

**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL  
DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT**



**JANUARY 28, 2017  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS**

**MARK A. BRITTON, PCC  
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

# 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 Abe Camp 16, Topeka)*
- 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 Abe Camp 16, Topeka)*

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS**  
**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**  
**January 28, 2017**  
**Lawrence, 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 Twenty-First Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas, was held on January 28, 2017, at the V.F.W., Lawrence, Kansas.
2. The Encampment was called to order at 10:00 AM by Department Commander Mark A. Britton. 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 Britton received our honored guest, National Commander-in-Chief Donald Martin, Department of Ohio. Commander Martin gave a brief personal greeting to the Encampment.
4. At 10:15 AM, Commander Britton officially opened the encampment. The opening was conducted per the Rituals and Ceremonies of the Order.
5. Commander Britton then declared the Twenty-First 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.
6. The Department Secretary called the roll of officers, and reported all officers present:
  - Department Commander Mark A. Britton, PCC, Camp 1, present.
  - Senior Vice Department Commander William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC, Camp 9, present.
  - Junior Vice Department Commander Michael A. Todd, PCC, Camp 4, present.
  - Secretary/Treasurer and Counselor Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16, present.
  - Council Member James R. Knopke, PDC, Camp 5, present.
  - Council Member William F. Riedell, Camp 1, present.
  - 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
7. 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.
8. At this time, the Secretary Russ presented the Credentials Committee report of those present at the Encampment. A quorum was declared to be present.
9. Commander Britton 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.
10. Commander Britton appointed PCC William E. Fischer, Jr., as Chairman of the encampment Resolutions and Officers' Report Committee, with PDC James R. Knopke and PDC Kent M. Melcher as committee members.
11. Commander Britton informed the Encampment of "housekeeping rules" to be used during the meeting.
12. The Department Officer reports were presented by the officer and accepted by the Encampment as written. No recommendations were included in the reports.
13. The camp reports were presented and accepted by the Encampment as written. No recommendations were included in the reports.
14. Secretary Russ reported that official correspondence which had been received has previously been distributed to all officers and camp secretaries.
15. Commander Britton then called for Committee and other reports.
16. The following committee reports were presented:
  - a. Brother Alan L. Russ, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee Report, stated there were no recommended amendments acted upon.
  - b. The Vison committee report was presented by Commander Melcher.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

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 Britton 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.

17. At 11:45 PM, Commander Britton directed the Chaplain to close the Bible. Commander Britton then declared a recess for lunch. The Encampment was reconvened at 1 PM, moving to “New Business.”

18. At 1:15 PM, Commander Britton again declared a brief recess so he, CinC Martin, 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.

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

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

21. Commander Britton requested to know which past department commanders planned to attend the 2017 National Encampment in Lansing, Michigan. Commander Britton stated he would be attending in that status. PDC Lafferty and PDC Melcher stated they will be attending in his capacity as PDC.

22. Commander Britton 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 Britton asked for nominations from the floor for the election of delegates to the 136th National Encampment. PDC Russ nominated the following to be delegates:

- a. Conrad M. Fisher, Camp 16
- b. Craig E. Dunston, Camp 16
- c. Joshua S. Young, Camp 5
- d. William F. Riedell, Camp 1
- e. Ryan L. Todd, Camp 4
- f. Michael Todd, Camp 4

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

24. Commander Britton recognized PDC Russ, who moved, “All Members and Associates of the Department of Kansas who are in good standing as of this date (January 28, 2017) and are not otherwise entitled to membership at the 136th National Encampment nor elected as a “Delegate” to the 136th National Encampment shall be elected as ‘ALTERNATE DELEGATES’ to the 136th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, August 11-12, 2017, in Lansing, Michigan. 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.

25. Commander Britton announced that, per the Department Bylaws, the 22nd Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas would be on January 13, 2018. Camp 5, Olathe, indicated it was willing to host the encampment.

26. Commander Britton stated the Department needed to establish the Department per capita for 2018. The current per capita is \$4.00. PCC Michael Todd moved the Department per capita remain at \$4.00 for 2018. Motion was seconded and passed.

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

28. Commander Britton 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  
Senior Vice Department Commander

Mark A. Britton, Camp 1  
Michael A. Todd, Camp 4

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

Junior Vice Department Commander  
Council Member (term expiring 2019)

K. Kirk Nystrom, Camp 16  
James R. Knopke, Camp 5

29. There were no motions from the floor to nominate any additional candidates, nominations were closed. In accordance with Roberts Rules of Order<sup>1</sup>, candidates for a position which was not contested were declared by Commander Britton as elected.

30. Commander Britton requested a motion from the floor to recognize and thank the V.F.W. for providing the meeting facilities. Kirk Nystrom, Camp 16, moved for the request. The motion was seconded and carried.

