

Second Term of Department Commander Dean Speaks

**Department Orders No. 1
Series 1997-1998 July 1997**

1. I want to thank all of the Brothers who elected me to serve a second term as Department Commander for the Department of Kansas at our 1st Annual Encampment held in Wichita on February 22, 1997. It is truly an honor to be chosen to serve a second term and I sincerely hope that I can live up to the faith that you have placed in me. I would also like to thank Commander-in-Chief Alan R. Loomis for installing our Department Officers at our Encampment.

2. I would like to extend my best wishes to the Department Presidents of the Allied Orders here in Kansas and my hope for them to have a successful year.

3. At the Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas the following Officers were nominated, elected and installed for 1997:

Department Commander - Dean K. Speaks, CC #3
Senior Vice Commander - Jerry A. Seery, CC #1
Junior Vice Commander - Albert P. James, CC #2
Department Secretary/Treasurer - Christopher R. Horn
Department Council - Randall M. Thies
Kenneth R. Strader
Franklin C. Bergquist

4. I have appointed the following Department Officers for 1997:

Department Patriotic Instructor - Joshua P. Seery
Department Chaplain - Kim L. Nelson
Department Counselor - Van R. Delhotal
Department Newsletter Editor - Roland R. Brees
Department Graves Registration Officer - Franklin Bergquist
Department Historian - James C. Martin
Department Liaison for Project S.O.S. - Randall M. Thies
Department Webmaster - Will Page

5. Project S.O.S. (Save Outdoor Sculpture) is a Nationwide project instituted by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art. The benefit to our Order of Project S.O.S is a nationwide database which includes several G.A.R. and other Civil War theme monuments as well as expert advise on restoration and fundraising for the restoration of said monuments. The National Organization of the SUVCW has instituted the Civil War Monument & Sculptures Committee to assist with these projects. I have been given the honor by the upcoming Commander-in-Chief of being chosen to serve on this National Committee. I have appointed Brother Randy Thies of Topeka to serve as our Department Liason to this National Committee. Brother Thies has been working on this project through his job as the State Archeologist for the Kansas Historical Society for some time and has put together a list of Civil War monuments and sculptures throughout our State. I encourage each Camp to research the monuments in their area and to contact Randy for any further information or assistance on this. He can be contacted by writing to him at the following address: Randy Thies, 501 Oakley Avenue, Topeka, KS 66606

6. I would like to thank, on behalf of the Department of Kansas SUVCW, the Department of Kansas, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, for the gift of the beautiful bible and altar cloth to our Department for use at our meetings. They say that behind every successful man is a woman and I truly believe that with this group of ladies behind us, we can't help but succeed!

7. At the Annual Encampment the Department decided to hold it's future Annual Encampments on the first full weekend in March and to try to hold these meetings in conjunction with the Annual Conventions of the Ladies of the G.A.R., the DUVCW and the Women's Relief Corps. In order to hold our 1998 Encampment in conjunction with the

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Ladies of the G.A.R., along with the fact that we will be re-dedicating the "Soldier's Square" in Elmwood Cemetery, we will be holding our 1998 Encampment in Beloit on April 24, 25, and 26, 1998. Details on the Encampment will be announced at a later date. We are expecting a large crowd at the re-dedication ceremony and we are expecting to have several prominent guest speakers for this event.

8. On April 5, 1997, I addressed the Annual Convention of the Department of Kansas, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865, in Hutchinson and extended the invitation to meet in Beloit next year. Unfortunately, the Daughters have decided to hold their Convention in Hutchinson again next year however, they did indicate that there would be a contingent from the Daughters attending the re-dedication ceremony for Soldier's Square.

9. On April 26, 1997, I attended the Annual Convention of the Department of Kansas, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic in Great Bend. I spoke with the group assembled about our wishes for a joint meeting next year and presented the invitation from the City of Beloit to be our Host City. The Ladies unanimously decided to meet with us in Beloit in 1998. We **are** making progress toward uniting the Allied Orders in Kansas once again.

10. On May 10, 1997, I attended the Department Encampment for the Department of Missouri, SUVCW in Columbia. The Department of Missouri has requested that the Department of Kansas explore the possibility of **jointly** hosting the National Encampment, somewhere in either of our States, in 2001. I will be contacting several cities in Kansas about the feasibility of hosting a National Encampment in their city.

11. I attended Memorial Day services at Maple Grove Cemetery in Wichita and had the honor of laying the SUVCW wreath during these services. After lunch my mother and I, along with Sr. Vice Dept. Commander Jerry Seery and his family, viewed the world's largest American Flag that was on display in Wichita for the weekend. We will be trying to obtain this flag for display during our Encampment next year.

