

# **SERIES 2025 – 2026**

**Kent M. Melcher, Department Commander**  
**April 5, 2025 – March 28, 2026**

## **DEPARTMENT ORDERS**

01. Administration April 6, 2025
02. Appointment of Department Standing Committee (Department Bylaws Committee) April 6, 2025
03. Appointment of Department Standing Committee (Department Encampment Committee) April 6, 2025
04. Appointment of Department Standing Committee (Department Technology Committee) April 6, 2025
05. Election and Installation of Camp Officers July 9, 2025
06. Appointment of Department Special Committee (Committee for the Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of U.S. Independence, July 4, 2026) October 1, 2025
07. Appointment of Department Special Committee (Nominating Committee) October 9, 2025
08. Notification of Thirtieth Annual Department Encampment January 7, 2026
09. Announcement of Department Award Recipients for 2025-2026 March 28, 2026

## **DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDERS**

01. Death of Brother Robert D. Boyd II, PDC, and Declaration of Period of Mourning April 28, 2025
02. 2025-2026 PDC Robert D. Boyd II Membership Challenge May 8, 2025
03. Appointment of Chairman, Kansas Delegation to the 2025 National Encampment June 9, 2025

04. Death of Past Camp Commander Douglas Edward McGovern, and  
Declaration of Period of Mourning July 23, 2025
05. Death of Brother Conrad Max Fisher, PDC, and Declaration of Period of  
Mourning September 16, 2025
06. Death of Brother Richard T. Bennett, PCC, and Declaration of Period of  
Mourning February 24, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
1625 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Winfield, Kansas 67156-3223  
commander@suvcwks.org

DEPARTMENT ORDER 1  
SERIES 2025-2026

April 6, 2025

**ADMINISTRATION**

1. Having been elected as Department Commander by the assembled membership and delegates at the Twenty-Ninth Department Encampment held at Topeka, Kansas, on April 5, 2025, command is hereby assumed, and headquarters are established at the above address. All correspondence requiring the attention of the Department Commander shall be sent to the above address.

2. The following brothers were elected, or continue to serve in an unexpired term, to the offices indicated:

Senior Vice Dept. Commander	<b>James D. Thornton</b> , Franklin Camp 5
Junior Vice Dept. Commander	<b>Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC</b> , Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1
Secretary (term expiring 2028):	<b>Alan L. Russ, PDC</b> , Old Abe Camp 16
Treasurer (term expiring 2028):	<b>Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC</b> , Old Abe Camp 16
Council (term expiring 2026):	<b>James H. Graves, PCC</b> , Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1
Council (term expiring 2026):	<b>Barrett E. Young, PCC</b> , Humboldt Camp 9
Council (term expiring 2027):	<b>Roy A. Lafferty, PDC</b> , Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4
Council (IPDC) (term exp. 2026):	<b>Conrad M. Fisher, PDC</b> , Old Abe Camp 16

3. I have appointed the following brothers to the positions and responsibilities indicated:

Chief of Staff	<b>Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC</b> , Old Abe 16
Patriotic Instructor	<b>Michael J. Hadl, PCC</b> , Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4
Chaplain	<b>Jeffrey A. Winters</b> , Franklin 5
Graves Registration Officer	<b>Joseph E. Chrisman, PCC</b> , Pvt. John N. Eckes 10
Historian	<b>Joshua S. Gillihan-Young</b> , Franklin 5
GAR Records Officer	<b>Gregg L. Talkington</b> , Pvt. John N. Eckes 10
Counselor	<b>K. Kirk Nystrom, PDC</b> , Old Abe 16
Eagle Scout Cert. Coordinator	<b>Eric L. Crittenden</b> , Pvt. John N. Eckes 10
Civil War Memorials Officer	<b>Joshua S. Gillihan-Young</b> , Franklin 5
Signal Officer ( <i>pending Council approval</i> )	<b>Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC</b> , Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1
Assistant Treasurer-1	<b>Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC</b> , Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1
Assistant Treasurer-2	<b>Alan L. Russ, PDC</b> , Old Abe Camp 16

