
SONS OF THE UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Department of Ohio



141ST ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT 2023

P R O C E E D I N G SMEMORIAL SERVICE

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: So we're going to start. If I could get the officers to take their positions, we are going to start with the memorial service. For all of you, the memorial service will not be part of the minutes. It will be a separate event. We won't be doing that.

Officers will assume their respective stations. All will be in order.

Senior Vice Commander, to what purpose shall we devote these moments of our meeting?

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: To the memory of our deceased Brothers who are honored members of our Order and this Department.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: We do not have a bell, so we will forgo the ringing. Oh, you have a bell? Oh, there it is. Gee, I'm glad we're not recording this.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: I am.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Go ahead.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: John Bruce Fox; Charles S. Reeves; Wayne Thomas Vaughn, Jr.; Garrett Dill; Henry Hernstein; David V. Medert; Henry Shaw; Michael Daugherty; Howard Terry Frost; Scott Michael Moody; Thomas Metcalf; David North; Burdell Eugene Waffler.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Chaplain, have you any word of comfort for us from the Holy Book which has been placed at the Altar?

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BRENT L. DAVIDSON: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 44:1) Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life; he believe it in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." (John 11:26). He also said: "Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you; and if I go prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also." (John 14:1-3).

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Secretary, were these Brothers true to our Order, and did they loyally support it?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: They did, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Patriotic Instructor, where our Brothers true to the principles denoted by the flag of your station; Patriotism, Strength, and Courage?

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR R. MICHAEL MERSHON: They were, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Senior Vice Commander, were the Brothers true to the principles denoted by the flag of your station; Charity, and Purity?

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: They were, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Junior Vice Commander, were our Brothers true to the principles denoted by the flag of your station, Fraternity and Faithfulness?

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER CAMERON LOWERY: They were, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Brother Guide, were the Brothers true to the Flag of our Country, and were they ever ready to defend it against all enemies?

DEPARTMENT GUIDE GRANT BATE: They were, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Does any Brother here wish to offer a tribute to the memory of our departed Brothers? If so, he may speak now.

Brothers, join me in unison:

IN UNISON: The faults of our Brothers we write upon the sand, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Chaplain, please lead us in prayer.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BRENT L. DAVIDSON: Our Father, who art in Heaven, the Father of our Lord Jesus, and the Father of us all, we pray for your blessing to abide upon this humble service. Bless the memory of our departed Brothers. Bless and comfort those near and dear to them by the ties of the flesh and fraternity. Help us, each one to appreciate more and more the blessing we receive daily, from your great heart of love, and help us to prove our gratitude for all these good gifts, by our lives of usefulness and integrity. Bless our friends and Brothers everywhere, and may we be worthy of them and of you. Lead us graciously by your strong right hand and make us all to

be the citizens we are privileged to be in this godly land which
you have given to us. We ask in the name of our Savior. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

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2023 DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: The Officers and members of the 141st Annual Encampment of the Department of Ohio, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, will now come to order.

Guide, determine if all present are entitled to remain. Get your membership cards out, folks.

DEPARTMENT GUIDE GRANT BATES: Commander, all are entitled to remain.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Thank you, sir.

Brother Secretary, will you call the roll of the Officers of the Department?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Department Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Senior Vice Commander Huffman?

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Junior Vice Commander Lowery?

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER CAMERON LOWERY: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: The Secretary is present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Jim Crane?

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Department Council Shane Milburn?

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL MEMBER SHANE MILBURN: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Department Council Mike Spaulding?

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL MEMBER MIKE SPAULDING: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Department Council R.A. Davis? Excused.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: The Appointed Department Officers?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Chief of Staff, Don Martin?

CHIEF OF STAFF DON MARTIN: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Patriotic Instructor?

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR R. MICHAEL MERSHON: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Chaplain?

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BRENT L. DAVIDSON: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Counselor Ken Freshley?

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR KEN FRESHLEY: Right here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Color Bearer?

DEPARTMENT COLOR BEARER JARED ROBINSON:
(Indiscernible).

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Guide?

DEPARTMENT GUIDE GRANT BATES: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Guard is vacant.

GAR Record Officer, R.A. Davis?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's absent.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Highway Officer?

DEPARTMENT HIGHWAY OFFICER PETER HRISKO, JR.:
Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Historian, Richard Davis?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Graves Registration, Kent Dorr?

DEPARTMENT GRAVES REGISTRATION KENT DORR: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Mike Spaulding?

EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR MICHAEL SPAULDING: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Signal Officer, Brian Brown.

DEPARTMENT SIGNAL OFFICER BRIAN BROWN: (No audible response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Buckeye Bugle Editor is vacant.

And Buffington Island Representative?

Memorial Officer, John Huffman?

DEPARTMENT MEMORIALS OFFICER JOHN HUFFMAN: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Sir, the roll has been called.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Brothers, upon what principles are our Order founded, and what duties do we inculcate?

IN UNISON: Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Brothers, we meet again as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in annual session to review the work of the past and plan for the future. May our conduct and deliberations be marked by mutual tolerance and fraternal courtesy, and ever keeping in mind our duty to our Country, to our Order and ourselves.

The Chaplain will not invoke the Divine blessing.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BRENT L. DAVIDSON: Our Heavenly Father, the high and mighty ruler of the universe, who looks down upon the government of men, we earnestly ask your favor to bless our native land and preserve in purity and integrity it's free institutions for all coming time. Bless our Order, grant it may long exist, and that it may continue to be an instrument of great good to all. Give us willing hands and ready hearts to carry out properly it's principles and objectives. Keep green in our minds the memory of those who sacrificed so much that the life of the nation might be preserved, and deal with them in all things with your special mercy. Give us your aid in conducting the business for which we are assembled, and so bless us that Charity and Justice, and Peace and Harmony shall remain and flow from us. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Color Bearer, please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN UNISON: I Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: By virtue of the authority vested in me, I hereby declare the 141st Annual Encampment of the Department of Ohio, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, duly open for the transaction of all such business that may legally and properly come before it.

We do have some Rules of the Encampment. We will follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Officers will not read their reports. If you have an addition to your report, you have three minutes in which to give your addition.

Any Brother wishing to be recognized will raise his hand. I would prefer that you call out just Commander because if I'm looking at something, I'm not going to see your hand raised. So we'll do that. You'll come to the microphone, not the podium, the microphone so we can have an accurate recording of what's going on.

No Brother will speak more than once on a subject unless answering a question.

We are on a time limit for this room. So we need to move quickly. If you have a motion, make it. If when I was Commander in Chief, I told the C of A, we don't have time for war stories because most of the guys that started out well, when I was Commander in Chief and they launch into this litany of whatever, and we were there forever. So if you have a motion to make, do so, and we'll go from there.

All discussions will be conducted in Fraternity, Charity, and, Loyalty.

Brother Secretary, please perform the roll call of Camps.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp Dennison, Camp 1.

CAMP DENNISON REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 2, Fearing.

CAMP FEARING REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 7, Brooks-Grant.

CAMP BROOKS-GRANT REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 10, Lytle.

CAMP LYTLE REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 12.

CAMP MCLAUGHLIN REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 21.

CAMP MCKINLEY REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 26, Vienna.

CAMP VIENNA REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 33.

CAMP PARROTT REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 43.

CAMP TRIEM REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 73.

CAMP ENDERLIN REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 92.

CAMP CASEY REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 93.

CAMP SHERMAN REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 108.

CAMP TOWNSEND REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 126.

CAMP CADOT-BLESSING REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp 142.

CAMP GARFIELD REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Camp Zero.

CAMP ZERO REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Six absent.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: So what, 12 present? Okay.

Jim Houston, Brad Tilton, and Kent Dorr are appointed as the Credentials Committee. Jim, you're appointed as the Chair of the committee.

Guide, would you escort past Commander in Chief Martin to the podium so he can give his remarks from the Commander in Chief. The Commander in Chief was scheduled to be here. He sent an email out, thank you, sir. He sent an email out saying that he was in Elkhart, Indiana for four days, and ended up with COVID. So he decided not to bring it to Ohio and was moving himself back to Massachusetts.

PAST COMMANDER IN CHIEF DON MARTIN: Thank you, Commander. I was talking with Brother Rob over there. The Commander's condition has gotten a little bit worse. He is currently in a cardiac care unit. He has a lung infection that's been related to the COVID. So just to kind of let you know, and keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

He did ask though that I encourage everyone, as many as possible, to attend National Encampment in New Hampshire. There's some items, particular things, that will be voted on there and the Commander is going to talk about those later. And so if you have a strong opinion about things, come to the National and be heard. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Thank you. Oh, where's Rob Payne at? If you haven't had a chance to get on the SUVCW website, and you have a complaint, he's the man that you see. But it does look a lot, much better than it has in the past.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROBERT PAYNE: Good morning. I'm Robert Payne, Past Department Commander of Michigan, part of the Council Administration and the National webmaster. Glad to be here.

Just to move things along, I did talk to the Commander in Chief last night, and he's having a hard time breathing, but he is on the mend and he will be, you know, in the hospital for an undetermined amount of time right now.

