

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
March 18, 2023
Winfield, 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-Seventh Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas, was held on March 18, 2023, in Winfield, Kansas.
2. The Encampment was called to order at 10:30 AM by Department Commander Robert D. Boyd II. This followed the memorial service. The opening was conducted per the Ritual and Ceremonials of the Order.
3. The Department Secretary called the roll of officers, and reported all officers present:
 - Department Commander Robert D. Boyd II, PCC, Camp 9, present.
 - Senior Vice Department Commander Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Camp 1, present.
 - Junior Vice Department Commander Conrad M. Fisher, PCC, Camp 16, present
 - Secretary Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16, present
 - Treasurer. Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC, Camp 16, present.
 - Council Member Walter H. Schley Jr., Camp 5, present.
 - Council Member Michael A. Todd, PCC, Camp 4, present.
 - Council Member Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4, present.
 - Immediate Past Department Commander K. Kirk Nystrom, PDC, Camp 16, absent.
 - Patriotic Instructor Steve Hamlin, Camp 1, absent.
 - Chaplain Kent M. Melcher, PDC, Camp 10, present.
 - Graves Registration Officer William J. Stoker, PCC, Camp 5, present.
 - Civil War Memorials Officer Rocky D. Ansell, Camp 9, absent.
 - Historian Joshua S. Young, Camp 5, present.
 - GAR Records Officer Blair D. Tarr, Camp 16, absent.
 - Color Bearer Bridger P. Keyes, Camp 9, absent.
 - Guide Michael A. Todd, PDC, Camp 4, present.
 - Guard George E. Goff, Camp 4, present.
4. Commander Boyd then appointed the following brothers for the encampment:
 - Patriotic Instructor Dale L. Rouse, PCC, Camp 1
 - Color Bearer Barrett E. Young, PCC, Camp 9.
5. Commander Boyd welcomed Past Commander-in-Chief Brian C. Pierson, Department of Oklahoma, to the encampment as the National Representative. PCinC Pierson briefly addressed the encampment.
6. The Chaplain's prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.
7. Commander Boyd declared the Twenty-Seventh 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.
8. Prior to presenting the Credentials report, Secretary Russ noted that one of the delegates for Pvt John N. Eckes Camp No. 10 was not present, and the camp had two alternate delegates in attendance. He inquired of Camp Commander Chrisman as to which of the alternates he wished

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to be allowed voting status as a delegate. Commander Chrisman designated that Brother William K. Mueller was to be changed from alternate to delegate.

9. The Credentials report was presented. Brothers signed in as they arrived at the encampment. A quorum was declared to be present. Summary of attendance is shown below. Appendix A contains the listing of attendees and their status.

Encampment Status	Present
Department Commander	1
Past Department Commander	7
Camp Commander	5
Past Camp Commander	5
Department Elected Officer	1
Delegate	7
Alternate Delegate	2
TOTAL PRESENT	28
VOTING STRENGTH	26

10. Commander Boyd appointed PDC Alan L. Russ (Chairman), PDC Michael A. Todd, and PDC Roy A. Lafferty to the encampment bylaws committee.

11. Commander Boyd appointed PDC Rocky L. Bartlow (Chairman), PDC Thomas E. Schmidt, and PCC Conrad M. Fisher to the Encampment and Resolutions Committee.

12. Commander Boyd informed the Encampment of “housekeeping rules” to be used during the meeting.

13. The Department Officer and camp reports were received, reviewed, and compiled prior to the encampment. The reports did not contain any recommendations requiring action by the encampment. Each officer was asked in turn if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to their report.

a. Treasurer Rocky L. Bartlow advised that two items had exceeded their planned amount. One was the cost for the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony wreath, and the other was the cost of printing for the Encampment. Both were referred to the Encampment Resolutions and Officer Reports Committee for recommendations.

14. Secretary Russ noted for the encampment that none of the reports contained recommendations requiring action by the encampment.

