



The Sunflower Picket

Recipient of the 2006 Marshall Hope Award for Best Department Newsletter
www. suvcwks.org



Publication of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

IN THIS ISSUE

New Department Brothers, January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023	1
Department Officers for 2023-2024.....	1
2023 Department Encampment.....	2
Robert D. Boyd II Awarded Honor as Past Department Commander.....	2
Department Award Recipients	2
Department Website Update	3
2023 National Encampment.....	3
A Message from Department Commander Thomas E. Schmidt	3
Camp Strength Summary	3
Summary of Camp Information Survey	4

NEW DEPARTMENT BROTHERS, JANUARY 1, 2023 – MARCH 31, 2023

<i>Burke, Kevin R. (Member)</i>	<i>Pvt. Patrick Coyne Camp 1</i>	<i>Kengor, Adam Paul (Member)</i>	<i>Franklin Camp 5</i>
<i>Bodine, Joseph L. (Member)</i>	<i>Sgt. Churchill Camp 4</i>	<i>Nelson, Aidan Hale (Member)</i>	<i>Franklin Camp 5</i>
<i>Archambault, Matthew T. (Member)</i>	<i>Franklin Camp 5</i>	<i>Nelson, Brian Carl (Member)</i>	<i>Franklin Camp 5</i>
<i>Hammer, Jesse L. (Member)</i>	<i>Franklin Camp 5</i>	<i>Feld, Derek K. (Member)</i>	<i>Old Abe Camp 16</i>

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS FOR 2023-2024



[L. to R. – PDC Michael A. Todd, Council Member; PDC Kent M. Melcher, JVDC; PDC Roy A. Lafferty, Council Member and Chaplain; PDC Rocky L. Bartlow, Treasurer; PCC Conrad M. Fisher, SVDC; PCC Dale L. Rouse, Patriotic Instructor; PDC Thomas E. Schmidt, Department Commander; PCC James H. Graves, Council Member; PDC Alan L. Russ, Secretary and Signals Office; PCinC Brian C. Pierson, National Representative. Not pictured: Joshua S. Young, Historian and Graves Registration Officer; Eric L. Crittenden, Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator.]

2023 DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

Private John N. Eckes Camp No. 10 hosted the 2023 Department of Kansas Encampment on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at Winfield. Twenty-eight brothers from the Department were in attendance, of which twenty-six were voting members. The Kansas Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic held their annual meeting there at the same time.

Representing Commander-in-Chief Bruce D. Frail at the encampment was Past Commander-in-Chief Brian C. Pierson. Brother Pierson is a member of the Department of Oklahoma, and he previously attended our 2020 Department Encampment at Emporia and the 2021 Department Encampment (remote).

Department Commander Robert D. Boyd II chaired the encampment and took us through the order of business. Those details will be available once the encampment proceedings are posted on the Department website on or about April 11, 2023. Copies of the proceedings will also be sent to each camp secretary for their records.

The Department officers for 2023-2024 are:

Department Commander	Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, Camp 1	Council Member (term ending 2025)	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4
Sr. Vice Department Commander	Conrad M. Fisher, PCC, Camp 16	Immediate P.D.C.	Robert D. Boyd II, PDC, Camp 9
Jr. Vice Department Commander	Kent M. Melcher, PDC, Camp 10	Patriotic Instructor	Dale L. Rouse, PCC, Camp 1
Secretary	Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16	Chaplain	Roy A. Lafferty, PDC, Camp 4
Treasurer	Rocky L. Bartlow, PDC, Camp 16	Historian & Graves Registration Officer	Joshua S. Young, Camp 5
Council Member (term ending 2024)	Michael A. Todd, PDC, Camp 4	Signals Officer	Alan L. Russ, PDC, Camp 16
Council Member (term ending 2024)	James H. Graves, PCC, Camp 1	Eagle Scout Cert. Coordinator	Eric L. Crittenden, Camp 10

ROBERT D. BOYD II AWARDED HONOR OF PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

At the conclusion of the Department’s Twenty-Seventh Annual Department Encampment, incoming commander Thomas E. Schmidt and National Representative PCinC Brian C. Pierson presented outgoing Department Commander Robert D. Boyd II with a certificate for being the twentieth Department of Kansas Commander. Brother Boyd was also presented with the badge of a Past Department Commander as this honor was bestowed upon him by the encampment. PDC Robert D. Boyd II served as Department Commander from March 26, 2022, through March 18, 2023. The Department is proud to welcome Brother Boyd to his new role as PDC.



Commander Schmidt looks on as PCinC Pierson presents the certificate of Past Department Commander to PDC Boyd.

DEPARTMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Commander Robert Boyd announced the following Department awards at the Twenty-Seventh Annual Department Encampment. PCinC Brian C. Pierson presented the certificates to the recipients. The recipients of the awards 2022-2023 are:

Captain Patrick H. Coney Award for Brother of the Year
 Michael A. Todd, PDC, Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp No. 4, Lawrence

William W. Nixon Award for Camp of the Year
 Old Abe Camp No. 16, Topeka

Leander Stillwell Award for Outstanding Achievement
 Joshua S. Young, Franklin Camp No. 5, Olathe

Corp. Leonidas B. Davis and P.D.C. Dean K. Speaks Award for Recruiter of the Year
 Joseph E. Chrisman, Pvt. John N. Eckes Camp No. 10, Winfield

DEPARTMENT WEBSITE UPDATE

Work on the Department website at www.suvcwks.org is completed and is now in the maintenance phase. Of course, minor adjustments and additions are a continual part of the maintenance process. The Monuments and Memorials pages have been completed and is worth the time to go check it out.