But yes, if you do have anything with the Department, with the National website, if you haven't been there, go there. If you find something that you can't, if you run into an issue, you can send me a message through the website. Be very specific so I can address it, not a generalized hey, I can't find

something. I need to know what you're looking for, where you're looking for it to fix it. Thank you very much.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: At this time, I would like to recognize the Past Ohio Department Commanders and Past Commanders in Chief. If you would please rise when I call your name. We're going back a bit, and I know this gentleman isn't here, but they shouldn't be lost from our memory.

Robert Wolz, 1971. He is currently living in Key West, living the dream.

1976, Gordon Bury, II. He's up around Cleveland, and I don't know what dream he's living up there, but.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I talked to him the other day.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Say again?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I talked to him Sunday.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Robert Grim, 1994, and he was also Past Commander in Chief.

2002, Jim Houston. He's living the dream in Cincinnati.

Jon Silvis, 2003. He's up in that Cleveland area.

Brad Tilton, 2004.

Ray Nagel, it's good to see -- where's Ray at? Short guy, yeah. He's the reason all the State Highway patrolman are here because he left Cincinnati in a hurry. Ray's been, it's good to see Ray again.

2006, Ken Freshley, also Past Commander in Chief. You are going to see a lot of these people as Past Commanders in Chief.

Don Grant, 2007. He's not here.

Craig Keller, 2008. He's not here.

Robert Davis, 2009. Oh, I forgot me, 2001, and a Past Commander in Chief, damn. Robert Davis in 2009.

Charles Reeves in 2010, and he's one of the Brothers that passed away this year.

Don Martin, 2011.

Fred Lynch, 2012.

Jonathan Davis, 2013,

Tim Graham, 2014.

Shawn Cox, 2015, all the way in the back, quietly as opposed to me.

2016, Pete Hritsko, he is the hopefully (indiscernible) to be. He's Commander in Chief to be, either that or there's going to be a lot of dead people in Massachusetts.

2017, Jim Crane.

PAST COMMANDER IN CHIEF JIM CRANE: Present.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: 2018, Kerry Langdon.

2019, Shane Milburn.

2020, Mike Spaulding.

2021, R.A. Davis.

At this time, would the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, say that twice, fast twice, please provide us with his first report.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR JIM HOUSTON: 39. We have registered 39 individuals (indiscernible - away from microphone).

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: We have 39 individuals registered. And how many of those are permitted to vote, all 39?

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR JIM HOUSTON: Yeah, all 39.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. For the Constitution and Regulations Committee, I would like Past Commander in Chief Grim and Past Commander in Chief Freshley officers' reports. Let's spread to others. Ray Nagel, could you do the officers' reports.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER RAY NAGEL: Do I have something to report?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: No. Can you do the officer reports, read through the officer reports, and tell us if there's anything we need to know, okay?

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER RAY NAGEL: All right.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Tim, can you be on that committee as well?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Resolutions, Cameron Lowery, Mike Spaulding.

Parliamentarian, that's going to -- I'll just take that job. I tell myself I'm out of order.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's a conflict, isn't is?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay, then you'd like the job?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, hell no.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: You've all received the minutes of the last Encampment. I don't believe there are any minutes, or there should, yes, we'll deal with this now. In the minutes or the proceedings, last year there was a lot of discussion regarding the Monuments and Memorials fund, and it got kind of convoluted. And I think that there was so much going on, we didn't know exactly what we were voting on. I've talked to the person that made the motion, and for some reason it didn't end up in the minutes. And at that time, we had voted that it would continue to be a Monuments and Memorials fund, that the money in there would not, it would just roll over into the fund. It would continue in the fund. It would not be sent back to the general fund. So and it was based on any donations that someone wanted to make as well as the interest from the CD. That's what was proposed, and for some reason it didn't go out, so or didn't get in the minutes. So I would like to, I would entertain a motion that the Memorial fund, the money in it rolls over every year, it does not revert to the general fund, and it can be raised by interests from the CDs that we have as well as any donations from any members or outside source. So I'll entertain that motion.

BROTHER DENBOW: So moved.

BROTHER HRITSKO: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: A second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: All in favor?
Oh, wait a minute.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do we need names of who's making the motion?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yes. State your name, please.

BROTHER DENBOW: Carl Denbow.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Carl Denbow made the first, and Pete Hritsko was the second.

Is there any discussion on this? Sir?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just for --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Please go to the mic and identify yourself.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm not sure it's on. Let me make sure it's turned on for you.

BROTHER FREEMAN: Can you hear me?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Yes.

BROTHER FREEMAN: Okay. Scott Freeman, Lytle Camp Number 10. I just, for clarification, wondering this came up last year, and perhaps the year before, was because we were earning no interest at that time. And so I think the Camp voted to put \$500 --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: The Department did.

BROTHER FREEMAN: The Department, I'm sorry, the Department voted to put \$500 into the fund. So the intention, I think, last year was that money that the Department put the fund would also rollover.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yes.

BROTHER FREEMAN: Not just the donations and --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Right.

BROTHER FREEMAN: -- the interest.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Correct.
Anything else? All in favor?

(Whereupon, a voice vote was had.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Motion passes. It stays in the fund, and we're on the go.

We will now review the reports from the Officers and the Camps. I guess I'm up first.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Point of order.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Sir?

BROTHER BATES: We did not make a motion to accept the minutes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. We have a motion to accept the minutes. Second?

BROTHER LOWERY: Motion --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Second. All in favor?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Names. We need names.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Cameron Lowery was the second.

BROTHER BATES: Grant Bates.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Grant Bates.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Senior Commander, we need you to take the podium while I read my report. And this is the only report that will be, no, stay there.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Oh, sorry.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: You just you have to call them. That's the name thing for --

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Roger that, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. Well, welcome to the 2023 Department Encampment of Ohio. We were going to have Brother Bruce Frail, but he got sick. Also the alternate, or I'm sorry, the Auxiliary will not not be here today. They have another meeting, and I believe they're meeting, and I believe they're meeting at --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Grove City.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: In Grove City. That was not our doing. They had some problems there. The Site Committee Chairman got ill, and then the folks that rent us this hall were going to charge them, I think, \$30; is that correct? And they felt that they could do better at Grove City. So they will not be joining us.

I believe at least one of the ladies, maybe two, may be coming over for lunch, but that's about where it stands.

We've had, we've had, I think, was it 12 members who passed away this year?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 13.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 13, I believe.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: 13, an unlucky number. We've lost, I think, four Department Commanders this year. I'm sorry, three Department Commanders this year. That was David V. Medert. He was Department Commander in 1999. He was also a Past Commander in Chief. Terry Frost, he was Department Commander in 2000. He was from Townsend Camp. Charles Reeves was a Department Commander in 2010. He was from Lytle Camp. He was also the Department Commander of the Department of Florida before he passed. We lost Henry Shaw, and he I tell you right now is the father of the modern day Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day was about ready to fall on its sword or on its butt, whichever you prefer. The person who was supposedly running it was trying to do everything via email, and that wasn't flying too well in Central Pennsylvania. Henry drove from Delaware, Ohio on his dime, met everybody involved, all the Department of Transportation, the Gettysburg Borough Police, everybody that had anything to do with it, and he saved Gettysburg. I believe that Henry kind of mimicked, and I brought this up when he did it, National asked for help with Gettysburg. And much like in Isaiah 6:8, I also heard the voice of the Lord crying who shall I send, who will go for us. And I said, here am I, send me. And that's what Henry did. There were a lot of things, a lot of times with the SVR that Henry never got reimbursed. It was his mad money.

So we lost Brother Michael Dougherty. He was another jurist. He helped out by pro bono services to the Order. This started back when Camp Casey was trying to prevent the sale of cannons in a cemetery. Michael won the case for the Order, and it was also the first step in the Ohio Veterans Heritage Protection Act that became law in 2023 that protects all monuments, war monuments, in Ohio. We lost a Camp this year.

Morgan East Camp had their charter revoked for failing to turn in their reports after being on suspension for a year.

There are some good news. That Department Treasurer and Council got their heads together, placed some of the Department money in CDs that were -- we went from a .05 percent return to a 4.5 percent return. And basically, as Jim tells me, we made more in this quarter than we did the last two years; is that correct?

And also now, last year, we had the dues go up \$10, but that increase kept us in the red, I'm sorry, in the black by over \$1,000.

I do have a presentation to give that is not in my minutes. National started a program, and they came up with streamers for the Departments. This one is 2009 to go on our Department flag, and 2003 that goes on there. Or I'm sorry, 2019 and 2003. Now, because I'm a bit of a history buff, and I have a little mad money, we will probably be the only Department, I know we'll be the only Department to have this band, this streamer. But this is the National Encampment host for the 1883 Encampment, which Ohio Department, this is the second Encampment of at that time the Sons of Veterans, and this is it. So it cost me 79 bucks, but who's counting.

I would like to make a recommendation, which is not in my report, that once a year, the Department purchases the remaining, one at a time, banner, or get them made for each one. I think we may had maybe 20 Encampments in Ohio, and we should take the time to honor our history and kind of pat ourselves on the back for being around for so long. But there you go.

That concludes my remarks. Brother Senior Vice, you need to do some housekeeping.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: What do you want? I'm not sure why.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: You have to accept my report. You have to move to have my report accepted.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Commander, I move at we accept your report as stated.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Second?

BROTHER LOWERY: Second.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Cameron Lowery.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: All in favor.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: All in favor, say aye. Any opposed?

