



# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

## DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS



### Minutes of the Seventh Annual Encampment Held April 26, 2003 Wichita, Kansas

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Session:

The meeting, held at the Disabled American Veterans clubhouse, 3011 S. George Washington Blvd in Wichita, was called to order per the Rituals at 1:02 p.m. by Department Commander Alan L. Russ with 16 members present. Distinguished Guests included Kent Armstrong, National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief and Brad Schall, Department Commander of the Department of California & Pacific.

Roll call of Officers showed the following Officers present: Commander, Alan L. Russ; Sr. Vice Commander, Kenneth R. Spurgeon; Jr. Vice Commander, Thomas E. Schmitt, Secretary/Treasurer, Dean K. Speaks, PDC; Department Council Members, James R. Knopke and Franklin C. Bergquist, PDC.

The following were appointed to fill empty Officer chairs: Rev. Kenneth Bradley, Chaplain, and James A. Scheidel, Jr., Patriotic Instructor.

SVC-in-C Armstrong presented greetings on behalf of the National Organization. DC Schall also presented greetings on behalf of the Department of California & Pacific. Both were well received by the members.

#### Officer Reports:

Commander Alan L. Russ reported on his activities for the year and on the National Encampment. (A copy of his report is included with these minutes.)

Sr. Vice Commander Kenneth R. Spurgeon reported that he was able to publish 4 issues of the Sunflower Picket this year. He also reiterated the importance of recruitment and the subsequent growing our Camps. (A copy of his report is included with these minutes.)

Secretary/Treasurer, Dean K. Speaks, PDC reported that the Department has a total of 58 members to date and a balance of \$392.79 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.

Acting Chaplain, Rev. Kenneth Bradley gave the Necrology report for 2002-2003. He reported that the Department has had 2 of its members pass away during the year. They are Thomas E. Wright of Wellington (Cpl. Patrick Coyne Camp #1) and Duane R. Davis of St. Simon's Island, GA (Joseph Gaston Camp #3). The Encampment observed a moment of silence for these two members.

### **Camp Reports:**

All three Camps made reports. They are as follows:

**Cpl. Patrick Coyne Camp #1, Wichita** – Camp Commander Tom Schmitt gave the report for the Cpl. Patrick Coyne Camp #1. (A copy of his report is included with these minutes.)

**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 continues to locate quite a few Confederate soldiers' gravesites in their area.

**Old Abe Camp #16, Topeka** – Camp Commander Jim Knopke gave the report for the Old Abe Camp #16. (A copy of his report is included with these minutes.)

### **Communications:**

The Department Secretary read several Communications received during the year. These included the usual nomination letters for several Brothers seeking National Offices.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

Department Commander Russ presented several proposed Amendments to our Department Bylaws for approval. These had been previously presented to each Camp for their consideration with all 3 Camps voting in the affirmative.

It was moved (Jim Knopke) and seconded (Tom Schmitt) that we pass these Amendments to our Bylaws to bring them into line with National Regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

Blair Tarr spoke to the membership about the proposal by KSHS to erect monuments at the Mine Creek Battlefield honoring both the Union and Confederate soldiers who fought there. These proposed monuments consist of 30" x 60" granite plaques inscribed with the appropriate wording. Blair reported that the SCV has already raised the funds for their ancestors' monument and the KSHS has indicated that the total cost of the Union monument would be \$2,800. If we can raise the total or make a "good faith effort" to raise the funds for the monument (i.e. – raising a majority of the cost) by September 28, 2003, they (KSHS) will allow us to have the SUVCW symbol engraved on the monument with a notation that the Department donated this plaque.

It was moved (PDC Randy Thies) and seconded (Jim Scheidel) that we undertake this project and raise the funds for the effort. The motion passed unanimously. Department Commander Russ appointed a committee of Ken Spurgeon, Frank Bergquist and Randy Durbin to oversee our fundraising efforts on this project.

Blair Tarr also spoke to the Encampment about the Last Soldier Project, which is a national undertaking to identify and mark the gravesite of the last living Civil War Soldier in each County. There are several ways to undertake the identification including placing a monument at each "Last Soldier's" gravesite or to publish a book listing them and featuring stories about them.