12. On June 14th I was given a personal tour of the "Memorial Building" in Topeka and we are presently working with the Kansas Department of Administration in putting together a package, for presentation to the National Encampment, to be able to put the National Headquarters of the SUVCW, along with the Auxiliary and the Ladies of the G.A.R. in this building.

13. I drove to Lenexa on June 28th to make a Charter presentation to Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing, Jr. Camp #2. Even though I am very discouraged at the lack of turnout by the members of this Camp for the meeting, I presented the Charter to Camp Commander Albert James. Gentlemen, when your Department Commander is going to drive 220 miles and stay overnight to be able to meet with your Camp, **please**, if you cannot attend, have the courtesy to call your Camp Commander and let him know in advance so the meeting can be rescheduled.

14. The National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be held August 8, 9, and 10th in Utica, New York. For those planning on attending the Encampment will be held in the Radisson-Utica Centre Hotel. Reservations can be made by calling (800)-333-3333 and indicating that you will be attending the SUVCW National Encampment. Rooms are \$60 per night Single or \$70 Double occupancy and reservations must be made in order to hold your room.

15. I have appointed Will Page of Wichita as the Department Webmaster for 1997-98. For those who have access to the Internet our webpage will be up and running soon and will be accessible through the National SUVCW site (<http://sucvw.org>). It will include links to several other sites on the Internet along with information about each Camp and our Department. Will can be e-mailed at the following address with any suggestions or requests that you have for information to add to our website (coyotecomputers@tech-center.com). If you do not have access to the Internet but have a suggestion for something we should include on our website you can mail it to him at the following address: Will Page, P.O. Box 4446, Wichita, KS 67204

In F.C. & L., Attest:

Dean K. Speaks
Department Commander

Christopher R. Horn
Department Secretary

**Department Orders #3
Series 1997-98 April 1998**

1. As we approach our Department Encampment there are several things that I need to cover in this Department Order.
 2. I would first like to announce, that through a lot of work by several brothers, we have been able to institute 3 New Camps to our Department in the past several months.
 3. The first of these was the Old Abe Camp #16 in Topeka which was instituted in December of 1997. This Camp is made up of several New Members to our Order along with several Transfers from other Camps or Membership-at-Large. Brother Randy Thies was elected to serve as the first Camp Commander of this "re-creation" of the traditional Old Abe Camp #16 of Topeka. Welcome to the Department!
 4. The second and third of these, in no particular order, proved to be a record for at least our Department, if not the Order itself, as we were able to institute 2 Camps from different cities, in the same place, at the same time. Greetings and a hearty welcome to Pawnee Camp #15 of Larned along with it's new Camp Commander, David Clapsaddle, and to Pap Thomas Camp #52 of Great Bend along with it's new Camp Commander, Chuck Smith. Both of these Camps are made up entirely of New Members to our Order. Welcome to the Department of Kansas, gentlemen!
 5. In the last week of March I was informed by Brother Chris Horn that he had resigned his position as our Department Secretary/Treasurer effective January 1, 1998. Apparently he had mailed me a packet containing ALL of the Department Records which has been lost by the USPS somewhere between Hillsboro and Beloit. I am presently trying to re-create as much as possible but, I'm afraid, much of our short past has been lost and will never be fully recovered. We are working on it!
 6. Due to Brother Horn's resignation the Department Council has decided to name Brother Tom Page of Wichita to serve the remainder of his term. We will be electing and installing a new Department Secretary/Treasurer during our Spring Encampment.
- All correspondence, with the exception of that requested of the Camp Secretaries in Department Order #2, is to be mailed to Brother Page at P.O. Box 4446, Wichita, KS 67204-0446.
7. In a contact with the National Secretary concerning the loss of our records I was informed that the Department of Kansas has failed to file ANY per-capita tax forms with the National Organization since our National Encampment in August. I have requested, and received in the past few days a packet of the forms to fill out to get us caught up. Let me assure you this problem is being rectified immediately!
 8. There presently is a bill before the Kansas Legislature that is to provide office space, virtually free of charge, for the Department and/or National Headquarters of the SUVCW, the Ladies of the G.A.R. and the Auxiliary to the SUVCW, in the historic "Memorial Building" in Topeka. This building was built as a "Memorial" to our ancestors and is the only monument ever built by the State of Kansas for the Union Civil War Soldier, Sailor and Marine. It served many years as the Department Headquarters for the G.A.R. and the Allied orders. I hope to have a full report on this bill at our Department Encampment.
 9. Our Department Encampment will be held in Beloit on Saturday, April 25, 1998. The registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the business session will begin at 9:00 a.m. sharp! I have enclosed an agenda of the events with this Department Orders. Please plan on attending and be sure and make your motel reservations early as there is also a fishing tournament at the lake the same weekend and motels will fill up fast. This is the first time since 1895 that Beloit has hosted our Conventions and they have bent over backwards to accommodate us.
 10. Our meetings will be held in the basement of the Beloit Municipal Building (city hall) and we have reserved the room for the entire day and also for our banquet that evening. A map showing this, and other locations, is enclosed.
 11. We are pleased to announce that the National Chief-of-Staff, Steve Leicht of St. Louis, will be in attendance at our Encampment. Unfortunately, due to a prior conflict, Commander-in-Chief Richard Orr will not be able to attend.

