

Department of Illinois SUVCW  
127<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment  
GAR Hall Rockford, Illinois  
May 8, 2010

12:00 - Opening Ceremonies.

Auburn High School JrROTC Color Guard presented the National Colors and pledge of allegiance.

- A. Introduction of Brad Schall, Senior Vice Commander in Chief, representing Leo F. Kennedy, Commander in Chief.
- B. Commander Steve Westlake opening remarks.
  - 1. Thanks to the John A. Logan Camp #26 for hosting the Encampment and providing lunch.
  - 2. I am honored to have served as Commander of the Department for the past two years.
  - 3. I encourage Brothers to become more active in Department activities. I commend the Brothers for the interest and enthusiasm I have seen during my term and I think the Department is heading in the right direction.
  - 4. Camps need to keep an updated list of officers on the website for contact information.
  - 5. Camps need to keep the Department Secretary and Department Newsletter Editor informed of their current roster and officers.
- C. Roll Call of Officers.
  - Commander Steve Westlake - present
  - Sr. Vice Commander - Everett Nylund - present
  - Jr. Vice Commander - Stuart Stefany - present
  - Secretary - Ron Clark - present
  - Treasurer - Bill Johnson - present
  - Council Member #1 - Jon Lickey - present
  - Council Member #2 - Nick Kaup - present
  - Council Member #3 - Bob Chesnut - present
  - Chaplain - Jerry Kowalski - present
  - Patriotic Instructor - Jon Lickey - present
- D. Brothers present, by Camp. (A total of 27)
  - 1) General George A. Custer Camp #1 (5 Brothers)
    - John M. Bigwood, Commander; Everett Nylund; Nick Kaup; Jerry Kowalski; Stuart Stefany.
  - 2) General Philip H. Sheridan Camp #2 (5)
    - James Zingales, Commander; Steven Westlake, Marc Finnegan, Jerry Kowalski (dual member with Camp #1); Jody Switzer.
  - 3) General John A. McClernand Camp #4 (2)
    - Bob Chesnut, Commander; Ron Clark.

- 4) Frank Reed Camp #24 (0)
- 5) John A. Logan Camp #26 (13)  
Gregory M. Carter, Commander; Steve Aarli; Tom Oestreicher, Jim Lyon;  
Bill Johnson; Steve Haight; Paul Zeien, Jr.; John Wade; Dave Eisele; Leonard  
Cassaro; Raymond W. Empereur; Terry R. Dyer; Jon McGinty.
- 6) Colonel John Bryner Camp #67 (1)  
Jon Lickey
- 7) Simon Shaffer Camp #134 (2)  
David A. Dellinger, Commander; Jerry L. Brown.

- E. Reintroduction of special guest Brad Schall, Senior Vice Commander in Chief: I had 2 great-great grandfathers who fought in Illinois units. I present greetings from our Commander-in-Chief Leo Kennedy. Our order is in good standing with a gain of almost 400 members. I want to congratulate the Department of Illinois for the great job they did last April at Lincoln's Tomb and the Stephenson gravesite. It was a great year for Illinois with the formation of new camps and with the maintenance of the GAR Halls (Illinois has more than California). I hope to see a good Illinois delegation at the Overland Park, Kansas Encampment. Commander Kennedy is trying to improve on programs and the Officers Course. We have to learn who we are in order to improve. Thanks for allowing me to be part of your encampment.
- F. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary Clark. Brother Zingales made a motion to approve the minutes/Brother Oestreicher seconded. The motion was approved.
- G. The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Bill Johnson. There was a beginning balance (October 20, 2009) of \$8506.27. Five of the eight camps have paid their per capita tax, and four checks were written out for a total of \$788.62 for a balance of \$10673.65. The books were approved by the Department Council (Brothers Lickey, Kaup and Chesnut). A motion to accept was made by Nick Kaup and seconded by Steve Aarli. The motion passed.
- H. Officers Reports.
- 1) Patriotic Instructor Jon Lickey. The GAR thought patriotism was crucial. Brother Lickey praised the National Patriotic Instructor, Don Martin for the job he is doing. Brother Brad Schall thinks that he is the best P. I. we have ever had. Patriotic Instructor Lickey demonstrated the proper way to fold the flag, with the help of 2 other Brothers. Brother Lickey explained the meaning of each fold. Afterwards, Brother Lickey presented the Flag to Chaplain Kowalski to use at Brother Kooser's funeral ceremony. National P. I. Don Martin has noted that several camps do not have Patriotic Instructors. Some camps have made patriotic instructions in schools, including living history, artillery demonstrations, drills, etc. The Order has grown to 26 Departments and 6,400 Brothers. Each of them are willing to help improve the order. The sesquicentennial is close. New camps throughout the order are doing great. The National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief encourages Brothers who retire and relocate to promote a camp in their new area.

