



**2016 National Encampment
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

**Committee Minutes
Meeting at Applebee's Belvidere, Illinois
April 27, 2014**

Present:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Johnson at 1:00 pm. 11 members present: Steve Aarli, John Bigwood, Terry Dyer, Jerry Kowalski, Tom Oestricher, Jim Lyon, Steve Westlake, and Paul Zeien. One guest: Carol Dyer.

Bro. Kowalski led the committee in prayer.

Reports:

Bro. Johnson explained the reason for the meeting and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also explained his expectations of the committee. The official dates of the encampment are: August 10th thru August 15th at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield Illinois. The negotiated room rate is \$106/room/night/1 car free parking.

Bro. Kowalski mentioned that in the past the host committee has been able to negotiate free rooms that would either be sold or issued to the national officers. Bro. Johnson suggested this be handled closer to the event.

Bro. Kowalski stated he attended a wedding where the Illinois Youth acapella Singers performed. He suggested that they might be a good addition to our program.

Discussion was held in regard to asking the 33rd band to perform at the dinner/banquet if the committee decides to pursue the point of contact will be Terry Dyer.

Additional performers that might be pursued are The Generals and Donna & Max Daniels. The entertainment committee will work on this.

Bro. Johnson stated that he would like Bro. Werline to be the coordinator of the tours and lead the negotiation on behalf of the committee since he lives in Springfield and has the contacts.

Bro. Kowalski has sold \$136 dollars' worth of bonds for the encampment. Sickness inhibited him from making additional sales at Gettysburg and Lincoln's death day. As his health improves he will continue his quest for more sales of the bonds.

Bro. Kowalski asked the committee to ask each camp at the department encampment to donate \$500 dollars to be used as working capital for medals, printing, advertising, and such. Discussion was that not all camps can afford this and they would be asked to donate what they could. Following the encampment if there was profit it would be distributed back to the camps and department. The method and denomination is yet to be determined.

Bro. Kowalski contacted PDC Hands and he stated that the best way to make a profit is to adjust the costs of the tours. This would have to be negotiated but would be a good source of profit. Museums, transportation (trolley) etc. would have to be negotiated. Bro. Johnson appreciated the suggestions and asked for them to be noted.

Bro. Johnson stated that he wants the 2016 Staff to have a special shirt to distinguish them from the other attendees. This will allow anyone who might need a question answered the ability to easily find someone with a potential answer.

Bro. Kaup emailed a list of items/suggestions that are based upon his experience with the 2002 encampment. His suggestions were directed in the following areas: Goody bag, registration, program book, general raffle, field tour, hospitality room, exposition room, campfire, and others. These will need to be reviewed in depth by the responsible sub committees.

2016 National Encampment Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Bro. Johnson listed the current members of the committee. At this time there have not been specific assignments given or areas of responsibility. Bro. Johnson wants to ask for people to choose their area of responsibility rather than assign it. This will be a topic for discussion at the department encampment. Bro. Johnson explained that if any committee member is unable to attend a planning meeting that is ok but just to respond to him so he knows. Upon two failed attempts to communicate with a member with no response the member will be removed from the committee. The committee as of this writing is as follows:

Bill Johnson, Dan Hans, John Bigwood, Steve Westlake, Terry Dyer, Paul Zeien, Steve Aarli, Greg Carter, Larry Werline, Randy Abbott, Ron Clark, Jerry Kowalski, Jody Switzer, Marc Finnegan, Stuart Stefany, Tom Oestricher, and Jim Lyon. It is also to be noted that anyone within the department is encourage to participate. Bro. Johnson is suggesting the following subcommittees with others to be added or removed as requirements present themselves: Logistics, Finance, Entertainment, Registration, Meeting Coordination, and Publications. Bro. Zeien has volunteered to chair the Publications subcommittee which will include electronic, print, and design.

Brothers interested in a specific area should direct their requests to Bro. Johnson.

Bro. Carter has volunteered to chair the logistics subcommittee which will cover transportation concerns.

Bro. Westlake suggested that given in the registration packet there be a complete itinerary of the encampment. This was not done in Milwaukee and there was much confusion.

Bro. Aarli made note of the registration issues at Milwaukee and asked that this committee do their part to assure that the attendees at our encampment do not receive the same or similar treatment.

Bro. Zeien suggested that a slip of paper outlining each day's events be slipped under the hotel room door of each registered attendee. This will help remind them of the day's events.

Bro. Lyon asked about branding the event with proper letterhead and such. Bro. Zeien said he would work on that.

Bro. Oestricher asked if it would be ok to write a book about the history of the GAR a commemorative book and he would donate a portion of the profit back to the order. The committee gave him permission to move forward.

Bro. Dyer presented a medal design for the encampment and the committee approved of the design. Bro. Kowalski stated the need for expediting this process to begin sales of these commemorative medals. The group decided to take Bro. Dyer's design and get prices on production, hopefully prior to the department encampment. Bro. Zeien asked for permission to start designing the commemorative program for the encampment. He was given permission to do so.

Bro. Johnson presented information about the Saturday Evening Post picture that would be given in the registration packets. The department would also sell a few frames to offset the cost of the printing by the Saturday Evening Post. For \$2.00 per copy the Saturday Evening Post will give the SUVCW the rights to distribute this item.

Bro. Zeien will publish minutes following each meeting on the Department of Illinois website for all members of the department.

Next Meetings:

July 20th, 1:30 p.m. Applebees Belvidere, Illinois

November 2nd, 1:30 p.m. Applebees Belvidere, Illinois

Chairman Johnson closed the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

**2016 National Encampment
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul T. Zeien Jr.