annual rent is \$10,320. As of June 30, 2023, the Council of Administration designated \$13,711 for these purposes.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Fund Accounting (continued)

Preservation Fund

This fund was created by action of the Council of Administration in 1999 to assist Departments and Camps of the Order in the preservation, maintenance, and defense of Civil War monuments and memorials. As of June 30, 2023, the Council of Administration designated \$39,175 for these purposes.

Permanent Fund

This fund was established by vote of the National Encampment of SUVCW and is authorized by Article VIII of SUVCW's Constitution. This fund accounts for Life Membership fees received prior to August 15, 1996. The fund also accounts for monies that have been given or bequeathed to the National Organization in memory of a Civil War veteran, monies given or bequeathed to the National Organization that have not been designated for a specific purpose by the donor, and such other monies as may be added thereto by vote of the National Encampment or the Council of Administration. The Permanent Fund may annually distribute, for each Life Member, \$18 to the National General Fund; \$3,993 was distributed to the National General Fund during 2023. The annual reimbursement sent to each member's camp upon application is set by the Council of Administration. The Council of Administration sets the amount based upon the earnings of the Permanent Fund in the previous fiscal year. Earnings on the monies may be transferred to the National General Fund and used for the operations of the National Organization. Except as may be provided by the donor, no portion of the principal may be disbursed without a vote by the National Encampment. As of June 30, 2023, the Council of Administration designated \$357,701 for these purposes.

Lincoln Tomb Observance Fund

This fund was established by the vote of the National Encampment of SUVCW in 2007 to account for monies designated for the annual ceremony held to honor Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, Illinois. As of June 30, 2023, there were no net assets designated by the Council of Administration to be used for this purpose.

Life Membership Fund

This fund was established by the vote of the National Encampment of SUVCW in 2012 to account for the life membership fees. As of June 30, 2023, the Council of Administration designated net assets of \$90,280 for this purpose.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Cash and Cash Equivalents

SUVCW considers highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Cash on deposit at financial institutions is federally insured to certain limits. SUVCW routinely has cash on deposit with financial institutions with these limits, and balances in excess of these limits are subject to the risk that the financial institution will not pay upon demand.

Certificates of Deposit

SUVCW's certificates of deposit are recorded at cost.

Accounts Receivable

Due to the nature of the activities and services, SUVCW's policies do not require collateral for receivables. The allowance method is used to determine uncollectible accounts receivable, if any, based on prior years' experience and management's analysis of specific accounts receivable. Credit losses, when realized, have been within management's expectations. Accounts receivable as of July 1, 2022 totaled \$608.

Inventory

Inventory consists of items for sale to members and is charged as an expense at the time of sale. Inventory is stated at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Cost is determined using the average cost method.

Fixed Assets

Website development costs are capitalized to the extent the project is substantially complete and ready for its intended use. Furniture and equipment over \$500 is capitalized and stated at cost, if purchased, or at fair value, if donated. Depreciation and amortization is provided over the estimated useful lives, which range from three to ten years, of the related assets using the straight-line method. The costs of normal maintenance that do not add to the value of assets or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Investments

The investment portfolios are held and managed by investment advisors and stated at fair value (Note 3). Investment income, including unrealized gains and losses, is reported as an increase in net assets, depending upon donor restrictions, if any.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Revenue Recognition

SUVCW recognizes revenue when control is transferred to its members in an amount that reflects the consideration SUVCW expects to be entitled to in exchange for those products and services. SUVCW memberships run from June 1 to May 31. Membership dues (per capita dues and life member fees) represent a single performance obligation. Progress toward satisfaction of the performance obligation is measured based on time elapsed, and revenue is recognized as the member receives and consumes the benefits of the services performed. Membership dues are reported as deferred revenue and recognized during the period of membership. Registration and application fees consist of one performance obligation. Registration and application fees received in advance are recorded as deferred revenue and recognized at the time of the encampment. Quartermaster sales consist of one performance obligation and are recognized upon the transfer of the goods or services to the customer. Deferred revenue was \$107,621 as of July 1, 2022.

Donations

All donations are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Donations subject to donor-imposed stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets, and for which the restriction is not met within the same fiscal year, are classified as net assets with donor restrictions. When a donor restriction expires in a subsequent fiscal year, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. Donor restricted gifts are classified as net assets without donor restrictions if the restriction expires in the same fiscal year.

Donated Materials and Service

The amount of donated materials and services is not considered to be significant by management. Accordingly, no values have been recorded in the financial statements.

Right-of-Use Assets and Lease Liabilities

The FASB issued ASU 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*, which supersedes previous lease accounting guidance and required lessees to recognize leases on the statement of financial position and disclose key information about leasing arrangements. SUVCW adopted ASU 2016-02 and related amendments using a modified retrospective transition approach as of July 1, 2022. SUVCW elected to adopt the package of transition practical expedients and, therefore, did not reassess (1) whether existing or expired contracts contain a lease, (2) lease classification for existing or expired leases, or (3) the accounting for initial direct costs that were previously capitalized and (4) made an accounting policy election to use published U.S. Treasury rates as the risk-free rate rates as the discount rates for all leases. As a result of adopting ASU 2016-02, SUVCW recognized a lease liability of \$30,108 with a corresponding right-of-use (ROU) asset of \$30,108 as of July 1, 2022.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Right-of-Use Assets and Lease Liabilities (continued)

SUVCW determines if an arrangement is or contains a lease at contract inception and recognizes an ROU asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date.

For operating leases, the lease liability is initially and subsequently measured at the present value of the unpaid lease payments at the lease commencement date. Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability include fixed payments owed over the lease term. SUVCW discounts its unpaid lease payments using published U.S. Treasury rates.

The lease term includes the noncancellable period of the lease plus any additional periods covered by either a SUVCW-option to extend (or not to terminate) the lease that the SUVCW is reasonably certain to exercise or an option to extend (or not to terminate) the lease controlled by the lessor.

The ROU asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability (adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date), plus any initial direct costs incurred, less any lease incentives received, and adjusted for the carrying amount of any deferred rents. The ROU asset is subsequently measured throughout the lease term at the carrying amount of the lease liability less any accrued lease payments. Lease expense for operating lease payments is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Variable lease payments associated with the SUVCW's leases, if any, are recognized when the event, activity, or circumstance in the lease agreement on which those payments are assessed occurs. Variable lease payments arising from fixed lease payments, if any, are presented as operating expenses in the accompanying statement of activities.

The Company monitors for events or changes in circumstances that require a reassessment of one of its leases. When a reassessment results in the remeasurement of a lease liability, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the corresponding ROU asset.

Liquidity and Availability of Resources

SUVCW has a policy to structure its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities, and other obligations come due.

As of June 30, 2023, SUVCW has approximately \$1,223,000 of financial assets, including approximately \$168,000 of cash and cash equivalents, \$394,000 of certificates of deposit, and \$661,000 of investments available to meet cash needs for general expenditures that will be available within one year of the statement of financial position date. None of these financial assets are subject to donor or other contractual restrictions that make them unavailable for general expenditure within one year of the statement of financial position date.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts of assets and liabilities and related disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Subsequent Events

In preparation of the accompanying financial statements, management has evaluated subsequent events through October 31, 2023, the date the financial statements were available for issuance.

3. Investments

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

- Level 1 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that SUVCW has the ability to access.
- Level 2 Inputs to the methodology include:
 - Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
 - Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
 - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
 - Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.
- Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The fair value measurement level of the asset or liability within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

3. Investments (continued)

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for investments measured at fair value:

U.S. savings bonds: Valued using pricing models maximizing the use of observable inputs for similar securities.

Common stocks: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by SUVCW are registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily NAV and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by SUVCW are deemed to be actively traded.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although SUVCW believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, SUVCW's investments as of June 30, 2023:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
U.S. savings bonds	\$ —	\$48,264	\$ —	\$ 48,264
Common stock	407,080	—	—	407,080
Mutual funds	205,636	—	—	205,636
Total investments, at fair value	\$660,980	\$48,264	\$ —	\$660,980

The total return on certificates of deposit, U.S. savings bonds, common stocks, and mutual funds for the year ended June 30, 2023 is summarized as follows:

Interest and dividends	\$17,309
Net realized and unrealized investment income	15,214
Net investment income	<u>\$32,523</u>

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

4. Right-of-Use Assets and Lease Liabilities

SUVCW leases office space under an operating lease agreement that expires on June 30, 2025. The lease agreement does not include any renewal options, termination options, or restrictive financial or other covenants. Annual payments of \$10,320 are due under the lease agreement.

Amounts reported in the balance sheet as of June 30, 2023 are as follows:

Operating right-of-use asset	\$19,788
Current portion of operating lease liability	\$10,033
Long-term portion of operating lease liability	9,755
Total operating lease liability	<u>\$19,788</u>

Future minimum lease payments and maturities for noncancellable operating leases consist of the following as of June 30, 2023:

2024	\$10,320
2025	10,320
Total minimum lease payments	<u>20,640</u>
Less present value discount	(852)
Total operating lease liabilities	<u>\$19,788</u>

Lease costs for the year ended June 30, 2023 totaled \$10,320.

Other information related to leases as of December 31, 2023 is as follows:

Supplemental cash flow information:	
Operating cash flows from operating leases	\$10,320
Weighted average remaining lease term	2.0 years
Weighted average discount rate	2.82%

5. Endowment

SUVCW's endowment consists of the internally designated Permanent Fund established for perpetual support of the Order. As required by GAAP, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Interpretation of Relevant Law – SUVCW classifies the original and subsequent value of funds designated for the endowment as net assets without donor restrictions. The Council of Administration of SUVCW has determined that the long-term preservation of the real value of the assets is the current goal of the endowment. As such, SUVCW has not chosen to be governed by the spending rate as permitted by the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

5. Endowment (continued)

The following represents the change in endowment funds for the year ended June 30, 2023:

Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$278,957
Donations	63,090
Investment income	18,462
Lifetime memberships reimbursed	(4,301)
Other	1,493
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$357,701</u>

Return Objectives and Risk Parameters – SUCVW has adopted an investment policy for endowment assets that attempt to achieve a real total return, resulting from income and capital appreciation, which will assist SUCVW in achieving its long-term funding objectives. Under this policy, the endowment assets are invested in a manner that, after examining the historical relationships of risk and return among asset classes, is designed to provide the highest probability of meeting or exceeding the return objectives at the lowest possible risk.

Strategies Employed for Achieving Objectives – To satisfy its long-term rate of return objectives, SUCVW relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). SUCVW targets a diversified asset allocation to achieve its long-term return objectives within prudent risk constraints.

Spending Policy and How the Investment Objectives Relate to Spending Policy – Currently, the Council of Administration of SUCVW has determined that the long-term preservation of the real value of the assets is the current goal of the permanent endowment. As such, there has been no approved spending policy, as the current objective of the endowment is to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets held in perpetuity. Current period interest and dividends may be considered to be payment of life membership reimbursements.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

6. Functional Expenses

The costs of providing the various programs and other activities have been allocated among program and management and general based primarily upon direct charges and were as follows during 2023:

	Program	Administrative	Total
Officer allowances and per diem expense	\$ 31,062	\$ —	\$ 31,062
Executive director and assistant executive director	—	31,000	31,000
Cost of quartermaster sales	26,795	—	26,795
Shipping and handling	10,131	—	10,131
ROTC program	5,981	—	5,981
National encampment	8,320	—	8,320
Printing and web page	14,738	—	14,738
Banner	52,911	—	52,911
Lincoln tomb observance	2,958	—	2,958
Life member payments to camps	1,081	—	1,081
Awards, grants, and scholarships	16,272	—	16,272
Accounting and professional fees	—	34,790	34,790
Office, telephone, and postage	—	19,080	19,080
Rent	—	10,320	10,320
Insurance	1,642	2,462	4,104
Depreciation and amortization	—	3,990	3,990
Miscellaneous expense	5,832	—	5,832
Total functional expenses	\$177,723	\$101,642	\$279,365



NATIONAL PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR ANNUAL REPORT

Annual report

Report Deadline July 30, 2024

National Patriotic Instructor Signature:

CinC or by direction the Chief of Staff.

By direction of Chief of Staff (James Crane)

INSTRUCTIONS: Reporting period is 1 January through 31 December. Complete form and send to Commander in Chief for inclusion in National Encampment Reports. Report numbers, hours volunteered and money spent. Hours are calculated by multiplying the number of hours for an event by the number of Brother participating. (e.g. 10 hours x 3 Brothers = 30 hours reported) Fill in box or write narrative as applicable. Do not fill in shaded boxes.

KEY: Y = Yes. N = No. # = Number. Hrs = Hours. Amt = Dollar amount spent.

		Y	N	#	Hrs	Amt
1	How many Civil War history education events conducted to include Patriotism, Americanism, and Civic Responsibility?			372	2,992	\$7,525
2	How many Civil War history education events conducted via living history or other venues?			281	3,116	\$11459
3	How many flags given or sent to military troops?			6	3	\$20
4	Armed Forces Day participation?	Y		48	93	\$44
5	Memorial Day participation?	Y		499	2,140	\$3,448
6	Flag Day participation?	Y		31	101	\$85
7	July 4 participation?	Y		127	494	\$1,079
8	Remembrance Day participation?	Y		163	1,642	\$5,809
9	Veterans Day participation?	Y		155	397	\$359

Page 1 of 6

SUVCW FORM 42 (Revised 5/2/22), © 2022 SUVCW

10	How many community events involving Patriotic Holidays?			386	1,134	\$1,820
11	How many Patriotic / Americanism Essay Contest participation?			2	0	0
11a	Number of schools participating?			12	37	\$70
11b	Number of Youth Groups participating?			10	12	\$40
11c	Number of students involved?			112	49	\$40
11d	Scholarships awarded if any?			2	4	\$220
12	How did you promote the SUVCW throughout the Order? (continue on page 6 if necessary) (see #18 on page 3)					
13	Did SUVCW members wear and display member badges?	Y				
14	How many Flag Etiquette programs did you provide to the community, businesses, and schools?			?	?	?
15	Did you actively promote Patriotic Holidays participation in the National Organization and to the Departments?	Y		?		
16	Did you actively support the Eagle Scout Award program?	?	?	?		
17	Did you actively support the JROTC/ROTC Cadet program?	?	?	?	?	