15. Secretary Russ reported the correspondence which had been received has previously been distributed to all officers and camp secretaries, except for the following:

a. On January 6, 2023, Brother Walter H. Schley Jr. notified the Department Secretary and the Department Commander that he wished to resign as a council member effective with the end of the 2023 Department Encampment due to other obligations. Brother Russ noted that Brother Schley had served as a Council Member for five years, and his participation was truly appreciated.

b. On February 11, 2023, National Secretary Daniel Murray sent an email to the Department which contained the final report of the National Special Committee on Membership Qualifications. This email directed that the report be shared “with every Brother of your Department and bring it to the floor of your Department Encampment to vote to either support or reject the individual

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recommendations of the report...” The results are to be reported to the Commander-in-Chief via the National Secretary. The report was distributed to the camps via email on February 12, 2023.

c. Brother Russ then moved the Department Commander to take a vote of preference by item on each of the five recommendations contained in the February 5, 2023, report of the National Special Committee on Membership Qualifications. Such vote on each of the five recommendations, by count for and against, shall be forwarded through the National Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief. Furthermore, such vote SHALL NOT be binding on the voting members of the Department Encampment in attendance at the National Encampment to be held August 4 and 5, 2023, at Nashua, New Hampshire.

d. The above motion was seconded. Each of the five recommendations from the report were read and a vote was taken after each of the recommendations was read and discussed. The results of the voting were as follows:

Recommendation 1	YES – 20	NO – 3
Recommendation 2	YES – 21	NO – 3
Recommendation 3	YES – 23	NO – 1
Recommendation 4	YES – 22	NO – 2
Recommendation 5	YES – 23	NO – 1

16. PDC Michael Todd presented the report of the nominating committee. Nominations were, as follows:

Department Commander – Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Camp 1

Senior Vice Department Commander – Conrad M. Fisher, PCC, Camp 16

Junior Vice Department Commander – Ken M. Melcher, PDC, Camp 10

Council Member – 2 Positions (term ending 2025 and unexpired term ending 2024):

Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4

James H. Graves, PCC, Camp 1

Dawson R. Ballard, Camp 5

17. Commander Boyd then announced the Department awards and certificates and asked PCinC Pierson to present them.

Past Camp Commander Certificates for 2021:

James H. Graves, PCC, Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1, Wichita

Dennis L. Lawrence, PCC, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4, Lawrence

William J. Stoker, PCC, Franklin Camp 5, Olathe

Bridger P. Keyes, PCC, Humboldt Camp 9, Humboldt

Kent M. Melcher, PDC, Pvt. John N. Eckes Camp No. 10, Winfield

K. Kirk Nystrom, PDC, Old Abe Camp 16, Topeka

William W. Nixon Award for Camp of the Year – Old Abe Camp 16

Leander Stillwell Outstanding Achievement Award – Joshua S. Young, Camp 5

Captain Patrick H. Coney Award for Brother of the Year – Michael A. Todd, PDC, Camp 4

Corporal Leonidas B. Davis & PDC Dean K. Speaks Award for Recruiter of the Year – Joseph E. Chrisman, Camp 10

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18. Secretary Russ, as chairman of the Department Bylaws Committee, presented the committee report, along with the recommendations of the committee.

a. The proposed amendments were submitted to the encampment for vote. A two-thirds vote of approval for amendments 2023-01 through 2023-07 was received, with all amendments being adopted with the required two-thirds margin of votes cast.

19. At 12:05 PM, Commander Boyd directed the Chaplain to close the Bible for lunch recess.

20. The encampment was called back into session at 1:00 PM.

21. LGAR members, led by Department President Nancy Durbin, introduced themselves to the encampment, along with DUVCW member Linda Hare.

22. Secretary Russ, as chairman of the Department Bylaws Committee, continued with the the committee report, addressing the remaining amendment.

a. Proposed amendment 2023-08 was submitted for voted. The committee then moved to amend the proposed amendment, as follows:

Item 3b(2) to be amended to read (proposed amended wording underlined)

(2) The Department of Kansas Social Media Manager.

And to add Chapter V, Article II, Section S, subparagraph 6, as follows:

6. The Department Signals Officer shall be the Chairman of the Department Technology Committee.

The motion to amend passed. The motion, as amended, then passed with the required two-thirds margin of votes cast.

23. Brother Walter Schley presented the report of the Department Council Members and declared the financial records had been reviewed by the council and appeared to be in order.

24. Commander Boyd then took the encampment into new business.

25. Brother William Stoker moved the additional cost of \$23.60 for wreath for the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony be approved for payment. Motion was second. Under discussion, Brother Russ pointed out that the encampment is overruling an action of the Department Council. Motion carried.