4. All special reports, coordination of commander's schedule, and special correspondence should be directed to the Department Chief of Staff:

**Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC**, 125 NW Courtland Ave., Topeka KS 66606

5. All business correspondence and official reports should be sent to the Department Secretary:

**Alan L. Russ, PDC**, 2825 Crystal Lake Dr., Salina KS 67401.

6. All bills, and requests for payment should be sent to the Department Treasurer:

**Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC**, 125 NW Courtland Ave., Topeka KS 66606

7. All requests for monument and memorial grants and all completed monument and memorials registration forms should be sent to the Department Secretary.

**Joshua S. Gillihan-Young**, 6403 Sloan Ave., Kansas City KS 66104-1360

8. All graves registration forms and information should be sent to the Department Graves Registration Officer:

**Joseph E. Chrisman, PCC**, 16195 51<sup>st</sup> Road, Winfield KS 67156-7002

9. All Civil War Memorials information and requests for monument and memorial grants and all completed monument and memorials registration forms should be sent to the Department Civil War Memorials Officer:

**Joshua S. Gillihan-Young**, 6403 Sloan Ave., Kansas City KS 66104-1360

10. All requests for Eagle Scout Certificates should be sent to the Department Commander:

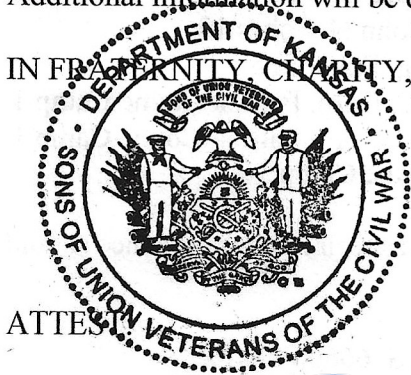
**Eric L. Crittenden**, 9760 322<sup>nd</sup> Road, Arkansas City KS 67005-6416.

11. Department Officers should attempt to attend as many events as possible throughout the year.

12. All Department Officers and Past Department Commanders, elected delegates, and all other brothers of the Department who are able to do so, are highly encouraged to attend the SUVCW National Encampment on August 8 and 9, 2025, in Houston, Texas.

13. The 30th Annual Department of Kansas Encampment is scheduled to be held on March 28, 2026, at Topeka, Kansas. If necessary, April 25, 2026, has been designated as the alternate date. Additional information will be distributed later.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



ATTEST:

Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
1625 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Winfield, Kansas 67156-3223  
commander@suvcwks.org

DEPARTMENT ORDER 2  
SERIES 2025-2026

April 6, 2025

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT STANDING COMMITTEE**

**DEPARTMENT BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

1. As per Chapter V, Article III, Section E, Department of Kansas Bylaws, the Department Bylaws Committee is established.
2. The purpose of the committee is to review and/or propose changes to the Department Bylaws, as may become necessary. This includes reviewing changes to the National Constitution and Regulations of the Order as passed by a National Encampment for any effect they may have on Department Bylaws. The committee shall ensure all requirements in Chapter IX, Article III, Department Bylaws, are complied with concerning all proposed amendments.
3. The following brothers are appointed to the Department Bylaws Committee.

**Alan L. Russ, PDC**, Chairman – Old Abe Camp 16

**Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC**, Member – Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1

**Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC**, Member – Old Abe Camp 16

**Roy A. Lafferty, PDC**, Member – Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4

**Barrett E. Young, PCC**, Member – Humboldt Camp 9

**Kent M. Melcher, PDC**, Member (ex officio) – Pvt. John N. Eckes Camp 10

IN FAITHFULNESS, COURTESY, AND LOYALTY,



ATTENTION

*Kent M. Melcher*  
Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

*Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 3  
SERIES 2025-2026

April 6, 2025

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT STANDING COMMITTEE**

**DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE**

1. As per Department of Kansas Bylaws Chapter V, Article III, Section E-3, the Department Encampment Committee is established.
2. The purpose of the committee is to provide for and ensure the requirements for Department Encampments are met.
3. The following brothers are appointed to the Department Bylaws Committee.

**Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC**, Chairman – Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1

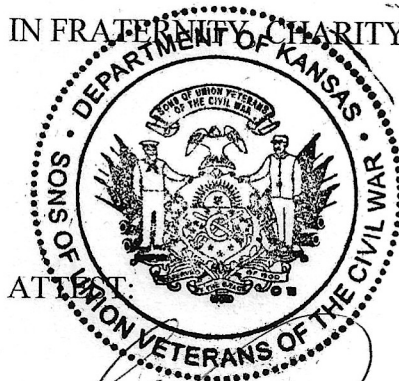
**Michael A. Todd, PDC**, Member – Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4

**Barrett E. Young, PCC**, Member – Humboldt Camp 9

**Roy A. Lafferty, PDC**, Member – Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4

**Kent M. Melcher, PDC**, Member (ex officio) – Pvt. John N. Eckes Camp 10

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



ATTEST

*Kent M. Melcher*  
Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

*Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 4  
SERIES 2024-2025

April 6, 2024

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT STANDING COMMITTEE**

**DEPARTMENT TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

1. In accordance with Chapter V, Article III, Section E, Subsection 3, Department of Kansas Bylaws, the Department Technology Committee is established.
2. The Department Technology Committee serves as the Department's advisory body on electronic communication technology and the management of assigned resources in such a manner as to reflect positively on the accomplishment of the goals and objectives of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
3. The following brothers are appointed to the Department Technology Committee.  
**Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC**, Chairman (Signals Officer) – Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1  
**Alan L. Russ, PDC**, Member (Website Manager) – Old Abe Camp 16  
**Roy A. Lafferty, PDC**, Member (Social Media Manager) – Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4  
**Michael A. Todd, PDC**, Member – Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4  
**Kent M. Melcher, PDC**, Member (*ex officio*)– Pvt. John N. Eckes Camp 10
4. The committee chairman is authorized to appoint non-voting aides to the committee as deemed necessary.

IN FRA~~THER~~TERMINITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



ATTEST

*Kent M. Melcher*  
Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

*Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 5  
SERIES 2025-2026

July 9, 2025

**ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF CAMP OFFICERS**

1. References:
  - a. SUVCW National Regulations Chapter I, Article V, Sections 2 and 3.
  - b. Department of Kansas Bylaws Chapter II, Article III, Section A.
2. In accordance with the above references, a camp shall elect the Camp Commander, Senior and Junior Vice Camp Commanders, Camp Council, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) at a regular meeting of the Camp between the first meeting in August and the first meeting in December, inclusive.
3. The officers of the Camp shall be installed at a regular meeting of the Camp to be held between the first meeting of September and the first meeting in January, inclusive, by the Department Commander or a person designated by him.
4. All camp secretaries shall notify the Department Chief of Staff ([chiefofstaff@suvchwks.org](mailto:chiefofstaff@suvchwks.org)) of the date their camp will be installing its officers. This notification should be submitted no later than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of installation.
5. Camp officers are normally elected at one meeting and installed at the next meeting; however, it is permissible to hold elections and installation at the same meeting, provided the meeting is held between the first meeting of September and the first meeting of December, inclusive. Camps cannot install officers in August, and they cannot elect officers at a January meeting.
6. The Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers (Form 22) should be completed and signed immediately after the installation of officers. Ensure you are using the current version of the form. It must be forwarded to the Department Secretary within seven days of installation, along with a current roster of the camp.
7. As Department Commander, I plan to install the camp officers for as many camps as I can. In the event of a conflict, I will designate someone to perform the installation for me.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 6  
SERIES 2025-2026

