
SONS OF THE UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Department of Ohio



142ND ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT 2024

2024 DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: The Officers and Members of the 142nd 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. Color Bearer, assist on the running.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Membership cards, gentleman.

(Brief pause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: The Secretary will call the roll of Officers and Departments.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Department Commander, John Huffman?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Senior Vice Commander, Steve Ball.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEVEN BALL: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Junior Vice Commander, David Rish.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER DAVID RISH: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Secretary.
Present.

Treasurer Tom Edelmenn is here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Department Council, Michael Spaulding.

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL SPAULDING: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Department Council, R. A. Davis.

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL MEMBER R.A. DAVIS: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Department Council, Don Darby.

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL MEMBER DON DARBY: I am.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Chief of Staff,
Don Martin?

DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF STAFF DON MARTIN: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Patriotic
Instructor, Michael Mershon.

DEPARTMENT PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR MICHAEL MERSHON:
Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Chaplain, Brent
Davidson.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN BRENT L. DAVIDSON: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Counselor, Don
Darby.

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR DON DARBY: Here.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Color
Bearer is Ron Marvin.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Ron Marvin, is he
Color Bearer?

DEPARTMENT COLOR BEARER RON MARVIN: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Guide.

DEPARTMENT GUIDE GRANT M. BATES: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Guard.
(Indiscernible).

GAR Records Officer, R.A. Davis.

GAR RECORDS OFFICER R.A. DAVIS: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Present. GAR
Highway Officer, Peter Hritsko.

GAR HIGHWAY OFFICER PETER HRITSKO: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Historian.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: No
Historian.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Graves
Registration Kent Dorr.

DEPARTMENT GRAVES REGISTRATION KENT DORR: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Eagle Scout Coordinator, Michael Spaulding.

EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR MICHAEL SPAULDING: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Signals Officer, Brian Brown.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's not here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Buckeye Eagle Editor, Don Martin.

BUCKEYE EAGLE EDITOR DON MARTIN: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Buffington Island Representative, James Oiler.

BUFFINGTON ISLAND REPRESENTATIVE JAMES OILER: Here.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: That's all.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Sir, the roll is called.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Brothers, upon what principles is our order founded, and what duties do we inculcate?

IN UNISON: Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: 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, ever keeping in mind our duties to our Country, to our Order, and to ourselves.

Chaplain, you will 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 that 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. Keeping 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 JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir. Color Bearer, front and center. Color Bearer, please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN UNISON: I Pledge 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 JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: By virtue of the authority vested in me, I hereby declare the 142nd Annual Encampment of the Department of Ohio, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, duly open for the transaction of such business as may legally and properly come before it.

These are the rules of the Encampment. We will be following Roberts Rules of Order.

Officers will not read their reports. Any oral reports are not to exceed three minutes.

This next section, number three, I'm going to modify a little bit. Instead of raising your hand to be recognized, please approach the microphone and identify yourself by name and Camp so we have an accurate record for the minutes. The microphone's located right behind the Senior Vice. We may want to move that microphone back. We might be getting some reverb from the speakers here.

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

We are on a time limit with the room. So please bear that in mind as we try to work through our way through a busy agenda as quickly as we can.

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

Brother Secretary, will you please call the roll for the camps.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #1, Governor William Dennison.

CAMP WILLIAM DENNISON REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #2, General

Benjamin Fearing.

CAMP GENERAL BENJAMIN FEARING REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #7, Brooks-Grant.

CAMP BROOKS-GRANT REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #10, William Lytle.

CAMP WILLIAM LYTLE REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #12, General William McLaughlin.

CAMP WILLIAM MCLAUGHLIN REPRESENTATIVE: Here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #21, William McKinley.

CAMP MCKINLEY REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #26, Vienna.

CAMP VIENNA REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #33, Jacob Parrott.

CAMP PARROTT REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #43, Philip Triem.

CAMP TRIEM REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #73, Sergeant Richard Enderlin.

CAMP ENDERLIN REPRESENTATIVE: Camp #73, Richard Enderlin, the home of four Past Commanders in Chief is here.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #92, Henry Casey.

CAMP CASEY REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #93, William T. Sherman.

CAMP SHERMAN REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #108, John S. Townsend.

CAMP TOWNSEND REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #126, Cadot-Blessing.

CAMP CADOT-BLESSING REPRESENTATIVE: Present

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Camp #142, James A. Garfield.

CAMP GARFIELD REPRESENTATIVE: Present.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Jim Houston, Brad Tilton, and Kent Dorr are appointed as the Credentials Committee. Jim Houston is appointed as the Chair of the Credentials Committee.

At this time, I'd like to recognize our guests. And seated among us here, we have the National Commander in Chief, Pete Hritsko. If you could please rise, sir.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: We also have Past Department Commander, Shane Milburn, who is on the Council of CofA, who will also be running again in Lexington at the National Encampment, and he will need our support and our votes to get him back on the CofA.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: At this time, I would like to recognize Past Ohio Department Commanders, and Past Commanders in Chiefs. Brothers, please rise when I call your name, and I'm going to have at the end of the Past Department Commanders, if I've missed anybody, I need you to let me know. But I've studied my list over and over, and I think I've gotten it accurate.

James Houston.

Jon Silvis.

Bradley Tilton.

Craig Keller.

I'm not sure if Robert Davis is with us.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: I don't believe he is. Okay.

Jonathan Davis.

Shawn Cox.

Donald Graham.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is he here?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Not here.

James Crane.

Kerry Langdon. I don't believe (indiscernible) his name tag.

Shane Milburn.

Michael Spaulding.

And Richard A. Davis.

Thank you, sir. Are there any Department Commanders that I have missed? Hearing none, we again have the National Commander in Chief, Pete Hritsko.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Past Commanders in Chief, we have Robert E. Grimm, Donald E. Darby, Ken L. Freshley, and Donald L. Martin.

Let's give a round of applause for our Past Commanders in Chief.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: At this time, would that Chairman of the Credentials Committee please provide us with a first report.

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR JIM HOUSTON:
(Indiscernible - away from microphone.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Jim, can you come up to the mic, please?

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR JIM HOUSTON: Committee member, Kent Dorr, did the report.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Roger

that.

CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE MEMBER KENT DORR: Yes, we have 47 members, 47 Brothers in attendance today, and that includes the National Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: I'm going to plug in the following committees for the encampment. The only one that we need is a parliamentarian, and I've appointed Past Commander in Chief, Don Darby to fill that position.

Next, we will talk about the minutes. The minutes have been posted on the Department website. So we have nothing here in front of us to look at. So at this point, that's a moot item. Probably we shouldn't make a motion to accept.

Moving on, we will now receive the reports of the Officers and Camps. As a reminder, we will not read submitted reports, and they will be a three-minute time limit for oral reports.

The Officers' report Chairman will be me. Please lead us through the reports. I hereby transfer the gavel to the Senior Vice.

Brothers, you have my report written. And in order to save some time, I'm just going to give you some bullet points.

I'd like to welcome you to the 2024 Encampment of the Department of Ohio. We are fortunate today to have Commander in Chief, Pete Hritsko, along with the National President Sue Freshley of the Auxiliary. I'm not sure how many times both Commanders are in the same location at the same time. So we're very pleased to have them.

It was my great honor to perform the duties of the Department Commander of Ohio. It was my honor to visit all 15 camps. Most of them were installations, but the camps I could not install, I went back and visited at another time. And that was probably the most enjoyable part of this position. As you can see, my duties took me to other locations that you can look at at your leisure.

I unfortunately had to attend three funerals of our past Department Commanders, which we've already honored.

I'm happy to say that we did not lose any camps this year. We've kind of been losing one here and there for the past years, and we will soon be gaining the Chaplain William Henshaw Camp #89. So they'll be joining the Department shortly.

We did have our Special Encampment concerning the

passing of General Order #2. The Department Officers and Council had three quarterly meetings this year in which we worked on finances and for the good of the Order.

I have three suggestions, or recommendations I should say, that the Bylaws Committee becomes a standing committee. In the past, the Bylaws Committees were formed whenever we felt we had to change the Bylaws. So I'm suggesting that we have them a standing committee.

