

Department Officers

2015-2016

Department Commander	Kent M. Melcher, PCC <i>(Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka)</i>
Senior Vice Department Commander	Mark A. Britton, PCC <i>(Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita)</i>
Junior Vice Department Commander	William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC <i>(Humboldt Camp 9, Humboldt)</i>
Secretary/Treasurer (term expiring 2017)	Alan L. Russ, PDC <i>(Old Glory Camp 7, Saint Francis)</i>
Council Member (term expiring 2017)	James R. Knopke, PDC <i>(Franklin Camp 5, Olathe)</i>
Council Member (term expiring 2016)	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC <i>(Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence)</i>
Council Member (term expiring 2016)	Roger D. Lester <i>(Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka)</i>
Immediate Past Department Commander	Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC <i>(Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka)</i>
Patriotic Instructor	K. Kirk Nystrom, PCC <i>(Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka)</i>
Chaplain	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC <i>(Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence)</i>
Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator	William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC <i>(Franklin Camp 5, Olathe)</i>
Graves Registration Officer	William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC <i>(Franklin Camp 5, Olathe)</i>
Historian.....	Blair D. Tarr <i>(Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka)</i>
Douglas E. McGovern, PCC	Civil War Memorials Officer <i>(Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita)</i>
Counselor	Alan L. Russ, PDC <i>(Old Glory Camp 7, Saint Francis)</i>

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
January 9, 2016
Salina, Kansas

1. As required by Chapter II, Article III, Section 1 of the Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and by Article VI, Bylaws of the Department of Kansas, SUVCW, the Twentieth Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas, was held on January 9, 2016, at the Church of the Cross UMC, Salina, Kansas.
2. The Encampment was called to order at 10:10 AM by Department Commander Kent M. Melcher. At that time, the Past Department Commanders in attendance were announced and filed into the room. A vacant chair remained in memory of PDC Dean K. Speaks and PDC Kenneth D. Strader.
3. Commander Melcher received our honored guest, National Commander-in-Chief Eugene Mortorff, Department of the Chesapeake. Commander Mortorff gave a brief personal greeting to the Encampment.
4. At 10:20 AM, Commander Melcher officially opened the encampment. The opening was conducted per the Rituals and Ceremonies of the Order.
5. Commander Melcher then welcomed the members in attendance from the newest camp in the Department – Humboldt Camp Number 9, Humboldt, Kansas.
6. Commander Melcher then declared the Twentieth Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to be open for the transaction of such business as may legally and properly come before it.
7. The Department Secretary called the roll of officers, and reported all officers present:
 - Department Commander Kent M. Melcher, PCC, Camp 16, present.
 - Senior Vice Department Commander Mark A. Britton, PCC, Camp 1, present.
 - Junior Vice Department Commander, Graves Registration Officer, and Eagle Scout Coordinator William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC, Camp 9, present.
 - Secretary/Treasurer and Counselor Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 7, present.
 - Council Member James R. Knopke, PDC, Camp 5, present.
 - Council Member Roger D. Lester, Camp 16, absent excused.
 - Council Member and Chaplain Roy A. Lafferty, Camp 4, present.
 - Patriotic Instructor K. Kirk Nystrom, Camp 16, present
 - Civil War Memorials Officer Douglas E. McGovern, PCC, Camp 1, absent.
 - Historian Blair D. Tarr, Camp 16, present
 - Color Bearer Shawn Bell, Camp 1, present
8. The Chaplain's prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance followed, and the Patriotic Instructor then led the Encampment in the signing of the Battle Hymn of the Republic.
9. At this time, the Secretary Russ presented the Credentials Committee report of those present at the Encampment. A quorum was declared to be present.
10. Commander Melcher appointed PDC Alan L. Russ as Chairman of the Encampment Bylaws Committee, with PDC Rocky L. Bartlow and PDC Roy A. Lafferty as committee member.
11. Commander Bartlow appointed PCC Mark A. Britton as Chairman of the encampment Resolutions and Officers' Report Committee, with PDC James R. Knopke and PCC William E. Fischer, Jr. as committee members.
12. Commander Bartlow informed the Encampment of "housekeeping rules" to be used during the meeting.
13. The Department Officer reports were presented by the officer and accepted by the Encampment as written. No recommendations were included in the reports.
14. The camp reports were presented and accepted by the Encampment as written. No recommendations were included in the reports.
15. Secretary Russ reported that official correspondence which had been received has previously been distributed to all officers and camp secretaries.
16. Commander Melcher then called for Committee and other reports.
17. The following committee reports were presented:

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- a. Bylaws Committee Report – Alan L. Russ, PDC
 - i. Amendment 1, as follows, was presented and approved by two-thirds vote of the Encampment as submitted.

CHAPTER III DEPARTMENT MEMBERS AT LARGE (DMAL).

Section A. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH.

In accordance with Chapter II, Article X, Section 1, National Regulations, the Department shall allow Department Members at Large (DMAL).

Section B. MUST FIRST BE ASSIGNED TO CAMP.

Brothers shall be assigned to the DMAL only after the application has first been processed as shown, below. No brother will be placed directly into the DMAL without having first been assigned to a camp for the remainder of the current membership year unless approved by the Department Commander.

Section C. OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT CAMP.

When applications are received from the National Organization for MAL, the Department Junior Vice Commander shall contact the brother and give him the opportunity to select one of the Camps in the Department to join.

Section D. GEOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENT TO CAMP.

If the new MAL does not elect to choose a Camp, he shall be assigned to the Camp closest to his place of residence.

Section E. DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES.

The Department Council shall develop guidelines for Camp assignment.

Section F. ~~NO~~ ESTABLISHMENT OF DMAL CAMP.

1. A separate camp ~~shall not~~ may be established for DMAL. ~~When a DMAL camp has not been established, the~~ The Department Secretary shall be responsible for the administrative requirements concerning brothers assigned to the DMAL.
2. Designation of DMAL Camp. Said camp shall be designated as Col. John A. Martin Camp No. 8.
3. DMAL Camp Officers. When a DMAL camp has been established, the Department Commander shall appoint a Camp Commander and Camp Secretary/Treasurer for the camp. No other camp offices shall be required for the DMAL Camp. The appointed officers need not be assigned to the DMAL camp.
4. No brother may be assigned to the DMAL or DMAL camp if he holds membership in another camp or department.
5. The dues for the membership of the DMAL shall be set at the equivalent of the highest camp dues within the department as established by the annual camp reports submitted as of March 31 the previous year.

- ii. Amendment 2, as follows, was presented and approved by two-thirds vote of the Encampment as submitted.

CHAPTER IV DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENTS AND MEETINGS

~~Article II: OTHER MEETINGS~~

~~Section A. FALL COUNCIL MEETING.~~

~~The officers of the Department shall conduct the "Fall Council Meeting" each year on the third Saturday of October. The location and time for the meeting shall be determined by the Department Commander, with preference given to locating it at the camp which will be the host camp for the upcoming Department Encampment. If the meeting must be rescheduled, it should be held as soon as possible after the originally scheduled date.~~

~~1.—Purpose. The Fall Council Meeting shall be for the purpose conducting the routine business of the Department, to include approving expenditures, policies, and procedures. The Department Council will not take actions which are reserved for the Department Encampment. Likewise, any action of the Department Council may be overruled by action of the next Department Encampment.~~

~~2.—Voting Members. The elected offices of the Department and the immediate Past Department Commander are the voting members of the Department Council.~~

~~3.—Non-voting Members.~~

~~(a) All appointed Department Officers are members of the Council, without vote, and should be in attendance.~~

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~~(b) All brothers of the Department holding the honor of Past Department Commander are members without vote, and, as such, encouraged to attend the meeting.~~

~~4.—Other Attendees.~~

~~(a) Camp Commanders, or their designated representative, should attend. They should be prepared to report on the activities of their camp. This provides an opportunity for communication between the Department Officers and the camps. Camp Commanders or representatives are attendees without membership on the Council and without vote.~~

~~(b) All brothers of the Department are permitted and encouraged to attend the meeting without voice or vote. Any attendee may request of the Department Commander to present an item to the meeting or to provide discussion or comments on an item being discussed at the meeting. It shall be the decision of the Department Commander as to whether this shall be permitted.~~

Article III II: ELECTRONIC BOARD ROOM

Section A. ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC BOARD ROOM.

