

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR.

The 78th Annual Encampment of Ohio Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held in the Secor Hotel, Toledo, Ohio June 17-18, 1960.

Department Commander Fred Pfeister, Jr. presiding.

The following minutes were taken during the sessions, and will be considered correct, but further references to the original copies of the resolutions and recommendations will be found in the office of the Department Secretary, William Selz, 16 Buckeye St., Dayton 2, Ohio.

On the evening of June 16th, there was a meeting of all past Department Commanders and Presidents of the Auxiliary to find some solution to keep the Camps and Auxiliaries from turning in their charters. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to hold the Encampment meetings during the Centennial Years in some town that has some Civil War background, or event that may interest folks attending, and the Sons of Union Veterans to assume permanent Chairmanship of the Encampment Committee. A Resolution to be prepared, and sent to the Relief Corps, Ladies of the Grand Army and Auxiliary, while in session, so they may take action.

Friday morning, June 17, 1960, 9:00 A.M.

A joint opening along with the Auxiliary was held, Past Department President Jennie Getz presiding.

A officers were escorted into the room through an archway of American Beauty Roses.

Commander in Chief, Harold E. Arnold of Rhode Island, was escorted into the meeting with honors.

During this meeting the Auxiliary presented and Past Department Presidents a check of \$25.00 each to the Ohio Department Sons of Union Veterans.

June 17, 1960 10:00 A.M.

The first meeting of the Ohio Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Cival War was called to order by Department Commander Fred Pfiester, Jr. of Camp #100, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The following committees were appointed for the Encampment sessions.

Credentials--Daniel Wasser #89 Dayton and Robert Austin #91 Alliance.

Resolution Committee--M. R. Battey #91 Alliance and Wm. Coffin #100 Cincinnati and R. W. Ballard #89 kDayton.

Officers reports--Wm. Coffin #100 Cincinnati, John Dacker #666 Cleveland

Press Committee--Daniel F. Clancey #1 Columbus, Charles Bigley #133, Toledo.

Greetings Committee--A. K. Myers #133 Toledo, C.N. Edie #9 Findlay.

Since most of the orders have a sign for their meeting room, the Department Commander suggested one be secured for the Sons of Union Veterans and asked if a banner could be made and placed in the lobby of the Hotel in the City the meetings are being held.

A sign for the meeting room was secured and placed in position and price of banner being obtained so perhaps at the 1961 Encampment one will be in sight. Carrolton Edie offered to pay the cost of this banner (Col. W.W. Dorsey of Mt. vernon to secure the price of having one made.)

The credential committee announced the following for voting purposes:

1 Commander in Chief

1 Department Commander

11 Past Department kCommanders

11 Delegates

A resolution was presented and adopted at the 1959 Encampment that a registration fee of \$1.00 be made, so this being the first year that this in in effect, a sum of \$23.00 was turned over to the Department Treasurer. A meeting of the Encampment Committee is being

held at the close of this Encampment, so Department Commander Pfiester appointed W. E. Corbin to serve on this committee, from the Sons of Union Veterans to arrange for the time and place for the 1961 meeting.

At this time officers reports were called for and read.

The following are the notes from the same. The original filed in the office of the Dept. Secretary,

Military Aide--to the department commander--Co. W.W. Dorsey reporting on the trips taken by the drum corps during the Memorial Day observance, and to the funerals of the last Union and Confederate soldiers. The Department Senior and Junior Vice Commanders--reports show that : they have been quite busy during the last year making visitations and attending patriotic meetings pertaining to the work of the Sons of Veterans. The patriotic instructor--Chief of Staff-- W.E. Corbin reported the appeal for funds for the special project and Encampment expenses resulted in donations amounting to \$110.00 and our share for the project is \$66.75 so this leaves a balance of \$43.25.

Only five (5) Camps returned the Memorial Day report blanks, so not a definite number attending and working on Memorial Day exercises can be made.

Department Council-- Charles Bigley, R. W. Ballard and John Decker reported the Secretary-Treasurer books in fine shape and all funds balance with the bank balance.

