



The Sunflower Picket



Publication of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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9TH DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT April 23, 2005, Lawrence

It is time to put April 23, 2005 on your calendar. The 9th Department of Kansas Annual Encampment will be held in Lawrence on that date. For those of you who may not have attended a Department Encampment, it is where the business of the Department, YOUR Department, takes place. It is also an opportunity to meet fellow brothers from the other Department camps.

Although each camp is only allocated a certain number of voting delegates, the Encampment is open to all active members of the Department. Talk with your Camp Commander about attending.

Our newest camp, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, will be the host this year. Current plans are for the meeting to again be held in conjunction with the department meeting for the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Additional details will be furnished on or about April 1, 2005, in the Spring issue of the Sunflower Picket.

IN MEMORIAM

Hiram Shouse, Jr. (A Real Son)

The following was provided by National Headquarters, SUVCW:

It is with deep regret that I report the passing of Brother Hiram Shouse, Jr., a Real Son of a Union Veteran of the Civil War, on January 1st. As a member of the Col. John C. Byrner Camp 67, Department on Illinois, Brother Shouse honored the memory of his father, Dr. Hiram Shouse, Sr., who served in the 11th Illinois Infantry.

All Camp and Department charters, as well as the National website are to be draped in black for a period of thirty (30) days.

All Brothers are respectfully directed to attach a black mourning ribbon to their membership badge (pursuant to C&R, Article III, Sec. 9) for a period of thirty (30) days.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Brother Shouse's family.

By Order of:
Stephen A. Michaels
Commander-in-Chief
2 January 2005

DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

Did you know that the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, has its own website? Thanks to Brother Jon Goering, a new website for the Department is up and running. His hard work is apparent in the top-notch site he designed. Check it out at:

<http://www.suvcwks.org>.



From the Senior Vice Cdr Jim Knopke, PCC

Reflections of Allegiance and Freedoms

This past December 17th, my wife and I attended our first Naturalization proceedings. Barb was there representing the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This is one of the functions that the DAR participates in. I went along to see what it was all about.

It was held at the United States District Court for the District of Kansas in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. The proceedings took place in a large court room. There were 79 persons from 39 different countries to become American citizens. When family and friends were taken into account, there were about 200 in attendance. I found it to be quite an experience.

There were a few things that happened during the proceedings which left an impression on me. First, the judge was talking to the participants, and he was telling them that if they thought the United States was a prefect country to live in, then they were wrong. But he did say that in this country you have the freedom to make the changes that are needed. Many of these people came from countries that have limited freedoms, and I could see in their eyes that this was

something they had been yearning for. I thought how lucky I am to have grownup and to be living my life in America.

Second, when it came time for them to give the Oath of Allegiance, all stood straight and spoke in a loud voice. I could feel their anticipation mount as they were getting to the end of the Oath and closer to becoming an US citizen and all freedoms it brings with it – freedoms they did not enjoy before.

And then at the end of the program, all stood and an Honor Guard brought out the Flag of the United States for the Pledge of Allegiance. The silence in that room was deafening as the Flag was carried in. The respect and reverence that these new citizens were showing for the Flag made me feel very proud that it is the Flag of my country.

Had our forefathers not taken the stand they did during the Civil War, I wonder what this land would be like. Would people want to come here to live or would we want to go to some other country and start a new life? I am so thankful that so many before me made the sacrifices they did so I do not have to make that decision. This experience has renewed my understanding of why so many want to call the United States their home.

 **The Commander's Corner** Tom Schmidt, PCC

By the time most of you read this, 2005 will be here. As I look back on our organization in 2004 we made some significant strides. 2004 was the first full year for the Lawrence Camp. In April we had a successful encampment in Beloit with very good attendance. During August seven members (the most ever) of the Department of Kansas attended the National Encampment in Cedar Rapids, Iowa at which we won the Grant trophy for the highest percentage of growth. In October the new Kansas Department web-site suvcwks.org was brought online by Department Webmaster Jon Goering. Also in October our Mine Creek committee met during the Mine Creek re-enactment to work on details of a proposed project at the battlefield. We then held an informative Fall Council meeting in Lawrence in November. This doesn't even touch all the projects, meetings, and events held at the camp level.

As we look forward to 2005 we look at many upcoming opportunities. It is very possible we may try to start as many as two new camps in Kansas this year. Doug McGovern is working to try and catalog all the Civil War Memorials in Kansas and needs our help to do so. Our 2005 State encampment will be held on April 23 in Lawrence. We hope to have final plans for our Mine Creek project by then. In August the SUVCW National Encampment will be held in New Hampshire. On October 1, 2005, we will be hosting the 2005 Central Regional Conference for the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic in Lawrence. This is just a small portion of what I see is in store for us in 2005.

Our organization is solid, but it needs all of you to help it grow and prosper. Recruit whenever you have the opportunity. Make it your goal to get one new member in 2005. If you haven't been active at the camp level, if you can, do so in 2005. It is participation at the camp level that keeps our organization strong.

Thanks for your help and involvement in 2004. May you and your family experience a happy and prosperous 2005. May we as members of the Sons of Union Veterans continue to advance the aims and goals of our organization in 2005.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Thomas E. Schmidt, PCC
Department Commander

CAMP NEWS

PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1, Wichita

Camp Commander..... James A. Scheidel, Jr.
Senior Vice CommanderNorman R. Kimrey
Junior Vice Commander.....Dale L. Rouse
Secretary/Treasurer.....Thomas E. Schmidt, PCC

Camp meetings are held at the DAV Clubhouse, 3011 George Washington Blvd., in Wichita. The meetings are at 7 PM, on the fourth Thursday of the month. The Camp does not meet in July or August, and the November meeting is on the third Thursday, due to Thanksgiving.