18	<p>What events or functions did the NPI participate in by showing how important Patriotism / Americanism is to our organization, community, state, and nation? (continue on page 6 if necessary)</p> <p>For the reporting period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, there were three Brothers appointed as NPI, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin J. Frail, PDC (January-October 2023) • Donald L. Martin, PCinC (October 2023) • Brian D. McManus, PDC (October-December 2023) <p>I do not have a record of the activities of the above-named NPIs that served during the reporting period, which occurred prior to my appointment.</p>
19	<p>Did National include our Sisters from the Allied Orders?</p> <p>Y</p>
20	<p>How many events were the Sisters of the Allied Orders included?</p> <p>Y</p> <p>?</p>
21	<p>Were Patriotic Instructors appointed in all Departments?</p> <p>N</p>
22	<p>If not, how many were appointed? Which Departments did not have PIs appointed? (use page 4)</p> <p>?</p> <p>?</p>
23	<p>National Patriotic Instructor provided patriotic and/or educational presentations at National meetings?</p> <p>N</p>
25	<p>How many Departments submitted Annual Reports? List those that did not on page 4.</p> <p>17</p>
26	<p>How many members enrolled in Memorial University?</p> <p>46</p>
27	<p>How many completed Memorial University?</p> <p>21</p>

28	How many MU Certificates presented at Department Encampments?			?		
29	How many MU Certificates presented at National Encampment?			6		
30	Did Departments receive monthly Patriotic Instructions from the National PI?	Y				
31	Did Camps receive monthly National Patriotic Instructions from the Department PI?	?	?			
32	<p>Assess communication from National PI to Department PIs. What forms of communication were used? (continue on page 6 if necessary):</p> <p>Email, telephone, website, social media, and print.</p>					
34	<p>Assess communication from Department PI to Camp PIs. What forms of communication were used? (continue on page 6 if necessary):</p> <p>In person (speech and Power Point), email, website, telephone, text message, social media, and print.</p>					

35	<p>Recommendations for Department and Camp PIs to improve the Patriotic Instructor program (continue on page 6 if necessary): Suggestions from DPI Annual Reports (Form 41):</p> <p>"Having monthly or semi-monthly Zoom meetings with all of the Camp Patriotic Instructors might help establish better relationships amongst Brothers and help facilitate what is expected of the position of being a Camp Patriotic Instructor."</p> <p>"Having simpler Form 40 and Form 41 forms might be helpful, along with brief descriptions and examples of each category to be filled out. This might also help with clarifying what exactly is expected in some of the categories."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(continued on page 6)</p>
36	<p>National PI recommendations to improve the Patriotic Instructor program (continue on page 6 if necessary):</p> <p>(see written report of NPI)</p>

No.	Narrative Continuation
35	<p>Suggestions from DPI Annual Reports (Form 41) - continued:</p> <p>"The Patriotic Instructor position is very important. We should never stop learning about the war to save the Union and abolish slavery."</p> <p>"Keep more precise records of what your camp does."</p> <p>"Continue to present Patriotic Instruction to Camps and visit various Camps whenever possible. Make oneself available for public presentations wearing the usual SUVCW attire and plain[sic] such to the public whenever an appearance is made."</p> <p>"To continue to engage in Civic Activities and the SUVCW's Website for monthly news and Events."</p> <p>"Department Patriotic Instructors should be sure to maintain contact with their camp counterparts through emails and Department websites. All must keep the contact information for their Patriotic Instructors updated."</p> <p>"Utilize any help offered by Brothers in the Department and cross collaborate with outside organizations to spread SUVCW's footprint."</p> <p>"To make sure all Camp PJ's have information to see it is shared at all Camp's meetings."</p> <p>"Share PI Info & discussions within the Dept. Have Camp members talk about their Ancestor at Camp mtgs and to the public. The National PI should have Quarterly Zoom mtgs with Dept PI's."</p> <p>"Have a training program given by the Department Patriotic Instructor. Concentrate on new and younger members."</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS

(Page Numbers of Recommendations in Reports - for Quick Reference.)

<u>By Whom</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Commander-in-Chief - Hritsko (1)	280
Jr. Vice-CinC - Tucker (1)	286
Quartermaster - Welch (4)	301-302
Civil War Memorials Officer - Busch (1)	314, 341
GAR Hwy Officer - Hritsko (1)	318
Graves Registration Officer - Duquette (2)	321
National Patriotic Instructor - Campbell (1)	325
Ass't Secretary of Proceedings - Vander Meulen (3)	332-333
Executive Director - Demmy (1)	336
National Committee Promotions & Marketing – Tucker (Chair) (3)	359-360
Special Committee Veterans of Wars – Bishop (Chair) (3)	365
Addendum - Dept. of Pennsylvania - Fischer (1)	429

Total Recommendations: 22

10 June 2024

Brothers

I respectfully make the following Recommendation for consideration by the appropriate SUVCW authority:

That the SUVCW add a Campaign Bar for wear on the War Medal that reads

EXPEDITIONARY

There are many Brothers who have served in U.S. military operations that are authorized to wear one of several different Expeditionary medals that are not covered under larger military campaigns such as Operation Enduring Freedom [Afghanistan] or Operation Iraqi Freedom, nor under the more generic Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

The Air Force Personnel Center states that the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) was established on Dec. 4, 1961, to be awarded to members of the United States armed forces who, after July 1, 1958, have participated in a United States Military Operation and encountered foreign armed opposition, or were in danger of hostile action by foreign forces,

Further, the AFEM and other Expeditionary medals qualify service members for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Having an EXPEDITIONARY campaign bar for our War Medal will be a point of pride for Brothers with such service.

In F. C. & L.



William E. Fischer, Jr., Major, USAF, Retired

Senior Vice Commander

Pennsylvania Department, SUVCW

403 Grand Circle

Scranton PA 18505-2870

570.871.4037 (ph) or 614.635.6169 (cell)

MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2023
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM (EDT) by CinC Peter J. Hritsko.
2. Chaplain Kowalski gave the invocation, followed by Patriotic Instructor Ben Frail leading the CofA in the Pledge of Allegiance.
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
 - CofA Member Brian C. Pierson, PCinC
 - CofA Member Immediate PCinC Bruce D. Frail, PCinC
4. **Voting Members Absent Excused:**
 - CofA Joseph S Hall Jr, PDC
5. **Non-Voting Members Present:**
 - National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski
 - Tad Campbell, PCinC
 - Perley Mellor, PCinC
 - Jim Pahl, PCinC
 - Ken L. Freshley, PCinC
 - Edward J. Krieser, PCinC
 - Asst Sec. Proceedings John Vander Meulen
 - Patriotic Instructor Benjamin J. Frail, PDC
6. **Guests Present:**
 - James Crane, PDC, Chief of Staff
 - John Buckler, Camp 5, Dept. of KY
 - Ken Jacobsen, Dept of CO. & WY.
 - John B. Horton, Dept of Southwest

The Memorial University Committee has withdrawn their recommendation to purchase business cards to send out with every order from the National Quartermaster. The budget will remain at \$1,000.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2023
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Brother David Hann has requested permission to use the Badge of the Order for a Memorial ribbon to be sold to Brothers only, and to be allowed to use the SUVCW logo and a badge of the Order for items to be sold. The reason for this is that they are trying to produce short-term items and sometimes time is of the essence. He will need to present a sample to the Council of Administration to be voted on virtually.

Brother Ken Jacobsen from the Department of Colorado and Wyoming presented a recommendation from the Department encampment that the National Organization sponsor a link on RootTech's landing page and also to set up a recruiting/information booth at their convention. After discussion, this was assigned to Promotions and Marketing to see if we can get an application into the 2025 RootTech's convention. We would like a member of the Salt Lake City Camp as an Aide to the committee.

At its Department Encampment, the Department of Iowa voted to request that the National Organization investigate the feasibility of underwriting the purchase of a document scanning equipment for each department that applies. It can then be used to scan important documents of the order being held by each Department for the purpose of digital preservation. [Originally it was discussed to send to Communications and Technology to investigate the feasibility, but after more discussion the issue died.](#)

A Resolution was sent to National to make the Eagle Scout Certificates available to the Camps at no cost. A motion was made to send the certificate to the QM to produce. The certificates are to be free and packaged with the Eagle Scout Badge when ordered. That passed unanimously. If they just want the certificate, they would need to pay postage. It was felt that for quality control purposes, the QM should produce the certificate rather than put a template online for the Camps and Departments to run off.

The Department of New York sent in a Resolution asking that the National Treasurer file form 5768 with the IRS. This is ruled out of order and the Department of New York is to follow the current guidelines.

One issue that was brought up as a result of the Congressional Base Renaming Committee report is that the Department of Defense and the US Army have decided to remove the Confederate Monument at Arlington National Cemetery, also called the Reconciliation Monument. After much discussion, CinC Hritsko appointed a committee consisting of Brothers Pierson, Beard, and Frail to investigate the matter and recommend an appropriate type and level of support.

CinC Hritsko will get with Brother John Conrad to work on the deed of Gift for the Kit Carson monument.

Brother Pierson is to look into the cost of a 4x6 or a 3x5 CinC fly that each PCinC would be able to purchase. He will work on it and bring a prototype in.

The Annual Budget was discussed. Brother Pierson made a motion to approve, and brother Robert Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Under the Good of the Order, the National Quartermaster would like to transfer the store from the National website to the National e-commerce site. The e-commerce site keeps track of all sales, making

MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2023
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

it easier to do a report. It is free to set up and the fees are comparable to PayPal. The Quartermaster will set up the site and present it to the Council of Administration at Gettysburg. The current Quartermaster store will be reactivated. Quartermaster is ready.

There was some discussion on the home page of why none of the members pictured have a Badge of the Order on. It is because they were on a work detail. There had been another picture up temporarily, but all the members are in uniform with badges, and we did not want to present the SUVCW as another reenacting group.

There being no further business, Brother Tucker made a motion follows the meeting seconded by Robert Payne, the meeting ended at 9:41 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2023
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM (EDT) by CinC Peter J. Hritsko.

1. Chaplain Kowalski gave the invocation.

2. **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

3. **Voting Members Absent Excused:**

CofA Joseph S Hall Jr, PDC
CofA Member Brian C. Pierson, PCinC
CofA Member Immediate PCinC Bruce D. Frail, PCinC

4. **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

5. **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 6,000 members. Last year at this time, we had 5,300 members. The last time we were over 6,000 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.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2023
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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 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 \$3,500 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.

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2023
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

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.

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 the 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 Meulen 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

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2023
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

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 develop legal documents to 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.

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

ZOOM COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
MARCH 10, 2024

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

Voting members CofA:

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 CofA:

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 \$2,500 to cover the meeting room space.

They also wanted \$4,100 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 \$4,000 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 \$3,500

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 Departments 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 CofA 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 CofA 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 \$1,000 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

MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
APRIL 13, 2024
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 (CDT) by CinC Peter J. Hritsko.

Chaplain Kowalski gave the invocation.

Brother Ken Freshley appointed Counselor for the CofA meeting.

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 Member Brian C. Pierson, PCinC
Voting Members Absent Excused:
CofA Roderick Fraser, PCC

Voting Members Absent:

CofA Joseph S. Hall Jr, PDC
CofA Member Immediate PCinC Bruce D. Frail, PCinC

Non-Voting Members Present:

National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski
Ken L. Freshley, PCinC
Jim Pahl, PCinC
David Demmy, PDC, Executive Director

Guests Present:

James Crane, PDC, Chief of Staff

There are 9 voting members of the Council of Administration present.

The only additions to the written Officers Reports was from the National Civil War Monument Memorials Officer, Shane Milburn. A reimbursement check was issued to Camp 9 in the Department of Kansas, and another was issued to Camp 67, Department of Illinois for matching funds.

Old Business

The deed of gift for the Kit Carson monument Government Accountability Office and we have not heard back so it is still in limbo.

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MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

The status of the Drupal bankruptcy-a committee was appointed with Brother Ken Freshly as chairman. They are still gathering information and there is nothing to report.

Update on G.O. 2 - 10 departments have voted for ratification with 7 against ratification. The Departments voting for are Alabama, Chesapeake, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The Departments voting against are Columbia, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Pennsylvania and Southwest.

New business

There were 2 merchandising requests. A merchandising request from the Department of Pennsylvania patches to put on. Samples of the patches were presented and after some discussion Brother Pierson made a motion seconded by Brother Payne to issue the merchandising licenses. The vote was 9 yeas and 0 nays.

The second merchandising request was from Camp 20, Department of Michigan, for T-shirts. Photos were presented and after some discussion, Brother Beard made a motion, seconded by Brother Pierson. The vote was 9 yeas and 0 nays.

Awards for the Meritorious service Award and Meritorious Service Award with gold star; it was discussed whether they should be sent out as a group or individually. The CinC will evaluate which ones merit the gold star and send them all out as a group to the Council to deal with.

Chaplain Kowalski is going to let the Departments know about the Chaplains Award so they can recommend any Brother Chaplains they think merit the award.

Recommendations from reports

1. Make the CofA meeting in Springfield a zoom for Brothers of the CofA who were unable to attend. After some discussion, it was decided that the recommendation was moot as the meeting was going on. A straw poll was taken, and the majority of Brothers present were not in favor of hybrid meetings.
2. That Brother Hahn be reimbursed 2 nights hotel out of the General Fund for Remembrance Day. After discussion, Brother Pierson made a motion to approve, with Brother Payne seconding. The vote was 9 yeas and 0 nays.
3. The proposed changes to regulations submitted by the National Treasurer are going to the C&R committee.
4. The National quartermaster submitted a recommendation to get approval to sell the following certificates: War Service Medal Certificate, Military Service Medals Certificate, Continuous Membership Certificate from Updated Good Citizenship Award Certificate, and updated Membership certificate and Associate Certificate. Brother Beard made the motion, Brother Payne seconded it. An

MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
APRIL 13, 2024
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

amendment was made by Brother Tucker that the current Good Citizenship award be discontinued. It was seconded by Brother Payne. The vote was 9 yeas and 0 nays. A vote was taken on the main motion, and the vote was 9 yeas and 0 nays.

5. Proposed modification to the Eagle Scout Award. This was referred to P&P.
6. Revised "Introducing the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" flyer presented. Brother Tucker made a motion that the flyer be numbered Form 71 and posted to the National Website. A motion was seconded by Brother Beard. The vote was 9 yeas and 0 nays.
7. Continued sponsorship of the Civil War and Reconstruction; a history podcast be continued. After some discussion, a motion was made by Brother Pierson and seconded by Brother Welch to do 3 more sessions. The Treasurer would put \$5,000 in the budget for next year. The vote was 9 yeas and 0 nays.
8. A recommendation to advise the National Encampment of the goals and status of short-term portion of the two-phase plan to relocate National Headquarters, to include a list of the items that have been secured. No action was taken by the CofA at this time.
9. The Committee on Headquarters Planning be allotted 30 minutes at the National Encampment to go into the details of proposals. CinC would like to see an outline of the proposal presented to the CofA first, so the answer is no at this time. It can be taken up at National Encampment.
10. The first two recommendations from the Department of Pennsylvania no action was taken. Recommendation 3 of there to be a special badge or device for the membership badge in recognition of 10 years as secretary or Treasurer. The Department of Pennsylvania should include this recommendation in the Department report to the National Encampment. After much discussion a motion was made by Brother Pierson and seconded by Brother Payne to have a lapel pin designed for 10 years' service. The vote was 9 yeas and 0 nays.