Christmas Committee--Wm. Powers reported letters sent out and \$126.00 received. \$50.00 sent to the Xenia Home and \$54.00 to the Madison Home.

The Department Commander--Fred Pfiester, Jr. gave a fine report on his activities and travels during the past year.

A number of recommendations were included, and will be shown on the recommendation sheet.

Department Secretary-Treasurer Report--Wm. A. Selz.

This officer's report was very concise and the details show a great amount of work, but results small due to the neglect of the Camp Secretaries from sending reports and per-capata-tax into the office. This is quite discouraging for an officer who is willing to fill the office without co-operation from the Camps.

Summary of the report:

In

1959: 28 camps

344 members

In

1960: 22 camps

309 members

Camps dropped for decrease in membership, and failing to send per-capata-tax:

Kent, Ravenna, Canton, Zanesville, New Philadelphia, and Lorain.

Dropped and transferred -- 16

Death -- 18

New members transfered and reinstated - 29

Balance 1959	449.34
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Receipts	929.75
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Expenses	891.07
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Balance 1960	488.22
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A breakdown of this balance as follows:

G.A.R. Hiway fund	42.00
Organization fund	45.33
Christmas fund	149.48
Patriotic instructor fund	107.00
Encampment fund	27.50
General fund	<u>116.91</u>
	488.22

..Communications were received from the National Patriotic Instructor, requesting funds for the Grand Army Memorial fund and support on the bill for government money to secure additional lands adjoining the "Gettysburg Battle Field" so as to keep private interests from building concession stands and so forth from marring the beauty as well as the national interest.

An appeal was made by the National Patriotic Instructor to write the congressman as to action to take dedicating a national day to be observed by all patriotic citizens.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17th, afternoon session;

Col. W.W. Dorsey spoke at length on expenses to operate a drum corps as to the musical instruments, uniforms, caps, etc., and asked the Ohio Department for some assistance in the work, as he feels that since the drum corps is nationally known, the advertising for the department is a benefit, . No motion was made so no action taken.

Comm. in chief Arnold spoke briefly on ways and means to save some of the Camps from disbanding, and if need be to get the members to join the Camp at large.

Some Camps have been revived by just moving to another town close to the original Camp site, and the members seem to go back to work with those secured from the new location.

It was suggested that perhaps a Junior Sons of Union Veterans would be a benefit to rebuild Camps with the boys as they become the age to join the Camp (16 years). This would have to be put in the form of a resolution and presented to the National Commandery in Chief before action would be taken in a Department.

Saturday morning, June 18, 1960 -- 9:00 A.M.

Resolutions submitted and action taken.

Past Department Commander M.R. Battey reporting.

1. Change the age from 16 to 13 years to join a Camp of Sons of Union Veterans of the Cival War.

This conflicts with the National By-Laws so has to be taken before the national Encampment for further action.

2. A program be formulated to plan for a centennial observance in Ohio for the years 1961 to 1965. Recommended by the committee.

3. Mt. Vernon Drum Corps need financial assistance.

Recommended the Department contribute as much as possible, the Department Council to advise amount to be donated.

4. All reserve units be organized under a National Reserve body in place of Department units.

This will have to be presented the National Encampment for further action.

5. (1) Future Encampments be held in locations of Cival War interest, so as to arouse interest in all members of the Grand Army family, so that they attend the Department Encampment meetings.

(2) The Sons of Union Veterans of the Cival Assume chairmanship of the Encampment committee meetings. Committee recommended.

6. Junior Camps of the S. of U. V. be reactivated.

Referred to the National Encampment for future action.

7. Issue thank you resolutions to the hotel, speakers, and committee that made the arrangements for this Encampment. Recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

P. C. in C. Reporting. (Wm. Coffin)

A motion was made by Wm. Coffin and seconded by M. R. Battey that the following recommendations be adopted unless objection from the membership.

Vote taken resulted favorable.

1. Department Secretary-Treasurer salary be reduced from \$200.00 to \$150.00 per year.

This was referred to the Department Council for any further action.

