

The Union Informer

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Indian Nations Camp #3

Volume 19, Number 11

November 2017

Commander's Comments

It is my hope that everyone had a pleasant and happy Thanksgiving holiday. We, in this country have much to be thankful for. It's a time to reflect on how our Civil War ancestors may have spent some of their Thanksgivings and imagine how different it was for them. During the early part of the war it probably found them winding down three seasons of hard fighting and preparing for the cold winter months ahead to be spent mostly outdoors in the open trying to survive the best they could. It would be a time in which just staying healthy would be a victory itself.

As you may know I was not able to attend the October camp meeting because of a conflict. It was my duty to escort my wife to a family wedding in California instead. SVC Mike Rusk stepped in to fill the void and gave me a report afterward that there was a disappointing turnout for the meeting. I have polled, and will continue to poll, our members to find out what we can do differently that will revive interest in the camp and make membership a more enjoyable and rewarding experience. Our Nominating Committee has had difficulty finding candidates to volunteer for camp officer positions next year and it appears that for the first time we will need to double up by having one member hold more than one position. This means that those officers will be overburdened by having to perform more than their share of camp responsibilities. Clearly we need to make some changes. Please make your ideas known to me. All will be considered.

Our Department Commander has been made aware of our camp situation and our declining membership with its possible implications for the Department of Oklahoma, which appears to also be suffering from some of the same symptoms. It should be remembered that when the Stillwater camp folded we split our camp to prevent the Department from falling below the required three camp level. That would have ended our Department status with the National organization. That move severely weakened our camp and places us in direct competition with the Broken Arrow camp for the same recruiting base.

I must commend our present officers, particularly brother Eric Sachau, who has held the position of Secretary and Treasurer and has performed his considerable tasks in a superb fashion, even though work and travel demands prevented him from attending some camp meetings. SVC Mike Rusk has been a dependable source of help to me and a reliable fountain of ideas throughout the year. We have met almost monthly for lunch to discuss our camp situation. JVC Mike Gates has also been a reliable and helpful aid even with his work obligations. I must mention our Patriotic Instructor Joe Fears who has organized and conducted our ceremonies throughout the year. This takes time and effort and we thank Joe for this important work and his much appreciated contribution.

We will roundtable at camp meeting this week to see what we can do differently in the coming year to encourage attendance at camp meeting.

Remembrance Day

Our annual Remembrance ceremony was held at the Rosehill cemetery this year and was ably organized by camp Patriotic Instructor Joe Fears, PDC.



Joe Fears presents the Gettysburg Address. Photo by Carl Fallen.

Color guard was provided by the 77th Pennsylvania re-enacting group and taps was played by a bugler from Bugles Across America.



Color Guard presents a rifle salute. Photo by Carl Fallen.

Prayers and wreath presentations were done by Kathy Rusk and Lori Cooper of the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary. Names of Civil War veterans buried at Rosehill were read and individual wreaths were presented by camp and auxiliary members.

Remembrance Day is done by order of our National SUVCW. A special thanks to everyone who took time to take part in this vital ceremony.



Taps are played by a representative of Bugles Across America bugler. Photo by Carl Fallen, PDC.

Wreaths at Perryman Cemetery

Again this year Indian Nations Camp #3 is coordinating the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Perryman Cemetery, 32nd and Utica, for the Tulsa Historical Society. This is a good partnership for our camp so we need to support it by attending. Please try to attend the service on Saturday, Dec. 16th. Best to be there by 10:20.

Camp Officer Election

Camp meeting this week is important as it will be to elect new officers for 2018. Here is the list of nominees to date;

Camp Commander	Mike Rusk, PDC
Senior-Vice Cdr	Carl Fallen, PDC
Junior Vice-Cdr	Mike Gates

Patriotic Instructor Joe Fears, PDC

Secretary Mike Rusk, PDC

Treasurer Carl Fallen, PDC

A special thanks to those who have stepped forward
to support the camp in the coming year.

Newsletter Editor, Mike Rusk, SVC

Web Site, Terri Walker

