



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

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Kansas Ladies of the GAR. Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence, was the host camp, this year. National Council of Administration member Robert Petrovic, Department of Missouri, represented Commander in Chief Charles Kuhn, Jr., at the encampment.

The activities began at 11 AM, with K.U. Professor Bill Keel presenting a talk on soldiers of German descent in the Civil War. This was followed by a break for lunch of delicious barbeque from the Vermont Barbeque.



Commander Lafferty conducts the business of the Order.

At 1 PM, a memorial service was conducted for the departed brothers of the Department. The Department had lost three of its own since the last encampment. Those remembered were Robert M. Brooks, Sgt Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4; Marine L. Wolf, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1; and Lowell B. Davis, Old Abe Camp 16.

After the memorial service, Commander Lafferty opened the encampment, and the business thereof was conducted. Officer and camp reports were presented. Seven amendments to the Department Bylaws were approved by the encampment, and were subsequently submitted to the Commander-in-Chief for approval. [Note: CinC Kuhn has since approved the amendments and they are in effect.]

The following brothers stated their intent to attend the National Encampment in Peabody, Massachusetts, as "automatic members:" Roy Lafferty (as PDC), PDC Jim Knopke, PDC Alan Russ, and Craig Sundell (as DC). Additionally, Jim Converse was elected to attend as a delegate.



Newly elected Department Officers (from l. to r.): Sec/Treas. Russ, SVC Converse, Commander Sundell, and JVC Knopke.

Following the business of the Order, the brothers were nominated and elected for the 2008-2009 term of office. The newly elected officers are:

- Commander PCC Craig A. Sundell
SVC PCC James M. Converse
JVC PDC James R. Knopke
Secretary/Treasurer PDC Alan L. Russ
Council PDC Thomas E. Schmidt
PCC Matthew G. Toll
Robert L. Wandel

Incoming Department Commander Sundell appointed the following brothers to the positions indicated:

- Chief of Staff PDC Thomas E. Schmidt
Patriotic Instructor PCC Matthew G. Toll
Chaplain PDC Roy A. Lafferty
Historian Blair D. Tarr
Counselor PDC Alan L. Russ
Graves Registration Robert L. Wandel
CW Memorials PCC Douglas E. McGovern
Eagle Scout Coord. Brian R. Van Schmus
Dept. Webmaster PDC Alan L. Russ

The new officers were duly installed by PDC Petrovic.

After the installation of officers, PDC Petrovic turned the gavel over to Department Commander Sundell, who closed the encampment.

Following the encampment, the newly elected Council members met and elected PDC Schmidt as chairman and PCC Toll as secretary.



Department Flag is passed from outgoing DC Roy Lafferty (l.) to incoming DC Craig Sundell. PDC Bob Petrovic (center) transferred the flag.

The official proceedings of the 12th Annual Department of Kansas Encampment have been posted on the "Official" page of the Department website. Any who wish to view it are welcome to do so. These proceedings also include all of the officers and camp reports.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Membership as of December June 30, 2008:

| | Members | Assoc. | Juniors | Total |
|-------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------|
| 01-Corp. Coyne | 66 | 3 | 1 | 70 |
| 04-Sgt. Churchill | 19 | 2 | 1 | 22 |
| 05-Franklin | 16 | 2 | 2 | 20 |
| 06-Mine Creek | 14 | 2 | 0 | 16 |
| 16-Old Abe | 22 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| Total | 137 | 9 | 4 | 150 |

Dual members are only reported in their primary camp.

2008 DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

April 26, 2008

Lawrence, Kansas

The Twelfth Annual Department of Kansas Encampment was held on April 26, 2008, at the Watkins Museum of History, 1047 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, Kansas. The Encampment was held in conjunction with the Annual Encampment of the

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NEW BROTHERS

The following brothers have joined the Department of Kansas between January 1 and June 30, 2008.

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Camp</i> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Allen, Charles J. | Camp 6, Pleasanton |
| Allen, Loren B. | Camp 6, Pleasanton |
| Chance, Carl E. | Camp 1, Wichita |
| Docktor, Donald L. II | Camp 5, Olathe |
| Lawrence, Wade A (from Junior) | Camp 5, Olathe |
| MacDougall, Marvin B. | Camp 6, Pleasanton |
| Melcher, Kent M. | Camp 16, Topeka |
| Nystrom, K. Kirk | Camp 16, Topeka |
| Nystrom, K. Matthew | Camp 16, Topeka |
| Pekarek, Franklyn | Camp 1, Wichita |
| Tollefson, David P. | Camp 5, Olathe |

A LOST MEMORIAL

Department Historian Blair provided the input for the following article.

On September 27, 1911, President Taft visited Topeka to lay the cornerstone of the Memorial building at 10th and Jackson. The Memorial Building would be the home of the Kansas GAR until it finally faded away.

The other day, Blair Tarr came across a reference to President Taft dedicating a flagpole at Washburn University in Topeka on that same day as a tribute to those who fell in the Civil War, and that the plaque was still in place on the campus. Taking a quick trip to the campus, Blair found that, sure enough, it is, right at the centrally located flagpoles. This appears to have been one of those memorials which, over time, have become all but forgotten. The following is the inscription on the original plaque.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY FLAGPOLES
ERECTED AND DEDICATED
AS A SILENT LESSON IN PATRIOTISM
IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO FELL IN THE WAR
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE UNION
BY THE SURVIVING VETERANS OF SHAWNEE CO. KANSAS
PRESIDENT WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT
MAKING THE DEDICATORY ADDRESS
SEPT. 27, 1911

On June 8, 1966, an EF-5 tornado swept through Topeka, hitting Washburn University quite hard. A replacement flagpole was later installed, and this is the inscription of the plaque for the replacement flagpole.

