

THE UNION INFORMER

Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Nations Camp No. 3
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Tulsa,

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Our SUVCW National officers for 2023. (Photo courtesy of PCinC Brian Pierson)

May Camp Meeting

The May camp meeting was held, as scheduled, at the Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

Present were Brothers Joe Fears, Mike Gates, Kevin White, Carl Fallen, and Mike Rusk.

Acting Camp Cdr., Mike Rusk suggested that the camp suspend operations for the summer months (June, July, and August) and hold its next meeting on September 28th. The camp adopted his motion by a vote of those present. Brother Rusk also gave a short, but interesting program before the meeting was adjourned.

The camp also adopted a motion to discontinue the annual joint meeting with the SCV's Camp McIntosh here in Tulsa. Attendance at the meeting, usually scheduled in the fall, has dropped off, showing that there was little interest in it.

Gold Coins Found in Cornfield

Newsweek reports that a man found a cache of gold coins dating from the Civil War era in a Kentucky cornfield. Understandably, the location of the find is being held confidential.

The discovery reportedly numbers more than 700 gold coins, some of them quite valuable in terms of similar coins on the market. Included in the group were 18 \$20 Gold Liberty coins dated 1863 valued at \$100,000 each at auction. Aside from the number and value of the cache, the location of the find is unusual in that people who bury coins outside for safety reasons, traditionally bury them near a home, a well, a large tree, or a place they frequently travel, such as a path to an outbuilding, for example.

Although, do we *really* know the coins were found were found in a cornfield?

Camp Business

Elected delegates to the National Encampment in Nashua, New Hampshire, were to be Kevin White from Indian Nations Camp # 3 and Trent England from the Jeremiah Smith Camp # 1.



Brothers, Mike Rusk, Carl Fallen, and Clint Anderson meet for breakfast at an IHOP restaurant.

DC Clint Anderson called a breakfast meeting with Brothers Mike Rusk and Carl Fallen on July 18, at the IHOP restaurant near 71st and Memorial Drive to

discuss a possible Indian Nations Camp cookout. It was decided to hold the event at a city park near Clint's home beginning at 5 p.m. on October 7 – the first Saturday in the month.

Closer to the date of the event, assignments will be made to create the necessary organization. Cdr. Rusk will announce the picnic by email to members. They will be requested to bring food contributions and invite their guests. The camp plans to extend an invitation to SCV Camp McIntosh members to attend as our guests.

DC Anderson, in accordance with his duties, submitted a number of award recommendations to the National Organization for consideration.



PDC Joe Fears, Principal Speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony at Rose Hill.



Brother Mike Rusk places a carnation at the GAR monument in memory of his Union ancestor during the Memorial Day ceremony at Rose Hill Cemetery.

Bailey Preston awarded an SUVCW Scholarship

In the annual competition for SUVCW college scholarships, Bailey, the daughter of our Col. Scott Preston, was a winner. She is a member of Tulsa's Rachel Cormany # 2 Auxiliary, SUVCW and will be attending college this fall. Part of her selection was based on a paper she submitted to the SUVCW scholarship committee. In her Thank You note, Bailey stated this "very generous gift will help me to achieve my goal of becoming a mechanical engineer."



PDC Jesse Walker places the camp wreath at the base of the GAR monument on Memorial Day.



Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material.



PDC Steve Clapp and his SVR unit participate in the 160th Anniversary Memorial service of the Battle of Honey Springs. (Photo courtesy of Clint Anderson)



OK Delegate Trent England with PCinC Brian Pierson at the National Encampment.

Camp Calendar



Sept 28 Indian Nations Camp meeting
 Oct. 7 Indian Nations Camp Cookout
 Oct. 26 Indian Nations Camp meeting
 Nov. 3-6 Honey Springs Civil War Demonstrations
 Nov. 10 Tulsa's Veterans Day Parade

Editor: A. Carl Fallen – acfallen@sbcglobal.net

Camp Website:

<http://indiannationscamp3-suvcw.weebly.com>

Webmaster: Terri Walker – National Auxiliary to the SUVCW

The following pages were submitted by PCinC informing us about the National Encampment.

142nd National Encampment

Nashua, NH

3-6 Aug 2023

The Department of New Hampshire hosted the 142nd National Encampment at Nashua, New Hampshire. The Brothers from New Hampshire put on a very well organized encampment and we thank them for their excellent hospitality that made for a very enjoyable time. As always, it's good to meet our fellow Brothers from around the country.