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The Ladies of the G.A.R. National President, Barbara Tyler of Bradenton, Florida, along with several Past National Presidents, will be attending the L.G.A.R. Department Convention being held in Beloit at the same time.

12. The highlight of the day will be the re-dedication of "Soldier's Square" in Elmwood Cemetery. This is a project that I have worked over 1,000 hours of my spare time on over the last 3 years and I certainly hope you can attend. The re-dedication ceremony will take place at 3:00 p.m. followed by the banquet at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal building.

13. Unfortunately, due to the extreme costs involved, there will not be a "Commander's Ball" this year. We are hoping that we can do it again next year as it seemed to be a lot of fun.

14. I have been selected by CinC Orr to serve this year as the National Membership-at-Large Coordinator. I consider this an extreme honor and feel that it brings much deserved glory to our Department for someone from Kansas to have been selected to serve.

15. I will be stepping aside as your Department Commander this year. Believe me, it the greatest feeling in the world to have been selected by your peers to serve in this capacity. I will cherish it with pride for the rest of my days. I thank you from the bottom of my soul for the trust you placed in me these past couple of years.

16. The Camps need to be reviewing the following list to chose a successor to this office. The following is a list of those who are eligible to serve as your Department Commander (listed by Camp):

Jerry Seery, PCC Camp #1
Frank Bergquist, CC Camp #1
Albert James, CC Camp #2
Bob Westgate, CC Camp #3
John Tillman, CC Camp #8
David Clapsaddle, CC Camp #15
Randy Thies, CC Camp #16
Chuck Smith, CC Camp #52

17. Camps also need to be reviewing the Department Bylaws for any changes that need to be made as the Encampment is the only time these can be done. Changes in bylaws need to come from a Camp as a resolution. Also, please be sure and send the Department Secretary any resolutions from the Camps that need to be addressed by the Encampment. These can also be hand presented to the Department Secretary prior to the start of the business session because of the recent change in the office.

18. Camps also need to select delegates and alternates for the Encampment. A Camp is allowed 1 vote for being a Camp, 1 vote for the sitting Camp Commander (must be present to vote), 1 vote for each Past Camp Commander (must be present to vote) and 1 vote for each majority of ten members in the Camp. The Department Secretary (hopefully) will have the total voting strength for each Camp at the Encampment.

(Example: a Camp with 8 members and has a Past Camp Commander has 1 vote for being a Camp, 1 vote for the sitting Camp Commander (if present), 1 vote for the Past Camp Commander (if present), and 1 vote for having a majority of 10 members for a maximum total of 4 votes.)

19. As this should be my last Department Orders for this year I am hereby creating, by the authority vested in me as the Department Commander, the Senator James Henry Lane Camp #34, for the purpose of housing all members-at-large of the jurisdiction of the Department of Kansas. From this point forward all members living in an area of the State of Kansas not served by one of our local Camps will belong to this Camp until such time as a Camp can be formed in their area. I am also requesting that the National Council of Administration waive the Charter fee for this Camp as no Charter is necessary.

(As Senator Lane was the original recruiter of Kansas troops to serve the Union during the Civil War and, through his foresight, was quick to respond to the need for troops, to protect President Lincoln following the secession of the Southern States, by forming the "Frontier Guard" (made up of Kansans), and as he also served his adopted Home

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State well as it's first United States Senator, and his State and his Country as a true "Defender of Freedom", I felt it only fitting that this Camp be named after him. The Camp number stands for the Great State of Kansas, as the 34th State of this Union.)

