

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

COMMANDER DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

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**Department Order 2019-1
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Department Encampments

Brothers of the Department of Indiana,

For the members who attended our Department's Midwinter Encampment in Valparaiso on January 26th, I would like to thank you for braving the cold and snow. I would also like to personally thank our Commander-in-Chief, Donald Shaw, who made the nearly four hour car trip from Flint, Michigan, to be with us. The 2019 Midwinter was a very productive encampment. I appreciated Brother Jim Floyd's (Dept. JVC) very open and frank discussion about the treatment he and our department received at last year's national encampment concerning our credential cards and delegate assignments. Some things just needed to be addressed. I would hope that this issue will not dissuade anyone from attending any of the upcoming national encampments and, for that matter, any upcoming department encampments. This issue will be rectified and it will not happen again. Please know this organization will always be lead by the principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. I would highly recommend that all members of the department plan on attending our next National Encampment, to take place in Independence, Ohio (Cleveland Metro Area), on August 8-11, 2019. It is a relatively close trip by car for most of our members here in Indiana. Please check the national website (<http://www.suvcw.org>, as information becomes available) or the next issue of the *Banner*, for registration details.

As some of you are already aware, our Annual Department Encampment in Kokomo, on the 1st Saturday in June, has been chronically under attended for the last several years now. I do not think that it is a location issue, rather I think it is a date issue. I have given this considerable thought over the last few weeks. I would like to explore other date options to see if we can increase attendance at our Annual Encampment. I would propose keeping the Annual Department Encampment location in Kokomo, but I am also open for suggestions for a location change if the members think it is needed. Please Note: the 2019 Department of Indiana Annual Encampment will remain unchanged, which will take place on June 1, 2019 in Kokomo. I do not propose to change the date of our Midwinter Encampments (last Saturday in January) as this has been relatively well attended over the last several years despite the varied locations and possible bad winter weather. Organizationally, I like the idea of making the Midwinter a kind of moving venue. This gives each camp/area of the state a chance to host an encampment close to home. This is my proposal of date options for our Department of Indiana Annual Encampments going forward and my rationale for choosing these dates:

According to our National Constitution and Regulations, Chapter II, Article III, Section 1, the "Departments shall meet in Annual Encampment. Said Encampment shall be held on a day between the first day of January and the first day of July."

I would recommend that we not have our Annual Encampment any earlier than sometime in April to give us a time spread between our Midwinter Encampment and our Annual Encampment. I would also avoid the first 3 Saturdays in April due to possible conflicts with Easter weekend and the last Saturday in May due to the Memorial Day weekend. Additionally,



the 4th Saturday in June is out due to possible conflicts with the 4th of July holiday and vacations. This leaves us with the following possible Saturday dates:

The 4th Saturday in April; the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Saturdays in May; and the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Saturdays in June. To this end, I have developed a on-line Doodle poll, to allow membership to vote for their top choices of dates. Click on the following link to vote in this poll: <https://doodle.com/poll/wdw52f86wzyzyav>

You may vote for up to three dates and please only vote once. You must give a name, but you do not have to use your real name if you do not want to. You may also leave a comment in the comment box near the bottom of the screen. As administrator of this poll, I will be the only one who will be able to view the voting results and comments. I will keep the poll open for a few months, but try to vote sooner rather than later. I will tabulate the votes and report back the results at the 2019 Annual Encampment in June. This will be an agenda item at the Annual Encampment. I would also encourage all Camp Commanders in the Department of Indiana to reach out to their membership to ascertain why many members do not attend these important encampments. Low attendance at both camp and department meetings seems to be an issue throughout the whole SUVCW organization.

Remember, this is YOUR Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and I will always value your comments, suggestions, and concerns.

Ordered this 3rd Day of February, 2019

Timothy J. Beckman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy J. Beckman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Commander - Department of Indiana
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

[DEPARTMENT SEAL]

Attested:

J. Alan Teller

Secretary - Department of Indiana

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War