Assistant National Secretary for Proceedings John Vander Meulen would like two videographers appointed to help record the National Encampment. After some discussion, it was decided he can appoint his own assistants to help him.

Brother Tucker brought up increasing the National Encampment budget seed money to \$5,000.00. It was decided after being discussed that it is cheaper to increase the amount than for National to take over hosting an Encampment. Next year's budget for that line item will be increased to \$5,000.00. The CinC will also talk with the Auxiliary National President about the Auxiliary increasing their budget to \$1,000.00.

Brother Tucker also brought up making it a requirement to be a Department Commander you must be a Memorial University graduate. Refer to National Encampment.

CofA went into Executive Session at 9:10 to 9:19 PM.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
APRIL 13, 2024
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Forms 5 and 8 are sent to the National Quartermaster with DD 214 attached. It was asked what to do with the DD 214. The recommendation is to shred it after approval of request.

Executive Director David Demmy stated all the editions of the Banner that were at Headquarters have been digitized and Assistant Executive Director Susan Mitchell has scanned them to disc. A copy of the disc was given to both the Webmaster and the Banner Editor.

A 250th committee will be formed to make an official badge to wear for the Nations semi-quincentennial.

There was discussion about moving the hotel and luncheon for the Lincoln Death Day ceremony in Springfield, Ill. This needs to be discussed with Brother Petrovic because he is Chairman for the committee. Brother Pierson did note the luncheon needs to be promoted more because of the low turnout.

The benediction was given by the National Chaplain.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Murray

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2024
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Meeting was called to order at 8:03 (EDT) by CinC Peter J. Hritsko.

National Patriotic Instructor Tad Campbell led us in Pledge of Allegiance

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 Member Brian C. Pierson, PCinC
CofA Member Roderick Fraser, DC

Voting Members Absent Excused:

CofA Member Immediate PCinC Bruce D. Frail
CofA Member Joseph S. Hall, Jr., PDC

Non-Voting Members Present:

PCinC Edward J. Krieser
PCinC Robert E. Grimm
PCinC Stephen Michaels
PCinC Donald E. Darby
PCinC James B. Pahl
PCinC Leo Kennedy
PCinC Ken L. Freshly
PCinC Tad D. Campbell
PCinC Donald L. Martin
PCinC Edward J. Norris
PCinC Michael A. Paquette

Guests Present:

James Crane, PDC, Chief of Staff
David Demmy, PDC Executive Director
Jerome Kowalski National Chaplain
John Vander Meulen
Ken Jacobson
Alan Russ, PDC

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MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2024
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

There are 10 voting members of the Council of Administration present.

Old Business:

Awards Policy – Brother Beard made a motion, and seconded by Brother Pierson, to change the Policy date for awards to May 31st. There was discussion on changing the policy dates the applications for awards need to be in. The change will allow time to vote on, print and/or engrave the awards. The vote was 9 yeas, 0 nays.

Status of the Drupal Contract – Brother Freshly will continue to work with Brother Pahl on the contract, so there is no update. The CofA will be given updates as they become available. The incoming CinC will need to reappoint the Committee.

National Encampment – There was a request to have audio/visual piped in for the Memorial Service. That was taken care of by Brother Vander Meulen. Brother Tucker made a request to play the two one-minute ads for the podcast to the Encampment. The request was granted.

Lincoln Death Day - There was discussion on the Lincoln Death Day activities and how to increase attendance. Brother Beard said that the Lincoln Fund is in the red and attendance is dwindling. The Luncheon was going to be canceled because the SUV CW could not make the minimum, but Brother Petrovic worked something out with the hotel. There is more involvement and participation with the ceremony at the Stephenson Memorial. The consensus was the incoming CinC needs to form a new committee that will take a fresh look at things and maybe get a better outcome.

Lifetime Dues - It needs to be voted on at Encampment because it will involve a change with the C&R.

Merchandising Licenses – We have seventeen licenses issued and they were all were sent renewals. The Secretary has received nine back and is requesting an extension until the Gettysburg CofA meeting. A motion was made to extend the eight licenses not received until the Gettysburg CofA meeting. Motion passed. A motion was then made and seconded to renew the other nine licenses and was passed unanimously.

Resolutions – Will be handled by the Resolutions Committee at Encampment.

War Medal – That the National Defense Service Medal be on the qualification list for the War Medal was brought up. It had previously been taken off the list. Following the discussion, a vote was taken. Six against reinstatement, two for reinstatement and two abstaining.

Past Commander in Chief badge – The last one on hand is going to be issued. This is a budgeted item. Sometime this fall an order will be placed for six more.

Budget – Books closed on last year's budget. Discussion ensued on the upcoming budget.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2024
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

CoA went into Executive Session at 9:37 PM. Executive Session ended at 9:55 PM.

The benediction was given by the National Chaplain.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Murray

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089
CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order #1 (Amendment)
Series 2023 – 2024
11 August 2023

Administration

1. To all the Brothers in attendance of the 142nd National Encampment in Nashua, N. H. I Thank you for your continued support and trust in me. I thank the Brothers of the Department of New Hampshire and Massachusetts and also our hard working National Host Committee Co-Chairs Brother Daniel Murry, PDC and Kevin Tucker, PDC and Brother James Crane, PDC Site Committee for an excellent National Encampment.
2. Our mission to educate and preserve our history, the legacy of the Boys in Blue, working together promoting the good of the Order as we remember our Civil War ancestor's mission of persevering and their dedication through the Civil War . I can see our transfer of newly elected Officers continue to follow this path of growth.
3. The National Web page has been redesigned and it contains instructions concerning our organization. I recommended that the brothers of the Sons become more familiar with what is available to our brothers.
4. My congratulations go out to the newly elected National President of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sister Sue Freshley; the Woman Relief Corp Cher Petrovic, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic; the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865 and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. I wish all of you a productive year and success in our continued endeavors to preserve the memory of our ancestors, the Boys in Blue, on behalf of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War , myself, Officers and staff look forward to a harmonious year .
5. The Commander-in-Chief Headquarters is hereby transferred from Coventry, R.I. to 12710 Darrow Road, Vermilion, Ohio 44089. Mail for the Commander-in-Chief may now be post marked here. Electronic communications are the preferred method of correspondence and are available at CinC@suvcw.org
6. The National Headquarters is located at 1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park suite 240, Harrisburg, PA 17103-2411; the phone number is 717-232-7000.

7. Financial correspondence for the Order shall be sent to the National Treasurer, D. Micheal Beard, PDC at 8510 Flip Flop Court, Panama City, Florida, 32413. His email address is treasurer@suvchw.org and phone number is 540-604-6950.
8. All other correspondence for the Order shall be sent to National Secretary, Daniel Murray, PDC at 40 Lake Road, Brentwood, New Hampshire, 03833. He can be reached by email secretary@suvchw.org
9. The Commander-in-Chief travels schedule and request for reports will be coordinated by the National Chief of Staff, James T. Crane, PDC. He can be reached by email chiefstaff@suvchw.org
10. All National Officers shall file reports of their activities for the coming year, with one to support the November Council of Administration meeting, second to support the Spring Council of Administration meeting, and final for the 143rd National Encampment in Lexington, Kentucky in August 2024.
11. All Department commanders shall file a report of activities within their Departments upon the same schedule as the National Officers and Committees.
12. National Chaplain, Jerry Kowalski, PCC, can be reached by email at paptom@msn.com and phone number 773-631-1610. He should be contacted to report a deceased Brothers full name, date of passing, Camp and Department name, and his Union ancestor's name, rank and regiment. Brother Kowalski will send a sympathy card, on behalf of the SUVCW, to family if a name and address is provided.
13. Application for Civil War Memorials grants be sent to Brother Shame Milburn, PDC, CofA2@suvchw.org
14. Request for SUVCW ROTC awards will be sent to National Quartermaster (ROTC Coordinator), Brother Brain Mexin 957 Balto Drive Shelbyville, Indiana 46176; his email asst_qm@suvchw.org
15. All Camp and Departments are strongly encourage to submit articles and photographs for The Banner to Brother James P. Pahl, PCinC, 445 W. Maple St., Mi 48854-1519; his email is banner@suvchw.org and phone number 517-402-3304. Brother Pahl, PCinC was previously appointed The Banner Editor by the Council of Administration for three years with a term ending August 2025.
16. The National Special Committee to Negotiate requests and terms with the Allied Orders, has been dissolved during the 142nd National Encampment by PC-in-C Frail therefor can not continue during my term as Commander-in-Chief of 2023-2024.
17. The following National Special Committees were appointed or re-appointed this year by the National Encampment.
 - a. National Special Committee on Social Media Management (2024) Chair Benjamin Frail, PDC.

- b. National Special Committee on Reviewing Membership Qualification (2024) Chair Bruce Frail, PCinC.
- c. National Special Committee on Veterans of Wars of the United States (re-appointed through 2028), Chair Dexter Bishop, PDC.

So Ordered on the 10th Day of August 2023

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Submitted 10 August 2023

attest:

Daniel W Murray

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order #2 (Amendment)
Series 2023 – 2024

10 August 2023

General Order on Membership
Qualifications Ratification

1. The 142nd National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War passed the following change to the SUVCW Constitution, which must be ratified by more than 50% of the Departments.

- a. Recommendation 1: The Constitution of the Order is hereby amended as follows:

Article III, Eligibility to Membership, is hereby amended to read as follows:

All male descendants, for the purpose of this Constitution, and all Regulations, Orders, and other official acts of the National Organization; Departments and Camps "male" is defined as a person who was biologically male at birth, whether through lineal or collateral lineages specified in Article VII of this Constitution who are blood relatives of soldiers, sailors, marines or members of the Revenue Cutter Service, who were regularly mustered and served honorably in, were honorably discharged from, or died in the service of the Army Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America or such State regiments as were called into active service and were subject to orders of United States general officers, during the War of the Rebellion between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865; who have never been convicted of any infamous or heinous crime; and who have, or whose ancestors through whom membership is claimed have, never voluntarily borne arms against the Government of the United States of America shall have eligibility to membership.

- b. Recommendation 2The Constitution of the Order is hereby amended as follows:

Article VII, Section 2, Subsections (a) and (b) are hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. Associates. There shall be two classes of Associates.

1. Associates are males, a person who was biologically male at birth at least fourteen (14) years of age who do not meet the blood relative qualifications stipulated in Article III of this Constitution and Section 5 of the Articles of Incorporation but otherwise meet the requirements of membership established by the National Organization.
2. Junior Associates are males being a person who was biologically male at birth, at least six (6) years of age but less than fourteen (14) years of age who do not meet the blood relative qualifications stipulated in Article III of the Constitution and Section 5 of the Articles of Incorporation but otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization.

c. Recommendation 3: The Constitution of the Order is hereby amended as follows:

Article VII, Membership, is hereby amended to add a new Section 6 to read as follows:

Section 6. A Brother who has been duly elected to membership in the Order shall not be subsequently disqualified from membership or be discharged from the Order solely because of that Brother's change in gender or sexual identification.

d. Recommendation 4: The Regulations of the Order are hereby amended as follows:

Chapter III, Article X, Junior Associates, Section 2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. Junior Associates shall being a person who was biologically male at birth, at least six (6) years of age but less than fourteen (14) years of age who do not meet ancestor service (blood relative) qualifications stipulated in Article III on the Constitution and Section 200303 of the Articles of Incorporation but otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization.

Recommendation 5 Refer to the Program & Policy during 142nd National Encampment

e. ~~Recommendation 5: It is recommended that Form 3, Membership Application, be amended so that the declaration in Part II, Application Information and Declaration, be amended to read as follows:~~

~~I declare that I am a male being a person who was biologically male at birth, and that this application has been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is true, correct and complete and, if accepted, I will obey and support the National Constitution of the Order, the Bylaws of the Department and the Bylaws of the Camp.~~

2. All Departments will see that this General Order is disseminated throughout. There cannot be any changes made to the items presented as this is the wording accepted by the 142nd National Encampment. It is strictly a For or Against Ratification vote.

3. Once the vote has been taken the Department Commander through the Department Secretary will notify IN WRITING the Commander-in-Chief and the National Secretary of the result of said vote. As soon as the 51 percent of the Departments ratify these changes will be in effect.

So Ordered on the 10th Day of August 2023

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Commander-In-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Submitted 10 August 2023

attest:

Daniel W Murray

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermillion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order 2A
Disbanding of Colgrove-Woodruff Camp #22 Dept. of MI
21 August 2023

Brother Swain, PCC,

On behalf of the National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War the Colgrove-Woodruff Camp #22 of the Department of Michigan has disbanded and their charter was relinquished according to the National Regulations. The Department of Michigan has collected all of Camp #22 property and conveyed to the Department of Michigan it's storage site is located at the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum in Eaton Rapids, MI.
The Department of Michigan is to retain all of the property and inventory list of the Colgrove-Woodruff Camp #22.

The Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is hereby ordered to forward the remaining \$200.00 remaining funds of the Colgrove-Woodruff Camp #22 to be transferred to the National Treasure Brother D. Michael Beard, PDC

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089
CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order #3
Relieving Patriotic Instructor
Series 2023-2024

02 October 2023

1. Brothers, I am relieving Brother Ben Frail, PDC of all his duties as Patriotic Instructor and Chairperson and committee member on National Committee on Memorial University for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War effective immediately as of 02 October 2023.
2. Brother I have newly appointed Brother Donald Martin, PC-in-C the duties of Patriotic Instructor and Chairperson on Memorial University for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War effectively immediately as of 02 October 2023.

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermillion, Ohio 44089

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General Order #4
Revocation of Charter
Series 2023-2024

4 October 2023



By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered:

SECTION 1: Commander Edward P. O'Brien of the Department of New York has requested the revocation of the following Charter: Richard Clark Camp #210.

SECTION 2: The camp was suspended by DC Leo C. McGuire per Department Order #7 is follow up to the 26 February 2019, Department Order #10, series 2018-2019 in which he requested that the C-in-C revoke the Charter of the Richard Clark Camp #210 for similar reasons but due to an over site that request was never forwarded to the National Organization.

SECTION 3: In accordance with the National Constitution, Article IV, Section 2, Commander O'Brien's request is therefore approved and the Charter Richard Clark Camp #210, Department of New York is hereby revoked.