THIS FLAGPOLE, A GIFT OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAPTER AND THE KANSAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WAS DEDICATED BY DR. JOHN W. HENDERSON, PRESIDENT OF WASHBURN UNIVERSITY, ON APRIL 6, 1968 TO REPLACE THE FLAGPOLE DESTROYED BY THE TORNADO JUNE 8, 1966.

It is easy to see how the dedication of the flagpole could be lost against the great ceremony involved in the laying of the cornerstone. Even a tornado could not wipe out this small memorial, thanks to the efforts of the SAR at the time.



Patriotic Instructor

Matthew G. Toll, PCC

Disposal of Unserviceable Flags

Brothers, first let me thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Patriotic Instructor for the Department of Kansas 2008-2009. I am looking forward to helping in any way I can.

More to the point, I wanted to talk about a little know, and seldom heard about duty, the disposal of unserviceable American Flags. There are many programs available, the Boy Scouts of America, the Veteran of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, all have one. I can remember as a young Boy Scout witnessing the event, a very somber and overwhelming experience.

The U.S. Flag Code section 8(k) Respect, says this about how to dispose of the flag; The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

Like other patriotic organizations we, the SUVCW, also have a program for the proper and respectful

disposal of the U.S. Flag. There is a specific layout and script dedicated to just this event. The script can be found on the www.SUVCW.org national website, or by following this link:

suvcw.org/ftp/flag_disposal_ceremony.pdf

I would like to take the time to encourage each camp to perform this sacred ceremony, to invite the public and educate them on the proper and fitting way to dispose of the American Flag. This service truly honors and dignifies the service of each flag's service.

Brothers, in closing I would like to quote a part of the Flag Disposal Ceremony. A part of the Commanders comments towards the end of the ceremony; "A flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk. Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that our dear country stands for; a free nation of free men and women, true to the faith of the past, and devoted to the ideals and practice of Justice, Freedom and Democracy. It represents all that our fathers, the Grand Army of the Republic and our nation's defenders in all conflicts lived for, sacrificed for and died for."



Chaplain

Roy A. Lafferty, PDC

"A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up."

Proverbs 15:1

The other day I heard this explained mathematically, E + R = O; where E is an EVENT that can be positive or negative; R is a RESPONSE, and is the only variable that is under your control. O is the OUTCOME; it can be more positive or more negative than the event.

Think of the last argument that you had. The EVENT probably started with a small criticism, the RESPONSE was probably harsh, and the OUTCOME was a downward spiral going nowhere.

Last night, I saw on television show where a community's Junior High School boys were playing what they called "the Choking Game". These boys would strangle themselves to get a buzz from their brain's lack of oxygen. One day, a father walked into his son's room and found his son passed out on the floor. He dialed 9-1-1 and began CPR, but it was too late. His son was brain dead. This was a very tragic EVENT, but the father's RESPONSE was to visit schools and parents organizations telling his story, so this would not happen to other children. Over the next year, the community had a decrease in the number of children choking themselves to death. While this event was about as negative as it can get, the fathers response has produced an OUTCOME that save an unknown number of lives in his community.

Let's take this one step further. Our lives are not islands of unconnected events. They are all related. The more positive we can make an outcome, the more likely the next event will not be as negative.

So, next time something happens, take a deep breath, look over the situation, and pick the most positive response.



Graves Registration

Robert L. Wandel

Attention all Camp Graves Registration Officers!

I would appreciate it if you would ask members within your camp if they have reported any information from cemeteries to the SUVCW Database. I do not need the names or photos; only if they have been reported and by whom.

I am working on an index for all of the cemeteries in each county. I would like to know which cemeteries have been checked for Civil War Veterans tombstones. Once I have received this information we will know which cemeteries remain to be checked.

The information I will be checking is:

- Photos taken?
- List of Names?

Who reported the information?

If the information has been sent to the SUVCW Database?



Junior Vice Commander

James R. Knopke, PDC

According to Tom Schmidt's secretary report at the past Department Encampment, as of March 31, 2008, the Department of Kansas had a total membership of 147. This is a far cry from the first time I was JVC back in 2003/2004, with a total membership of 65. We have been given a challenge by outgoing Department Commander Roy Lafferty of each brother recruiting one new brother this year in hopes to win the Grant trophy again. This is a National award we won three years straight, setting the record for the most consecutive years won by a Department. We have the membership in place to win it again in 2008/2009. Here are a few things we can do to reach to that goal.

1. Invite people you know to join, whether it is a relative, neighbor, or friend.

2. You can have a business card made up with SUVCW info on it that could be given to prospective members.

3. Each Camp can participate in some kind of community event that gets the SUVCW name out there, preferably with a booth or table where people can sign up and receive information about our organization. If possible, make sure you get their information, so your Camp can follow-up with them later.

4. If your Camp does not have a banner to use at these events, then you should consider getting one. It will make it a lot easier for passers-by to know who you are. Also, have information to hand out that explains what the SUVCW does at a local, state and national level.

5. Make sure you have a membership application with you to give to the prospective brother. Show them you want them to join.

Wait a minute; most of our camps are already doing the above. That is good the news. For those that are not, you need to work on getting these things into place. Remember, most people want to belong to an organization that does something other than just have meetings. From what I can see, our camps are trying to achieve this. I think all we need is little more effort from some, and a lot of effort from others, to make this happen. If you or your camp needs help, I am just a phone call or email away.