National Encampment medal commemorating the USS Kearsarge's victory over the CSS Alabama at Cherbourg, France.

We salute Brother Bruce Frail on his successful term as Commander-in-Chief and congratulate Brother Pete Hristsko on his election as CinC.

The Department teamed with the Department of Georgia and South Carolina to present outgoing CinC and Auxiliary National President with some appropriate parting gifts at the Friday evening Campfire, which were well-appreciated.

During the Friday and Saturday business sessions, there were some notable items before the Encampment this year.

Membership Eligibility Decided

The National Encampment saw a spirited discussion on membership eligibility, focusing on the special committee's recommendations, which were presented at each Department's annual encampment this past year. Oklahoma's Brother Trent England of Jeremiah Smith Camp #1, played an active part in the

debate. His eloquency proved to be key to the National Encampment's vote.

Two important points were voted upon by the delegates and will be incorporated into the charter and regulations.

First, male is defined as biological sex recorded at birth.

Second, members may not be expelled solely because they later decide to call themselves some other sex.

The special committee will be retained this year in order to address related questions.

Firearms Policy Overturned

The National Encampment voted to overturn General Orders 24 and 24a. The restrictions levied by these GOs are no longer in effect.

It is hoped that all Brothers remember to exercise good judgment moving forward.



Delegate medal



Founder's Award

The Founder's Award is presented a maximum of once per calendar year to a group or individual who performs outstanding service in the memory of Union Civil War Soldiers. The Award consists of a walnut plaque with the name of the recipient and the year of presentation engraved in wood. A permanent plaque with the names of the recipients is maintained in the National Headquarters of the SUVCW. No member of the SUVCW or any organization which is part of the Allied Orders of the GAR is eligible for this award. The Commander-in-Chief on behalf of the Council of Administration presents this recognition.

Department Commander Clint Anderson nominated Debbie Neece for this award:

It is with great pleasure that I write you today to nominate Debbie Neece and the Bartlesville Area History Museum for the Founder's Award. I believe that Mrs. Neece is a fine choice for the Founder's Award due to her effort to preserve GAR records that were abandoned in a building of downtown Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Because of her efforts we have the complete list of Charter members of the GAR Post in Oklahoma, Indian Territory in 1893, and their complete ledger of "Minutes of Meetings" for over fourteen years.

Mrs. Neece has published multiple articles about the Kansas Post #494, Indian Territory Post #18, Oklahoma Post #7 to finally Post #37. All four Posts being the same Bartlesville Post, just changing due to the Department jurisdiction.

I have included within this pdf a copy of the GAR paperwork, a snap shot of her article published on the GAR and a prize seventy-two-inch photo from a Department of Oklahoma Encampment panoramic from around 1920ish that a copy hangs on my office wall.

Thank you for your consideration to honor this outstanding citizen that shares our passion to keep the memories alive of our ancestors.

A presentation to Ms. Neece is being planned.



Brother Trent England, Jeremiah Smith Camp #1, Delegate of the Department of Oklahoma to the National Encampment, accepts the Founder's Award on behalf of the Department.



National Historian Bob Wolz Honored



Brother Bob Wolz was given an incredibly rare honor by the National Encampment, that of the rank of honorary Past Commander-in-Chief in recognition of over 60 years of notable service to the Order. There have been only four others awarded this rank: Major A.P. Davis, founder of the SUVCW, Col RMJ Reed who was one of the founders of the Philadelphia branch, Horace Hammer who served 50 years as National Secretary and Comrade Albert Woolson, the last veteran of the Civil War.

Brother Bob stated to me, “I was speechless. ... I had no idea this honor was coming.” He related that when he joined the Order, “Bill Coffin who served as CinC in 1925 took me underwing so I could be the link between our past and the future.”

He has been a Department Commander twice, National Chaplain, National Patriotic Instructor, JVCinC twice and SVCinC twice. He chaired a number of national committees and was editor of the Banner.

Brother Bob cashed in part of his retirement 401 in order to publish *Grand Army Men* and *Grand Army Women*, the definitive study of the badges and medals of the GAR and Allied Orders. (shameless sales pitch: buy a copy!)

He related that, when he was up for nomination as CinC, “The PNPs and PCinCs informed me I was too young to serve and the job would be offered when I got older.” So he graciously stepped aside.

As National Historian, he considered his mission to be “to share what was given to me from the real Sons to the future. I used to comment I was the only dark haired boy in a sea of gray haired old men.”

Brother Bob also served as the director of the President Truman “Little White House” in Key West, Florida for many years.

Please join me in congratulating a Brother whose devotion to the Sons is an example for us all!



Report of Commander-in-Chief Frail to the National Encampment (Abridged for considerations of space)

Brothers,

I was honored to be elected by the members of the 141st National Encampment and have spent the last year trying to improve the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War so we will be represented as strongly and legally as possible for hundreds of years to come. In order to do this I felt it was necessary to secure our foundation.



I would like to thank those Brothers who have discussed openly and honestly ways in which we can better improve the SUVCW for Brothers of the Order. I would also like to thank all the Departments which welcomed myself and my representatives during their Department Encampments.

I also thank all the Brothers who have conducted themselves with Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty even though we may not have seen eye to eye on all subjects. Those who stayed in the operations of the administration throughout the year have done their jobs and not hid from the obligations that they freely accepted. As volunteers, everyone who has seen their commitments through this National Encampment and the close of this administration have my respect, and I look forward to working with them for years to come.

This past year has been an eye opener, to say the least, and I have gained a whole new respect for the Brothers who are now in the ranks of Past Commander-in-Chief. Thank you, gentlemen, for all your early morning calls, last minute meetings, endless emails and texts, putting your families on hold for the Order, and your sleepless nights.

Lastly, thank you to all the Brothers who have taken the time to attend these National Encampments, and to care enough to make the time and financial commitment to the Order to be present to work to improve this great Order. If you wish to be heard and taken seriously as Brothers, Camps and Departments, this is where you need to be. I have voiced this at every Department Encampment and every Camp I have visited during my administration. I understand that there are Brothers who, for one of many reasons, cannot be present, but please voice your concerns and desires to your delegates so they may act for you in the most appropriate manner, and hold them to those concerns and desires – you elected them.

We, as a team, have completed many projects, started some and thought of even more for the future. We need to continue to work as a team to see as many of them through as possible. We will be dealing with some during the next two days, like lineal documentation, the Kit Carson monument, gender definitions, security, and many more.

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I thank each of you for your devotion to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. I wish I had the room to mention the hundreds of other Brothers of the Order that deal with their obligations at the Camp, Department and National levels. Please know that your work has not gone unnoticed, and I am very grateful to each and every one of you.

Thank you all and God bless you and your families for supporting your love of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's mission.



Elections of 2023-2024 National Officers



Commander-in-Chief: *Peter J. Hritsko, Ohio*

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief: *Kevin L. Martin, Chesapeake*

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief: *Kevin P. Tucker, Massachusetts*

Council of Administration: *Roderick J. Fraser, Jr., Massachusetts*



Scenes from the National Encampment



L-R: National Secretary Dan Murray, CinC Bruce Frail, Parliamentarian PCinC Jim Pahl, National Treasurer Mike Beard.



Brother Ben Frail's sons, the newest Junior members being initiated into the SUVCW. National Guide Brother Brian McManus holds the flag.



Encampment mascots on the dais.



Sisters from the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Woman's Relief Corps, and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War bring greetings to CinC Frail and to the SUVCW.



Battle Flag Recovered

During this past year, the Department of New Jersey recovered the flank marker flag for the 9th Rhode Island, which had been in a private collection.



In a special ceremony at the National Encampment, the New Jersey delegation presented this priceless relic to the Department of Rhode Island for preservation and restoration.

The 9th RI saw service between May and September 1862 defending Washington DC.



Brothers from New Jersey and Rhode Island



PCinC Mike Paquette is presented with the first 1881 Club's medal. The 1881 Club members are those Brothers who have donated \$1,881 to the SUVCW's Permanent Fund.



Installation of 2023-24 national officers.



PCinC Ken Freshley, the installing officer, relieves CinC Bruce Frail of command.



Newly elected CinC Peter J. Hritsko's wife, Judy, pins on his commander-in-chief badge.



Your 2023-2024 national officers.



Brother BP with our beloved National Chaplain Brother Jerry Kowalski