

**Department of Illinois SUVCW**  
**134th Mid Term Encampment**  
**Held Oct. 28, 2017 at**  
**Batavia, Illinois**

Prior to the opening of the Encampment, DC John Bigwood opened a Dept. Court of Honor with the following Past Dept. Commanders: PDC's Nick Kaup, Steve Westlake, Terry Dyer and Jim Lyon. DC Bigwood asked Sister Carol Dyer, President of the Mary Logan Auxiliary, was escorted to the alter and was presented the Dr. Mary Walker Award (Dept. Level) for her tireless work for the good of the order with the Auxiliary and for the SUVCW. To say the least she was very surprised and humbled for being selected and so honored by this award.

The 134th Mid Term Encampment of the Department of Illinois was opened in do form by DC John Bigwood at 12:25 pm with Dept. Chaplain Jerry Kowalski giving the opening prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our Country.

The Roll of Dept. Officers was called with the following results:

Dept. Commander: John Bigwood – Present

Dept. Chief of Staff: Nick Kaup, PDC – Present

Dept. SV Commander: Harry Reineke IV – Present

Dept. JV Commander: Joe Hutchinson – Present

Dept. Secretary: Steve Aarli – Present

Dept. Treasurer: Wm. Johnson – Present

Dept. Council: Nick Kaup–Present; James Lyon–Present; Robert Kurek- present

Dept. Counselor – Ron Clark - Absent

Dept. CW Memorials Officer: Vacant

Dept. Chaplain: Jerry Kowalski – Present

Dept. Historian: Terry Dyer, PDC - Present

Dept. Signals Officer – Paul Zeien, Jr. – Absent

Dept. Eagle Scout Coordinator: James L. Lyon PDC – Present

Dept. ROTC Coordinator – William Shipper – Absent

Dept. Guide: Chuck Wright – Present

Dept. Guard: Rob Hauff CC – Present

Dept. P. I.: Dave Wildermuth - Present  
 Dept. GAR Hwy Officer: Steve Haight PCC – Absent  
 Dept. GRO: Steve Aarli PCC – Present  
 Dept. Organizer: Nick Kaup PDC/Steve Westlake PDC – Both Present  
 Dept. Real Son Liason – Joe Hutchinson PCC – Present  
 Dept. Fraternal Relations: Harry Reineke IV – Present  
 Dept. Color Bearer: Leigh Franklin - Present

Roll Call of Camps:

Gen. George A. Custer Camp #1 (Wilmette) Present  
 Gen. Philip H. Sheridan Camp #2 (Aurora) Present  
 Gen. John A. McClernand Camp #4 (Springfield) Present  
 Capt. Frank Reed Camp #24 (Tuscola) Absent  
 John A. Logan Camp #26 (Rockford) Present  
 Gen. E. F. Dutton Camp #49 (Sycamore) Present  
 Col. John C. Bryner Camp #67 (Peoria) Present  
 Col. Freidrich K. Hecker Camp #443 (Belleville) Present

Total representatives present: 30 members and several wives and members of the Aux.

Nat'l/Dept. Chaplain Jerry made a plea for financial assistance to attend Remembrance Day in Gettysburg in November.

DC Bigwood had the pleasure of introducing PDC's: Westlake, Dyer, Kaup and Lyon.

Minutes of the 134th Annual Encampment were approved as distributed via email earlier moved by Chap Jerry, seconded by Bro. Wildermuth and ordered placed on file.

Dept. Treasurer Wm. Johnson presented the following Treasurers report:

Beginning Balance:	\$22643.84
Income:	
Medal & ribbons	283.50
New Brothers	400.50
New Camp	339.25
Total:	\$1023.25
Expenses:	
New Brothers to Nat'l.	323.00
Dept. Ins.	626.00
Wm. Shipper ROTC	96.92

Jim Lyon BSA	30.35
Paul Zeien Com.	193.26
Steve Aarli Sec.	201.84
Nat'l. Dues	4979.00
Postage to send medals	10.29
Nat'l. table	25.00
Ad Dept. Mich.	40.00
Sister medal	31.00
Stephenson Memorial Fund	150.00
New Camp Old Glory	239.25
Total expenses:	6945.91
New Balance:	\$16721.18

A motion was made by Bro. Wildermuth and seconded by Bro. Reineke and passed to accept the Treasurers report.

**DEPT. OFFICER/CAMP COMMANDER REPORTS:** These were emailed prior to the Encampment for review. Bro. Kurek of Camp #2 added that his Camp has an active Face Book page. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the reports and have them placed on file.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Dept. Sec. Aarli read a thankyou letter from Mr. Harold Shook for an award presented to him from Nat'l. for his work on repairing cemetery markers as a high school project. He was recommended by PCinC Brad Schall. A letter from the SVR with an announcement about the SVR breakfast to be held at Remembrance Day in Gettysburg in November. Highlighted a paragraph in a recent message from CinC Day concerning the fund raising effort for the Dr. Stephenson Memorial. A letter from our John A. Logan Camp #26 challenging our Camps and the Dept. of Illinois to match the Logan Camp donation of \$100 or better. The Logan Camp raised \$191.20 for the fund.

**AWARDS:** PDC Kaup and Dyer were recognized for receiving Nat'ls MSA with Star award at the 2017 National Encampment in Lansing, Mi.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Bro. Aarli addressed the fact that we need to appoint an administrator to work with the Dept. Face Book page. This can be a vital tool for "getting our shingle" out for promoting our Order. Bro. Reineke offered to assist along with our Dept. Signals Officer PDC Zeien and Bro. Aarli. We currently have 2 or 3 Camps who actively use this. It was also suggested that our Camps do the same and also have someone willing to send posts to be added to the Dept. FB page.

PDC Lyon presented different color cords that can be attached to our Dept. and Camp Flags as a memorial to deceased Brothers and Sisters of the SUVCW. More info to come at the May 2018 Encampment.

A rather lively discussion was held in regards to the Rail Splitter. Since we haven't had a Rail Splitter printed in about 2 years, and it is a duty of the Dept. SVC to produce and distribute it, SVC Reineke requested the following: One, that it should be prepared four times a year and asked that all Camps send him articles, pictures, etc. by a certain date. He will set up a time table for deadlines. He recommended as well that we should adhere to sending the Rail Splitter via email to all members who have email address and have a printed copy sent to our two Real Sons. He also recommended that he will send a copy to our Dept. Signals Officer PDC Zeien to post on the Dept. website and send a copy to the Dept. Secretary to forward to the Camp Secretaries who in turn will forward to their members who have email and send a hard copy to their members who do not have email. It was debated that the SVC should be solely responsible to send to everyone as has been done in the past or the Dept. Secretary send to everyone. Both Bro. Reineke and Aarli stated that with emails changing as often as they do, this could be a challenge on their time, whereas the Camp Secretaries will usually be the first to know if there is a change. A common complaint is Secretaries have enough on their plates to have to add one more to it. But, they have to realize that when a Secretary receives it, it is a matter of just forwarding the attachment which they do already. The following recommendation for dates for Rail Splitter publication and deadlines for articles was read and approved by the Encampment: January 15 for January 31 publication; April 15 for April 30 publication; July 15 for July 30 publication and October 15 for October 31 publication.

A twenty minute break was taken.

**NEW BUSINESS:** SVC Reineke presented a picture of an old GAR style Illinois Corp badge that was found in a book of GAR Badges produced by Nat'l Historian Woolson and moved that it be adopted by the Dept. of Illinois as their official emblem. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chap. Jerry. Motion passed.

PDC Lyon presented a metal GAR Star for marking CW Veteran graves can be ordered thru the Nat'l QM. They can be ordered in bulk if requested which lowers the individual cost.

Chap. Jerry reported that while representing the CinC at the Dept. of Texas Encampment, stated that a couple of their Camps had members severely impacted by the hurricane this past summer, and they were asking for monetary donations for these Texas members. A collection was taken and \$180.00 will be forwarded to the Texas Dept. Treasurer for these Brothers.

After some discussion, the proposed Dept. By-law change to pro rate Dept. Per Capita as presented by Dept. Sec. Aarli was withdrawn.

A question was raised by members of the Hecker Camp #443 in regards to coverage in our Dept. insurance of the use of black powder at Camp or Dept. events. The answer was NO. The groups would need to supply their own insurance to cover this. It was also requested that the Camps be sent an insurance card (similar to what you have for your car) so the Camps know who to contact with questions relating to Dept. coverage. Chap Jerry will see that this gets done.

PDC Bigwood announced that he had a new frame for the Department Charter since the old one was falling apart. Also that he purchased a new DC badge since the one that has been used and handed down for years (no one really knows how old it is) since the ribbon was faded and becoming frayed. He suggested that the old DC badge be given to the Dept. Historian (PDC Dyer) for safe keeping. Since it has sentimental value, having been in use for years, that it be used once a year to pin a new DC then put away.

Since DC Bigwood could not locate the receipts for the frame and DC medal to submit for reimbursement, he decided to donate the frame and medal to the Department of Illinois. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to give our new Old Glory Camp #6165 \$200 seed money as well as any new Camp from here on.

**BILLS:** The following bills were presented and ordered paid: Steve Aarli, Dept. Sec. supplies: \$193.32; Old Glory Camp #6165 \$200.00; Terry Dyer: \$73.80; Dept. of Texas \$180.00. Total: \$647.12

**Annual Encampment:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to hold the 2018 Annual Dept. Encampment in May 2018 in Tuscola area to be hosted by Camp #24. Suggested date was May 5 or 19, 2018. Date and location to be determined by Camp #24.

**Initiation of new members:** William Hunter, a new member of the Gen. E. F. Dutton Camp #49 was initiated in due form.

**Dept. Officer/Delegate Elections:** PDC Nick Kaup, PDC Jim Lyon and Bro. Rob Hauff were appointed as the nominating committee to prepare a slate of Elected Dept. Officers for our May 2018 Dept. elections.

**Installation of Officers:** Bro. Leigh Franklin of Camp #2 was appointed Dept. Color Bearer.

#### **Announcements & Good of the Order:**

**Closing of Encampment:** There being no further business to bring before this Encampment, DC John Bigwood thanked everyone for their attendance and formally closed the 134th Annual Encampment of the Department of Illinois at 3:45 pm in due form.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Steve Aarli, Dept. Sec.

Dept. of Ill. SUVCW