It was moved (PDC Dean Speaks) and seconded (Norman Kimrey) that the Department undertake the project of publishing a book about these soldiers, distributing a copy to the KSHS and to each County's Historical Society and having extra copies for sale to the general public. The motion passed unanimously.

PDC Speaks further moved that we use the proceeds &/or profits from the sale of the extra copies of these books for our Special Projects Fund. The motion was seconded by Randy Durbin and passed unanimously.

***Following the end of the New Business portion the Encampment took a break from 1:59 to 2:17 p.m. for visitation with the Ladies of the G.A.R. Convention, etc.***

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Session:**

The meeting was re-opened in closed session per the Ritual at 2:17 p.m. for Elections.

Commander Russ 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 monument fund. PDC Thies seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer Speaks reported that, during the break, we passed a hat and a total of \$205 in cash was raised. It was moved (PDC Bergquist) and seconded (PDC Thies) that these funds also be donated to the Mine Creek monument fund. This motion also passed unanimously.

Doug McGovern gave a short report on the status of the restoration efforts for the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument in Hutchinson. They are presently refitting the cannons with new carriages as part of this project and the goal is to have that part completed by November of 2003.

PDC Randy Thies reported that Private Razor in Jetmore now has a Union marker instead of a Confederate marker as he had been mistakenly marked for many years.

PDC Speaks reported on the website and that we presently have the website up on Tripod, which is a free site, but that it creates its own set of problems. Because it is a free site it is plagued by pop-up advertisements and this makes it annoying to site visitors. Another problem this creates is a long URL for the site. It was moved (PDC Speaks) and seconded (PDC Bergquist) that we spend up to \$60 to obtain our own URL and upgrade our Tripod membership to rid our site of the annoying pop-ups.

### **Election of Officers:**

Commander Russ appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of himself, PDC Frank Bergquist and Jim Scheidel to make recommendations for Department Officers for the 2003-2004 term.

The following were nominated by the Committee to serve as Officers of the Department for the 2003 – 2004 term:

**Commander** – Kenneth R. Spurgeon, Andover

**Sr. Vice Commander** – Thomas E. Schmitt, Peabody

**Jr. Vice Commander** – James R. Knopke, Lenexa

**Secretary Treasurer** – Dean K. Speaks, PDC, Beloit

**Council of Administration** – Franklin C. Bergquist, PDC, Wichita  
James A. Scheidel, Jr., Wichita  
Randal Durbin, Overbrook

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

Brother's Thomas Schmitt and Douglas McGovern were nominated by the Committee to serve as our Delegates to the National Encampment, August 7-10, 2003 in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. It was moved (PDC Bergquist) and seconded (Blair Tarr) to elect them per acclamation. The motion passed unanimously.

SVC-in-C Kent Armstrong installed the Department Officers per the Ritual and presented Alan L. Russ with his Past Department Commander badge.

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

It was moved (PDC Speaks) and seconded (Randal Durbin) to thank Cpl. Patrick Coyne Camp #1 for their hospitality and the DAV for use of their facilities for the Encampment. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Closing of the Encampment:**

There being no further business to come before it, the Encampment closed per the Ritual at 2:57 p.m.

Music was provided by Brother Jon Goering and his girlfriend Betsy and was followed by a presentation by Arnold Scofield of Ft. Scott about the Fort and its role in history.

***The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Encampment will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2004 in Beloit. The Fall Council meeting will be announced at a later date.***

Dean K. Speaks, PDC  
Department Secretary/Treasurer



Department of Kansas  
**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**  
Department Commander

**Alan L. Russ, P.C.C.**  
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April 26, 2003

### COMMANDER'S REPORT TO THE ENCAMPMENT

First, I want to welcome all of you and thank you for taking the time to attend this, our Seventh Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas. We are also honored to have as distinguished visitors our National Senior Vice Commander in Chief, Kent Armstrong, from Michigan, and Department Commander Brad Schall, from the Department of California and Pacific, with us. As we continue on with the business of the Encampment, we fulfill our part in the traditions which have been passed on to us from the Grand Army of the Republic and those in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War who have gone before us.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your Department Commander for the last twelve months. I have tried to uphold the values and traditions of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to the best of my ability. One of my goals was to ensure the Department became a stronger organization over the year. I feel it has. I have tried to communicate with the Camps and the Department officers in order to keep all informed and make sure they are a part of the process. We held a successful Fall Officers and Council meeting last October. This provided a valuable means for discussion about issues within the Department. It imperative this type of meeting continue to be held each Fall in order to continue these exchanges.