An electronic boardroom shall be established for the purpose of conducting the business of the Department between the Department Encampments and Council meeting.

Section B. PUBLISHED POLICY REQUIRED.

A Department policy shall be established for the Department Council to submit motions to the Department Commander through approved electronic means, to conduct discussion of such motions through electronic means, to allow the voting members of the Council to electronically cast votes, for the Department Commander to announce the results of the vote, and for the Department Secretary to officially publish the results to the camps in a timely manner.

b. The Vison committee report was presented by Commander Melcher.

c. Nominating Committee – Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC

i. Brothers recommended by the Nominating Committee were placed into nomination for the respective office, with nominations from the floor to be taken later.

ii. Commander Melcher officially discharged the Nominating Committee with the “thank-you” of the Department.

d. PDC James R. Knopke, Department Council member, reported as to the satisfactory state of the funds of the Department.

18. At 12:00 Noon, Commander Melcher directed the Chaplain to close the Bible. Commander Melcher then declared a recess for lunch. The Encampment was reconvened at 1 PM, moving to “New Business.”

19. At 1:15 PM, Commander Melcher again declared a brief recess so he, CinC Mortorff, and the other department officers could pay a visit to the Department of Kansas Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. The encampment was reconvened at 1:30 PM.

20. The Encampment Bylaws Committee reported there were no actions to consider.

21. The Encampment Resolutions and Officer Reports committee reported there were no actions to consider.

22. Commander Melcher requested to know which past department commanders planned to attend the 2016 National Encampment in Springfield, Illinois. Commander Melcher stated the incoming Department Commander would be attending in that status, and that he planned be attending in the status of PDC. Secretary Russ will be attending as a National Elective Officer, and PDC Lafferty stated he will be attending in his capacity as PDC.

23. Commander Melcher stated the Department of Kansas was presumed to be entitled to six delegates to the National Encampment. The actual number will be determined when the annual report is filed in April. Commander Melcher asked for nominations from the floor for the election of delegates to the 134th National Encampment. PDC Russ nominated the following to be delegates:

a. Shawn W. Bell, Camp 1

b. William E. Fischer, Jr., Camp 9

c. Conrad M. Fisher, Camp 16

d. K. Kirk Nystrom, Camp 16

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- e. Ryan L. Todd, Camp 4
- f. Michael Todd, Camp 4

24. The motion for election of delegates was seconded and approved. These brothers will be so indicated on the Form 49 submitted to National Headquarters.

25. Commander Melcher recognized PDC Russ, who moved, "All Members and Associates of the Department of Kansas who are in good standing as of this date (January 9, 2016) and are not otherwise entitled to membership at the 135th National Encampment nor elected as a "Delegate" to the 135th National Encampment shall be elected as 'ALTERNATE DELEGATES' to the 135th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, August 12-13, 2016, in Springfield, Illinois. A listing of those so elected as Alternate Delegates shall be included in the official proceedings of this encampment and shall be attached to the Department of Kansas Certificate of Election and Installation of Department Officers (SUVCW Form 49) and forwarded to the National Headquarters." Motion was seconded and passed.

26. Commander Melcher announced that, per the Department Bylaws, the 21st Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas would be on January 14, 2017. Camp 4, Lawrence, indicated it was willing to host the encampment.

27. Commander Melcher called upon Treasurer Russ to present discussion on the proposed budget for 2016. Copies had been distributed to the members of the Encampment. This was for information purposes, as the Department Council will act on the budget at its post-Encampment meeting.

28. Commander Melcher stated the Department needed to establish the Department per capita for 2017. The current per capita is \$4.00. PCC Bill Fischer moved the Department per capita remain at \$4.00 for 2017. Motion was seconded and passed.

29. There being no more new business to come before the Encampment, Commander Melcher proceeded with the nominations and election of officers.

30. Commander Melcher reminded the encampment that the brothers recommended by the Nominating Committee had been placed into nomination for their respective positions. Those nominated were:

Department Commander	Mark A. Britton, Camp 1
Senior Vice Department Commander	William E. Fischer, Jr., Camp 9
Junior Vice Department Commander	Michael A. Todd, Camp 4
Council Member (term expiring 2018)	William F. Riedell, Camp 1
Council Member (term expiring 2018)	Roy A. Lafferty, Camp 4

31. There were no motions from the floor to nominate any additional candidates, nominations were closed. In accordance with Roberts Rules of Order¹, candidates for a position which was not contested were declared by Commander Melcher as elected.

32. Commander Melcher requested a motion from the floor to recognize and thank the Church of the Cross for providing the meeting facilities. Kirk Nystrom, Camp 16, moved for the request. The motion was seconded and carried.

33. Commander Melcher recognized Secretary Russ, who moved, "The proceedings of this encampment, upon approval by the voting members of the Department Council, and when signed by the outgoing Department Commander, shall be accepted as the official proceedings of the encampment, and be distributed to the camps of the Department." Motion was seconded and passed.

34. Commander Melcher presented the following awards to the indicated recipients:

Corporal Leonidas B. Davis and PDC Dean K. Speaks Award for Recruiter of the Year

William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC
Humboldt Camp 9, Humboldt

Captain Patrick H. Coney Award for Brother of the Year

Mark A. Britton, PCC
Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita

William W. Nixon Award for Camp of the Year

Humboldt Camp 9, Humboldt

¹ RRO 11th ed., pg 443,10

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35. At this time, Commander Melcher turned over the gavel to CinC Eugene Mortorff for the installation of officers.

36. Commander-elect Mark A. Britton was asked to provide a list of appointed officers to the secretary. The secretary read those elected and appointed, to wit:

Department Commander	Mark A. Britton, PCC, Camp 1
Senior Vice Department Commander	William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC, Camp 9
Junior Vice Department Commander	Michael A. Todd, PCC, Camp 4
Secretary/Treasurer (term expiring 2017)	Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 7
Council Member (term expiring 2017)	James R. Knopke, PDC, Camp 5
Council Member (term expiring 2018)	William F. Riedell, Camp 1
Council Member (term expiring 2018)	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4
Chaplain	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4
Patriotic Instructor	K. Kirk Nystrom, PCC, Camp 16
Graves Registration Officer	William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC, Camp 5
Civil War Memorials Officer	Douglas E. McGovern, PCC, Camp 1
Historian	Blair D. Tarr, Camp 16
Eagle Scout Coordinator	William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC, Camp 5
Counselor	Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 7

37. CinC Mortorff proceeded to install the Department Officers, after which they assumed their respective stations.

38. Commander Britton proceeded to close the Encampment, as per the Ritual of the Order. The Encampment was declared closed at 3:15 PM.

These proceedings of the Twentieth Annual Encampment for the Department of Kansas are certified to be complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge and ability.

SUBMITTED IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY,

Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT COUNCIL ON

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A	Officer, Camp, and Committee Reports
Attachment B	Certification of Election and Installation of Department Officers (Form 49)

OFFICER, CAMP, & COMMITTEE REPORTS



TO THE TWENTIETH DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

JANUARY 9, 2016
SALINA, KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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OFFICER REPORTS TO THE TWENTIETH DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

For personal reasons which I will explain in person at the Encampment I am asking the Department to accept my request to pass the Commander's responsibilities in 2016 to Senior Vice Commander Mark Britton. I have been unable in 2015 to serve the Department as fully as I had hoped, and it appears that I will be unable to increase my effectiveness as Commander in 2016.

At the same time, I am proud of the work that the Department Vision Committee has done, and humbly ask the Department and our Camps to keep the Committee's vision at the forefront of our work together in the future.

In August, Camp Commanders and other officers received details of the Department Vision Committee's suggested pathways to achieving two purposes: 1) to enhance ways that our camps may educate our citizens, especially younger ones, about the causes and effects of the War of Rebellion, as well as the dedication of US soldiers, sailors, marines, and revenue cutter service in fighting for the Union; and 2) to recruit new, and especially younger, members who will carry on the purposes and objects of the Sons of Union Veterans.