Number two, that the Monuments and Memorials Committee, which is already a standing committee make policy and procedure concerning the monuments and memorials operation.

And my last suggestion would be every attempt must be made to form a camp or camps in Northwest Ohio.

With that, that concludes my report.

BROTHER DARBY: Senior Vice, you need to move that the Encampment accepts this minutes or his report.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: So he makes the motion?

BROTHER DARBY: He makes the motion.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEVE BALL: Make the motion.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: To?

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEVE BALL: To accept your report.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: All in favor.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEVE BALL: All in favor?

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEVE BALL: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: The gavel is returned.

All right. Moving on, the Department of Ohio Senior

Vice, is there anything that you wanted to add to your report?

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEVE BALL: No, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Good as stands.

The Department of Ohio Junior Vice Commander, anything that you wish to add to your report?

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER STEVE BALL: No, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: As stands. Department of Ohio Secretary's report.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: I guess I would just like to call attention to the status of the membership, and also call your attention to the last page which for the first time, and again, thanks to the tremendous efforts that Assistant Secretary Hopkins put in to scan our past annual reports, I was able to try this chart that you see here that actually shows the status of our camps and the membership since 2005. So that's something interesting there to take in.

And other than that, I will pass back.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Please announce who you are.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Oh, I'm sorry, this is John Edelmann. I'm Camp #93 Camp Commander and Secretary of the Department.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir.

The Department of Ohio Treasurer's report and budget, we will save. We'll come back to that.

Department of Ohio Grave Registrations, Brother Kent Dorr, do you have anything to add to your report?

DEPARTMENT GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER KENT DORR: I do not.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Department of Ohio Council report, Past Department Commander Spaulding, do you have anything to add to your report?

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL SPAULDING: My report stands as is.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you,

sir.

Department of Ohio Patriotic Instructor, Brother Mershon, do you have anything to add to your report?

DEPARTMENT PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR MICHAEL MERSHON: It stands as written.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir.

Monuments and Memorials Committee, Brother Ball, do you have anything to add to your report?

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBER STEPHEN BALL: No, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you. Eagle Scout Coordinator, Past Department Commander Spaulding, do you have anything to add to your report?

DEPARTMENT EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR MICHAEL SPAULDING: Stands as is.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir. Department of Ohio GAR Highway Officer's report, Commander in Chief, do you have anything to add to your report?

COMMANDER IN CHIEF PETE HRITSKO: No, it stands as is.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir.

Governor William Dennison Camp #1, you turned in a report, but it didn't make it to the booklet.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM DENNISON CAMP #1 REPRESENTATIVE: Yes, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Would you like to come up and give a report? You have three minutes if you would like.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM DENNISON CAMP #1 REPRESENTATIVE: No, sir, I have nothing else (indiscernible - away from microphone).

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. Thank you, sir.

Brooks Grant Camp #7, Commander, Commander Galloway, do you have anything to add to your report?

BROOKS GRANT CAMP #7 REPRESENTATIVE: (No response.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Present.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: General William H. Lytle Camp #10, Past Department Commander Keller, do you have anything to add to your report?

WILLIAM H. LYTLE CAMP #10 REPRESENTATIVE: No, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir.

General William McLaughlin Camp #12, Commander Au, do you have anything to add to your report?

GENERAL WILLIAM MCLAUGHLIN CAMP #12 REPRESENTATIVE: Nothing to add.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir. William McKinley Camp #21, I'm not sure who wrote it. But is there anybody from that camp that has anything to add? Yes, sir?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Senior Vice Commander, nothing to report.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir.

Vienna Camp #26, no report.

Jacob Parrott Camp #33.

JACOB PARROTT CAMP #33 REPRESENTATIVE: Stands as written.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir.

Enderlin Camp #73?

ENDERLIN CAMP #73 REPRESENTATIVE: No changes, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you.

Henry Casey Camp #92, Past Department Commander Milburn, do you have anything to add to your report?

HENRY CASEY CAMP #92 REPRESENTATIVE: Nothing to add, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you,

sir.

William T. Sherman Camp #93, John Edelmann, Commander, do you have anything to add?

WILLIAM T. SHERMAN CAMP #93 REPRESENTATIVE: No.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you.

John S. Townsend Camp 108?

JOHN S. TOWNSEND CAMP #108 REPRESENTATIVE: Stands as written, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir.

Cadot-Blessing Camp #126, Commander Oiler, do you have anything to add?

CADOT-BLESSING CAMP #126 REPRESENTATIVE: I'd like to add about the Buffington --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Sir, can you come up to the mic so we can hear you? Please state who you are and what Camp you're from.

CADOT-BLESSING CAMP #126 REPRESENTATIVE: James Oiler, Commander, Cadot-Blessing Camp #126, Gallipolis, Ohio. I'm here representing the Buffington Island Representative, which we will hold on July the 20th. And this year we will have Gibbs Battery L artillery of the Vienna Camp #26 in Portsmouth.

And what else do I have to say about that? There's also going to be a tour given that day by David Lowery who has written a book on the battle of Buffington Island for the benefit of preservation trust at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. So I'd like to see some Department members down there supporting Ohio's only noted battlefield.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Yes, sir.

CADOT-BLESSING CAMP #126 REPRESENTATIVE: Thank you, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir. I want to say something about Commander Oiler. Jim, how many years have you been Camp Commander?

CADOT-BLESSING CAMP #126 COMMANDER OILER: Twenty-one.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Twenty-one years. So he keeps the wheels turning. I've attended two or

three of his camp meetings over the year and he does a great job. Thank you.

James A. Garfield Camp #142, there's no report. Is there anything to be added? Hearing no.

All right. Just to review, Monuments and Memorials, Senior Vice Steve Ball, you mentioned that you had nothing to add for Monuments and Memorials.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER STEVE BALL: No, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Encampment Site and Planning. That would be me. I have been the Chairman of the Encampment Site and Planning Committee here for a few years along with help from Brother Crane. My report is we are here. And the end of my report, we will be here again. So put this on your radar, 14 June 2025. You'll be receiving a Department order later on. But just pencil that in. Again, I say again, Saturday, 14 June 2025.

Preservation of Department Property, that would be me. I have control of all of our property with the exception of what Kelly Hopkins is working on converting to PDF.

Department Secretary, has the Department received any communications?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: There has been none.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: None. Very good.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: I'm sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did we not receive letters of intent from Daniel Murray and Steve Ball.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Oh, is that, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's communications.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Okay.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: So in the back of your booklet, there is a (indiscernible) I'm sorry, Daniel Murray running for Junior Vice, National Junior Vice, correct?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: And Steve Ball for Department (indiscernible).

(Indiscernible - simultaneous conversation.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: We clear?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Yes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: We will now turn to old business. Please save all new business for later. Is there any old business that we need to attend to? Now is the time to speak.

All right. Hearing none, yes, sir?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: As a point of order, let's go ahead and I'll read the letter that was submitted by David Rish seeking the office of Senior Vice Commander, Department of Ohio.

My name is David Rish. I joined the SUVCW in 2008 as a charter member of Jacob Parrott Camp #33, Canton, Ohio. I am currently serving my fifth term over the past 12 years as Camp Commander of Jacob Parrott Camp #33. I'm also currently the Junior Vice Commander of the Department of Ohio.

I have held the offices of the Department Patriotic Instructor and I've also been the Department Recruiting Officer. I've won the last five B.F. Stephenson awards for recruiting. I was also awarded the first (indiscernible) for recruiting.

Members of the Department of Ohio, it would be my honor to serve you as Senior Vice Commander, David A. Rish, Past Camp Commander.

Again, that was because he was submitted and it just did not make the report. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. Brothers, I've just been informed that we need to adjust. We were scheduled to eat lunch at noon, it's probably going to be closer to 12:30, but that's okay, we're not going anywhere. So we'll just continue with our business, and hopefully we won't have to rush and get out the door.

So we've talked about old business, and hearing none, we will proceed on.

We'll now move to new business. Is there any new business that we need to discuss?

Yes, sir. Go to the microphone.

BROTHER DARBY: Don Darby, Past Commander in Chief, Past Department Commander, and I'm here. I would at this time like to ask the current Commander in Chief to kind of walk outside for about ten minutes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Smoke them if you have them.

