



Minutes
132nd Annual Encampment
Department of Ohio
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
7 June 2014

Prepared by Allan W. Howey, PDC
Acting Secretary, April-June 2014

The 132nd Encampment of the Department of Ohio was held in Room 201 of the Franklin County Veterans Memorial Building, Columbus, OH, on Saturday, 7 June 2014.

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

Department Chaplain Kerry Langdon and his wife, Wanda, opened the Encampment at 0915 with a Memorial Service. They honored Brothers of the Order and Sisters of the Auxiliary who have passed away since the last Department Encampment. Acting Department Secretary Allan Howey played "Taps."

Charles G. Edwards, Lytle Camp #10 – 3 Aug 2013
Richard A. Griffiths, Jr., Fearing Camp #2 – 7 Oct 2013
Mabel Ogg, PDP, Townsend/Frost Auxiliary – 10 Oct 2013
David R. Medert, PCINC, Enderlin Camp #73 – 29 Oct 2013
Dan Hinton, CC, Fearing Camp #2 – 19 Nov 2013
James Seitz, PCC, Dennison Camp #1 – 31 Dec 2013
Rev Thomas P. Rogers, McKinley Camp #21 – 27 Jan 2014
Delma Mae Sumption, Dennison Auxiliary #1 – 28 Jan 2014
Wanda Coen, Townsend/Frost Auxiliary – 1 Apr 2014

132nd ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT – BUSINESS MEETING:

Opening Ceremony: Following the Memorial Service, Commander Jonathan Davis opened the Encampment at 0930. He led the assembly in reciting the principles of the Order and greeted the delegates. Chaplain Kerry Langdon invoked the divine blessing, and Commander Davis then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officer Roll Call: Acting Secretary Allan Howey called the roll of the elected officers of the Encampment:

Department Commander & Acting Treasurer – Jonathan Davis (present)
Senior Vice Commander – Tim Graham (present)
Junior Vice Commander – Shawn Cox (present)
Acting Secretary – Allan Howey (present)
Council – Donald Darby (present), Donald Martin (present), Fred Lynch (present)

Roll Call of Camps: Acting Secretary Howey called the roll. Fifteen (75%) of the Department's twenty camps were present (a little better than in 2013):

Dennison Camp #1
Keller Camp #8
Lytle Camp #10
McLaughlin Camp #12
McKinley Camp #21
Parrott Camp #33
Triem Camp #43
Voris Camp #67

Enderlin Camp #73
McClellan Camp #91
Casey Camp #92
Sherman Camp #93
Townsend Camp #108
Cadot-Blessing Camp #126
Garfield Camp #142

Five (25%) camps were absent:

Fearing Camp #2 – also in 2012, 2013
Brooks-Grant Camp #7 – also in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
Vienna Camp #26 – also in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
Given Camp # 51 – also in 2010, 2011, 2013
Banning Camp #207 – also in 2010, 2011, 2013

Committee Appointments: Following the roll call of camps, Commander Davis appointed several Brothers to chair committees:

Jim Houston – Credential Committee
Don Darby – Constitution and Regulations Committee
Bob Grim – Resolutions Committee
Don Martin – Officers Reports

Welcome: Commander Davis then welcomed SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Ken Freshley and Past Commander-in-Chief Perley Mellor to the Encampment. Commander Davis also recognized all Past Department Commanders in attendance:

Thomas Graham – 1979
Robert E. Grim – 1994 (PCINC 2002)
Donald E. Darby – 2001 (PCINC 2005)
James H. Houston – 2002
Allan W. Howey – 2003 (Dept of Tennessee/Alabama)
Bradley A. Tilton – 2004
Ken L. Freshley – 2006 (current CINC)
Donald L. Grant – 2007
Craig W. Keller – 2008
Robert W. Davis – 2009
Donald L. Martin – 2011
Fredric C. Lynch – 2012

Officer Reports: (NOTE – All officer reports are published in a separate attachment.)