The specific **PATHWAYS FOR CAMPS** are as follows:

1. Work with local school history teachers to develop programs to teach our youth about the Civil War;
2. Work with local JROTC programs and Boy Scouts to teach CW history;
3. Honor Civil War veterans by publicizing Camp events, meetings, and activities;
4. Set and/or dedicate headstones, with publicity provided to local media;
5. Schedule workdays to clean/reset existing headstones, with publicity to local media;
6. Alert local service and fraternal organizations, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, VFW, and American Legion that Camps have speakers available to present programs that tell the stories of their ancestors and explain the work of the SUVCW;
7. Publicize Camp Memorial Day observances with local media outlets;
8. Be visible in the community at every appropriate opportunity, by organizing camp color guards, by marching in local Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans' Day parades, and by taking part in area Civil War days and other historical events;
9. Establish working relationships with other patriotic and veterans' organizations, such as VFW, American Legion, DAR, and others, and planning and organizing joint events with them (eg., Medal of Honor Remembrances);
10. Emphasize with our brothers the importance of telling friends and family the stories of their ancestors' service, impressing upon our brothers the imperative of passing on the mission of the SUVCW to younger generations;
11. Create a "Camp Bibliography" of members' favorite Civil War histories, biographies, novels, movies, etc, and post the bibliographies for the benefit of our brothers, especially new members. Share bibliographies with local media and libraries.

Pathways for the **DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS**:

1. Set a goal to establish new camps, by determining which communities hold promise for recruiting new members;
2. Reestablish the Department Guard, provide training for its members, and expand and enhance it with capable, dedicated leadership. Recruit new members for the purpose of serving as honor guards and firing teams at SUVCW observances around the State;
3. Strengthen education and patriotic instruction in the Department, and provide support for Camp Patriotic Instructors by sharing links to Civil War history websites;
4. Encourage greater participation in Department Encampments, and develop new Department leaders who will carry on the SUVCW mission in years to come.

It has been my honor to serve the Department as Commander in 2015, and I have especially appreciated the dedication of so many of our brothers, as well as the support they have given me as Commander.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Kent M. Melcher, PCC

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

SENIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

During this past year as Sr. Vice Commander I have faithfully discharged the duties of my office. While remaining active in the Corporal Patrick Coyne, Camp #1 in Wichita. Faithfully attending the meetings and serving as a member of the camp council. One of my fondest and most proud moments are those of assisting my brother to continue to honor our fallen brothers by straightening and cleaning their headstones at the historic Highland Cemetery in Wichita.

I have attended the Memorial Day services in Mulvane, Kansas in order to honor those who served in the Civil War who are laid to rest in those hallow grounds. I also attended the memorial service of our fallen SUVCW brother Ethan Schmidt in Peabody, Kansas. His passing was one of great tragedy and entirely too soon for this brother to be laid to rest. My prayers and thoughts remain to go out to his family and especially our brother, Ethan's father Tom Schmidt, PDC.

I also installed the officers of the Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp #1 at their November meeting.

It has indeed been a privilege to serve the Department of Kansas SUVCW this year as the Sr. Vice Commander and I am encouraged by the continued strength and vitality of our Department. I very much believe that we have a bright future as we continue tend to the honor of our Department predecessors as well as our Civil War predecessors.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Mark A. Britton, PCC

Senior Vice Department Commander

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

JUNIOR VICE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

I had the privilege of serving as Department Junior Vice Commander (JVC) in 2015 and enjoyed working with Commander Melcher, SVC Britton, and Sec'y Russ in furthering the work of the Department of Kansas. I received one membership application from National JVC Martin and forwarded the information to Old Abe Camp 16. The highlight of the year was organizing a new camp in Humboldt to bring Department representation back into SE Kansas. Even though the Civil War Sesquicentennial has passed, I believe that we are well positioned to continue to grow camps across the Department. Look for opportunities to speak about the SUVCW, its purpose, and how those interested can become involved.

My duties and related historical activities during 2015:

1. Elected SUVCW Department of Kansas Junior Vice Commander (January).
2. Served as Acting Chief of Interpretation & Resource Management for Fort Scott National Historic Site (NHS), overseeing staff and volunteers, program development, education activities for more than 2000 school children, living history, and museum operations, including events that related to the Civil War Sesquicentennial. (January thru September)
3. Notified Department of Missouri Dept of Transportation's proposal to change requirements for "traffic generator" signs which would have eliminated signage for non-fed/state historic sites. Proposal defeated due to public outcry. (January)
4. Notified Department of City of Richmond VA proposal to build minor-league baseball stadium on historic Shockoe Bottoms, site of the second largest slave market in the US. Proposal defeated due to public outcry. (January)
5. Gave presentation entitled, "Price's Raid Remembered," for the annual meeting of the Franklin County (KS) Historical Society, Ottawa. (January)

6. Notified Department of Chautauqua Amphitheater possible razing, site of GAR activities (February)
7. Gave presentation entitled, “The First Kansas Colored and the USCT in the Civil War,” as part of *Soldiers & Settlers: African Americans seeking freedom in the West*, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library (February)
8. Primary Department organizer for Humboldt Camp 9 (March)
9. Notified Department of National Trust’s “Help Save the James” River campaign to prevent power lines being built across an undeveloped historic river landscape dating to colonial times (March)
10. Entry on “Fort Scott, Kansas” posted on Kansas City Public Library’s *Civil War on the Western Frontier* historical website (March)
11. Notified Department of the April 11 interment of Maj Raphael Rombauer in Carthage MO (March)
12. Notified Department of the 150th anniversary commemoration of the surrender of Richmond VA (April)
13. Organized and led participation of Eugene Ware Elementary School (Fort Scott) fourth graders in nationwide bell ringing to commemorate the general end of the Civil War with the surrender of the CSA Army of Northern VA at Appomattox (April)
14. Supervised organization of annual Civil War Encampment at Fort Scott NHS (April)
15. Provided Camp 9 SUVCW ROTC Award for a Nevada (MO) High School AFJROTC cadet. (April)
16. Provided Camp 9 SUVCW ROTC Award for a Pittsburg State Univ Army ROTC Cadet. (April)
17. Supervised organization of annual Memorial Day programs at Fort Scott NHS (May)
18. Presented program on 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry as part of Humboldt Civil War Days (June)
19. Led guided discussion of the Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850, and the Kansas-Nebraska Act, legislation that led to the Civil War (June)
20. Assisted local VFW post in placing 350 full-sized US flags at Fort Scott National Cemetery (July)
21. Hosted CinC Campbell at Fort Scott NHS and Fort Scott National Cemetery on July 4 (July)
22. Notified Dept of threat to remove Section 4(f) [Historic preservation] in new transportation bill (July)
23. Coordinated *Lee & Grant at Appomattox* presentation by KS SUVCW members Randy Durbin and Lane Smith at Fort Scott NHS (July)
24. Presented program titled “Civil War, Censuses, and US Colored Troops,” as part of Lawrence’s annual *Civil War on the Western Frontier* commemoration. (August)
25. Attended the SUVCW National Encampment, Richmond VA. (August)
26. Organized Fort Scott NHS Symbols of Sacrifice program, placing >6,800 US flags, reading of names of the fallen over downtown PA system, honored Vietnam Era Veterans, and hosted concert by 1st Infantry Division Band Brass Ensemble (September)
27. Attended funeral for Ethan Schmidt in Peabody KS (September)
28. Coordinator, in partnership with the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes, for Teacher Workshop on the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the US Constitution (September)
29. US District Court Naturalization Ceremony at Fort Scott NHS, 91 new citizens from 40 countries (September)
30. Worked with NPS design staff and contractors to complete the final review and installation of new Bleeding Kansas and Civil War exhibits that were four years in the making. Recognized by site superintendent with an NPS Star Award for efforts. (October)
31. Participated with Camp 9 in Headstone Dedication Service for John Howard at Mount Hope Cemetery, Humboldt (October)
32. Visited the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg PA (November)

33. Forwarded to Dept a link to Vermont Humanities 2014 Fall Conference on the Civil War video (December)
34. Forwarded list of KS Junior ROTC units to Dept officers and camp commanders to ensure that each unit receives an SUVCW ROTC Award to present to a deserving cadet (December)
35. Published two issues of *The Sunflower Picket*, the Department of Kansas newsletter (Spring & Fall)
36. Posted scores of "This Day in Fort Scott History" entries on the Fort Scott NHS Facebook page.