- 2) Commander Steve Westlake. See attached report.
- 3) Senior Vice Commander Everett Nylund. See attached report.
- 4) Junior Vice Commander Stuart Stefany. Report has been delayed do to Commander Stefany's finals in his Masters program.
- 5) Chaplain Jerry Kowalski. Participated in the SCV Confederate Memorial Day Service. Attended the Arlington Heights CWRT meeting with his wife and Commander Schall. Continuously praying for Brothers and their families and have given numerous Civil Was talks. It is sad to report that there are three new Vacant Chairs. Brothers Bill Kooser, Jim Giacalone and Otis Miller have all passed since our last Encampment.
- 6) Council (Brothers Jon Lickey, Nick Kaup and Bob Chesnut) - The books will be audited during the break.

#### I. Committee reports.

- 1) ROTC - Nick Kaup, Chairman. ROTC/JROTC awards - Nick Kaup, Committee Chairman. It was a pleasure to once again serve in this capacity. In order to make the program more effective, I submit the following suggestions: (1) Continue to expand the work load by department regions so that more personal presentations can be made. This will enhance the credibility of the organization, which could lead to new members. We had six Brothers present certificates and medals this year. A total of 16 awards were issued. (2) Publicize the presentations in local papers. (3) Continue to provide the medal/plaque along with the certificates, which makes the award more meaningful to the recipient. Illinois has one of the most extensive ROTC/JROTC programs in the SUVCW. Let us strive to make it even better.
- 2) Eagle Scout - Tom Oestreicher, Chairman. In the past year 177 Eagle Scouts have been recognized, which represents 44 Troops in 30 different communities. Most were mailed in advance of a Court of Honor, the rest I presented personally. Bryner Camp #67 distributed an additional 100 certificates to the Peoria area Boy Scout Council. In addition, I have sent information to eleven councils in Illinois informing them of our program. Several councils have responded positively and hinted at future involvement. It is my desire to distribute at least 400 certificates in 2010-2011.

#### J. Camp Reports.

- 1) General George A. Custer Camp #1 - John M. Bigwood, Commander
  - 2) General Philip H. Sheridan Camp #2 - James Zingales, Commander
  - 3) General John A. McClernand Camp #4 - N. Robert Chesnut, Commander
  - 4) Frank Reed Camp #24 - No report
  - 5) John A. Logan Camp #26 - Gregory M. Carter, Commander
  - 6) Colonel John C. Bryner Camp #67 - Joseph M. Hutchinson, Commander
  - 7) Simon Shaefer Camp #134 - David Dellinger, Commander - The Camp meets on a regular basis at the Marshall County Historical Society in Lacon.
  - 8) Colonel Freidrich K. Hecker Camp #443 - No report.
- Reports for Camps 1, 2, 4, 26 and 67 are attached.

#### K. Presentation of awards.

1. The Department recognized all past Department Commanders that were present: Nick Kaup, Jon Lickey, Stuart Stefany and Ron Clark.

