



The Sunflower Picket



Recipient of the 2006 Marshall Hope Award for Best Department Newsletter

www.suvcwks.org

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

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander..... Randal L. Durbin, PCC
P.O. Box 306, Overbrook KS 66524-0306
randalfsb@hotmail.com

Sr. Vice Cdr.....Roy A. Lafferty, PCC
2613 Pickwick Pl, Lawrence KS 66049-1731
Roy.Lafferty@kcc.usda.gov

Jr. Vice Cdr..... Craig A. Sundell, PCC
1530 Learnard Ave., Lawrence KS 66044-3736
cjsund@swbell.net

Secretary/Treasurer ... Alan L. Russ, PDC
P.O. Box 68, Auburn KS 66402-0068
suvcwks16@mindspring.com

Patriotic Inst.... Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
404 N. Walnut St., Peabody KS 66866-1148
teschmidt@trane.com

ChaplainRobert L. Wandel
2731 Bonanza St., Lawrence KS 66046-5137
wandel@sunflower.com

Graves Reg. Frank C. Bergquist, PDC
4255 S. Laura Cir., Wichita KS 67216-4210
freehold@swbell.net

HistorianKenneth R. Spurgeon, PDC
1804 N. Columbine, Andover KS 67002-8114
spurgeon@cowley.edu

CW Memorials Officer.....
.....Douglas E. McGovern, PCC
100 W. 20th St., Hutchinson KS 67502-2846
demcgovern@aol.com

IN THIS ISSUE

Department Officers	1
In This Issue	1
Dues Are Due!	1
Department Training Day.....	1
Mine Creek Battlefield Work Day	1
Department Membership.....	1
New Members	1
Last Soldier Project & GAR Records Project.....	1
CW Memorials Officer.....	2
Graves Registration Officer	2
Patriotic Instructor.....	2
Chaplain.....	2
Junior Vice Commander.....	2
Senior Vice Commander.....	2
Commander's Corner.....	2
Camp News	
Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita	3
Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence	3
Franklin Camp 5, Olathe.....	3
Mine Creek Camp 6, Pleasanton.....	3
Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka	4
For Planning Purposes.....	4
The Last Word.....	4

DUES ARE DUE!

All brothers are reminded that Camp dues are to be paid to your camp by February 28, 2007, in order to ensure continuous membership for 2007. Camps must submit their annual reports by March 31, and it is imperative that they have your dues before then.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING DAY

Saturday, February 3, 2007

Mine Creek Battlefield

The second annual Department training day will be held on Saturday, February 3, beginning at 10 AM. The training session begins at 10 AM and will be over by 3 PM. This year the training session is being held at the Mine Creek Battlefield Visitors Center, on the battlefield South of Pleasanton, Kansas.

All Camp Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice Commanders, and Secretary/Treasurers should try to attend. The sessions will be aimed at helping new officers understand their roles, exchange ideas and hear about "lessons learned."

The scheduled sessions are as follows:

- Camp Commander session.
- Senior Vice Commander session.
- Junior Vice Commander session.
- Camp newsletters.
- Fundraising.
- Preparing the Camp Annual Report.

There will be a break for lunch.

If you have other ideas for topics contact Department SVC Roy Lafferty at Roy.Lafferty@kcc.usda.gov.

MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD

WORK DAY

Saturday, April 7

PDC Tom Schmidt

As most of you know the Department paid for and built a 23 foot span bridge in April 2005 at the Mine Creek Battlefield to help facilitate a circular tour of the battlefield. At the 2006 Department Encampment, the Mine Creek Committee was retained as an ongoing committee to act as an interface for the Department with the Mine Creek Battlefield and the Battlefield Foundation. This committee consists of PDC Tom Schmidt, Dept. Commander Randy Durbin, Bob Woody and PDC Ken Spurgeon. It was felt we needed to continue to help promote and interface with the only major Civil War battlefield in our state.