Senior Vice Commander

James M. Converse, PCC

Over Labor Day, my wife, Linda, and I (with my mother along to see her great grandson for the first time) traveled to Ohio to visit our daughter, son-in-law and their 7-month old baby son (our first grandbaby!!) in Kettering, Ohio. On the grueling 10-hour return trip back to Overland Park, we detoured twenty miles south of I-70 at Marshal, Illinois, and found the Olive Branch Baptist Church Cemetery, the final resting place of my great-great grandfather, Robert B. Converse and his wife Priscilla. Private (Wagoner) Converse was an honorably discharged member of Co. D, 177th Pennsylvania Infantry. After the War, he moved to Great Bend, Kansas, with his brothers, where he affiliated with GAR Gregory Post 326 at Pawnee Rock, Kansas. Robert was the post chaplain for years. After his wife died, he married Priscilla Marion, whose family hailed from East Illinois. He moved with Priscilla to Annapolis, Illinois where he affiliated with GAR Joseph Shaw Post 235 in Annapolis for the last 15 years of his life. As I placed the US Flag beside his gravestone, I had to pause a few minutes to reflect on my connection, explored in depth just since 2005, with my grandfather. I thank Department Commander Craig Sundell for starting the conversation about chartering an SUVCW Camp in Olathe, Kansas. I probably would not have ever taken the time, nor had access to the resources needed to learn about Private

Converse. Today, when I hear Mike Welton, Franklin Camp's Chaplain deliver his prayers during the camp opening and closing rituals, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day Ceremonies... I close my eyes and connect with a moving experience that I can share with my great-great grandfather's memory. I thank the SUVCW, the Department of Kansas, and the leaders who have taken the time and effort to teach me how to find my ancestor's story....and the story has just begun.

When I became Camp Commander of the newly-chartered Franklin Camp 5 in Olathe in November, 2005, little did I know of the whirlwind experience that would unfold before me. As Franklin Camp got her feet on the ground with projects, ceremonies and patriotic instruction-filled meetings, the opportunity to become a Department Council presented itself, giving me the first experience of the hard work, time and effort given freely by the Department's leadership cadre. Then, in 2007, I was proud to be elected to the Department office of Junior Vice Commander and the learning curve moved up rapidly. At this year's Department Encampment, the voting delegates selected me as the 2008 Department Senior Vice Commander. Fortunately the previous two year's experience in our wonderful patriotic organization has prepared me for the new duties of SVC. I am in awe of the upcoming years in our Department, with Kansas hosting the 2010 National Encampment in Overland Park, Kansas. To be a part of this important history of our Order is the culmination of the trust that you have placed in me. I commit my steadfast effort to complete this and all duties and responsibilities where I may contribute to building the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. If I may help your camp in any way, just e-mail SVC@suvchwks.org.

 **Commander's Corner**
Craig A. Sundell, PCC

Brothers, I thank you very much for the opportunity to serve as your Commander for the coming year. I strongly believe we are an organization of strong and capable individuals who express and honor our ancestors and the SUVCW even better as a team. I, personally, would be far less a person, and officer, if not for the sage advice offered me by past Commanders and other brothers in our Department. I pray I am able to recognize the wisdom therein and make decisions accordingly. I always welcome this input and ask each brother in the Department to continue this invaluable dialogue.



We each have strengths and desires and I hope we can act to use these to the best advantage for the growth of the SUVCW and successful completion of our goals and projects. Remember, WE host the National Encampment in 2010. Please help by spreading the word, pitching in or buying bonds, when possible.

I was proud to represent us as a speaker for the May 24 Memorial Day observance held in Olathe by Franklin Camp 5. The diversity of veterans and their contributions to Kansas as the Soldier's State in this resting place impressed me greatly and is a theme I will return to throughout my tenure as Commander. Paul Jefferson and I were able to remain and help decorate the graves of most of the 200+ Union veterans in the Olathe cemetery afterwards. Excellent work was done by Bill and Daniel Stilley, as well as Camp Commander Lane Smith and the rest of Camp 5. Thanks to Barb Knopke of the LGAR for her help and participation.

Later that day, I attended a DAR dedication ceremony in Kansas City, Missouri at Union Cemetery just east of the Liberty Memorial. I was very impressed with the American flags on Union veterans' graves and saw the smattering of Stars and Bars near Confederate

headstones. This was my first visit to this site and it is well worth a return trip. The niece of "Bloody Bill" Anderson that died in the collapse of the brick detention house is buried there. That event sparked a doubling or tripling of the number and anger of raiders in Quantrell's raiding party to Lawrence in August 1863. I also saw a headstone of one of "Quantrell's 1st MO Cav, CSA" among the fallen Union veterans from Westport and the Big Blue battles in 1864.

I was proud to represent the SUVCW at the Annual meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Topeka in Early May. It was a good time to share the information of our 2010 National Encampment with another of our hereditary societies.

Thanks as well to Bob Wandel of Churchill Camp 4 in Lawrence for enticing several brothers (myself included) to help continue the effective reclamation and maintenance of the Adams Cemetery in N. Lawrence with its Union veteran. It was rumored I could actually run a chainsaw nearly as well as my mouth.

My thanks are also extended to ALL of our brothers in Wichita, Topeka, Ft. Scott, Lawrence and Olathe who participated in Memorial Day ceremonies or other signs of respect for the Union veterans of the Civil War. As I was helping Bob Wandel remove flags on May 30 in Lawrence, I realized I had missed a good opportunity. The Lawrence brothers left the flags on Union graves until May 30, which was the Saturday AFTER the observed Memorial Day, but the date of the traditional Memorial Day, which our order is striving to have reinstated as the official day.