BROTHER DARBY: Smoke them if you've got them. I did ask.

Okay. Can everybody hear me except him, who I didn't want to hear. Every time the Department of Ohio has had a Commander in Chief, the Department has gone and purchased a saber for the Commander in Chief with its engraved with his name and also it has presented to the Commander in Chief from the Officers and men of the Department of Ohio. We are now at that point again. Ken has secured the sword, and his camp has paid for the sword.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Garfield Camp.

BROTHER DARBY: Garfield Camp. What remains is to pay for the engraving and refurbishing of the blade. It will be approximately \$1,000. And right now, I think we're down to \$820 is where we're at. We've had some contributions. What we need is for that Department to vote to pay not more than \$1,000 for the refurbishing and etching of the sword for presentation.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Do I have a motion on the floor?

BROTHER SPAULDING: So moved.

BROTHER MILBURN: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Past Department Commander Michael Spaulding, second by Past Department Commander Milburn.

Any discussion?

All right. All in favor of purchasing the sword and making a presentation, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Motion carried.

(Brief pause.)

BROTHER DARBY: What we are haggling over here, we haven't presented the budget that was approved by the Council, okay.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Tell us who you are.

BROTHER DARBY: Still Don Darby, still Past Commander in Chief, still Past Director and he doesn't listen well. But anyway, we're going to take what you just voted on and put it in the line item of declarations and awards. It goes in. When certain people read that, they won't know what's happening, okay. So that's that part of new business when it refers to the budget. Any questions?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Do we have any new business? Okay.

I want to bring something up here. I've stirred this pot for the last two years, I think, for the Monument and Memorials Committee. I've been talking to our Officers here, and I've made the proposal that we need to have the Monuments and Memorials Committee formed as soon as possible and to go over procedures and protocol for this project. And you will see later on in the Treasurer's report that we have money allocated for Monuments and Memorials.

But this committee will come up with the rules and regulations that will be easy for us as Brothers to follow and eventually will be adopted with the working of the Bylaws Committee. So I think we are definitely going in the right direction on this, and I'm not sure, I don't think we've had anybody request money from Monuments and Memorials for a couple years. So if you're looking at a project down the road, give this committee a chance to form, form guidelines, and then utilize them. That's all I have for new business.

Does anybody else? Yes, sir?

BROTHER CRANE: Jim Crane, Lytle Camp. I think we had something like that a couple years ago, Commander. So I think the Senior Vice now is going to be the chair of that, correct? I would just suggest that we have Don Martin on that committee because I know he's done some of those, and I think he does National.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: He already is.

BROTHER CRANE: Okay. Well, I didn't know. Thank

you, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Yes, sir.

BROTHER DARBY: Don Darby, past Commander in Chief. I do have one question when you were saying that they were going to come up with the policies and then deal with and then the Bylaws Committee would do whatever they do to make it into the Bylaws, my question is what the Committee is going to come up with is actually the policy for how the Committee operates and then the Bylaws Committee would then use portions of that in the Bylaws, not quoting the whole thing in the Bylaws; is that correct?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Yes, sir, that is correct.

BROTHER DARBY: Okay. I just wanted to make sure I understood.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: The thought of the Officers are that we want to give the Monuments and Memorials Committee freedom to create policies and procedures to make this really work smoothly. Is there any other discussion about Monuments and Memorials?

Brother Ball, anything else to add?

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER STEPHEN BALL: Not right now, no.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. Brother Rish?

BROTHER RISH: Not at this time.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Roger that. Okay.

Now, is there any more discussion about new business?

BROTHER DARBY: Don Darby, Past Commander in Chief. You made that statement and what you're going to come up with, are you proposing that is a motion that the Encampment is going to vote on?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: No, sir.

BROTHER DARBY: Then how is it going to be in effect?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: The Department Commander will have appointed the Committee, will work on the Committee, and then they will make their

presentation.

BROTHER DARBY: You're making, this is a standing committee, right?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: It is a standing committing, yes, sir.

BROTHER DARBY: Okay. So do we have, I guess the first thing that this standing committee has to do is to write their job description so that it can be placed in the Bylaws.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Absolutely.

BROTHER DARBY: So you're going to do that?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: They're going to re-create the (indiscernible), make it work.

BROTHER DARBY: All right. Okay. I just wouldn't want them to miss the boat there.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: No. (Indiscernible) miss the boat, just a suggestion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMANN: Again, this is the Secretary of the Department, John Edelmann, Camp Commander, #93. As the Department Secretary, I would like to mention that one of the most difficult things that it seems like we have to do is to keep track of everybody because everybody has their own rosters and sometimes they get from National that we send to you that get refurbished and sent back to us. And I would like if we could end up with a database or an Excel spreadsheet basically that would have the entire Department roster on it in one easy to process and analyze so if I need to find if someone is somewhere, I just find them. Right now, with everyone submitting their reports separately in 13 different formats, there is no way for me to really search anything.

So in the next year, with your new Commander's support, we will send out a notification to all the secretaries with an Excel spreadsheet template, and I would like to have you as much as possible to move your current rosters into this. It will have all the information that you currently have so there would be no reason to not be able to do that in the format. Any of the camps that don't, aren't able, like if you only have seven or eight members, I will be more than happy to provide that for you as I have already for, I think (indiscernible) one of the camps. So this is just a heads up. No action needed

today. But just that it's something that's going to be coming up in the next year. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you. Another thing I'd like to add to possibly new business, I would like to thank Brother Don Martin for heading up the Bugle. Just an outstanding job, and I would like to thank all of you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: I'd like to thank all the people who have made contributions towards the Bugle, and I would please ask that I know by visiting all these camps, your camps are involved with all kinds of different activities. Write something up. Get a photo or two in there, send it our way. Chances are if it makes it to the Bugle, there may be a good chance it gets to the Banner. For the Banner, I always, the very first thing I do when I open the Banner, and probably most of you guys do too, you go to Ohio, and see what's happening. And sometimes we have an article, sometimes we don't.

So folks, please put the word out. We've got some Camps doing some great activities. I mean, and it's just a broad spectrum of what one Camp does compared to what other Camps. We're all doing something. Put the word out. Write up an article and send it into the Bugle and possibly then to the Banner.

All right. Yes, sir.

BROTHER MARTIN: As far as the Banner goes, if you're sending --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Tell them who you are.

BROTHER MARTIN: Don Martin, Past Commander in Chief, Enderlin Camp. If you are sending me an article for the Bugle, you can send the same thing to the Banner. I'll tell you one thing that the Banner editor is looking for is group pictures. So if you send a picture to the Banner, make sure you have group pictures and that will help get your article in the Banner.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).

BROTHER MARTIN: Yeah.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. Very good. Yes, sir.

BROTHER DARBY: Don Darby, Past Commander in Chief.

Two things. One, the Banner will not accept articles printed by a newspaper, okay. You have to have their sign off to allow you to do it. So you're going to have to type it up yourself. You can't send a news article, okay. They won't print it.

Second, Brother Dorr, do you have your book?

BROTHER DORR: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).

BROTHER DARBY: Brother Dorr, in one of the things on the Buckeye Bugle or, you know, the Buckeye Bugle, there was an article about Ross County GAR folks, and referenced in it is the book that Brother Dorr has, one of the books. There is supposedly one for each county. In the back of it, and all the first part of it by H.H. Hardesty, they're all the same. The back portion lists all the members of the GAR Camps in that particular county. So if you're wanting to continue the article that Brother Martin put in, it's H.H. Hardesty, what, Ohio and that Civil War?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).

BROTHER DARBY: Just to you can use that if you trust the copyrights will pass. But it will let everybody know what's going on.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: I'm asking Brother Dorr to speak about this book here. Okay. Go ahead and grab that microphone and tell them who you are.

BROTHER DORR: I'm Kent Dorr, Past Commander, McLaughlin Camp, Graves Registration Officer for the Ohio Department. How many of you are familiar with these books? Okay, some of you are, but most of you are not. They are some of the most important pieces of research that we have on the GAR folks, which obviously that's our history.