26. Brother Lane Smith moved the additional cost of \$17.16 for additional printing expenses for the Department Encampment. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

27. Brother Schmidt moved the two payments which were just approved be paid from the unused portion of funds allocated for the Department Encampment. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

28. Commander Boyd addressed the encampment with regards to the 2023 National Encampment, to be held in Nashua, New Hampshire, August 3 through 6. The business meeting is to be held on August 4 and 5. The following past department commanders stated their intention to attend: Commander Boyd in his status as PDC, PDC Schmidt, PDC Bartlow, PDC Russ, PDC Lafferty, PDC Melcher, and PDC Todd.

29. Commander Boyd called for nominations to elect delegates to the 2023 National Encampment.

30. There were no nominations for delegates, and, therefore, none elected.

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31. PDC Russ moved all remaining Brothers of the Department of Kansas in Good Standing at the time of this Encampment are hereby elected as Alternates to the next annual National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

32. Commander Boyd asked if any camps were willing to host the 2024 Department Encampment. Commander Michael Heck, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp No. 4, Lawrence, advised that Camp 4 wished to host the encampment at Constitution Hall at Lecompton. He then moved Camp 4 be designated as the host camp, with the encampment on April 6, 2024, and April 13, 2024, as a back-up date. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

33. PDC Russ moved the department per diem be set at \$5.00, effective January 1, 2024. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

34. Brother Russ moved that this, the Twenty-Seventh Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas award the Distinction and Honor of Emeritus to Brother Douglas E. McGovern, P.C.C., with its accompanying authority to permanently wear the badge of a Department Elected Officer. Motion was seconded by Brother Schmidt. Motion carried.

35. Brother Bartlow, as Chairman of the Encampment Resolutions and Officer Reports Committee, reported that the items which had been referred to the committee had already been handled as new business.

36. Commander Boyd requested PCinC Pierson take a few minutes to address the “Deed of Conveyance”, as there existed much confusion concerning it. In addition to his discussion, a copy of the National Policy on the Deed of Conveyance was distributed to each attendee.

37. Commander Boyd proceeded with the nomination of officers. The following brothers were nominated for the indicated office.

Department Commander – Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Camp 1
Senior Vice Department Commander – Conrad M. Fisher, PCC, Camp 16
Junior Vice Department Commander – Kent M. Melcher, PDC, Camp 10
Council Member (2 positions open) – Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4
James H. Graves, PCC, Camp 1
Dawson R. Ballard, Camp 5

38. There being no additional nominations for the positions, nominations were closed.

39. In accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, the following candidates for a position which was not contested were declared by Commander Boyd as elected.¹

Department Commander - Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Camp 1
Senior Vice Department Commander - Conrad M. Fisher, PCC, Camp 16
Junior Vice Department Commander – Kent M. Melcher, PDC, Camp 10

40. PDC Bartlow moved to accept the proceedings of this encampment as approved when they are approved by the Department Council. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

41. There being three candidates for two Council Member positions, it was necessary that voting be conducted for the positions.

¹ RRO 11th ed., pg 443,10

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a. Brother Russ explained the procedure for voting in accordance with the National Regulations. At this time, Brother Boyd declared a five-minute recess to allow the camps to caucus for the vote for Council Member (2-year term ending 2025).

b. After the recess, Secretary Russ called the roll of attendees to verify the number of votes for each camp.

c. Secretary Russ called the roll of camps for their votes. Voting for Council Member (term ending 2025) was as follows: 22 votes for Brother Roy A. Lafferty; 0 votes for Brother James H. Graves; 3 votes for Brother Dawson R. Ballard. Commander Boyd declared Roy A. Lafferty duly elected as Council Member, with the term ending 2025.

d. Camps were again given several minutes to caucus before voting for the one-year term of Council Member.

e. Secretary Russ called the roll of camps for their votes. Voting for Council Member (term expiring 2024) was as follows: 22 votes for Brother James H. Graves; 3 votes for Brother Dawson R. Ballard. Commander Boyd declared James H. Graves duly elected as Council Member, with the term ending 2024.

42. There being no further business to come before the encampment, Commander Boyd turned over the gavel to PCinC Brian C. Pierson for the installation of officers. PCinC Pierson relieved Brother Boyd of his command.