(Whereupon, a voice vote was taken.)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Oh, and Jim just told me, I'm not saying that Henry did a lot, Henry Shaw, but when he stepped down, it took four people to take his place. And Henry and I used to travel together along with Bob Grim, and we had some interesting tales. But you never let Henry navigate. Trust me. We were going to Iowa, and we ended up 80 miles from Chicago, and we didn't have dark glasses and a pack of cigarettes. So we were not the Blues Brothers.

Committee reports. What have we got here? Monuments and Memorials, do you have a report?

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS CHAIR JOHN M. HUFFMAN: Sir, the report as stated, no additions.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: The Encampment Site Committee and Planning?

ENCAMPMENT SITE COMMITTEE CHAIR: No, nothing to report, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. Membership and recruiting, Junior Vice.

MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITING CHAIR CAMERON LOWERY: Nothing to report, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Nothing to report, or nothing to add to your report?

MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITING CHAIR CAMERON LOWERY: Nothing to add to my report.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. Wanted to make sure.

Preservation of Department property. I don't remember assigning that, but I don't hear anything.

Department Secretary, has the Department received all their communications or any communications?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: No reports, none.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: We didn't get anything from -- okay.

Is there any old business to discuss?

It says we are supposed to take a five-minute break. Do you want a five-minute break? Anybody got an urgent -- oh, and by the way, if you hear nature call, don't wait around, just leave, take care of it. If I have nature calls, we'll have a rest.

Okay, new business. Does anyone have any new business to bring up from your Camps or your Department? No? I do.

I believe, well, I know you should have, all your Camps and Camp Commanders, should have received a copy of the SUVCW Constitution and Regulations report regarding membership qualifications. How many of you have heard about this in your Camps?

(No audible response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. For those of you who don't know what I'm talking about, beat your Camp Commander up because he had enough time to let you have meetings to discuss it.

For two years now, there's been a special committee to review the membership qualifications and report recommendations to the National Encampment. This was under Commander in Chief Paquette, then it moved on to an at-large committee under Commander in Chief Bruce Frail. In that report, the one thing that, the thing that was discussed was regarding transgender members, okay. I see some people are going (indicating), which means they probably didn't hear about it from there Camp Commander.

Anyway, the recommendation that was submitted was that this issue be presented to the National Encampment for a discussion and vote. One of the recommendations of the committee was in order to be a Son of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, you must be a male at birth, no transgender, no changes.

In our, first off, there is no federal law that deals with this subject. There is no state law that deals with this subject. So we are basically saying these are our rules for membership in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. And if it comes out, and we feel, the people on the committee, which I was one, felt that we had a legal foot to stand on because one, there's no regulation to determine what -- we have defined what a male is, okay, in this recommendation. We have also in

our Constitution and Regulations, it says male heirs. So basically, all we've done is define what a male is.

The one thing that may cause some debate or discussion, and we left this up to, we left it all up to the National Encampment, but what it is was that following the Grand Lodge, Masonic Grand Lodge of England, they have said once a member, always a member, once a Mason, always a Mason. So if the person joined the Masons, and then decided to become, to switch his gender, he would still allow to be able to be a Mason. We in the committee agreed with that, basically leaving the determination up to the National Encampment.

The -- I will tell you, we are in a much better legal footing than the Auxiliary or some of the Allied Orders. And what I know of the Auxiliary, what I know of the Allied Orders, you can put in a thimble and get an echo, okay. That's not my job, okay. They're a separate organization. But I can tell you the qualifications for membership in the Auxiliary, it says all you have to be a member, you don't have to have an ancestor or you don't have to be a descendent of a Civil War veteran. All you can -- you can be the spouse of a Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and be allowed to join the Auxiliary. So they may have, if they decide to address this, they may have a harder legal -- they'll be standing on sand instead of concrete, okay.

So what I'm going to ask for is a vote not to accept this report, but to say this report needs to be brought before the floor of the Encampment for discussion and a vote. Depending on that vote, if they vote and say we agree with the committee, then it will go -- they will vote to accept it. It will then not go into effect at that time, but it will be sent to all the Departments to ratify that change, which means the incoming Commander, Department Commander, may have to have a special Encampment to deal with that subject. And once that becomes ratified by 51 percent of the Departments, then it will be in effect immediately, okay.

This committee, and I've had this question asked three times, it deals nothing with cross-dressing and deals nothing with gays at all. It is strictly the definition of a male, and it says that basically transsexuals cannot be members, okay.

Anybody have any questions about what I just said, anything at all? Sir?

BROTHER DENBOW: I know this is -- is this thing on?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: You need to state your name.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: State your name.

BROTHER DENBOW: Carl Denbow, Commander, Townsend Camp 108. I know that this is kind of an exception. It's fairly rare, but I think there's one thing we need to consider as maybe a slight amendment, and that is there is a rare birth defect where people are born with ambiguous genitalia, and I actually know one of these people. It's very rare, it's about .007 percent. This particular person was at birth had the female genitalia sewed up and was raised a male. Later on, fairly recently, this person decided they wanted to be a female. They had their male parts taken off, and their female parts opened up.

Now, I think we should make some exception that a person like that who changed his gender, it's not, like, you know, it's not like a normal male, two X chromosomes, decides, you know, or a normal female, two X chromosomes aside, she's a male or a normal male, and X and Y chromosomes decides he's a female. I mean, that's a totally different issue and, you know, biologically crazy.

But this particular situation is not, and it seems like we ought to have some little exception that a person like this, who was assigned as a, in this case, it was a male that went female who could go the other way around where they were assigned female and decided later they were male. It seems like we need to make an exception for this birth defect. And the person I know who has this birth defect, you know, I'll say she because she's now a she, quite openly says, you know, this is a birth defect. I'm a really odd person. She (indiscernible), but still, it's kind of a it's rare, but it seems like we ought to make some provision for this kind of situation.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: That wasn't discussed in the meeting. But I think in regard to this particular thing, and I'm sure that that question will show up because we've heard the same thing before. I think that that change should not come from us but should be addressed at the National Encampment.

BROTHER DENBOW: Okay.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And let them take care of whatever.

BROTHER DENBOW: Good. I'm not going to be able to make the National Encampment. Can we make sure that is at least raised as an issue?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Sure.

BROTHER DENBOW: Okay. I'm fine with that.

BROTHER EDELMANN: John Edelmann, Sherman Camp 93, sorry, John Edelman, Sherman Camp 93. Is it on or off?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yeah, it's on.

BROTHER EDELMANN: Boy, you cannot tell. Anyway, isn't there a membership committee that could actually have those kind of things just, you know, as a general situation to go before that to either approve or not at some level that they could say okay, given the rarity of this particular aberration, shall we call it, that they would actually just simply be reviewed at a membership committee that would approve or not based on the conditions of that particular case, that's all.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: That would be, as I said, be brought up at National and for them to make the decision.

BROTHER EDELMANN: Right. I'm just maybe that would be a way out of it so that it wouldn't have to be codified is what I'm saying. It just (indiscernible).

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yeah, on a case-by-case basis.

BROTHER EDELMANN: Right, exactly.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: That's fine, yeah, yeah.

JUNIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CAMERON LOWERY:
Commander, Junior Vice Department Commander, Cameron Lowery. Now, I identify as a realist when it comes to things like this. And people need to consider that someone joining this organization, it's hard enough to get someone to do, let alone having someone that is going to switch their genders. These are very rare extreme circumstances, and I would argue that you have a better chance of winning the lottery than having someone join this organization and doing something like he was saying. he says, Denbow says that it's a rare circumstance with the thing that he said. So it's extremely rare already, and it's rare to get someone to come in who's going to be transgender anyways. So I would just not even consider what his circumstance that he's talking about because he even said that it is extremely rare in itself. And like I said, I am a realist. It would be nearly impossible to have someone like that come into this organization and that be the case.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Well, Cameron has just jinxed us. He gets that from his grandmother. It's not going to rain.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Get the umbrellas.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Anyway, I agree with you. But I think that you should also, if we're going to be crossing t's and dotting i's, we need to have a policy to address it, good, bad, or indifferent. So you know, you only get to talk once. I'm not asking you a question. The question is with the -- so we can bring it up before the National, and they can hash out whatever they want to do. What we're really looking at is just forwarding what was in the report to National for them to fight over.

This vote does not change anything in the Department of Ohio until after National votes, and then we have a Special Encampment to decide whether we're going to support the change or not.

BROTHER MARTIN: Don Martin, Past Commander in Chief. So you are looking for a motion for that?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: I'm just getting discussion right now. I will get a --

BROTHER MARTIN: Okay.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yeah, if you want to make a --

BROTHER MARTIN: I will make a motion that we do forward this on to to National.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay.

BROTHER RISH: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: We've got a first and a second. Now, discussion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who's the second?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Name, Dave Rish. He kind of looks like Jesus because he's got this bright light behind him.

BROTHER RISH: Keep thinking that.

BROTHER BATES: Grant Bates, Sherman Camp. Commander, just a question; does National have a game plan in place in case of a repercussion on the organization for having such a policy statement?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: There is no rule that says we can't or can. We're a tax-exempt fraternal

organization. So we can make our own rules. And anything can be challenged. So I guess if they don't have one, they're going to have to have one somewhere along the line because I'm sure someone will challenge it. That's kind of a yes and no answer, but does that answer your question?

