

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL ENCAMPMENT

August 3, 1996

Pursuant to Orders of Commander-in-Chief David R. Medert, the Department Organizer for the Department of Kansas (Dean K. Speaks of Beloit) called for a Special Encampment to be held for the express purposes of election of Officers, adoption of bylaws, setting the meeting date and place for the 1st Annual Encampment, discussing Sons of Veterans Reserve, a fall conference of the Department, hosting the National Encampment in 2000 or 2001, the creation of a Department Newsletter, meeting with the other Allied Orders at our Encampments and requests for supplies.

The Special Encampment was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on August 3, 1996 in the Sunflower Room of the Best Western Heart of America Inn, located at 632 Westport Blvd. in Salina, Kansas.

The meeting was called to Order by the Department Organizer per the Ritual and found the following Members present and entitled to vote:

Jerry A. Seery.....	Wichita
James P. Coyne	Wellington
Albert P. James	Lenexa
Dean K. Speaks.....	Beloit
Charles R. Cooper.....	Belleville
Robert L. Westgate	Jewell
Christopher R. Horn.....	Hillsboro
James C. Marting	Dorrance

Following the roll call, the Special Encampment then went into the Agenda items for the day. The first item of the agenda was the nomination and election of Officers for the newly formed Department. The following Officers were nominated and elected:

Department Commander	Dean K. Speaks, Beloit
Senior Vice Commander.....	Jerry A. Seery, Wichita
Junior Vice Commander	Albert P. James, Lenexa
Secretary/Treasurer	Christopher R. Horn, Hillsboro
Council of Administration	James P. Coyne, Wellington
	Merle J. Hodges, Salina (*)
	Robert L. Westgate, Jewell

James C. Martin, who was selected by the Department Commander Elect to perform this duty, then installed the Officers per the Ritual. The newly installed Department Officers then took their stations with the Commander chairing the meeting following a break.

Next on the agenda was the reading and adoption of Bylaws for the Department. These had already been provided by the Department Organizer and were based upon, and modified from, the approved Bylaws of the Gov. Crapo Camp in Michigan. Following the reading of the Bylaws the motion was made by Jerry Seery and seconded by several members that they be adopted as written. The motion passed unanimously and the Bylaws were adopted.

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The next item on the agenda for discussion was the location and date of the 1st Annual Encampment. The Cpl. Patrick Coyne Camp #1 of Wichita was selected as the Host Camp for the 1st Annual Encampment and the dates were set for February 22nd & 23rd, 1997. The motion was made by Jerry Seery and seconded by James Coyne to have the Encampment in Wichita on that date. The motion passed unanimously.

In connection with the Annual Encampment discussion there was a motion made by Jerry Seery, seconded by Albert James to have the Host Camp for the Encampment rotate by Camp number for future Encampments. The motion passed unanimously.

The Sons of Veterans Reserve was then discussed and the idea of creating an SVR unit was tabled for future Encampments to discuss.

A motion was made by Albert James and seconded by James Martin to hold a Fall Conference of the Department in the Kansas City area, to be hosted by the Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing, Jr. Camp of Lenexa. The motion passed unanimously.

The idea of either hosting or co-hosting the National Encampment in either 2000 or 2001 was discussed and it was decided to further explore the possibility with the National Organization before committing to it. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to give the Department Commander permission to explore it and take action accordingly on behalf of the Department.

Having a Department Newsletter sent to each and every member of the Department along with providing extra copies for recruiting purposes was discussed and it was the general consensus of the Encampment that this was a good idea. The Department Commander will appoint a Newsletter Editor to pursue this venture.

Discussion ensued about having our Encampments in conjunction with the other Allied Orders of the G.A.R. in Kansas and it was the consensus of the Encampment to do so whenever it is feasible to promote comradarie as well as to cut expenses involved.

Following discussion of any supplies needed, the Special Encampment of the Department of Kansas adjourned per the Ritual.