43. Commander-elect Thomas E. Schmidt was asked to provide a list of appointed officers to the secretary. The secretary read those elected and appointed, to wit:

Department Commander	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Camp 1
Senior Vice Department Commander	Conrad M. Fisher, PCC, Camp 16
Junior Vice Department Commander	Kent M. Melcher, PDC, Camp 10
Secretary (term ending 2025)	Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16
Treasurer (term ending 2025)	Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC, Camp 16
Council Member (term ending 2024)	Michael A. Todd, PDC, Camp 4
Council Member (term ending 2024)	James H. Graves, PCC, Camp 1
Council Member (term ending 2025)	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4
Patriotic Instructor	Dale L. Rouse, PCC, Camp 1
Chaplain	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4
Graves Registration Officer	Joshua S. Young, Camp 5
Historian	Joshua S. Young, Camp 5
Signals Officer	Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16

44. PCinC Pierson proceeded to install the Department Officers, after which they assumed their respective stations.

45. Commander Schmidt then presented a certificate to PDC Robert D. Boyd II for his service as the Twentieth Department Commander of the Department of Kansas. This was accompanied by the presentation of the Badge of Past Department Commander.

46. Commander Thomas E. Schmidt proceeded to close the Encampment, as per the Ritual and Ceremonials of the Order. The Encampment was declared closed at 3:40 PM.

**ATTACHMENT A
ENCAMPMENT ATTENDEES**

CORP. PATRICK COYNE CAMP 1, WICHITA Strength-February 28, 2023: 33

Baxter, Timothy A. (Del) Burke, Bruce F. (Del) Coyne, James P. (PCC)
Graves, James H. (PCC as CC) Justice, Terry E. (PCC) Rouse, Dale L. (PCC)
Schmidt, Thomas E. (PDC)

Department Commander	Past Department Commander	Camp Commander	Past Camp Commander	Elected Dept. Officer	Delegate/Alt. Delegate	TOTAL PRESENT	VOTING STRENGTH
0	1	1	3	0	2	7	7

SGT. SAMUEL J. CHURCHILL CAMP 4, LAWRENCE Strength-February 28, 2023: 19

Goff, George E. (Del) Heck, Michael D. (CC) Lafferty, Roy A. (PDC)
Myers, W. Patrick (Del) Todd, Michael A. (PDC)

Department Commander	Past Department Commander	Camp Commander	Past Camp Commander	Elected Dept. Officer	Delegate/Alt. Delegate	TOTAL PRESENT	VOTING STRENGTH
0	2	1	0	0	2	5	5

FRANKLIN CAMP 5, OLATHE Strength-February 28, 2023: 42

Lawson, Brian G. (Del) Schley, Walter H. Jr. (DO) Smith, Lane D. (PCC)
Stoker, William J. (CC) Young, Joshua S.

Department Commander	Past Department Commander	Camp Commander	Past Camp Commander	Elected Dept. Officer	Delegate/Alt. Delegate	TOTAL PRESENT	VOTING STRENGTH
0	0	1	1	1		3	3

HUMBOLDT CAMP 9, HUMBOLDT Strength-February 28, 2023: 10

Boyd, Robert D. II (DC) Young, Barrett E. (PCC)

Department Commander	Past Department Commander	Camp Commander	Past Camp Commander	Elected Dept. Officer	Delegate/Alt. Delegate	TOTAL PRESENT	VOTING STRENGTH
0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2

PVT. JOHN N. ECKES CAMP 10, WINFIELD Strength-February 28, 2023: 13

Chrisman, Joseph E. (CC) Crittenden, Eric L. (Alt) Hare, Gordon L. (Del)
Melcher, Kent M. (PDC) Mueller, William K. (Del) Clifton E. Gottlob (Alt)

Department Commander	Past Department Commander	Camp Commander	Past Camp Commander	Elected Dept. Officer	Delegate/Alt. Delegate	TOTAL PRESENT	VOTING STRENGTH
0	1	1	0	0	4	6	4

OLD ABE CAMP 16, TOPEKA Strength-February 28, 2023: 35

Bartlow, Rocky L. (PDC) Durbin, Randal L. (PDC) Fisher, Conrad M. (PCC as CC)
Ronald H. Martin (Del) Russ, Alan L. (PDC)

Department Commander	Past Department Commander	Camp Commander	Past Camp Commander	Elected Dept. Officer	Delegate/Alt. Delegate	TOTAL PRESENT	VOTING STRENGTH
0	3	1	0	0	1	5	5

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP FOR ENCAMPMENT

Department Commander	Past Department Commander	Camp Commander	Past Camp Commander	Elected Dept. Officer	Delegate/Alt. Delegate	TOTAL PRESENT	VOTING STRENGTH
1	7	5	5	1	9	28	26

DC=Dept Cdr PDC=Past Dept Cdr CC=Camp Cdr PCC=Past Camp Cdr DO=Dept Elected Officer Del=Delegate Alt=Alternate Delegate