

123 Annual Encampment  
Department of Iowa  
Des Moines, Iowa  
March 31, 2007

A joint memorial service of the Sons of Union Veterans Of The Civil War and the allied orders was held at 8am. A total of 5 brothers and sisters were remembered in the service. The service was completed by 8:30am.

The Encampment reconvened at 9:25am with the posting of the colors. The encampment was opened by Commander Rittel. Roll call of the department officers was made. Those present were:

Commander Ronald Rittel  
Sr. Vice Commander Jeffrey Stephen  
Jr. Vice Commander Dennis Sasse  
Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Geesaman  
Camp Council Kenneth Lindblom  
Michael Rowley  
C. R. Stephen  
Patriotic Instructor/Eagle Scout Coordinator Carl Fulk  
Chaplin Larry Brewer  
Historian Daniel Rittel  
Counselor James Stephen  
Guide Lee Fritz  
Color Bearer Courtney Stahr  
Guard Kenneth Lindblom  
Civil War Memorials Officer James Wolf  
Recruiting Officer Michael Carr  
Signals Officer Douglas Slauson  
Department Organizer/Site Committee Chair C. R. Stephen

Absent were:

Graves Registration Officer Carl Boas  
GAR Highway Officer Richard Ellis

Color Bearer Courtney Stahr led the Encampment in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commander Rittel introduced 2 guests – Commander In Chief James Pahl and Department of Nebraska Commander Paul Hadley.

A request on the number of encampment attendees and delegates was made but was put off until time for the election of new department officers.

The various department officers gave reports. The secretary and treasurer's reports were approved. The officer's reports are attached.

Either camp commanders or representatives gave camp reports. These reports are attached.

The committee's reports followed and are attached.

Commander Rittel announced the following awards and recipients:

Camp of the Year:	Abernethy
Brother of the Year:	Michael Rowley
Newsletter of the Year:	Twombly's Honor, editor Leslie Weber

Communications:

The secretary read the following letters that were received:

- 1) A letter of congratulations from national secretary Michael Bennett to the new Governor Kirkwood #4 camp forming in Council Bluffs.
- 2) A letter and resolution from the Dept. of Wisconsin requesting a change in tax status in the National Constitution from 501 (c) (4) to 501 (c) (3). After some discussion, the Encampment agreed to support the resolution at the National Encampment in August.

Old Business:

- 1) Old Artifacts: A motion was made "to store artifacts at the GAR Hall at Redfield, Iowa. Terms to be negotiated between the new department commander and GAR Hall representatives". The motion was seconded. It was passed by the Encampment.
- 2) GAR Flags: A motion was made "to direct existing department funds to replicate the GAR Department Flag not to exceed \$600". The motion was seconded. It was passed by the Encampment.

New Business:

- 1) After a lunch break, Brother Tom Gaard of Dodge Camp made a presentation on efforts to create an Iowa monument, specifically for the efforts of the 39<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment, at Allatoona Pass in Georgia. A motion was made "for the Department of Iowa to donate \$250 toward the Iowa monument at Allatoona Pass, Georgia". The motion was seconded and passed by the Encampment. A further collection of funds was made during the afternoon session of the Encampment. A total of funds pledged and collected for the monument was \$846.00.
- 2) The issue of damage to civil war memorials was brought up. Specifically at issue is the vandalizing of the Wadena civil war monument and subsequent trial of the accused vandal. A motion was made "to direct the Department Secretary to send a letter on behalf of the Department to the Fayette County

Attorney and to the state legislature expressing the Department of Iowa outrages”. The motion was seconded & passed by the Encampment.

- 3) With the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War approaching, it was felt that the Department needed to begin planning for this celebration. A motion was made “to have the new Department Commander appoint a committee to address the Civil War sesquicentennial issues. The motion was seconded and passed.
- 4) A motion was made “to forward to the National Commander the name of Michael Rowley of Dodge Camp for national brother of the year”. The motion was seconded and passed.
- 5) Brother Carl Fulk discussed the Department Eagle Scout Coordinator’s job. A motion was made “to include in the Department Patriotic Instructor’s job description that he is to maintain as a central repository all awards given with the department”. The motion was seconded and passed.
- 6) A motion was made “to nominate Department Commander Ronald Rittel for a position on the National Council of Administration”. The motion was seconded and passed.

Good of the Order:

- 1) Brother Bob Kennedy reported on the possible burial of Civil War soldiers in southeastern Iowa.
- 2) It was reported a federal marker is on order for Iowa soldiers at Ft. Donelson.
- 3) Brother Ken Lindblom brought copies of The Greybeards by Harriet Stevens. These were available for anyone wishing a copy. He also reported on a Civil War reenactment planned at Marshalltown.
- 4) A talk given by National Commander In Chief Pahl included the following points:
  - a) The SUVCW at all levels needs to continue working with the various allied orders.
  - b) Camp and Department histories need to be written and forwarded to the National Organization.
  - c) It is essential for each camp to have a presence on the World Wide Web.
  - d) The SUVCW needs to cooperate more with the SCV and its allied orders.
  - e) The Banner has had some problems. A new printer has been contracted. A proposal to electronically send issues of the Banner has been made and is being investigated.

- f) The C in C has begun using electronic communication in passing information to/from Department Commanders.
- g) The C in C would like the Lincoln Death Day in Springfield, IL a big event similar to the Gettysburg, PA Remembrance Day.
- h) The SUVCW ROTC medal program needs to be actively promoted.
- i) The National offices have been moved into the National Civil War Museum at Harrisburg, PA.
- j) A new department is to be formed in Georgia.
- k) A change in the tax code has prompted the Dept. of Wisconsin to issue a resolution to change the SUVCW from a 501, c, 4 organization to a 501, c, 3 organization. The change has no effect on operations but on how donations can be made. A motion was made “for the Department of Iowa to adopt the Department of Wisconsin resolution. It was seconded and passed.
- l) The National Encampment for 2007 will be held in St. Louis, MO in August.

Election of Officers:

Prior to the election, a discussion was held concerning the separation of the Department Secretary and Treasurer. A motion was made to separate the Department Secretary and Treasurer with the two positions being for a two-year term. Also, the election of the positions would be in alternating years – election one year for the secretary and the next year for the treasurer. The motion was seconded and passed.

The following were elected as the 2007-2008 Department of Iowa Officers:

Department Commander:	Kevin Pearson
Department Sr. Vice Commander:	Carl Fulk
Department Jr. Vice Commander:	Courtney Stahr
Department Treasurer:	Daniel Rittel
Department Council:	Kenneth Lindblom
	Dennis Sasse
	Jeffrey Stephen

The election of the Department’s delegates to the National Encampment are as follows:

Larry Brewer	William Callahan
Lee Fritz	Carl Fulk
Michael Rowley	Douglas Slauson
C. R. Stephen	Jeffrey Stephen

It was passed that any and all non-delegate members attending the National Encampment would be alternate delegates.

National Commander in Chief James Pahl did the installation of the new Department of Iowa officers.

The newly appointed officers are:

Chief of Staff:	James Wolf
Patriotic Instructor:	Dann Hayes
Chaplin:	William Callahan
Historian & GAR Highway Officer:	Ronald Rittel
Counselor:	Les Weber
Guide:	Michael Rowley
Color Bearer:	Tanner Creery
Guard:	Steve Valley
Graves Registration Officer:	Carl Boas
Memorials Officer:	Thomas Gaard
Signals Officer:	(still open)

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Geesaman  
Department Secretary