

The Indiana Legion

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Volume 19, Number 1

September 2002

General Orders No. 1 Series 2002—2003

Central Regional Conference

1 On June 8, 2002, I was honored by being elected Department Commander, Department of Indiana. Thank you all. Our past Commander, Thomas C. Crawford, has done an outstanding job on behalf of the Department. Please take a minute to congratulate him on his service when you see him next.

2 I hope to attend at least one meeting of every camp over the next year. Please be sure I have your meeting schedule.

3 It is always a pleasure to get together as a group and pay homage to our ancestors.

Remember these dates, and try to make yourself available to attend as many as possible.

14 September — Veterans Home Visit Lafayette 10:00 A M

4 - 5 October — SUVCW Central Region Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, Airport Holiday Inn

12 October — Children's Home Visit, Knightstown, 10:00 A M

26 October — Civil War Show, State Fair Grounds, Indianapolis, 9:00 A M

4 Let us make the next year one of membership. When was the last time you asked someone to join the SONS? I implore everyone to ask a friend, neighbor, relative, etc. to join. Share your enjoyment in the SUVCW with others. Ask someone today to be-

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All brothers are invited to attend the 66th Conference of the Central Regional Association, which meets on the 4th and 5th of October in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Westport Holiday Inn near the Lambert International Airport.

Held every year, the conference is open to all members of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R., of which the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a key organization.

Everyone serving in staff and other leadership positions is particularly encouraged to attend.

The heart of the meeting consists of a special session to develop leadership skills. On Friday evening at 5:45 members will gather at the Holiday Inn lobby for dinner at a nearby restaurant. Fellowship and registration will follow in the low lobby of the Inn at 7:30.

On Saturday morning, tours are planned for the Jefferson Barracks Park, the National Cemetery, and Whitehaven, General Grant's home.

After lunch at the Holiday Inn, the Central Region Conference meeting will be held. A banquet will be held that evening featuring a Civil War historic personage.

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At the Annual meeting in June, Past Commander in Chief Alan Moore pins the badge of office on the new Department Commander, Alan Teller



Remembering the sacrifices made by the soldiers and sailors of the Civil War who fought to preserve the Union,

we are dedicated to continuing the patriotic work begun by our parent organization.

The Grand Army of the Republic



Department Orders

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come a member of the SUVCW.

5 Our news publication *The Indiana Legion* is always in need of articles concerning our Order, the Civil War, our ancestors, our camps, etc. David Wiley, the publisher, could use any material you have. Please contact him at dwiley@cecasun.utc.edu

A Note About Dues

The National Encampment has raised our dues \$6.00 per year. This will take effect January 1, 2003. It is my suggestion that we take this opportunity to increase our dues at the Camp level by \$1.00 and at the Department level by \$1.00. This would mean a total increase of \$8.00 from our current \$25.00 dues, to a total of \$33.00.

We will be voting on this issue of the \$1.00 Department increase at the Mid-Winter Encampment in Huntington on 25 January 2003.

It is my intention to visit every Camp to explain this dues increase and to answer your questions. For sake of uniformity, all Camps should have the same dues structure. With the advent of the Internet we now receive new members from this source. They pay and are accepted at a dues amount stated on the National Website.

By the time this note goes to press, I will have visited the Benton, Champion Hill, and Link Camps. I will plan to visit the Somers Camp on 21 September, the Ben Harrison Camp on 10 October and the Porter Camp on 26 October.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty
Alan Teller
Department Commander

In Memoriam

Charles Robert Noblitt
Ben Harrison Camp
June 2002

Central Region Conference

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The Central Region Association is made up of representatives from Colorado, Wyoming, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

The SUVCW Department of Missouri will host the event.. ☆



Past Commander in Chief Alan Moore pins a Past Department Commander Badge on Tom Crawford

Sons of Veterans Reserve being Formed

The Department of Indiana is in the process of starting a Sons of Veterans Reserve unit of the SUVCW.

Armed and equipped in the manner of the late War of the Rebellion, the SVR will provide color guards and marching units for various events.

The first unit will constitute a company of the 27th Indiana Regiment Indiana Volunteers.