SECTION 4:

- a. The camp Charter and property have been properly turned over to the Department.
- b. The camp funds are to be properly turned over to the National Treasurer Brother D. Michael Beard, PDC.

Ordered this 4th day of October 2023.

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

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



Peter J. Hritsko
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org

General Order #5
Passing of a 80 year Member of the SUVCW
Series 2023-2024

10 October 2023

Brothers,

It is with heavy heart that I report the passing of Brother David J. Klinepeter, CC on October 9, 2023. Brother Klinepeter was born on April 19, 1926 in Pennsylvania and has been member of the SUVCW for 80 years. During teenage years in 1943 Brother Klinepeter joined the Major General John F. Hartranft Camp #15 in Harrisburg, Pa., before he joined the Sons he enlisted into the United States Navy and was Veteran of World War II.

Brother Klinepeter in 2014 was awarded the SUVCW Meritorious Service Award and also awarded in 2018 the Elmer Atkinson Life Time Award. Brother David was one of the first Brother of MG John F. Hartranft Camp #15 to become a National Life Member.

It is ordered that the National Web site, Charters of all Departments and Camp and membership badges be draped in black for a period of 30 days from the date this General Order.

Ordered this 10th day of October 2023.

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089
CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order #6
Reappointment Patriotic Instructor
Series 2023-2024

29 October 2023

Brothers,

1. The General order serves that Brother Brian McManus, PDC of the Department of Wisconsin has accepted the appointment to serve as National Patriotic effective this date.
2. I wish to thank Brother Past Commander-in-Chief Donald Martin for serving as the interim.

Ordered this 29th day of October 2023.

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

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



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org

General Order #7
Series 2023-2024

7 November 2023



Brothers,

It is with heavy heart that I report the passing of Brother Eric J. Schmincke, PDC on October 27, 2023. Brother Schmincke was born on September 30, 1959 of Pennsylvania and has been member of the Anna M. Ross Camp # 1 of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He joined the SUVCW on September 19, 1994.

Brother Schmincke was the Past Commander of the Department of Pennsylvania and his involvement with the SVR as Provost Marshal for Remembrance Day for a number of years. Brother Eric ran the Grand Army of the Republic Museum in Philadelphia, Pa for a number of years.

It is ordered that the National Website, Charters of all Department and Camps and membership badges be draped in black for a period of 30 days from the date this General Order.

Ordered this 7th day of November 2023.

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Daniel Murray

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

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General Order #8
Disbanded of Henry Wallace Camp #160 Dept. of MI
Series 2023-2024

14 November 2023

Brother Swain, DC,

On behalf of the National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War the Henry Wallace Camp #160 of the Department of Michigan has disbanded and their charter was relinquished according to the National Regulations. The Department of Michigan has collected all Camp #160 property and conveyed to the Department of Michigan it's storage site is located at the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum in Eaton, MI. The Department of Michigan is to retain all of the property and inventory list of the Henry Wallace Camp #160.

The Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is hereby ordered to forward the remaining \$224.69 funds of the Henry Wallace Camp #160 to be transferred to the National Treasurer Brother D. Michael Beard, PDC.

Before your request can be granted for the GAR Memorial Hall and Museum to borrow any items from the inventory from the Henry Wallace Camp #160 Department of Michigan, the Council of Administration would have to write up a policy contract before we can honor your request for approval.

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

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General Order #9
Sons Veterans Reserve

Series 2023-2024

18 November 2023



1. The National Military Affairs Committee pursuant to SVR Regulation Article II, Section 10 has approved a request from Major General Robert E. Grim to be relieved of his duties as Sons of Veterans Reserve Commander and transferred to the SVR Inactive Reserve at his current rank of Major General effective 18 November 2023.
2. Major General Robert E. Grim enlisted in the Sons of Veterans Reserve 31 years ago on 12 May 1992 as a private in the 1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery I. He was commissioned a second lieutenant and placed in command of Company C, 20th Ohio Volunteer Infantry on 12 March 1993. He was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant on 04 December 1993 and commissioned a captain on 29 October 1996.
3. On 01 September 1997 he was promoted to the rank of major and named Commander of the Third Military District. He was promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel and appointed SVR Adjutant General effective 30 October 1998. On 19 August 2000 he was commissioned a colonel. On 17 November 2001 he was awarded the SVR Distinguished Service Medal and appointed SVR Deputy Commander. On 17 November 2007 he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and appointed national commander of the Sons of Veterans Reserve an assignment he has held for the past 16 years. He was promoted to his current rank of major general on 20 November 2010.
4. Pursuant to SVR Regulation Chapter III, Article X, Section 2 the National Committee on Military Affairs has recommended the appointment of SVR Deputy Commander Brigadier General Donald E. Darby to serve as SVR Commander for a period of five years effective from 18 November 2023 to 18 November 2028.
5. I concur with the recommendation of the Committee on Military Affairs and pursuant to SUVCW Regulation Chapter II, Article XIV, Section 5 hereby appoint SVR Brigadier General Donald E. Darby Commander of the Sons of Veterans Reserve for a period of five (5) years effective 18 November 2023 to 18 November 2028.

Ordered this 18th Day of November, 2023

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Daniel W. Murray

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order #10
Resignation of Patriotic Instructor
Series 2023-2024

14 February 2024

1. Brothers I have accepted the resignation of Brother Brian McManus, PDC, due to health issues, of all his duties as Patriotic Instructor and Chairperson on the National Committee on Memorial University for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War effective immediately as of 14 February 2024.
2. Brothers I have newly appointed Brother Tad D. Campbell, PC-in-C, the duties of Patriotic Instructor and Chairperson on Memorial University for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War effective immediately as of 14 February 2024

Ordered this 14th Day of February 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

attest:

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



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

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General Order #11
Rulings on National Counselor's Opinions 001-2024 and 002-2024

Series 2023-2024

15 April 2024

National Counselor's Opinion 001-2024

Background

On or about 14 March 2024, the Commander of the Department of Pennsylvania contacted this office requesting an Opinion from the National Counselor regarding activities within the Department of Pennsylvania. To wit: 1. Gettysburg Camp 112 has filed two different Form 22 having inconsistencies, lack of an Installing Officer signature, and that three officers that were not elected or installed at the date noted on the form. 2. There are allegations of the co-mingling of funds of a personal nature with those in the Camp bank account by a Former Camp Secretary Treasurer. (A possible violation of the IRS rules concerning 501c3, and normal banking procedures). 3. Officers are not following the SUVCW C,C,& R.

Also with this email was an attachment of a 2 ½ hour ZOOM meeting recording between a former Camp Member, a PDC, and the Department Commander, and members of the Department Council.

During this meeting the PDC brought up the various problems of the Gettysburg 112, noting that while he currently holds the charges against various officers of the Camp 112, he has as yet to file them hoping that the problems could be corrected with-in the Camp.

Apparently, this has not been successful, and the Department has suspended Gettysburg Camp 112 regarding the filing of the two Form 22. It also appears that one of the Form 2's has arrived at the National Headquarters, as I am in receipt of that Form. Once again, no signature of the Installing Officer.

There is also allegations that the officers of Gettysburg Camp 112 are not following the SUVCW Charter, Constitution and Regulations (C,C&R) in the running of the Camp.

Opinion

As an Opinion can and may have a direct action to the C,C, & R if concurred to by the Commander-in-Chief and left unchallenged by the National Encampment, I will deal with the issue of the alleged co-mingling of funds in this Opinion and then address the other allegations as a matter of C,C,&R violations.

1. National Regulations, Chapter 1, Article VII, Section 5(f) states that the Camp Secretary shall have the duty of "Maintaining a bank account in the Camp's name for Camp funds."
2. Monies placed in this account also fall under the cover of being either 501c3 tax exempt, in the case off the Camp, or under taxable monies on the part of the individual's funds. Meaning that the individual in the co-mingled funds could be declared by the IRS as non-reported income for the entire amount in the account. Probably more importantly the matter could have had a less than favorable impact of the 501c3 status of the Department and the National SUVCW.
3. It is my opinion that the Camp Secretary of Camp 112 was in violation of the SUVCW C,C,&R National Regulations Chapter 1, Article VII, Section 5(f). But, in as much as this matter has been rectified by the transfer of the Camps Funds into a now separate account and that the brother in question has been relieved of his duties the need for charges in THIS matter need not be considered. BUT, I leave that matter to the members of the Camp,
4. Regarding reporting this matter to the IRS, I consulted with Brother PCinC Jim Pahl, an attorney, who advised not to report this closed matter to the IRS.
5. Further I would place before the C,C,&R Committee that National Regulations Chapter 1 Article VII Section 5(f) be stated in stronger language regarding Camp/Department funds. To wit "Maintaining a bank account in the Camp's name for Camp funds. There will be no co-mingling of SUVCW, SVR or personal monies in this account."

This concludes the opinion regarding the alleged co-mingling of funds.

Now I will address the over allegations stated in the ZOOM meeting. This is NOT to be construed as a ruling or opinion of National to the actions of a Camp in the Department of Pennsylvania. Decisions made by the Department toward Camp 112 rests solely with the Department and or a Trial Commission if deemed to be warranted.

1. During the ZOOM recording there were reports of the Camp being suspended for the improper filing of the Form 22s with the Department and apparently with National. Those two Form 22, not have the SIGNATURE of the installing officer and having different names. The Department Commander, I believe, was within his rights and power (National Regulations Chapter 1 Camps Section 16 page 33 of C, C&R) to suspend that Camp until this was corrected. I would called the Department and Camp's attention to footnote 15 of the C, C,&R, page 31. That the Camp cannot function in any manner except to perform those things which would result in the termination of the suspension. Further, footnote 57, page 66 of the C, C&R states that the "Department is NOT required to pay Per Capita to the National Organization for a Camp under suspension. However, once the Camp has forwarded its reports and Per Capita and the Department Commander has lifts the suspension, the Department is obligated to forward the required Per Capita to the National Organization." I say this only as it is nearing the time for the submission of reports and payments to National.
2. Also during the ZOOM meeting, there were allegations that the Camp leadership was not following the C, C& R. I would point out that no charges have been received by the Department in this matter, to date. I would point to footnote 17, page 31 of the C,C,&R, "A department Commander may appoint a Brother or Brothers to re-organize a Camp under suspension when the Camp has not officers willing or able to perform the duties necessary to lift the suspension." I would caution the Department, that the leadership of the Camp was elected by the members of the Camp and per the Ritual of the Installation of Officers "These

are the Officers who have been chosen by you for the next term. If any Brother present has any valid objection to offer why any of them should not be installed, let him speak now or forever hold his peace.

3. There was also mention regarding the taking of Camp material from the Camp. This can only be done if the Camp charter is revoked by the Commander-in-Chief, and NOT for just a suspension. The Department should avoid any comments that could be construed as threats toward any Brother or the Camp as a whole. State the violation, state the C, C, & R, move forward. This is business, not personal.
4. Until such time as charges have been filed, the Department's hands are tied to action EXCEPT for the Form 22 issue.

National Counselor's Opinion 002-2024

Background

Over the past several months the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has received several inquiries regarding the Life Membership requirements of those Life Members to pay Camp and/or Department dues following their approval/acceptance as Life Members.

The following are examples of these inquiries:

1. Department of Massachusetts: The Department of Massachusetts and L. A. Tift Camp 15 have a dilemma regarding one of our Brothers XXX recently regained his membership after many years, rejoined Camp 15 and obtained his Life Membership. He has had a difficult time communicating with his brothers in the camp and most recently after requesting and being given the address to send his camp dues has further requested no further contact and to be removed from all camp and department email lists. I had suggested that national membership at large might be the best option, but he seems adamant that he wants no further contact with anyone from Massachusetts. My question is how does this effect (sic) his membership with the camp and with the SUVCW overall? He is a member in good standing until his camp dues are unpaid. Massachusetts does not require department dues. If Camp 15 drops this brother for non-payment of dues, does he remain a life member? Does he become a national member at large automatically? Will national alert him to the possibility of at-large membership?
2. Department of California/Pacific: I need a little help, maybe more, depending on who you ask. We have a Dual member (Department of California and Department of Ohio). He became a Life Member listing his Ohio Camp on his Life Membership Application. So that will relieve him of National dues in the Department of Ohio and maybe Department dues depending on their policy. He will still need to pay all required for the Department of Calif., correct? National, Depart., and Camp. He will need to become a "Dual" Life member, a life member in both departments to be relieved of paying any National dues. Thanks for some input.
3. 3. Unknown Department: Apparently Brother XXX has refused to pay Camp and Department dues for the past couple of years and the General RHG Minty Camp has covered his Camp and Department per capita until this year. They wish to clear up their rolls and have issued an Honorable discharge (See attached Form 30 HD). How do we handle this? I assume he is still a Life Member of the SUVCW but he is not a member of any camp that we are aware and by our Department By-laws permit Brothers at Large.

4. Unknown Camp: Brother David, my local camp has 2 Life Members that have not remitted their camp or department dues for 2024. After multiple newsletter announcements, emails and personal notices, these brothers have failed to reply nor make remittance. The camp hates to automatically drop life members, who are exempt national per capita, but subject to camp and department dues. What are our options?
5. There are similar concerns from the Department of Florida and Alabama on this subject, but the queries were not provided.

Opinion

1. As the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Charter, Constitution, and Regulations (C, C, & R) is mute on the matter of discipline of Life Members, this Opinion as with other Opinions will require the concurrence/approval of the Commander-in-Chief (CinC). The ruling of the CinC being in effect upon that concurrence/approval until if and when the National Encampment takes up that matter. If the National Encampment does not take up the matter, then it becomes "the law of the law" to be entered into the C, C, & R.
2. There are several issues in this matter. (a) non-payment of dues. (b) types of discharges regarding non-payment of dues (c) Must a Life Member maintain membership in a Camp, Department, Department at Large, or National Membership at large to maintain membership in the Order (d) Suspension of Membership for non-payment of dues Order wide.
3. Life Members ARE REQUIRED to pay annual Department and Camp level dues. This is clearly pointed out in the 2nd paragraph of the Life Membership Application (Form 9). If the Life member fails to pay camp dues by 1 March of every year he can be dropped from the Order (National Regulations, Chapter 1, Camps, Article II, Membership, Section 3(a), page 35 of the C, C, & R.) If the brother is dropped by the Camp, he cannot apply to any other camp or membership at Large unless he has received the concurrence of the Camp that dropped him. Repayment of dues can still be required prior to reinstatement IN ANY CAMP.
4. Footnote 25, C.C. & R further states that is a Camp has paid dues on behalf of the Brother, in anticipation of that Brother later paying such dues, along with associated fines, and which the brother is subsequently dropped for failure to pay, CANNOT be considered as prior indebtedness for the purposes of rejoining the SUVCW.
5. If the Camp decides to suspend the brother rather than drop him from the Order, the suspension is Order-wide. 125th National Encampment page 17-18 labeled (pages 31-32 to print out) NC Robert Grim. "Basically, if a member is under a disciplinary proceeding (suspension) in one Department and holds a dual (sic) membership in a second Department, I have ruled that the discipline applies throughout the Order and is not just limited to the Department where the person is being disciplined. My Opinion was that the discipline applies throughout the Order. And that was endorsed by the Commander-in-Chief." The National Encampment did not overturn the Opinion nor the Ruling.
6. As the SUVCW has long been a "from the bottom(camps) to top (National) Organization it is reasonable that in order to maintain a membership a brother (Life Member) would be required to maintain his status as a "membership in good standing" at the Camp level. Footnote 6 page 26 of the C, C, & R, states" A Brother cannot be a member-at-large to the National Headquarters, if he resides in a state served by a Department (CinC Orr, General Order 18, 117th, 110). In case 1 above, I would maintain that the brother in question, for all practicable purposes by default, asked for a SUVCW Transfer Form (Form 4). He

would then have 1 year in which to present the Form 4 to a Camp/Department more to his liking. If he fails to present the Form 4 within 1 year he is honorably discharged. A brother thus discharged can be admitted to membership again only in the same manner as an applicant for original membership (C, C, & R, National Regulations, Chapter 1, Camps, Article II, Membership, Section 5, pages 36-37) Once again bottom to top. He would then forfeit his Life Membership and fees associated therewith.