Department Commander & Acting Treasurer, Jonathan Davis	See published report. Mentioned that the Wilmington cemetery cannon issue was now in the court system.
Senior Vice Commander Tim Graham	See published report.
Junior Vice Commander Shawn Cox	See published report. Said he had just received several new member applications
Acting Secretary Allan Howey	See published report. Cautioned every camp to audit all reports and paperwork sent to the resigned Dept Secretary/Treasurer to ensure nothing was lost.
Assistant Secretary for MALs Robert Davis	See published report.
Department Council Chairman, Don Darby Secretary, Fred Lynch Member, Don Martin,	Stated that Department finances were in order.
Chief of Staff Robert Grim	Thanked the camps and individuals who had contributed \$380 to the Chief of Staff fund.
Counselor Don Darby	<u>MOTION:</u> Moved that the incoming Department Commander contact Brooks-Grant Camp #7 and inform them that they are to refrain from using any Past honors when referring to Mr. Keith Ashley, as Mr. Ashley resigned from the Order while under suspension and having done such forfeited all honors of the Order. The motion was seconded and <u>APPROVED.</u>
Patriotic Instructor Mark Allex	Absent. No report.
Graves Registration Kent Dorr	Dept of Ohio still leading the Order in the number of graves registered. About 400 more since the Mid-Winter Meeting.
Eagle Scout Bradley A. Tilton	See published report. Sent 44 out Eagle Scout certificates this year.
Signals Officer Ken L. Freshley	No report.
Memorials Officer John Bowling	Absent. See published report. No memorial requests received from camps this year.
Historian Jonathan Davis	See published report.

Chaplain Kerry Langdon	See published report.
GAR Records Officer Richard Davis	See published report.
GAR Highway Officer Pete Hritsko	See published report.
Buffington Island Representatives Jim Oiler & Scott Britton	See published report. This year's ceremony will be held at 1100 on 19 July 2014.
Camp Chase Cemetery Representative Robert Davis	No report.

The following camps submitted written reports: Dennison Camp #1, Brooks-Grant Camp #7, Lytle Camp #10, Parrott Camp #33, Enderlin Camp #73, Townsend Camp #108, and Cadot-Blessing Camp #126.

Special Reports:

- Veterans Administration & Headstone Policy: Brother Bill Stark from Garfield Camp #142 reported on current VA policies making it nearly impossible to place headstones on unmarked Civil War graves. The current policy requires the signature of a “next-of-kin” to procure a headstone, a nearly impossible constraint for 19th century veterans. He reported that after a Congressional hearing in the fall of 2013, the VA agreed to take another look at this issue and new draft rules may appear this summer. Unfortunately, Brother Stark said, the National Order did not appear to be doing much about the issue.
- SUVCW Charitable Foundation and National Encampment Site Committee: Brother Jim Houston from Lytle Camp #10 thanked all brothers who had contributed to the Lincoln Endowment Fund and reported that Brother Jim Crane from Keller Camp #8 was now a member of the National Encampment Site Committee. Brother Houston mentioned that the 2014 National Encampment will be held 14-17 August in the Atlanta area. He also stated that the 2016 Encampment would be in Springfield, IL (11-14 Aug) and the 2017 Encampment site is yet to be selected, although several states have expressed an interest.

Unfinished Business:

- Committee on Ohio Statute to Protect Veterans' War Memorials & Monuments: Brother Fred Lynch of Sherman Camp #93 reported he is working with both the Ohio Historical Society Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and the Ohio Cemetery Task Force Law Commission to gain their support for legislation and a state law to better safeguard Ohio's veterans' memorials – especially those in cemeteries – from vandalism, destruction, and inappropriate repurposing.

This genesis for this issue is the Department of Ohio's continuing fight to save two Civil War cannons mounted at a GAR monument in Wilmington's Sugar Grove Cemetery. The cemetery has threatened to sell the two guns, alleged ownership, and rejected the claim of the SUVCW as the legal heir to the GAR.

Both State Senator Tim Schaffer (District #31; 614-466-5838) and Brother Henry Shaw of Enderlin Camp #73 have been involved in drafting proposed legislation. In addition, Fred Lynch developed a 27-page advocacy package containing facts and examples that illustrate why Ohio's veterans' memorials need improved legal protection and how several other states and the federal government have already initiated protective legislation. The package was sent to Senator Schaffer and several committees and organizations interested in the issue. A copy was shown Encampment attendees. Brother Don Grant from Townsend Camp #108 has been in email contact with Senator Schaffer and reported that the senator still is in the process of formulating a protection law.

MOTION: In regards to this issue, Brother Don Darby stated that the SUVCW is not listed on the Ohio Veterans website. Brother Darby moved and Brother Henry Shaw seconded that the Department of Ohio make every effort to have the SUVCW be included on the website. APPROVED.