I use this extensively for graves registration because when they compiled the backs of these with the Posts, they got the rosters that existed at the time that this was published. Now, there are some GAR Posts that were formed later. They are obviously not going to be in here. But they will list the charter members. It will list, sometimes, it will even list the date that a GAR member became a member of the Post. But it also will list his regiment. So that's very important for graves registration in order to verify a veteran's service.

Now, all of these books that as you see, we have 88 counties in Ohio. They don't know if all 88 counties had these published. Right now, the inventory that is known in the State of Ohio is around 66, I believe. So there are counties that we

don't know exist. Brother Marvin has looked into this over the years. He found one for Pickaway County that had never been known to exist. Just last year, on eight books, I came across one and was able to purchase it for Fairfield County. That had not been known to exist.

So we are actively trying to find the rest of these. There are two sources out there, personal collections and libraries. The Ohio State history connection here in Columbus has volumes of them. They have about 30 different ones that are accessible in the library. The Ohio Genealogical Society, headquarters up in Mansfield, they have about 30 of them. Some of them are the same as the ones that are down here, but not all. But they have theirs are digitized, and if you're a member, you can go in and access each county by county and look at them.

Now, the book is called the Military History of Ohio. The front part of every one of these volumes is the same. It's a history of the Civil War. It's a history of Ohio in the war. But it's the back section that was done that contains all the useful information as far as the GAR folks.

And as all of you know, in Ohio, our predecessors and ancestors did a very poor job of preserving the Post records. And so sometimes, this is the only record of the early members of the Post that exist. And as I said before, there were over 800 GAR Posts in Ohio.

So this is a big project that we are working on. If any of you come across one of these, let me or let Brother Marvin know because we're trying to add more of these to the known collection and we use them. So okay. If any of you want to take a look at this after, just come and see me.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Brothers, make sure that you signed the guest book up here in case you have not. We need to have our (indiscernible).

Do we have anything else for new business? Anything else for new business?

All right. At this time, we are going to take a five-minute break.

Chaplain, please attend to and close the Bible.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Five-minute break.

(Break)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Now that I've got everybody's attention, Chaplain, please open the Bible. Thank you.

At this time, I'd like to have Jim Houston take the microphone.

BROTHER HOUSTON: I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize Brother Spaulding as the chief donor to the Foundation for the Sons of Union Veterans Foundation. Please stand up. There he is.

(Applause.)

BROTHER HOUSTON: If you would consider making a donation to the Foundation, please, please consider it. We have a number of projects which we are undertaking and we surely would hope that you would consider making a donation in that regard. So thank you, Brother Spaulding.

BROTHER SPAULDING: Thank you, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: We're going to hang over a little bit on new business. There's one more thing I want to bring up, then I think maybe we will be ready to move on to the Treasurer's report. I don't know if any people witnessed this on Channel 6 on Memorial Day, but they had a news article or a presentation which featured Steve Ball, our Senior Vice Commander. And he was interviewed by Channel 6 concerning Greenlawn Cemetery. Steve came across, I believe, 170 --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 188.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: -- 188 soldiers, and went through the VA to get headstones for these soldiers that had no headstone at all. And just recently, they put in, I don't know, have they've day cotton the whole 168 yet? I don't think they do.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER STEPHEN BALL: 103 in. They have 40 stacked up, and they have ten that are pending and being reviewed.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Steve, would you go on to the microphone and say that because I want this to be on the record. Right behind you.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER STEPHEN BALL: There was 94 sections that we saw, 3,100 graves, ordered 188 missing headstones, 160, 150 were approved. Greenlawn Cemetery resubmitted several of those to try to get that to 160. They

had found discrepancies that the VA basically came up with on their own to deny the headstones. But they got 103 in the ground. They've got 40 stacked up to go in the ground, and then they've got ten more that they know they will probably be receiving. So when this thing's all done, we'll wind up with about 160 headstones that got installed.

Some of those soldiers had been in that cemetery for almost 150 years with an unmarked grave. So it's well worth the while and the effort.

And I put a post on Facebook when we did that, that interview. Every time they gave me the opportunity to talk, the first words out of my mouth were the Sons of Union Veterans is behind this and the Sons of Union Veterans have the records and the Sons of Union Veterans have had a long-term relationship with Greenlawn Cemetery. We flag the cemetery every year for Memorial Day and they've cut every bit of that out. I mean, you know, they showed me in my blue blazer with my little metals on and they think, well, why is he wearing that and who the heck, what's all that about, you know, did he give himself a metal for going out and doing that. They never mentioned the Order. And the whole thing was about the Sons of Union Veterans. That's what it was supposed to be about. So I put a disclaimer on Facebook yesterday stating that there was a whole lot more to this than just me walking around that cemetery.

And there are guys in the Dennison Camp that stayed involved in it. They helped me with, you know, they gave me pointers on the research. You know, it's one thing to go out and find a missing headstone, but then to come up with the information the government wants to give you that headstone is the second half of the job. Then when you get done with all that, you know, you print this guy's pension record, his graves registration card, his roster, and you take it back and you give it to Greenlawn Cemetery, they physically have to go back out to that section, find that plot, and verify that guy doesn't have a headstone. And that's the next thing they have to do, and then they have to send it to the government, they have to bird-dog it until it comes back.

So there's a whole lot of people involved. You know, the Dennison Camp, the members there were involved. The staff at Greenlawn Cemetery, Randy Rogers, is an absolute prince of a guy. I mean, he stayed after this thing. It's been going on since August of 2019. So it wasn't a ten-minute deal.

Rogers ran out of help several times. He didn't, he specifically didn't have the staff that could work on it and it would sit for six months at a time. And when he finally got the people and everything in place, he really cracked the whip on it and it looks like it will probably be done probably within the

next six weeks, they'll have all the headstones in or will be going in.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Very good.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER STEPHEN BALL: Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay.
That will bring us to the end of new business.

At this time, we will have the Treasurer's report.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. On behalf of Tom here, actually, I'm going to look at it and kind of go through the detail as it was provided me.

Basically, on the first page, page 20 of 41, if everybody could go there. All in all, and effectively there are now these funds; permanent fund, Monuments and Memorials fund, and the general fund. So the total of all funds is \$30,877.03. Again, this is as of April 30, 2024.

The account info simply serves to identify where the money that belongs to one of the three funds is located. Wright-Patt Credit Union is labeled as such and the savings and the checking account for Chase is labeled as such. The balance of the (indiscernible) is shown and the total balance is shown in the final column at the top.

And you'll note that for the general fund, there is a Chase savings account, the checking account, the Wright-Patt account 00, which is a savings account at Wright-Patt. If you have to have a savings account to have these other accounts. And there are three CDs as part of the general fund and a money market account, which is account (indiscernible). Those all comprise the general fund.

The permanent fund has now been consolidated into a single CD with all the money. Last year, those that were attending the Department Encampment last year that the permanent fund was broken up in between a CD and the money that was in the savings account at another institution. Those have all been consolidated as of this year so that you can see a simple amount for the permanent fund.

The same way with that Monuments and Memorials fund.
Up until April --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: March.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- or March, the money that

comprise the Monuments and Memorials fund was in a savings account at Chase and a amount of money that was in -- it was in Chase, right? Chase. So what we've done is we've created a money market account for the Monuments and Memorials fund and have combined all the interest from the permanent fund as is stipulated in the Bylaws and the money that was sitting in an account so that it's all now consolidated as \$1,966.22.

So the goal here of doing it this way is just so that everybody can see how much are in the three funds readily without having to try to do math everywhere else.

So that's the account summary at the top. The second section has the Wright-Patt Credit Union summary as of April 30th, and the third block at the bottom has the Chase Bank account summary as of April 30th.

For the detail of what happens, there's the CD accounts which is \$3,031.33 and of course 32. Those are listed there with the terms of each and you have the two new money market accounts, 70 and 71. The purpose of that is so that any interest that is received can be put into an interest-bearing instrument rather than just leaving it in the savings account, which is what has been done for years. So the end result is is that we are earning in the range of five to \$600 of interest every year where before it was literally like, you know, \$25 or something. It was crazy.

So that's basically the summary of the Treasurer's report. You'll notice the notes at the bottom that quarterly audits have been performed as has been noted previously, at least twice, except for the months of April and May, although the Council had earlier this morning we did complete that verification for the checkbooks and everything.