7. And as stated in paragraph 5 above, disciplinary action by a Camp, Department is Order-wide.

In summary, Yes a Life Member is REQUIRED to pay Camp and Department dues. A Camp/Department can waive these payments if they desire. If the Life member fails to pay required dues the Camp/Department can take disciplinary action against the Life Member just like any other member of the Order. Either by dropping him with a General Discharge or suspending him until such dues are paid (National Regulations Chapter 1, Camps, Article II Membership Sections 3 (a) through Section 6).

Yes, the Life Member is required to maintain his membership in a Camp. He cannot be a member of the National Membership-at-large if his state is served by a Department.

In Case 1 above, I would suggest that the Department issue a Transfer Form 4 (Form 4) and mail it to the NATIONAL SECRETARY and that the NATIONAL SECRETARY inform the brother that he has 1 year in which to submit the Form 4 to another Camp more to his liking. I only suggest going through the National Secretary as the brother in question does not want contact with the Department.

In Case 2 above, First Article VII Membership Section 1, Membership classes (b) does not list "Dual Life Member" as a class. The Camp/Department can do one of two things, drop the brother from the roles of the Department and inform him that in order to rejoin the Camp/Department he will need to pay past dues, and the reinstatement fee and issue a General Discharge. OR suspend him and thereby hold his membership in limbo throughout the Order until such time as he pays the dues owed the Camp/Department.

In Case 3, According to Footnote 24, page 36 of C, C, & R, as noted above, dues that were paid by the camp cannot be considered prior indebtedness. So the Camp can only collect dues for this year. IF the camp issues a discharge, it will be a "General Discharge" NOT an "Honorable Discharge." (Regulations, Chapter 1, Camps, Article II, Membership, Section 3(a)).

In Case 4 the Camp must decide how it wishes to proceed looking to pages 35 through 38 that I have previously mentioned.

1. In the above Opinions 001-2024 and 002-2024, I am in agreement and rule that these Opinions are well taken, and further explain/interpret the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Charter, Constitution, and Regulations. These Opinion and Ruling are in effect from this date forward or until action of a future National Encampment.

Ordered on the 15th day of April 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

attest:
Daniel W. Murray, PDC
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order #12
Disbanded of Carpenter-Welch Camp #180
Department of Michigan
Series 2023-2024

16 April 2024

This is a General Order to all Departments and Camps notifying them of the disbanding.

On behalf of the National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War the Carpenter-Welch Camp #180 of the Department of Michigan has disbanded and their charter was relinquished according to the National Regulations. The Department of Michigan has collected all Camp #180 property and conveyed to the Department of Michigan's storage site is located at the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum in Eaton, MI. The Department of Michigan is to retain all the property and inventory list of the Carpenter-Welch Camp #180.

The Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is hereby ordered to forward the remaining \$1192.06 funds of the Carpenter-Welch Camp #180 to be transferred to the National Treasurer Brother D. Micheal Beard, PDC.

Ordered on the 16th day of April 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

attest:

Daniel W. Murray, PDC

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order #13
Lobbying for the Department of New York
Series 2023-2024

22 April 2024

The National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is granting permission for the Department of New York to lobby the legislature of that state in accordance with the SUVCW National Policy on Lobbying regarding C-in-C Pierson's General Order #14 dated 13 April 2020.

The for-said policy establishes the guideline under which the Department of New York must comply.

As stated below.

Introduction. GO #35, Series 2019-2020, dated 14 August 2020, was a prudent measure to keep the SUVCW from any inadvertent violations while the 501(c)3 status of subordinate organizations was still under review by the IRS. The IRS has since granted that status, and the Order has had sufficient time to investigate and understand the rules for lobbying to develop long term guidance for Departments, Camps and SVR Units.

2. Revocation of GO #35. Therefore, the aforesaid GO #35 is hereby revoked and replaced with the following guidance regarding lobbying.

3. Status of the SUVCW. The National Organization, subordinate Departments, Camps, and Sons of Veterans Reserve Military Districts and Units are now considered 501(c)(3) entities.

4. General Rules on Lobbying and Definitions. In general, a 501(c)(3) organization can do a limited amount of lobbying (attempting to influence legislation), but too much could jeopardize its tax-exempt status (i.e., it cannot be a substantial part of its activities).

a. Legislation includes action by Congress, any state legislature, any local council, or similar governing body, with respect to acts, bills, resolutions, public referendum, ballot initiative, constitutional amendment, or similar procedure.

b. Legislation does not include actions by executive, judicial, or administrative bodies.

c. An organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing,

supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.

5. Scope of Permitted Lobbying. The National Organization, subordinate Departments, Camps, and Sons of Veterans Reserve Military Districts and Units are permitted to undertake a limited amount of lobbying as long as the subject of the lobbying is directly related to one of the six purposes stated in the SUVCW's Congressional Charter (36 USC, Chapter 2003, §200302), and in particular to the following:

- To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865.
- To assist in every practical way in preserving and making available for research documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members.
- To cooperate in honoring all those who have served our country in any war.

a. The following limited lobbying activities are allowable activities for Departments, Camps, and SVR subordinate units once the CinC has granted his written permission (see paragraph 7, below):

- 1) The encouragement of members and non-members to write letters;
- 2) Conduct educational meetings to inform the public about planned projects and events. Education sessions for current legislative leaders and potential candidates for elected office may be conducted as long as the information is offered to all parties and candidates without partisanship;
- 3) prepare, and distribute educational materials or otherwise consider public policy issues in an educational manner that does not jeopardize our tax-exempt status;
- 4) Testify at public hearings;
- 5) Provide research, analysis, and commentary;
- 6) Join amicus curiae briefs (additional permission is required on a case-by-case basis).

6. Restrictions and Prohibitions. Lobbying shall remain nonpartisan. It is prohibited to conduct or engage in political campaign activities to intervene in elections to public office. The Johnson Amendment to the 1954 Tax Code applies to all 501(c)(3) organizations, not just religious 501(c)(3) organizations. This includes, but is not limited to the following restrictions:

- a. At no time will any Department, Camp, or SVR subordinate unit of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, contribute or otherwise donate funds to any political campaign;
- b. At no time will any Department, Camp, or SVR subordinate unit raise funds for candidates in any manner;
- c. At no time will any Department, Camp, or SVR subordinate unit publicly support or oppose any

candidates;

d. At no time will the National, Departments, Camps, or SVR subordinate units post partisan political messages on any social media platform (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Reddit, Imgur, Gab, etc.) or on organizational websites;

e. At no time will the National, Departments, Camps or SVR subordinate units engage in ad hominem criticism of public officials, or give the appearance thereof (including but not limited to attacks on one's personal characteristics or one's status or qualifications);

f. At no time will the National, Departments, Camps or SVR subordinate units connect, compare, or assess the organization's position on an issue(s) with voting recommendations for or against candidates for office in any election(s). This prohibition includes but is not limited to making and/or distributing voter guides for or against candidates;

g. At no time will the National, Departments, Camps, or SVR subordinate units, during an election, compare the organization's issue position with that of a candidate.

7. Permission to Lobby. Prior permission of the Commander-in- Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans must be obtained before any Department, Camp, or SVR subordinate unit conduct any lobbying efforts whatsoever.

a. Requests for permission must be made in writing to the Commander-in-Chief, a duplicate copy to be filed with the National Executive Director, National Treasurer, and National Counselor in writing or by electronic means. No lobbying activities will take place prior to receiving the Commander-in-Chief's written permission under penalty of suspension. Copies of the aforesaid written requests and permissions will be maintained on file by the Executive Director and National Treasurer.

b. Once the lobbying activity has been completed, the Department, Camp, or SVR subordinate unit which was engaged in a lobbying effort shall report to the Commander-in-Chief as follows:

1) Who was contacted and on what date(s);

2) What was discussed, and any other relevant information concerning the lobbying activities, including how many hours were spent;

3) The report shall include copies of any written communications to and from the party(s) which were lobbied;

4) For in-person (face to face) meetings, a synopsis of the conversation(s) shall be attached.

8. Rights of Brothers as Private Citizens. Brothers are free to communicate as private citizens with their local, state, or national representatives on any legislation; however, in this case, they must refrain from mentioning or otherwise implying they are representing the SUVCW, nor may they use letterhead of the SUVCW National Organization, Department, Camp, or SVR Military District or Unit.

9. Penalties for Non-Compliance. As the failure of a Department, Camp, or SVR subordinate unit to

comply with this order may jeopardize our 501(c)3 tax exempt status, the National Organization must practice prudence and take action for the good of the Order against any subordinate body which fails to follow this General Order, namely suspension as well as any other actions as necessary to ensure the Order retains its 501(c)3 tax exempt status.

Ordered this 22nd day of April 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest

Daniel Murray, PDC

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order #14
Revocation of Charter- Colonel Marshall Lefferts Camp #7
Department of New York
Series 2023-2024

01 May 2024

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered:

SECTION 1: Commander Edward P. O'Brien of the Department of New York has requested the revocation of the following Charter: Colonel Marshall Lefferts Camp #7.

SECTION 2: The camp was suspended by DC Edward O'Brien per Department Order #11 is follow up to the 6 May 2021, Department Order #11, series 2023-2024 in which he requested that the C-in-C revoke the Charter of the Colonel Marshall Lefferts Camp #7 for not paying its per capita or furnish the Forms 22 and 27.

SECTION 3: In accordance with the National Constitution, Article IV, Section 2, Commander O'Brien's request is therefore approved and the Charter Colonel Marshall Lefferts Camp #7, Department of New York is hereby revoked.

SECTION 4:

- a. The camp Charter are to be properly turned over to the Department.
- b. The camp funds are to be properly turned over to the National Treasurer Brother D. Michael Beard, PDC.

Ordered this 1st day of May 2024.

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:
Daniel W. Murray
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org

General Order #15
Memorial Day
Series 2023-2024

23 May 2024



As Memorial Day is approaching I asked that all Camps and Departments take time out of their busy schedule to remember and honor our Civil War ancestors, all Veterans and their families of today's military branches for they have made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives for us so that we have our Freedom to enjoy and appreciate our families and loved ones.

I asked that all Brothers of their Camps, SVR Units or individually participate in events in their communities on Monday, 27 May the National Observance to fulfill the Orders of General Logan General Order No 11 of the GAR. The 30th day of May 1868, designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion.

The 30th day of May was first established as Decoration Day, a day of remembrance for those who have died during our nation's service. Comrades would go around to cemeteries decorating the graves of their fellow brothers. The holiday was changed from honoring those whom died fighting during the Civil War to honoring all Americans who died fighting in any war.

Order this 23rd day of May 2024.

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:
Daniel W. Murray
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

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General Order #16
Series 2023-2024
May 27, 2024



The Passing of Past Commander in Chief Eugene G. Mortorff

1. It is my sad duty to report the passing of Eugene G. Mortorff Past Commander in Chief on May 25, 2024
2. Eugene was born in 1954 near Gettysburg, PA. and joined the James A. Garfield Camp #1 in Baltimore, Md in 1998. He also joined 3 other Camps in Pennsylvania and Chesapeake and served as Camp Commander and in other capacities including Patriotic Instructor, and Secretary & Treasurer. He received the MSA/w Gold Star August 2019 and the Cornelious Whitehouse Award in August 2017.
3. He was elected Commander in Chief in August 2015 in Richmond, Va. He served as a Department Commander in the Department of Chesapeake.
4. CinC Gene was also in the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) and served as Commander in the 2nd Military District for 2 years.
5. A military veteran, he retired from the U.S. Coast Guard after 20 years of service and served in the capacities as the Military Training Officer of the Coast Guard Training Center and at Coast Guard Headquarters.

Eugene's second career was a Secondary Public School Teacher in Maryland and taught in 4 different schools there, and then retired in 2012. He also served as a volunteer in the Boy Scouts and provided leadership and Guidance at the Troop, District and National level. Gene was a true leader and was highly respected in the SUVCW and had many friends; he will be missed. He also served in the National Headquarters as the first Assistant Executive Director. Please keep the Mortorff family in your prayers and thoughts.

Funeral arrangements are as follows:

Dugan Funeral Home
111 Main St.
Bendersville, Pa. 17306

Services are Friday June 7, 2024
Viewing is 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Funeral is at 2:00pm

It is hereby ordered that the National Website, the Charters of all Departments, Camps, and membership badges be draped in black for a period of 30 days from the date of this General Order.

Ordered this 27th day of May 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty

**Peter J. Hritsko, Jr.
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Attested:**

**Daniel W. Murray
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org



**General Order 17 (Amended)
Sons Veterans Reserve**

Series 2023-2024

11 June 2024

The National Military Affairs Committee pursuant to the SVR, has the approval of these 5 recommendation listed below.

Item #1: Promotion of Lt. Colonel Shane Milburn to the rank of Colonel, SVR, effective from 1 July 2024 until properly relieved.

**** Committee unanimously recommends approval**

Item #2: Appoint to the position of Deputy Commander, Sons of Veterans Reserve effective from 1 July 2024 until properly relieved.

**** Committee unanimously recommends approval**

Item #3: Promotion of Lt. Commander USN Ken Freshley to the rank of Captain USN, SVR, effective from 1 July 2024 until properly relieved.

