



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



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**DEPARTMENT LETTER 2021-1  
 SERIES 2021-2022, August 10, 2021**

**Summary of Important Information from the 140th National Encampment which was held at St. Louis, Missouri, on August 4 – 8, 2021**

Brothers of the Department of Indiana,

The first item that I want to communicate to the Department of Indiana is to congratulate Brother Bob Winters on being awarded the Chaplain William Corby Award for his work as Chaplain for the Ben Harrison Camp #356.

The 2021-2022 National Elected Officers are:

Commander-in-Chief	Michael A. Paquette, PDC
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief	Bruce D. Frail, PDC
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief	Peter J. Hritsko, Jr., PDC
Council of Administration	Harry W. Reineke IV, PDC
Council of Administration	Kevin L. Martin, PDC
Council of Administration	Kevin P. Tucker, PDC
Council of Administration	Shane L. Milburn, PDC
Council of Administration	Joseph Hall, Jr., PDC

The purpose of the following is to communicate some (not all) of the changes that will be made to the Constitution and Regulations. Only those proposals that passed concerning the Camps and the Department are summarized below. Items in **bold** text are the additions and ~~strike through~~ is a deletion.

One of the important issues discussed at the 140th National Encampment in St. Louis, MO, was the report from the C-in-C Appointed Committee to Develop a Virtual Meeting Policy, chaired by Loran Bures of the Department of Columbia.

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Chapter I, Article IV, Section 1

Section 1. **a.** Regular and special meetings of Camps shall be held as provided by the respective ~~By-Laws~~ **bylaws**.

**b.** Camps, Camp Councils, and any Camp Committees shall be permitted to conduct electronic meetings or provide electronic participation to in-person meetings if all the provisions in paragraphs c. and d. of this Section are met, provided that Camp bylaws may specifically restrict or prohibit electronic meetings.

**c.** The Camp Commander, Council Chairman, or committee chairman, as the case may be, must ensure that all Brothers participating in such meeting and desiring to vote are in good standing and entitled to vote.

**d.** The Camp Commander, Council Chairman, or committee chairman, as the case may be, must ensure that all Brothers attending the meeting by electronic means have an opportunity to express their opinion.

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Chapter II, Article III, Section 1

Section 1. 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.

**(a) All such meetings shall be in person. The Department Commander may allow a limited number of brothers to attend virtually, by way of interactive video conferencing or other such electronic means, including internet-based or telephonic means, should he find, a brother would not otherwise be able to attend a meeting in person. The Commander shall ensure the method used allows full participation of the brothers attending virtually. In the discretion of the Committee Chair, committee meetings may be held as virtual meetings.**

**(b) When a state of emergency exists as the result of a declaration by the President of the United States, the Governor of a State, Territory or Possession, or local government officials who have the authority to declare a state of emergency which prevents a department from meeting, the Department Commander may allow the Department to meet virtually through the issuance of a Department Order.**

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*My summary of the above is this:* Camps may hold virtual or hybrid (in person with virtual) meetings as they so choose. The Department must hold in-person meetings for encampments, except under a state of emergency, and then only after issuance of a Department Order to do so. Committee meetings may be held virtually.

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Chapter I, Article VII, Section 1

*Note: This change adds a new paragraph to this section clarifying the camp commander has a duty to sign the camp Bylaws and forward them to the camp secretary each time they are modified.*

**Section 1 (k) Sign the Camp's Bylaws each time they are modified and forward them to the Camp Secretary.**

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Chapter I, Article VII, Section 4 (c)

*Note: This change to the Regulations adds two new paragraphs to the list of duties assigned to the camp secretary clarifying the disposition of camp Bylaws every time they are modified.*

**Section 4 (c) (13) Sign the Camp's Bylaws each time they are modified and forward them to the Department Commander for approval once they have been signed by the Camp Commander.**

**(14) Forward a copy of the Camp's Bylaws signed by the Department Commander to the Department Secretary each time they are modified and no later than 45 days after receiving the approved Bylaws from the Department Commander.**

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Chapter I, Article XIV, Section 1

*Note: This clarifies the procedure in the above. I show only the added sentences.*

**Camp Bylaws shall be signed by the Camp Commander and Camp Secretary.**

**Each time the Camp's Bylaws are modified, the Camp Secretary shall send a copy of the Bylaws signed by the Department Commander to the Department Secretary no later than 45 days after receiving the approved Camp Bylaws from the Department Commander.**

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Chapter II, Article VII, Section 1

*Note: This clarifies that the Department Commander has a duty to sign the Department Bylaws and forward them to the Department Secretary.*

**Section 1. (k) The Department Commander shall sign the Department's Bylaws each time they are modified and forward them to the Department Secretary.**

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Chapter II, Article VII, Section 4

*Note: I show only the added sentences.*

**Section 4. (n) The Department Secretary shall sign the Department's Bylaws each time they are modified and forward them to the Commander-in-Chief for approval once they have been signed by the Department Commander.**

**(o) The Department Secretary shall forward a copy of the Department's Bylaws signed by the Commander-in-Chief to the Executive Director each time they are modified and no later than 45 days after receiving the approved Department Bylaws from the Commander-in-Chief.**

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Chapter II, Article XV

*Note: I show only the added sentences.*

**Department Bylaws shall be signed by the Department Commander and Department Secretary.**

**Each time the Department's Bylaws are modified, the Department Secretary shall send a copy of the Bylaws signed by the Commander-in-Chief to the Executive Director no later than 45 days after receiving them from the Commander-in-Chief.**

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There were several proposals to change the names of the SUVCW badges with a more military name as had been in the past. All of those proposals failed to pass. The next to last C & R proposal had to do with describing in detail the seal of the Commander-in-Chief. The original seal had 26 stars originally. The proposal was modified to have 13 gold stars in a circle. The modified proposal passed.

The Encampment was attended by 8 Department of Indiana brothers, one being a Dual member of another Department. Those attending were: Bruce Kolb PDC (Ben Harrison Camp #356); Mike Beck PDC (Ben Harrison Camp #356); William Adams PDC (John Auten Camp #8); Tim Beckman PDC (Ben Harrison Camp #356); Dennis Hutchinson DC (J. W. Foster Camp #2); Tom Schmitt (Champion Hill Camp #17); Jonathan Swarts (John Auten Camp #8) and Ronald Hyer (Dual member, Primary Camp; R. Minty Camp #2, Dept. of the Southwest).

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One of the areas in which I have failed the Department is in the recognition of Brothers for service above and beyond the call of duty. I frankly have been ignorant of all the available awards until just recently. This also requires input from the Camp Commanders and the Camp members in helping point out those who deserve recognition. To find the available awards, on the National SUVCW website, go to *Governance and Forms* and then click on *National Policies*, then click on *Awards and Recognitions Policy* to read the awards available. I want to hear the Commander-in-Chief hand out more awards to Department of Indiana Brothers at the 141st Encampment.

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The 141st annual National Encampment will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 11th through the 14th, 2022. I would like to see a large contingent from the Department of Indiana attend this Encampment. I invite you to attend.

Written this 10th Day of August, 2021.  
In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis C. Hutchinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

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