

Minutes - Department of Indiana Mid-winter Encampment January 30, 2021

The 2021 Midwinter Encampment, Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War conducted via Zoom was opened at 9:00 AM EDT by Department Commander Dennis Hutchinson. There were 30 brothers attending via the Zoom connection.

The 2021 Department of Indiana Midwinter Encampment was called to order by Commander Hutchinson. All then joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in unison.

The Secretary called the roll of officers as follows:

Commander, Dennis C. Hutchinson, Present
Sr. Vice Commander, James M. Floyd, Present
Jr. Vice Commander, Thomas Schmitt, Absent
Secretary, William R. Adams, PDC Present
Treasurer, Gilbert H. Young, Jr., PDC Present
Patriotic Instructor, James M. Floyd, Present
Chaplain, Thomas Ashley, Present
Graves Registration Officer, David Hoesli, Present
Historian, Bruce Kolb, PDC Present
Civil War Memorials Officer, Michael W. Beck, PDC Present
Eagle Scout Coordinator, Mike Beck, PDC Present
GAR Highway, William R. Adams, PDC Present
Signal Officers, Timothy J. Beckman, PDC Present
The Legion Editor, Gilbert H. Young, Jr., PDC Present
GAR Records Officer, Bruce R. Kolb, PDC Present
S.V.R., William R. Adams, PDC Present

Chaplain Thomas Ashley presented the opening prayer. Commander Hutchinson then welcomed all to the encampment. He reported that the National was unable to provide a National representative to participate. The encampment then received a motion from brother James Floyd that the minutes of the 134th Annual Encampment of June 6th, 2020 be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Brother David Hoesli. The motion passed; minutes accepted as presented.

Department Officers Reports:

Commander Hutchinson requested that all Department Officer reports be presented as a brief summary. Secretary Adams explained the process for distribution of Encampment Ribbons. Secretary Adams reported that he would distribute the ribbons in the following manner. Anyone who wanted a ribbon was to email Secretary Adams to request one. Once all requests are received, ribbons will be sent to the Camp Commanders for distribution, this being done to reduce mailing costs. Treasurer Brother Young reported on total funds in the Treasury and said all bills were paid. A copy of the Treasurer's report is available upon request. All reports have been received by the Department Secretary and are available for review.

Camp Reports:

Commander Hutchinson requested that all Camp Commander reports be presented as a brief summary. All Camp reports and inventories have been received by the Department Secretary and are available for review.

Old Business:

Wells County cannon Update: The cannon has remained in storage for over 1 year now and is in the possession of the Wells County Historical Society.

Last Soldier Project Committee: Camp's planning "Last Soldier Projects" should inform the Committee of any plans. The contacts for the Project are Brothers Gib Young and Jim Floyd.

26th Indiana Vicksburg Update: No change to date. The relocation of the 26th Indiana Monument at Vicksburg is on the projects list but has lost priority due to infrastructure improvements and the annexing of Champion Hill Battlefield with Vicksburg National Battlefield Park.

Evansville Memorial Coliseum GAR Records Update: Plans are in the Fall of 2021 to begin digitizing and preserving the documents. (See report on file)

Kimmel Park LGAR/DUV Monument, Vincennes Update: No change to previous report of June 2020.

30th Indiana Battle Flag Restoration Update: The flag was successfully restored and ready to be placed on display at the WRC / GAR Museum in Springfield, IL. It was noted that the museum is in great financial distress now and are raising funds to maintain it's existence.

Dept. of Indiana Records Storage/ Digitation Update: Due to the sheer volume of documents decisions have to be made if all or certain types of documents should be digitized. i.e., applications, minutes, financials, etc. Committee needs to determine who, how, and when.

Sultana Monument Project in Marion National Cemetery: No news to report. Comment from Brother Downs that one Memorial to the Sultana disaster resides in a Knoxville, TN cemetery.

New Business

Signals Officer Beckman, PDC explained that the department Zoom license was about to expire and made the motion that the Department of Indiana extend the Departments Pro Account Zoom license for another year at a cost of \$149.90. There is no other further obligation by extending the license one more year. Support provided by Brother Alan Teller. Motion passed!

Commander Hutchinson announced the appointment of Brother Brian Ford to the newly created position of Social Media Signals Officer. This position is to cultivate and enhance the Departments Social Media presence as well as supply support to all Indiana camps in this area upon their request. For more information on this position (see the June 6th 2020 Annual Department Encampment minutes.)

There were no new SVR events to report that were not already on the SVR calendar. Upcoming scheduled events will be discussed in the SVR meeting immediately following the conclusion of this Midwinter Encampment.

Discussion then was directed to the subject of posting Reports on the Department website. After some discussion regarding deadlines to post material Brother Jim Floyd made the following motion, supported by Brother Tim Beckman; Motion to post Camp and Department Officers reports, redacted for financial information, and previous Department Encampment minutes on the

Department website a minimum of 30 days prior to the next Encampment. Motion passed unanimously.

Other New Business:

Brother Alan Teller announced that the SUVCW Charitable Foundation were making available two different types of face coverings, GAR & SUVCW neck gaiters or SUVCW face masks. All proceeds go to the SUVCW Charitable Foundation. Alan also reminded everyone that the annual meeting of the Central Regions of the Allied Orders will be October 1-2, 2021 in Murphysboro, IL and will include a tour of the John Logan Museum.

A motion was made to renew the Department of Indiana's website domain name of suvwin.org for 2 years at a cost of \$41.98. Brother Floyd second, the motion passed unanimously.

Brother Jim Floyd recommended that we consider removing our map of Department of Indiana assets for security of the monuments. Brother Mike Beck voiced his concern that if we take the map down from the website that we are giving in to those who would destroy and vandalize them. Much discussion on the issue ensued until Brother Floyd withdrew his recommendation for purpose of future consideration. Brother Floyd it was finally decided will handle how to proceed off line.

Gib Young stated that he felt there was a need to develop a position paper by the Department of Indiana addressing our position on the destruction, vandalism, and removal of Civil War Monuments by the Cancel Culture groups. He indicated that the adopted statement should then be sent by the individual camps to local editors and Voice of the People Columns. He further recommended that a 3-member committee of either volunteers or appointed by the Department Commander draft such a position statement. Again, much discussion ensued but all agreed that any statement had to be approved by the National Organization before it can be used. Department Commander Hutchinson appointed a committee consisting of Bruce Kolb, Gib Young, Mike Downs and himself to draft the statement.

Brother Gib Young suggested we consider holding the 2021 June Annual Encampment at the Lincoln Boyhood Home. Commander Hutchinson appointed a committee to investigate moving the Annual Encampment to the LBHH and if not available consider other possible locations. The committee consists of Commander Hutchinson, Bruce Kolb, Mike Beck, and Bill Adams.

Brother Bruce Kolb wanted all to consider for a future encampment agenda item, the purchase of a Department server in which all camps would have access to the server space. Currently the server space is provided by Brother Floyd from his own personal server that he pays the costs and does not charge to us.

There being no further business to bring before this Encampment Commander Hutchinson proceeded to the closing ceremony and adjourned the meeting.

Respectively Submitted By
William Adams, Department Secretary