2. The Camp Charter was presented to Simon Shafer Camp #134 by Commander Schall.
3. The SUVCW Memorial University Officer Training Course graduates were recognized: Steve Aarli, Bob Buerger, Greg Carter, Terry Dyer, Jody Switzer and Paul Zeien.
4. Outstanding Camp award. John A. Logan Camp #26.
5. Commander award. Jim Zingales.
6. Special award. Ron Clark.

L. Old Business.

1. Restoration of Aurora GAR Hall. The work is continuing. There is no time estimation as to its completion.
2. Ft. Donelson. The work has been stopped at this time. The National Committee will try to get things moving again next year. The State of Illinois must give its approval in order to have an Illinois monument placed. The design of the monument is 8 or 9 feet tall arch made of pink granite. The same as the base of the Statue of Liberty.
3. The 36<sup>th</sup> Illinois battle flag. Request the Department hold a ceremony to dedicate it at Cantigny on Saturday October 2. Brother Dellinger made this a motion/Steve Aarli seconded. Motion passed.
4. Brother Clark commented that there was a recent ceremony at the Illinois Military Museum at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, to dedicate the 114<sup>th</sup> Illinois battle flag which was restored last year. It will be on display at the museum.

M. New Business.

1. Gift for National Commander at the National Encampment. Brother Stefany sculpted a replica of the Chicago Light Artillery Monument at Rose Hill Cemetery (1/32 Scale) to be given as the gift. Another will be made for the Auxillary SUVCW National President.
2. Brother Kowalski - The Love & Valor movie is available as a fundraiser. A community theater may be rented on a Sunday and can be accompanied by an ice cream social. Brian Dennehy narrates. This can be done as a camp project.
3. Commander Westlake paid the Mulligan Battery Battery to reimburse them for expenses they incurred at the Petersburg event in April. Brother Kowalski made a motion that Commander Westlake be reimbursed/Brother Clark seconded. Passed. Commander thanked the Department and requested that the money be donated to the Department.
4. Brother Hutchinson on behalf of Camp #67 requested that a by-law change be made to the Department by-laws that the Department dues be prorated the same as Nationals.
5. Brother Clark made a motion that the Petersburg event be held on April 16, 2011 at 3:00 pm Brother Carter seconded. Passed.
6. Delegates for National Encampment were elected.
7. The Department voted to support Brother Brad Schall for the office of Commander in Chief; Brother Don Palmer for Senior Vice Commander in Chief and Brother Perley Mellor for Junior Vice Commander in Chief.

8. Mid-term Encampment. Brother Ron Clark made a motion that Camp #4 host the mid-term meeting in Springfield with lunch at 11:00 am and the meeting at 12:00 pm at the Women's Relief Corps Museum. Jerry Kowalski seconded. Passed.
9. The following brothers were initiated into the order. Steve Haight, Jim Lyon, John Wade of Camp #26 and Jerry Brown of Camp #134.

N. Nomination and election of officers.

Commander - Terry Dyer  
Senior Vice Commander - Everett Nylund  
Junior Vice Commander - Marc K. Finnegan  
Secretary - Ronald Clark  
Treasurer - William E. Johnson  
Council Member #1 - Don Sherman  
Council Member #2 - Jody Switzer  
Council Member #3 - Jim Zingales  
Chaplain - Jerome Kowalski  
Patriotic Instructor - Jon Lickey  
Historian - Neil Hatfield  
Graves Registration Officer - Mark Braun  
Eagle Scout Coordinator - Thomas Oestreicher  
ROTC Coordinator - Nick Kaup  
Department Organizer - Ron Clark  
Highways Officer - Bob Kurek  
Guide/Guard - Justin Mierekord

Ron Clark declined his nomination as Secretary. Greg Carter nominated Dave Dellinger for Secretary/seconded by Jerry Kowalski.

Steve Westlake made a motion that the slate of officers as amended be accepted/Nick Kaup seconded. Passed. Senior Vice Commander in Chief Schall was appointed installing officer.

Commander Terry Dyer made a few appropriate remarks before proceeding to close the Encampment. (Report attached)

15:31 - Closing Ceremonies

Attested - Ron Clark, Department Secretary.