The Soldier's State Project

Most of Us have heard of Kansas referred to as the "Soldier's State." I officially would like to begin my tenure as Commander of the Department of Kansas by asking for volunteers to join me in a project to bring the history and impact of the Union Civil War veterans who settled, developed and remain buried here in Kansas to the front of educational and public circles. A couple months ago, I was spending a bit of quiet time near the GAR circle in the Olathe Cemetery before teaching a Geoscience class at Olathe North High School. I had been there a couple dozen times in my life and more than a dozen times in the past three years, but as I walked around the circle it struck me as to the diversity of men which comprised this group. More than a dozen states, probably all of the different branches and services, and a full range of ranks were all arrayed side by side. I have seen this multiplied greatly by the many other resting places of Union veterans I have visited and the many more I have only heard of in Kansas.

I know as well that GAR posts numbered more than 400 at one time in Kansas and the actions of these veterans after the war were as important to them and to Kansas as were their actions during the conflict. This is why Kansas was (and still is) the Soldier's State. I ask your help to compile a list of:

1. The different states that were represented by Union Veterans buried in Kansas
2. The different branches (Vol Inf, US Cav, USCI, Medical Corps, Signal Corps, etc
3. Counties named for or founded by Union Veterans
4. Names of and towns which had GAR posts at one time or another in Kansas

Finally, I would like to use this information to be the springboard of an educational campaign used with Boy Scout troops, schools, public forums and media outlets to increase the awareness of Kansans of ALL generations of why the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War exists and why these veterans were crucial to the development of Kansas, past and present, as well as an aid to recruitment for our order.

If this goes well, I would hope we can ultimately list all the regiments and each individual Union veteran buried in Kansas. I know this may appear to be a large task, but I am asking for help with

the first small steps (names of States, Branches of Service, interesting facts, etc.) first. This can be used to create effective educational displays for our website, in our schools, for public outreach, publicity and other suitable venues to promote the good of our order.

I believe this is an enjoyable pursuit for many of us and a great opportunity to pool our knowledge and talents. The results will be tangible, measurable and usable as well as reflective of our efforts to honor the memory of our Union ancestors.

I work with many K-12 students. Many have little or NO knowledge of our Civil War history or the importance of the Union forces to forge a UNITED States of America. One 14 year old boy in Olathe Geoscience last Friday approached me and showed me two items he held reverently. They were a 3 ring Union Minnie ball and a fired Spencer carbine shell case that had been given to him by a Shawnee Mission museum docent recently. He told me he loved dinosaurs and fossils, but, "These are from real people" and "my teachers don't know anything about them." He asked me if I knew anything about them. The other thirteen members of the class stopped working on their triceratops bones and, for the next hour, they intently listened while I put on a different hat and spoke of my Civil War ancestors, the Battle of Westport, Quantrell's raid on Olathe, and Kansas: The Soldier's State. More importantly, when they were leaving two hours later and talking with their parents, they spoke and asked about Union Soldiers and Kansas in the Civil War. I pray that every one of my brothers can experience the joy and quiet satisfaction I felt as I heard them walk away. Let their future teachers beware! One asked her mother if it was true that a citizen has responsibilities, like the Civil War soldiers.

CAMP NEWS

Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1 - Wichita

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Camp Commander | James P. Coyne |
| Senior Vice Commander | S. Todd Meek |
| Junior Vice Commander | Richard T. Bennett |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC |

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

A number of Patrick Coyne Camp 1 brothers participated in multiple ceremonies on Memorial Day 2008. As has been our custom for a number of years, brothers traveled to Florence, Kansas, for an 8:30 AM ceremony at the local Catholic cemetery where the namesake of the Wichita camp Patrick Coyne is buried. Jim Coyne, Wichita Camp Commander, gave a brief history of his ancestor. Brother Doug McGovern gave a modified version of the "Last Soldier Ceremony," and Brother Tom Schmidt was in command of the firing detail that honored the memory of Patrick Coyne with the firing of three volleys.

It was then on to Peabody, Kansas, to participate in the communities' 10 AM ceremony at Prairie Lawn Cemetery, where over 140 Civil War veterans are buried. With a large crowd on hand, the group's portion of the overall program consisted of reading Major General Logan's General Order 11, laying wreaths at the Civil War Soldiers Monument, and firing of three volleys. Also participating were the American Legion, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, High School musical ensemble, and the local Lutheran Minister.

The group then traveled to Emporia, Kansas, to Maplewood Memorial Lawn Cemetery for a 1:30 PM ceremony. General Order 11 was again read, as well as the modified version of the "Last Soldier Ceremony," at the large Civil War Monument in the middle of the cemetery. They also did a short program at the Civil

War soldiers plot at the Northeast corner of the cemetery.

The following camp brothers participated on Memorial Day: Robert Barnes, Shawn Bell, Darren Biggs, Jim Coyne, Todd Meek, Doug McGovern, Dale Rouse, and Tom Schmidt. Randy Durbin, from Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka, also participated.

Also, on the upcoming schedule for the camp is the July 12 dedication of a new headstone for Civil War veteran Michael Switzer who is buried in the Halstead, Kansas Cemetery. Switzer served with Co. E 150th Indiana Infantry. John Jackson discovered that this veteran did not have a head stone. The Wichita camp took on the project of securing one for him. Brother Frank Bergquist filled out the proper paper work and got a government stone. The camp then had the stone set and the dedication will be at 10 am on July 12.

In May, the camp welcomed new member Carl Chance to the organization. As part of our overseas soldier program, we have been providing needed items to Major George Hammer and members his team while they have been Iraq. George e-mailed us in May and indicated he would be returning to the States in Mid June to Fort Carson, Colorado, and would be sending us an American Flag that had flown over their camp in Baghdad in appreciation of our support. Our camp will not be meeting in July and August, with our first meeting in the fall scheduled for Sept. 25.

