

MINUTES OF THE  
109th ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
6 JUNE, 1998  
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The 109th Annual Encampment was opened at 9:30 A.M., 6 June 1997, as per ritual, by Department Commander Paul D. Hodges.

Guide, H. Streeter and Color Bearer, L. Cohoon were directed to determine that all present were entitled to remain.

Secretary R. Lee was directed to call the roll of officers of the Encampment. All were present except D. Waldron, Council of Administration.

Chaplain W. McAfee was asked to invoke the Divine blessing.

Color Bearer Cohoon presented the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guide Streeter was directed to escort Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Andrew M. Johnson to the Altar. He was welcomed by the Brothers and then escorted to the platform.

W. Lowe announced that T. LaBanta, Real Son, was hospitalized and disappointed that he could not attend. G. Gibson PDC moved that the Encampment extend Best Wishes to Bro. Thayne - approved.

L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., Committee on Credentials Chair reported on attendance at the Encampment:

Camp #1 - 1 present; #7 - 5; #17 - 7; #20 - 2; #22 - 3; #53 - 3; #58 - 2; #67 - 2; #120 - 4; #145 - 5; #147 - 1; #462 - 1 for a total of 36, - plus 1 National Officer.

There were no delegates present from Camps; #3 - #9 - #14 #28 - #43 - #70 - #76 - #85 - #101 - #160 - #259 - #266 - #427.

Commander Hodges made the following Committee appointments; Resolutions - K. Harrison PC-in-C, Chair; G. McAllister, T. Streeter's Officer's Reports - D.F. Wallace PDC, Chair; B. Valentine, M. Miller Committees' Reports - G. Hayes, Chair; R. Williams, G. Ralston.

Approval of the 1997 Encampment Minutes as written was made by K. Harrison PC-in-C, 2nd by G. Gibson PDC and approved.

#### OFFICERS REPORTS

Commander Hodges reported that his aim for the Department was that "we work smarter, not harder". To further that aim he wanted "sound managerial methods" applied to existing activities.

He wanted "broad participation by Brothers" and "tasks were to be shared and delegated".

Further, four standing committees were created or revised and five special committees were appointed.

Attention was given to Department finances and the budget by the Council, DC and SVC meeting with the Treasurer regarding the next budget.

Two purchases proposed at the 1997 Encampment were considered and rejected. The first, a 4-drawer fire-resistant file cabinet for the archives and the other a large hand-held scanner for the G.A.R. Records Committee.

The Department was involved in various activities this year; organization of Camps #85 at Bridgman and #427 at Dearborn; planting of historical trees at Chariton Park with the SCV; a Ceremony of Remembrance at the "Weekend of Remembrance at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and the depositing of Department materials at the G.A.R. hall in Marshall.

The SUVVCW was present at all the meetings of the Commanders' Group.

The Mid-Winter Conference was attended by 52 Brothers from 14 Michigan Camps, together with C-in-C Richard Orr, PC-in-C David Medert and national leaders of the SVR. Certificates of Appreciation were given to several individuals for "outstanding efforts in perpetuating the memory of the Soldiers and Sailors whose valor preserved our Nation."

New or amended bylaws for 9 Camps were reviewed and approved and another is undergoing review. This continues the project begun by PDC David F. Wallace.

DC Hodges recommended that the Central Region Study Committee for 1999, the M-99/Logan Highway Committee, the Members' Records Committee and the Union Defenders Day Committee should be re-appointed.

Also, he recommended the following special committees; a Time-and-Place Committee for the 1999 Midwinter Conference and the Department Encampment; a Publications Committee to oversee existing publications and promote new ones; a Research Committee to answer requests for information on a variety of Civil War matters.

DC Hodges also spoke of the need to impose some sort of sanctions on Camps that fail to submit quarterly reports and per caps on time.

He closed his report by remarking that his term as DC was dedicated to his grandfather, Herrick Hodges, a Civil War veteran and the first Commander of the Department of Michigan. He said that his opportunity to serve had been "a rare privilege and honor" and expressed "sincere thanks to all who encouraged, advised, and assisted me."

SVC Armstrong reported on his efforts of the past year:

As Chair of the Bylaws Committee that updated them and then sent copies along with copies of the Departments "Operating Guidelines to each Camp.

1997-98 Letterhead & Envelopes were distributed to all Dept. Officers - thanks to PDC Wallace for sharing his software.

Examples of Envelopes and Nationally approved Letterhead were sent to all Camps for review and adoption.

1,500 copies of the Dept. Recruiting Brochure were sent to the Camps in October and another 1,500 were sent in February after updating by Bro. John Mann to include new Camps #85 and #427. The SVC expressed thanks to his wife, Judy, "for all the folding."

The info-handout "About Our Organization" was updated in March and copies were to be distributed at the Encampment.

A list of Camp EINs (Employee Identification Number) was sent to the Nat'l. Secretary along with Department and Camp Officer information and an update on each Camps' Application Fee & Dues.