As a result, we have scheduled a workday at the Mine Creek Battlefield on Saturday, April 7, 2007. One of the goals at Mine Creek is to try to get the look of the landscape back to what it looked like at the time of the engagement in October of 1864. Brother John Spencer advises that we will most likely be cutting brush - and burning it, if weather permits. We may also have an option of painting posts - (white) and cleaning up the markers. Dress accordingly.

The plan is for people to arrive by 9 AM on Saturday, April 7, at the battlefield Visitors Center, just outside Pleasanton. We'll break for lunch and then work until late afternoon (4 or 5 PM). After that, we will then take a guided tour of the battlefield.

Please promote this workday in your camps, and lets get a great turnout from the Department of Kansas. Get this event on your camp calendar, now, and line up carpools to help people participate. Many times, camps are looking for group activities for their members to help with. Here you go. The workday will enable SUVCW members to meet other camp members in the Department, as well as take part in a very worthwhile project.

I will be in touch with the Camp Commanders as April draws closer, in order to get their camps estimated participation. Depending upon response, we hope to make this an annual activity of the Department of Kansas.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Membership as of Dec 31, 2006:

	Members	Assoc.	Juniors	Total
01-Corp. Coyne	67	1	1	69
03-Joseph Gaston	4	1	0	5
04-Sgt. Churchill	20	3	0	23
05-Franklin	21	3	5	29
06-Mine Creek	14	2	0	16
16-Old Abe	22	0	0	22
Total	148	10	6	164

Dual members are only reported in their primary camp.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members have joined the Department of Kansas between October 1, 2006, and December 31, 2006.

Name	Camp
Blake, Philip W. (Member)	Camp 1, Wichita
Orloff, Brian (Member)	Camp 5, Olathe

Last Soldier Project/GAR Records

By Blair D. Tarr

First, I take this time to hope all my brothers in the Department of Kansas had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

My message is rather short this time around. Recording the transcription of GAR records at the State Historical Society, my colleague Michael Church has indicated that post descriptive rolls will be transcribed. Brother Bob Wandel, Sgt. Churchill Camp 4, will be transcribing the rolls for the Washington Post in Lawrence, as well as other posts in that area.

If you are interested in helping transcribe these records, please contact Michael at mchurch@kshs.org, or by calling 785 / 272-8681, ext. 283.



Memorials Officer

Douglas E. McGovern, PCC

Kansas Civil War

Memorial/Monument Catalog

The catalog update is complete (for now). There are 187 primary memorials listed, 91 secondary memorials listed, and 18 counties which do not, as yet, have entries. Thank you all for your help in finding and submitting



information on these monuments!

In this, and future reports, I will highlight a memorial as particularly special. This time is the very simple spire in the Melvern Cemetery in Osage County. The monument is engraved: "Erected By ~ Womans Relief Corps ~ Tribute ~ To Those ~ Patriots ~ Who Sleep ~ In ~ Southern Graves ~ Uncoffined ~ Unshrouded ~ And ~ Unknown ~ May 30, 1888".

May we continue to remember and to honor those who fought for us.



Graves Registration

Franklin C. Bergquist, PDC

George W. Oliver, USMC

Maple Grove Cemetery is located on the Northeast corner of 9th and Hillside Streets in Wichita, Kansas. It is an old cemetery, not the oldest, that is the one across the street - Hillside Cemetery. But Maple Grove has the Grand Army of the Republic Pavilion that was erected by the Woman's Relief Corps. The WRC was the woman's auxiliary to the GAR. The Pavilion is going to be rebuilt, but more about that in a later column. One of the graves clustered around the pavilion is that of George W. Oliver. There is nothing remarkable about his grave. He has a standard issue civil war veteran's gravestone. But as you read the headstone it says: "U.S.M.C." That is fairly unusual, the USMC during the civil war had very few members.

Accord to records, George W. Oliver enlisted at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on September 14, 1864, for four years. His recruiting officer was Lieut. Col. James W. Jones of the U.S. Marines. He was on board a "Receiving Ship".