Yes, America WAS founded on and by immigrants - LEGAL immigrants!!
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.
James Coyne, Camp Commander

Sgt Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4-Lawrence

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Camp Commander | Michael Hadl |
| Senior Vice Commander | Brian Van Schmus |
| Junior Vice Commander | Robert L. Wandel |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Alan L. Van Loenen, PCC |

Camp meetings are held at the Watkins Museum of History, 1047 Massachusetts Street, in beautiful downtown Lawrence. Meetings are at 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month, with programs starting about 7:30 PM. All SUVCW Brothers and the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

This April, we were delighted to host the 12th Annual Department Encampment. I think everything turned out well, and we had a good speaker in Professor Bill Keel of K. U., who talked about the German influence in the Civil War. It sure was nice to have our own camp flag at the encampment.

This past Memorial Day we again put out flags on Civil War area veterans' graves at three Lawrence cemeteries. The Boy Scouts and Cubs Scouts, along with their leaders, were a big help to us that day. Someone wrote a letter to Lawrence Journal-World commenting on how nice the Pioneer Cemetery looked with the flags on the veterans' graves and how K. U. mowed the grounds. On May 31, several of our brothers trimmed weed and grass and cut down a few trees at the Adams Cemetery in Lawrence. It only has a few marked graves, including the one Civil War veteran, but it looked nice when we got done. Brother Bob Wandel deserves a big 'pat on the back' for his work on that cemetery. It had been really neglected until Bob found out about it and brought it to the Camp's attention.

With Fraternity, Loyalty & Charity
Michael J. Hadl, Camp Commander

Franklin Camp 5 - Olathe

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Camp Commander | Lane D. Smith |
| Senior Vice Commander | Brent Lawrence |
| Junior Vice Commander | Cade Smith |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Matthew G. Toll, PCC |

Camp meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month, beginning at 7:00 PM. Meetings are held in the Governors West Conference Room, Olathe City Hall, 100 E. Santa Fe Street. The Camp does not meet in the months of July, August, and December.

At our February meeting, the camp recognized Secretary/Treasurer Matt Toll for the excellent job he had done in creating the camp website and to PCC Jim Converse for his excellent job with the camp newsletter, *The Old Flag*. Jim, with camp approval, has changed the name of the newsletter from *The Bugler*. A history of the new name is in the May newsletter.

Our January Patriotic Instructor was Col. (Ret.) Jim "Spike" Speicher, camp commander of the local Sons of Confederate Veterans. Spike gave a great presentation entitled, "A Tale of Two Soldiers." It was a comparison of two soldiers, one Union and one Confederate, and their letters of which Jim has in his possession.

The February meeting was devoted strictly to business, and our March speaker, Patricia Schurkamp, Director of the Wyandotte County Museum was unable to attend due to illness; however her subject about a nurse in the Union Army will be rescheduled at a later date. The April meeting was Keil Hileman, a teacher at a local middle school. He included in his presentation many artifacts of Civil War that he uses in his classroom. Barbara Knopke was our patriotic instructor for May. Barb is the National Senior Vice President of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR), and she gave a message about that organization, both past and present, and a history of the LGAR in Kansas. Our instructor in June was Commander Smith, who presented a power point presentation "Thru the Eyes of Lee, the Gettysburg Campaign".

The camp has purchased a camp banner which we proudly displayed at the Mahaffie reenactment, and should we so choose, we will use it at the Old Settlers Day parade in September. It will also be used at recruiting booths at the various reenactments and other Civil War activities in the area.

The camp has determined to recognize those camp members who have served in the military. The first SUVCW Military Service Medal was presented at the March meeting to PCC and current Dept SVC Jim Converse for his military service in the United States Navy. At the June meeting SVC Brent Lawrence was presented with this award for his service in the United States Army.

The camp has created a fund raiser, a 50/50 drawing at each meeting. The funds added to our camp treasury are not large, anywhere from \$10 to \$25 per month; however, each small contribution is a major help.

We, again, as a camp assisted in the continued work project at Mine Creek. On April 15 and 16 our camp had a recruiting booth at the Mahaffie Days in Olathe, the first time we were able to display the new camp banner. Other events are being considered.

PCC Jim Converse has been very active in the local JROTC programs at the various high schools. On May 5 Jim and Commander Lane Smith presented an SUVCW ROTC award to a cadet at the Shawnee Mission North Junior Naval ROTC awards banquet. Two weeks later, the same award was presented to a young cadet at the Shawnee Mission West awards banquet. The Shawnee Mission North cadets participated in our Veterans' Day program last year as the Color guard and added such a wonderful degree of professionalism to the service. They literally take the service to a much higher standard, and it is very rewarding for our camp to see young people involved and participating in the recognition of our veterans.

Our camp is very pleased that four of its members have been recently recognized by the Department of Kansas. Current camp Secretary/Treasurer Matt Toll was awarded the Captain Patrick H Coney Award for Member of the Year. PDC Jim Knopke was awarded the Leander Stillwell Outstanding Achievement Award. Our camp is also represented at the Department officers level with dual member Craig Sundell as Department Commander, Jim Converse as Department SVC, and Jim Knopke as Department JVC, and Matt Toll as one of the Council Members and Department Patriotic Instructor.



Memorial Day service at Olathe Cemetery. LGAR NVP Barbara Knopke is addressing the gathering.

The May 24 Memorial Day service was again held at the GAR monument in the Olathe cemetery. The Color guard was represented by the Johnson County Sheriff Department. They did a wonderful job, very professional in not only their appearance, but also in their performance.



Johnson County Sheriff Department Color Guard at Memorial Day service.

The camp has added two new members. Donald Docktor II of Oak Grove, whose family member was his great-grandfather Tomas Doktor, Co E, 4th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and David Tollefson of Raytown, whose family member was his great-grandfather Samuel Vanover of the 86th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

Mine Creek Camp 6 - Pleasanton

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Camp Commander | John H. Spencer |
| Senior Vice Commander | Arnold W. Schofield |
| Junior Vice Commander | Charles Marsh |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Alfred Kolom |

NO REPORT SUBMITTED.

Old Abe Camp 16 - Topeka

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Camp Commander | Delton M. Gilliland |
| Sr Vice Commander | John Jewell |
| Jr Vice Commander | Rocky Bartlow |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Jack Puett |

The Brothers of Camp 16 have had a busy spring in keeping our colors to the front. At the Mine Creek Battlefield Work Day, April 5, myself, Kyle Linder, and Randy Durbin put in several hours cutting brush just North of the visitor center and a tree line running towards the South. Afterwards, we toured the battlefield and took in the museum and gift shop. The whole area was a beehive of activity in October of 1864.

At this year's Department Encampment, there were six representatives from Camp 16 in attendance. I was especially pleased to see our new Camp 16 flag present alongside the others. Three cheers are in order to the brothers of Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 for hosting a great encampment this year.

The Topeka Cemetery work day season is up again. Thanks go out to Brother McIntosh for rallying the Cub Scouts again this year to help with our Memorial Day Flag placement. I, for one learned a great deal more about the veterans in our Topeka Cemetery. I now

know the sites of Past CinC Leland Webb, Private Guilford G. Gage (2nd Kansas State Militia), a private whose first name was General (General M. Copeland), and that we have three veterans from the war of 1812 buried in the cemetery. Our next scheduled work day will be June 28.

Camp 16 has continued with our veterans connection history lecture. For May, Commander Delton Gilliland spoke on his ancestor's Michigan regimental history and how, after the war, he settled into farming just north of Lyndon, Kansas. We look forward to Delton's part 2 presentation at our July camp meeting.

Camp 16 signed on two new members in May - Kirk and Matthew Nystrom, father and son.

On May 17-18, the great Battle reenactment of Westport saw five brothers from Camp 16 in attendance. We were part of four different Union reenactment units participating in this tactical weekend. Brother Hershel Stroud set up his surgical tent, Randy Durbin with the 8th Kansas Infantry, and myself with McLain's Independent Battery. Brother Kent Melcher and his wife were spectators who took in the many activities and shopped on sutlers' row. With well over 1,200 re-enactors present, it was a grand event for Kansas City and a small reunion for other Department of Kansas brothers present as well. I cannot forget the support of the women, as well, for they provided an oasis for us starving Federals at their Ladies Aid Society tent. Nancy Durbin and Mrs. Hershel Stroud were outstanding in their portrayals, as well as their generosity.

Jack Puett
Camp Secretary

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

DEPARTMENT ORDER 1 April 26, 2008
SERIES 2008-2009

1. Having been elected and installed as Department Commander by the assembled membership and delegates at the Twelfth Department Encampment at Lawrence, Kansas, on April 26, 2008, command is hereby assumed and headquarters established at the above address. All correspondence requiring the attention of the Department Commander should be sent to the above address.

2. The following brothers were also elected at the Twelfth Department Encampment to the positions indicated:

- Senior Vice Commander
James M. Converse, PCC, Franklin 5
- Junior Vice Commander
James R. Knopke, PDC, Franklin 5
- Secretary/Treasurer
Alan L. Russ, PDC, Old Abe 16
- Council
Robert L. Wandel, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4
Matthew G. Toll, PCC, Franklin 5
Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne 1

3. I have appointed the following brothers to the positions and responsibilities indicated:

- Chief of Staff
Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne 1
- Patriotic Instructor
Matthew G. Toll, PCC, Franklin 5
- Chaplain
Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4
- Historian
Blair D. Tarr, Old Abe 16
- Counselor
Alan L. Russ, PDC, Old Abe 16
- Graves Registration Officer
Robert L. Wandel, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4
- Civil War Memorials Officer
Douglas E. McGovern, PCC, Corp Coyne 1
- Eagle Scout Coordinator
Brian R. Van Schmus, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4
- Department Webmaster
Alan L. Russ, PDC, Old Abe 16

4. All business correspondence, bills, and requests for payment should be sent to the Department Secretary: PDC Alan L. Russ, P.O. Box 68, Auburn KS 66402-0068.

5. All requests for monuments and memorials grants, and all completed monuments and memorials registration forms should be sent to the Department Civil War Memorials

Officer: PCC Douglas McGovern, 100 W. 20th Ave., Hutchinson KS 67502-2846.

6. All graves registration forms and information should be sent to the Department Graves Registration Officer: Robert L. Wandel, Department Graves Registration Officer, 2731 Bonanza St., Lawrence KS 66046-5137

7. All requests for Eagle Scout Certificates should be sent to the Department Eagle Scout Coordinator: Brian R. Van Schmus, Department Eagle Scout Coordinator, 2619 Missouri St. Lawrence KS 66046-4545.

8. Elected Department Officers for 2008-2009 should plan to attend the following meetings and events during the year. Appointed Department Officers and Camp Commanders are encouraged to attend the meetings.