As Department Commander, I represented the Department of Kansas at the following functions and activities:

1. The 121<sup>st</sup> National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at Springfield, Illinois, on August 9 and 10, 2002; and
2. The Central Region Conference of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic at Saint Louis, Missouri, on October 4 and 5, 2002.

I also attended the following functions in my capacity as Department Commander:

1. The Fall meeting of the Department Officers and Council at Wichita on October 19, 2002.

2. Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp No. 1 on November 21, 2002, for the installation of Camp officers;
3. Old Abe Camp No. 16 on December 10, 2002, for the installation of Camp officers; and
4. The annual Kansas Department meeting of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Wichita on April 5, 2003.
5. And we will be paying our courtesy visit to the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic meeting during our break, today.

I also plan to attend the following functions in the coming months as a Past Department Commander:

1. The 122<sup>st</sup> National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, on August 8 and 9, 2003;
2. The Central Region Conference of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic at Grand Rapids, Michigan, in October, 2003; and
3. I will remain active within the Department of Kansas.

The Department Eagle Scout Coordinator is an appointed position. For the past year I elected to retain those duties at the Department Commander level. In my capacity as Department Eagle Scout Coordinator I prepared and mailed fifteen Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Eagle Scout Certificates to Scouts whose names were forwarded from the National Eagle Scout Coordinator. These certificates were for:

Steven Lowman, Leavenworth  
 Alex R. Conley, Wichita  
 Seth Phillip Redinger, Lawrence  
 Peter Thomas McGah, Leawood  
 Richard G. Weerts, Olathe  
 Grady Augustine, Hutchinson  
 J. C. Gehling, Hutchinson  
 Nick Kenning, Hutchinson  
 Josh Stacey, Hutchinson  
 Robbie Gehling, Hutchinson  
 Brandon M. Salisbury, Salina  
 R. Michael Pommier, Arma  
 Zachary Remboldt, Topeka  
 Steven W. Mitchell, Hutchinson  
 Jordan Michael Winemiller, Olathe

An area where I encourage the Department put more emphasis in the coming years is in Memorials and Monuments registration. Although there has been an effort in conjunction with

the Save Our Sculptures program to identify the Civil War monuments within the State, none were actually registered with the National Organization. I feel this is an area worthy of pursuit in the coming years.

I also want to encourage all of you to bring more young members into the organization. As we age, the organization runs the risk of dieing out with us unless we are bringing in our replacement, now. If you have a son or a nephew, give them the gift of a membership within your Camp. I have a nephew who is turning fourteen in July. Guess what he is getting for his birthday? Who knows, you both might like it.

I respectfully submit this report to the Seventh Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, in the spirit of FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan L. Russ".

Alan L. Russ, P.C.C.  
Department Commander



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**Department Orders No. 7**  
**Series 2002-2003**

**April 26, 2003**

1. One of the duties of the Department Commander is to present the various Department Awards at the Annual Encampment. This is not an easy task, for, although each Camp will have nominated a person for each of the individual awards, and, likewise, their Camp for the Camp award, it is still necessary to pick only one for each category, when all are deserving. And so, with no slight to others who were nominated the following Department Awards are announced:

**CORPORAL LEONIDUS B. DAVIS AWARD FOR RECRUITER OF THE YEAR**  
**KENNETH R. SPURGEON, P.C.C., CORP. PATRICK COYNE CAMP NO. 1**

**CAPTAIN PATRICK H. CONEY AWARD FOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR**  
**FRANK BERGQUIST, P.D.C., CORP. PATRICK COYNE CAMP NO. 1**

**WILLIAM H. NIXON AWARD FOR CAMP OF THE YEAR**  
**CORPORAL PATRICK COYNE CAMP NO. 1**

2. Congratulations to the above individuals and Camp. Your efforts and contributions to your Camp, the Department of Kansas, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are what makes this organization what it is today. Thank you.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY:

  
Alan L. Russ  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Dean K. Speaks  
Department Secretary/Treasurer