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.

William E. Fischer, Jr.

Junior Vice Commander

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

SECRETARY

I remind the brothers of this Department that my term of office ends with the next Department Encampment. I have no intention of running for reelection to the position. I encourage anyone who is interested in the positions of Department Secretary or Department Treasurer to let themselves be known in the near future.

The proceedings for the 19th Annual Department Encampment were published, approved, and distributed.

The Department strength as of the March 31, 2015, cut-off date for the Department Annual Report was:

Hereditary Members:	123 (including 7 Life Members)
Associates:	8
Juniors:	1
Junior Associates:	0
Total:	132
Dual	5 (including 2 Life Members)

The Department strength as of December 31, 2015 is:

Hereditary Members:	134 (including 7 Life Members)
Associates:	8
Juniors:	1
Junior Associates:	0
Total:	143
Dual	6 (including 3 Life Members)

The above numbers represent an increase of eleven in reportable strength. Last year we had a net increase of four.

During the past year, I have attended the following functions:

April 11, 2015 – Lincoln Tomb Service and National Council of Administration meeting, Springfield, Illinois.

June 5, 2015 – Department of Colorado & Wyoming Encampment, Denver, Colorado.

August 20-23, 2015 – National Encampment and Council of Administration meetings, Richmond, Virginia.

November 22, 2015 – National Council of Administration meeting, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alan L. Russ, PDC
Secretary

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

TREASURER

All funds continue to be maintained in the First National Bank, Saint Francis, Kansas. Our fiscal year is the calendar year. As such, the following report is from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015.

GENERAL FUND

Balance on hand January 1, 2015		\$ 9,404.94
Income January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015:		
DE: Department General		
DE-01: Department Per Capita	579.00	
DE-99: Department Miscellaneous	<u>126.00</u>	
TOTAL DE Department General	705.00	
EN: Encampment		
EN-02: Badge Sales	250.00	
EN-98: Badge Sales (Previous Encampments)	<u>30.00</u>	
TOTAL EN Encampment	280.00	
NA: National Organization		
NA-01: National Per Capita	3116.50	
NA-02: Application Fee	<u>110.00</u>	
TOTAL NA National Organization	<u>3226.50</u>	
 TOTAL INCOME - General Fund		 4,211.50
Expenses January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015:		
CO: Council		
Other EXPENSES: CO Council	<u>16.00</u>	
TOTAL CO Council	16.00	
DE: Department General		
DE-06: Department Website	84.00	
DE-99: Miscellaneous	<u>176.04</u>	
TOTAL DE General	260.04	
EN: Encampment		
EN-01: Facilities	48.00	
EN-02: Badges and Nametags	27.19	
EN-03: CinC Hotel and Meals	<u>223.15</u>	
TOTAL EN Encampment	298.34	
ES: Eagle Scout		
ES-01: Postage	<u>16.16</u>	
TOTAL CO Council	16.16	
NA: National Organization		
NA-01: National Per Capita	3116.50	
NA-02: Application Fee	<u>110.00</u>	
TOTAL NA National Organization	<u>3226.50</u>	
 TOTAL EXPENSES – General Fund		 <u>3817.04</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2015:		<u>\$9,799.40</u>

SPECIAL MEMORIAL FUND

Balance on hand January 1, 2015		\$ 646.89
Income January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015:		
ME: Special Memorials Fund		
ME-01: Donations	<u>250.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME Special Memorial Fund		250.00
Expenses January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015:		
ME: Special Memorials Fund		
ME-02: Memorials	<u>0.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES Special Memorial Fund		<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2015:		\$ <u>896.89</u>

A proposed budget for 2016 will be submitted to the Department Council, and will be distributed at the 2016 Encampment for the information of the brothers present. It will be submitted for approval by the Department Council at their meeting immediately following the 2016 Encampment. It is the Department Council's responsibility to oversee the financial matters of the Department, including the approval of the Department budget; however, they do not work "behind closed doors." Any comments and suggestions are always appreciated in this regard, and information concerning expenses of the Department is always available.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alan L. Russ, PDC
Treasurer

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

With the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War, there were many opportunities in 2015 for camps to provide month to month "What Happened Then?" presentations. One which was especially noteworthy was the Topeka Camp's reenactment of Lee's surrender to Grant, portrayed by Lane Smith and Randel Durban. It was so informative and interesting, they made us feel we were there! Definitely a high point of the year.

The anniversary of the assassination of President Lincoln in April of 1864 provided a topic which each camp would have observed. The flight of Booth, his capture and the shooting by Boston Corbett, who later became a doorkeeper in the Kansas Senate, showed again the many Kansas connections to the Civil War. The fall of the city of Richmond and Lincoln's peaceful entry into it, and the poignant reaction of the blacks of the city, pointing and shouting "There be Father Abraham, de great Emancipator," created drama that holds our attention to this day.

Our continued loss of real sons of Civil War veterans, including Col. John William Dinsmoor (Ret.) (the son of S.P. Dinsmoor of Lucas, Kansas) whose death late in 2013 was discussed in both 2014 and 2015. He was a decorated Vietnam Veteran, the only son of a Civil War veteran so honored.

The continued passing of World War II and Korean War veterans was often noted with sadness during 2015. It brought to mind stories of our own fathers and grandfathers who fought to bring freedom to an oppressed world.

"Stump the Experts" questions help to create interest in our history, such as the following.

1. "What paper money did Lincoln carry the day he died?" and
2. "Who was the third speaker at Gettysburg?" and

3. "What is the honor that is called "The Thanks of Congress?"

(Answers:)

1. A Five Dollar Confederate Bill,
2. The Rev. Thomas Stockton, whose invocation brought tears to Lincoln's eyes,
3. A Resolution separate and distinct from the Medal of Honor, that was proclaimed over 30 times in the Civil War.

History comes alive when we remember it is a collection of true, magnificent stories.

Let us each keep the memory of past patriots alive by our words, deeds and patriotic instruction.

The 2015 controversy over the display of the Confederate flag, with the wise and careful response of the National Office of the Sons of Union Veterans, created lively discussion issues for our camps. This also opened the door for more discussions of battle flags of the Civil War and flags from our country's past.

At one camp meeting, a member unfurled a full-sized replica of George Washington's Battle flag, which he commissioned to fly over his private fleet of six ships. It is a white flag with a green Tree of Liberty, emblazoned with the cry: "AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN". Every petition and plea to King George had been rejected, yet a FINAL APPEAL could still be lodged. We may appeal to God Himself for Vindication of our cause! True then, True today!

Submitted in F. C. & L.,

K. Kirk Nystrom
Patriotic Instructor

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER

We continue to make progress in recording the burial locations of our Boys in Blue who eternally rest in the Sunflower State. As of 31 Dec 2015, there are 29655 Civil War veterans' Kansas gravesites listed in the national SUCVW Graves Database. This is an increase of almost 600 graves to the database since the beginning of the year. I have personally added about half, possibly more, of the increase but don't have an exact number since there has been a problem late in the year with my SUCVW Kansas Graves Administrator grave entry counter not increasing with each upload; it stands at 943 entries. Because of this issue, I have been adding gravesites via my personal SUCVW Graves user account, which, as of the same date, totals 3125 entries, 260 more than reported at the end of last year. I have also continued to add missing information, such as birth/death dates, enlistment/discharge dates, and Kansas GAR Post membership, to dozens of individual Kansas grave pages to provide a more complete record. I had the honor of participating in the headstone dedication ceremony for John Howard in Mount Hope Cemetery in Humboldt.

Camps continue to do good work in helping maintain Civil War veterans' graves with work days and genealogical research to obtain military headstones for unmarked graves. I urge Brothers to make this a priority for our camps. I apologize to those Brothers who have sought my assistance with grave and headstone matters but who have not received timely responses to queries. This year has found me time challenged due to personal and work priorities.

For the second year in a row, I offer special commendation to Sister Dorothy Reling of Cawker City KS, a member of LGAR Livermore Circle No. 66, who has researched and provided me with grave registration information on all known Civil War veterans interred in Osborne County KS. Huzzah, Sister Reling!

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.

