

Council Report April 30, 2016

To Commnader LeMay, Treasurer Albanese, Officers and Brothers:

As required the Dept. of NY Council met after the adjournment of the Annual Encampment business meeting on May 3, 2015. The first order of business at 1720 hours was selecting a Chairman and Secretary. Assignments were decided as follows:

Brother David Dziewulski – Chairman
Brother Richard Straight– Secretary
Brother Ray Wheaton – Member

The second order of business was establishing the fee for the 2016 Encampment. After discussion among the members it was thought prudent to keep the fee at \$10. The Chairman also briefly discussed an expense with Brother Treasurer Albanese related to the purchase of Quick Books software for \$154.36. Since the software is necessary for the Treasurer to do his job the Chairman approved the expense and sought concurrence from the other Council Members. They also approved.

At that time (May 4 – 5, 2015) we anticipated additional billings from the 2015 Encampment from Brother Treasurer Albanese.

On May 12 Brother Albanese reminded the Council that any expenses approved in the current budget do not need Council approval. He also noted that there were no additional unusual expenses other than the Quick Books software. Brother Albanese provided some information regarding the budget that included the following:

1. The gross proceeds of the raffle were \$1,006.00 and the net proceeds after the payment of postage was \$756.
2. The Department 2014/15 budget projected net proceeds of \$900 for the above.
3. The banquet on the other hand grossed \$2,135 and the projection for that event was \$2,100; Department expenses were \$2,010.12 (that is, \$1,935.12 for the banquet and \$75 for entertainment) resulting in a net gain of \$124.88.
4. The Commander's room, budgeted at \$250.00 actually had a final cost of \$314.14. The bylaws require payment of this item and the difference (\$64.14) came from the Commander's other budget line (\$750) in which he had only expended \$115 (including \$25 for the Mary Walker medal given to Bea Greenwalt).
5. Brother Albanese was still awaiting receipts for gas and tolls for the Commanders attendance.

The only item meriting consideration and approval from Council at that time was the cost of the PDC badge. The budget sent to the Council by Brother Albanese, and adopted in 2014 only allocated \$80 for badges. The proceedings reflect that the allowable total was changed to \$180 by the Encampment. Actual cost was \$198 or \$18 over budget.

On May 26 Brother Albanese informed the Council that the Department per capita assessment check was mailed to the Executive Director at the National Headquarters.

Also on May 26, Council Chairman David Dziewulski sent an email to Brother Albanese regarding the duties of the council. The email discussed the by-laws and the approval of Encampment expenses. The Chairman also asked if there were any additional bills submitted from the Encampment that would require Council approval. On May 27 the Treasurer confirmed that there were no other expenses but that some fuel and toll expenses

may be submitted at a later date. As of October 16, 2015 the Council is not aware of any of these additional expenses being submitted for reimbursement.

On June 16, the Council Chairman emailed the Treasurer regarding an oversight requesting approval of \$18. The Chairman voted "yes" for the expense and copied Brothers Wheaton and Straight. By June 28 both members also voted "yes" for the additional \$18 expense.

On August 14 Brother Ron Paul requested, from Commander LeMay, reimbursement for shipping the artifacts and records related to the Diven Camp. Bro. Treasurer Albanese and the Commander felt the request was appropriate and asked for Council approval. By August 15 all Council members had voted their approval of the reimbursement.

On August 24 Brother Albanese submitted a bill against the Department for reimbursement of Hotel expenses incurred by the Department Commander by his attendance at the National Encampment. The amount to be reimbursed was \$250.00 as allocated in the budget (per Section 3, Article 5 of the Department By-Laws).

After August 24 there was nothing to report until a request for reimbursement was made by Commander LeMay on January 27 for expenses associated with the cost of engraving the Olive Clarke Plaque and shipment of the plaque and the Kernan Cup to the Baldwin Camp. Appropriate receipts for the expenses were provided. Council Chair Dziewulski indicated by email that the expense was not a big amount and should be payable with the Commander's discretionary funds. He did indicate that there was a need for an email from Treasurer Albanese that proposed the expense to discretionary funds ("slush fund" was used in emails) and then the Council would need to vote. An extensive email reply from Treasurer Albanese indicated that these funds were not budgeted and could not be reimbursed.¹ The end result was that although Council members were in favor of approval, the Treasurer never approved/ proposed the reimbursement². On January 28, Council Chair sent an email to the Council members, the Treasurer and Commander with the following comment:

"A request was made and a simple yes or a no with a brief explanation would have sufficed. An expense was incurred, it benefitted no Department officer and recognized the accomplishment of a Camp and a Brother. It seemed to be a reasonable request for the use of *discretionary* funds."³ [emphasis added]

The use of discretionary funds use was not allowed by the Treasurer. After additional emails, discussion of payment was delayed until the Annual Encampment in April 2016. As Council Member Wheaton indicated "no budget, no money until the encampment."⁴

On April 11 Treasurer Albanese sent an email about Department property and funds to Commander LeMay, Counselor Wheeler, and several other Brothers. He did not copy the Council. In that email the Treasurer indicated that he was preparing the annual financial report and needed information on the funds generated by the Archive Committee and wanted information on the disposition of items in the Department Collection. The

¹ Email of January 27, 2016 from Treasurer Albanese to Brothers Ray Wheaton, Ray LeMay, Pugsley, David Dziewulski, Richard Straight and Danny Wheeler

² Email of January 28, 2016 from Brother Ray Wheaton to Robert Puglsey, Danny Wheeler Jeff Albanese, Ray LeMay, David Dziewulski and Richard Straight.

³ Email of January 28, 2016 from David Dziewulski to Brothers Jeff Albanese, Raymond LeMay, Robert Pugsley, Richard E. Straight, Danny Wheeler, eel2@twcny.rr.com<dwheel2@twcny.rr.com>;

⁴ Email of January 28, 2016 from Brother Ray Wheaton to Brothers Danny Wheeler, Jeff Albanese, Ray LeMay, David Dziewulski and Richard Straight. Compare to the context of footnote 2.

email also had a comment about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department and the New York State Military Museum⁵.

On April 15, 2016 Treasurer Albanese notified the Department Council that he had mailed the financial records of the Department to Council Chair Dziwulski and mentioned the funds generated by the Archive Committee⁶. The chair received the material on April 18 and scanned the records for distribution to Council members Ray Wheaton and Rich Straight.⁷ At that time the annual audit process was begun. Consequently, an addendum this report was announced at the encampment and that addendum is included below.

Recommendations:

It is strongly recommended that the use of the Department Commander's discretionary fund be clearly defined. Expenses by the Department Commander that are for the "good of the order," though not budgeted, should not be prevented. There needs to be discussion between the Treasurer and the Council for these expenses. Ignoring requests/emails about expenses made by the Commander should be considered both unacceptable and disrespectful. Not all unbudgeted items that may be reasonable use of the Commander's discretionary fund need to be deferred until the Encampment for a vote.

Any attempts to further control the reasonable use of the Commander's discretionary funds, via by-law changes or other means, should be discouraged.

Submitted for the Council by
David M. Dziwulski, PCC
Department of New York Council Chairman
April 21, 2015

Addendum of April 30, 2016:

After reviewing the accounts of the Department there were two questions about entries. One entry involved the cost of wreaths that was budgeted for \$100 (60930). Expenses for the current year show \$170. The extra expense was related to a reimbursement of wreath expenses that were accidentally not submitted.

Additional entries were made between April 15, when the books were sent to the Council Chair, and April 30. An updated accounting was provided by Treasurer Albanese: [1] Payment to National for a new member and [2] a deposit of funds for the per capita payments, a new member and registrations for the encampment.

After the Council met and reviewed the accounts and answers to minor questions of clarification posed to the Treasurer (including advertising expenses for the National Encampment for \$40), the accounts, to the date of April 30 2016, were approved by unanimous vote of the Council.

Finally, two additional receipts were provided with requests for payment. One receipt was for shipment of award plaques by Todd Shillington. The other receipt was for payment of a repair for the premature failure of PDC Weinmann's PDC badge. Both expenses were unanimously approved by the Council.

⁵ Personal correspondence between Department Commander LeMay and Council Chairman Dziwulski

⁶ Email of April 15, 2016 from Treasurer Albanese to Brothers David Dziwulski, Ray Wheaton, Rich Straight, Danny Wheeler, RoberPugsley, Ray LeMay, Daryl VerStreate and one unidentified email address.