Updated Membership Applications with a helpful insert by Bro. Mark Pangburn about "pro-rated" dues were sent to the Camps.

A sample of a volunteer calligrapher's work was approved by the Nat'l. Secretary and the C-in-C. Soon, 5 Charters for Camps opened during PDC D.F. Wallace's term were signed and sent to this office.

Information on the origin of Memorial Day, the G.A.R., and the SUVCW was sent to each daily newspaper in Michigan.

G.A.R. Records Officer, PDC Lyons has been asked to prepare an article on the G.A.R. in Michigan for Michigan History Magazine.

SVC Armstrong recommended that the Department of Michigan re-submit its 1997 request for an SUVCW "Recruiting Video" to the 1998 National Encampment.

He recommended that the Department of Michigan and its members endorse U.S. Senate Bill 116 "To restore the traditional day of observance of Memorial Day to 30 May."

Also, that the Department Encampment set a target year for hosting a National Encampment. After noting previous Encampments held in Michigan - the last in 1994 - he suggested that the Encampment consider the year 2000 or maintain the 9-yr. average between previous Encampments in Michigan.

Bro. James B. Pahl PDC moved "that reports by DC Hodges, SVC Armstrong and all subsequently submitted Officers Reports be sent to the appropriate committee to be reported back later." approved

JVC W. Morris reported on his activities as follows:

He had met with the Brothers of Camps #160 - #145 - #67 - #17 and #7 to assist them with their recruiting efforts at living history events or reenactments. He also provided information to Camp #427 at its organization. He commended Camp #7 for its outstanding recruiting display.

He said that he had received many membership information referrals from the JVC-in-Chief and that he had responded to these by mail until he saw that the majority of those persons had e-mail.

Cooperating with the JVC-in-Chief they were able to provide membership information from both the National and Department organizations to those applicants with e-mail - thus saving the Dept. printing and postage fees. Cosby Camp #427 collected most of such referrals.

JVC Morris found this procedure very time consuming. Working with the Dept. Webmaster and several Bros., a different web page formula was developed. They hoped to identify serious applicants and to eliminate "dead leads" but could not implement this because the C-in-C decided that a downloadable membership application could not be published on the web.

This objection was overcome when a new National membership web page went into effect. However, a new problem arose when the National Org. required a \$15. application fee be sent to the Department - our Departments fees range from \$10. to \$25.00.

The National Webmaster suggested that the Dept. of Michigan Membership Webpage be pursued as a test.

It was found that when a Camp recruited at a Civil War era event membership leads are generated not only for that Camp but also for nearby Camps.

JVC Morris recommends that the incoming Department JVC and assisting Bros. complete the development of a test Department Membership Web Page;

To strongly encourage Camps to use the web space on the National Server giving current and accurate Camp information;

He also recommends that Camps be strongly encouraged to have at least 1 members e-mail address listed on a Camp's web page - preferably the Camp JVC;

That the Department provide an annual event registration fee fund of \$100.00 to help with any fees for registration or space rental at an event approved by the Dept. JVC. Payment not to exceed 50% of the actual costs;

and that the Department and Camps use an adopted sign-up sheet at events for those wanting more information about the Order - this might have space for an e-mail address.

Secretary R. Lee gave his report as follows:

He enjoyed serving with DC Hodges and particularly their meetings at "Rooftop Landing" to discuss various matters and to sign, seal and cut ribbon.

He participated in the organization of the Bridgman and Dearborn Camps and looks forward to continued growth in the Department and his workload.

Referring to DC Hodges remarks about Camps that are not reporting membership & per caps in an "accurate, complete and timely fashion", Bro. Lee mentioned that Camps that were reporting properly were being listed in "Michigan's Messenger". However, because the delinquency problem had not been solved by this perhaps the Dept. should consider listing the delinquent Camps.

Treasurer J. Williams reported the Department's Finances:

He began by saying that due to personal and business reasons he did not seek re-election for 1998-'99, also that he enjoyed holding office and meeting and working with a "great bunch of guys."

The report was explained in detail and as copies were provided to the Bros. it will not be repeated here.

He stated that the Department would be in "better financial situation if some Camps had gotten per caps in on time."

He commended Bro. John Mann for giving a detailed report of expenses.

He said that the budget's "unfavorable variance" was due to some '96-'97 expenses that they were unaware of when the budget was compiled and also due to postal costs - there were 2 large mailings during the year that were unanticipated.

DC Hodges asked for a motion to accept that part of the Treasurer's Report which was the budget for this year - approved. He then called on Bro. G. Gibson PDC to report for the Department Council.

Council Chair Gibson said that the Council met with Treasurer Williams for the formation of the budget "the 1st this has happen in quite some time." The books were gone over - all in good order "every 'T' crossed and 'I' dotted, he has done a very fine job."

DC Hodges asked Bro. Gibson if he wanted to say anything about per capita..Gibson stated"that at this time the Council recommends that the per caps remain at its present level."(\$4.50) A motion was made to support the Council's decision and approved.