MOTION: Brother Darby moved and Brother Shaw seconded that the new Department Commander reappoint the Committee on Ohio Statute to Protect Veterans' War Memorials & Monuments. APPROVED.

- National Encampment 2017: At the 2013 Encampment, Garfield Camp #142 requested the Dept of Ohio look into hosting the 2017 National Encampment in the Cleveland area. In the meantime, Garfield Camp #142 has withdrawn its request.
- Department Encampment Committee: The Franklin County Veterans Building, where the Department Encampment has been held the past few years, will be torn down. At this time, the Committee is unsure where future Department Encampments will be held. Dennison Camp #1, which holds its meetings in the Franklin County Veterans Building, plans to move to a new location in Grove City.
- MOTION: Bob Grim presented a resolution of support for Don Martin's election as the Junior Vice Commander in Chief. Henry Shaw moved and Ken Freshley seconded a motion for the Encampment to approve the resolution. APPROVED.
- MOTION: Assistant Department Secretary for MALs Robert Davis moved that MAL dues remain at \$31 for the next year. APPROVED.
- MOTION: Ken Freshley moved and Henry Shaw seconded a motion to approve Department Order #6, 10 April 2014. This order accepted the resignation of Dept Secretary/Treasurer Phillip Hilton. It also appointed Allan Howey as Acting Secretary and Jonathan Davis as Acting Treasurer, subject to financial oversight by the Department Council. APPROVED.

- GAR Highway: Peter Hritsko, GAR Highway Officer, recommended the Dept of Ohio place on its website a petition to US Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) for his help in placing GAR Highway signs on US Route 6 through Ohio. In discussion, Don Darby recommended the petition include both US senators from Ohio and that Rob Portman (R-OH) be added.

MOTION: Peter Hritsko moved and Bob Davis seconded a motion to accept Don Darby's recommendation. The motion now reads: "A petition is to be submitted and placed on the Dept of Ohio SUVCW website to the US Senators of the State of Ohio for the proper marking of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Highway (US Route 6) in the State of Ohio." APPROVED.

The Encampment adjourned for lunch at 1140 and reconvened at 1340.

New Business.

- MOTION: Andrew Rose and David Rose, both past commanders of McClellan Camp #91, have transferred to Dennison Camp #1. IAW the SUVCW Constitution & Regulations (Chapter II, Article II, Section 4), it was moved and seconded that the Encampment approves the transfer of their PCC status to Dennison Camp. APPROVED.
- MOTION: Ken Freshley moved and Henry Shaw seconded that the Encampment accept the Dept of Ohio Budget for 2014-2015 as prepared by Acting Treasurer Jonathan Davis and accepted by the Department Council. NOTE: The budget is included in the packet of officer reports. APPROVED.
- MOTION: Department Commander Davis asked for a show of hands of who planned to attend the upcoming 2014 National Encampment. Acting Secretary Howey recorded the names and passed out delegate cards; he gave extra cards to Jim Houston and Tim Graham. It was moved and seconded to accept all the Brothers so recorded to be elected as delegates, with all other members of the Department of Ohio to be designated as alternate delegates. APPROVED.

Delegates, in addition to PCINCs from Ohio, are as follows:

Dennis Brown
Shawn Cox
Jonathan Davis
Tim Graham
James Houston
Peter Hritsko
John Huffman

Kerry Langdon
Fredric Lynch
Donald Martin
Dustin Martin
Shane Milburn
Henry Shaw

- MOTION: Kent Dorr proposed and Henry Shaw seconded a motion directing the new Department Commander to form a committee to investigate the possibilities of the Dept of Ohio creating pages on “Facebook” and other social media websites. APPROVED.

Good of the Order:

- National Commander-in-Chief Ken Freshley addressed the delegates. He said he had enjoyed a very busy and interesting year as the CINC.

Commander-in-Chief Freshley mentioned that Brother Joshua Clayborn from the Department of Indiana is building a new National website. It is still a work in progress with over 6000 pages involved. Freshley asked all Brothers to report anything wrong with the new web pages and to be patient while the website is being further developed.

Commander Freshley then reported some financial problems in several departments and camps. For example, one dept secretary/treasurer had stolen over \$30,000 over many years from his dept treasury. The CINC recommended that all camps and departments pay closer attention to bank statements and more carefully audit the activities of their treasurers.

The CINC also stated that the problem with the Wilmington cemetery’s GAR cannons was setting precedents throughout the Order as other departments and camps find irregularities regarding GAR or other Civil War monuments and memorials.