George W. Oliver was born in Glasgow, Scotland. George was, at the time of his enlistment, age 27 years, 5 1/4 inches tall, hazel eyes, brown Hair, fair complexion, and by trade or occupation a laborer. He enlisted as a substitute. He took the place of another individual in the USMC, probably who was going to be drafted. The going rate to pay a substitute was \$300, plus some other state bonuses. The record further states that he was vaccinated.

He was discharged from military service at Mare Island, California, on September 18, 1868, with a little over four years of military service. Very little is know about his military service. His records consist of a single sheet of paper indicating he enlisted aboard a "Receiving Ship" and another indicating he was discharged from the USMC, also aboard a "Receiving Ship".

The last record in his file lists him as "DROPPED" March 4, 1899, with a notation, "DEAD". He had served as a "Private". A John P. Oliver (relationship unknown) applied for reimbursement of burial expenses, with a notation that the burial expenses were paid by the I.O.O.F. and the GAR burial fund. Private Oliver died in February of 1899, from heart disease. His actual date of death varies from paper to paper, being either February 19 or February 23. He was last paid a pension of \$12.00 on January 4, 1899. Pensions were paid on a quarterly basis. He indicated that his wife had died earlier, with the presumption that she may also be buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, but I don't know for sure. His children were "over age", so he was not drawing anything for them on his pension.

His last occupation was that of a "Boarding House Keeper", but, at the time of his pension application, was totally unable to work due to asthma. Although his grave is not impressive, the headstone indicates he served his adopted country honorably in time of war.



Patriotic Instructor

Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC

Become Involved

The SUVCW Patriotic Instructor, whether it be on the Department or camp level, is charged with inspiring attendance, patriotic activities, and helping to offer

educational programs to the community and within the Department or Camp. As we enter 2007, I would like to challenge your camps to plan their public activities, now, and carry them out as the year progresses.

One way to increase membership for our Order is to participate in planned public activities or ceremonies. In other words, we need to be as visible as possible. Many people don't know of our organization, and they can't join if they are unaware.

Organize your camp's Memorial Day participation, plan on how to become part of your community's Veterans Day activity, sponsor a speaker as part of a town celebration or event. Look at what needs to be done in the local area with regard to historical preservation, and work with other local organizations in that regard. The possibilities are endless. The key is to pick out what your camp can support and do it well. Put your best foot forward and follow through.

Once people became familiar with who we are, what we do, and what we stand for, recruiting new members becomes much easier. In fact, they come to you because of their involvement with us in the public forum. They soon find out about the common bonds of heritage, community involvement, and uniqueness of the organization and want to join.

Good luck and don't be afraid to share your success stories with the Department.



Chaplain

Robert L. Wandel

Father William Corby

Chaplain at the Battle of Gettysburg

The following was taken from the US Army Chaplain's website under "Civil War Chaplains."

Fr. William Corby - Chaplain at the Battle of Gettysburg

In 1860, at the age of 27, Fr. William Corby, was ordained a Catholic priest. He was a member of a religious Order called the "Congregation of the Holy Cross". The following year he volunteered as a chaplain with the Irish Brigade and eventually marched through the Civil War years with these Union men who fought at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania, and most notably, Gettysburg.

Shortly after 4:00 p.m. on July 2, 1863, as the battle in Pennsylvania approached its crescendo on Cemetery Ridge, Fr. Corby beseeched the commanding colonel for permission to address the Brigade. He donned his purple stole, mounted a nearby rock, extended his hand, and pronounced brief words of absolution over the soldiers.

Witnesses later reported that every man in sight, Catholic, other faith, and atheist, dropped to his knees in unison as Fr. Corby made the Sign of the Cross. Later in life, he insisted that the rare general absolution was intended for everyone regardless of whether they were clad in blue or gray. Yet by sunset on that epochal day, the blood of nearly 30,000 uniformed men wearing grave clothes of indistinguishable colors mingled on the ground before him, and in the horrible aftermath, one wonders about his emotions as a "minister of religion" and his unshakable faith in prayer.