2023 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

August 4 & 5, 2023, Nashua, New Hampshire

The 142nd National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be held at Nashua, New Hampshire, this August. The business meeting is on August 4 and 5. A tour is available on August 3 for those who are interested. The Encampment Banquet will be held on the evening of Saturday, August 5. All brothers of the Department are encouraged to attend. Information and registration forms for the various activities are available on the National website at <https://suvcw.org/2023-national-encampment/>

A MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT COMMANDER THOMAS E. SCHMIDT

“For the good of the order.” Many of you may have heard that phrase if you have attended a SUVCW National Encampment, Kansas Department Encampment or maybe even at a camp meeting. I think of it as someone who has an item, idea, or information to share with the group as a whole for the benefit of the group. But how can we adopt this same thought process to us as individual SUVCW members in relationship to our camp and the SUVCW organization as a whole? Lets break it down.

“For the good of the order” may mean attending camp meetings on a more regular basis. Maybe it is volunteering to share a program of some kind at your camp meeting. This program could range from information about your ancestor, to a particular civil war battle or something that you are especially interested in from the civil war era. Others might just learn and enjoy from the topic you choose.

It could be serving in an elected or appointed position in your camp for the first time or second time or X number of times. Maybe it is getting a group of your members to march in a local parade with your camp banner or doing a recruiting table as some event in your community. If your camp has a cemetery project, try to participate and bring someone with you. If your camp doesn’t have a cemetery project, do some research, and start one. How about putting out flags on Memorial Day or be involved in an existing Memorial Day ceremony? Participate and bring someone with you. How about inviting someone you know to a camp meeting? The camp is the lifeblood of our organization. Tell someone about the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. If our camps are strong, active, growing and vibrant, we have a healthy organization. Let’s make it the best that it can be.

Ours is a unique organization. Your ancestor would be proud of you for still honoring his memory and service by belonging to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, but even better, by actively participating and helping to keep the organization going. I challenge each of you this next year to be an ambassador for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and participate in making it something potential members want to join and be part of. Let’s commit to leaving your camp and the Department of Kansas in better shape than we found it. Let’s make this year “For the good of the order.”

CAMP STRENGTHS AS OF MARCH 31, 2023*

The following strength figures represent information received by the Department Secretary as of March 31, 2023. This is a net increase of seven brothers within the Department of Kansas since March 31, 2022. After discounting for dual brothers (as National does to get a true strength), our actual reportable strength is 148.

<u>Camp Name & Number</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Associates</u>	<u>Jr. Members</u>	<u>Jr. Associates</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
Corp. Patrick Coyne Camp 1	31	1	0	0	32	-1
Sgt. Samuel J. Churchill Camp 4	17	4	0	0	21	-1
Franklin Camp 5	39	3	1	0	43	+8
Humboldt Camp 9 *	11	0	0	0	11	-1
John N. Eckes Camp 10	15	0	0	0	15	+2
Old Abe Camp 16	33	0	0	0	33	0
<i>* Unofficial as of March 31, 2023</i>						
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS	146	8	1	0	155	+7
Dual Brothers	6	0	0	0	6	+1
<i>Department Reportable Strength (minus Dual Brothers and Juniors)</i>					148	

SUMMARY OF CAMP INFORMATION SURVEY

Those of you that were at the Kansas Department Encampment on March 18 in Winfield, may recall I passed out a Camp Information Survey I had put together. I wanted to see what the attendees' thoughts were about their camps in a number of specific areas. I am hoping to use the results to help recognize the strengths and work on the weaknesses we have at the camp level.

Below is a short compilation of those surveys that I hope is informative to you in helping us maintain and grow our organization. You may have heard me say at the encampment that I believe that the camps are the life blood of The Sons of Union Veterans.

Tom Schmidt

SUVCW Department of Kansas Commander

Camp Strengths

Core group who attend the monthly meetings and are interested in preserving history. Activities (including headstone cleaning and cemetery workdays) and community involvement. Members who know about the SUVCW and can pass it on. Good speakers at meetings. Memorial Day activities. Several members with diversified skill sets.

Camp Accomplishments since 2022 Department Encampment

Memorial Day program and, cleaning and resetting headstones. Eagle Scout certificate program. Camp was recognized by work done in the county at cemetery. Recognition in local newspaper and on the television news. Involvement with Boy Scouts. Veterans Day program. Quilts of Valor. Involvement with Black Jack Battlefield. Wreaths Across American program.

Camp Weaknesses

Camp has not grown and needs to attract younger members. Ability to use technology at monthly meetings for presentations. Not using ritual at the meetings. Camp members not willing to become officers in the camp. Lack of funds at the camp level. 501(c)3 not updated by IRS so camps can use this tool. Would like to have more members attend the camp meetings.

How to grow the organization

Regular speakers at meetings. Getting the IRS to update 501(c)3 status for camps. Getting involved in the community and other organizations to help inform them about us. Spread the word and offer genealogical help with lineage. Payment of first year dues program for a limited number of new members per year. Become more visible. Direct people to the new Department of Kansas Website. New brochure with contact information. Participation in cemetery boards and history clubs. Active recruiting program. Grow it one person at a time by members recruiting.

How do we stay relevant in today's society

Take advantage of the new Department Website. Use the Camp's facebook page. Use focused social media. Be vocal. Good electronic newsletter. Determining what's in it for the younger generation to be interested and join our organization.

What can the Department of Kansas do to help your camp?

The new website is a good start. Develop a camp guide for recruitment. Add speaker to Department Encampment. Have Department Officers visit camps.

The *Sunflower Picket* is published by the Department of Kansas to provide information to its brothers. Commander Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC, is continuing as the editor for the *Sunflower Picket*. Individuals and camps who wish to submit articles to be considered for publication should email them to Brother Schmidt (email: tschmidt2264@yahoo.com) to arrive no later than July 2, 2023. Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word format. Photos should be in .jpg format.