For further information contact Department Commander Alan Teller at 755-455-0484 or by e-mail atller@iquest.net.

Highlights of the June Department Meeting

The 54th Memorial Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic and the 116th Encampment of the Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was held in the St. Joseph Church in the town of Bluffton, Indiana, on Saturday, 8 June, 2002, beginning at 9:45 AM.

The Department as a body held an opening ceremony conducted by Commander Thomas Crawford.

The minutes of the 115th Encampment were approved on a motion by Ron Gill and seconded by Russ Kirchner.

The Treasurer's report was presented as previously approved by the Council.

Reports were made by Junior Vice-Commander, the Legion editor, the Eagle Scout program, and the Graves Registration Officer. Reports and inventories from the various camps were also presented.

A motion was made by Ron Gill, seconded by David Wiley, to leave voting decisions to the delegates to the National Encampment in August.

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The Indiana Legion

Newsletter of
The Department of Indiana
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War
David Wiley, Editor
Tel.: 812-337-0649 • E-mail:
dwiley@cecasun.utc.edu or
dwiley@earthlink.net



Camps should send news items, photographs, and ancestor histories to the editor by e-mail or regular mail on or about 1 January 2003

News from the Camps . . .

Ben Harrison Camp No. 356 of Indianapolis

On Saturday, during the Memorial Day weekend, the brothers of the Ben Harrison Camp, led by Camp Commander Steve Bauer, met at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis for a moving ceremony at the modest grave of Major General Robert Sanford Foster.

Foster, who had a distinguished military career, became a prime mover and organizer of the Grand Army of the Republic in the immediate post bellum years. Regrettably, his contributions as the first person to perform the duties of commander-in-chief, and as the first GAR Department Commander, have gone largely unrecognized.

Steve Bauer has prepared an interesting history of General Foster's career before and after the war, which is available for any brother who wishes a copy.

On Saturday, 17 August, members of the camp attended a ceremony at the memorial to Ben Harrison, 23rd president of the United States. Greetings, and a wreath from President George W. Bush, were presented by the deputy commander of the 88th Regional Support Command, United States Army.

Among the other speeches on the program, David Wiley, in his role as Departmental Junior Vice Commander, presented a talk on "Ben Harrison, the Civil War, and The Grand Army of the Republic."

The Ben Harrison Camp meets on the second Sunday of the month beginning January of each year. Brothers will find the brothers gathered in the MacArthur Room of the Indiana War Memorial in downtown Indianapolis. ☆

David D. Porter Camp No. 116 of Valparaiso

The excellent *D. D. Porter Camp Monitor* reports that the fall season kicks off with a meeting on Saturday, 28 September, with a meeting at the Old Jail Museum on the corner of Indiana and Franklin Streets in Valparaiso.

Members are invited to eat lunch to-



You editor speaks at the Ben Harrison Day Wreath laying at the Crown Hill Cemetery. Behind him sit Brig. General Michael L. Jelinsky of the 88th Regional Support Command and Maj. General Richard D. Chegar (ret.) President of the Ben Harrison Foundation.

gether at the Court Restaurant starting at noon. At 1:30 the group will adjourn to the Museum for a business meeting and a program presented by Camp Commander Bob Griffin. Ladies are, as usual, invited to the luncheon and the program. The *Monitor* stresses that this will be an important meeting. Every member is urged to attend.

Three members of the Porter Camp are planning to attend the Central Region Conference in St. Louis on Friday and Saturday, the 4th and 5th of October.

Brother Paul Smith from South Bend is currently working on a meeting place for lunch and a business session in the South Bend area for the meeting on Saturday, 26 October. Several members of the Camp are from the South Bend and

locations further East.

Plans are still in the works for the Camp's official annual meeting in November, and this means that a search for new officers must take place.

The intrepid Porter Camp brothers, Ron Gill, Ed Krieser, and Al Loomis, were among the ten members of the Department of Indiana to attend the National Encampment held in Springfield, Illinois, in August.

The Monitor comments on the heavily debated issues and the far reaching conclusions arrived at during the Encampment, among them a change in the quarterly report procedures and an increase in dues. The forthcoming issue of *The Banner* will detail these changes.