The Patriotic Instructor's report is incomplete - my tape recorder failed at that time and I did not a copy of the written report. Bro. B. Costello's incomplete remarks follow:  
"... most important to send the Flag Code to each Camp ... thanks to Bro. Kent Armstrong for computer... it was a pleasure to work with Department Commander Paul and his Staff and they have all been most helpful to me."

Editor John Mann gave the good news about "Michigan's Messenger

Most Department Officers and Committee Chairmen provided news-letter articles about their activities;  
Camp News contributions could be improved;  
Only one Ancestor Vignette submitted the past year;  
the \$2,000.00 budgeted for 1998-1999 should cover expenses;  
more Bros. should be writing articles to diversify content;  
the Editor's position is open;

Bro. Mann thanked all who contributed articles the past year- especially if they beat the deadline by several days and submitted on computer disk.

He also thanked Bro. Dick Williams "for his very valuable assistance and support these past 5 years".

Bro. Mann was given a standing ovation for his excellent work - Bro. Armstrong said "he has a job for life", Bro. J. Pahl seconded the motion.

SVC Kent Armstrong gave the Camp Organizer Report:

He stated that 2 new Camps were organized during 1997-1998; Frederick H. Hackeman #85 and Sgt. John S. Cosby #427. He gave recognition to Charter Camp Commanders Richard J. Gorske (#85) and Richard E. Carden (#427) for their efforts in organizing their Camps.

Also, that efforts to organize Camps #72 in St. Joseph County and #180 in Washtenaw County have failed.  
Camps are in the "talking stage" for Oakland County and the Thumb area.

DC Hodges read Communications that he had received:

1. H. Casey Camp #92, OH - R. E. Grim for JVC-in-C
2. E. Dyer Camp #7, RI - G.A. Mierka for Nat'l. Council
3. A. Sherman Camp #18, MA - A.E. Peterson for JVC-in-C
4. Jos. Long Jr. - Ad in Nat'l. Encampment Book
5. WA-BU-NO Camp #53 - "Use Document for Reclaimed Gravesites" and - Removal of Memorial-related Materials
6. Curtenius Gd. Camp #17 - Jas. B. Pahl, Esq. for Nat'l. Treasurer
7. SVC-in-C Andrew M. Johnson - his candidacy for C-inC
8. S. Friedman Advertising - SUVWC appearance at "Gone With the Wind" showing
9. Curtenius Gd. #17 - G. Gibson PDC for Nat'l. Council
10. Dept. of MD - A.M. Johnson for C-inC

Note on item #8 - Bro. Gibson PDC stated that when "Gone With the Wind" opened in 1939 the G.A.R. officially condemned it for the portrayal of Union soldiers.

Sec'y. Lee read these Communications he had received:

11. Dept. of NY - D.W. Wheeler for SVC-in-C
12. A.E. Peterson - his candidacy for JVC-in-C
13. Dept. of RI - G.A. Mierka for Nat'l. Council
13. Geo. W. Anderson Camp #58 - SVC K. Armstrong for DC
14. Gov. Crapo Camp #145 - G. Gibson PDC for Nat'l. Council  
SVC K. Armstrong for DC; W. Morris JVC for SVC; J. Mann  
For JVC; D.T. Wallace for Treasurer; R. Greene for  
for Council and R. Williams for Council.

Report by Chief of Staff Gregory Hayes:

"It has been an honor and pleasure to serve..."  
he participated in small projects, limited liaison with SVR.  
He sends personal thanks to DC Hodges for selecting him for  
the position.

Bro. Hayes recommends that a Special Committee of;  
W. Morris, J. Pahl, R. Williams, G. Hayes et al, organize,  
plan and operate a "School of the Soldier" Camp in the  
Spring of 1999. Camp to be used to train Camp guards and  
SVR members in ceremonial duty.

Report of Bro. Obermeyer, Graves Registration Officer

One year ago there were 4,000 records in the Dept. Graves  
Registration database, as of now there are 10,500. Many are  
from Michigan Bros., some thru exchanges with Bros. in  
other states.

He has been asked for gravesite information by authors -  
appreciates their efforts but is bothered that monetary  
gain is involved.

Requests for information on a county cemetery or regiment  
are on a "quid pro quo" basis.

He believes that the Dept. should "coovwrite" our state-  
wide gravesite information.

There is a problem with adding the volume of information  
received into the database. to resolve this there will be a  
Dept. wide "Program" - a packet of information for each  
Camp's Graves Registration Officer that will:

list the counties and cemeteries that Camp is respon-  
sible for; list county and townshio clerks; suggest Lib-  
rary of Mich. publications that will assist; describe the  
database in use; explain the format to input data and how  
the data is to be sent received. The problem here is whether  
each Camp has access to a computer and the ability to use it

RECESS at 10:40 A.M.

RE-OPENED at 11:00 A.M.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bro. W. Nash CC #53 moved that the Encampment approve  
the "Use Document+ for Reclaimed G.A.R. Gravesites" -  
it was seconded and discussed. PDC Gibson and SVC Armstrong  
discussed wording in Sec. II; J. Williams and PDC Pahl

and PC-inC Harrison discussed the need to involve the Nat'l. Organization in this matter - Pahl thought not and Harrison proposed an amendment to "put this on a Dept. of Michigan letterhead to specify that this is Dept. of Michigan policy." The original motion and the amendment were approved. Bro. Nash had earlier stated that wording in Sec. II had been changed.

DC Hodges called on SVC-in-Chief Andrew McJohnson.

Bro. Johnson spoke of his Michigan roots - a Civil War ancestor buried in Mich. He brought best wishes and compliments from C-in-C Richard Orr. - congratulations on the "great work that has been done and is being done here" - our rank in the top 3rd in membership and camps and "excellent reporting to Nat'l." according to Nat'l. Secretary David Hann. - PC-inC Keith Harrison credited as one of those responsible for rescuing the organization from "the path to oblivion." - and that Mich. leadership on the Nat'l level has made the SUVCW's growth possible. He and C-in-C Orr look forward to seeing many of us at Harrisburg, PA in August.

DC Hodges called for the Reports Committees - Standing Committees first.

BYLAWS - SVC Armstrong, Chair; W. Barrett, R. Eagal, T. Rakestraw, S. Twietmeyer.

Bro. Armstrong reported that: Articles amended at the 7 June, 1997 Encampment were approved by C-in-C Orr and updated copies were mailed to each Camp Commander on 2 Oct.

This Committee removed redundant "Department" references from Officer and Committee descriptions, except to differentiate between Camps, the Dept. and the Nat'l. Organization. They have proposed to correct "Michigan Department" references to "Department of Michigan", to agree with Art. I of existing Bylaws.

These proposed amendments, and others received, along with the existing Bylaws, were given to each Camp represented at the Mid-Winter Conference, 21 Feb., 1998. This material was mailed to Commanders of Camps not present, to be shared with their membership.

A memo to all Camps solicited additional proposed amendments to be submitted to the Committee by 15 March, none were received so the SVC's article in the May 1998 "Michigan's Messenger" stated that all proposed amendments had been distributed.

Previously proposed amendment to ARTICLE IV-Authorized Expenditures has been re-written and a copy of it and a copy of the existing Bylaws with proposed amendments will be given to qualified voters present today.

Because of the wide distribution of these proposed amendments they will not be listed here but their approval or disapproval by the Committee on Committee Reports and by the Bros. will be noted further on in these Minutes.

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS - SVC Armstrong, Chair; C. Czopek, M. McMillan, W. Morris, R. Williams.



Bro. Armstrong reported: continued progress in our Camps support of the Civil War Memorials Assessment Project and that the Nat'l. Organization adopted our assessment form for use nationally.

Counties were assigned to each Camp in the search for memorials and to assess their condition,, and Camps are encouraged to appoint a Civil War Memorial Officer,

Civil War monuments might be found where there were G.A.R. Posts and more have been found from the 1962 publication "Civil War Markers, Memorials and Monuments",

the Michigan listing from the DUVCW's 1978 publication "Civil War Union Monuments" has been sent to each of our Camps,

the national Memorials Committee has reproduced Wayne E. Stark's list of surviving Civil War cannon and Dr. Weldon Petz' book on Civil War Memorials is due this year,

Bro. R. Williams is working on a computer database that will soon be ready for data input and retrieval, we can take pride in that Bro. Williams work will be used by each Dept. in the Order,

we can be proud of the retrieval of the White Pigeon cannon last year but outraged by the sale of the Bay City cannon. Efforts are underway for its return but the situation could have been prevented.

Bro. Armstrong asked Bros. G. McAllister and W. Morris to be recognized for their efforts regarding the Bay City cannon. He also mentioned Bros. Jas. Lyons PDC and K. Shaw for their work.

we need our legal staff to communicate the facts of their protection to the property owners where the cannon stand,

a copy of Stark's March '98 "Compendium of Donated Obsolete Ordnance" for Michigan will go to each Camp with nearby cannon highlighted,

the U.S. War Dept. Reports and the U.S. Congressional Record list cannon that went to communities and G.A.R. Posts, but Bro. Pahl thinks we need to do more to get information on them. He recommends that Camps research local historical records and newspaper archives to document the cannon's arrival dedication.

State Sen. Mike Rogers is drafting protective legislation for ALL veterans' memorials with penalties for tampering with them.

The Committee recommends that the Dept. of Michigan, and its members, endorse the "Veterans' Memorials Protection Act of 1997, introduced in the U.S. Congress as H.R.2346.

Bro. J. Pahl PDC inquired of Bro. G. Hayes, Committee on Reports Chair, if he was aware that C-in-C Orr will not approve bylaws if the phrase "Allied Orders" is used in them. Bro. Hayes' response is not audible on the tape.

