



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS



Minutes of the Sixth Annual Encampment Held April 27, 2002 Topeka, Kansas

1st Session:

The meeting, held at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka, was called to order per the Rituals at 1:35 p.m. by Department Commander Randall M. Thies with 18 members present.

Roll call of Officers showed the following Officers present: Commander, Randall M. Thies; Sr. Vice Commander, Alan L. Russ; Secretary/Treasurer, Dean K. Speaks, PDC; Department Council Members, Blair D. Tarr; Franklin C. Bergquist, PDC and Kim L. Nelson.

The following were appointed to fill empty Officer chairs: Kim L. Nelson, Chaplain.

Officer Reports:

Sr. Vice Commander, Alan L. Russ reported that he was able to publish 4 issues of the Sunflower Picket this year. This is the first time that the Department has had a Quarterly publication in its history. A hearty Thank You to Brother Russ for his efforts on behalf of the Department.

Treasurer, Dean K. Speaks, PDC reported that the Department has a balance of \$201.15 in the bank following the payment of all expenses to date. The Department Council will conduct the annual audit of the books at its fall meeting.

Camp Reports:

All three Camps made reports. They are as follows:

Patrick Coyne Camp #1, Wichita – Camp Commander Ken Spurgeon reported that the Camp has gained 2 new members recently, making their total 32. They have been working on gaining donations for the restoration of the memorial in Maple Grove cemetery. The Camp has also made a donation to the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation's preservation efforts and numerous members of the Camp will be participating in a 1-day march on May 4th to raise funds and awareness for Mine Creek. This march will follow the exact route of the troops that fought there some 140 years ago. The Camp will also be dedicating a new marker at the gravesite of Private George Gossett in Maple Grove on May 23rd. Members of the Camp are heavily involved in the restoration efforts for the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument in Hutchinson. Brother Doug McGovern serves on the Board of the Landmarks Committee for the City of Hutchinson.

Joseph Gaston Camp #3, Beloit – Camp Secretary Dean Speaks reported that the Camp members are working on numerous cemetery projects. These include locating and cleaning markers for numerous Civil War soldiers in the area cemeteries. Dean reported that the Camp has also located quite a few Confederate soldiers' gravesites in their area and will be working with the area Camp of the SCV on getting them marked. Camp members were heavily involved in the dedication ceremony of the marker for Private John H. Callahan, Medal of Honor recipient, in Manhattan's Sunset Cemetery. A large program was put together for this event, held on Memorial Day 2001.

Old Abe Camp #16, Topeka – Camp Secretary Alan Russ reported that the Camp continues with its efforts to clean and record the grave locations of Civil War soldiers in their area. Several stones have had to be raised and re-set including a couple stones that were not even visible, with the exception of the very top of the stone. They have been holding monthly work sessions to accomplish this. So far their efforts have located, cleaned and recorded the gravesites of well over 500 soldiers.

Communications:

The Department Secretary read several Communications received during the year. These included the usual nomination letters for several Brothers seeking National Offices. One Communication, from Commander-in-Chief Powell, was in reference to our Department Bylaws that had been submitted for review because of changes in 2001. C-in-C Powell's letter indicated several changes that we need to make to other sections of our Bylaws for them to be approved in full. The Department Secretary read the changes to the members of the Encampment. It was decided that, since these changes were not submitted to the Camps more than 30 days in advance of this Encampment, we would not be able to vote on these changes at this time. The Department Secretary will send the changes to the Camps more than 30 days prior to the next Encampment so we can vote on them and then re-submit them to the Commander-in-Chief for approval.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

PDC Bergquist moved that we donate \$25 to the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation on behalf of the Department. The motion was seconded by Randal Durbin and passed unanimously.

Department Commander Thies pointed out that one of the purposes of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation is to erect a monument at the battlefield to honor the soldiers that fought there.

PDC Bergquist moved that the Department goes on record supporting such a monument in principal. The motion was seconded by Tom Schmitt and, following some discussion, passed unanimously. The Department Secretary will create a resolution to this effect for passage at the Fall Council meeting.

PDC Speaks moved that we make the Department MAL Camp dues \$5 higher than the average Camp dues in Kansas. This serves as to encourage a member to join their local Camp instead of just being an MAL. PDC Bergquist seconded the motion. Following some discussion, PDC Speaks withdrew his motion.

SVC Russ moved that we make the Department MAL Camp dues the same as the National MAL dues. PDC Bergquist seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Following the end of the New Business portion the Encampment took a break from 2:35 to 2:50 p.m. for visitation with the Ladies of the G.A.R. Convention, etc.

2nd Session:

The meeting was re-opened in closed session per the Ritual at 2:50 p.m. for Elections.

Department Commander Thies reported that during the visitation he had received a card and \$5 from the Ladies of the G.A.R.

PDC Bergquist moved that we donate the \$5 to the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation on behalf of the SUVCW and Ladies of the G.A.R. PDC Speaks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Election of Officers:

The following were nominated to serve as Officers of the Department for the 2002 – 2003 term:

Commander – Alan L. Russ, Auburn

Sr. Vice Commander – Kenneth R. Spurgeon, Andover

Jr. Vice Commander – Thomas E. Schmitt, Wellington

Secretary Treasurer – Dean K. Speaks, PDC, Beloit

Council of Administration – Franklin C. Bergquist, PDC, Wichita
James C. Knopke, Topeka
Kim L. Nelson, Beloit

PDC Speaks moved that the entire slate of Officers be elected per acclamation. Blair Tarr seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Franklin C. Bergquist, PDC installed the Department Officers per the Ritual and presented Randall M. Thies with his Past Department Commander badge.

Department Commander Russ will be announcing his Appointments in the first Department Orders.

Closing of the Encampment:

There being no further business to come before it, the Encampment closed per the Ritual at 3:10 p.m.

The 8th Annual Department Encampment will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2003 in Wichita. The 2002 Fall Council meeting will also be held in Wichita. The date and place of this meeting will be announced later.