

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

HEADQUARTERS OF THE
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

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Circular 2022-1

June 24, 2022

Brothers of the Department of Indiana:

I intend to publish circulars during my tenure to increase communication between myself and the membership.

At the 136th Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana, SUVCW held June 4, 2022 in Kokomo, Indiana, discussion ensued about changing the dates of the Department Annual and Mid-Winter Encampments. This is a continuing discussion as (at least) Past Department Commanders Tim Beckman and Dennis Hutchinson have raised this topic. The discussion also prompted the idea of having only one Department Encampment per year. Based on subsequent analysis of data from the past fifteen years of Encampments, it is my opinion that we should continue holding two encampments at this time.

The end goal is to make Encampments be events you look forward to attending and that ALL Camps in the Department participate in.

The Annual Encampment is currently held the first Saturday in June. This I (and others) believe is not an optimal choice of date. June, July, and August are typically family vacation months. Additionally, hotel costs are higher during this time of year. The consensus of the discussion during the 136th Annual Encampment was to test changing the dates of the upcoming Encampments. Under Article V of the Department of Indiana bylaws it is my duty to notify the membership of the date of Encampments. I will officially do so by Department Orders and Encampment flyers when the arrangements are finalized however, please know that the Special Encampment Committee I have appointed is tentatively looking at **November 5, 2022** for the newly-titled Mid-Year Encampment and at **April 29, 2023** for the 137th Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana, SUVCW.

The change in the date from the last weekend of January to the first weekend of November should alleviate travel issues due to snow and ice, and overall avoid potentially bitter temperatures. It is my intention that the (now) Mid-Year Encampment will continue to be hosted by Camps who volunteer to do so. The change in the date from the first Saturday in June to the last Saturday in April should avoid school summer vacations, Easter, and provide lower hotel costs. Additionally, Department submission of Form 35 to the National Executive Director is required by May 31st each year, so the date change will assist the Department Secretary in meeting that deadline. I intend to keep the Annual Encampment in Kokomo.

There are other changes to the Encampments as well.

If you attended the 136th Annual Encampment you may have noticed the photograph on the screen during the officer installation. The gentlemen in the photograph were my 2nd Great Grandfather (seated and wearing his G.A.R. badge) and his brother, also a G.A.R. member. During my tenure the Encampments will return to being more like the G.A.R. Encampments. That means ritual, entertainment, fun, business transaction, patriotism, and fellowship.

Minutes, Department Officer, and Camp Reports will no longer be read out loud. Submission of written reports from Camps, Department Officers and Department Committees **remain required** and they will be complied as a part of the Encampment Proceedings for reading by anyone who wishes to do so.

Encampments will include a presentation on an interesting topic, a short patriotic instruction, and at least one activity (such as PDC Gib's trivia games) that provides the opportunity to win a prize.

It is my strong intention that lunch will be served ON-SITE at all Encampments. This saves travel time and, at many restaurants, having to sit at multiple tables away from each other prevents fellowship. We will also have bottled water available to attendees at all Encampments.

We will also arrange the Encampment space to the extent possible per the ritual to set up officer stations. And, in keeping with the traditions of the G.A.R. Encampments, patriotic decorations will be placed.

Together we will continue the proud traditions of our ancestors and the G.A.R!

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Floyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James M. Floyd, Jr.
Department Commander
Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War