He survived the war and, in 1888, Fr. Corby was invited to be the first speaker at the twenty-fifth anniversary gathering held in Gettysburg. When he poignantly uttered the words, "Here is what is left of us. Where are the others?" former Yankees and Confederates broke down with him and wept together for several minutes. After his death, they proved how much he had meant to them by petitioning to have his statue erected near the spot where he stood with raised hand and blessed them all.

Today, before this statue, many stop occasionally and say a quiet prayer in front of the priest's statue, who reminds us every day that God's forgiveness is

powerful enough to conquer death and reconcile bitter foes.

Fr. Corby's story epitomizes how much a young man can do to relieve the world's sufferings through his dedication to God. We should be encouraged by the young men who were willing to give their lives that the Union might be saved. That as a Nation we might remain strong in the belief that God is in control and have the freedom to worship him.



Junior Vice Commander

Craig A. Sundell, PCC

Brothers, a new year is upon us, and I hope it brings happiness, insight, and prosperity to all. I would like to note that 150 years ago, the pro-slavery constitutional legislature met in January. Lawrence lay in ruins after the 1856 raid and sacking, and the issue of being a free state was in doubt. I hope we will all reflect on how central Kansas was to the uncertainty of popular sovereignty.

As JVC, I hope we will pull together this year and continue our fine record of new enlistments to our organization. We are blooming in our membership, but we best not wait for the bloom to fade before we plant seeds for future strength and success.



Senior Vice Commander

Roy A. Lafferty, PCC

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a few things coming up for the Department.

First is the Department's second annual training session. This year, it will be on Saturday, February 3, from 10 AM to around 3 PM at the Mine Creek Battlefield. Topics will cover the offices of Camp Commander, SVC and JVC, newsletters, and fundraising. If you have other ideas for topics contact me. We plan to eat out for lunch.

Many of the camps participated in Veterans Days activities, so please forward me your articles and pictures as soon as possible, as I have to have them mailed by January 15. Pictures can be emailed to me. Please identify who is in the picture.

I also ask that you be thinking about what you would like to see our department do in the next five years. Department officers, committees, and camps will soon be formulating a plan on what we as a department want to accomplish. This will be your opportunity to have a say.



Commander's Corner

Randal L. Durbin, PCC

Since the last Sunflower Picket, I have had the honor to conduct Officer Installation ceremonies at the Patrick Coyne Camp and Old Abe Camp. I look forward to visiting the rest of the camps in the department over the next few weeks.

The department held its Fall Encampment in Emporia in October, and it was well attended. Department officers gave their reports, and it is gratifying to see the good work done by the staff. Our Department is really doing well and the future is bright.

We are sorry to hear the Joseph Gaston Camp 3 will be unable to function next year. To the members of the camp, please know we care about your involvement in the SUVCW and will welcome you into our camps. Hopefully, interest can be regenerated in North Central Kansas and the camp can be reorganized.

It is my earnest hope that all brothers had a wonderful holiday season. We have much to be thankful for, and, next year, thanks to all your efforts, is shaping up to be a great one.



CAMP NEWS**Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1 - Wichita**

Camp Commander	Mark A. Britton
Senior Vice Commander	James P. Coyne
Junior Vice Commander	Todd Meek
Secretary/Treasurer	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC

Camp meetings are held at the DAV Clubhouse, 3011 George Washington Blvd. in Wichita. The meetings are held at 7 PM on the 4th Thursday of the month. The Camp does not meet in July, August, or December.

The Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1 of Wichita has had some very interesting programs at their regular meetings, including one that gave the interesting background of the life of Mary Todd Lincoln and the struggles that she faced. We also received a much welcomed update regarding the plans that are in place to restore the GAR monument at Maple Grove cemetery in Wichita. This is the beginning of the culmination of many years of work to achieve restoration of this historic site's original splendor. With the securing of funds, we will be able to proceed with the project this winter and on through its expected completion in late 2007.