Bro. W. Nash inquired of Bro. Armstrong if the U.S. bill H.R.2346 and State Sen. Rogers legislation would agree on penalties - Bro. Armstrong that 2346 gives leeway to local courts, considering the value of the memorial concerned.

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - C. Ten Brink, Chair,  
D. Doyle

Bro. Ten Brink reports on the Dept. of Michigan Web Site:

the move was finished by the end of July - we have all the space we need - we can share web resources with the Nat'l. pages - by October had direct access to the Nat'l. web account giving us immediate access and updating capabilities;

new additions to the site; pages for new Camps #85 & #427 - 1st pages for Camps #1 & #3 - new page for Camp#9 - the SVCs page, "Michigan's Messenger" page with highlights from it - a clickable Michigan map with links to nearest camps - web version of Geo. May's Mich. Civil War Monuments - a Centennial Commission pamphlet - more photographs.

He plans to add more graphics in coming months.

#### Visitor Statistics:

Oct. '97	765	24.7 day	Feb. '98	2963	105.8 day
Nov. '97	1092	36.4 "	Mar. '98	3073	99.1 "
Dec. '97	1532	49.4 "	Apr. '98	2854	95.1 "
Jan. '98	2470	79.7 "	1-4 June '98	333	83.3 "

Digiweb stats for May unavailable

The drop in numbers from Feb. may be due to seasonal peaks - or due to lack of new developments on the page since March - shows need for updating depending on new information from Camps and Dept. officers.

The C & T Committee, to ensure that online communications enhance and are consistent with our traditional print communications, feel that the SVC column and Messenger page have furthered that goal.

#### Goals for 1998-1999

There are Camp web pages that still need basic information: officers, meeting time and place and a member to be an e-mail contact;

24 Mich. Camps have active web pages, many need updating and 10 have no e-mail contact;

a goal for '98-'99 should be an e-mail contact for each Camp.

The Graves Registration Project, the Civil War Memorials project, and eventually, the Michigan G.A.R. Posts rosters are gathering data of interest to persons outside the Order - these data groups should be organized into a database and that database needs a web interface so readers can formulate queries -

It would be helpful if members and readers could submit data electronically using forms for memorials, grave sites or G.A.R. information - also, an interactive form for membership applications.

The Committee will work with the National Organization on these projects.

G.A.R. RECORDS COMMITTEE - J.LyonsPDC,Chair; G.Gibson PDC, G. Hayes, R. Williams, D. Workman.

Bro. Gibson (for Bro. Lyons) states that a county by county

checklist of possible record-holding sites is nearly complete - when completed a systematic search will be conducted.

By trying various means of recording and copying records it seems that photocopying is the most cost effective, use of a scanner now is impractical due to space taken by scanned images and cost of the equipment and discs.

A small, portable printer might be used for another process - a recommendation will be made after some test runs.

Information on the location of records for 20 Posts has been gathered from various sources based on present knowledge rather than the search process.

The Committee recommends that the existing committee be re-appointed to assure continuity next year - other Bros. have expressed interest and it is suggested they be added to the roster.

Bro. Harrison PC-inC reports that Bro. Ten Brink sent his report by e-mail but that he couldn't "open" it.

See p.9 for Bro. Ten Brink's report.

DC Hodges said that Bro. Obermeyer could not be present and asked that Sec'y. Lee read the FAX he sent. See p.6 for report.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - R. Williams, Chair; SVC Armstrong, D.  
D. Colley, D. Forsberg, DC Hodges, R. Lee  
D. Pickrell

A Bill submitted by State Rep. Anthony to allow people to obtain the name, rank, unit of military service, dates of service, medals and awards from County clerks if the information is at least 70 years old was passed in March 1998.

Michigan Bros. with e-mail were contacted twice to call or write their Rep. or Sen. to show support for the Bill - Bro. Williams attended 2 committee sessions expressing SUVCW support.

Copies of the Bill are being distributed at this Encampment.

No recommendations for changes in the committee charges for next year.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - JVC W. Morris, Chair; all Camp JVCs

Bro. Morris stated that he felt that the JVC's should suffice.

DC HODGES called for the Reports Of Special Committees.

CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE - Wm. Lowe, Chair; Wm. Costello  
Wm. Morris, J. Nash, J. Obermeyer

Bro. Lowe reported that DC Hodges appointed the Committee to look into the possibility of the Dept. of Mich. hosting the conference in 1998, preferably 1999.

factors to consider were site selection, accommodations, programs and speakers, publicity, and estimates of costs and manpower.