BROTHER BATES: I guess I was more specifically worried about the press in case they get a hold of it. You get a wily journalist that decides to make a list of organizations that are on the non-woke list, and we would be one of them if we have an idea or a statement or if there's going to be a plan for a case of that.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: We have a committee that deals with the press doing releases. And then, it will be up to Commander in Chief to be to decide how he wants to address it. What I would say, based on past things that have come up, he will speak for the SUVCW. He will be the one that determines what will be said in this regard. I think if you remember Mark Day had a situation where, and I can't remember what it was, he had a situation where he came out and said I speak for the Order, no one else does. I think it was --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Confederate.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: -- tearing down the statues.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And he said, I speak for the Order. And the one reporter tried to sucker him into talking about Nazis, and he said, I don't have anything to do with that. This has nothing to do with the Sons and Civil War monuments. And it was the best answer that he could have given because it just shut this reporter. We got any reporters in there? You don't want to ask me, okay. Go ahead, Jim.

BROTHER CRANE: Jim Crane, Past Department Commander. I'm assuming that at the National Encampment when they decide what they're going to do, there will have to be a change to the C&R; is that correct?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yes. It will be. And in the report, which is in this, because what I have to do, depending on what you guys decide, we have to send a letter to the Commander in Chief if we decide to forward this on to National, we have to send a letter to the Commander in Chief saying we're doing that so he can put it before the C&R committee, and then brought up for discussion on National. Does that answer your question?

BROTHER CRANE: Yeah, Commander. Would that go back to the Camps and the Departments to vote on?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Once the National votes, if they say yes, we're going to change it, that change has to be approved by 51 percent of the Departments. So then you would, and once again, you would have a special election and forward it. And as soon as automatically, as soon as they hit the 51 percent, it becomes a rule of the order. If they hit 49, it dies, okay.

BROTHER CRANE: All right. Thanks, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Sure.

BROTHER EDELMANN: One last question. John Edelmann again, Camp Sherman 93. Is this action being taken as a result of an actual request situation, do we know, or is this actually just trying to put the ducks in order before it should happen?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: This is --

BROTHER EDELMANN: -- that means theoretical?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: No. This is to for us to come up with a policy that we state. So we're taking -- it's proactive.

BROTHER EDELMANN: That's fine.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: No one has, no transgender person, at least to my knowledge, has approached the Order for membership. But --

BROTHER EDELMANN: So here's my comment that I would like to maybe have the National committee consider. Is it conceivable in a situation like this so as we've mentioned so that it doesn't gain PR notoriety to actually have something triggered so that we don't actually have it in the bylaws, we don't, you know, so that a reporter can't say, hey, look what this SUV did, just have it sort of so that we know what we're going to do, and in the event that someone comes to about it that we can make the change at that point.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: The committee that went through this went to four or five, I can't -- the legal people who in the readings that we had said that the National was on better legal footing to be proactive rather than --

BROTHER EDELMANN: Okay, all right, then that's fine. That's fine.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay.

BROTHER EDELMANN: It's just the consequence of it having --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: That came up. Like I said, the committee was a year, one committee, and then a second one. Part of the second committee, you know, they were addressing HIPPA in all this, and I said this has nothing to do with HIPPA. This is, and this has nothing to do with employment, and that's where most of the legal ramifications were in regard to that, and none of this we have membership in -- oh, by the way, the once a brother, always a brother does not apply to U.S. Masonic Orders. They have not made a decision, only Britain has done that. Brad?

BROTHER TILTON: Yeah. Brad Tilton, Past Department Commander, McLaughlin Camp 12. I just have a comment in that I think we're on the right track here. I was an officer in my college fraternity as a graduate, and in 2018, this same thing came up. So our fraternity determined that we are an all-male organization, and as you said, all-male organization and at the same time, anybody that wanted to switch, they could still be a member, they just couldn't be an undergraduate member. So I think we're on the right track. And my point is a lot of organizations are having this same discussion. We're not out in left field. And like I said, I think we're on the right track. That's all I have, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Thank you, sir. All right. Anyone else? Okay gentlemen. The vote will be, once again, to basically say we want the SUV CW, let me get the right word here, the SUV CW special committee to review membership qualifications and report recommendations to the National Encampment be forwarded to the National Encampment for discussion and a vote at the next National Encampment in Nashua, New Hampshire. That's the vote. Are there any questions about what we are voting on?

All in favor of forwarding this to National for discussion and a vote, say aye.

(Whereupon, a voice vote was taken.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: One abstention, one objection. Motion passes. I will send this -- where did my secretary go? They have loose (indiscernible) in the Army, I tell you.

Okay. Yeah, that's fine. Now, there's another general order that's just came out. How many of seen this one?

Okay. This deals with having weapons, concealed or open carry, at an SUVCW meeting, okay, or an event.

Current regulations state that members of an honor guard or members of the SVR attending an SVR event may carry period-era weapons in the performance of their duties, okay. That doesn't mean that in this, which is supposed to be kind of the uniform of the day for SUVCW members does not mean that you can carry a weapon at an SUVCW Camp meeting.

And I can tell you that put it mildly, all hell broke loose when this general order came out, and people were going, the Commander in Chief can't make this general order. Yes, he can. He doesn't have to have permission from anybody to issue a general order. The general order only stays in effect until the next Encampment, and at that time, the Encampment can say no, and the general order goes away.

If the Encampment says yes or ignores the subject altogether, it automatically becomes a rule of law at the end of that Encampment. I'll give you a prime example. When Charlie Kuhn was Commander in Chief, his National Counselor put out an opinion, which Charlie ruled on. You understand the difference between an opinion and a ruling. Okay, an opinion is just a Counselor saying I think this is what had happened. Charlie then took it one step and said, this is what will happen. And in this case, it was eliminate the word Jesus Christ or the name Jesus Christ from any of the ritual books in the SUVCW, and that went over like a fart in church. And I will tell you I was the first one in line, and we got it overturned. We got it stricken from the, or as Charlie said, stricken from the SUVCW proceedings. So that is how a general order gets struck down.

In this case, I'll give you the background. There was a Brother who said that one, we were, what's the word I want, he was a disabled veteran, and that we were --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Discriminating?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yeah, discriminating against him, but he never said what the discrimination was. And then he started in with I have the right, I have a concealed carry, I have a constitutional right, I have the license to operate a cannon and a machine gun, and he just, I mean, to me, unhinged was a kind way to describe this gentleman's action. He became a member. He was a member back in the day, quit for whatever reason, then rejoined.

Well, when you do that, when you quit the Order, you rejoin, it's just like you were never a member again. So they have to vote for, the Camp has to vote to accept you. They have

to go through all the -- just like you were coming in off the street and applied.

He also, in my mind, made some veiled threats, veiled threats, to that Commander in Chief not only for legal action but possibly physical, a physical challenge. It was to the point that the Commander in Chief's wife was afraid for the Commander in Chief to go to Nashua. So it was veiled, but not that much veiled.

So the Commander in Chief went out and put out an order saying unless you're an SVR member involved in a procession, a honor guard, you will not have an SUVCW, you will not carry a weapon at an SUVCW. Well, one of the people got up and said, well, that's a bunch of crap. And I said, well, apparently you have not been into very many hotels, at least not in the State of Ohio because they all have that little sticker that says basically if you ain't a cop here on business, you better not have a firearm on you or we're going to throw you out of the hotel.

And this is one of those things where it could have very easily went to the press because the guy who complained about it sent it. There are 63 people on his email address. So you figure that that gets multiplied by ten or 15 every time it hits, and he come out and he goes well, if you pass this, I'm going to quit.

Don't throw that comment down in front of me because I'll say I accept your resignation, thank you for playing, let me show you out.

But this is the reason why the Commander in Chief sent out the general order concerning weapons at the National Encampment or at any SVR event. You will notice that -- how many are Masons in here? Okay. In the Masonic ritual, they say that you're not allowed to bring any weapon, offensive or defensive, into the Lodge. So basically, the Masons have already said you can't do it, and no one's questioning it. But there is a gentleman who wanted to bring this up before the floor. I'm just letting you know what the reasoning was behind the general order. And there is a way to stop it, but throwing a temper tantrum on the Internet is not how you do it because when I responded, I said, I don't recall any of you people being in my chain of command when you sent this email out. You sent it to me, and you're from Massachusetts. I'm not in your chain of command. It should have went from the person that has the complaint to either that Camp Commander, the Department Commander, and then to the Commander in Chief. You don't go out and blow it up to the entire free world because that's what you want to do. Okay.

Anybody have any questions on that? There's no vote until you get to that National Encampment, and they'll decide whether they want to accept that general order as a rule of the Order or vote it down and everybody starts packing at an Encampment, which means I'll probably be shot. Sir?

BROTHER FREEMAN: I do have a question. Scott Freeman, Lytle Camp Number 10. I think I've actually violated this rule before, this new order, before it existed by bringing a period revolver and a period sword to a grave marking ceremony, sort of as an exhibit. And sometimes we bring these kind of artifacts to shows and stuff. Is that --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: That's not a problem. It's a loaded weapon.

BROTHER FREEMAN: Okay.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And it's basically an open carry ready to shoot firearm that he's saying you can't bring.

BROTHER FREEMAN: Okay. So even if you're not in uniform, but you bring --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: If you're doing it for an exhibit or something --

BROTHER FREEMAN: Exhibit or something.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: -- that's not going to be a problem, not, as long as it's not --

BROTHER FREEMAN: Loaded.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And if you march at Gettysburg, you don't enter the National Park with a weapon of any kind. You have to take the bayonets off, everything else. So, Jim Crane, does that answer your question?