On November 11, our camp participated in the Wichita Veterans Day parade. Our color guard, along with other members, helped to mark the celebration that was dedicated to all who have served our country, with special attention to those who served in World War II.

Our camp held its annual fundraiser, "Lincoln Remembered," on November 18 with many in attendance. One of the highlights of this event was the presentation of the SUCVW camp flag in memory of PDC Ken Strader and Norm Kimrey, with their families being present. This flag will stand as a lasting memorial to these two men who did so much for the furthering of our camp and the SUCVW.

Plans are underway for the April 28 State Encampment, which will be hosted by our camp this year. If you have not already done so, set aside that day on your calendar and plan to join us as we carry on the great trust that has been given to us by our ancestors.

Sgt Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4-Lawrence

Camp Commander	Michael W. Anderson
Senior Vice Commander	Michael Hadl
Junior Vice Commander	Brian Van Schmus
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, with monthly programs starting around 7:30 PM. All SUCVW Brothers and the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

My thanks to the brothers of Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence, for electing me as their Camp Commander for 2007. Both of my civil war ancestors (great-great-grandfathers) moved to Kansas after the war, and one was a member of the GAR post in Olathe. With that in mind, I look forward to the upcoming re-dedication of the GAR monument in Pioneer Cemetery on the West Campus of the University of Kansas. This event will be held during the Memorial Day weekend of 2007. This GAR monument was originally dedicated more than 100 years ago, and it has been in disrepair for much of that time. Sgt. Churchill Camp 4 has been raising funds for the replacement of a missing plaque and the upgrade of the plaster on the monument itself. As the legal successor to the Grand Army of the Republic, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War should stand first in preserving the history of the GAR. In addition to those activities surrounding the remembrance of and the research on the GAR, Sgt. Churchill Camp 4 will continue its tradition of presenting fine educational programs on Civil War topics during the upcoming calendar year. Please join us whenever you can!

Franklin Camp 5 - Olathe

Camp Commander	Matthew G. Toll
Senior Vice Commander	William D. Stilley
Junior Vice Commander	Lane D. Smith
Secretary/Treasurer	Verle L. Olson

Camp meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, beginning at 7:30 PM. Meetings are held in the Governors West Conference Room, Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe Street.

Franklin Camp 5 has completed its election of 2007 officers. Our new Camp Commander is Matt Toll, Senior Vice-commander is Lane Smith, Junior Vice-Commander is Bill Stilley, and Secretary/Treasurer is Verle Olson. Congratulations to these fine leaders who will be installed in January. The December installation was delayed due to Matt Toll's mother's passing, and Everette Sitzman's motorcycle crash. Everette remains in ICU at Overland Park Regional Hospital. Your prayers would mean a great deal to Everette and his family. Thank you.

The Camp conducted our Veterans Day Observance at the Olathe Memorial Cemetery, GAR Civil War Monument Circle. Past Department Commander Jim Knopke was our speaker for the event. Elliott's Scouts provided the rifle volley for the event, followed by a bugle solo of Taps. Each Civil War Union Veteran buried at the Monument Circle was decorated with one of the camp's U.S. flags.

Our Union veteran graves survey of the Olathe Memorial Cemetery was completed and national graves registration continues under the direction of our Grave Registration and Memorials Officer, Brother Bill Stilley. Preliminary work has begun on our next cemetery survey, the (old) Monticello Cemetery.

Planning is underway to observe the Quantrill Raid on Olathe, Kansas. The 145th Anniversary of the raid is September 6 and 7, 2007. This observance may include an educational reenactment on the site of where Quantrill's Raiders herded townspeople onto the East side of the City Square. We are also seeking to place an historical marker at this site, along with a sign on I-35 marking the historic incident and directions to the site. This mid-to-long-term project will be completed by the 150th Anniversary of the raid in 2012, properly and permanently remembering this "Bleeding Kansas" event.