Commander Freshley then told the delegates that he would be rescinding General Order No. 3, 22 Sept 2013, which suspended the recruitment of any members under the age of 18.

The CINC also mentioned that he was in the process of setting up an improved online membership application system for the Order. What he has in mind would tie an online application directly to the National Database Roster and to the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and the applicable Department Junior Vice Commander. It would also allow the paying of dues online. Such a system would streamline communications about new members and eliminate the current system of redundant and inefficient transfer of membership applications and dues checks from National to Departments to Camps and back again.

Commander Freshley then talked about several other issues, including the need to keep contact information up to date, the IRS backlog on 501c(3) applications, and the GAR Highway. He also described controversies involving the placement of a Union monument at the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park in Florida and with the SUVCW Auxiliary.

- Paul Schenck and Fred Lynch of Sherman Camp #93 described to the delegates several ideas and suggestions to protect Civil War and GAR cannons throughout Ohio.

Brother Schenck would like to audit all memorial guns within the state. He has put together a book about cannons within the Sherman Camp #93's area of responsibility. It addresses the condition of the guns, who owns them (or thinks they do), what is the link of the guns to the GAR, and are they actually where they are supposed to be. He recommended that other camps conduct similar investigations until a statewide audit is completed.

Past Department Commander Lynch then suggested that all camps visit local cemeteries or other memorial/monuments and hold rededication ceremonies for any GAR cannons that are found. In effect, this would confirm the guns are where they are supposed to be and that no one can later claim that the guns have been abandoned by the Order.

Nominations, Elections and Appointments of Department Officers. PCINC Don Darby moved that if only one candidate for each office was nominated, then that member would be elected automatically. The delegates approved the motion.

- Department Commander – Ken Freshley nominated Tim Graham. No other nominations. ELECTED.
- Department Senior Vice Commander – Robert Grim nominated Shawn Cox. No other nominations. ELECTED.
- Department Junior Vice Commander – Robert Davis nominated Peter Hritsko, and Jeremy Grant nominated himself. Peter Hritsko ELECTED by ballot.
- Department Secretary/Treasurer – Robert Davis nominated Jonathan Davis. No other nominations. ELECTED.
- Department Council – Fred Lynch nominated Shane Milburn to a three-year term, and Robert Davis nominated himself. Shane Milburn ELECTED by ballot.
- Newly elected Department Commander Tim Graham appointed the following officers to his staff:

Chief-of-Staff	Ken Freshley
Patriotic Instructor	Jeremy Grant
Chaplain	Kerry Langdon
Counselor	Donald Darby
Color Bearer	TBA
Guard	Kevin Sain
Guide	TBA
GAR Records Officer	Richard Davis
GAR Highway Officer	Peter Hritsko
Historian	Jonathan Davis
Genealogist	Open
Graves Registration Officer	Kent Dorr

Signals Officer	Ken Freshley
Buckeye Bugle Editor	Fredric Lynch
Civil War Memorials Officer	John Bowling
Buffington Island Rep.	James Oiler & Scott Britton
Social Media Committee	Kent Dorr & Ken Freshley

Not Designated at Encampment:	
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Bradley Tilton
Dept. Organizer	David Rish
Ohio Civil War 150 Rep.	Fredric Lynch
Camp Chase Rep.	Robert Davis
Assistant Secretary for MAL	Open

Installation of Officers: New Department Commander Tim Graham selected Commander-in-Chief Ken Freshley to serve as his installing officer, who also presented the Past Department Commander badge to Jonathan Davis.

New Commander Remarks: Department Commander Graham offered a few closing remarks about membership issues. He talked about past problems with Triem Camp #43 and how those challenges were met by a staff assistance visit and through mentoring. Commander Graham praised Triem Camp for its many good works and successes, nearly all of which were unknown to the department. Commander Graham then suggested that other camps would benefit from mentoring and asked for volunteers to help camps in trouble. After a brief discussion the following camps were assigned mentors:

McKinley Camp #21 – Jonathan Davis
 Given Camp #51 – Tim Graham
 Voris Camp #67 – Tim Graham
 Banning Camp #207 – Kent Dorr

Closing Ceremonies: At approximately 1600 hours Commander Graham closed the 132nd Department of Ohio Annual Encampment.

Approved:

Attested:

TIM GRAHAM
 Department Commander

JONATHAN C. DAVIS, PDC
 Department Secretary/Treasurer