BROTHER CRANE: Yeah.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And besides that, anything you did before that general order come out is fair game.

BROTHER CRANE: Jim Crane, Past Department Commander, Lytle Camp. If you all know, all the states have their laws governing that, what you can do, open carry, whether you can do that or not, whether the state accepts your actually the transfer from what, you know, your firearm --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Your certification, right.

BROTHER CRANE: Right, your CCL license or not. Sarge, you may want to correct me on that if I'm wrong, but all the states have their different, retired policeman after 20 some years. So they all have the laws. So if this guy wants to take a gun into New Hampshire, and the laws state you cannot have a weapon in New Hampshire like they say in Illinois, you're going to jail. They won't fool with you. So as far as I know, he better check the state laws.

And even if our Order says you cannot bring a firearm, you can't bring a firearm. I mean, you just, if I was the Commander in Chief, I just say -- I'd call the police and have the guy removed, you know, we don't need him. So I don't know why, but unless I think some of the guys that passed away in the past, you and those guys -- the way you guys argued -- nevermind. I'm done.

BROTHER BATES: Grant Bates, Sherman Camp. Again, Commander, I did not see the order come out. One quick question about it; does it cover any event of the SUVCW or just meetings?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: All, all SUVCW events providing -- now, this doesn't mean if you've got, if you're doing a memorial service, you can have an honor guard or the SVR unit, they're permitted to have their weapons, and actually to fire them, except for Gettysburg. And Gettysburg, you'll go to jail if you walk on to the cemetery with a loaded weapon.

BROTHER BATES: No. My question was more of a self-defense personal weapon, not for a display. You said the meetings. You said --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Let me tell you, this is a, how do I say this, the general order needs some work on language because in part of it, it says you can't do it at all, and then the next paragraph, it says with the exception of this, this, this, and then this. So it's kind of poorly worded. It's going to have to be changed, but basically what it comes out to is no weapon at all, period.

BROTHER BATES: So I wanted to know specifically about meetings and/or events of a Camp. We at Sherman Camp take care of a cemetery in a part of Dayton that I wouldn't want to be in during the daylight, let alone at night.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay.

BROTHER BATES: And I have, to be honest with you, in the past brought my personal defense weapon when I've attended a work party at said cemetery. So the new general order --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: But that's not exactly an event, right. That's not a meeting.

BROTHER BATES: It's not a meeting, but it is a Camp activity, organized by the Camp. That's my --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: According to the way it's written right now, no, you could not.

BROTHER BATES: Thank you.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: I'll clean this up because this is --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Has he got the order because I've got the order --

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Yeah, I've got the order, and I'm going to address it.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: He thinks he's going to clean it up, but he can't change the wording of the order.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Kelly Hopkins, Department Secretary. General Order 24, okay, the General Order shall not apply to the following circumstances, okay. Any law enforcement personnel authorized by their Agency to carry a firearm; any retired law enforcement personnel authorized to carry a firearm; any security person engaged in official duties, you are allowed to carry. Any member of the Sons of the Civil War properly dressed stated by General Order series of 2016 and '17, General Order 19, series 2021 and '22 when in the performance of your duties as a Color Guard, firing detail (indiscernible) American Civil War reenactment or an educational program, you can carry. A member of that Sons of Reserves in proper uniform in the performance of your duties as described in the C&R, you can carry. When the individual is present with a valid district order of protection or otherwise complaint by law enforcement, federal law, or the regulations, you can carry. Any Brother who has got a concealed carry permit, and it's valid, you may carry, issued by that state, and you need reciprocity, you can legally carry in the meeting. So this is where it's if you don't have any of that, you cannot carry.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: So Brother, I think that you are permitted, according to what he just read if

you have a concealed carry permit, and you're in a working party, you can carry.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Correct. Now, understand Ohio does not, you don't have to have a license to carry, okay.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: But that's a constitutional carry, so.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: But it says you have to have a permit. So if you have a permit, if you don't, you can't carry in one of our events. If you do have, you can carry. Hopefully that clears all that up, okay.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And they're going to, this is, trust me, it's going to show up at National. There's going to be, I can hear the Commander in Chief saying I'll hear three for and three against, then we are going to vote. But that's where it is. Any other questions? And that's not up for a vote here. I just wanted you to be informed of it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One quick question; how is it brought to a vote at National? Does someone make a motion?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: What will happen is at National --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We'll need to put him up at the mic.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yeah, go to the mic, and I'll --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I tried to squeeze one in without walking up there. My question was if this General Order is challenged or brought to a vote at National, what's the mechanism for that happening?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: The mechanism for that is when doing officer reports, just like here, the Commander in Chief will read his report. At that time, you can challenge any of his general orders, which and then basically what I did to Charlie Kuhn, I stood up and I said we stand in opposition to this general order, and this is the reason why, and then it went to a vote. Any other questions?

Okay. Do we have any more, any other new business?

Cameron?

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER CAMERON LOWERY: Commander, Department Junior Vice Commander, Cameron Lowery. So

when I was at National Encampment, I received donations to the Kalamazoo project. And as a result, I received this streamer here, and I'd like to briefly read this letter:

Dear Brother Lowery,

On behalf of the Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute Board of Directors, please accept our heartfelt thanks for the generous donation received from your Department in support of our Abraham Lincoln statute project.

And I'd like to give this to the Department and thank everyone for their donations. So thank you very much, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Did you say 11:30? What we're going to, since we're a bit ahead of the selection here, we're going to take about a ten-minute break for everyone to run to the restroom, and then we'll go in to start lunch and we may be accompanied to lunch by somebody playing the piano like last year.

(Lunch recess.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: An important person that I didn't recognize when we started the Encampment, we have one Junior Member, is that right? Are you a Junior Member?

JUNIOR MEMBER KIDD: Yes, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Liam Kidd.

JUNIOR MEMBER KIDD: Liam Kidd.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Liam Kidd. And who are you here with?

JUNIOR MEMBER KIDD: Robert Kidd.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: You're with your grandfather?

JUNIOR MEMBER KIDD: Yes, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: That's how he started. But he was a lot shorter than you. Welcome, okay.

All right. Treasurer, will you please present the financial report and questions for the upcoming year, 17, 18, 19, talk about those.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Page 2 is an index.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Says you first, okay.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: On page -- Jim Crane, Past Department Commander and Ohio Treasurer. On page 18 of the packet is the proposed budget for next year. We actually last year's numbers, we were actually about \$500 to the good what the budget said. But somewhere in my computer, I couldn't print. I think it's dead. I don't know. I worked it so much this year, I don't know.

But anyhow, registrations and encampments, we usually take about 230 bucks. Luncheon is here. Chief of Staff fund, I think we've collected about \$100 so far, and I'll read those names off. The Enderlin Camp donated money. Camp Commander Fulter (phonetic), is anybody here from his Camp? No. He sent in money. And well, I'll read them when it comes to the good of the Order. He caught me off guard. It's his fault.

Interest on the permanent fund, we're looking at actually about \$385 for this year. We discussed that earlier with the whatchamacallit stuff. We'll go to the next page in a minute.

And then, we have all the expenses, of course, the luncheon, Commander in Chief Representative. Don Martin, do you want \$300?

BROTHER MARTIN: Do I want 300?

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Yeah, it's budgeted.

BROTHER MARTIN: I'll take that.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: I'm sorry, you've got to turn in your mileage or you don't get it.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: No way, he already got his check. Printing, all these other things, this is done basically off historical stuff. Frost GAR Hall, it's a shame Terry passed away. Operating cost for the Zoom is I've got for next year is \$175. It was \$160 this year. Thanks to Kelly for setting all that stuff up. It's been a godsend to do the records and the audits every month with the Council and the Officers and stuff. So when we come to this day, we just go downstairs and look at the checkbooks and stuff because they've

already got all of the bank statements for the year and the CD statements from Wright-Patt.

National Encampment ad book, that will go into thank Commander in Chief, Bruce Fields' leadership, so on and so forth. Everything else is in there.

Monuments and Memorials, there was \$500 in there. Of course, that money would come out of the Monuments and Memorials fund. So our cash flow is positive for this year of \$1,775. It's a good thing we did raise the dues for this year because last year, the proceedings, which is this small group of documents here, we have to do this. We always called things our proceedings and our minutes, but the verbiage is all correct now and has been done by the Commander, and Kelly, and myself. So now this is the proceedings, and this is in writing, and I do believe it's on the Department website. So you can go and you can read what happened last year, all right. This is it. The minutes, that's basically just notes that Kelly takes, but those don't need to be on the website.

Is there any questions about the budget?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: I have one question. Since the Commander, were we be able to get our full refund on the room?

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Yes, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: For the Commander in Chief?

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Correct. I had to barter on that, but it's done. Note the Department will have no expense on that.

BROTHER MARTIN: Don Martin, Enderlin Camp 73. I was just informed for the National Encampment book that it's now \$50, just for the record, 40 plus.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Well, Kevin Tucker got 40, so he's going to lose \$10.

BROTHER MARTIN: Okay.

BROTHER MCBRAYER: John McBrayer, Camp 33. The National dues showing, is that an estimate for next year?

