



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
COMMANDER
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

Dennis Hutchinson
3780 N Old State Rd.
Rockport, IN 47635
Email: 31stind@gmail.com



DEPARTMENT ORDER 2020-1
SERIES 2020-2021
June 23, 2020

Brothers of the Department of Indiana,

- A. **June 2020 Encampment:** I am very honored and humbled to have been elected to the office of Department Commander at the 134th Annual Department of Indiana Encampment that was held June 6th, 2020. The Encampment was a first for the Department of Indiana in that the meeting was held virtually using Zoom due the present COVID-19 virus situation. I want to congratulate and thank, the now Past Department Commander, Timothy J. Beckman for his service and leadership during the past 2 years. His insight and guidance has truly been appreciated. Thanks are in order for all of the Brothers, elected and appointed for choosing to serve in the many Department of Indiana Offices over the next year.
- B. **Transfer of Headquarters:** The Department of Indiana Commander headquarters is hereby transferred to 3780 N Old State Rd, Rockport, IN 47635. Mail for the Commander may be posted here. Electronic email is preferred at 31stind@gmail.com. My cell phone number is 812-660-2192. I do accept text messages, but please include your name if you do not regularly communicate with me. Please feel free to contact me by any of these methods if you have a question, concern or information to pass along.
- C. **Community Participation:** It is very important for SUVCW members to participate in activities that can be seen by the Public in the Communities in which we live. We must presently follow government virus guidelines while we struggle through this unprecedented time. I do encourage our members to participate in headstone and monument rededication ceremonies, and to clean and restore or replace headstones and memorials. Participating in educational opportunities, living histories, reenactments, heritage group presentations and school presentations is also encouraged once conditions allow.
- D. **Offices and Forms:** I will follow the lead from Tim Beckman (PDC) to encourage all Camps of the Department of Indiana to fill the offices of Graves Registration, Eagle Scout/ROTC Coordinator and Patriotic Instructor. These important offices are needed for the mission of the SUVCW.
- Patriotic instruction should be presented at all Camp meetings. From personal experience as a Past Department Patriotic Instructor, it is important that Form-40 be filled out for the Camp and sent to the Department Patriotic Instructor, James M. Floyd Jr. before April 1, 2021. His email is jim@jimfloyd.com.
- I ask that each Camp Secretary promptly fill out Form-30 when any change occurs with our membership. This includes change of address or email address, change of membership status including the following: New member, Transfer, Loss, Achievement, Status, Dual Membership and Death of a brother. If you have a death in your Camp you should also notify the Department Chaplain, Thomas Ashley (thomas.ashley1@aol.com) and the National Chaplain. Other important

Camp forms to be turned in to the Department Secretary on a timely basis are Form-22, Form-27 and a copy of form 990-N when filed with the government.

- E. *Camp Websites:*** I am asking that all Camps have and maintain their websites. An updated listing of the elected officers should exist along with contact information.
- F. *BANNER and Indiana Legion:*** I encourage each member and Camp to submit articles to the BANNER magazine and information about every activity or event to the Indiana Legion. I know it is going to be harder to have activities to submit right now, but if you do, please take some pictures and find someone to write something up and send it in.
- G. *Indiana Civil War Monuments, Markers and Sites:*** One activity we can all do during these strange times, is to get out and take some pictures of Indiana Civil War Monuments, Markers and other related Sites. Go to the Dept. of Indiana webpage <http://suvwin.org/> and check out what has been documented. If you know of a Monument or Marker that has not yet been submitted, take some photos of it, gather information on it and submit this information to Sr. Vice Commander – James M. Floyd Jr. There are several Generals, Colonels and Monuments that are not yet submitted.
- H. *Goals:*** I plan to work on a few goals with a newer member of our Fraternity, Brian Ford II. I asked Brian for his take on a “Social Media Proposal” to improve contact with possible new recruits. Brian came up with a first draft with an acronym I find catchy, “**R3**” which is short for **Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation**. He and I will be working together on a plan of action based on his proposal.
- a. *Recruitment:*** Recruitment is the most important and the hardest thing to do in my opinion. Without recruiting new members, the SUVCW will NOT survive. As Commander, I ask that each of us work to invite people to become members of our Fraternity. If they feel intimidated by the Genealogy paperwork let them know that they can first join as an Associate and then you can help them work on getting the hereditary information for Full membership later. Getting a positive word out about us as an organization is the toughest part. One of the ways to get this information out there today is Social Media. Some of our Camps already have Facebook pages, but the Department of Indiana does not. I will be working with Brian on completing this, and later other media outlets will be used as well.
 - b. *Retention:*** Our organization needs to keep (retain) the members we have. Try and make a special effort to invite those who have not attended a meeting for a while to attend. Utilize meeting agendas to insure that the meetings are meaningful, interesting and move along at a good pace. Get people involved in projects. These efforts will create a better sense of belonging.
 - c. *Reactivation:*** Our Camps lose members and knowing the reasons and finding understanding and reaching out could bring some back. If we work on Retention, Reactivation will not normally be necessary.
 - d. *Camp Meeting Visitation by the Commander:*** A lofty personal goal of mine is to be able to attend at least one meeting at each of the Department’s eight Camps in person. Until this COVID-19 pandemic subsides, I do not believe a personal visit is possible at this time. I should be able to sit in on a virtual meeting easily. Please contact me about 2 weeks in advance if your Camp plans to invite me.
 - e. *Outstanding Goals:***
 - i. *26th Indiana Vicksburg Monument:*** A long – standing goal for this Department has been to have the 26th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Monument that was left stranded behind a Walmart, be moved back into the Vicksburg National Military Park. The National Park Service has for various reasons not considered this a priority. Any correspondence concerning this project should be directed through the 26th Indiana Monument Committee of William Adams (PDC), Bruce Kolb (PDC) or Mike Beck (PDC).

ii. New Camps: I fully support the idea of creating new Camps in the Vigo County (Terre Haute) area, Southern Indiana near New Albany/Jeffersonville or Madison and the Southeastern area near Lawrenceburg. If we have members close to those areas who are interested in starting a new Camp, please contact myself or other Department Officers about your interest. All of the listed areas were recruitment centers during the Civil War, and many a fine Regiment came from those areas. I am particularly interested in Vigo County and the surrounding area due my ancestor being in the 31st Indiana Volunteer Infantry which was organized there.

I. National Encampment: The National Encampment this year is scheduled to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on August 13 – 16th, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 circumstances I will not encourage or request your attendance. We have presently had one Officer cancel his reservation in part due to COVID-19. However, I personally will attend the encampment unless it is cancelled. As the date for the Encampment approaches, I will be asking for a head count of those who, for sure, are attending.

J. Closing: The Department of Indiana Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War belongs to each and every one of its members. I ask that you renew your interest in the Fraternity and provide input and support by attending all Camp meetings and getting involved in projects, memorials, and commemorations and other worthy events. Please contact me or any Department Officer if you have a question or if we can be of service in any way.

Ordered this 23rd of June, 2020
In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,



Dennis C. Hutchinson
Commander – Department of Indiana
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

[DEPARTMENT SEAL]

Attested:
William Adams PDC
Secretary – Department of Indiana
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War