Again, with projected that the interest received in 2023 would be \$290, it was, in fact, \$670 for all of 2023. Another CD was obtained for a 12-month of \$4,000. That was just because we had an extra \$4,000 that was just collecting nothing in the checking account. So we took another \$4,000 and put it in a new CD.

For that, and finally, the permanent fund is a fixed \$11,414.83 unless donations are received specifically to increase that amount.

So again, all interest as is stipulated in the Bylaws goes from the permanent fund into the Monuments and Memorials as is directed.

Any questions on the Treasurer's report?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Brother Crane.

BROTHER CRANE: Jim Crane, Lytle Camp. I know I sat up there a few times as Department Secretary/Treasurer and everybody said what is in where and how much and all this other stuff, right. So this is the first time probably in ten years that we've ever been able to show to you guys on paper exactly what happened. I'll tell you what, John, you and Tom have done a great job. I'll tell you what now everybody can see it.

(Applause.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. We appreciate that.

Okay. If there's no further questions on the Treasurer's Report, let's turn to the next page, 21 of 41.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you need a motion that we approve the Treasurer's report.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: I need a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as stated.

BROTHER SPAULDING: So moved.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Past Commander Spaulding and Grant Bates second. Thank you. Any other discussion? All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Motion carried.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Now turn to page 21 of 41. All right. So owing to past circumstances beyond anyone's control, in the 2023 Encampment budget report, the only thing that was listed was the proposed for 2023. However, again, based on Brother Hopkins efforts in getting these things scanned in, we had ready access to all of the past reports on the thumb drive that we were given. And it was obvious that almost every report going back to 2005, all these shows a proposed, actual, and a proposed for 2024. So we decided to, what, in the last week and a half, we thought we should probably return to that process.

So what you have is what was the proposed for 2023,

the actual for 2023 has actually one correction because if you look at the office of, I'm sorry, National per capita dues that were sent in, this budget item comprises not only the annual budget amount for dues that we send to National, but it also includes all National dues that have been sent in for reinstatements, new members, et cetera up until that point since the previous report. So that's why it's not equal to the amount that Tom wrote the check for yesterday to pay our National dues for our renewal. So there's an additional \$59.50, \$59.50, that was written literally yesterday. So it should still be on this report. That results in the National per capita advance for dues line being \$12,180.50, and it makes the total expenses \$15,428.27 which resulted in a net gain of \$2,673.39. That's the correct for the actual.

Under proposed for 2024, we are making a change that the dues and fees per capita income will not be 16,000 but rather 16,500.

We will add a separate line item in the expenses for the Encampment room rental, which is \$250. At the moment, the way we did it is it was included in the actuals for the luncheon, the Encampment luncheon expenses of 1,525. So that 250 will come out of that as a separate line item. There's no change in the amount, it's just going to document it differently.

We're going to add under the Encampment decorations and awards, we're going to increase that from 225 to 1,225.

And then, finally, for the bereavement, the (indiscernible) expense, the last line of the expenses owing to a discussion on the Council this morning, it was recommended that that be increased from \$500 to \$1,500. The net result of those changes is a net gain of 210 instead of 1,710.

Again, it's as you can see from the Treasurer's report that we just approved, we have considerable funds to the tune of \$30,000. So showing a 210 gain is not a matter of concern.

And with that, changes, I believe I've covered all of the modifications that the Council approved previously this morning in our meeting.

Again, right, that's a good point. As part of the original budget that was printed, you'll notice that we had a bereavements operating expense line which used to be miscellaneous expense. And given the recent deaths of the Department Commanders, past Department Commanders, and other expenses of that nature, we wanted to show that as a separate line item instead of miscellaneous. That's all.

Any questions on that?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Yes, sir.
Can you come up to the mic, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I assume the bereavement is for
(indiscernible - away from microphone).

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMAN: That is correct.
Bereavement expense would be flowers, maybe if a family would
like a specific memorial to the battlefield trust, anything in
the name of the Sons of the Veterans of the Civil War. Not to
be confused with Monuments and Memorials. That's a separate
concept.

Any other questions?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Hearing no
other questions, I need a motion to accept.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A motion is made to accept the
budget.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This was already accepted by
the Council.

(Indiscernible - simultaneous conversation.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Move to
the mic.

BROTHER DARBY: Don Darby, Past Commander in Chief.
We do not need a motion on this. The Council has already
approved the budget for next year. They'll probably, if you
guys vote on it, it cannot be changed if something comes up.
With the Council voting on it and approving it, then he can
estimate modifications and can be. Do you understand that,
everybody? So that point's moot.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: With that
in mind, are there any other questions? One more time, are
there any other questions?

All right. Let's move on. I stand corrected. I
missed a report. Chief of Staff, Don Martin, do you have
anything to add to your report?

DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF STAFF DON MARTIN: Nothing to add
to it.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you.

(Brief pause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Brothers, standby here. Let me get to my report. I mentioned that as a recommendation or suggestion that the Bylaws Committee becomes a standing committee. I will need a motion on the floor for that to happen. Do I have a motion?

BROTHER R.A. DAVIS: I do.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Past Department Commander R.A. Davis makes the motion.

BROTHER FRESHLEY: Ken Freshley seconds.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Past Commander in Chief Freshley makes the second. Is there any discussion?

Brother Crane?

BROTHER CRANE: That's a really important, hello.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Turn on the mic.

BROTHER CRANE: Jim Crane, Lytle Camp. I've seen some of this stuff happen at National and here and stuff like that. And so I think that are you going to assign a chair to that committee?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: The new Department Commander will.

BROTHER CRANE: Okay, great. So I would just recommend that most experience in this room that I know of is the one, two, three, four Past Commanders in Chiefs. So I would recommend that some of them or all of them be on that committee and also the Department Secretary. That's my two cents worth. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: We will pass that along to the next Department Commander.

We still need to take a vote. All in favor of creating the Bylaws Committee to be a standing committee, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Any opposed, saying nay.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Hearing

none, motion carries.

Folks, we're moving right along here as we should. I'm turning the page. (Indiscernible) Form 35, the Department Annual Report, we reported that we have 387 members in the Department. This means we are entitled to 16 delegates plus our automatic delegates. Please raise your hand if you're planning on attending the National Encampment.

Now, let me do one more thing. Let me have, if you are an automatic delegate, keep your hands down, everybody else, hands up. Now, this is where we can get our 16 delegates from. And Lexington, Kentucky is not far away. We've already been there once. All right, very good.

All right. So, oh, I'm sorry, keep them up, keep them up. All right. So folks, please, I'm going to change this a little bit. Please see the Department Secretary when we break for lunch because we're going to have a little period of time before we can move in here for the meals.

Now, two more things I want to say about that. One, make sure you get your delegate card. If something happens and you lose it, we'll have some more, right.

Also, if you end up being an alternate delegate, please be there because many times something comes up, there's a crisis in the family or something that somebody can't attend, we want to use all 16 of our votes as delegates for Ohio.

Again, Past Department Commanders, Commanders in Chiefs, the Department Commander, those are all automatic delegates. They don't count on our 16. So Ohio wields a big hammer at National, and I want it to be a really big hammer this year, okay. We've got to get our Brother, Shane Milburn, back on CofA.

All right. Folks, moving right along here. I'm sorry.

BROTHER DARBY: You have to make a motion to accept the people as delegates and everyone else to be listed as alternates.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Point of order. If someone's not attending, but we know he's going to be at the National (indiscernible - away from microphone) enter his name (indiscernible - away from microphone)?

BROTHER DARBY: What you can do is accept these people

as delegates, make him an alternate (indiscernible - away from microphone).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, not an alternate because that would (indiscernible - away from microphone).

BROTHER DARBY: No, no. What's the word I want? A delegate and what's the word, I just said it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Alternate.

BROTHER DARBY: An alternate.

(Discussion off the record.)

BROTHER DARBY: We're going to vote for delegates. All the people that raised their hands are going to be delegates. And I think, what, was that ten, 11? Okay. The alternates would be the person who's not here, and if we don't have that 16 level, move those people in --

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. So just one more time, not the automatic delegates, but all the other delegates who will be attending, would you please put your hands up one more time. We need to get a headcount. Stick them up there high. Okay. I need a motion to accept --

BROTHER R.A. DAVIS: So moved.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: A motion to accept these Brothers be delegates from that Department of Ohio. Past Department Commander R.A. Davis has made the motion.