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: It is, yes, sir, based on about how many we had this year. So I, the last couple of years, we've lost some people. This year, we lost 13 to them passing away. So we already lost six members this year, and the dues went up from four dollars to \$10. So I thought we were

going to be a lot less than 19 people. We already lost 19 people last year. So I kind of estimate that.

BROTHER MCBRAYER: Okay. I was just wondering the discrepancy between that and the check that hadn't cleared yet for the \$12,474.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Actually, it cleared yesterday.

BROTHER MCBRAYER: Okay.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: I see that. But I put that in there just to everybody doesn't think we had, you know, \$22,000 in our checking account.

BROTHER MCBRAYER: And the other question I had is this Chief of Staff fund.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Yes.

BROTHER MCBRAYER: The fact that we raised six dollars for everybody here, then do we still need to contribute to the Chief of Staff fund?

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: That's a good question.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: That's voluntary by the Camp. If you don't, you don't.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: They are down from last year, and I think it's because the dues went up. So they're down, like, \$200. But it could be because they didn't like the Chief of Staff or they didn't like me.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: I'm glad you're not caring. Edelmann?

BROTHER EDELMANN: John Edelmann, Sherman Camp 93. I just wanted to mention that our Camp did vote for a \$100 contribution to the Chief of Staff fund, so it's in process.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Okay. Thank you. Sherman Camp has been doing that for a couple years, and that really helps, and that gets it back closer to the number. Basically, we use that money to pay for some extra printing costs and the room rental for this room. So that's what it goes to pay for. So the Chief of Staff fund does have a purpose. We don't make any money off of it, really, we don't. It's, well, you all know this book cost us \$562 last year. That's never

been an expense that we've ever had before. So that's what I was saying it's a good thing the dues went up because that helped pay for this. Thank God Kelly got one of his people to do this for us. And I mean, if we have to pay it this year, we'll have to pay this year. But with all the experience that we had, everything's double spaced, so we're going to wait and see what she says about doing single space. It may still be the same amount. So we just don't know yet, correct?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Yes. We are not doing the memorial. She's not going to type the memorial service, the first pages, the memorial service.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: So that's the Treasurer's report and the budget on that. So I think we need somebody to make a motion on it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Carl Denbow.

Next is the Treasurer's Report. As of May 31st, we had \$23,597.62 in there. The Monuments and Memorials fund, which says savings account on it is \$1,464.94. Gary Sallade from the Enderlin Camp sent a check in for \$50 in memory of David Medert, so that's why that amount went up \$50. I do have two more checks that I have to deposit into that from memorials from David Medert.

Wright-Patt Credit Union, you can see we've got the \$2,500.00 one, 5,000, \$10,000 CDs. That's \$17,780. So we're in fairly good shape compared to a lot of the Departments out there. We're frugal as hell, I mean, we really are. And if it's not in the budget, and we have to have something done, I have to go to the three Officers and the Council Administration to get that bill approved. I mean, there's no cut around.

When I wanted to get this checkbook, I mean, I'm getting old, you know, so I got this big checkbook here. It's a business checkbook, and now I can read my own writing. So I thank them for doing that, and I dare anyone of you to come up and write into this little book all the information that has to go on the memo line because you can't do it. So it's in code. And if you were a CT in the Navy, you might be able to break it. You guys didn't have CTs in the Army there.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's secret.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Actually, they had the ASA, right? Never mind. So anyhow, my report (indiscernible) have been before my Department Council and the three Officers this past year. I did request funds to purchase a business checkbook that has a ledger so we can read exactly what's going on right down to the interest received from the CDs, \$83.43, \$124 and you all can read that stuff. Basically, we made more money in the first quarter of this year than we made in all of last year in interest. So it's definitely helping that we have 4.5 percent, and we go from there.

I will be requesting that we take the interest, \$280.67, and deposit it into the Monument and Memorials account, which is right above there and it says savings account.

Checking account is high only because National has not cashed our per capita check, which they have now, and so the actual amount of money in there now is \$10,929.29. And the six dollar bump in dues has helped a lot. I don't think we ever want to operate in the red, so that's helped.

Permanent fund is still \$11,414.83. That will stay the same unless somebody decides to make a donation to the permanent fund. Once that money goes in there, it takes an act of God to take money out of the permanent fund, correct? And that's all I've got. I can't make the motion, can I?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: You've already made the motion, didn't you?

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: Well, I was going to ask them if we could move some interest, but.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Well, then make the motion. Okay. In the report, we have a motion from the Treasurer, who wishes to take the interest from the CD, which was 200 and how much?

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: 280.67.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: 280.67, and transfer that to the Monuments and Memorials fund. As we voted earlier, it will just continue to rollover.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

JUNIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CAMERON LOWERY: Point of order. Commander, Junior Vice Department Commander, Cameron Lowery, we made a motion that was never voted on before this to accept his report that needs to be done first before we go ahead with the motion that you're going to be giving us.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: You know he's walking home, right?

(Laughter.)

So you said we need to make a motion?

JUNIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CAMERON LOWERY: No, the motion has already been made.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And he seconded it or he first and I second (indiscernible - speakers).

One of you at a time.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: To accept the motion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. We need a motion to accept the budget. We already have one?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, it's already --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. So we are going to vote on that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Anybody have any discussion on that? Anybody giving Cameron a ride home?

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: All in favor, say aye. Those opposed? Passes.

(Whereupon, a voice vote was taken.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Now, can we take the money? All right. I need a motion, or he made a motion or a recommendation that we take the \$280.67 and roll that into the Monuments and Memorials fund. Is there a second?

BROTHER SPAULDING: I make a motion that we move \$280.67 to the Monuments and Memorials Fund.

JUNIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CAMERON LOWERY: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: That was Cameron Lowery.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who made the motion?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Michael Spaulding. All in favor? Opposed.

(Whereupon, a voice vote was taken.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Transfer the money. Next one up, go back to my script here, I believe that's the Treasurer or the Secretary's report.

Treasurer, do you have anything to report other than what's in your report?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Secretary.

DEPARTMENT TREASURER JIM CRANE: No, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You mean secretary?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Yeah, I do. I've got one correction.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Let's have it.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: The number of associates was pointed out, it's not 170, it's 17, my typo, 17, not 170, it's 17.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: (Indiscernible) Annual Department Report, we have 409 members in the Department; is that correct, Secretary?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Correct.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And how many delegates does that give us?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Sixteen.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. Plus, the 16 plus all the past Commanders in Chiefs, Past Department Commanders, I think we usually end with a total of about 40 possible votes. But I think the big thing here, we, well, first off, who's going to the National Encampment? Raise your hand. Okay. Have you all got delegate cards from Kelly?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't have mine yet.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. I hate when he gives me that look.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Do you have many --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, no. He said he was going to the Encampment.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Okay. So you're the only one.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Delegate.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Do you have money from everyone else?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Yes, that's done. I just need to know. So he's the two, out of 16, we have one Delegate going.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: So I can give you a card --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: So and you have those people on the form, correct?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Yes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And the installation form has the number of our delegates? Who are you picking to install you?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Past Commander in Chief, Don Martin.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. Good of the order, do we have anything for the good of the order? We've got a time limit. Yes, sir?

BROTHER FRESHLEY: Past Commander in Chief, Ken freshly, James R. Garfield Camp. I would like to ask this Encampment to do a resolution from the Department in support of Brother Peter Hritsko for running for the office of Commander in Chief.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: All in favor? Did you all hear him, have a resolution for Pete as the next Commander in Chief. And Pete, if you are elected or when you're elected, you'll be the second Ohio Department Commander elected in Nashua to be the Commander in Chief. I was the first, but you know, that's just in Nashua.

Okay. Let's vote on this. All in favor? Against?

(Whereupon, a voice vote was taken.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay, it's passed. Whoever the incoming Secretary is and Commander will issue the resolution to the appropriate bodies all or appropriate officers.

Sir?

BROTHER DORR: Kent Dorr, Senior Vice Commander, McLaughlin Camp 12. As many of you know, our Camp has a project, ongoing project. We sell concrete Civil War statues and fund activities and projects, and we brought a new one this year, a painted Abraham Lincoln. He's up there on the stairs, and we sell them at the Civil War show in Mansfield and some other areas. We brought one today. We'll discount them down to \$80. They're normally 100 at the show. If a Brother wants to take one home, please let us know. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Oh, I thought Cameron was going for his wallet. Thank you.

Brother Crane? Oh, Grave Registration, how many people have we got registered; do you know off the top of your head?

BROTHER DORR: 90,314.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Are we on top of the pile?

BROTHER DORR: By thousands.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: By thousands.

BROTHER DORR: And 90,000, when I started, and it's been over ten years ago that I was elected and appointed the Graves Registration Officer, it was 44,000, and now where at 90. I would estimate that based on what we've been doing the last number of years about four years from now, we are going to hit 100,000, and that's going to be quite an achievement.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: As long as we're ahead of that state of North.

BROTHER DORR: Oh, we're well ahead of them.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Kent, what was the number again?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Go ahead, Jim.

BROTHER DORR: 90,342. It's in the report.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This young lady back here (indiscernible) do not stop for six years.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: At least.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's retiring, which we will miss her greatly because it's been great working with her, guys. She deserves a heck of a round of applause, she does.

(Applause.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The next person I want to thank is John Huffman for doing this stuff. You know, pretty good, he does not need a round of applause, but if you want to, that's fine. He did this today and organized all the stuff. So John, thanks a lot.