20. Once again, it has been an honor to have served you as your Department Commander these past couple of years. We have come a long way from a handful of members-at-large scattered across the State to a Department with 7 Camps and what is proving to be a driving force in the future of our Order. I can hardly wait to see what the future brings for this Department.

I have been extremely proud to serve as the Department Commander of the Department of Kansas!

Your Faithful Servant in F.C. & L.,

Dean K. Speaks
Department Commander

Attest:

Thomas L. Page
Department Secretary/Treasurer

**Department Orders #5
Series 1997-98 April 1998**

1. I was recently informed that our Department Secretary/Treasurer, Christopher R. Horn, tendered his resignation from the position effective January 1, 1998. Chris informed me that he had mailed me a packet in late December or early January containing all of the records of our Department including, but not limited to, bank statements, copies of Forms 27-28 & 27D received from Camps, copies of Forms 35-37-38 filed with the National Secretary, the minutes of our Special Encampment (the formation of our Department) and the 1997 Department Encampment, copies of all Camp bylaws and Department bylaws, etc.

2. I have been informed by the National Secretary that the Department of Kansas has failed to file **ANY** Form 35-37-38 (per capita tax form) with the National Organization since the National Encampment. ***Counting the present form needing to be filed, this Department is fast approaching 3 Quarters without filing!***

3. Due to this resignation, and the fact that we only have some 3 weeks to go before our Department Encampment in which we will elect and install a successor, it is the majority opinion of the Department Council (per Regulations Chapter II, Article IV, Section 6) that ***Brother Tom Page of Wichita*** will temporarily fill the remainder of the term as our Department Secretary/Treasurer. *I have full confidence in Brother Page to do us proud!*

4. As all records of who has and who has not paid per-capita tax, since our Department's inception, now fail to exist at the Department level, I am therefore requesting All Camp Secretaries to mail photocopies of ALL Form 27-28's and Form 27D's, along with copies of their cancelled checks showing payment of same, that have been filed with the Department Secretary since the inception of their respective Camp to the *Department Secretary, Tom Page, P.O. Box 4446, Wichita, KS 67214.*

These items **must be received no later than April 24, 1998** to enable the Department Council to audit the books the morning of the Encampment.

5. All Camp Secretaries, who have not already done so, shall file a current Form 27-28 & Form 27D, along with an accompanying check for payment of per-capita taxes for the 3rd Quarter, to the Department Secretary, **to be received no later than the opening of the Encampment on April 25, 1998.** (This is per National Regulations Chapter I, Article VI, Section 4)

6. All Camps who have not filed Form 27-28 & Form 27D in a previous quarter (*who were required to do so*) **must** file these forms and pay the per-capita taxes due to the Department Secretary, **to be received no later than the opening of the Encampment on April 25, 1998.**

7. All Camp Secretaries are to provide the Department Secretary with a list of the names and addresses (complete with zip code) of all members carried on the rolls of the Camp on whom per-capita tax is being paid.

(Per National Regulations Chapter I, Article VI, Section 9)

This is to be received by the Department Secretary no later than the opening of the Encampment on April 25, 1998. (*This was to have been done by January 1, 1998*)

8. All Camp Secretaries are to provide the Department Secretary with a list of the names, addresses (including zip code), phone numbers, and, if known, e-mail addresses of the Camp Commander, Camp Sr. Vice Commander, Camp Jr. Vice Commander, Camp Secretary and Camp Treasurer along with meeting times, days, locations, application fees and dues.

(This is per General Order #3 of the Commander-in-Chief, Richard D. Orr.)

This is to be received by the Department Secretary no later than the opening of the Encampment on April 25, 1998.

This was to be forwarded to the National Secretary by November 1, 1997.

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9. All Camp Secretaries are to provide this office with their Camp EIN number.

(This is per General Order #3 of the Commander-in-Chief, Richard D. Orr.)

This is to be received by the Department Secretary no later than the opening of the Encampment on April 25, 1998.

This was required to be forwarded to the National Secretary by November 1, 1997.

10. Any Camp who does not comply with Sections 5 & 6 of this order risks the possibility of being Suspended by the Department Commander.

(Chapter I, Article I, Section 7 of the Regulations of this Order clearly states "A Camp failing to pay per- capita tax or neglecting to forward reports within the time specified by law may be suspended by the Department Commander. Suspended Camps may be reinstated by forwarding reports and paying all arrearages of per-capita tax.")

In F. C. & L., Attest:

Dean K. Speaks
Department Commander

Thomas Page
Department Secretary/Treasurer