BROTHER SPAULDING: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Second by Past Department Commander Spaulding. Any other discussions? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Any opposed, say nay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nay.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Motion carried.

BROTHER DARBY: No, you're not done yet. You have to now have someone make a motion that all the rest of the people in attendance be listed as alternates to the National Encampment, and then you vote on that.

BROTHER SPAULDING: So moved.

BROTHER R.A. DAVIS: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Moved by Past Department Commander Spaulding, seconded by Past Department Commander R.A. Davis. Any other discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Only those in attendance, Don?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Can you clarify that?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Only the members in attendance can be an alternate, that's what you just said? Can't you make the entire rest of the Department roster alternates.

BROTHER DARBY: If that's what you want it to say.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander, I make an amendment to the motion to amend the terminology members in present to make all members of the Department alternates.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: We have an amendment to the motion. We would vote on that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It needs a second.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. Let me vote on this amendment first. Okay. So that's the motion by Grant and seconded by --

BROTHER DARBY: Ask if Jonathan wants to speak on this --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone) Past Department Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Past Department Commander -- go to the mic so we can hear you.

BROTHER DAVIS: Jonathan Davis, Past Department Commander. Just clarification, that is members per the last Department Annual Report. So any new members cannot -- are not part of the annual report, they cannot be delegates. It's strictly on the last Department Annual Report.

BROTHER DARBY: Can they be alternates?

BROTHER DAVIS: Can be alternates.

BROTHER DARBY: They can be?

BROTHER DAVIS: They can be.

BROTHER DARBY: Can't be.

BROTHER DAVIS: Can, C-A-N.

BROTHER DARBY: Okay. All right. So that's fine.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. I got waylaid. We're voting on the amendment. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Amendment carried. Now we need to vote on the motion.

BROTHER DARBY: Now the motion is changed.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: The amended motion is the changes that all Brothers in the Department Command of the Department of Ohio can be listed as alternates.

Any discussions? All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Any opposed?

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Motion carries.

All right. That takes us then to the good of the Order. Do we have anything, Brothers, for the good of the Order?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You want to go ahead and break now because what we have to do is (indiscernible - away from microphone).

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Very good. All right.

Folks, Brothers, we're not going to eat until 12:30, but the ladies have got to get to these tables here. So we'll come back after lunch and we'll start with the good of the Order before we go through nominations. All right.

Chaplain, would you please come and close the Bible.

(Recess.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Brothers, we are now at the portion of the good of the Order. Do we have anybody for the good of the Order who would like to speak? Please come up towards the microphone.

BROTHER CRANE: Jim Crane, Lytle Camp. I just want to start out real quick. Commander, you know, you set this all up by yourself, right?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: No, I had help.

BROTHER CRANE: Okay. No, no, you did this by yourself. You did this stuff by yourself this time. So I would suggest to the new incoming Department Commander that you still be on the site committee (indiscernible).

(Applause.)

BROTHER CRANE: I think you went to every camp four times or something like that. You drug these guys with you and stuff, Don Martin?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Yeah, I had my posse.

BROTHER CRANE: The second reason we came up every year at the National Encampment when we've had a Commander in Chief there who was from Ohio, we've always helped sponsor and after-dinner party for the entire Encampment to come in and congratulate him and stuff that lasts about two hours. So it gets really kind of costly sometimes. So I guess we're begging for a little bit of money. I think Ken and I have kind of financed a couple of those, but if we could just get a little bit of money from the Department, that would be great. I think the Auxiliary is going to throw some money in also. So I don't even know what, I don't even know what amount to do. So don't know. But it costs about four or 500 bucks, a little bit for the hors d'oeuvres and stuff like that, so.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: And this takes place when exactly?

BROTHER CRANE: Saturday evening after the banquet.

So he would no longer be the Commander in Chief, actually he's no longer Commander in Chief Saturday afternoon. But you know, that's all, we just have, we have pop, there's beer, whatever. It's not in the budget, by the way, gentlemen.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Right, yes, sir.

BROTHER CRANE: I suggest the bereavement fund.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: On that wishful thinking, I hope we didn't transfer money from the bereavement fund.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's the most active fund we have.

BROTHER MARVIN: Ronald Marvin, the Jacob Parrott Camp. I just wanted to put a mention in. Over the last year or so, I've been working with the Ohio History Connection as part of my BSA job, and they are gearing up for the America 250 Ohio to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States and the role that Ohio's history has played in it. And I thought that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War would be the leading candidates to share information about the public about the Civil War to promote the boys in blue. This would give us an opportunity to get out, get more of those missing headstones placed, get more of the last soldier plaques put in place. So I think that would be a great project to lead up to July of 2026.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you, sir.

BROTHER BAILEY: Brad Bailey, Camp #33, Jacob Parrott. I'm the Camp Secretary. We just happen to have a couple pins here for sale, \$10 each, Abraham Lincoln and also the medal Grand Army of the Republic. So if anybody wants one at the end of the meeting, feel free to see me. I've got a bunch.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Very good.

BROTHER DORR: Kent Dorr, McLaughlin Camp #12. If you put your attention up to the statues up there, this is an ongoing project that our Camp does. We sell these statues at meetings and wherever, Civil War shows. They help finance projects that we do in the community. We always try to bring a couple up here. If somebody would like to take one home, we normally charge a little bit more, but since you're all Brothers, if you want the painted Abraham Lincoln, that would go for 85 and the unpainted Union soldier would be 65. So see

myself or Brad at the end, and we'll take it out to your vehicle. Appreciate it.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Very good. Thank you.

BROTHER PRATER: Mason Prater, Senior Vice Commander, William McKinley Camp #21. To fund our Camp for this year, we are raffling off a Henry rifle, 40 caliber. I've been to many tables. Just wanted to bring it to the attention of good of the Order. Donations of \$20 get you this raffle.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you. Okay. I'd like to have a little discussion on the amount of money that we will donate to the Pete Hritsko's shindig afterwards. I want just to discuss how much money, as a Department, we can donate to that. And then, once we come up with the amount, will go through a motion. So let's discuss how much money.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How much should you donate, raise right now from the members (indiscernible - away from microphone). They'll throw in some money.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: You're thinking to donate from the members here on the floor? Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll start it off. Here's \$20. You're in charge. Collect.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: All right. Stick your money up in the air if you'd like to donate.

(Indiscernible - simultaneous speech.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. Let's get a count.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We'll have a committee of counters.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: As they're counting, is there anything else for the good of the Order, folks, good of the Order?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who's the money going to? Are you taking it or Ken?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If either of you end up with a new pool --

(Laughter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that enough for a band there, Joe?

(Indiscernible - simultaneous speech.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How much?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 425.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Brothers, we have received \$425. Very good. Thank you.

(Applause.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We will bring (indiscernible - away from microphone) the Department Treasurer received (indiscernible - away from microphone).

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. Very good.

Last call for good of the Order. Hearing none, Guard, allow no one else to enter. Please secure the doors.

Credentials Committee, please provide a final report. Kent, do you have the report? Kent, do you have the report?

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR JIM HOUSTON: Okay. The final report is 47 registered, and we have the number for each Camp. So what we will do if there's a contested situation, we will give out the number for each Camp that qualified as for voting. So that's the situation. We will break out the (indiscernible) we have it broken out to 47 by each Camp and the number qualified on each Camp.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Do you want to give us those numbers at this time?

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR JIM HOUSTON: What's that?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Do you want to give us the numbers per Camp at this time?

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR JIM HOUSTON: Sure. Dennison Camp #1, four votes. Fearing Camp #2, three votes. Lytle Camp #10, six votes. McLaughlin Camp #12, three votes. McKinley Camp #21, two votes. Parrott Camp #33, six votes. Enderlin Camp #73, three votes. Casey Camp #92, six votes. Sherman Camp #93, six votes. Earnshaw Camp #97, one vote. Townsend Camp #108, two votes. Cadot-Blessing Camp, two votes. Garfield Camp, four votes. Yes, question?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: We've got a question on the floor.

