

Department of Kansas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Minutes of the Fall Council Meeting
October 16, 2010

1. Meeting was called to order at the Senior Center in Emporia, Kansas, at 1 PM, by Department Commander James R. Knopke, PDC, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.
2. Roll call of officers was conducted by Secretary Alan L. Russ, PDC.
 - a. The following voting members were present:
Department Commander James R. Knopke, PDC
Senior Vice Department Commander Roy A. Lafferty, PDC
Junior Vice Department Commander Robert L. Wandel
Secretary/Treasurer Alan L. Russ, PDC
Council Member Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC
 - b. The following voting members were absent:
Council Member Randal L. Durbin, PDC
Council Member Blair D. Tarr
Immediate Past Department Commander James M. Converse, PDC
 - c. There were no other attendees present.
 - d. A quorum was declared to be present.
3. Officers present brief reports to the Council.
4. Commander Knopke presented a brief report on the updated status of the 2010 National Encampment Committee. All bills have been paid, and the committee is “winding down.”
5. SVDC Lafferty reported that no one from the Department of Kansas attended the 2010 Central Region Conference in Farming, Missouri, on October 2, 2010.
6. Commander Knopke opened discussion to the hosting of the 2011 Central Region Conference on October 1, 2011, by the Department of Kansas.
 - a. A poll of attendees at the 2010 CRC had indicated that many would not be willing to attend a meeting much West of the Kansas City area.
 - b. Also, although 2011 is an exception, the first full weekend in October is normally a NASCAR racing event at the Kansas Speedway. This makes finding a suitable facility or hotel difficult for the CRC.
 - c. As such, the Council voted that the Department of Kansas would decline hosting the 2011 Central Region Conference due to limitations on date and location.
 - d. Commander Knopke will send an email to Alan Teller of the CRC informing him of this decision.
7. Secretary Russ discussed the IRS requirements.

- a. Camps are required to verify their active status and contact information twice each year. This will need to be done before March 31 and September 30. This information will be submitted to the Department Secretary prior to those dates, and he will forward the information to the National Treasurer. Instructions will be provided to camps prior to these deadlines.
 - b. IRS 990-N filings. The Department of Kansas and its camps have filed their IRS Forms 990-N in a timely manner for these years. In January 2011, the Department Secretary will again send instructions to camps for completing the form for tax year 2010.
 - c. IRS Form 8822-Change of Address. Any camp who has a change of camp secretary will need to submit an IRS Form 8822 to the IRS for the change of contact information. Camps should **ONLY FILL OUT PART II**.
 - d. Use of Proper Employee Identification Number (EIN) by Camps. Camps must ensure that they only use the EIN specifically assigned to their camp.
8. Secretary Russ addressed the changes to the Life Member reimbursements. This only affects Camp 1.
 9. The CinC dinner in conjunction with the Department Encampment was discussed. A decision as to which night to hold it will be made once we know the final schedule for CinC Schall. The preference is for Saturday evening.
 10. Council Member Schmidt addressed locations for future Department Encampment locations. In keeping within the Department Bylaws, the first priority is based upon submitted proposals by prospective host camps. In the event there is not a proposal by a prospective host camp, the recommendation was to have the Encampment at the Emporia Senior Center, based upon availability.
 11. Council Member Schmidt and Secretary Russ presented a proposal for a Department of Kansas membership badge.
 - a. A discussion was held about whether the brothers of the Department want a Department badge. General feeling was that it was desired by a number of them.
 - b. It was decided that the brothers of the Department by willing to buy one as long as the cost was reasonable.
 - c. As for funding a Department badge, a proposal was presented which allowed for three premium levels of badges to front-load the funding of the badges. The original proposal which was presented limited the number of badges in each category. The discussion was that the number of badges in each premium category should be based upon the demand for that category. It is desired that the premium badges should cover most of the costs of ordering the minimum order of badges for the Department.
 - d. PDC Schmidt is to get current costs from Northwest Territorial Mint for the proposed Department badge.
 - e. PDC Russ will send a revised proposal to Commander Knopke when the new numbers have been received from PDC Schmidt.

12. Commander Knopke led the discussion concerning the *Sunflower Picket*. This newsletter has not been published for almost eighteen months.
 - a. It was stated that this falls under the office of Senior Vice Department Commander.
 - b. PDC Russ stated he would assemble the *Sunflower Picket* using information provided by the SVDC. It was decided to keep it to a “front and back” format for now.
 - c. Various articles and ideas were discussed, with SVDC Lafferty for follow up on these.
 - d. It was decided that the *Sunflower Picket* would be published quarterly, with the next issue scheduled for January 2011.
 - e. The *Sunflower Picket* will be distributed by email to all in the Department who have an email address.
13. Commander Knopke brought up the subject of the Winter Training Session.
 - a. A discussion was held as to whether or not the Winter Training Session has been effective. The general consensus was that it was critical to have the camp secretaries in attendance and direct the session to their duties.
 - b. Based upon the upcoming changes in camp secretaries/treasurers in up to three of the camps, it was felt that it should be continued for 2011.
 - c. A discussion of getting the “right” brothers to attend was held. It was agreed that this needed to be the camp secretaries and camp commanders. Others are welcome to attend, but the secretaries and commanders are the “must attend” brothers.
 - d. The next Winter Training Session is scheduled for Saturday, January 8, 2011. PDC Schmidt will check to see if the Emporia Senior Center is available on that date.
14. The Council reviewed and approved the funds and financial records of the Department.
15. Secretary Russ brought up an upcoming change to the National Regulations concerning the charter fee for new camps. The National charter fee will be raised from \$25.00 to \$50.00.
 - a. Two options for the Department of Kansas were discussed. The first was to amend the Department Bylaws to raise the charter fee charged to new camps from \$25.00 to \$50.00. The second option was to leave the Department Bylaws as they stand, with a new camp only being charged \$25.00. Under the second option, the Department would cover the additional charge.
 - b. The Council elected to leave the Department Bylaws as they are, with the Department covering the additional costs of the charter fee.
16. SVDC Lafferty presented a proposal for the Department of Kansas to host a “Facebook” page.
 - a. It was decided to have PDC Lafferty establish and maintain the Department Facebook page.
 - b. Secretary Russ will set up an email address for this purpose, which will forward to PDC Lafferty’s personal email address. The email address will be facebook@suvchwks.org.
 - c. PDC Lafferty will advise when the Facebook page has been established.

17. The Council discussed upcoming vacancies for Department officers and encouraging brothers to run for them.
18. Commander Knopke presented a request from Bro. Robert Heath that Kansas submit a resolution of support for a Canadian Union Veterans memorial.
 - a. Council voted to send a resolution.
 - b. Secretary Russ will prepare the resolution and send it to Commander Knopke.
19. Meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.

These minutes are submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary