

The Union Informer

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Indian Nations Camp #3

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Wreaths Across America

For the third year in a row Indian Nations Camp #3 sponsored the Wreaths Across America observance on behalf of the Tulsa Historical Society at the Perryman Cemetery in Tulsa.



Photo by Kathy Rusk, Rachel Cormany Auxiliary

Color Guards from the Bixby High School USMC JROTC, the 77th Pennsylvania and the Sons of the American Revolution were present to honor the Native American soldiers from the Civil War that were interred at the Perryman Cemetery. Mike Rusk, SVC, and Mike McGraw, camp color bearer, were the only camp members present but there was a good crowd there to observe this national ceremony which is held nationwide at the same time.

Commander's Comments

Upon taking office I pledged that we would make our primary goal the recruitment of new members. I am sad to report that so far we have made scarce progress toward that goal. However this is not a project, but a process and it is not over. As you all know we must build our camp membership. We have taken several steps in that direction but they have been ineffective in producing the results

that we want. While we need members overall we most need those who will be active, who will attend and participate in camp meetings and support camp activities. We have determined that the next step is to make camp meetings a more rewarding experience.

At our last meeting we agreed to follow a more informal format for our future camp meetings in hopes of making them a more rewarding experience. After PDC Johnny Manley installs our 2018 slate of officers this month we will have a roundtable discussion of the Battle of Shiloh which Wikipedia states was "the bloodiest battle in American history up to that time." I have had the good fortune to visit that battle site although it was a number of years ago.

As I leave the Commander's office for the fourth time I would like to sincerely thank all those who have worked to keep the camp operating during the past year and for supporting it the way they have. It does take a lot of work to fulfill the many administrative tasks we are required to perform and to sustain the activities necessary to honor our Union ancestors. Some of you are still working in your careers, and I especially want to thank you for I know that your time is at a premium as you divide it between the SUVCW, work and your family. During 2018 I know that we will all give our best in support of Commander Rusk.

Carl Fallen, PDC, Commander of Indian Nations Camp #3

New Camp Meeting Format

Over the past year we have had 9 camp programs, 7 of which were outside speakers brought in to present their programs, some of which concerned the Civil War. Though outside speakers can be very informative they do sometimes stray from the subjects that we are interested in and also, at times, are not well prepared.

We will take a new tactic in the coming year. Instead of featuring speakers and prepared programs we will adopt the format of a Civil War Roundtable and devote our time to organized sharing on subjects of our own related to the Civil War. Here are some guidelines that I hope all camp members will take to heart and be prepared to share in camp meeting.

We will focus on the Civil War

Interesting facts about our ancestors are most welcome

Share about a book you read

Show a relic or photo that is informative

Describe something about the Civil War you are studying

We will no longer be an audience but will sit around the table as a group and share about our common interests. We can make this approach very interesting but it will require that everyone participate. All camp members need to be ready to contribute something to the discussion or it will not work as well as it can.

We will still have a occasional program. In February brother Norman Crowe will present his program on the Civil War in Oklahoma. I know that every camp member is preparing a highly informative and well organized program that they plan to take to schools and other organizations to promote awareness of the Civil War and of the SUVCW. Camp meeting is a good chance to try out such a program, work out the bugs and streamline your presentation in a polished work.

This will be fun, but everyone needs to see themselves as having a key role in the round table discussions. Come to camp meeting with something to share. Make a handout for the others, or bring a relic or other visual to share. This will be our camp format for the coming year. Let's all join in to make it fun and informative.



Carol Cox presented our program at camp meeting

News Items

Auxiliary member Lana Cooper is recovering from surgery. She is the wife of Past Department Commander Bernie Cooper and has served in the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary as treasurer and as a representative to our Oklahoma Department Encampment.

The 2018 Oklahoma Department Encampment badge is being designed now. If you have ideas that you would like to see in our badge contact Rex Griffin, Dept Cdr or Mike Rusk, Indian Nations Camp #3.

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