October 18, 2008 Fall Council Meeting (tentatively in Emporia)

March 14, 2009 Spring Council Meeting (tentatively in Olathe)

April 25, 2009 13th Annual Department Encampment, Olathe

9. All Department Officers and Past Department Commanders, along with any other brother who is able to, are encouraged to attend the following meetings.

August 8-9, 2008 National Encampment, Peabody MA

October 4, 2008 Central Region Association Conference, St. Louis MO

10. All elected Camp Officers, both current and who are will be serving during 2009, should plan to attend the Winter Training Session.

January 10, 2009 Winter Training Session (tentatively in Emporia)

11. The 13th Annual Department of Kansas Encampment is scheduled to be held on April 25, 2009, in Olathe. Franklin Camp 5 has accepted the responsibility to be the host camp. The camp will report to the Fall Department Council meeting as to its ability to host the encampment and the status thereof.

12. A hearty "Thank You" to every brother who has agreed to serve on the Department staff this year. Please keep in mind that, AS A TEAM, we will be ever so much stronger than as individuals. We have a wealth of different experience from both this organization and our lives. If we can humbly propose and listen to the best ideas from each member I am confident we will accomplish much and solve any problem which may arise, while stabilizing and nurturing the growth of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and its noble goals of Honor and remembrance of those who preserved the Union.

We need to stabilize and expand the heart of our organization, which is our individual camps. Brothers, we have much important business to conduct, including hosting of a National Encampment in two years. We also have a great and unique opportunity to kindle the spark of public interest in the actions of our Union ancestors into a healthy campfire of knowledge and support.

I urge all brothers to continue policies of patriotic instruction and education open to the general public in Camp meetings and further charge individuals and camps to continue and expand activities at the K-12 school level and with the Eagle Scout and ROTC programs to actively engage not just the current but the next and future generations of Americans. Our history is far too important to our country and its future to allow it to fade to gray! Remember and embrace our legacy of Kansas as "The Soldier's State."

Those who are unwilling to fight for their rights and the rights of others are undeserving of rights for themselves. Those who will not speak to others of their history are responsible for the loss of that history. May we stand committed, strong and active. These traits will strengthen us individually and as a group, as well as attracting new comrades. Let each of us help a fellow brother whenever we can and by the act of giving, receive twofold in return. With the help of the Great Architect, I humbly pray for our success.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,
Craig A. Sundell, PCC
Department Commander

ATTEST:
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

DEPARTMENT ORDER 2 April 26, 2008
SERIES 2008-2009

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
BYLAWS COMMITTEE

1. As required by Bylaws of the Department of Kansas Encampment, I hereby appoint the following brothers to the Bylaws Committee for the term from April 26, 2008, through April 25, 2009, unless sooner relieved.

- Alan L. Russ, PDC, Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka (Chairman)
- James M. Converse, PCC, Franklin Camp 5, Olathe
- James R. Knopke, PDC, Franklin Camp 5, Olathe
- Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita
- Craig A. Sundell, PCC, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence
- Matthew G. Toll, Franklin Camp 5, Olathe
- Robert L. Wandel, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence

2. This committee shall meet during the year, as necessary. It shall function in accordance with Article XV, Section A, Bylaws of the Department of Kansas. The committee chairman shall present a status report to the Department Council at the Fall Council Meeting and at any other time requested by the Department Commander. Additionally, the committee chairman shall present a report of the committee activities for the year to the Thirteenth Annual Department Encampment.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,
Craig A. Sundell, PCC
Department Commander

ATTEST:
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

DEPARTMENT ORDER 3 April 26, 2008
SERIES 2008-2009

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD COMMITTEE

3. As established by the Tenth Annual Department of Kansas Encampment, I hereby appoint the following brothers to the Mine Creek Battlefield Committee for the term from April 26, 2008, through April 25, 2009, unless sooner relieved.

- Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita (Chairman)
- Randal L. Durbin, PDC, Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka
- Kenneth E. Spurgeon, PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita
- Robert L. Wandel, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence
- John H. Spencer, Mine Creek Camp 6, Pleasanton (Camp 6 Representative)

4. This committee shall meet during the year, as necessary. The committee chairman shall present a status report to the Department Council at the Fall Council Meeting and at any other time requested by the Department Commander. Additionally, the committee chairman shall present a report of the committee activities for the year to the Thirteenth Annual Department Encampment.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,
Craig A. Sundell, PCC
Department Commander

ATTEST:
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

DEPARTMENT ORDER 4 April 26, 2008
SERIES 2008-2009

APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT CHAIRMAN
LAST SOLDIER PROJECT and GAR RECORDS PROJECT

1. Brother Blair D. Tarr, Old Abe Camp 16, is hereby appointed as chairman for the Last Soldier Project and the GAR Records Project.

2. As project chairman, he shall serve as the point of contact for these projects within the Department of Kansas. He is authorized to pursue these projects in the name of the Department, and may appoint team members to assist him, as necessary.

3. Those brothers of the Department interested in assisting in these projects should contact the project chairman at the following:

Blair D. Tarr, 617 SW Taylor St., Apt 11, Topeka KS
66603-3243

Email: BTarr@kshs.org

4. The purpose of the Last Soldier Project is to attempt to identify and gather information on all Union Civil War soldiers who hold a status of "Last Soldier" in the 105 Kansas counties. This may include the last to die, the last burial, and the last to live in the county.

5. The purpose of the GAR Records Project is to support the National Organization's effort to identify the location of all existing GAR records. The purpose of this project is to assist in future research efforts with regard to the records.