BROTHER HUFFMAN: Thank you all.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Last, but not least, is Kelly. Kelly, I tell you what, you've done a hell of a job this year. I don't know what that Department Commander wants to say, but I'll tell you what, this gentleman has been on his own free time digitalizing, he's got through two boxes so far, but he's got more to do, and if you all want to help, fine because it's probably going to take another year to digitalize all that stuff, okay. So Kelly, thank you for doing a great job this year.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Appreciate it. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now, you guys need to, if you knew what he does, he has kind of modernized some of the stuff, right, Commander? I mean, it's been a lot easier this year and whoever takes the job for next year, I guarantee you it will be a lot easier from now on. Ohio has a lot of really good people, and we need some of you guys to step up, we really do because I need a vacation. So please, if somebody would take it, it would be great.

Lastly, the only thing I have, Commander, for the good of the order is what you already talked about, was losing some of the brothers here. We lost some really good people. And you know, that's just tough because we can't beat time, okay. But I know some of you guys are missing some of their friends, and I think they've got everything they got coming to them. That's all, Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Thank you. Anything else for the good of the order?

Guard, secure those doors, and allow no one to enter.

Credentials Committee, provide us with a final report.

BROTHER HOUSTON: I think that the last number was 40, right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

BROTHER HOUSTON: Okay. We have --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Come to the mic.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Talk in the mic.

BROTHER HOUSTON: Jim Houston, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, Lytle Camp 10. The records for our voting attendance is 40. Let me get closer. All right, here we go, 40. So we have the numbers for each Camp. If we, as we have elections, if you would go up right to the corner here, we will give you the number of paper ballots for each Camp that qualifies.

And we have had run a test according to the Department bylaws about who could vote in each Camp. And the situation is, in summary, is that Past Commander in Chiefs, Camp Commanders, Past Camp Commanders, elected officers of the Department have a vote. Thus, one vote for each Camp just because it exists and one Camp additional for each ten members or majority thereof get a vote. So that's how these were calculated in terms of number of votes that each Camp gets. So that's it basically, 40 registered qualified votes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Thank you. At this time, we'll take nominations for candidates for Department office for the year '23-'24. First, is there a motion that if there is only one nominee for any office that the Secretary shall cast a single vote in favor of that candidate, and a Brother will be duly elected?

BROTHER CRANE: I make that motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: A second?

BROTHER DENBOW: Second.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You've got to get names.

BROTHER CRANE: Jim Crane.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Who did second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Carl Denbow.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander, Townsend Camp
(indiscernible).

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: You got that?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Yes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: All in favor?

(Whereupon, a voice vote was taken.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: We will begin with the office of the Department. Are there any nominations for the Department Commander? Are there any nominations for Department Commander? Are there any nominations for Department Commander?

BROTHER MARTIN: Yes, I have a nomination. Don Martin, Past Commander Chief, Enderlin Camp 73. For the exalted position of the Commander of the Department of Ohio, I have the privileges to place before you my nomination of Department Senior Vice Commander, John M. Huffman, Jr.

I have known Brother Huffman over the past 24 years as a colleague, Brother, and friend. As many of you may recall, the frontier hero, Davey Crockett, described himself as half horse, half alligator, and a little touch of a snapping turtle. Well, with this in mind, let me describe my friend, John, who's lived in Ohio's frontier. With the work ethic of a beaver, he has a loyalty and friendliness of a good fellow. When communicating, he can have the grace of a swan. Comfortable working with solitude of a snow leopard, he can still run with the best of the wolf pack. When necessary, John can be as aggressive as a sow grizzly with cubs, and can display the tenacity of a wolverine, but not the kind from that state up north.

So how did John develop this skill set and refine it? 33 years in the Ohio Army National Guard, retired at the rank of

First Sergeant, also 30 years in the public school system as a high school band director. Within the order, John displayed his excellent leadership abilities (indiscernible) duty for Enderlin Camp 73. He consistently contributes to and participates in the SVUCW events at all levels. He is the founder and director of the 73rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment band, which plays authentic Civil War instruments and music.

Brothers, I strongly encourage you to vote the tiger of Enderlin Camp No. 73, John M. Huffman, Jr.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: If nominated for the Department Commander, will you serve, sir?

BROTHER HUFFMAN: Yes, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And what other jobs do you have within the Department (indiscernible)?

BROTHER HUFFMAN: I'm on a couple National committees, but no conflicts.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

As there is only one nomination, and we just voted, the Department Secretary cast one vote for John Huffman as Department Commander. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And now, you are the (indiscernible).

We now take nominations for Senior Vice Commander. We'll take nominations for Senior Vice Commander. And for the last time, we'll take nominations for Senior Vice Commander.

BROTHER ALLEN: Jim Allen, Camp No. 1. I nominate Steve Ball, member since 2010, has 11 ancestors in the Union Army, and he's Past Camp Commander three years. He's Past Patriotic Instructor three years. He is the current Camp Chaplain. (Indiscernible) Cemetery 94 sections, 3,094 graves. He ordered 164 missing markers, 900 presentations on the music and history of the Civil War, lectures at Central Ohio Technical College on the Civil War, Ohio in the Civil War battle of Gettysburg, Gettysburg to Appomattox and reconstruction. I nominate Bob Ball, Steve Ball. Sorry, Steve.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: One of them Ball boys. Brother Ball, there you are.

BROTHER BALL: I'm standing up.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: You and Danny Wheeler, right? You've been nominated for the office of Senior Vice Commander. What other offices do you hold?

BROTHER BALL: None.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. And if elected, will you serve?

BROTHER BALL: Yes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Are there any other nominations for Senior Vice Commander? Are there any other nominations for Senior Vice Commander? Are there any other nominations for Senior Vice Commander?

Seeing none, Secretary, please cast one vote for Steve Ball as Senior Vice Commander for the Department of Ohio. Congratulations, sir.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: We will now take nominations for Junior Vice Commander. We will now take nominations for Junior Vice Commander. We will now take nominations for Junior Vice Commander.

BROTHER MCBRAYER: Commander, I would like to nominate David Rish for Junior Vice. I can't speak to any of his animalistic intentions, but I do know him as a good guy. You all know him as a past multiple award winner of the B.S. Stevens award and also when it changed names, he was the first awardee of the David Medert award.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Medert.

BROTHER MCBRAYER: Medert, pardon me. He has been four times Commander at Post 33. He was one of the charter members of Post 33. And regardless of the fact that you, sir, say that it looks like Jesus back there, he has held every position in the Camp except chaplain.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And the light has passed from behind him.

BROTHER MCBRAYER: So with that, I would like to recommend Dave Rish.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Thank you. Brother Rish, you've been nominated for the office of Junior Vice Commander. What other offices in the Order do you hold?

BROTHER RISH: Senior Vice Commander of the Camp.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Okay. If you were elected, will you serve?

BROTHER RISH: Yes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: He answered tentatively. Are there any other nominations for Junior Vice Commander? Are there any other nominations for Junior Vice Commander? Are there any other nominations for Junior Vice Commander?

Hearing none, the Secretary will cast one vote for David Rish as Junior Vice Commander. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And who was the Brother that nominated David? They didn't get your name.

BROTHER MCBRAYER: I'm sorry, Tom McBrayer.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: We'll now take nominations for Department Treasurer. We'll now take nominations for Department Treasurer. We'll now take nominations for Department Treasurer. And Jim is holding his breath.

Yes, sir.

BROTHER SPAULDING: Commander, Mike Spaulding, Past Department Commander, Sherman Camp.

I would like to enter a nomination for Tom Edelmann who is currently Camp Treasurer of Sherman Camp. Tom is a relatively new member of the Camp and of the Order. But in that time, he's become the Treasurer at Sherman Camp, has done a marvelous job with keeping our books. And more importantly, he has agreed to act as Department Treasurer. So I, again, nominate Tom Edelmann.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Brother, you've been nominated for the office of Department Treasurer. What other jobs in the Order do you hold?

BROTHER TOM EDELMANN: (Indiscernible) the Camp Treasurer --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: He's the Camp Treasurer?

BROTHER SPAULDING: Yes, Sherman Camp.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: If elected, will you serve, sir?

BROTHER TOM EDELMANN: I will.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Are there any other nominations for Department Treasurer? Are there any other nominations for Department Treasurer? Are there any other nominations for Department Treasurer?

Having heard none, the Secretary will cast one vote for, I didn't get your name again.

BROTHER TOM EDELMANN: Tom Edelmann.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Tom Hedelmann?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Edelmann.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yeah, okay.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: We will now take nominations for Department Secretary. We will now take nominations for Department Secretary. We will now take nominations for Department Secretary. It is said to repeat three times.

BROTHER SPAULDING: Commander, Mike Spaulding, Past Department Commander, Sherman Camp. It's my honor to nominate for the position of Department Secretary John Edelmann, brother of the aforementioned Tom Edelmann. John is the Secretary at Sherman Camp. John is an Eagle Scout and actually advertisement for my role in the past as Department Eagle Scout Coordinator. I met John at an Eagle ceremony that I was presenting certificates to some new Eagle Scouts. So it's a chance to recruit people, including the person I'm nominating to become Department Secretary, John Edelmann.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Brother, you've been nominated for the office of Department Secretary. What other offices do you hold, sir?

BROTHER JOHN EDELMANN: Camp Secretary for Sherman Camp.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: If elected, will you serve?