The intriguing question of a revision of the War Medal was also discussed at length, since some members who have served honorably and sometimes in harm's way, but not during a war, felt they were not being recognized. Apparently a compromise has been reached and a service medal is in the works.

On 8 September Camp members Ed Kreiser, Ron Gill and other brothers searched for new members by manning an information booth at the Old Jail Museum during Valparaiso's celebrated Popcorn Festival. ☆



Indiana Delegates listen attentively at the National Encampment in August

Camp Morton Badges Still Available!

— \$25.00 —

Contact Steve Bauer,
Ben Harrison Camp No. 356
2412 N. Saturn Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46229-1152
A portion of the proceeds will
go to the Camp Morton
Neighborhood Association



Dispatches . . .

Events:

18-20 October—The 13th Annual Civil War Days in Hartford City. An historical and educational Commemoration of the War between the States. With drills, fashions, sutlers, battles and more.

26 October—The 6th Annual "Indy" Civil War Show (Camp Morton Civil War Show). Showcasing the Nation's Premier Civil War Dealers at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Event Center. Hours from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM, Admission \$5.00.

9 November—Grand Victorian Ball in Lafayette

16-17 November—Remembrance Day at Gettysburg

Books of interest:



Donna B. Sauterburger & Thomas Bayard, eds. *I Seat Myself to Write You a Few Lines: Civil War and Homestead letters from Thomas Lucas & Family*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2002.. Pre-publication price \$49.60.

Sue Baker, *Hancock County, Indiana, Civil Soldiers Plus Related Facts*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2002.. Pre-publication price \$32.00.

Champion Hill Camp No. 17 of Huntington

The anonymous editor of the Champion Hill Post has turned out another thorough, and often amusing, issue, Number 14.

As this issue of *The Indiana Legion* goes to press, the first meeting of the Champion Hill Camp for the season will already have occurred on the 15th of September in the G.A. R. room in the Huntington County Courthouse. Like the Porter Camp, the business meeting doubtless turned to the matter of dues raised for the Department and the National SUVCW.

This Camp leadership prepares well into the future. The October meeting will be held on Saturday, 20 October, at 2:30 PM in the G.A.R. Room. In the plans are the nomination of officers for 2003, Civil War tours — and more to be announced. On 24 November, an evening meeting will take place at the Family Table Restaurant at 6:00 PM. Spouses are invited, and the election of officers and an entertainment are scheduled. The camp meets for the new year on 19 January and by then will be getting organized to host the Department's Mid-Winter Encampment on the 25th.

A major project for the Champion Hill

Camp is the development of a monument to Brevet Major General James Richard Slack who was colonel of the 47th Regiment Indiana Volunteers, serving under Buell in Kentucky and Pope in Missouri. He led his regiment at Champion Hill and



The Indiana Delegation flanks Commander in Chief George Powell at the National Encampment. The Champion Hill, Porter and Somers Camps were represented

the final assaults during the Vicksburg campaign, and on the Red River Campaign as well. He was promoted to Brigadier General USV in November 1864 and later breveted Major General for war service.

Already, a little more than half of the proposed cost of the monument has been raised.

It has also been proposed that the monument include three colonels from the Huntington area. More about this project will be included in subsequent issues. ☆

In future editions The Indiana Legion offers brothers an opportunity to introduce themselves and, if possible, their Civil War ancestors to the whole membership. Let's hear from you.

Introducing the new Monument Officer

I am Philip McClure. I usually go by Phil. I joined the Sons in the early part of this year. I suppose you might say that I have had an interest in the Civil War since I was seven years old. At that age I was very fortunate to meet two veterans who came to the school that I attended. Now as you may expect, this was almost sixty years ago. Both of these gentlemen were wearing their G.A.R. uniforms. I was impressed.

I was surrounded by Civil War, since my mother was from Savannah, Georgia, and she also had a deep regard for veterans, even if some did wear gray. During our trips to my grandmother's, we would usually stop at a Civil War site. Having relatives on both sides also made the war more interesting for me.