The Committee met 3 times, at first to pick a site. Since in the past most attendees were from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin their research indicated that either Lansing or Battle Creek would be likely sites, depending on hotel availability;

programs and speakers would be our responsibility, it is an all day Saturday conference with a meeting Sunday after breakfast for elections or other activities until noon - a tour of the G.A.R. hall in Sunfield was given when the Conference was here several years ago;

publicity is important and the WI DC felt that more should be done in future - they did 3 mailings to nearby Depts. and a table display at the 1997 National Encampment;

costs are difficult to estimate now - factors were less than \$70.00 per night for accommodations and there must be meeting rooms and food service - at 1998 prices several locations met these criteria. Every attendee pays the same amount except dinner for the banquet speaker and spouse, if applicable, is provided.

Conference Officers did not respond to requests for information regarding financial support for the Host Dept; the Dept. of WI was reimbursed for mailing costs - apparently there is no cost guideline or budget.

Staffing requirements for the Dept. Host Committee would be: General Chair; Program Chair; Hospitality Chair; Campfire Chair; Tour Chair (if desired) and Publicity Chair - additional personnel would be needed for most of the sub-committees.

The Committee recommends that the Dept. of Michigan offer to host the 1999 Central Region Conference, at a yet to be determined site, the 1st or 2nd weekend in October, 1999.

M99/LOGAN HIGHWAY - J. Douglas Park PDC, Chair

Bro. Park could not <sup>there</sup> be so he asked Bro. J. Lyons PDC to provide a summary of recent activity on this project - Bro. Lyons also could not be present but his report was at hand.

He states that the House Bill has been stalled in the Transportation Committee by its Chairman, Rep. Burton Leland.

Bro. Park contacted Gen'l. Michael Rice of the National Guard about the problem and he met with Rep. Burton Leland.

Rep. Leland agreed to move the Bill if Gen'l. Rice would have Rep. Nye write him a personal note. Gen'l. Rice got that agreement from Rep. Nye.

Bro. Lyons got a call from a woman in Rep. Nye's office. She wanted information on Gen'l. Logan, his connection to Mich. Bro. Lyons explained the 2nd MI at 1st Bull Run, the G.A.R., Memorial Day, etc

When she learned that Gen'l. Logan was born in IL, had not lived in Mich. she doubted that Gov. Engler would sign a Bill naming a Mich. Hwy. for a man from IL, she didn't think it worth the effort to push a Bill forward that the Gov. probably wouldn't sign.

She asked Bro. Lyons if he would testify if hearings were held and he assured her he would.

It seems to Bro. Lyons that Bro. Nye or his office wants to drop this matter - he thinks more followup is necessary - and soon.

UNION DEFENDERS DAY COMMITTEE - J. Lyons PDC, Chair; SVC Armstrong, D. Downing, PC-in-C Harrison, J. Nash, J. Douglas Park PDC, Dr. Weldon Petz.

Bro. Lyons was not present but his report was at hand:

The Committee is fully staffed and all members have assignments the East steps of the Capitol and grounds are reserved for Fri. 12 February, 1999, the 190th anniversary of Lincoln's birth - the Rotunda has been requested as backup for bad weather.

Dr. Weldon Petz, noted Lincoln scholar, and a Brother, will be the featured speaker.

Bro. Lyons recommends reappointing the whole Committee, to serve until 30 days after the event, the Committee will then make a recommendation for future events of this type.

WEEKEND OF REMEMBRANCE - L. Stroschine, Chair; PC-in-C Harrison, G. Hayes, R. Lee, Wm. Morris.

No written report provided - Bro. Harrison gave a verbal report and my recorder failed again.

Bro. Harrison spoke of meetings with the representatives from the Veteran's Home in Grand Rapids - the dates are August 1st & 2nd - flyers will be available for distribution and a notice in "Michigan's Messenger" - the Living History display is welcomed by residents and visitors - there will be a pig roast.

RECESS AT 11:53 A.M. for lunch

RE-OPENED AT 1:17 P.M.

DC Hodges brought the Bros. attention to a Department banner from PC-in-C Harrison and to new Department Station banners from SVC Armstrong.

#### REPORTS OF ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEES

RESOLUTIONS - PC-in-C K. Harrison, Chair

1. recommends endorsement of SVC-in-C Andrew Johnson for C-in-C, - approved
2. recommends endorsement of JVC-in-C Danny Wheeler for SVC-in-C, - objection heard - motion to take no action - approved
3. recommends endorsement of Bro. James Pahl for Nat'l. Treasurer - approved
4. recommends Bro. Gary Gibson for Nat'l. Council of Administration - approved
5. request for endorsement of Alan Peterson for JVC-in-C - recommends no action - approved
6. request for endorsement of Gregg Mierka for Nat'l. Council of Administration - recommends no action - approved
7. request for endorsement of Robert Grim for JVC-in-C - Recommends endorsement - objection heard - motion for no action - approved

8. endoresments from Mich. Camps #85 and #145 for Department Officers deemed inappropriate for action due to voting today.

9. request for putting an ad in the Encampment Book from Dept of PA - referred to incoming Dept. Council - approved

10. request for SUVCW appearance at "Gone With the Wind" show - recommends no action - approved

11. request that Dept. of Michigan endorse the "Veteran's Memorials Protection Act" in Congress - recommends approval- approved

Bro. Pahl PDC, referring to the Encampment taking no action on D. Wheeler's endorsement for SVC-inC said that he thinks that he has bone an "excellent job" as JVC-inC.

Bro. Lee recalled that a similar situation had occured at the 1997 Dept. Encampment and that Bro. Pahl had said that the delegates to the Nat'l. Encampment were not bound by decisions taken at the Dept. Encampment - Bro. Pahl agreed.

OFFICER'S REPORTS - David F. Wallace PDC,Chair

Bro. Wallace expressed his thanks to Bros. Nash and Miller who assisted him during the lunch break.(they ate lunch out of a garbage can)

He stated that the Committee wished to commend the Officers' for submitting well-written reports.

Department Commanders' Recommendations - to establish 3 Special Committees - recommends that this be referred to the incoming Dept. Commander;

2.to impose some type of sanctions on Camps that are delinquent in reporting i.e. publishing them in "Michigan's Messenger" - Committee concurs - approved

Sr. Vice Commander's' Recommendations -

1. to re-submit 1997 request for a SUVCW recruiting video to 1998 Nat'l. Encampment - Comm. concurs - approved

2. Dept. of Michigan support S.B. 116 (return May 30 Memorial Day) - Comm. concurs - approved

3. Dept. of Michigan plan to hold a Nat'l. Encampment in 2000 or no later than 2003 - Comm. concurs, "in theory", wants incoming DC to appoint a Special Committee to investigate - approved

Jr. Vice Commanders' Recommendations -

1.development of a test Dept. Membership Web page - Comm. concurs - approved

2.encourage Camps to use web space on Nat'l. Server - Comm. concurs - approved

3.encourage Camps to have an e-mail contact - Comm. concurs - approved

4.Dept. establish annual event registration fee fund - Comm. concurs in theory, would refer to incoming Council & Treasurer for review -approved

5.Dept. and Camps use sign-up sheet at recruiting events - Comm. concurs -approved

Editor, "Michigan's Messenger" Recommendations -

1.budget for 1998-1999 to meet expenses - no action necessary

2. need for more articles from Bros. - Comm. concurs - approved
3. Editor's position open, anyone may apply - no action taken.

Chief of Staff Recommendations -

1. that DC appoint Special Committee for "School of the Soldier Camp - Comm. concurs - approved

REPORT OF COMMITTEES' REPORTS - Gregory Hayes, Chair;

The recorder continued to fail intermittently during this report, also some remarks were indistinct.

1. .... Comm. concurs - approved
2. G.A.R. Records - Comm. concurs - approved
3. M-99 Logan - Comm. concurs - approved
4. Graves Registration - Comm. concurs - approved
5. Central Region Conf. - Comm. concurs - approved
6. Union Defenders Day - Comm. concurs - approved

No reports were recorded for the following Committees:

Civil War Memorials - Communications & Technology - Legislative Membership and Weekend of Remembrance were verbal reports.

7. Bylaws - Comm. concurs with additions and deletions noted -

Art. I - strike "Allied Order of the G.A.R." - approved

II - approved

III - approved

IV - as re-written, if approved by Encampment - approved

V - XI - approved

XIV - XVI - approved

XVII - discussion by J. Pahl, PDC and K. Harrison, PC-in-C,  
Bro. Harrison moved to delete wording but  
reserve the Section - approved

XVIII - approved

XX - approved

Bro. Gibson PDC moved to adopt the Bylaws as amended and with changes made by the Encampment - approved.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Bro. E. Martens expressed concern for the continued presence of our "Real Sons" among us. He suggested that there be a ceremony similar to the "Hands Across the Wall" at Gettysburg, during the "Weekend of Remembrance" this year if possible, next year at the latest.

After much discussion it was moved and approved that the Dept. of Mich. present this as a resolution to be taken to the 1998 Nat'l. Encampment.

SVC Armstrong discussed the metal road signs produced by a SUVCW Camp and he moved that the Dept. of Mich. purchase one as a recruiting aid - approved.

He then displayed a "Welcome G.A.R. & V.F.W. & Allied Groups" poster given to him by Bro. J. Mann.

Bro. R. Williams observed that there are 16 "Real Sons" in the SUVCW and that Bro. J. Orter, Dept. of NY, knows of others.

Bro. Wm. McAfee asked how many there are in Mich. Bro. William said there are 2 in the SUVCW and 2 non-members in Tawas City.

Bro. M. Miller reported on a cemetery where there flag holders at the graves but no flags. Bro. Harrison suggested determining who puts flags on the monument.

Bro. Armstrong said to contact local authority that owns the cemetery and referred to the State law whereby 5 local voters can petition that authority to provide flags.

Bro. G. McAllister that several veterans organizations in Bay City put out flags.

Bro. P. Carlson also referred to the use of the State law.

Bro. Armstrong suggested that the law can be used for public relations with communities and veterans organizations.

Bro. Miller asked if the law also pertained to privately owned cemeteries and Bro. Pahl said "yes".

Bro. Carlson told how he found a dealer with a flag holder from Camp #14 - showed him the law and got the holder for free.

Bro. McAllister related that a cannon from Bay City cemetery was sold by the owner of the cemetery, called "Soldiers Rest", for \$2,500.00. He said that was "sacred ground and it was the worst thing you could do to a veteran, almost like tearing out a grave.

Bro. Gibson asked for a "Moment of Silence" as this year is the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American War - there 2 companies of SUVCW Bros. who took part.- moved and approved.

Bro. Armstrong gave a presentation on the SUVCW emblem from Bro. Ed Krieser of th Dept. of IN which can be used on Camp flags - some flags are available from Grant Camp in MO, a 3x5 for \$570. the emblems are \$40. ea. plus \$1.50 S&H.

Bro. H. Streeter began a long discussion about proper? wear at different events. Bro. Armstrong admitted to starting the "interchange" with Nat'l. Secretary Hann. Bro. Streeter said that Roger Heiple said that G.A.R. had "wild uniforms" and that with our uniforms we're mistaken for re-enactors. Bro. G. Ralston said that appearing at BSA Honor Courts in a suit he was told he "looked like a politician".

Bro. Wm. Lowe reported on the Memorial Day service by Camp #7 and invited Bros. to assist at their 2 tents at the Jackson Muster - "largest in the Midwest".

Bro. Armstrong stated that there would be a vote taken to decide the location of the 1999 Encampment.

Bro. Gibson moved donations of \$25. each to the SVC-in-C's and Nat'l. Patriotic Instructor's funds - approved

RECESS AT 2;34 P.M.

RE-OPENED AT 2:52 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS (con't.)



DC Hodges presented the Charter for Henry W. Quigley Camp #147 to its organizer and Commander Merle "Pete" Carlson who got a standing ovation from the Bros.

Bro. Armstrong asked for donations to the Statewide Monument Fund to go to 3 Camps that <sup>have</sup> programs

DC Hodges presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Bro. W. Nash & other descendents of Albert Nash of the 9th Mich. Vol. Cav. for helping preserve its flag.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS - DC Hodges asked for a motion to open the floor to nominations - moved and approved.

Dept. Cmdr. - L.D. Lamphere, Jr. Nominates K. Armstrong

SVC - G. McAllister nominates Wm. Morris

JVC - Wm. Lowe nominates J. Mann

Bro. <sup>Pahl</sup> moves that if only 1 person is nominated that he is elected - approved

Sec'y. - G. Gibson nominates R. Lee

Treas. - D.F. Wallace Nominates D.T. Wallace

Council - D.F. Wallace nominates R. Greene

" - K. Armstrong nominates R. Williams

" - G. McAllister nominates J. Long

" - K. Armstrong nominates H. Streeter

" - K. Armstrong nominates D. Waldron

Bro. Gibson moves a 10 minute recess for Camps to caucus - approved

RECESS 3:05 P.M. RE-OPENED 3:15 P.M.

Bro. Pahl states that the C&R require a Roll Call of Camps

Camp#	Nominees:				
	Greene	Streeter	Williams	Waldron	Long
7	5	5	5	0	0
17	7	7	7	0	0
20	2	2	2	0	0
22	3	3	3	0	0
53	3	3	3	0	0
58	2	2	2	0	0
67	2	0	2	0	2
120	4	4	4	0	0
145	5	0	5	0	5
147	1	1	1	0	0
462	1	0	1	0	<u>1</u>
	<u>35</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

Bro. Harrison moved that the Dept. elect the number entitled to - excluding those with standing credentials - all others to Alternates - approved

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

DC Hodges asked Bro. Armstrong who he had selected as his Installing Officer - he responded that he had chosen PC-inC Keith Harrison.

Bro. Harrison releives Bro. Paul Hodges of his <sup>office</sup> as per ritual and presents him with his Past Department Commander's badge.

Bro. Harrison then installed Kent L. Armstrong as Department Commander for 1998-1999.

DC Armstrong spoke of honoring his ancestor Sgt. John Tate, KIA 1863 with the 5th Wisconsin also M Sgt Woodrow W. Armstrong USAF.

He said the Dept. might consider an annual fundraiser to buy a complete set of the General Orders.

Also, he said that although we have "done good" there is more good to do.

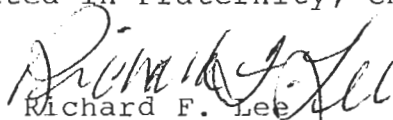
Further, that there would be no raise in per caps "on the heels of the last one".

SVC-in-C Andrew Johnson offered Congratulations on a successful Encampment.

A list of Elected and Appointed Officers that were also sworn in by PC-inC Harrison is attached.

The 109th Annual Department of Michigan Encampment was closed at 3:48 P.M. as per ritual.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

  
Richard F. Lee  
Secretary