Mine Creek Camp 6 - Pleasanton

Camp Commander	Arnold W. Schofield
Senior Vice Commander	John H. Spencer
Junior Vice Commander	Kenton E. Bell
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert E. Woody II

Camp meetings will be held at the Carriage House in Fort Scott, at 7 PM on February 6, May 1, August 7, and November 6 for 2007. The meetings include dinner and a program.

It seems that the days of hibernation for the Mine Creek Camp are rapidly coming to an end. Although 2006 will have to go down as our year of little activity, the six members who gathered on Sunday afternoon, November 19, vowed to make 2007 a year of growth and action!

Major decisions were made, as well as many ideas tossed about. Major decisions included:

Changing the day and time for business meetings to be held quarterly on the first Tuesday of the designated month at 7 PM. Meeting format will be a dinner meeting with an announced program. These meetings will be held in Fort Scott, at a location to be announced for each meeting.

The camp will organize a Color Guard and Color Escort. It will be uniformed as dismounted cavalry and armed with cavalry carbines.

The camp will plan to participate in at least one, and possibly two events, during the 2007 Memorial Day ceremonies. Possibilities include the event at the National Cemetery in Fort Scott, the National

Soldiers Plot in Mound City, and the Pleasanton Cemetery. The camp would like to have an organized Color Guard and Color Detail with the capabilities of firing honor volleys.

The camp will plan other events for the months we do not hold a business meeting. These will include "work days" at the Mine Creek Battlefield and restoration of the cemetery between the Lathrop and Palmer land on the Mine Creek Battlefield. Other activities will be added to increase the exposure of the camp while honoring the memory of our Union ancestors.

An election of officers was held. The results are as follows:

Commander of Camp - Arnold Schofield - 2nd term
Senior Vice Commander - John Spencer
Junior Vice Commander - Kenton Bell
Secretary/Treasurer - Robert Woody - 2nd term
Council - Jeff Finn
Council - Dee Marshall
Council - Randal Durbin

Installation of officers was held January 2, at 7 PM at the Mine Creek visitor's center.

Robert Woody announced that, for 2006, the camp had fifteen paid members.

Dates to remember for 2007:

February 6 - 7:00 PM - Carriage House - Fort Scott - Business Meeting and program - invite a friend to find out what the SUV is all about. - Recruitment emphasized. Chili and Cornbread Dinner - free. Please RSVP and bring a friend.

March 10 - 8th Kansas Infantry reenactment group spring muster at Mine Creek Battlefield - SUCVW member presence encouraged - This is a good time to organize Color Guard and Color Escort.

April 7 - Department SUCVW work day at Mine Creek Battlefield - Also "Park Day" for Civil War Preservation Trust - t-shirts for your participation. Mine Creek Camp 6 should be out in force

April 28 - Kansas SUCVW Department Annual Meeting - Wichita. Mine Creek Camp 6 to give our annual report - all members welcome - a chance to see the Kansas Department in action.

May 1 - 7 PM - business meeting and program, Fort Scott at Carriage House. Dinner served. RSVP - visitors always welcome.

May 28 - Memorial Day - observed. Mine Creek Camp 6 Color Guard/Color Detail premier event for 2007. Location and time to be announced. Other camp members requested to attend.

June 9 - Probable work day - cemetery clean up - gravestone i.d. Meet at Mine Creek Visitor's Center - 10 AM.

July 4 - Sesquicentennial - Emporia - SUCVW may decide to participate in parade and possibly other events. Color/Honor Guard may be used. Keep date open, if possible. Date to be confirmed.

August 7 - Camp Quarterly Business Meeting - Ft. Scott - Program to be announced - Dinner served - RSVP

September 3 - Labor Day - observed - Another chance for Color Guard/Color Detail to be involved in ceremony.