October 1, 2025

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF U.S. INDEPENDENCE, JULY 4, 2026**

1. As per Department of Kansas Bylaws Chapter V, Article III, Section C, the Special Committee for the Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of U.S. Independence, July 4, 2026, is established.
2. The purpose of the committee is to provide Kansas Camps with a list of ideas for celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
3. The Committee will also generate ideas for participation of the Department of Kansas in the 250th celebration.
4. The Committee will meet by Zoom as necessary, completing its work with ideas sent to Camp Secretaries no later than March 1, 2026.
5. The Committee will report its work to the 2026 Department Encampment, March 28, 2026.
6. The following brothers are appointed to the Department Bylaws Committee.

**Eric L. Crittenden**, Chairman - Pvt. John N. Eckes Camp 10

**Rocky D. Ansell**, PCC, Member – Humboldt Camp 9

**Ronald H. Martin**, Member – Old Abe Camp 16

**William P. "Pat" Myers**, PCC, Member – Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4

**James D. Thornton**, PCC, Member – Franklin Camp 5

**Brian W. Wampler**, Member – Franklin Camp 5

**Jeffrey A. Winters**, Member – Franklin Camp 5

**Kent M. Melcher**, PDC, Member (ex officio) – Pvt. John N. Eckes Camp 10

BY FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



*Kent M. Melcher*

Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

*Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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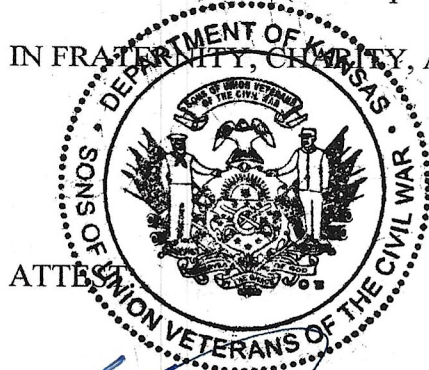
DEPARTMENT ORDER 7  
SERIES 2025-2026

October 9, 2025

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

1. As per Department of Kansas Bylaws Chapter V, Article III, Section C, the Special Nominating Committee is established.
2. The purpose of the committee is to put forth nominations for the various elected offices of the Department to the Thirtieth Annual Department Encampment, March 28, 2026.
3. The Committee is tasked with contacting and/or replying to prospective candidates, ensuring they meet the qualifications established for the office, and that they are willing to actively participate and perform the duties of the office.
4. The Committee will meet by Zoom, as necessary, to discuss possible candidates and decide as to whom to submit.
5. The Committee will report its work to the 2026 Department Encampment, March 28, 2026.
6. The following brothers are appointed to the Department Nominating Committee.  
**Alan L. Russ, PDC**, Chairman - Old Abe Camp 16  
**Roy A. Lafferty, PDC**, Member – Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4  
**Michael A. Todd, PDC**, Member – Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4
7. Any brother of the Department may submit their name to the committee by sending an email to [secretary@suvchwks.org](mailto:secretary@suvchwks.org).
8. Also, it is important to note that nominations for the various offices will also be requested from the floor of the encampment.
9. The following offices are up for election in 2026:  
Department Commander (term expiring 2027)  
Senior Vice Department Commander (term expiring 2027)  
Junior Vice Department Commander (term expiring 2027)  
Council Member (term expiring 2028)  
Council Member (term expiring 2028)

IN FRADEPARTMENT OF KANSAS, AND LOYALTY,



ATTEST

*Kent M. Melcher*  
Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

*Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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commander@suvcwks.org

DEPARTMENT ORDER 08  
SERIES 2025-2026

January 7, 2026

**NOTIFICATION OF THIRTIETH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT**

1. In accordance with Chapter IV, Article I, Section B, Bylaws of the Department of Kansas, the **THIRTIETH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS ENCAMPMENT** will be held on **Saturday, March 28, 2026**, as follows:

Registration opens: **10:30 AM**

Memorial Service, followed immediately by Business Meeting: **11:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