2. Send the "BANNER" to all the membership, and dues to be \$5.00 per year, . This was left to the individual Camps as to action they may like to take.
3. Combine Camps in a community in place of disbanding.
4. Department be divided into districts as now, but not hold as many meetings during the year.
5. Registration fee be raised from \$1.00 to \$2.00.

Vote taken resulted in a 15 to 4 negative, so will keep the fee at the \$1.00 amount.

6. Funds for the Department Chief of Staff and Patriotic Instructor be combined as the work overlaps.
7. With the exception Madison and Xenia Homes, all other projects be dropped, and an annual contribution not over \$25.00 per year be made to this work (Madison & Xenia) and any future appeals for this fund be for the S. of U. :V. Department work.

Motion by Charles Bigley and seconded by Wm. Coffin this recommendation be approved.

Vote favorable.

8. A fund be started to assist in the Regimental work. \$42.00 was placed in this fund from a special fund during this Encampment.

(Special project raised \$110.00 and spent \$66.75)

9. A change be made in the Department by-laws to let other than blood relative into the reserve unit.

Motion by Wm. Coffin and seconded by Charles Bigley that this be referred to the reserve board and incoming officers of this department.

Vote taken resulted favorable.

10. The Governor of Ohio and legislature be notified that the Ohio Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have Reserve Units willing to assist in the centennial celebration observance, and any financial assistance they can give will be appreciated.

11. A sum of money to be given to Lt. Col. D. F. Clancey for use in forming a reserve unit. This will take Department Council action.

12. Funds for this work could be now available from the excess money in the Patriotic Instructors Fund.

13. The U. S. Government had not completed the purchase of bordering lands of the Gettysburg Battlefield, so department treasurer send a check to assist in this work.

Motion by Wm. Coffin and seconded by Charles Bigley, we as a department sent \$10.00 to assist in this work, and remind the membership in a future general order of this project, so they may help to clear this important matter. Vote taken resulted favorable.

14. Each Camp secretary send a list of the Camp membership to the department secretary, for a complete roster of members in the Ohio Department.

15. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Ohio Department take over the chairmanship of future Encampment Committees, and try and hold the Encampment meetings in smaller towns, so as to get more publicity for the Order.

During the morning session, the announcement was made that Dept. Chaplain Louis G. Blair of Camp #100 Cincinnati, Ohio, along with his wife celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 14th. Bro. Blair worked in the printing trade for 50 years, but now retired. I know all in the National as well as in the Department, congratulate them in their long and happy marriage.

It was nearing the noon hour, the last day of the Encampment, and still some business to be transacted, a motion was made by M. R. Battey and seconded by L. G. Blair that this Encampment continue in session until all business is transacted. Vote favorable.

The next item of business to be considered is the nomination and election of department officers.

A motion was made and seconded that when only one candidate for an office appears, the department secretary cast the ballot for said office. Vote favorable.

Department Commander Fred Pfiester, Jr. appointed tellers of Paul Selby and E. A. Nutt for the election.

THE FOLLOWING were nominated and elected for the Ohio Department for 1960-1961

Department Commander = Clyde Neff of Mansfield

Department Senior Vice Commander = Daniel Clancy of Columbus.
(Carl Burcaw was nominated, but withdrew in favor of Dan Clancy)

Department Junior Vice Commander = John R. Decker of Cleveland.

Department Council =

Charles Bigley of Toledo

Robert W. Ballard of Lima

Fred Pfiester, Jr. of Cincinnati.

Department Secretary-Treasurer = Wm. A. Selz of Dayton

The new Department Commander, Clyde Neff, appointed Wm. Coffin as his installing officer, who he in turn asked Daniel Wasser to act as guide and Louis G. Blair as chaplain for the installation ceremony.

The following appointments were made by the Department Commander:

Department Counselor - Wm. Coffin of Cincinnati

Personal Aide = Wm. Eckles of Mansfield

Department Patriotic Instructor = W. E. Corbin of Akron

Military Aide to Department Commander = Col. W. W. Dorsey of Mt. Vernon

The only item of business left for consideration is the election of the delegates and alternates to the National Encampment in Springfield in August.