In June I attended the state encampment, and during a conversation with Alan Teller and other Sons I mentioned that along with two buddies I had repaired a G.A.R. monument in the old Columbus City cemetery, as well as many stones, military and civilian. Before the day ended, Alan asked if I would accept the monument officer position. I agreed. I do consider this an honor and will do my best to fulfill my responsibility. I would invite all Sons to feel free to contact me with any information about monuments, or just to chat.

My telephone number is 812-579-5127.

My e-mail is philjudy@bcremc.net. Thank you in F. C. & L. Phil McClure ☆

Highlights of June Meeting

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Later in the morning the group attended a joint meeting with the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Russ Kirchner and Tom Crawford discussed legal inventory forms devised by Jim Weeks, Bill Gordon, and Russ Kirchner, which include receipt forms for articles loaned for public display, camp property custodial receipts, irrevocable gifts, and periodic inventory listings.

After lunch and a great game of Jeopardy and renditions by the Company Singers, Commander Crawford presented a report highlighting his year's activity.

Alan Loomis discussed the need for a Camp Organizer. He and Gib Young expressed interest in the position.

Ron Gill, Council Member, presented the slate of officers: Department Commander, Alan Teller; Sr. Vice Commander, Gib Young; Jr. Vice Commander, David Wiley; Secretary/Treasurer, Shawn Clements; Council: Jay Crisp, Russ Kirchner, and Tom Crawford. A motion to elect the slate by acclamation was presented by Alan Loomis and seconded by Sam Thorn. Passed unanimously.

On a motion by Ron Gill, seconded by David Wiley, the following brothers were unanimously elected to be Delegates to the National Encampment: Ned Baker, Gib Young, Bob Stephen, Jim Perry, Francis Fredrick, and McClernand Crawford.

Alan Loomis moved, with a second by Ed Krieser, that all members in good standing be elected alternate delegates. Passed.

Initiation ceremonies for the new officers were then conducted by Allen Moore, and the meeting was turned over to new Department Commander, Alan Teller.

With appropriate ceremony, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM. ☆

Department Officers 2002-2003

Department Commander
J. Alan Teller
3003 Lamplighter Lane
Kokomo, IN 46902-8125
765-455-0484
atller@iquest.net



The Company Singers at work at the June Encampment. From left to right Gib Young (Navy), Jim Kline (Sgt.), Bob Stephen (Maj.), Rick Henly (Cav.), Don Morgan (Pvt.), Rich McConnell (Sgt.)

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Why does your camp have the name that it has? Send answers to the editor for the next issue of The Indiana Legion.

Central Regional Conference

Pre-Registration

October 4 & 5, 2002

Hosted by the Department of Missouri

Conference Registration at \$5.00 per person _____

Meal Registration

Lunch, Saturday, October 5, at \$9.00 per person

Choice of chef salad, club sandwich, or French Dip
plus beverage _____

Banquet, Saturday, October 5, at \$24.00 per person
choice of beef entrée _____ or chicken entrée _____

Total amount for registration and meals _____

Name _____

Address _____

By Sept. 24 mail with check or money order payable to:

Jack G. Grothe, Treasurer

Central Region Conference

727 Zeiss Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63125-1421 C3144 631-7492

Hotel Accommodations

Holiday Inn

St. Louis Westport
1973 Craigshire Road

(314) 434-0100

Toll Free 1-800 465-4329

Room rate is \$75.00 plus tax for single/
double occupancy

(mention you are with the Central
Regional Conference to get rate)

Reservation deadline for this rate is
September 20, 2002

≈

Directions

From I-70 or I-64 take I-270 to
Page Ave, (Highway D). Go East
on Page Ave. to Westport Dr. exit.
At the stop, take a right and con-
tinue on Lakeland Rd. until it
runs into Craigshire Rd. Con-
tinue on Craigshire. The Holiday
Inn will be on the right.

The
Indiana Legion

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department of Indiana

3800 Woodmere Way
Bloomington, IN 47403-4123

A Note to Everyone:

Thank you for your patience in waiting for this electronic edition of the *The Indiana Legion*,
and for your patience in waiting for the long download, which is made necessary by transmit-
ting the pictures in color and at a decent screen resolution.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

David