**** Committee unanimously recommends approval**

Item #4: Appoint to the position of Adjutant General, Sons of Veterans Reserve effective from 1 July 2024 until properly relieved.

**** Committee unanimously recommends approval**

Item #5: Re-appointment of the following Brothers to the Military Affairs Committee effective from 1 July 2024 until properly relieved.

Chair	Ken L. Freshley, PCinC (expiring 2026)
Member	Shane Milburn, PDC (expiring 2026)
Member	John M. Huffman Jr., PDC (expiring 2025)
Member	Alan Teller, PDC (expiring 2025)
Member	Donald Martin, PCinC (expiring 2025)

**** Committee unanimously recommends approval**

I concur with the recommendation of the Committee on Military Affairs.

Order this 11th day of June 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Daniel W. Murray

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order #18
Disbanding F. E. Warren Camp #44 Dept. of CO/WY

Series 2023-2024

17 June 2024

Brothers,

On behalf of the National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War effective this date the Francis E. Warren Camp 44 of the Department of Colorado/Wyoming voted to disband and has surrender their charter in accordance with Regulations, Chapter I Camps, Article I Formation, Section 4 and 5 of the Constitution and Regulations.

Order this 17th day of June 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:
Daniel W Murray
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
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**General Order #19
Suspension of the Department of Connecticut**

Series 2023-2024

21 June 2024

1. The National Executive Director has advised me that the Department of Connecticut has not yet filed their required annual reports. Departments must file Form 35, along with the current Department Roster and per capita dues to the Executive Director no later than May 31st each year. "Any Department which fails to file the Department Annual Report Form 35 by the date specified therein shall be automatically suspended. The Commander-in-Chief shall issue a General Order noting the automatic suspension." (Regulations, Chapter II, Article I, Section 11).
2. The Department of Connecticut is hereby placed under suspension.
3. The Department of Connecticut will be brought back in good standing when the delinquent reports are received by the Executive Director.
4. While under suspension, the Department may not meet or conduct business except for that activity to bring the Department back in good standing. In addition, their delegates to the National Encampment will not be seated.

Order this 21st day of June 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:
Daniel W. Murray
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

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General Order #20
Reinstatement of Department of Connecticut
Series 2023-2024

06 July 2024

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulation, and National Policies, the following is ordered:

1. General Order 19 (Series 2023-2024) suspended the Department of Connecticut in accordance with Chapter II, Article 1, Section 10, of our National Regulations. Having successfully met all requirements of that General Order, I hereby reinstate the Department of Connecticut effective 5 July 2024. All rights, privileges and responsibilities as member of the Sons of Union Veterans are restored.

Order this 6th day of July 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Daniel W. Murray, PDC

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

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General Order #21
Result General Order on Membership
Qualifications Ratification
Series 2023-2024

08 July 2024

By authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
This ratification and amendment to the Constitution and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is in effect the date of this General Order. In accordance to my General Order #2 (Amendment) on Membership Qualification Ratification. The final result of the returns were monitor by National Secretary Daniel Murray, PDC, myself C-in-C Peter J. Hritsko and PC-in-C Donald Darby, Chairman of this Committee.

The final vote decision result on General Order #2 (Amendment) **PASSES.**

19 Departments Approved it.
10 Departments Disapprove it.
1 Department didn't Vote.

Order this 8th day of July 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:
Daniel W. Murray
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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General Order #22
Policy Loan and/or Deposit of Artifacts
Policy Vendor Tables
Deposit Agreement Form 80

Series 2023-2024

09 July 2024

These three policies stated below have been passed and approved by the Council of Administration of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

1. Policy of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Regarding the loan and/or deposit of artifacts and any and all objects including, but not limited to, Charters, memorabilia, ephemera, etc.
2. Policy of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Regarding the National Encampment Vendor/Display Program.
3. Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War DEPOSIT AGREEMENT FORM 80.

Order this 9th day of July 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:
Daniel W. Murry, PDC
National Secretary
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**Policy of the
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Regarding the loan and/or deposit of artifacts and any and all objects including, but not
limited to, Charters, memorabilia, ephemera, etc.**

1. Regarding the loan and/or deposit of artifacts and any and all objects including, but not limited to, Charters, memorabilia, ephemera, etc., ("Collection"), this Policy was authorized by the National Council of Administration on 25 March 2024 and was made effective July 9, 2024 by General Order #22, Series 2023-2024, of the Commander-in-Chief.
2. This Policy applies without exclusion to all Camps, Departments and the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).
3. Any Collection in the possession of Camps and Departments are held in trust for the National Organization.
4. Prior to the loan and/or deposit of the Collection in the possession of a Camp or Department, a complete Deposit Agreement must be signed by the representative(s) of a museum, historical society or other repository, ("Institution"), and the Department Commander. Of note, authorization for the loan and/or deposit of a Camp Collection must be made by the Department Commander. A Department Commander may appoint one or more aides to assist in carrying out such necessary negotiations, inspections, etc.
5. The Commander-in-Chief may also enter into such loan and/or deposit agreements as he deems appropriate for the Collection in the possession of the National Organization. Prior to the loan and/or deposit of said Collection, a complete Deposit Agreement must be signed by the representative(s) of the Institution and the Commander-in-Chief. The

Commander-in-Chief may appoint one or more aides to assist in carrying out such necessary negotiations, inspections, etc.
6. The Collection on loan and/or deposit must be reviewed no less than every two years from the date of the signed Deposit Agreement to ensure the Institution's compliance with the Deposit Agreement. The term of deposit may be renewed and requires a newly completed and signed Deposit Agreement.
7. For the Collection loaned and/or deposited by a Camp, one (1) copy of the Deposit Agreement must be retained by the Camp Secretary, one (1) copy forwarded to and retained by the Department Secretary and one (1) copy forwarded to and retained by the National Executive Director. For the Collection loaned and/or deposited by the Department, one (1) copy of the Deposit Agreement must be retained by the Department Secretary and one (1) copy forwarded to and retained by the National Executive Director. For the Collection loaned and/or deposited the National Organization, one (1) copy must be retained by the National Executive Director. All renewed Deposit Agreements are considered new and must follow the same distribution and retention requirement.

8. The Deposit Agreement has been assigned Form number 80 and is available for download at: <https://suvv.org/deposit-agreement>

Policy of the
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
Regarding the National Encampment Vendor/Display Program

1. Regarding the National Encampment Vendor/Display, this Policy was authorized by the National Council of Administration on 25 March 2024 and was made effective July 9, 2024 by General Order #22, Series 2023-2024, of the Commander-in-Chief.
2. The purpose of the National Encampment Vendor/Display Program is to raise funds for the local Department's National Encampment Host Committee through the renting of vendor/display tables. Individuals and/or organizations renting vendor/display tables are allowed to have items available to help raise funds for their own organizations.
3. All individuals and/or organizations wishing to rent vendor/display tables must be approved by the National Encampment Host Committee. Only individuals and/or organizations which are not in conflict with the principles, mission and purpose of the Allied Orders may rent vendor tables.
4. Vendor/display tables shall not be used for sectarian nor political purposes.
5. The sale of items which promote the study, history, and memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Civil War, 1861-1865, will be allowed and encouraged. Vendors or displayers of these types of items will have priority over all other types of items.
6. Rental rates and table assignments are the responsibility of the National Encampment Host Committee.

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPOSIT AGREEMENT
(Form 80)**

Deposit. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, ("Depositor") hereby deposits with _____
("Institution") a collection of artifacts and items ("Collection"). The Collection is more particularly described in the attached inventory, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Any additional materials that the Depositor deposits with the Institution will be governed by the terms of this agreement unless the Depositor and the Institution agree upon different terms in a writing made in advance of such additional deposit. Such additional deposit may be listed in additional inventory documents. This agreement supersedes any prior deposit agreement(s) between the parties in regard to the Collection.

2) Term of Deposit. The Collection will remain on deposit in the Institution for a term of _____
_____ beginning on the effective date of this agreement.

3) Warranties. The Depositor warrants that, to the best of the Depositor's knowledge, the Depositor owns the physical property in the Collection, free and clear of any liens, and the Depositor has the full right, power and authority to deposit the Collection.

4) Care of Collection. The Depositor authorizes the Institution to place the deposited material in appropriate archival containers whenever necessary and to extend to the Collection the same protective care as is exercised on similar material owned by the Institution. The Depositor acknowledges that the Institution has no obligation to process the deposited materials. In case of emergency, the Institution is authorized to transport the Collection to such place of safekeeping as the Institution may have chosen for its own valuable collections.

In all cases, the Institution shall give special care for the Collection and take all reasonable precautions to protect the Collection against loss, damage, or deterioration, so as to prevent or diminish damage and to maintain the Collection in sound condition, in the same manner as the Institution provides to its own materials and property.

No part of the Collection may be altered, cleaned, treated, restored or repaired without prior written permission of the Depositor. The Depositor reserves the right to inspect the facility where the Collection is stored and/or displayed upon reasonable notice to the Institution. The Institution will credit the Depositor as the lender of the objects within the Collection that are on public display. The credit shall be used in exhibition labels. Such review shall include the right to inspect the collection of items held.

The Institution will not use the Collection or the Borrowers identity for commercial gain, marketing, self-promotion or fundraising activities. The Institution may use the Collection and/or the Borrowers identity for purposes of promoting the display of all or part of the Collection.

5) Display. The Collection will be displayed whenever possible inside fully enclosed exhibit cases. Encapsulated objects will not be removed from the encapsulations. Framed objects will not be removed from the frames. Environmental conditions will be stable and will be maintained within reasonable ranges. Light levels will be set below the maximum allowable foot-candle level if possible and lights will be turned off during non-public hours to minimize light exposure on the objects of the Collection. No natural light will fall on objects of the Collection.

6) Insurance. The Institution shall carry sufficient premises liability and wall to wall contents insurance in sufficient amounts to provide sufficient coverage for any loss to the Collection. The Depositor may carry additional insurance in the discretion of the Depositor.

7) Administration and Use of Collection. The Institution may administer the Collection and may use the Collection in the Institution's services subject to the usual and special regulations and procedures applied by the Institution to such valuable material. During the deposit period, the Institution and the Depositor will clearly cite the Collection in catalogs, exhibitions, teaching materials, and the like, as being on deposit.

8) Reproduction and Exhibition by the Institution. While the Collection is on deposit, the Institution may make one reproduction of each paper item in the Collection (or such additional number of reproductions as may be necessary to render and retain a digital image of the items). Said reproduction(s) will be the property of the Institution. At all times, the Institution may exhibit any or all the materials in the Collection on site and may display any or all the materials in the Collection on the Institution's website or in any other electronic form or successor technology, subject only to securing any third party permissions that may be necessary.

9) Withdrawal. When the Depositor withdraws the Collection, the Depositor shall provide the Institution at least thirty (30) days written notice prior to withdrawal, unless the withdrawal is at the conclusion of the loan period. The Collection must be returned to the Depositor in satisfactory condition by the stated termination date. Any extension of the loan period must be in writing.

10) Contact Information. The Depositor shall promptly notify the Institution of any change to the Depositor's contact information.

11) Each of the parties has read and agrees to the above Deposit Agreement and certifies that they are authorized by the Institution and the Depositor respectfully to agree thereto and sign this Deposit Agreement.

In witness whereof, the authorized representatives of the parties have signed this agreement effective as of the last date of signature:

Approved for the Institution - _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____

(Institution's Authorized Agent)

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Approved for the Depositor - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War:

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____



Commander-in-Chief



Department Commander

Page 3-3



Peter J. Hritsko Jr
Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

12710 Darrow Rd
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

CinC@SUVCW.org



General Order #23
National Encampment Awards
Series 2023-2024

09 August 2024

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered that the following awards be made at the 143rd National Encampment in Lexington, Kentucky.

1. Meritorious service award with Gold Star: David W. Demmy Sr, Department of Pennsylvania, Daniel W. Murray, PDC, Department of New Hampshire, Phil Signor, Department of Columbia and Don Benson, PCC, Department of Columbia
2. Meritorious Service Award: John Huffman Jr, PDC, Department of Ohio, John Buckler, Department of Kentucky, and Mike Flynn, DC, Department of Kentucky
3. The Doctor Mary Edwards Walker Award: Sue Freshley, National President, ASUVCW from the Department off Ohio
4. Elmer (Bud) Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award 30 years of good service: David Martin, Department of New Jersey
5. Certificate of Recognition: Jack Mills, Department of Kentucky, Bruce Fortin, Department of Kentucky, Kenneth Felton, Department of California/Pacific, Kent Dorr, Department of Ohio
6. Chaplain William Corby Award: None
7. David R. Medert Award: None
8. Abraham Lincoln Commander in Chief Award: Col. Robert Gould Shaw Camp #54, Department of Massachusetts
9. Augusts P. Davis: Department of Pennsylvania
10. U. S. Grand Cup: Department of Columbia
11. Under Forty Award: Department of Pennsylvania

12. Marshall Hope Award (Best Newsletter):

Camp: The Harriet Lane-Lt Commander Edward Lea, USN Camp #2 of the Department of Texas

Department: Buckeye Bugle, Tales of the G.A.R. Department of Ohio

13. Joseph S. Rippey Award: None

14. Horace Greeley Award:

Department of North Carolina

Please keep Brother Chaplain Jerry and Brother Department Commander of Michigan in your prayers. Both are home awaiting treatments.

I would like to thank all the Brothers and Sister for coming to the National Encampment in Lexington Kentucky, wish them good wishes for the rest of the year.

Special thanks to the Host Committee of the Department of Kentucky for a great job well done Brothers.

Congratulations to the newly elected Commander-in-Chief Kevin L. Martin of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Wishing you a successful year.

Order this 9th day of August 2024

Respectfully In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Peter J. Hritsko Jr

Commander-in-Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest


Alan Russ, PDC

National Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Office of the National Counselor
Donald E. Darby, PCinC
1382 Western Ave.
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
darby@horizonview.net
740-600-9654

National Counselor's Opinion 001-2024

Background

On or about 14 March 2024, the Commander of the Department of Pennsylvania contacted this office requesting an Opinion from the National Counselor regarding activities within the Department of Pennsylvania. To wit: 1. Gettysburg Camp 112 has filed two different Form 22s having inconsistencies, lack of an Installing Officer signature, and that three officers that were not elected or installed at the date noted on the form. 2. There are allegations of the co-mingling of funds of a personal nature with those in the Camp bank account by a Former Camp Secretary Treasurer. (A possible violation of the IRS rules concerning 501c3, and normal banking procedures). 3. Officers are not following the SUVCW C,C&R.

Also with this email was an attachment of a 2½ hour ZOOM meeting recording between a former Camp Member, a PDC, and the Department Commander, and members of the Department Council.