BROTHER DARBY: Don Darby, Past Commander in Chief. What Camp does Shane Milburn and his son belong to?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: #92.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Casey Camp.

BROTHER DARBY: Well, they left. So is that six --

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR JIM HOUSTON: That six is now four.

BROTHER DARBY: Okay. Did anyone else leave?

(Indiscernible - simultaneous speech.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If you're not here, tell us.

BROTHER DARBY: So that six goes to four, okay.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR JIM HOUSTON: Six goes to four.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Jim, quick question. I missed it. How many votes for Camp #1, Dennison, top of your list?

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR JIM HOUSTON: Four.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Total of four. Got it. Thank you, sir.

At this time, we will take nominations of candidates for the Department office for the year 2024/2025. First, is there a motion that is, I'm sorry, say it again. First, is there a motion that if there is only one nominee for any office that the Secretary should record a single vote in favor of the candidate and the Brother will be duly elected?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMAN: So moved.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. I have a motion from John Edelman.

BROTHER LOWERY: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: And a second from Lowery, Cameron.

Any discussion? All in favor of the motion, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Any opposed, say nay.

(No response.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Motion carried.

All right. Here we go. We will begin with the office of the Department Commander. Are there any nominations for the office of Department Commander?

BROTHER MARTIN: Yes, Commander, I have one. I'd like to nominate Steve Ball. Don Martin, Past Commander in Chief, Enderlin Camp. I'd like to nominate Steve Ball for Department Commander. Steve has many Civil War ancestors. He is also a dual member of Dennison and Enderlin Camps. Steve is a retired heavy equipment mechanic, but he now works for himself combining his love of music and the Civil War. Past C-in-C Darby told me that Steve will play for his dinner.

(Laughter.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can't believe anything Darby says.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Are there any nominations for the office of Department Commander? Are there any nominations for the office of the Department Commander? Are there any nominations for the office of Department Commander?

Brother, you have been nominated for the office of Department commander. What other offices in the Order do you currently hold?

BROTHER BALL: Chaplain of the Dennison Camp.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Very good. If elected, are you willing to serve?

BROTHER BALL: Yes, sir.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you.

BROTHER DARBY: Move the nominations be closed.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Oh, you moved it. At this time, oh, I'm sorry, need a second. Brother Mershon.

At this time, Mr. Secretary, cast your vote. We've got a new Department Commander.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Now, we will take nominations for Senior Vice Commander. Are there any nominations for the office of Senior Vice Commander?

BROTHER MCBRAYER: Tom McBrayer, Chaplain, Camp #33. I'd like to put a nomination for Dave Rish for the Senior Vice Commander. He has been Commander of Camp #33 for about five times, original charter member 2008, and is legendary as far as his recruiting goes. And I won't talk about his other legendary things.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you. Are there any nominations for the office of Senior Vice Commander? Are there any nominations for the office of Senior Vice Commander? Are there any nominations for the office of Senior Vice Commander?

Brother, you have been nominated for the office of Senior Vice Commander. What other offices in the Order do you currently hold?

BROTHER RISH: Camp Commander of Parrott Camp #33.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Very good. If elected, are you willing to serve?

BROTHER RISH: Yes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Very good.

BROTHER DARBY: Move the nominations for Senior Vice.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: So moved.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Mr. Secretary, cast your vote. We have a new Senior Vice.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: We will now take nominations for Junior Vice Commander. Are there any nominations for the office of Junior Vice Commander?

BROTHER CRANE: There is.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Brother

Crane.

BROTHER CRANE: Jim Crane, Lytle Camp, Past Department Commander. A couple years ago, as you remember, Commander, we had no one to serve as a Secretary. So we went to Kelly Hopkins, and met with him a couple of times, and talked him into it and he got his baptism under fire in that job. And John, you probably feel the same way he did right now, right? Not too many people there to help.

Also, one of the things he's done was you guys that have been Past Department Commanders know there's nine boxes that we always had to carry around. Well, we don't have to carry them around anymore because this gentleman has scanned every last piece of paper in there that needed to be saved. It took a year and a half, sir? And Past Department Commander or well, you are a Past Department Commander, but -- Past Commander in Chief. So I would think that this gentleman's kind of earned, you know, that right to step up because we're always looking for good leaders. Kelly was in the U.S. Army, served in combat situations and everything. So he's not gun shy. And I want to throw him in for nomination for Junior Vice Commander.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Very good. Are there any nominations for Junior Vice Commander? Are there any nominations for Junior Vice Commander? Are there any nominations for Junior Vice Commander?

Brother, you have been nominated for the office of Junior Vice Commander. What other offices in the Order do you currently hold?

BROTHER HOPKINS: Commander, I'm the Post Commander of Camp #92.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Very good. If elected, are you willing to serve?

BROTHER HOPKINS: Yes.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Thank you.

BROTHER DARBY: Move the nominations be closed. We've got a live one there.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Mr. Secretary, please cast your vote. Congratulations. New Junior Vice Commander.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Now, you'll see in your booklet that there's a place to nominate Department Treasurer and Secretary. And Johnny Edelman, we were talking one of our many talks during the week, and he said oh, I need to put my letter of intent in to maintain my position as Secretary and his brother for Treasurer. And I said, no, you don't need to do that, it's a three-year term.

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: So I want to tell you right now I want to give these two gentlemen a round of applause because a year from, this past year, I'm sorry, a year from today I didn't have anybody on the radar for Secretary or Treasurer, and these two brothers, brothers brothers, has done a great job, stepped in and really cleaned some things up and been nothing but a pleasure and an honor to work with these two guys. So I'd like to just give them a round of applause.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Okay. I'm just going to do a sideline here. I want to say since while I still have the podium, I want to thank -- first of all, I feel that I have had a very successful run as Department Commander and that's only for one reason because I had good support people around me at all times. And I want to thank my Senior and Junior Vice people and David Rish for all the support and help that they did for me. And of course, we just mentioned the Secretary and Treasurer, the members of the Council; Michael Spaulding, Richard Davis, and Don Darby, my Chief of Staff, Don Martin, who I refer to as the human fire extinguisher. With their support, and again with the Counselor, Don Darby, and Past Department Commander, Jim Crane, without their help and support, I'm sure I would have crashed and burned. But they made sure that I didn't. So I just want to thank all you Brothers for your help and your support. Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: All right. Let's move to Department Council. The one-year term for Department Council next year will be filled by Past Department Commander Richard A. Davis. The two-year term will be filled by, I'm sorry, the two-year term for Department Council will be filled by Past Commander in Chief, Don Darby. Are there any nominations for the Department Council?

BROTHER CRANE: There is. Jim Crane, Lytle Camp, Past Department Commander. You're probably tired of seeing me up here, but I'm sorry about that. As been in the past, we've always looked to the outgoing Department Commander to take that

spot on Department Council. So I make a motion that we put John Huffman in the three, actually, three-year term. Just like those big guys. So that's all. I make a motion that we put you in there and nominate you for that position.

BROTHER DARBY: Second.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Do I still call it all three times?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Brother, you've been nominated for the --

(Laughter.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: -- of the Department Council. What other offices in the Order do you currently hold?

Senior Vice Commander of the Enderlin Camp, and I think I'm on three different committees with National. I think that will do it.

If elected, are you willing to serve? Yes. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Commander-elect, have you decided who you want as an installing officer?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-ELECT STEPHEN BALL: Commander in Chief, Pete Hritsko.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER JOHN M. HUFFMAN, JR.: Commander.

INSTALLING OFFICER PETE HRITSKO, JR.: Commander Huffman, I'm relieving you of the command of this Department. On behalf of the officers, I convey to you their thanks for the manner in which you have discharged your duties. I trust that in surrendering the command of this Department, your interest in the welfare of this Order will not cease. Having received the highest honors which your fellow members can confer upon you, your continued commitment will point the way for others who still serve the Order. Please be seated to my left.

Commander-elect, are you prepared to announce your staff appointment, and if so, him the list to the Secretary, please.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER-ELECT STEPHEN BALL: Yes.

