

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Council of Administration  
MINUTES**

August 14, 2016, Springfield, Illinois

Commander-in-Chief Donald L. Martin called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM on August 14, 2016. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by the invocation given by Brother Jerry Kowalski.

**Voting Members Present:**

CinC Donald L. Martin  
SVCinC Mark R. Day  
JVCinC Donald W. Shaw  
National Secretary Jonathan C. Davis  
National Treasurer David McReynolds

National Quartermaster PCinC Danny L. Wheeler  
CofA Member Paul Davis  
CofA Member Edward J. Norris  
CofA Member Fredric Lynch  
CofA Member Brian C. Pierson  
CofA Member Michael A. Paquette

**Voting Members Absent:**

CofA Member Imm. PCinC Eugene G. Mortorff -  
excused

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Executive Director David W. Demmy Sr.  
PCinC Edward J. Krieser  
PCinC Donald D. Palmer

PCinC Jim B. Pahl, Banner Editor  
PCinC Stephen A. Michaels  
PCinC Brad Schall

**Guests of the Council of Administration (taken from sign-in sheet):**

Max L. Newman, Dept. of Michigan  
Loren T. Bures, Dept. of the Columbia  
James G. Ward, Dept. of Florida

Jerry W. Kowalski, Dept. of Illinois  
James P. McGuire, Dept. of Rhode Island

**ACTION ITEMS FROM NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OFFICER REPORTS**

***1. From National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler – Page 10***

**Recommendation:** I have one recommendation – that the contract be written so that it can be done and given to Esco and completed as it passed at the last CofA meeting. This will allow the Quartermaster store to be set up for the good of the Order. The store is the second way of obtaining excess income and at this time helps pay for the ROTC program which may help us get our 501(C)3 status.

**[ACTION: CofA]**

***2. From National Civil War Memorials Officer, Walter E. Busch, PDC– Page 14***

It is my recommendation that future Monuments Officers be included as either voting members or non-voting member of the Grants Committee, so that efforts are not duplicated. **[ACTION: Refer to CofA]**

***3. From National Graves Registration Officer, Bruce D. Frail, PDC– Page 21***

Due to the active attacks that are taking place against our Graves Registration Database, a detailed report will be sent to the National Secretary and Commander-in-Chief, this report will be too large to be included with the Encampment Reports Booklet under the one to two page guidelines. There is one recommendation, that the National Encampment authorized legal action to track down and bring these people to justice.

**[ACTION: Bruce Frail for more information]**

**4. From National Patriotic Instructor, Jeffrey French, PDC– Page 22**

- a. My recommendation is to have some more made to issue with the Certificates in the future and provide to those who received their certificates without pins. Request a one-time budget be approved for these pins.

**[ACTION: Robert Petrovic to contact Robert Grim for prior billing, 2 to 3 weeks]**

- b. I like to recommend Brother Kevin Martin to work with our Webmaster Brother McGuire. Brother McGuire has done what he could to include seeking help from Brother Freshley. Once these action have been executed and implemented the process will be greatly improved.

**[ACTION: Webmaster]**

**5. From National Signals Officer, James P. McGuire, PCC– Page 24**

**Recommendation 3: Department and Camp Webpages:** I was surprised to find out that in 2016, the National Organization is still hosting department webpages and that the National Webmaster is taking care of some of them. I was also contacted by a very dedicated Camp Webmaster asking what he needed to do to get his Camp webpage hosted under National. I told him that I had no idea, because I didn't. I have been advised that there is a fee associated with this hosting, but I don't know where that fee schedule is or how or if it is enforced. In today's day and age this is a waste of time and resources. There are so many resources available in 2016 to make each Camp or Department who desires to have a website for very little expense. For example, any Camp or Department can buy a domain name for less than \$20 on Wordpress and then build a very user-friendly site on the very same platform as the National website for free. There are other platforms out there as well. All of them have tutorials to help users, and are likely a cheaper option for Camps and Departments than National hosting would be if we did an audit. Let's not forget how many Camps simply use a Facebook page as their Camp page, and that's completely free. I recommend that we eliminate the policy of hosting Camps and Department websites under the National Website and phase it out according to a schedule in order to help those few Camps and Departments that are currently under the umbrella time to establish themselves on other platforms.

**[ACTION: Cost is \$60.00 a year though no one paying, seek yearly payment from camps and departments for hosting]**

**Recommendation 4: Audit:** Although I am loathe to do this, I recommend that an audit be performed of digital assets and a determination be made as to how many Camps, Departments, and Allied Orders are riding on the SUVCW hosting agreement, and whether or not any fees have been collected in relation to such.

**[ACTION: Communications and Technology]**

**Recommendation 5: Social Media Policy:** It is increasingly obvious that social media is a powerful tool for web communications. Many of our Brothers are using Facebook and Twitter, possibly other platforms as well, to advance the Order. Facebook, Twitter, et al, has their own rules how to do things, and we need to respect those rules, but we also need to have a policy in place to ensure that the SUVCW's rules and regulations are being upheld by local social media administrators. I have been contacted occasionally with a complaint about how a Camp here or there has posted something political that is forbidden by our C&R. It is a slippery slope, because of the nature of social "sharing." Someone may "share" something that is a nice picture, without even realizing that the original post was attached to something that the SUVCW should not be. I recommend that the Communications and Technology make it a priority to research and devise an SUVCW Social Media Policy and Best Practices to be submitted to Programs and Policies. We need to do this 5 years ago. It may be a stand- alone policy, or it may supplement the National Communication Technology Policy.

**[ACTION: Communications and Technology Committee then Policies and Procedures Committee]**

**Recommendation 6: Website and Social Media Census:** Derived from a recommendation to me by Vision and Strategic Planning, I heartily believe that we need to get a grasp of where and how we are represented online. I recommend that the Communications and Technology Committee conduct a web presence census in to be completed by July 1, 2017. This census will then be compiled and presented to the National Encampment so we will have a complete picture of the Order's web presence from the top down. The National Signals Officer will consult with the CofA and relevant committee chairs in the first quarter of the next administration to formalize the census questionnaire.

**[ACTION: Communications and Technology Committee]**

**6. From Committee on Constitution and Regulations– Page 30**

Section 11: To receive a license to operate from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, membership in an International Camp shall be limited to brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Once a brother becomes a member of an International Camp, such brother shall pay his National Per Capita, plus an amount set by the Council of Administration to cover the additional Banner mailing costs, to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the same as if the brother was a member of a Camp of the Order. Such payment is to be forwarded to the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War through the International Camp in the same fashion as a National Camp-at-Large.

**[ACTION: Executive Director]**

**7. From Committee on Vision and Strategic Planning, Brian C. Pierson, PDC– Page 48**

Bring disparate programs (ROTC medal program; Eagle Scout patch; Flag Certificate) under one umbrella, perhaps National PI.

**[ACTION: Program and Policy Committee]**

Revamp annual Patriotic Instructor reporting.

**[ACTION: Constitution & Regulations Committee, penalty for not filing?]**

**8. From National Fund Raising Special Committee, Glenn B. Knight, PDC– Page 57**

1. The chairman recommends any one of the following actions:

- a. Appoint new committee members who are capable of functioning.
- b. Appoint a revised committee with a revised charge.
- c. Drop the committee.

2. Direct the incoming Commander-in-Chief to instruct the Committee to develop ~~Executive Director, National Treasurer and National Counselor~~ a response packet to advise members how to include the Sons of Union Veterans in their last will and testament to include appropriate captioning, legal text, registration requirements and notice of intent.

3. Direct the incoming Commander in Chief to instruct the Committee ~~Executive Director, National Treasurer and National Counselor~~ to look into the creation of special funds and accounts that can be used for the management of special gifts if and when necessary. Such a review may result in the creation of an Assistant Treasurer for Major Gifts or a Development Officer under the National Treasurer.

**[ACTION: CinC, until 501(c)3]**

**From Real Sons and Daughters Special Committee, Jerome L. Orton, PDC– Page 59**

**Recommendation:** Real daughters may become honorary members of the SUVCW in the department they reside in or in the department where their father's enlisted. Action: C&R Committee to report back during 2017 National Encampment.

**[ACTION: Untenable, CinC possible Award]**

POW Program: option that the incoming CinC to start a special committee to examine of descendants of SUVCW POW Program.

**[ACTION: Program and Policy Committee]**

## **ACTION ITEMS FROM NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### ***1. Department of California and Pacific– Page 59***

**Recommendation:** The Department of California and Pacific recommends that the Commander-in-Chief create a special committee at the 2016 National Encampment in Springfield, Illinois, to review the year 2000 resolution supporting any display of Battle Flags of the Confederacy, and that the committee shall report its findings at the 2017 National Encampment. ACTION: Incoming CinC.

**[ACTION: Committee Members – PCinC Brad Schall, PCinC Donald Darby, Sam Gant of Dept. of Tennessee, PCinC Ed Krieser, and PCinC Leo Kennedy.]**

### ***2. Department of Missouri– Page 64***

#### ***Recommendations:***

1. That the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, be directed to expand approved preservation efforts concerning Civil War battlefields and historic sites and establish a formal historic preservation program , including its own fund, with the purpose of providing annual contributions to national, state, and local governments to (1) support battlefields and Civil War and Grand Army of the Republic historic sites; (2) increase the percentage of financial resources considered charitable by the IRS; and, (3) address a key initiative under the Vision 2020 plan. Action: CinC for committee following approval of 501(c)3.

**[ACTION: PCinC Donald Palmer will re-introduce at 2017 Encampment.]**

2. That the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War review the Department of Missouri’s study and implement four supplemental membership process improvements:

1) ~~Update the SUVCW Form 3 Membership Application to add “Supplemental (14 Yrs & Older, Has Membership, Complete Pages 1 & 2)” as an additional membership type.~~

2) Request the SUVCW National Quartermaster to create and sell an “Ancestor Certificate” modeled with similar graphics to the standard membership certificate. Wheeler

3) Increase the minimum application fee to \$15, with \$5 national fee, \$5 department fee, and minimum \$5 camp fee. This fee being applicable to both membership and supplemental applications. No Action

4) Establish a special committee or task force to explore a fee based member-to-ancestor database to assist prospective members and genealogy researchers. **[ACTION: Program and Policy Committee to report to CofA in Gettysburg in November.]**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Lincoln Tomb Ceremony – Extend Contract through year 2021. Table this item for following years.

**[ACTION: Tabled]**

2. Spring Council of Administration Meeting will be held March 25th, 9:00 am in Ohio. Will look for Friday Night Lodging.

3. Application form needs changed to JVCinC Donald Shaw.

**[ACTION: Program and Policy, SVCinC Mark Day]**

4. Council of Administration Election:

- a. National Organization Expansion Officer, Loran Bures, PCC. CofA Member Brian Pierson moved, CofA Member Edward Norris seconded.
  - b. National Membership-at-Large Coordinator, Alan Russ, PDC. SVCinC Mark Day moved, CofA member Edward Norris seconded.
5. Council of Administration Member Brian Pierson moved, seconded by JVCinC Donald Shaw, the 2017 NMAL dues to remain the same, \$45.00. Motion passed.
  6. National Quartermaster Danny Wheeler moved, seconded by by SVCinC Mark Day, to approve the 2016-2017 budget, as modified. Motion passed.
  7. National Treasurer David McReynolds requested a resolution approving him to be added as signatory. SVCinC Mark Day moved, Council of Administration Member Edward Norris seconded, National Secretary to draft resolution authorizing National Treasurer Davis McReynolds as signatory on checking account and permitted to open accounts with a financial institution as he deems appropriate to carry out his functions of the office. Motion passed.
  8. National Secretary to draft letter stating SUVCW opposition to proposed roadway extension and development in Gettysburg; Adams County, PA. Commander-in-Chief Martin to sign.
  9. Job descriptions. Council of Administration Member Edward Norris moved, Council of Administration Member Brian Pierson seconded to drop job descriptions. Passed. **[Job Descriptions will be removed from National Website as they are now part of Constitution and Regulations.]**
  10. National Secretary Davis reminded attendees of the National Conflict of Interest Policy Requirements. Forms were provided for those in attendance who needed to complete one. The remainder will be mailed to the officers not in attendance.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. Council of Administration Member Brian Pierson, ceremony keeps him motivated.
2. Chaplain Jerry Kolalski looking into having a page on National Website, creation date and input unknown, left up to the Chaplain.

### **CLOSING**

CinC Martin provided closing comments, followed by Chaplain Kowalski giving the Benediction.

Meeting was officially adjourned.

*Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty:*

Jonathan C. Davis, PDC  
National Secretary