During this meeting the PDC bought up the various problems of the Gettysburg 112, noting that while he currently holds the charges against various officers of the Camp 112, he has as yet to file them hoping that the problems could be corrected with-in the Camp.

Apparently, this has not been successful, and the Department has suspended Gettysburg Camp 112 regarding the filing of the two Form 22s. It also appears that one of the Form 2's has arrived at the National Headquarters, as I am in receipt of that Form. Once again, no signature of the Installing Officer.

There is also allegations that the officers of Gettysburg Camp 112 are not following the SUVCW Charter, Constitution and Regulations (C,C&R) in the running of the Camp.

Opinion

As an Opinion can and may have a direct action to the C,C&R if concurred to by the Commander-in-Chief and left unchallenged by the National Encampment, I will deal with the issue of the alleged co-mingling of funds in this Opinion and then address the other allegations as a matter of C,C&R violations.

1. National Regulations, Chapter 1, Article VII, Section 5(f) states that the Camp Secretary shall have the duty of "Maintaining a bank account in the Camp's name for Camp funds."

2. Monies placed in this account also fall under the cover of being either 501c3 tax exempt, in the case off the Camp, or under taxable monies on the part of the individual's funds. Meaning that the individual in the co-mingled funds could be declared by the IRS as non-reported income for the entire amount in the account. Probably more importantly, the matter could have had a less than favorable impact of the 501c3 status of the Department and the National SUVCW.
3. It is my opinion that the Camp Secretary of Camp 112 was in violation of the SUVCW C,C&R National Regulations Chapter 1, Article VII, Section 5(f). But, in as much as this matter has been rectified by the transfer of the Camps Funds into a now separate account and that the brother in question has been relieved of his duties, the need for charges in THIS matter need not be considered. BUT, I leave that matter to the members of the Camp.
4. In regard to reporting this matter to the IRS, I consulted with Brother PCinC Jim Pahl, an attorney, who advised not to report this closed matter to the IRS.
5. Further, I would place before the C,C&R Committee that National Regulations Chapter 1 Article VII Section 5(f) be stated in stronger language regarding Camp/Department funds. To wit "Maintaining a bank account in the Camp's name for Camp funds. There will be no co-mingling of SUVCW, SVR or personal monies in this account."

This concludes the opinion regarding the alleged co-mingling of funds.

Now I will address the over allegations stated in the ZOOM meeting. This is NOT to be construed as a ruling or opinion of National to the actions of a Camp in the Department of Pennsylvania. Decisions made by the Department toward Camp 112 rests solely with the Department and or a Trial Commission if deemed to be warranted.

1. During the ZOOM recording, there were reports of the Camp being suspended for the improper filing of the Form 22s with the Department and apparently with National. Those two Form 22s, not have the SIGNATURE of the installing officer and having different names. The Department Commander, I believe, was within his rights and power (National Regulations Chapter 1 Camps Section 16 page 33 of C, C&R) to suspend that Camp until this was corrected.

I would call the Department and Camp's attention to footnote 15 of the C, C&R, page 31. That the Camp cannot function in any manner except to perform those things which would result in the termination of the suspension. Further, footnote 57, page 66 of the C, C&R states that the "Department is NOT required to pay Per Capita to the National Organization for a Camp under suspension. However, once the Camp has forwarded its reports and Per Capita and the Department Commander has lifts the suspension, the Department is obligated to forward the required Per Capita to the National Organization." I say this only as it is nearing the time for the submission of reports and payments to National.

2. Also during the ZOOM meeting, there were allegations that the Camp leadership was not following the C, C&R. I would point out that no charges have been received by the Department in this matter, to date. I would point to footnote 17, page 31 of the C,C&R, "A department Commander may appoint a Brother or Brothers to re-organize a Camp under suspension when the Camp has not officers willing or able to perform the duties necessary to lift the suspension." I would caution the Department, that the leadership of the Camp was elected by the members of the Camp and per the Ritual of the Installation of Officers "These are the Officers who have been chosen by you for the next term. If any Brother present has any valid objection to offer why any of them should not be installed, let him speak now or forever hold his peace.
3. There was also mention regarding the taking of Camp material from the Camp. This can only be done if the Camp charter is revoked by the Commander-in-Chief, and NOT for just a suspension. The Department should avoid any comments that could be construed as threats toward any Brother or the Camp as a whole. State the violation, state the C, C&R, move forward. This is business, not personal.
4. Until such time as charges have been filed, the Department's hands are tied to action EXCEPT for the Form 22 issue.

I remain

Donald E. Darby

Donald E, Darby, PCinC
National Counselor

In the above Opinions 001-2024 and 002-2024, I am in agreement and rule that these Opinions are well taken, and further explain/interpret the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Charter, Constitution, and Regulations. These Opinion and Ruling are in effect from this date forward or until action of a future National Encampment.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest

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

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Donald E. Darby, PCinC

1382 Western Ave.

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10 April 2024

National Counselor Opinion 002-2024

Background

Over the past months, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has received several inquiries regarding the Life Membership requirements of those Life Members to pay Camp and or Department dues following their approval as Life Members.

The following are examples of this inquiries:

1. Department of Massachusetts: The Department of Massachusetts and L. A. Tifft Camp 15 have a dilemma regarding one of our Brothers. XXXXXX recently regained his membership after many years, rejoined Camp 15, and obtained his life membership. He has had a difficult time communicating with his brothers in the Camp and, most recently, after requesting and being given the address to send his Camp dues, has further requested no further contact, and to be removed from all Camp and Department email lists.

I had suggested that National membership at large might be the best option, but he seems adamant that he wants no further contact with anyone from Massachusetts. My question is how does this effect (sic) his membership with the Camp and with the SUVCW overall? He will be a member in good standing until his Camp dues are unpaid. Massachusetts does not require Department dues. If Camp 15 drops this brother for non-payment of dues, does he remain a life member. Does he become a National member at large automatically? Will National alert him to the possibility of at-large membership?

2. Department of California/Pacific: I need a little help, maybe more... depending on who you ask. We have a Dual member (Department of California and Department of Ohio). He became a Life Member listing his Ohio Camp on his Life Membership Application. So that will relieve him of National dues in the Department of Ohio and maybe Department dues depending on their policy. He will still need to pay all required for the Department of Calif., correct? National, Dept., and Camp. He would need to become a "Dual" Life member, a life member in both departments to be relieved of paying any National dues. Thanks for some input.

3. Unknown Department: Apparently Brother XXX has refused to pay Camp and Department Dues for the past couple of years and the General RHG Minty Camp has covered his Camp and Department per capita until this year. They wish to clear up their rolls and have issued an Honorable Discharge (See attached Form 30 HD) How do we handle this? I assume that he is still a Life Member of the SUVCW, but he is not a member of any Camp that we are aware of and by our Department By-laws to permit Brothers at Large.
4. Unknown Camp: Brother David, my local camp has 2 Life Members that have not remitted their Camp nor Department dues for 2024. After multiple newsletter announcements, emails and personal notices, these brothers have failed to reply nor make remittance. The Camp hates to automatically drop life members, who are exempt from National per capita, but subject to Camp and Department dues. What are our options?
5. There are also similar concerns from the Department of Florida and Alabama on this subject, but the queries were not provided.

Opinion

1. As the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Charter, Constitution, and Regulations (C,C&R) is mute on the matter of discipline of Life Members, this Opinion, as with other Opinions, will require the concurrence/approval of the Commander-in-Chief (CinC) . The ruling of the CinC being in effect upon that concurrence/approval until if and when the National Encampment takes up the matter. If the National Encampment does not take up that matter then it becomes “the law of the land” to be entered into the C,C&R.
2. There are a couple of issues in this matter. (a) the non-payment of dues, (b) types of discharges regarding non-payment of dues, (c) Must a Life Member maintain membership in a Camp, Department, Department at Large, or National Membership at Large to maintain membership in the Order, (d) Suspension of Membership for non-payment of dues Order wide.
3. Life Members ARE REQUIRED to pay annual Department and Camp level dues. This is clearly pointed out in the 2nd paragraph of the Life Membership Application (Form 9). If the Life Member fails to pay his Camp dues by 1 March of every year, he can be dropped from the Order (National Regulations Chapter 1, Camps, Article II, Membership Section 3 (a) page 35 of the C,C&R. If the brother is dropped by the Camp, he cannot apply to any other Camp or membership at Large unless have received the concurrence of the Camp that Dropped him. Repayment of dues can still be required prior to reinstatement IN ANY CAMP.
4. Footnote 25, of the C,C&R further states that if a Camp has paid dues on behalf of the Brother, in anticipation of that Brother later paying such dues, along with associated fines, and which the Brother is subsequently dropped for failure to pay, CANNOT be considered as prior indebtedness for the purposes of rejoining the SUVCW.

5. If the Camp decides to suspend the brother rather than drop him from the Order, the suspension is Order-wide. 125th National Encampment page 17-18 labeled (page 31-32 to print out). NC Robert Grim, "Basically, if a member is under a disciplinary proceeding (suspension) in one Department and holds a dual (sic) membership in a second Department, I have ruled that the discipline applies throughout the Order and is not just limited to the Department where the person is being disciplined. My opinion was that discipline applies through the Order. And that was endorsed by the Commander-in-Chief." The National Encampment did not overturn the Opinion or the ruling.
6. As the SUVCW has long been a "from the bottom (Camps) to top (National) Organization, it is reasonable that in order to maintain a membership, a brother (Life Member) would be required to maintain his status as a "member in good standing" at the Camp level. Footnote 6 page 26 of the C, C&R states "A Brother cannot be a member-at-large to National Headquarters, if he resides in a state served by a Department (CinC Orr, General Order 18, 117th, 110) In case 1, above, I would maintain that the brother in question, for all practicable purposes by default, asked for a SUVCW Transfer Form (Form 4). He would then have 1 year in which to present the Form 4 to a Camp/Department more to his liking. If he fails to present the Form 4 within one year, he is honorably discharged. A brother thus discharged can be admitted to membership again only in the same manner as an applicant for original membership (once again bottom to top)." He would then forfeit his Life Membership and Fees associated therewith. (National Regulations Chapter 1 Camps, Article II Membership Section 5, page 36).
7. And as stated in paragraph 5 above, disciplinary action by a Camp, Department is Order-wide.

In summary, Yes, a Life Member is REQUIRED to pay Camp and Department dues. A Camp/Department can waive these payments if they desire. If the Life Member fails to pay the required dues the Camp/Department can take disciplinary action against the Life Member just like any other member of the Order, either dropping him with a General Discharge, or suspending him until such dues are paid (National Regulations Chapter 1, Camps, Article II Membership Sections 3 (a) through Section 6).

Yes, the Life Member is required to maintain his membership in a Camp. He cannot be a member of the National Membership at large if his state is served by a Department.

In the Case 1 above, I would suggest that the Department issue a Transfer Form 4 (Form 4) and mail it to the NATIONAL SECRETARY that the NATIONAL SECRETARY inform the brother that he has 1 year in which to submit the Form 4 to another Camp more to his liking. I only suggest going through the National Secretary as the brother in question does not want contact with the Department.

In Case 2 above, First Article VII Membership Section 1 Membership classes (b), does not list a "Dual Life Member" as a class. The Camp/Department can do one of two things, drop the brother from the roles of the Department and inform him that in order to rejoin the Camp/Department he will need to pay the past

dues and the reinstatement fee, and issue him a General Discharge. Or suspend him and thereby hold his membership in limbo throughout the Order until such time as he pays the dues owed the Camp/Department.

In Case 3, according to Footnote 24, page 36 of C, C&R as noted above, dues that were paid by the camp cannot be considered prior indebtedness. So the Camp can only collect dues for this year. IF the camp issues a discharge, it will be a "General Discharge", NOT an "Honorable Discharge" (Regulations Chapter 1, Camps, Article II, Membership Section 3(a).)

In Case 4 The Camp must decide how it wishes to proceed looking to pages 35 through 38 that I have previously mentioned.

I remain,

Donald E. Darby

Donald E, Darby, PCinC
National Counselor

In the above Opinions 001-2024 and 002-2024, I am in agreement and rule that these Opinions are well taken, and further explain/interpret the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Charter, Constitution, and Regulations. These Opinion and Ruling are in effect from this date forward or until action of a future National Encampment.

Peter J. Hritsko, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest

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

Past Commanders-in-Chief

<u><i>Year</i></u>	<u><i>Name</i></u>	<u><i>Department</i></u>
1881	Harry T. Rowley	Pennsylvania
1882	Harry T. Rowley	Pennsylvania
1883	Frank P. Merrill	Maine
1884	Harry W. Arnold	Pennsylvania
1885	Walter S. Payne	Ohio
1886	Walter S. Payne	Ohio
1887	George B. Abbott	Illinois
1888	George B. Abbott	Illinois
1889	Charles F. Griffin	Indiana
1890	Leland J. Webb	Kansas
1891	Bartow S. Weeks	New York
1892	Marvin E. Hall	Michigan
1893	Joseph B. Maccabe	Massachusetts
1894	William E. Bundy	Ohio
1895	William H. Russell	Kansas
1896	James L. Rake	Pennsylvania
1897	Charles E. Darling	Massachusetts
1898	Frank L. Shepard	Illinois
1899	A. W. Jones	Ohio
1900	Edgar W. Alexander	Pennsylvania
1901	Edward R. Campbell	Maryland
1902	Frank Martin	Indiana
1903	Arthur B. Spinks	Rhode Island
1904	William C. Dustin	Illinois
1905	Harvey V. Speelman	Ohio
1906	Edwin M. Amie	Pennsylvania
1907	Ralph Sheldon	New York
1908	Edgar Allan, Jr.	Maryland
1909	George W. Polliet	New Jersey
1910	Fred E. Bolton	Massachusetts
1911	Newton J. McGuire	Indiana
1912	Ralph M. Grant	Connecticut
1913	John E. Sautter	Pennsylvania
1914	Charles F. Sherman	New York
1915	A.E.B. Stephens	Ohio
1916	William T. Church	Illinois
1917	Fred T.J. Johnson	Pennsylvania
1918	Frances Callahan	Pennsylvania