Place: **Kansas Museum of History, 6425 SW 6th Ave., Topeka, Kansas**

*[In case of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the backup date for the encampment will be Saturday, April 25, 2026.]*

2. The Annual Department Encampment is for the purpose of conducting the business of the Department, including amendment of Department Bylaws; approving policies and procedures; discussing and acting upon items which shall come before the encampment; and election and installation of Department officers for 2026-2027. All brothers of the Department are encouraged to attend this Encampment.

a. Voting Members of the Encampment are:

- i. Elected officers of the Department of Kansas.
- ii. All brothers who currently hold the honor of Past Department Commander (PDC) with the Department of Kansas.
- iii. All current Camp Commanders within the Department of Kansas.
- iv. All brothers who currently hold the honor of Past Camp Commander (PCC) with a camp within the Department of Kansas.
- v. All authorized Delegates, as elected by the various camps of the Department of Kansas. As of the date of this order, camps are authorized the following number of delegates (this is in addition to those listed in 2, a, i through iv, above).

Camp 1	4	Camp 4	4
Camp 5	5	Camp 9	2
Camp 10	3	Camp 16	5

b. Non-voting Members of the Encampment: All Alternate Delegates of the camps.

c. Other Attendees (without voice and vote): Brothers and sisters of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic in good standing with their respective organization may attend as spectators.

3. Department Officer Reports, Department Committee Reports, and Camp Commander Reports:

a. Elected and Appointed Department Officers, and Department Committee Chairmen shall submit a written report of their activities in their capacity as an elected or appointed Department Officer or Committee Chairman since the last Department Encampment.

b. All Camp Commanders shall submit a written report of the activities of their camp since the last Department Encampment.

c. Reports shall be submitted to **arrive no later than Saturday, March 14, 2026**, via email to Department Chief of Staff Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC, at [chiefofstaff@suvcwks.org](mailto:chiefofstaff@suvcwks.org). This is to allow time to compile and distribute the reports to the officers and camps in a timely manner.

d. The various reports will NOT be read at the Department Encampment, as each attendee will be furnished with a copy of the reports at the encampment. Submitters will be called upon to state if there are any corrections to the report or if the report contains any recommendations. If the report does contain a recommendation, the recommendation shall be read and sent to the appropriate encampment committee for further action.

e. If any officer, chairman, or camp commander has nothing to report, he should submit an email as required in paragraph 3c, above, stating "Nothing to Report."

f. Reports not submitted by March 14, 2026, will not be included with the consolidated reports and will not be allowed to be presented from the floor at the encampment.

4. Additional information concerning the Department Encampment is posted on the Department website ([www.suvcwks.org](http://www.suvcwks.org)).

INTEGRITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



*Kent M. Melcher*

Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

*Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
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DEPARTMENT ORDER 09  
SERIES 2025-2026

March 28, 2026

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS  
FOR 2025-2026**

1. In accordance with Department of Kansas Bylaws Chapter VII, Article III, the following award recipients are hereby announced.

**PDC DEAN K. SPEAKS AWARD FOR RECRUITER OF THE YEAR**

*Presented by the Department Commander to the brother who has recruited the most new brothers (Members, Associates, Junior Members, and Junior Associates) since the previous Department Encampment.*

**THOMAS E. SCHMIDT, PDC  
Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4**

**CAPTAIN PATRICK H. CONEY AWARD FOR BROTHER OF THE YEAR**

*Presented by the Department Commander to the brother whom the Department Commander has determined to have performed significant service to a camp or the Department within the past year.*

**JERRY A. COFFELT  
Franklin Camp No. 5**

**LEANDER STILLWELL OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*Presented by the Department Commander to the brother who has performed significant service to the Department of Kansas or the organization as a whole over an extended period of time.*