31. Commander Britton 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.

32. Commander Britton presented the following awards to the indicated recipients:

**Captain Patrick H. Coney Award for Brother of the Year**

Ryan L. Todd  
Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence

**William W. Nixon Award for Camp of the Year**

Humboldt Camp 9, Humboldt

33. At this time, Commander Britton turned over the gavel to CinC Donald Martin for the installation of officers.

34. 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  
Senior Vice Department Commander  
Junior Vice Department Commander  
Secretary/Treasurer (term expiring 2019)  
Council Member (term expiring 2019)  
Council Member (term expiring 2018)  
Council Member (term expiring 2018)  
Chaplain  
Patriotic Instructor  
Graves Registration Officer  
Civil War Memorials Officer  
Historian  
Counselor

Mark A. Britton, PCC, Camp 1  
Michael A. Todd, PCC, Camp 4  
K. Kirk Nystrom, PCC, Camp 16  
Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16  
James R. Knopke, PDC, Camp 5  
William F. Riedell, Camp 1  
Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4  
Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4  
Conrad M. Fisher, PCC, Camp 16  
Joshua S. Young, Camp 5  
Douglas E. McGovern, PCC, Camp 1  
Blair D. Tarr, Camp 16  
Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16

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

36. Commander Britton proceeded to close the Encampment, as per the Ritual of the Order. The Encampment was declared closed at 3:30 PM.

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These proceedings of the Twenty-Second 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,

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Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> RRO 11<sup>th</sup> ed., pg 443,10

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT**

APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT COUNCIL ON

March 2, 2018

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A            Certification of Election and Installation of Department Officers (Form 49)







**DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENTS**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Department Commander</b>
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
21	January 28, 2017	Lawrence	Mark A. Britton

## ACTIVE CAMPS

### **Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita**

*(Named in honor of Private Patrick Coyne, Co. C, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **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

### **Old Glory Camp 7, Saint Francis**

Organized October 7, 2014, suspended March 31, 2016

### **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

**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 28th day of January, 2017 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	mark_britton@friends.edu
Senior Vice Commander: Michael A. Todd, PCC	1421 N 330 Rd	Baldwin	KS	66006	785-594-2921	ks11987@embarqmail.com
Junior Vice Commander: K. Kirk Nystrom, PCC	946 NE Chester	Topeka	KS	66616	785-357-1117	k.nystrom@att.net
Council Member 1: James R. Knopke, PDC	21733 W 56th St	Shawnee	KS	66212	913-422-4953	jknopke49@gmail.com
Council Member 2: William F. Riedell	1718 N Parkdale St	Wichita	KS	67212	316-722-9387	wfrks-01@sbcglobal.net
Council Member 3: Roy A. Lafferty, PDC	2613 Pickwick Place	Lawrence	KS	66049	785-393-0971	Roy.Lafferty@gmail.com
Secretary: Alan L. Russ PDC	P.O. Box 673	Saint Francis	KS	67756	785-332-2118	alanruss@eaglecom.net
Treasurer: Alan L. Russ PDC	P.O. Box 673	Saint Francis	KS	67756	785-332-2118	alanruss@eaglecom.net
Patriotic Instructor: Conrad M. Fisher, PCC	3602 SW Cambridge Ave	Topeka	KS	66614	785-272-7707	cmaxfishzx@cox.net
Chaplain: Roy A. Lafferty, PDC	2613 Pickwick Place	Lawrence	KS	66049	785-393-0971	Roy.Lafferty@gmail.com
Graves Registration Officer: Joshua S. Young	8403 Farley St	Overland Park	KS	66212	913-334-6522	joshuasyoung@hotmail.com
Historian: Blair D. Tarr	6017 SW Taylor, Apt 11	Topeka	KS	66603	785-234-0458	btarr@kshs.org
Civil War Memorials Officer: Douglas E. McGovern, PCC	1707 N Limestone Ln	Wichita	KS	67230	620-662-2247	demcgovern@aol.com
Eagle Scout Coordinator:						EagleScout@suvchwks.org
Counselor: Alan L. Russ PDC	P.O. Box 673	Saint Francis	KS	67756	785-332-2118	alanruss@eaglecom.net
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

**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	Mark A. Britton	Derby	KS	67037

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

Date:	Installing Officer:	Department Secretary:	Department Commander:	National Executive Director:
1/28/2017	Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature
Printed Name:	Donald L. Martin, PDC	Alan L. Russ, PDC	Mark A. Britton, PCC	David W. Demmy, Sr.

Date received at National Headquarters: \_\_\_\_\_

# Incoming Department Officers

## 2017-2018

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- Douglas E. McGovern, PCC** ..... **Civil War Memorials Officer**  
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- Counselor** ..... **Alan L. Russ, PDC**  
*(Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka)*



**LET US NEVER FORGET.**