Department Commander Tom Schmidt installed the officers for 2005 on November 18, 2004. The following officers will serve the Camp during 2005:

Camp Commander	James A. Scheidel, Jr.
Senior Vice Commander	Norman R. Kimrey
Junior Vice Commander	Dale L. Rouse
Secretary/Treasurer	Thomas E. Schmidt, PCC
Council	John H. Hartford
	Douglas E. McGovern, PCC
	Kenneth R. Spurgeon, PDC
Patriotic Instructor	James P. Coyne
Chaplain	Rev. Kenneth Bradley
Graves Registration Officer	Franklin L. Bergquist, PDC
Historian	Michael L. Halfman
Civil War Memorials Officer	Douglas E. McGovern, PCC
Eagle Scout Coordinator	James A. Scheidel

JOSEPH GASTON CAMP 3, Beloit

Camp Commander..... Kim L. Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer..... Dean K. Speaks, PDC

Camp meetings are held at the Port Library, 311 W. Main in Beloit, at 7 PM on the last Thursday of each month.

SGT. SAMUEL J. CHURCHILL CAMP 4, Lawrence

Camp Commander..... Roy A. Lafferty
Senior Vice Commander Alan L. Van Loenen
Junior Vice Commander..... Michael W. Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer..... Robert L. Wandel

Camp meetings are held at the Watkins Museum of History, 11th and Massachusetts Streets, at 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month.



Left to right: JVC Mike Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer Bob Wandel, SVC Alan Van Loenen, and Camp Commander Roy Lafferty.

Department Commander Tom Schmidt installed the officers for 2005 on December 16, 2004. The following officers will serve the Camp during 2005:

Camp Commander	Roy A. Lafferty
Senior Vice Commander	Alan L. Van Loenen
Junior Vice Commander	Michael W. Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert L. Wandel
Council	Craig A. Sundell, PCC Kent R. Johnson Paul Jefferson
Patriotic Instructor	Craig A. Sundell, PCC
Chaplain	Alan L. Russ, PDC
Graves Registration Officer	Robert L. Wandel
Historian	Michael J. Hadl
Civil War Memorials Officer	Robert L. Wandel

OLD ABE CAMP 16, Topeka

Camp Commander.....	Randal L. Durbin
Senior Vice Commander	D. Darrel Gilliland
Junior Vice Commander.....	Randall M. Thies, PDC
Secretary/Treasurer	Blair D. Tarr

Camp meetings are held at Perkins Restaurant, 1720 SW Wanamaker Rd., in Topeka, at 6:30 PM on the first Tuesday of each month.



Left to right: SVC Darrel Gilliland, JVC Randy Thies, Commander Randy Durbin, and Secretary/Treasurer Blair Tarr.

Department Commander Tom Schmidt installed the officers for 2005 on December 7, 2004. The following officers will serve the Camp during 2005:

Camp Commander	Randal L. Durbin
Senior Vice Commander	D. Darrel Gilliland
Junior Vice Commander	Randall M. Thies, PDC
Secretary/Treasurer	Blair D. Tarr
Council	Alan L. Russ, PDC Richard A. Baker Delton Gilliland
Chaplain	Jeffrey L. Dunaway, PCC

SOME REMINDERS

From the Department Secretary

Alan L. Russ, PDC

Camps are in the process of collecting dues, now. Dues should be paid to the Camps by February 28, 2005.

Camp secretaries should have their annual reports completed as of March 31, 2005. These will need to arrive at the Department Secretary before the Department Encampment. If you have any questions on filling out a report, please let me know.

Applications for the two SUVCW \$1,000 scholarships are being accepted until March 31, 2005. Applications and information are available at the National website: www.suvcw.org.

Requests for reimbursements from pre-2001 Life Member programs should be submitted between January 1 and March 31, 2005. Camp Secretaries should request reimbursement in writing to the National Treasurer.

The 2005 National Encampment will be held August 3 through 5, 2005, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua, New Hampshire. Now is a good time to start thinking about attending.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Reported as of December 31, 2004

Life Members.....	8
Members	78
Associates	3
Juniors.....	3
TOTAL	92

2004 was a great year for the Department of Kansas. Let's work to keep it going and growing.

NEXT ISSUE

The Spring issue will be mailed by April 1, 2005. This is to ensure that all Department of Kansas brothers receive the issue in plenty of time before the Department Encampment on April 23. This also is to ensure that all Department Officers can publicize issues which need to be discussed at the Encampment.

If you don't see enough in the Sunflower Picket about your Camp and what it has been doing, then you need to send an article to the Newsletter Editor. This normally falls under the duties of the Camp Senior Vice Commander.

If you have a story you feel would be of interest to your fellow brothers throughout the Department, please submit it to the Newsletter Editor. We will publish these as space is available (and, right now, plenty of space is available).

Camp Commanders, Camp Senior Vice Commanders, and Department officers need to submit information and articles to the Newsletter Editor by **March 15, 2005**, preferably in electronic format. Send submissions to:

PDC Alan L. Russ, Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 68
Auburn KS 66402-0068
Email: suvcwks16@mindspring.com

P.S.



Sometimes, even the best plans don't go quite as planned. The Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp had that experience when they found themselves locked out of their meeting place. Kent Johnson, Department Commander Tom Schmidt, and Roy Lafferty await the arrival of someone to let them in for installation of officers. The cavalry did not arrive and the meeting had to be moved to an alternate site. And you thought it only happened at your camp...