**JERRY W. REIMAN, PDC  
Old Abe Camp No. 16**

**WILLIAM W. NIXON AWARD FOR CAMP OF THE YEAR**

*Presented by the Department Commander to the camp within the Department which demonstrated the greatest degree of support to the goals and ideals of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in such areas as community involvement, memorial ceremonies, public education, conduct of camp meetings, and such.*

**FRANKLIN CAMP NO. 5  
Olathe, Kansas**

**JOHN CLEM AWARD**

*Presented by the Department Commander to Junior Member or Junior Associate within the Department for noteworthy accomplishments by that brother.*

**HARRINGTON JOSEPH MONTGOMERY  
Franklin Camp No. 5**

2. Congratulations to all the award recipients and thank you for the job well done.

IN FRATERNITY, BROTHERHOOD, AND LOYALTY,



AND JUSTICE:

Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
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DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER 1  
SERIES 2024-2025

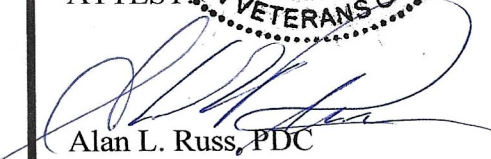
April 28, 2025

**DEATH OF BROTHER ROBERT DEAN BOYD II, PDC  
AND DECLARATION OF PERIOD OF MOURNING**

1. It is with sadness and regret I announce the death of Past Department Commander Robert Dean Boyd II on April 25, 2025. PDC Boyd was born on January 15, 1954, at Chanute, Kansas. See below for funeral information.
2. Brother Boyd joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on April 11, 2015, as a charter member of Humboldt Camp No. 9, Humboldt, Kansas. He proudly honored his great-grandfather John Boyd, who served as a Private with Company I, 55th Regiment Massachusetts Infantry (Col'd) from June 15, 1863, until August 29, 1865.
3. Brother Boyd was elected and served as Camp Commander for Humboldt Camp No. 9 for 2018, earning him the honor of Past Camp Commander.
4. On January 13, 2018, Brother Boyd was elected to the position of Junior Vice Department Commander, also being reelected to the position in 2019. On January 18, 2020, he was elected to the position of Senior Vice Department Commander and was reelected to the position in 2021.
5. On March 26, 2022, Brother Boyd was elected to be the Twentieth Department Commander for the Department of Kansas. He served in this capacity until the end of his term on March 18, 2023. At that time, the Department awarded Brother Boyd with the honor of Past Department Commander.
6. Funeral services for Brother Boyd will be on **Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 10:30 AM**. The funeral will be held at the **Covenant of Faith Christian Center, 407 N. Chestnut St., Iola, Kansas**. The family would appreciate all SUVCW brothers who can attend to please do so.
7. I am ordering the Department charter and all Department of Kansas camp charters to be draped for a period of 30 days from the date of this order. Additionally, members should wear either the black "In Memoriam" ribbon or the black band on the drop of their membership badge in accordance with National Regulations Chapter V, Article VI, Section 9.

IN FRA  AND LOYALTY,

ATTEST

  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

  
Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

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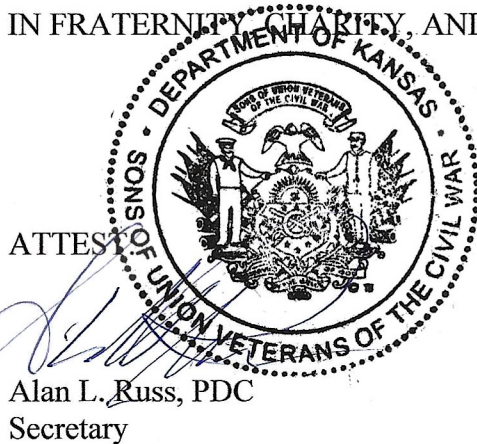
DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER 2  
SERIES 2025-2026

May 8, 2025

**2025-2026 PDC ROBERT DEAN BOYD II MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

1. As Department Commander, the late Past Department Commander Robert D. Boyd II strongly advocated for camps to work to increase their membership levels. To honor his memory, I am instituting the **2025-2026 PDC Robert Dean Boyd II Membership Challenge**.
2. The Department of Kansas challenges each camp in the Department to recruit at least three (3) new brothers (Member or Associate) for their camp during the period April 6, 2025, through March 21, 2026.
3. The camp must have recruited at least three (3) new brothers and have submitted the applications to be received by the Department Secretary no later than March 21, 2026.
4. If each camp can meet this goal the Department will have eighteen new brothers. The camps meeting the criteria for this challenge will be recognized for their accomplishment by the awarding of a certificate of at the 2026 Department Encampment.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



ATTEST

*Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

*Kent M. Melcher*  
Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

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commander@suvcwks.org

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER 3  
SERIES 2025-2026

June 9, 2025

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN, KANSAS DELEGATION  
TO THE 2025 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT**

1. I will unable to attend the SUVCW National Encampment August 7 through 9, 2025, in my role as Department Commander.
2. As such, and in accordance with National Regulations Chapter III, Article II, Section 2, I hereby appoint **Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, as Chairman, Kansas Delegation to the 2025 National Encampment.** This includes his authority to act on my behalf to fill any vacant delegate position or positions with a qualified alternate delegate.

IN FIDELITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



*Kent M. Melcher*

Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

*Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
1625 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Winfield, Kansas 67156-3223  
commander@suvcwks.org

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER 4  
SERIES 2025-2026

July 23, 2025

**DEATH OF PAST CAMP COMMANDER DOUGLAS EDWARD McGOVERN  
AND DECLARATION OF PERIOD OF MOURNING**

1. It is with sadness and regret I announce the death of Past Camp Commander Douglas Edward McGovern, Emeritus, on July 21, 2025. PCC McGovern was born on April 15, 1946, at Schenectady, New York. See below for funeral information.
2. Brother McGovern joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on October 8, 1999, as a member of Indian Nations Camp 3, Tulsa, Oklahoma, which at that time was part of the Department of the Southwest. He proudly honored his great-great grandfather Samuel Cowan (McCowan), who served as a Private with Company F, 17th Regiment Illinois Infantry from May 25, 1861, until May 14, 1866. Brother McGovern transferred to the Corp. Patrick Conye Camp No. 1 on February 28, 2002, and maintained his membership with the camp until his death.
3. Brother McGovern was elected and served as Camp Commander for Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp No. 1 for 2004, earning him the honor of Past Camp Commander.
4. In addition, Brother McGovern served as the Department Civil War Monuments Officer from 2005 through 2020, when his failing health no longer allowed him to continue. Almost all of what is shown on the Monuments and Memorials Database on the Department website is through the hard work and dedication of Brother McGovern. It remains as his legacy to the Department of Kansas.
4. Over those many years with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Brother McGovern was recognized at all levels, including the Captain Patrick H. Coney Award for Brother of the Year in 2005, the Leander Stillwell Outstanding Achievement Award in 2010, and Department Emeritus Status in 2023. Additionally, at the National level, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for especially meritorious service to the Order in 2007.
5. A memorial service for Brother McGovern will be on **Saturday, August 2, 2025, at 10:30 AM**. The service will be held at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, **1550 N. Chapel Hill St., Wichita, Kansas**.
6. I am ordering the Department charter and all Department of Kansas camp charters to be draped for a period of 30 days from the date of this order. Additionally, members should wear either the black "In Memoriam" ribbon or the black band on the drop of their membership badge in accordance with National Regulations Chapter V, Article VI, Section 9.