INSTALLING OFFICER PETE HRITSKO, JR.: Secretary, call the roll of officers elect and staff appointed. As their names are being called (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMAN: Commander.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You need the microphone.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMAN: Commander-elect, Steve Ball.

INSTALLING OFFICER PETE HRITSKO, JR.: As their names are being called, please stand.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMAN: Senior Vice-elect, David Rish. Junior Vice-elect, Kelly Hopkins. Secretary and Treasurer, John and Tom Edelman.

INSTALLING OFFICER PETE HRITSKO, JR.: And the appointed officers you've got to name as well.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMAN: Let's do the Council. The first was R.A. Davis for the one-year term. Two-year term was Don Darby. Please stand. And the third year term is John Huffman.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. You don't have no appointed officers.

(Indiscernible - simultaneous speech.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you have a list of appointed officers?

BROTHER DARBY: The appointed officers remain the same as last time.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, that's correct.

BROTHER DARBY: So you all know what your jobs are. Stand up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That is true. Everybody stand in place.

INSTALLING OFFICER PETE HRITSKO, JR.: Brothers, these are your regular 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.

Those that are standing, please come forward, please.

Officers, you've been selected to the positions of

great honor and trust. With this Commander, you will be responsible for the financial and the material prosperity and interest of this Department, and the members of this Encampment, confidently expect that your discharge of the duties and responsibilities rest upon you with the conspicuousness for the zeal, ability, and good work.

I trust that your appreciation for the good 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 your duties of the respective office.

Each of you will raise your right hand, place your left hand on the Bible, and repeat after me. Use your name where I do mine.

I, (each member stating their name, and repeating, as directed) have been regularly 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 to the best of my ability in word and deed and without fear or favor faithfully, honestly, and impartiality perform all the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.

Everybody go to their respective stations.

Commander, by the vote of the members of this Encampment, you have been elected to the highest honor within their gifts. Your election to the honorable position is a evidence not only of their regards and appreciation of your work and ability to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War by assurance that you conduct 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 in your faithful performance, I now most solemnly direct you.

As there's no work to this manner and success without the assistance of the Divine Power, the Chaplain will assist in the 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 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.

IN UNISON: Amen.

INSTALLING OFFICER PETE HRITSKO: Commander, your officers are now at their respective stations, and I am about to place you in full control. But first, I give you the care of 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 the Order and a copy of the Constitution and Regulations for the government of the 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 the 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 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 office of the Department legally elected and installed and qualified to enter upon the discharge of the several duties for the term ending of June of 2025, or until their successors are regularly elected, qualified, and installed.

Now, I am pleased to present you the badge of the office of the Department Commander. Commander, assume your command. Be true to your vow, faithful to your trust, unflinching in your loyalty, and rule with civility, impartiality, firmness, and may your administration be successful. Do you have anybody in particular you want to pin?

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN BALL: Carry on.

INSTALLING OFFICER PETE HRITSKO, JR.: All right.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN BALL: You're doing a fine job.

INSTALLING OFFICER PETE HRITSKO, JR.: All right.

(Applause.)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN BALL: Brothers, when I joined this organization in 2011, I had absolutely no

aspirations at all of ever becoming the Department Commander. And of course, I found myself working through the Dennison Camp very quickly. Great, great group of people there. Without them and their support, I certainly wouldn't be standing here today. It's an honor. It's an absolute honor. Being a member of the Sons of Union Veterans is truly one of the proudest things in my life that I've ever been able to be a part of.

I had 11 ancestors who served in the Civil War Union Army out of the State of Ohio. Of the 11, four of them paid the ultimate price. Two others were badly wounded. I studied their past, their service records, where they were, what they did, and what they endured as soldiers in the Union Army.

And whenever I attend a Camp meeting, the last year has probably been one of the most enjoyable years. I got to ride around the state with John Huffman and Don Martin and I don't know what was better, the Camp meetings or riding around the state with John and Don. But I just had a wonderful, wonderful time, met a lot of people, went a lot of places.

But I always think about what would my ancestors think if they were sitting here today. What would they think about the proceedings that they just watched, listened to, and experienced. Would they be proud of all of us? And I certainly would like to say that I think they would be.

The concern I have coming in is the same concern that John voiced last year. People talk about our Order dying, and it's a concern. In the back of your handout today, you've got the graph and this is probably something that the GAR was looking at in about 1945. It shows our numbers are definitely declining. So recruiting has got to become a priority for all of our Camps. You've got to go out and beat the bushes.

Dave Rish, you should write a book on that. You have certainly been a champion in that particular area and it's something that we all need to start concentrating on. If you're a member of a Civil War Roundtable, share the fact that you're a member of the Sons of Union Veterans. If you're the member of a genealogical society, and those are good places to recruit, because people join those things learning about their family history. They discover they had somebody that served in the Union Army and all of the sudden they have a very strong interest in our Order. So that's a good place to start. Historical societies, go to their meetings. Beat the drum there. If there's a living history event in your area and you know it's going to be taking place, ask if you can set up a table and pass out brochures.

Like John said, we don't want this to happen on our watch. We do not want to see the Department of Ohio simply go

out of existence on our watch, and I feel the very very same way.

So all that being said, the memory of our ancestors is why we are here. They had the foresight, the GAR did, to establish this Order in 1881 so that generations would carry on the memory of the Union soldiers and to keep green that memory. That is our job. That is what we have to be dedicated to. And to do that, we have to find new members. We have to stay active in our communities. If your community has a Civil War monument that's falling apart, needs repair, needs cleaned up, get involved with your community. Find out what you can do to get that done and talk to the civic leaders so they in turn can go ahead and promote our Order.

Like I said earlier, the Channel 6 clip, I must have talked about the Sons of Union Veterans a dozen times, and they edited every single one of those out. So you have to be careful when you talk to somebody from the media. But it's just something that we need to certainly get in gear on. If you know of a soldier buried some place that doesn't have a marker, get that marker.

I have played music at a dedication in Coshocton County two weeks ago, and a little tiny town by the name of New Bedford, and they had a soldier in the 51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry by the name of Solomon Duncan. And Solomon had wound up in Texas at the end of the war waiting to be mustered out. He came down sick and died. He was buried in an unknown grave some place in the State of Texas. But the Veterans Administration and other Civil War buffs, not a Civil War Roundtable or a Camp, got involved with his history. They wrote to the government, and actually got him a memorial marker to be in his family plot in a little tiny Cemetery in New Bedford, Ohio. Those people did an excellent job of beating the drum for the dedication ceremony for that stone, and they had nearly 200 people show up for that afternoon. So that can be done. Now, there's people up there that are interested in starting a camp in that part of the state. So I'm going to stay on them, stay in touch with them and see if we can make that happen in the next year.

I'll go ahead and shut up now. I certainly want to thank all of you for attending today. I want to thank all of you for your support. I want to thank John Huffman and his dream team for staying in place for me for the next calendar year, 2024 to 2025. I asked every member if they could simply hold the position that they had working for John, and they all agreed to do so. And I am certainly blessed of that fact moving forward.

So all that being said, we will go ahead and close

today's Encampment. Yes, sir?

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMAN: We have a box of brochures that they can come pick up.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN BALL: Oh, okay. Yeah, we do have a box of brochures up here. If you need some of these, these were out of existence for a while there. The quartermaster finally got a bunch in. If you need some of these, please come forward and make sure you get some before you leave.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMAN: We have a packet for each Camp.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN BALL: Oh, we have a packet for every Camp, okay.

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY JOHN EDELMAN: Every Camp needs them.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER STEPHEN BALL: Okay. Every Camp needs them, John says, so come on up and get them.

There being no further business to come before this Encampment, we will proceed to close. You will give your attention while the Department Chaplain asks the blessing of God upon 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 STEPHEN BALL: 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 to our vows, mindful of duties, and exhibit towards each other an unbroken fraternity, a tender charity, and an unswerving loyalty.

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

Attention. I now declare the 142nd Annual Encampment of the Department of Ohio Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War duly closed.

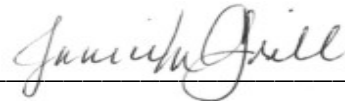
(Applause.)

(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 142nd Annual Encampment of the Ohio Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil war.

Signed and dated this 31st day of July, 2024.

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

JANICE M. GRILL