William E. Fischer, Jr.
Graves Registration Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR

I failed to perform my duties as the 2015 Department Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator. My efforts to initiate contact and then maintain communications with Boy Scout district executives and Eagle Scout advancement chairs across the state were not pursued vigorously enough to honor the fine young men in Kansas who earned Scouting's highest rank award with SUVCW certificates. While I won't use this as an excuse, I resigned my duties as Mo-Kan District, Ozark Trails Council, Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner in June due to an increasingly heavy workload. I took over as the Acting Chief of Interpretation & Resource Management for Fort Scott National Historic Site on January 2, 2015, and then had my museum technician resign in March and our park guide went on medical leave from July through the end of 2015. Trying to operate the division at only 2/3 permanent staffing, then at only 1/2 of staffing led me to resign my BSA district position in order to have more "spare" time to dedicate to the Department of Kansas, in particular to help get Humboldt Camp 9 up and running. I should have asked to be relieved of my duties as Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator at mid-year but did not. I apologize to my Brothers for not performing to expected standards.

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.

William E. Fischer, Jr.
Eagle Scout Coordinator

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

HISTORIAN

Nothing to report.
Yours in F.C. & L.,

Blair D. Tarr
Department Historian and
Chair, Last Soldier and G.A.R. Records Projects

RECOMMENDATIONS: NONE.

CHAPLAIN

It is my sad duty to report the passing of two brothers from the Department:

Gerald "Jerry" Stephens, Jr (1953 -2015), of the Humboldt Camp No. 9, of Humboldt, Kansas.

Ethan A. Schmidt (1975 – 2015), of the Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp No. 1, Wichita, Kansas.

"The faults of our Brothers we write upon the sand, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory."

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Roy A. Lafferty, PDC
Chaplain

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS OFFICER

Kansas Civil War Memorial/Monument Catalog

There has been little activity on the Monuments Catalog since the last report. At that time the catalog had been reviewed and rewritten to combine detailed information on any CWM #61 forms submitted (as requested by National). There was also a revision of some monument classifications and where they appear in the list.

At present the Catalog contains:

- 4 fully documented memorials (CWM#61 included)
- 202 primary memorials
- 178 secondary memorials
- 3 counties (Logan, Scott, and Wichita) with no memorials found
- 4 incomplete memorial listings requiring history research
- 5 monuments gone but not forgotten
- 4 cannons gone but not forgotten
- 5 stained glass windows gone but not forgotten
- 3 memorial trees gone but not forgotten

Since the last revision there have been about a half dozen of new submissions and corrections. Work on these will commence as the weather permits.

A search like this is never complete but, at present, other than researching some of the unknowns, there is little left to do. I encourage all members to keep looking however. There are undoubtedly some monuments or memorials remaining to be found.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Doug McGovern – Civil War Memorials Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

COUNCIL REPORT

The Department Council has reviewed the financial records of the Department for 2015-2016 and finds them to be in order.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

James R, Knopke, PDC
Chairman

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

CAMP REPORTS TO THE TWENTIETH DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

CORPORAL PATRICK COYNE CAMP NO. 1, WICHITA

Brothers:

Since our last report at the Department of Kansas Encampment meeting in January 2015 the camp has been involved in a number of endeavors.

In April some of our members of our camp setup a recruiting booth during Cowtown's Civil War Weekend in Wichita. They also did a recruiting booth in May at a local Military and Gun Show at Cessna Activity Show in Wichita.

To honor the 2015 Memorial Day holiday the camp had its May meeting at Highland Cemetery in Wichita. We did a short ceremony at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. We then walked around the cemetery to plan the next phase of our ongoing project to raise, straighten and clean all the civil war veteran's headstones in the cemetery. The cemetery has an area with a memorial cannon, flag pole and benches dedicated by the WRC in 1911 and the Eggleston GAR Post in Wichita in 1911. In connection with this project the camp had work days in the Spring and Fall.

The camp held election of officers in October and these officers were installed by Dept. Jr. Vice Commander Mark Britton at the November meeting using the prescribed ritual.

As part of its regular meeting format a short program on a civil war topic is presented. These have been very interesting and informative.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Shawn Bell, PCC

Camp Commander

Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC

Camp Secretary

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

SERGEANT SAMUEL J. CHURCHILL CAMP NO. 4, LAWRENCE

On behalf of the Brothers of the SUVCW Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill, Camp 4 - Lawrence; and towards our efforts dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War; and towards efforts dedicated to preserving the rich history of the Union veterans through education; and towards efforts to saving and protecting our nation's endangered memorials, graves, and monuments; I have listed below and respectfully submit to you our camp activities for 2015.

School Programs and Living History Programs:

* January: Leavenworth, KS @ Fort Leavenworth Civil War school program

* March: Garnett, KS - Anderson County Historical Society 150th Anniversary of the Civil War Living History Event

* April: Baldwin City, KS - USD348 Civil War Living History Day (350 students 3rd, 4th, 5th, & 8th); along with 3rd Kansas Artillery re-enactors and a Black Powder Firing Demonstration (local media coverage)

* May: Valley Falls, KS - Civil War school program

Camp Events:

* 2015 Memorial Day - over 500 flags placed at graves in memory of Union Civil War Veterans (along with coop efforts with local cub scouts) in 7 Douglas County Cemeteries; 3 Lawrence, 2 Baldwin City, 1 in Vinland, and Black Jack Cemetery.

* 8 Civil War theme program speakers at our monthly meetings; Educational programs included presentations on:

* 150th Anniversary of Gettysburg battles by Brother Alan Van Loenen

* 1856 The Flash Point of the Civil War by Brother George Taylor

* Brother Randy Durbin & Lane Smith reenactment of Lee's Surrender to Grant at Appomattox

* Charles Curtis and the Civil War Service of his Father by local author and historian Deborah

Goodrich Bisel

* A Friend of Kansas Free Soiler, John Brown, Emancipation and the Black Soldiers by Brother (and Author) Charles Heller

- * Women Soldiers in the Civil War by Brother Alan Van Loenen
- * Top Ten Reasons the Civil War was Won in the West by author and historian Robert Jones
- * Civil War, Censuses, and US Colored Troops by Brother William Fischer
- * Presented SUVCW Medals/Certificates to 3 ROTC branches at the University of Kansas
- * SUVCW Scout Day – Civil War era Soldiers items and regalia providing great hands-on experience and interaction
- * Presented SUVCW Certificate to Eagle Scout, Ian Archer, for his efforts to complete geo-mapping of Civil War graves in 3 Lawrence cemeteries
- * SUVCW Brother developed Civil War concept for BSA Camporee at The Blackjack Battlefield National Historic Site near Baldwin City; 2015 was 3rd year, Civil War Encampment, Wood working project (black powder rifle), 2 Reenactments of the Blackjack Battle, BSA Certified for Wood Working patch & Historic Trails Patch – 272 campers/participants

Other Civil War Events / Grave & Memorial Preservation:

- * SUVCW Brothers cleaned up Civil War graves in Adam’s Cemetery (located on private property) in Lawrence in May
- * SUVCW Brothers participated in annual clean-up efforts at Black Jack Battlefield National Historic Landmark in Baldwin City, KS in March
- * SUVCW Brothers participated in Buffalo Bill Days in Leavenworth, KS - Civil War encampment and Living History event in August
- * SUVCW Brothers participated in the 150th Anniversary of the Lincoln Funeral Train in Springfield, IL in April
- * Identified 12 Civil War Headstones for cleaning in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Baldwin City
- * SUVCW Camp Brothers attended National Encampment in Richmond, VA in August
- * SUVCW Brothers participated in the Ottawa Veterans Day Parade and Civil War educational display in November
- * SUVCW Brothers participated in the Lawrence Christmas Parade - Official Color Guard for event in December
- * SUVCW Monthly News Letter - Civil War Trivia by Brother Van Loenen

***** Camp 4 added 3 new members in 2015: Charles Heller, George Taylor, & John Hoopes**
Reminder - Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4 - Lawrence meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30PM at the Watkins Museum at 11th & Massachusetts in downtown Lawrence; we want extend an invitation to all SUVCW Camp Brothers to attend a meeting with us in 2016.

If you should have any questions regarding the SUVCW Camp 4 - Lawrence activities for 2015, please contact me at your convenience.

Mike Todd
Camp Commander

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

FRANKLIN CAMP NO. 5, OLATHE

Except for the months of July, August and December, the camp meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at the Bass Pro Shop Restaurant, Olathe, Ks. Meetings begin at 7:00 however there is a social hour beginning at 6:00 in which members may order from the food menu.

In addition to the normal business meeting, each meeting concludes with Patriotic Instruction. Many of our programs are from current members but we also have outside speakers such as Jesse James, Pres Jefferson Davis, the Lee/Grant surrender program, and a power point presentation on the Confederate submarine the HL Hunley. Current members Eric Myers, Al Miller, Bill Stoker and Roger Miller gave programs during the year. For 2016 we are scheduled for speakers thru April, “A comparison of two armies, Maj Gen Simon Bolivar Buckner, the Sharps Rifle and a report on railroads”. Patriotic Instruction continues to play an important part in our monthly meetings.

Last March our camp participated with the Missouri Westport Camp #64 in a Medal of Honor ceremony in the Forest Lawn Cemetery honoring a Union soldier recipient of that medal. A ceremony is again scheduled with that camp this next spring. We will continue to cooperate with that camp in future Medal of Honor services.

We conducted our annual Memorial Day service at the GAR Monument in the Olathe Memorial Cemetery. This service is always held the Saturday before Memorial Day. We feel this is an appropriate location as 60 Union soldiers are buried in a circle around this monument. In addition there are approximately 325 Union soldiers buried in this cemetery. At this service we honored three young soldiers killed in action. We honored them through their mothers who were in attendance at this service. We also conduct a Veterans Day program, again the Saturday before Veterans Day. At this service we honored an Afghanistan veteran and a WWII veteran. Always we include participation by the Boy Scouts.

This past Sunday, Jan 3rd, 2016, we were very proud to honor one of our own members, Steven Meis, with the SUVCW Eagle Scout award.

We continue to participate in the ROTC awards program. We presented medals and certificates this year at four schools and will continue with that awards program.

We continue to have a monthly newsletter that is sent to each member. That newsletter includes upcoming camp events and regional events and camp business in general.

We continue to search for recruiting opportunities. This past October 11th & 12th we participated with a recruiting booth at the Shawnee Indian Mission Annual Festival.

Our membership currently stands at 27 with the membership drive for 2016 currently underway.

Lane D. Smith, PCC
Camp Secretary

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

OLD GLORY CAMP NO. 7, SAINT FRANCIS

Old Glory Camp held three meetings during the year and one camp project at the Saint Francis GAR cemetery and city cemetery.

Unfortunately, PCC Chance Marble has accepted a position in central Colorado and Brother Ethan Smith is planning to begin attending college in Nebraska. With the loss of these two active participants to the camp and the lack of displayed interest by the community, the camp decided that it would plan on closing as of April 1, 2016.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alan L. Russ, PDC
For Patrick Owens, Camp Commander

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

HUMBOLDT CAMP NO. 9, HUMBOLDT

The Department of Kansas welcomed Humboldt Camp 9 into the SUVCW this past spring. The camp meets quarterly on the third Thursday in January, April, July, and October at the Humboldt Museum, which was graciously offered as a meeting location by the Humboldt Historical Society. Elected officers were installed by Dept Cmdr Kent Melcher on March 14, 2015. Since then, the camp has held three quarterly meetings, each with strong attendance. We have added several new brothers over the course of the year and anticipate continued growth in 2016.

The camp charter was beautifully framed by Brother Josh Works and is complimented in its place of honor at camp meetings by the presence of the original Vicksburg GAR Post 72 Bible, which is in the possession of the Humboldt Museum. The Bible has been used to initiate new members and will be used to install the 2016 camp officers. Brother Works also found a period newspaper article detailing the establishment of the Vicksburg Camp in Humboldt which was used for our initial patriotic instruction in

April. Brother Fischer purchased a camp commander badge at the National Encampment; it is now camp property and shall be passed down from camp commander to camp commander. We have also developed a tri-fold recruiting brochure and designed a vinyl banner for special events.

Of special note was an impressive headstone dedication ceremony for John Ward Howard, Berdan's Sharpshooters, which was held at Mount Hope Cemetery in Humboldt on October 24; several generations of descendants from several states were in attendance. There was excellent support provided by civic minded groups not associated with the SUVCW. Huzzah to Ms Carolyn Whitaker of the Humboldt Museum for working with descendants in obtaining the VA military headstone for Howard's unmarked grave and planning the event, and to Brother Randy Downey for setting the stone in the cemetery.

Camp commander Eddie Henderson led a Veterans Day service at the Moran Nursing Home, and Brother Frank Schomaker displayed the Humboldt Camp banner during the Chanute Veterans Day Parade. We are pleased to represent the Order and the Department across southeast Kansas.

Submitted in F. C. & L.

William E. Fischer, Jr.,
for Commander Eddie A. Henderson

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

OLD ABE CAMP NO. 16, TOPEKA

The brothers of Old Abe Camp No. 16 have just finished a very busy year.

Old Abe Camp 16 started the year with a high note at the January 10 Encampment when Jerry Reiman received the Merit Award for cemetery headstone cleaning. Of the many presentations throughout the year the most interesting was General Lee (Lane Smith) and General Grant (Randy Durbin) portraying their meeting at Appomattox. Department Commander Kent Melcher and Conrad Fisher helped in the organization and establishment of Humboldt Camp #9.

From April through October every 4th Saturday is a camp workday at the Topeka Cemetery GAR section in which veteran's headstones are cleaned and reset. In May the camp conducted its annual Memorial Day Ceremony which included the flag raising by the Boy Scouts, ROTC color guard units and Old Abe member Dr. Herschel Stroud portraying Kansas Governor Crawford.

At every meeting a pass the hat donation is taken to raise money to purchase telephone calling cards for troops overseas and several have been sent this year. Medals and certificates were presented to ROTC candidates at 6 local high schools. Camp membership increased from 32 to 35 and new officers were installed at the December meeting.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jerry Reiman , Camp Commander

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE TWENTIETH DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The following amendments were submitted by the Department Secretary for consideration by the Department Bylaws Committee.

AMENDMENT 01

This change allows the re-establishment of a camp for department members-at-large. If established, the camp shall be designated as Col. John A. Martin Camp No. 8. This is the camp which was previously used for DMAL, and the charter for camp, although suspended by the department commander at the time, has not been revoked. If a DMAL camp is established under this section, it would need to request an EIN from the Department and would maintain a separate checking account.

CHAPTER III DEPARTMENT MEMBERS AT LARGE (DMAL).

Section A. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH.

In accordance with Chapter II, Article X, Section 1, National Regulations, the Department shall allow Department Members at Large (DMAL).

Section B. MUST FIRST BE ASSIGNED TO CAMP.

Brothers shall be assigned to the DMAL only after the application has first been processed as shown, below. No brother will be placed directly into the DMAL without having first been assigned to a camp for the remainder of the current membership year unless approved by the Department Commander.

Section C. OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT CAMP.

When applications are received from the National Organization for MAL, the Department Junior Vice Commander shall contact the brother and give him the opportunity to select one of the Camps in the Department to join.

Section D. GEOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENT TO CAMP.

If the new MAL does not elect to choose a Camp, he shall be assigned to the Camp closest to his place of residence.

Section E. DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES.

The Department Council shall develop guidelines for Camp assignment.

Section F. ~~NO~~ ESTABLISHMENT OF DMAL CAMP.

1. A separate camp ~~shall not~~ may be established for DMAL. ~~When a DMAL camp has not been established, the~~ ~~The~~ Department Secretary shall be responsible for the administrative requirements concerning brothers assigned to the DMAL.

2. Designation of DMAL Camp. Said camp shall be designated as Col. John A. Martin Camp No. 8.

3. DMAL Camp Officers. When a DMAL camp has been established, the Department Commander shall appoint a Camp Commander and Camp Secretary/Treasurer for the camp. No other camp offices shall be required for the DMAL Camp. The appointed officers need not be assigned to the DMAL camp.

4. No brother may be assigned to the DMAL or DMAL camp if he holds membership in another camp or department.

5. The dues for the membership of the DMAL shall be set at the equivalent of the highest camp dues within the department as established by the annual camp reports submitted as of March 31 the previous year.

AMENDMENT 02

This amendment removes the requirement for a Fall Council Meeting to be held on the third Saturday of October. There will not be any required council meetings within the department unless specifically called for by the Department Commander with the consent of the council.

CHAPTER IV DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENTS AND MEETINGS

~~Article II: OTHER MEETINGS~~

~~Section A. FALL COUNCIL MEETING.~~

~~The officers of the Department shall conduct the "Fall Council Meeting" each year on the third Saturday of October. The location and time for the meeting shall be determined by the Department Commander, with preference given to locating it at the camp which will be the host camp for the upcoming Department Encampment. If the meeting must be rescheduled, it should be held as soon as possible after the originally scheduled date.~~

~~1. **Purpose.** The Fall Council Meeting shall be for the purpose conducting the routine business of the Department, to include approving expenditures, policies, and procedures. The Department Council will not take actions which are reserved for the Department Encampment. Likewise, any action of the Department Council may be overruled by action of the next Department Encampment.~~

~~2. **Voting Members.** The elected officers of the Department and the immediate Past Department Commander are the voting members of the Department Council.~~

~~3. **Non-voting Members.**~~

~~(a) All appointed Department Officers are members of the Council, without vote, and should be in attendance.~~

~~(b) All brothers of the Department holding the honor of Past Department Commander are members without vote, and, as such, encouraged to attend the meeting.~~

~~4. **Other Attendees.**~~

~~(a) Camp Commanders, or their designated representative, should attend. They should be prepared to report on the activities of their camp. This provides an opportunity for communication between the Department Officers and the camps. Camp Commanders or representatives are attendees without membership on the Council and without vote.~~

~~(b) All brothers of the Department are permitted and encouraged to attend the meeting without voice or vote. Any attendee may request of the Department Commander to present an item to the meeting or to provide discussion or comments on an item being discussed at the meeting. It shall be the decision of the Department Commander as to whether this shall be permitted.~~

~~Article III II: ELECTRONIC BOARD ROOM~~

~~Section A. ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC BOARD ROOM.~~

~~An electronic boardroom shall be established for the purpose of conducting the business of the Department between the Department Encampments and Council meeting.~~

~~Section B. PUBLISHED POLICY REQUIRED.~~

~~A Department policy shall be established for the Department Council to submit motions to the Department Commander through approved electronic means, to conduct discussion of such motions through electronic means, to allow the voting members of the Council to electronically cast votes, for the Department Commander to announce the results of the vote, and for the Department Secretary to officially publish the results to the camps in a timely manner.~~

**CHAPTER V
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Article II: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section F: COUNCIL.

The Department Council, immediately after its installation, shall meet and elect a Chairman and Secretary. It shall devise and recommend such measures as will enable the Department to meet all of its necessary expenditures, and shall audit the receipts, expenditures and books of account of the Department and make a report, thereof, to the Department Encampment. Any permanent vacancy in a Department elective office shall be filled for the remainder of the term by a Brother elected via majority vote of the Department Council. ~~The Department Council shall also meet during the Fall for the purpose of auditing the records of the Department and discussing the state of the Department. This meeting shall normally be in October at a time and place determined by the Department Commander.~~ The Department Council shall perform such other duties as described in National Regulations of the Order.

VISION COMMITTEE

Report of Vision Committee Meeting #1, April 25, 2015, via Conference Call.

Called to order at 3:02 p.m. CDT

Roll Call

Department Commander: Kent Melcher, present
Senior Vice Commander: Mark Britton, present
Junior Vice Commander: Bill Fischer, absent
Secretary: Alan Russ, absent
Immediate Past D.Cmdr: Rocky Bartlow, present
Patrick Coyne Camp #2: Shawn Bell, absent
Church Camp #4: Michael Todd, absent
Franklin Camp #5: Lawrence Myers, absent
Old Glory Camp #7: Chance Marple, present
Humboldt Camp #9: Eddie Henderson, absent
Old Abe Camp #16: Craig Dunstan, present

DC Melcher called attention to list of “possible goals” in his e-mail. The list came from notes DC took at January Department Encampment from camp and officer reports.

General discussion followed by going through the list, and hearing from brothers about their camps activities and their experiences with items on the list. In particular, how well do each of these items help us to “keep green in the minds of our country” the sacrifices of the “boys in blue, and which of these items are most productive in extending our reach into the communities we serve?

Commander Melcher will summarize the discussion for the purpose of providing ideas for camp projects and events, as well as providing resources for the same.

In addition to providing ideas for camps, the discussion included department-wide events to consider in order to foster a sense of unity and brotherhood, as well as a sense of a greater impact all of us can have when we work together.

The summary of the discussion will be sent to all Camp Commanders, the Vision Committee, department officers, and those whose names were mentioned with regard to particular programs/events.

Discussion summary, by item:

1. Help camps establish relationships with schools. Some of our camps actively seek interaction with K-12 students (primarily elementary grades) by setting up a civil war style campsite. Throughout the day, classes rotate through the camp for civil war history, campsite demonstrations, Q&A, etc.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC
Chairman

RECOMMENDATIONS: NONE

REPORT ON 133RD NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

The 134th National Encampment, commemorating the end of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, was appropriately held in Richmond, within the shadows of the Virginia Capitol, from August 20-23, 2015. It was hosted by the Department of the Chesapeake.

The Department of Kansas contingent consisted of PDC Roy Lafferty and Dept JVC Bill Fischer, with PDC Alan Russ attending as National Secretary.

Commander in Chief Tad Campbell recounted his year of service, noting that he had traveled more than 100,000 miles in his effort to fulfill his duty and to meet as many Brothers as possible. He also honored his wife, Rachelle, who was National President of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW, and his daughter, Emilia, for their sacrifices in allowing the CinC to crisscross the country many times. National SVC Eugene Mortorff, Department of the Chesapeake, was unanimously elected as the order's Commander in Chief for 2015-2016.

Due to repeated violations of National requirements and repeated failures to take corrective actions, the Department of Connecticut had its voting privileges revoked for the Encampment.

Two particularly notable issues taken up at the Encampment were:

1. The continuing efforts to work with the IRS to gain 501(c)3 status for the Order. The primary stumbling block appears to be that the percentage of charitable donations made through the national organization is lower than what the IRS deems necessary for gaining 501(c)3 status. To begin the process of increasing such donations, the Encampment voted in favor of making the SUVCW ROTC medal, certificate, and ribbon available without charge when an application form is properly completed and submitted. This change took effect on January 1, 2016. Now Department of Kansas camps must go forth and build relationships with ALL the ROTC and JROTC programs throughout the state to ensure that a deserving cadet in each program is presented with our award. This is a tremendous opportunity to grow the Order for future generations.

2. The Rituals and Ceremonies manual was revised to incorporate changes made at previous National Encampments, to ensure conformity with Constitution and Regulations guidelines, and to correct existing deficiencies. The new manual was approved and supersedes the previous edition. Brother Russ emailed a digital copy to department members soon after the Encampment.

Other points of interest include:

1. The newly-created Department of the Columbia, including the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska, was recognized.

2. There was an effort by certain Brothers in the Department of Pennsylvania to have the Encampment authorize the splitting of the department into two separate departments. The argument made by those Brothers was soundly defeated as being out of order. This was perhaps the low point of an encampment of an Order founded on Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

The 2016 SUVCW National Encampment will be held in Springfield, Illinois, from August 11-14. Please make plans to attend if at all possible since it is within a 500-mile drive from most Kansas camps.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Certification of Election and Installation of Department Officers

Form 49 – Rev. November 2011

(Send to National Headquarters at SUVCW National HQ, 1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Suite 240 (Nat'l Civil War Museum Bldg.), Harrisburg PA 17103-2411, within 30 days of installation of Officers – Retain duplicate for Department Records)

From the Department of Kansas EIN 48-1187461 to National Executive Director, National Headquarters.

At the Annual Encampment of this Department held at (location) Salina, Kansas

On the 9th day of January, 2016 the following Officers for the ensuing year were duly elected, appointed, and installed:

OFFICERS INSTALLED

Name (First, Middle, Last)	Street/PO Box	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	E-Mail
Department Commander: Mark A. Britton, PCC	740 N Woodlawn Blvd	Derby	KS	67037	316-788-5176	commander@suvchwks.org
Senior Vice Commander: William E. Fischer, Jr, PCC	2129 Ironstone Dr	Fort Scott	KS	66701	620-223-0310	svc@suvchwks.org
Junior Vice Commander: Michael A. Todd, PCC	1421 N 330 Rd	Baldwin	KS	66006	785-594-2921	jvc@suvchwks.org
Council Member 1: James R. Knopke, PDC	21733 W 56th St	Shawnee	KS	66212	913-422-4953	council1@suvchwks.org
Council Member 2: William F. Riedell	1718 N Parkdale St	Wichita	KS	67212	316-722-9387	council2@suvchwks.org
Council Member 3: Roy A. Lafferty, PDC	2613 Pickwick Place	Lawrence	KS	66049	785-393-0971	council3@suvchwks.org
Secretary: Alan L. Russ PDC	P.O. Box 673	Saint Francis	KS	67756	785-332-2118	secretary@suvchwks.org
Treasurer: Alan L. Russ PDC	P.O. Box 673	Saint Francis	KS	67756	785-332-2118	secretary@suvchwks.org
Patriotic Instructor: K. Kirk Nystrom	946 NE Chester	Topeka	KS	66616	785-357-1117	Patriotic@suvchwks.org
Chaplain: Roy A. Lafferty, PDC	2613 Pickwick Place	Lawrence	KS	66049	785-393-0971	Chaplain@suvchwks.org
Graves Registration Officer: William E. Fischer, Jr, PCC	2129 Ironstone Dr	Fort Scott	KS	66701	620-223-0310	Graves@suvchwks.org
Historian: Blair D. Tarr	617 SW Taylor, Apt 11	Topeka	KS	66603	785-234-0458	History@suvchwks.org
Civil War Memorials Officer: Douglas E. McGovern, PCC	100 W 20th Ave	Hutchinson	KS	67502	620-662-2247	Memorials@suvchwks.org
Eagle Scout Coordinator:						EagleScout@suvchwks.org
Counselor: Alan L. Russ PDC	P.O. Box 673	Saint Francis	KS	67756	785-332-2118	secretary@suvchwks.org
GAR Highway Officer: NA						
Department Organizer: NA						

Office:						
Office:						
Office:						
Office:						

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OF DELEGATES

The following, all in good standing in their respective Camps, were duly elected to represent this Department as DELEGATES to the next Annual National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. (Attach additional sheet, if necessary.)

Name (First, Middle, Last)	City	State	Zip Code	Name (First, Middle, Last)	City	State	Zip
See attached listing for elected delegates and alternate delegates.							

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

The following Past Department Commanders are in good standing and are entitled to attend the Annual National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. (Do NOT include deceased.)

Name (First, Middle, Last)	City	State	Zip Code	Name (First, Middle, Last)	City	State	Zip
Franklin C. Bergquist	Wichita	KS	67216	Alan L. Russ	Saint Francis	KS	67756
Kenneth R. Spurgeon	Towanda	KS	67144	Thomas E. Schmidt	Peabody	KS	66866
James R. Knopke	Shawnee	KS	66218	Randal L. Durbin	Overbrook	KS	66524
Roy A. Lafferty	Lawrence	KS	66049	Craig A. Sundell	Lawrence	KS	66044
James M. Converse	Beavercreek	OH	45431	Rocky L. Bartlow	Meriden	KS	66512
Kent M. Melcher	Wellington	KS	67152				

SIGNATURE OF INSTALLING OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, AND NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date:	Installing Officer:	Department Secretary:	Department Commander:	National Executive Director:
1/9/2016				
	Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature
Printed Name:	Eugene G. Mortorff, PDC	Alan L. Russ, PDC	Mark A. Britton, PCC	David W. Demmy, Sr.

Date received at National Headquarters: _____

DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENTS

Number	Date(s)	Location	Department Commander
Special	August 3, 1996	Salina	Dean K. Speaks
1	February 22, 1997	Wichita	Dean K. Speaks
2	April 25, 1998	Beloit	Dean K. Speaks
3	May 8, 1999	Topeka	Dean K. Speaks
4	April 15, 2000	Wichita	Franklin C. Bergquist
5	April 7, 2001	Hutchinson	Kenneth D. Strader
6	April 27, 2002	Topeka	Randall M. Thies
7	April 26, 2003	Wichita	Alan L. Russ
8	April 24, 2004	Beloit	Kenneth E. Spurgeon
9	April 23, 2005	Lawrence	Thomas E. Schmidt
10	April 22, 2006	Topeka	James R. Knopke
11	April 28, 2007	Wichita	Randal L. Durbin
12	April 26, 2008	Lawrence	Roy A. Lafferty
13	April 25, 2009	Olathe	Craig A. Sundell
14	April 24, 2010	Wichita	James M. Converse
15	April 30, 2011	Lawrence	James R. Knopke
16	April 28, 2012	Emporia	Roy A. Lafferty
17	January 12, 2013	Emporia	Roy A. Lafferty
18	January 11, 2014	Emporia	Rocky L. Bartlow
19	January 10, 2015	Emporia	Rocky L. Bartlow
20	January 9, 2016	Salina	Kent M. Melcher

ACTIVE CAMPS

Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita

(Named in honor of Private Patrick Coyne, Co. C, 1st Kansas Infantry)
Organized June 27, 1996

Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence

(Named in honor of MOH recipient Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill, Co. G, 2nd Illinois Light Artillery)
Organized December 13, 2003

Franklin Camp 5, Olathe

(Named in honor of the original G.A.R. Post located in Olathe)
Organized October 17, 2005

Old Glory Camp 7, Saint Francis

(Named in honor of the original Sons of Veterans camp located in Saint Francis)
Organized October 7, 2014

Humboldt Camp 9, Humboldt

(Named in recognition of the rich Civil War history of the area)
Organized April 11, 2015

Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka

(Named and numbered in honor of the original Sons of Veterans camp located in Topeka)
Organized December 13, 1997

INACTIVE/FORMER CAMPS

Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing, Jr. Camp No. 2, Johnson County

Organized June 29, 1996, Inactive 1998, Suspended May 14, 2005

Joseph Gaston Camp 3, Beloit

Organized July 6, 1996, Suspended February 1, 2007

Mine Creek Camp 6, Pleasanton

Organized September 18, 2005, suspended October 17, 2009

Col. John A. Martin Camp No. 8, Salina/DMAL

Organized July 11, 1996 at Salina, Suspended July 12, 1998
Designated Department MAL camp August 6, 1998, Inactivated October 1, 2005

Pawnee Camp No. 15, Larned

Organized February 28, 1998, Suspended December 10, 2001

Pap Thomas Camp No. 52, Great Bend

Organized February 28, 1998, Inactive 2000, Suspended May 14, 2005

Incoming Department Officers

2016-2017

- Department Commander** **Mark A. Britton, PCC**
(Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita)
- Senior Vice Department Commander** **William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC**
(Humboldt Camp 9, Humboldt)
- Junior Vice Department Commander** **Michael A. Todd, PCC**
(Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence)
- Secretary/Treasurer (term expiring 2017)** **Alan L. Russ, PDC**
(Old Glory Camp 7, Saint Francis)
- Council Member (term expiring 2017)** **James R. Knopke, PDC**
(Franklin Camp 5, Olathe)
- Council Member (term expiring 2018)** **Roy A. Lafferty, PDC**
(Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence)
- Council Member (term expiring 2018)** **William F. Riedell**
(Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita)
- Immediate Past Department Commander** **Kent M. Melcher, PDC**
(Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka)
- Patriotic Instructor** **K. Kirk Nystrom, PCC**
(Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka)
- Chaplain** **Roy A. Lafferty, PDC**
(Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence)
- Graves Registration Officer** **William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC**
(Humboldt Camp 9, Humboldt)
- Historian** **Blair D. Tarr**
(Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka)
- Douglas E. McGovern, PCC** **Civil War Memorials Officer**
(Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita)
- Counselor** **Alan L. Russ, PDC**
(Old Glory Camp 7, Saint Francis)



LET US NEVER FORGET.