IN FIDELITY, COURTESY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



Alan L. Eberhardt  
Secretary

*Kent M. Melcher*  
Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
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1625 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Winfield, Kansas 67156-3223  
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DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER 5  
SERIES 2025-2026

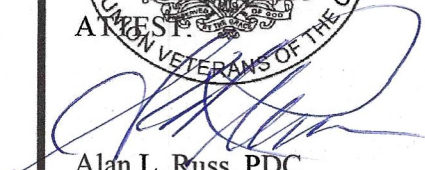
September 16, 2025

**DEATH OF BROTHER CONRAD MAX FISHER, PDC  
AND DECLARATION OF PERIOD OF MOURNING**

1. It is with sadness and regret I announce the death of Past Department Commander Conrad Max Fisher on September 13, 2025. PDC Fisher was born on June 8, 1947, at Topeka, Kansas.
2. Brother Fisher joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on July 20, 1996, as a National Member-at-Large. On December 13, 1997, he transferred to the newly formed Old Abe Camp No. 16 as a charter member of the camp. Although he took a break from the SUVCW in early 2002, he returned to Old Abe Camp on September 20, 2009, remaining active from then on. He proudly honored his great-grandfather Conrad Fisher, who served as a Corporal with Company C, 18th Missouri Regiment, from December 26, 1861, until July 18, 1865.
3. Brother Fisher was elected and served as Camp Commander for Old Abe Camp No. 16 for 2013, earning him the honor of Past Camp Commander.
4. On January 12, 2019, Brother Fisher was elected to the Department Council for a two-year term, serving until January 9, 2021. Brother Fisher was then elected to the position of Junior Vice Department Commander on March 26, 2022, followed by his election on March 18, 2023, to the position of Senior Vice Department Commander.
5. On April 6, 2024, Brother Fisher was elected to be the Twentieth-Second Department Commander for the Department of Kansas. He served in this capacity until the end of his term on April 5, 2025. At that time, the Department awarded Brother Fisher the honor of Past Department Commander.
6. Brother Fisher opted for a green burial, so that will occur quickly. A memorial and graveside service will be announced for a later date.
7. I am ordering the Department charter and all Department of Kansas camp charters to be draped for a period of 30 days from the date of this order. Additionally, members should wear either the black "In Memoriam" ribbon or the black band on the drop of their membership badge in accordance with National Regulations Chapter V, Article VI, Section 9.

IN FIDELITY, COURTESY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

  
Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
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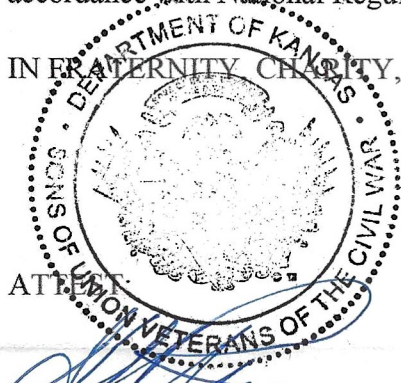
DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER 6  
SERIES 2025-2026

February 24, 2026

**DEATH OF BROTHER RICHARD T. BENNETT, PCC  
AND DECLARATION OF PERIOD OF MOURNING**

1. It is with sadness and regret I announce the death of Past Camp Commander Richard T. Bennett on February 5, 2026. PCC Bennett was born on December 15, 1950, at Wichita, Kansas. Funeral arrangements are unknown at this time.
2. Brother Bennett joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on February 24, 2005, as a member of Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita, Kansas. He proudly honored his great-grand uncle Abraham Bennett, who served as a Private with Company D, 2nd Regiment Iowa Infantry, from September 22, 1864, until June 3, 1865.
3. Brother Bennett was elected and served as Camp Commander for Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp 1 for 2011, earning him the honor of Past Camp Commander.
4. Information concerning Funeral/memorial services for Brother Bennett will be provided as the information becomes available.
5. I am ordering the Department charter and all Department of Kansas camp charters to be draped for a period of 30 days from the date of this order. Additionally, members should wear either the black "In Memoriam" ribbon or the black band on the drop of their membership badge in accordance with National Regulations Chapter V, Article VI, Section 9.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,



Kent M. Melcher, PDC  
Department Commander

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary