

Department of Kansas Commander K. Kirk Nystrom Esq.
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
BROTHERS OF THE ORDER
KANSAS COMMANDER'S REPORT-2021



K. KIRK NYSTROM

It has been an honor to be the Kansas Commander for 2020. We started the year with a wonderful January Encampment in Emporia. We were honored to have Commander-in-Chief, Brian C. Pierson, join us in person. He encouraged us to continue to uphold the goals and aims of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. He will join us again this year for our January Encampment.

Due to inclement weather, not every camp could join us last January. This has been an on-going problem each year. At the request of Senior Vice-Commander, Robert Boyd II, and others, a committee was established to consider changes to the annual encampment date. One meeting of the committee has been held. Each committee member was to obtain additional update from his local camp. However, we were unable to meet again due to the Covid 19 restrictions. This issue is on our January meeting agenda.

Those restrictions, and the extreme potency of the virus, changed many 2020 plans. It was my vision to share speakers and inspiration from camp to camp. I wanted to encourage hearty visitation between camps to mutually encourage each other. I hoped to reward inter camp visitation with awards and recognition.

However, a significant number of brothers of the Order are older than 70, including this Commander! Because those over 70 are considered highrisk, and to comply with governmental restrictions, we have had to revise how camps meet. This meant wearing masks, social distancing, no inter-camp visits, and in some cases only Zoom meetings.

I know all of you share my hope (and prayer) that 2021 will see a restoration of a significant degree of normalcy!

Our national encampment in Atlanta, Georgia was totally by Zoom. That meant that each of us with plans to travel, had to cancel. (The one advantage of the Zoom National Encampment

was to allow many more brothers to participate than otherwise.)

Our fervent expectation is that the 2021 National Encampment in St. Louis will be both Zoom and in-person attendance. With St. Louis being so close, I am expecting many brothers may attend. There is a lot to see and do in St. Louis, as it is a family town. Perhaps and hopefully, we will see a return to in-person meetings later in 2021.

Respectfully,

K. Kirk Nystrom,
Kansas Commander