BROTHER JOHN EDELMANN: Yes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Are there any other nominations for Department Secretary? Are there any other nominations for Department Secretary? Are there any other nominations for Department Secretary?

Having heard none, the Secretary will cast one valid for Sean (sic) Edelmann.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: John, John.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: John Edelmann, okay, him too, John Edelmann.

(Applause.).

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: We have a one term for Department Council to be filled by, we don't have a two-year term, right?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: Just you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Well, I still have to have a nomination.

BROTHER CRANE: I'll take the microphone.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Well, whatever.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Jim Crane is nominating.

BROTHER CRANE: As has been the history of the Department of Ohio, as most of you know, we bypassed the outgoing Department Commander to fill that spot as the third term for Council. I'm make a motion that Past Commander in Chief and Past Department Commander Darby fill that spot on Council.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second the motion. Oh, I'm sorry. So we need to nominate?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Is there anyone else that wants the job?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is he going to accept?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: I guess I'm it. So I'm the one-year term for Department Council.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You have three years.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Three-year term.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Those other two are the two that are --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: It says one term Department Council.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, it would be three.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: It says one term for Department Council. Next year --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - multiple speakers.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: And then, it says a two-year term to be filled --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's supposed to be (indiscernible - multiple speakers).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But he already set the precedence. He already said that the normal procedure is the outgoing goes for the three years. He already said that. You just didn't hear it. So you're locked in for three years. The other two are already on.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The other two are already on. Good try though.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: All right. When I tell my wife this, you guys are all --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Real quick, I found the sheet for the people that donated to the Chief of Staff fund. Carl, thank you very much for donating from the Townsend Camp, okay, thank you. I'm done.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Commander Elect, have you decided who you want to be your installing officer?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-ELECT JIM HUFFMAN: Yes, Commander, I've given him the sheet.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: I would just like to point out that when we start this, we are done at 1:05.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DONALD E. DARBY: Yes. Yes. I used to tell my kids when I'm still champion of the world. There you go.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Darby, I'm relieving you of the command of the Department of Ohio. On the behalf of the officers, I convey to you their thanks for the manner in which you've discharged your duties. I trust that the surrendering the command of this Department, your interest in the welfare of this Order will not cease, especially for the next three years. Having received the highest honors which your fellow members can confer on you, your continuing commitment will point the way for others who still serve the Order. Please be seated at my left.

Commander-elect, are you prepared to announce your staff appointments? If so, Guide, will you hand the list to the Secretary?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The list has already been handed.

Secretary, call the roll of the officers elect and staff appointees who, as your names are called, will rise.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: John Huffman, Steve Ball, David Rish. Do we have to do the Mike Spaulding, council? Do we need to do that again?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY KELLY HOPKINS: R.A. Davis, excused; Don Darby, councilmember three; John Edelmann, Tom Edelmann. Chaplain, Brent Davidson; Graves Registration Officer Kent Dorr; Eagle Scout Mike Spaulding; Highway Officer Pete Hritsko; Signal Officer Brian Brown; and Buffington Island Representative James Oiler.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not here.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Thank you very much. Brothers, these are the chosen officers for the next term. If any Brother has any valid reason why any of them should not be installed, let him speak now or forever hold his peace.

Brother Grant, would you please continue as Guide and present these brothers before the Altar for installation.

Officers, you've been selected for positions of great honor and trust. With the Commander, you will be responsible for the financial, material prosperity and interest of this Department, and the members of this Encampment confidently

expect that you will discharge the duties and responsibilities resting upon you with the conspicuousness for zeal, ability, and good works.

I trust that you appreciate the great confidence placed in you, and that you will remember that the success or failure of the administration of your Department will depend very largely upon the manner in which you discharge the duties of your respective offices.

Are you now going to pledge solemnly to the faithful performance of your several duties?

(Several members responding.)

You will each raise your right hand and place your left hand on the Bible. If you cannot reach the Bible, place it on the Brother's shoulder in front of you and repeat after me, using your name.

I, (each member stating their name, and repeating, as directed) having been duly chosen as an officer of the Department of Ohio, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, hereby renew the sacred obligation given at the time of my initiation and in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of this Encampment here assembled, do furthermore solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will to the best of my ability in word and deed and without fear or favor faithfully, honestly, and impartially perform all the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.

Encampment, attention. Guide, conduct the officers to their respective stations, acting officers vacating.

Commander, by the votes of the members of this Encampment, you have been elected to the highest office within their gift. Your election to this honorable position is an evidence not only of their regard and appreciation of your work and ability as a Son of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, but it is an assurance that your conduct of the affairs of this Department will be characterized by faithful earnest and conscientious devotion to the responsibilities resting upon you. Great trust and great cares await you, and to their faithful performance, I now most solemnly direct you.

As no work of this nature can be a success without the assistance of the Divine Provider, the Chaplain will ask his assistance and guidance.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BRENT L. DAVIDSON: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we humbly ask your blessing on these Brothers assembled for installation. Grant them your wisdom

that they may daily perform the duties of the office into which they are to be installed with the knowledge that Thou Art ever watching over them. Keep them in good health that they will not falter on the way. Bless them with your great mercies that they might be competent to administer to the many problems that will confront them. Bless their every action in your Name through the mediation of your Blessed Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Commander, your officers are now at their respective stations, and I am about to place you in full command. But first, I give to your care the Charter of this Department. Prize it for the privileges it bestows and guard it sacredly for the filial heritage it represents.

Next, I place in your care the ritual of our Order and a copy of the Constitution and Regulations for the government of this Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, both of which I advise you to study with care, to be true to its principles, and faithful to its teachings.

Lastly, you will receive this gavel, the emblem of your authority. One rap calls the Encampment to order and seats the same when standing. Two raps call the officers to their feet. Three raps calls up the entire Encampment.

And now, by the virtue and authority invested in me as the installing officer of the Department of Ohio Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I hereby declare the officers of this Department legally elected and installed and qualified to enter upon the discharge of their several duties for the term ending in June 2023, I'm sorry, 2024 or until their successors are regularly elected, qualified, and installed.

Now, I am pleased to present to you with the badge of the office of the Department Commander. Is there anyone you want to pin it? Okay. How many t-shirts do you have on?

Commander, assume your command. Be true to your vow, faithful to your trust, unflinching in your loyalty, and rule with civility, impartiality, and firmness, and may your administration be successful.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN HUFFMAN: Have a seat. Brothers, I accept this responsibility and I'll do my best for that Department of Ohio with God's help. I'd like to thank all the Brothers who have in the past stepped up and taken positions in the service of the Department.

And I would also like to thank the Brothers who were responsible for the registration table and that whole operation.

Things were kind of bleak here not too long ago, that there was one person running for Commander, and that was it. But fortunately, we've had Brothers step up, and I do appreciate that.

I do have a concern. While preparing for this Encampment, I was talking to many of my Brothers, and too many times I heard this organization will not be around in ten years. And I only have one thing to say, look around. If this organization isn't around in ten years, it's our fault. So let's do what we need to do to make sure that this case never comes forward. Recruit and retain, and we need to do that. As you can see, we've had a lot of Brothers pass away. We had four in our Camp, Commander. And so, it's hit the Enderlin Camp very hard this year. So we need to recruit and we need to keep our Brothers that we have.

I will do everything I can to aid any of the camps in Ohio. Please send me a list of your activities so the Department can post them, and I will, I'm sorry, and I'll try to visit and support other Camp's activities.

Now, with that being said, come July 22, we are going to have the Buffington Island ceremony take place. It's our only battlefield in Ohio. And boy, wouldn't it be great if we had Brothers other than from the Camp sponsoring this, if we could have Brothers from other camps coming down and visiting Buffington Island on July 22. If you have any questions about that, see me.

I plan on visiting each Camp this year in person. So I'll just let you know I'm coming. I'll be sending out emails concerning when forms are due and when they need to be turned in.

And one last item. I don't think I'm this great communicator that Commander Martin mentioned, but I do have my blue business cards right up here, right up front. So please, feel free to pick one up and feel free to contact me directly if I can be of any service to you or your Camp.

That's all I've got. Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN HUFFMAN: There being no further business to come before the Encampment, we will proceed to close the Encampment. You will give your attention while the Chaplain asks the blessing of God on our deliberations.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BRENT L. DAVIDSON: Our Father in Heaven, we pray you will deal with the events of this meeting as you deem proper and fitting. Please answer the heartfelt prayers of each one of us as permitted in your perfect will. Preserve us in health, strength, and integrity while we remain here, and when our mission on earth is ended, take us to a better world. Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN HUFFMAN: Brothers, we are about to leave this Encampment to retire to our respective homes. Let us regulate our conduct so as to bring honor and credit upon the great Patriotic Organization we represent. May we be faithful in our vows, mindful of our duties, and exhibit towards each other the unbroken fraternity, a tender charity, and an unswerving loyalty.

Color Bearer, attend to the altar, and the station banners.

Attention. I now declare the 141st Annual Encampment, Department of Ohio Sons of Union Veterans duly closed.

(Applause.)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, JANICE M. GRILL, hereby certify that the foregoing pages one through 55 constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript, from electronic recording, transcribed by me, of the proceedings of the 141st Annual Encampment of the Ohio Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil war.

Signed and dated this 7th day of August, 2023.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janice M. Grill", is written over a horizontal line.

JANICE M. GRILL