October 13 - Mine Creek Moonlight Tour - Camp help with setting up - participate in event as tour guides, part of scenes, etc. -- please keep this date open - most important date for Mine Creek Battlefield.

November 3 - Blue and Gray Banquet - site to be announced. Would like color guards from both SCV and SUCVW to post colors. Great event for all members.

November 6 - Fall Camp Business Meeting - Election of Officers for 2007 - Program - dinner meeting -- RSVP. Fort Scott location - 7 PM.

November 11- (Sunday) Veterans Day - Possible participation of Color Guard.

Old Abe Camp 16 - Topeka

Camp Commander	Dan E. Karr
Sr Vice Commander	Delton Gilliland
Jr Vice Commander	John Jewell
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 Thursday of each month.

The following were elected Camp Officers at the November meeting:

Camp Commander - Dan Karr
Senior Vice Commander - Delton Gilliland
Junior Vice Commander - John Jewell
Secretary/Treasurer - Blair Tarr

Camp Council Members - Alan Russ, Darrel Gilliland, Randal Durbin

They were installed by Department Commander Randy Durbin at the December 7 meeting.

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES**Department Training Day****Saturday, February 3, 2007**

See page 1 for details.

Mine Creek Battlefield Work Day**Saturday, April 7**

See page 1 for details.

126th National Encampment**SUVCW****August 9 through 12, 2007****Saint Louis, Missouri**

The host hotel is the Frontenac Hilton Hotel in Frontenac, Missouri. Frontenac is a suburb located west of Saint Louis, Missouri. Four of the five Allied Orders will be meeting at that location during our encampment. Only the Womens Relief Corps will not be present.

As usual, the business meeting is held on Friday and Saturday. A campfire program is scheduled for Friday evening, and the Allied Orders Banquet is Saturday evening.

There are numerous Civil War related sites to see within a short distance of Saint Louis. Be sure to plan a little extra time before or after the encampment to take advantage of the area. Additionally, the Department of Missouri will be hosting tours on Thursday.

It is not too early to start planning. For additional information, watch upcoming issues of the Banner. You may also contact one of your Department Officers for additional information.

Central Region Association**Allied Orders of the G.A.R.****2007 Annual Conference****October 6, 2007****Crawfordsville, Indiana**

The Department of Indiana will be hosting the 2007 Annual Conference of the Central Region Association (CRA), Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic. The meeting will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007. Crawfordsville, Indiana, is located just Northwest of Indianapolis.

Additional information will be furnished as it becomes available. Keep your eye on this space for updates.

THE LAST WORD*Alan L. Russ, PDC, Editor***Receive Your****Sunflower Picket by Email**

Would you rather receive your *Sunflower Picket* by email? We are offering this in an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs.

There are a couple of advantages to you. You will receive your issue two to five days earlier than by mail, and the pictures will be in **color**. The Department will save printing costs and postage (\$1.50 per copy printed and mailed).

If you would prefer to receive the *Sunflower Picket* by email, send an email to the Newsletter Editor and let him know. Email address is:

suvchwks16@mindspring.com

On the other hand, if your email provider does not allow attachments, or your system cannot handle attachments running from 200 KBytes to 750 KBytes (especially if you have a slow dialup connection) then this is not for you. If you want to continue receiving the *Sunflower Picket* by mail, take no action. You will continue to receive it as you currently do.

Next Issue

The Spring issue will be mailed by April 2, 2007. If you do not 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 falls under the duties of Camp Senior Vice Commanders.

Camp Commanders, Camp Senior Vice Commanders, and Department officers need to submit information and articles to the Newsletter Editor by **March 15, 2007**, preferably in electronic format. Send submissions to:

PDC Alan L. Russ, Newsletter Editor

P.O. Box 68, Auburn KS 66402-0068

Email: suvchwks16@mindspring.com*Newsletter Editor**Alan L. Russ, PDC**P.O. Box 68**Auburn KS 66402-0068***www.suvchwks.org****FIRST CLASS MAIL**