Past Commanders-in-Chief

<u><i>Year</i></u>	<u><i>Name</i></u>	<u><i>Department</i></u>
1919	Harry D. Sisson	Massachusetts
1920	Phelam A. Barrows	Nebraska
1921	Clifford Ireland	Illinois
1922	Frank Shellhouse	Indiana
1923	Samuel S. Horn	Pennsylvania
1924	William M. Coffin	Ohio
1925	Edwin C. Irelan	Maryland
1926	Ernest W. Homan	Massachusetts
1927	Walter C. Mabie	Pennsylvania
1928	Delevan B. Bowley	California
1929	Theodore C. Cazeau	New York
1930	Allen S. Holbrook	Illinois
1931	Frank C. Huston	Indiana
1932	Titus M. Ruch	Pennsylvania
1933	Park F. Yengling	Ohio
1934	Frank L. Kirchgassner	Massachusetts
1935	Richard F. Locke	Illinois
1936	William A. Dyer	New York
1937	William A. Dyer	New York
1938	William L. Anderson	Massachusetts
1939	Ralph R. Barrett	California
1940	J. Kirkwood Craig	Minnesota
1941	Albert C. Lambert	New Jersey
1942	Henry Towle	Maine
1943	C. Leroy Stoudt	Pennsylvania
1944	Urion W. Mackey	Michigan
1945	H. Harding Hale	Massachusetts
1946	Neil D. Cranmer	New York
1947	Charles H. E. Moran	Massachusetts
1948	Perle L. Fouch	Michigan
1949	John H. Runkle	Pennsylvania
1950	Cleon E. Heald	New Hampshire
1951	Roy J. Bennett	Iowa
1952	Frederick K. Davis	Washington & Oregon
1953	U.S. Grant III	Maryland
1954	U.S. Grant III	Maryland
1955	Fredrick G. Bauer	Massachusetts
1956	Fred E. Howe	New York

Past Commanders-in-Chief

<u><i>Year</i></u>	<u><i>Name</i></u>	<u><i>Department</i></u>
1957	Albert B. DeHaven	Maine
1958	Earl F. Riggs	California
1959	Harold E. Arnold	Rhode Island
1960	Thomas A. Chadwick	Vermont
1961	Charles L. Messer	New York
1962	Chester S. Shriver	Pennsylvania
1963	Joseph S. Rippey	New York
1964	Joseph S. Rippey	New York
1965	W. Earl Corbin	Ohio
1966	Frank Woerner	California
1967	William H. Haskell	Massachusetts
1968	Frank M. Heacock, Sr.	Pennsylvania
1969	Fred H. Combs, Jr.	New Jersey
1970	George L. Cashman	Illinois
1971	Norman R. Furman	New York
1972	John C. Yocum	Pennsylvania
1973	Allen B. Howland	Massachusetts
1974	John H. Stark	Pennsylvania
1975	Clarence J. Riddell	Pennsylvania
1976	Kenneth T. Wheeler	New Hampshire
1977	Harold T. Beilby	New York
1978	Richard L. Greenwalt	Ohio
1979	Elton O. Koch	Pennsylvania
1980	Richard E. Wyman	New Hampshire
1981	Harry E. Gibbons	New York
1982	Richard C. Schlenker	Maryland
1983	William L. Simpson	Pennsylvania
1984	Eugene E. Russell	Massachusetts
1985	Donald L. Roberts	New York
1986	Gordon R. Bury II	Ohio
1987	Richard O. Partington	Pennsylvania
1988	Clark C. Mellor	Massachusetts
1989	Charles W. Corfman	Ohio
1990	George W. Long	Pennsylvania
1991	Lowell V. Hammer	Maryland
1992	Elmer F. Atkinson	Pennsylvania
1993	Allen W. Moore	Indiana
1994	Keith G. Harrison	Michigan

Past Commanders-in-Chief

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
1995	David R. Medert	Ohio
1996	Alan R. Loomis	Indiana
1997	Richard D. Orr	Pennsylvania
1998	Andrew M. Johnson	Maryland
1999	Danny L. Wheeler	New York
2000	Edward J. Krieser	Indiana
2001	George L. Powell	Pennsylvania
2002	Robert E. Grim	Ohio
2003	Kent L. Armstrong	Michigan
2004	Stephen A. Michaels	Wisconsin
2005	Donald E. Darby	Ohio
2006	James B. Pahl	Michigan
2007	Charles E. Kuhn Jr.	Pennsylvania
2008	David V. Medert	Ohio
2009	Leo F. Kennedy	Rhode Island
2010	D. Brad Schall	California
2011	Donald D. Palmer Jr.	Missouri
2012	Perley Mellor	New Hampshire
2013	Ken L. Freshley	Ohio
2014	Tad D. Campbell	California
2015	Eugene Mortorff	Chesapeake
2016	Donald L. Martin	Ohio
2017	Mark R. Day	Chesapeake
2018	Donald W. Shaw	Michigan
2019	Edward J. Norris	Massachusetts
2020	Brian C. Pierson	Georgia and South Carolina
2021	Michael A. Paquette	Chesapeake
2022	Bruce D. Frail	Rhode Island
2023	Peter J. Hritsko, Jr.	Ohio

Honor Conferred by the Commander-In-Chief

1883	Augustus P. Davis	Pennsylvania
1899	Richard M. J. Reed	Pennsylvania
1939	Horace H. Hammer	Pennsylvania
1953	Albert H. Woolson	Minnesota
2023	Robert J. Wolz	Ohio

Past Commanders of Sons of Veterans

1881	Alfred Cope	Pennsylvania
1882	Albert Cope	Pennsylvania
1883	Edwin M. Earp	Massachusetts
1884	Edwin M. Earp	Massachusetts
1885	Louis M. Wagner	Pennsylvania
1886	Louis M. Wagner	Pennsylvania
1887	Louis M. Wagner	Pennsylvania

Past Post System Commanders

1889	George W. Marks	New York
1890	George T. Brown	New York

Past Grand Division Commanders *

Isaac S. Bangs	Maine
Ahiman V. Bohn	Colorado
Elliott Howard Gilkey	Ohio
William J. Maskell	Illinois
William E. W. Ross	Maryland
Raphael Tobias	New York
Leland J. Webb	Kansas
Charles M. Catt	Ohio
Augustus Plummer Davis	Pennsylvania (Honorary)
Frank H. Challis	New Hampshire
Lucian F. Burpee	Connecticut

* The following four men were also listed as Past Grand Division Commanders in *Grand Army Men – The GAR and its Male Organizations* (pg. 42), 2014, by SUVCW Past National Historian, Robert J. Wolz.

Horace P. Kent **	Massachusetts
Walter S. Payne	Ohio
R. M. J. Reed	Pennsylvania (Honorary)
Charles S. Crysler	Missouri

** Horace P. Kent was elected as the Commander of the First Grand Division. However, before he assumed that position, it was discovered that he had been dropped from the rolls of his Camp, reason unknown. Kent was then replaced by Lucian F. Burpee, who served as Commander of the First Grand Division during that term.

National Encampments of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

<u>No.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
1 st	1882	October 18	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2 nd	1883	August 6-7	Columbus, Ohio
3 rd	1884	August 27-30	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
4 th	1885	September 17	Grand Rapids, Michigan
5 th	1886	August 31-Sept. 2	Buffalo, New York
6 th	1887	August 17-19	Des Moines, Iowa
7 th	1888	August 15-17	Wheeling, West Virginia
8 th	1889	September 10-13	Paterson, New Jersey
9 th	1890	August 26-29	St. Joseph, Missouri
10 th	1891	August 24-29	Minneapolis, Minnesota
11 th	1892	August 8-12	Helena, Montana
12 th	1893	August 15-18	Cincinnati, Ohio
13 th	1894	August 20-23	Davenport, Iowa
14 th	1895	September 16-18	Knoxville, Tennessee
15 th	1896	September 8-10	Louisville, Kentucky
16 th	1897	September 9-11	Indianapolis, Indiana
17 th	1898	September 12-14	Omaha, Nebraska
18 th	1899	September 7-9	Detroit, Michigan
19 th	1900	September 11-13	Syracuse, New York
20 th	1901	September 17-18	Providence, Rhode Island
21 st	1902	October 7-9	Washington, D.C.
22 nd	1903	September 15-17	Atlantic City, New Jersey
23 rd	1904	August 17-19	Boston, Massachusetts
24 th	1905	September 18-20	Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
25 th	1906	August 21-23	Peoria, Illinois
26 th	1907	August 20-22	Dayton, Ohio
27 th	1908	August 25-27	Niagara Falls, New York
28 th	1909	August 24-26	Washington, D.C.
29 th	1910	September 20-22	Atlantic City, New Jersey
30 th	1911	August 22-25	Rochester, New York
31 st	1912	August 27-29	St. Louis, Missouri
32 nd	1913	September 16-18	Chattanooga, Tennessee
33 rd	1914	September 1-3	Detroit, Michigan
34 th	1915	September 28-30	Washington, D.C.
35 th	1916	August 30-31	Kansas City, Missouri
36 th	1917	August 22-23	Boston, Massachusetts
37 th	1918	August 21-22	Niagara Falls, New York
38 th	1919	September 9-11	Columbus, Ohio

National Encampments of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

<u>No.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
39 th	1920	September 22-24	Indianapolis, Indiana
40 th	1921	September 21-29	Indianapolis, Indiana
41 st	1922	September 26-28	Des Moines, Iowa
42 nd	1923	September 4-6	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
43 rd	1924	August 12-14	Boston, Massachusetts
44 th	1925	August 31-Sept. 3	Grand Rapids, Michigan
45 th	1926	September 21-23	Des Moines, Iowa
46 th	1927	September 13-15	Grand Rapids, Michigan
47 th	1928	September 18-20	Denver, Colorado
48 th	1929	September 10-12	Portland, Maine
49 th	1930	August 26-28	Cincinnati, Ohio
50 th	1931	September 15-17	Des Moines, Iowa
51 st	1932	September 20-22	Springfield, Illinois
52 nd	1933	September 19-21	St. Paul, Minnesota
53 rd	1934	August 14-16	Rochester, New York
54 th	1935	September 10-12	Grand Rapids, Michigan
55 th	1936	September 22-24	Washington, D.C.
56 th	1937	September 6-9	Madison, Wisconsin
57 th	1938	September 5-8	Des Moines, Iowa
58 th	1939	August 29-30	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
59 th	1940	September 9-12	Springfield, Illinois
60 th	1941	September 16-18	Columbus, Ohio
61 st	1942	September 15-17	Indianapolis, Indiana
62 nd	1943	September 21-22	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
63 rd	1944	September 12-14	Des Moines, Iowa
64 th	1945	October 1-4	Columbus, Ohio
65 th	1946	August 26-29	Indianapolis, Indiana
66 th	1947	August 10-14	Cleveland, Ohio
67 th	1948	September 26-30	Grand Rapids, Michigan
68 th	1949	August 28-31	Indianapolis, Indiana
69 th	1950	August 20-24	Boston, Massachusetts
70 th	1951	August 19-23	Columbus, Ohio
71 st	1952	August 24-28	Atlantic City, New Jersey
72 nd	1953	August 23-27	Buffalo, New York
73 rd	1954	August 8-13	Duluth, Minnesota
74 th	1955	August 21-25	Cincinnati, Ohio
75 th	1956	September 9-13	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
76 th	1957	August 18-22	Detroit, Michigan

National Encampments of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

<u>No.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
77 th	1958	August 17-21	Boston, Massachusetts
78 th	1959	August 16-20	Long Beach, California
79 th	1960	August 21-25	Springfield, Illinois
80 th	1961	August 20-24	Indianapolis, Indiana
81 st	1962	August 19-23	Washington, D.C.
82 nd	1963	August 18-22	Miami Beach, Florida
83 rd	1964	August 16-20	Providence, Rhode Island
84 th	1965	August 16-19	Richmond, Virginia
85 th	1966	August 14-18	Grand Rapids, Michigan
86 th	1967	August 6-10	Chicago, Illinois
87 th	1968	August 18-20	Wilmington, Delaware
88 th	1969	August 17-21	St. Louis, Missouri
89 th	1970	August 23-27	Miami Beach, Florida
90 th	1971	August 15-19	Boston, Massachusetts
91 st	1972	August 13-17	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
92 nd	1973	August 5-9	Palm Springs, California
93 rd	1974	August 18-21	Bretton Woods, New Hampshire
94 th	1975	August 10-14	Rochester, New York
95 th	1976	August 15-19	Columbus, Ohio
96 th	1977	August 14-18	Des Moines, Iowa
97 th	1978	August 13-17	Grand Rapids, Michigan
98 th	1979	August 12-16	Hartford, Connecticut
99 th	1980	August 17-21	Richmond, Virginia
100 th	1981	August 9-13	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
101 st	1982	August 15-18	Providence, Rhode Island
102 nd	1983	August 14-18	Portland, Maine
103 rd	1984	August 12-16	Akron, Ohio
104 th	1985	August 10-15	Wilmington, Delaware
105 th	1986	August 11-13	Lexington, Kentucky
106 th	1987	August 9-12	Buffalo, New York
107 th	1988	August 14-17	Lansing, Michigan
108 th	1989	August 13-18	Stamford, Connecticut
109 th	1990	August 12-15	Des Moines, Iowa
110 th	1991	August 11-14	Indianapolis, Indiana
111 st	1992	August 13-17	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
112 th	1993	August 13-15	Portland, Maine
113 th	1994	August 11-14	Lansing, Michigan
114 th	1995	August 10-13	Columbus, Ohio

National Encampments of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

<u>No.</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
115 th	1996	August 8-11	Columbus, Ohio
116 th	1997	August 7-10	Utica, New York
117 th	1998	August 6-9	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
118 th	1999	August 19-22	Indianapolis, Indiana
119 th	2000	August 17-20	Lansing, Michigan
120 th	2001	August 9-12	Springfield, Missouri
121 st	2002	August 8-10	Springfield, Illinois
122 nd	2003	August 7-9	Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky
123 rd	2004	August 12-15	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
124 th	2005	August 10-13	Nashua, New Hampshire
125 th	2006	August 9-12	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
126 th	2007	August 9-12	St. Louis, Missouri
127 th	2008	August 7-10	Peabody, Massachusetts
128 th	2009	August 13-16	Louisville, Kentucky
129 th	2010	August 12-15	Overland Park, Kansas
130 th	2011	August 11-14	Reston, Virginia
131 st	2012	August 9-12	Los Angeles, California
132 nd	2013	August 9-12	Brookfield, Wisconsin
133 rd	2014	August 14-17	Marietta, Georgia
134 th	2015	August 19-23	Richmond, Virginia
135 th	2016	August 11-14	Springfield, Illinois
136 th	2017	August 10-13	Lansing, Michigan
137 th	2018	August 9-12	Framingham, Massachusetts
138 th	2019	August 8-11	Independence, Ohio
139 th	2020	October 24	Virtual (Atlanta, Georgia)
140 th	2021	August 5-7	St. Louis, Missouri
141 st	2022	August 11-13	Grand Rapids, Michigan
142 nd	2023	August 3-5	Nashua, New Hampshire
143 rd	2024	August 1-4	Lexington, Kentucky

----- **END OF PROCEEDINGS** -----

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