6. The project chairman shall prepare a report to be presented to the Department Encampment on the activities for the year. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the Department Commander and the Department Secretary who shall include such reports in the minutes of the Department Encampment.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,
Craig A. Sundell, PCC
Department Commander

ATTEST:
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

DEPARTMENT ORDER 5 April 26, 2008
SERIES 2008-2009

**WEAR OF ELECTED DEPARTMENT OFFICER BADGE
BY THE ELECTED DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

In accordance with Chapter V, Article III, Section 2(b), Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Elected Department Officers, have been furnished with the badge of Elected Department Officer by the Department. As such, each Elected Department Officer is hereby ordered to wear their Department Officer Badge in place of their Membership Badge for the duration of their term of service as an elected Department Officer. Upon leaving elected office; Department Badge will be returned to the Department or his successor. Lost or damaged badges shall be replaced by the officer. The exception to this directive is that a current Camp Commander who is also serving as an elected Department Officer shall wear the membership badge of Camp Commander during his term as Camp Commander.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,
Craig A. Sundell, PCC
Department Commander

ATTEST:
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

DEPARTMENT ORDER 6 May 5, 2008
SERIES 2008-2009

**APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD COMMITTEE**

1. Membership on the Mine Creek Battlefield Committee for the term from April 26, 2008, through April 25, 2009, is changed as follows.

Kenneth E. Spurgeon, PDC, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita, is replaced by Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence, effective this date.

2. All other membership, as announced in Department Order 3, Series 2008-2009, remains in effect.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,
Craig A. Sundell, PCC
Department Commander

ATTEST:
Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

127th National Encampment

August 7 through 10, 2008

Peabody, Massachusetts

The 2008 National Encampment will be held in Peabody, Massachusetts. Peabody is located North of Boston.

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

There are numerous historical sites to see within a short distance of Peabody and Boston. Be sure to plan a little extra time before or after the encampment to take advantage of the area. Additionally, the Department of Massachusetts will be hosting tours on Thursday.

**Central Region Association
Allied Orders of the G.A.R.**

69th Annual Conference

October 3&4, 2008

Saint Louis, Missouri

The Department of Missouri will be hosting the 2008 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 4, 2008, at the Holiday Inn South. There will also be an informal dinner on Friday, October 3, for those who wish to participate.

The hotel is located just East of I-55 at the Butler Hill Road Exit (Exit 195), which is just one mile South of the I-55 and I-270/I-255 interchange.

Put this on your calendar, now, and start making plans to attend. Additional information will be furnished as it becomes available. Keep your eye on this space for updates.

Department of Kansas

Fall Council Meeting

October 18, 2008

Olathe, Kansas

The Department of Kansas Fall Council Meeting will be held on October 18, 2008, in Olathe. The meeting will begin at 11 AM with lunch (at your expense). Franklin Camp 5 has graciously offered to host the

meeting. Further details will be provided in later communications to the camps.

All Department officers should plan to attend. Camp Commanders or their representative should be prepared to give a brief report of their camp's activities. All brothers of the Department are invited to attend.

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 (up to \$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:

suvcwks16@mindspring.com

The *Sunflower Picket* is posted on the Department website. If you elect the email option, you will be sent an email with a link to the newsletter when it is available for downloading. 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 Fall issue will be mailed by October 1, 2008. This issue will focus on the upcoming Department Encampment. It is the intent to publish any proposed Department Bylaws changes in that issue to ensure all delegates and voting members of the Encampment will be informed.

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. At the Camp level, 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 **September 15, 2008**, preferably in electronic format. Camps should send the information about their camp activities, preferably with a photograph.

Send submissions to:

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



COME TO KANSAS
in
2010



129th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
124th National Encampment, Auxiliary to the SUVCW
124th National Encampment, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic

August 12-15, 2010
 Marriott Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas

“If I went west, I think I would go to Kansas...”

- Abraham Lincoln, March 17, 1860

The Department of Kansas is proud to have been selected to host the 2010 National Encampments for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

This is the first time in the history of the SUVCW or GAR that a National Encampment has been held within the borders of Kansas.

From the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, through the years of “Bleeding Kansas” and its border wars from 1855 to 1861, through the Civil War, and in the post-war Western expansion when Kansas became known as the “Soldier State,” Kansas has been synonymous with the Civil War.

Kansas was the home of one Grand Army of the Republic Commander-in-Chief and two Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Commanders-in-Chief.

The following are some of the many area attractions conveniently located within 60 miles of Overland Park, Kansas:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Mahaffie House, Olathe KS | 12 miles |
| Liberty Memorial/World War I Museum, Kansas City MO | 19 miles |
| 1856 Arabia Steamboat Museum, Kansas City MO | 20 miles |
| Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, Independence MO..... | 24 miles |
| Blackjack Battlefield (1856), Baldwin KS..... | 33 miles |
| Site of Quantrill’s 1863 raid, Lawrence KS | 35 miles |
| John Brown Museum, Osawatomie KS..... | 41 miles |
| Frontier Army Museum, Fort Leavenworth KS | 49 miles |
| Mine Creek Battlefield, Pleasanton KS | 56 miles |
| Confederate Cemetery/Battlefield, Lexington MO | 56 miles |
| Constitution Hall, Territorial Capital/Lane Museum, Lecompton KS | 58 miles |

Come to Kansas – where the Civil War began.

Craig A. Sundell, PCC
Department Commander

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

127th National Encampment

August 7-10, 2008, in Peabody, Mass.

CENTRAL REGION ASSOCIATION

Allied Orders of the G.A.R.

69th Annual Conference

October 3 & 4, 2008, in St. Louis, Missouri

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS

Fall Council Meeting

October 18, 2008, in Olathe, Kansas

Newsletter Editor
Alan L. Russ, PDC
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Auburn KS 66402-0068

www.suvcwks.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL