

## **SERIES 2015 – 2016**

### **Kent M. Melcher, Department Commander January 10, 2015 – January 9, 2016**

01. Administration January 10, 2015
02. Appointment Bylaws Committee January 10, 2015
03. Elected Department Officers to Wear Department Officer Badge January 10, 2015
04. Appointment of Vision Committee January 10, 2015
05. 134<sup>th</sup> National Encampment, Richmond, Virginia April 21, 2015
06. Installation of Humboldt Camp No. 9 April 29, 2015
07. Appointment of Chairman of the Kansas Delegation to the 134<sup>th</sup> National Encampment May 5, 2015
08. Fall Council Meeting August 28, 2015
09. Review of Camp Bylaws September 10, 2015
10. Twentieth Annual Department Commander December 1, 2015
11. Department Awards January 9, 2016

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
4017 SW Stonybrook Drive, Topeka KS 66610  
Commander@suvewks.org

DEPARTMENT ORDER 1  
SERIES 2015-2016

January 10, 2015

1. Having been elected as Department Commander by the assembled membership and delegates at the Nineteenth Department Encampment at Emporia, Kansas, on January 10, 2015, command is hereby assumed and headquarters established at the above address. All correspondence requiring the attention of the Department Commander shall be sent to the above address.

2. The following brothers were elected, or continue to serve in an unexpired term, to the offices indicated:

Senior Vice Commander	<b>Mark A. Britton, PCC</b> , Corp. Patrick Coyne 1
Junior Vice Commander	<b>William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC</b> , Franklin 5
Secretary/Treasurer (term expiring 2017):	<b>Alan L. Russ, PDC</b> , Old Glory 7
Council (term expiring 2017):	<b>James R. Knopke, PDC</b> , Franklin 5
Council (term expiring 2016):	<b>Roy A. Lafferty, PDC</b> , Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4
Council (term expiring 2016):	<b>Roger D. Lester</b> , Old Abe 16

3. I have appointed the following brothers to the positions and responsibilities indicated:

Patriotic Instructor	<b>K. Kirk Nystrom, PCC</b> , Old Abe 16
Chaplain	<b>Roy A. Lafferty, PDC</b> , Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill 4
Historian	<b>Blair D. Tarr</b> , Old Abe 16
Counselor	<b>Alan L. Russ, PDC</b> , Old Abe 16
Graves Registration Officer	<b>William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC</b> , Franklin
Civil War Memorials Officer	<b>Douglas E. McGovern, PCC</b> , Corp. Coyne1
Eagle Scout Coordinator	<b>William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC</b> , Franklin 5
Department Webmaster	<b>Alan L. Russ, PDC</b> , Old Abe 16

4. All business correspondence, bills, and requests for payment should be sent to the Department Secretary:

**Alan L. Russ, PDC**, P.O. Box 673, Saint Francis KS 67756-0673.

5. All requests for monuments and memorials grants, and all completed monuments and memorials registration forms should be sent to the Department Civil War Memorials Officer:

**Douglas McGovern, PCC**, 100 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hutchinson KS 67502-2846.

6. All graves registration forms and information should be sent to the Department Graves Registration Officer:

**William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC**, 2129 Ironstone Dr, Fort Scott KS 66701-8521.

7. All requests for Eagle Scout Certificates should be sent to the Department Eagle Scout Coordinator:

**William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC**, 2129 Ironstone Dr, Fort Scott KS 66701-8521.

8. Department Officers for 2015-2016 should plan to attend the following meetings and events during the year. Appointed Department Officers and Camp Commanders are also encouraged to attend the meetings.

<b>October 17, 2015</b>	Fall Council Meeting, Salina
<b>January 9, 2016</b>	20th Annual Department Encampment, Salina

9. All Department Officers and Past Department Commanders, elected delegates, and all other brothers of the Department who are able to, are highly encouraged to attend the SUVCW National Encampment on August 14 and 15, 2015, in Richmond, Virginia.

10. The 20th Annual Department of Kansas Encampment is scheduled to be held on January 9, 2015. The Department of Kansas is hosting and is currently planning to hold the encampment in Salina.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
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DEPARTMENT ORDER 2  
SERIES 2015-2016

January 10, 2015

**APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

1. As required by Bylaws of the Department of Kansas Encampment, I hereby appoint the **voting members of the Department Council** to the **Bylaws Committee** for the term from January 10, 2015, through January 9, 2016, unless sooner relieved.
2. Brother Alan L. Russ, PDC, is hereby appointed Chairman, Bylaws Committee.
2. This committee shall meet during the year, as necessary. It shall function in accordance with Article XV, Section A, Bylaws of the Department of Kansas. The committee chairman shall present a status report to the Department Council at the Fall Council Meeting and at any other time requested by the Department Commander. Additionally, the committee chairman shall present a report of the committee activities for the year to the Nineteenth Annual Department Encampment.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 3  
SERIES 2015-2016

January 10, 2015

**WEAR OF ELECTED DEPARTMENT OFFICER BADGE  
BY THE ELECTED DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

In accordance with Chapter V, Article III, Section 2(b), Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Elected Department Officers, have been furnished with the badge of Elected Department Officer by the Department. As such, each Elected Department Officer is hereby ordered to wear their Department Officer Badge in place of their Membership Badge for the duration of their term of service as an elected Department Officer. Upon leaving elected office; the Department Badge will be returned to the Department or turned over to his successor. Lost or damaged badges shall be replaced by the officer. The exceptions to this directive are that a current Camp Commander who is also serving as an elected Department Officer shall wear the membership badge of Camp Commander during his term as Camp Commander and a brother authorized to wear a National elected officer badge may wear that badge.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 4  
SERIES 2015-2016

January 10, 2015

**APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
VISION COMMITTEE**

1. To encourage camp and department activity, I am continuing the Vision Committee which was established by Commander Lafferty in 2012.
2. This committee is tasked with soliciting ideas from the camps of the Department and submitting them to the committee for review. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Department Commander on a regular basis.
3. Membership on the Vision Committee is:
  - Kent M. Melcher, PCC, Old Abe Camp 16, Chairman
  - Mark A. Britton, PCC, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1
  - William E. Fischer, Jr., Franklin Camp 5
  - Alan L. Russ, PDC, Old Glory Camp 7
  - Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC, Old Abe Camp 16
4. Special Advisors to the committee shall be:
  - Shawn W. Bell, Camp Commander, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1
  - Michael A. Todd, Camp Commander, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4
  - L. Eric Myers, Camp Commander, Franklin Camp 5
  - Chance T. Marble, Camp Commander, Old Glory Camp 7
  - Craig E. Dunstan, Camp Commander, Old Abe Camp 16
5. Camp commander are directed to submit ideas to one of the committee members.
6. Appointment of this committee shall remain in effect until January 9, 2016, unless sooner disbanded.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 05  
SERIES 2015-2016

April 21, 2015

**134<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**  
**August 20 – 23, 2015**

1. I want to encourage as many brothers as possible to attend the 134<sup>th</sup> National Encampment this year. The fighting in the Civil War came to an end one hundred and fifty years ago, and the Richmond area is an extremely rich environment for Civil War history. This is an opportunity to get an in-person tour of some of the battlefields and museums in the area.
2. The Department Commander and all holding the honor of Past Department Commander have automatic voting rights at the National Encampment. Additionally, delegates and alternate delegates were elected at the Nineteenth Annual Department Encampment on January 10, 2015. All brothers of the department who are not automatically a voting member of, or delegate to, the National Encampment were elected at the Department Encampment as alternate delegates. Kansas is authorized a total of six voting delegates, and, at this time, there are voting delegate spots available.
3. If you are an elected delegate, I hope you will make every effort to attend. Those who are alternates may vote on the floor of the Encampment in the absence of one of those elected.
4. The Chair of our Kansas delegation will have authority to grant voting rights to alternates at any Encampment session to assure that the total number of Kansas votes will be present.
5. Contact your camp officers for additional information about the 134<sup>th</sup> National Encampment. Also, see the latest issue of the Banner or visit the National Website at [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org).

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 6  
SERIES 2015-2016

April 29, 2015

**INSTALLATION OF HUMBOLDT CAMP NO. 9**

1. It is with great pleasure that I announce the installation of HUMBOLDT CAMP NO. 9 as an active camp within the Department of Kansas. Installation of the camp is effective April 11, 2015. This is the official date of ranking for the camp established by Commander in Chief Tad D. Campbell. We welcome Humboldt Camp No. 9 and its ten brothers to the Department of Kansas.

2. As such, I commend the efforts of all involved in the process, including:

William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC, Camp Organizer, for his efforts in this process.

The new brothers of the camp who put forth their time and effort over the past several months to ensure the camp would come into being.

Commander Eddie A. Henderson and the other newly elected officers of the camp who stepped up and took a leadership role in the camp to ensure its future success.

Local historian Carolyn Whitaker, who has given much time and effort to publicizing the creation of the Camp, and who has helped members and potential members find details of their ancestors' Civil War service.

3. It is through the efforts of all the brothers of the Department of Kansas that we have realized much success within the Department, as exemplified by the installation of Humboldt Camp No.

9. Thank you to all for your support.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary



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DEPARTMENT ORDER 07  
SERIES 2015-2016

May 5, 2015

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE KANSAS DELEGATION  
TO THE 134TH NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT, AUGUST 20 – 23, 2015**

1. Regretfully, your Department Commander has family commitments during the period of the 134<sup>th</sup> National Encampment, and I will be unable to attend.
2. Therefore, under the provisions of Chapter III, Article II, Section 2, National Regulations of the Order, I hereby designate

**William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC**

to be the Chairman of the Kansas delegation to the 134<sup>th</sup> National Encampment. As chairman of the delegation, and in accordance with National Regulations, he shall have full authority to fill delegate vacancies for the Department of Kansas from those alternate delegates in attendance at the 134<sup>th</sup> National Encampment.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 08  
SERIES 2015-2016

August 28, 2015

**NOTIFICATION OF FALL COUNCIL MEETING**

1. In accordance with Chapter IV, Article II, Section A, Bylaws of the Department of Kansas, the **FALL COUNCIL MEETING** shall be held on **October 17, 2014**, as follows:

Time: **1 PM to 4 PM**

Place: **UMC Church of the Cross, 1600 Rush Street, Salina, 64701**

2. The Fall Council Meeting is for the purpose of conducting the routine business of the Department, to include approving expenditures, policies, and procedures. The Department Council may not take actions which are reserved for the Department Encampment. The membership of the meeting is as follows:

a. **Voting Members.** Elected officers of the Department and the immediate PDC.

b. **Non-voting Members.** Appointed Officers of the Department and all who hold the honor of Past Department Commander (PDC) with the Department of Kansas.

c. **Other Attendees (without vote).** All other brothers of the Department in good standing.

3. With the consent of the Department Commander, any attendee may present an appropriate item to the meeting or provide discussion or comments on an item being discussed.

4. All **Camp Commanders** are encouraged to attend, as this provides an opportunity for communication between the Department Officers and the camps. If a Camp Commander is not able to attend, he should try to ensure another Camp officer is there to represent the camp.

5. The **Department Bylaws Committee** shall meet in conjunction with this meeting for the purpose of reviewing proposed amendments to the Department Bylaws. Any approved recommendations for amendment shall then be submitted to the Nineteenth Annual Department Encampment on January 9, 2016, for its approval.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 09  
SERIES 2015-2016

September 10, 2015

**REVIEW OF CAMP BYLAWS**

1. In accordance with National regulations and Department of Kansas bylaws, all camps are required to have bylaws. It is also imperative that these bylaws be current and in full compliance with the National regulations and department bylaws.
2. As such, I am directing that all camps within the Department of Kansas review their bylaws and make any necessary amendments to them by December 31, 2015. Also, keep in mind that any changes do not go into effect until reviewed and approved by the Department Commander.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 10  
SERIES 2015-2016

December 1, 2015

**NOTIFICATION OF TWENTIETH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT**

1. In accordance with Chapter IV, Article I, Section B, Bylaws of the Department of Kansas, the **TWENTIETH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS ENCAMPMENT** shall be held on **Saturday, January 9, 2016**, as follows:

Registration opens: **9:00 AM**

Memorial Service: **10:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

Business Meeting: **10:30 AM – 4 PM**

Place: **UMC Church of the Cross, 1600 Rush Street, Salina, Kansas**

2. If inclement weather is forecast for the day of the encampment, the Department Commander shall announce no later than the evening of January 6, 2016, whether the inclement weather plan will be in effect. In the event the inclement weather plan is put into effect, the encampment date will be Saturday, January 23, 2016.

3. The Annual Department Encampment is for the purpose of conducting the business of the Department, to include amending Department bylaws, approving policies and procedures, discussing and acting upon items which shall come before the encampment, and the election and installation of Department officers for 2016-2017. All brothers of the Department are encouraged to attend this Encampment.

a. **Voting Members of the Encampment:** Elected officers of the Department of Kansas; all brothers holding the honor of Past Department Commander with the Department of Kansas; all current Camp Commanders within the Department of Kansas; all brothers holding the honor of Past Camp Commander with a camp within the Department of Kansas; all authorized Delegates, as elected by the various camps of the Department of Kansas.

b. **Non-voting Members of the Encampment:** All Alternate Delegates of the camps.

c. **Other Attendees (without vote):** All brothers and sisters of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic.

4. Our sisters from the Kansas Department of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic will be holding their Department meeting at the facility in conjunction with our meeting.

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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DEPARTMENT ORDER 11  
SERIES 2015-2016

January 9, 2016

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS**

1. Reference Article XII, Section C, of the Bylaws of the Department of Kansas.
2. The following brothers are hereby presented the award indicated:

**CORPORAL LEONIDAS B. DAVIS and P.D.C. DEAN K. SPEAKS AWARD  
FOR RECRUITER OF THE YEAR**

**William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC**  
Humboldt Camp No. 9,

**CAPTAIN PATRICK H. CONEY AWARD  
FOR BROTHER OF THE YEAR**

**Mark A. Britton, PCC**  
Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp No. 1, Wichita, Kansas

**WILLIAM W. NIXON AWARD  
FOR CAMP OF THE YEAR**

**Humboldt Camp No. 9**  
Humboldt, Kansas

IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC  
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary