

The Union Informer

Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Nations Camp No. 3
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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Commander's Comments

Only one of our camp members had committed to attend the National Encampment held earlier this month in Lansing, Michigan. That was Kevin White. At Thursday's meeting, we hope to hear a report from him about his experience. Kevin has been a regular attendee at the National Encampments, and we appreciate having a representative there.

According to a report, in one of its business items, the Encampment "Voted on resolution to update the Confederate Battle Flag Policy. This policy is intended to be an organizational response. The updated policy condemns the use of any US and CS flag by any and all hate groups, strongly opposes the defacement, destruction or removal of any US or CS Civil War monument or tablet, supports the flying of US and CS flags at Civil War historical sites and museums, and commits the SUVCW to teaching the history of the Civil War in our educational system." As we have seen lately, there has been a sweeping movement to remove much of our country's history of the Civil War.



Eric Sachau and Mike Rusk admire their display at the Hardesty Library. Photo by Carl Fallen.

Rising to the call, Brothers Mike Rusk and Eric Sachau helped set up our Civil War display in one of the Hardesty Regional Library's front windows at 8 p.m. on July 31st. Both contributed items, as did four other Brothers: Gene Turner; Kevin White; Mike Gates and me. We allowed ourselves one hour to arrange the display and had it completed before the hour was out. Brother Gates made it easy for us with several framed items in excellent arrangements. We had hoped to include cloth uniform parts, but there was just no way to properly present them. Anyway, our only response came right away, and that was from an organization asking for someone from our camp to present a program for them. However, we welcome the opportunity to address other organizations and get a shot at recruiting new SUVCW members. Our request to the library to display the SUVCW's recruiting pamphlet on their shelves for handouts was refused, because it didn't fit their requirements.

The library's Regional Director replied, "We do not display this type of brochure at libraries, generally only flyers for specific events. If your organization would like to display a flyer about a specific event, we would be happy to entertain that idea."

National Encampment 2017

For those camp members who have never attended the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Encampment you are missing a once in a lifetime experience. Brother Brian Pierson of the Jeremiah Smith Camp #1 and Brother Kevin White of Indian Nations Camp #3 attended the National Encampment this year and proudly displayed our Oklahoma Department flag during the proceedings. We hope to hear a summary from Brother White at camp meeting this week. So don't miss it.



Brother Mike Gates strikes a martial pose with the beach of Normandy in the background. Photo by Mrs. Gates?

August Camp Program – Mike Gates

The August camp meeting will feature brother Mike Gates, JVC, who will describe the exciting trip to France that he took in early June. He visited the beaches at Normandy which were the site of one of the greatest battles in American history. We will enjoy hearing about his trip and gain some insight into a part of World War 2 history and many of us may have known friends and relatives that were part of that conflict.



Brothers Brian Pierson and Kevin White at the 2017 National Encampment. Photo by an unknown journalist.

Department Commander Rex Griffin reports....

For those of you who may not know, it is a tradition at the National Encampment to hold a sort of “roast” and gift-giving night for the outgoing C-in-C. It seems that Brothers Brian Pierson and Kevin White outdid themselves this year. This note, in his hand writing, reads;

Commander,

“Thanks to you and our Brothers for the gifts. Did not know a halter can be made from a single rope. Quite a Merle Haggard collection. Glad I read the directions for the lottery tickets before scratching. Trying to find a use for the cow bell when I go back to school. The buckle will go to the garage. After going through all this, the wine and beer are greatly appreciated.”

Don (Martin, outgoing Commander in Chief)

Thank you Brian and Kevin for representing the Department of Oklahoma at the National Encampment, 2017.

Summer is always a slow time in our organization, in fact, many groups including our Rachel Cormany Auxiliary, don't meet in the summer months. Let's look forward to fall when we can get back in gear and carry out the mission of our SUVCW. Camp meeting in September will feature speaker Hugh Keen presenting on the Civil War in Oklahoma. In October we are looking forward to Liz Lockman from the Naturalization Service to present to us about the service of making new Americans and how we might be able to assist in this worthy cause.

In November we will meet for **Remembrance Day** and join with SUVCW camps nation wide to carry on this venerable tradition that goes back to the foundations of our organization.

In December we will lead the way with **Wreaths Across America**.

Editor, Mike Rusk, P.D.C.

Web Administrator, Terri Walker, R. C. Auxiliary