⁷ Email of April 19, 2016 from Brother David Dziwulski to Brothers Rich Straight, Ray Wheaton, Ray LeMay and Jeff Albanese.

The approval of the accounts and the remaining expenses was reported to those Assembled for the Encampment. This concluded the work of the 2015-2016 Department Council.

Addendum submitted for the Council by
David M. Dziewulski, PCC
Department of New York Council Chairman
April 30, 2015

Appendix of Emails

Email Chain 1
Footnotes 1, 2 and 3

From: "D. Dziewulski" <dmdeezee@nycap.rr.com>
To: "Jeffrey Albanese" <jalb@frontiernet.net>; "RAY WHEATON" <rbw008@yahoo.com>
Cc: "Raymond LeMay" <raylemay3@gmail.com>; "Robert Pugsley" <flycar@frontiernet.net>; "Richard E. Straight" <restraight1@gmail.com>; <dwheel2@twcnny.rr.com>
Subject: Re: Reimbursement Request
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2016 9:21 PM

All:

A request was made and a simple yes or a no with an brief explanation would have sufficed. An expense was incurred, it benefitted no Department officer and recognized the accomplishment of a Camp and a Brother. It seemed to be a reasonable request for the use of discretionary funds.

In F, C & L,

David M. Dziewulski, PCC
Council Member, Memorials Officer
Col. G. L. Willard Camp 154
Council Chair, Memorials Officer
Department of New York, SUVCW

No virus found in this message.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Jeffrey Albanese" <jalb@frontiernet.net>
To: "RAY WHEATON" <rbw008@yahoo.com>
Cc: "Raymond LeMay" <raylemay3@gmail.com>; "Robert Pugsley" <flycar@frontiernet.net>; "D. Dziewulski" <dmdeezee@nycap.rr.com>; "Richard E. Straight" <restraight1@gmail.com>; <dwheel2@twcnny.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:26 PM
Subject: Re: Reimbursement Request

Gentlemen

The answer to this question is simple. There are no funds budgeted for these items. The Department votes on a budget, the budget has a line item for plaques and has a budget on that line for The Rippey Award. Yes indeed there is a budget for the Commanders expenses. The intent of that budget is to compensate the Commander for travel expenses, postage and similar items in order to perform his function as commander. In addition there is precedent for it to be used for for such things as small monetary donations to organizations promoting the ideas

of the order and usually the subject of prior resolutions of support by the order. The two that come to mind are for Grants Cottage and for General Thomas Grave renovation. However in each of those instance prior approval and review was sought either from the Treasurer or the Council prior to incurring the actual debt. Recently Brother Wheeler asked me in advance whether there was money in the budget to pay for the repair of the recently issued PDC badge issued to George Weinmann which apparently broke due to a purported defect and after discussion we agreed that there was no emergency and this needed to go to the Encampment for approval. In this instance there was no such prior review sort it was just done without consideration of the budget or the budgetary process because it could be taken out and I quote from the "slush fund". Frankly and with all due respect I find great offense with calling this fund a slush fund. It implies illegality, illegitimacy and secrecy with no control. We just have gone through numerous years of illegality, illegitimacy and misappropriation of Department funds without any oversight or control. With acts of commission by our Treasurer in misappropriating funds and acts of omission by our council in not properly reviewing the books. We had allowed these funds to become a slush fund for those in control. We have vowed to stop that sort of loose handling of funds. In this instance there was no urgency in obtaining these items whatsoever, nor were these items required to be purchased by our bylaws. Nor was this a case of where we budgeted for an item but it cost more than we budgeted. I would think based on that history both I as Treasurer and the Council would be much more careful in handling these funds in all instances small or great. There was no reason that prior consultation or approval in advance should not have been sought. There is no reason why this should not be submitted to the department Encampment for approval since it is not a budgeted item although there is a budget line for it. Do not budgets mean something to this organization? Have we not learned our lesson with our most very recent problems with the handling of our funds? Should we not be extremely careful with how we spend Department funds and only spend that which is funded, or mandated by our bylaws or has precedent? If not then I think I may need to turn my attention elsewhere and frankly what bothered me most about this request was the reference, which I now have seen three times, that this budget line is a slush fund.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Jeffrey Albanese, PDC

Sent from my iPad

> On Jan 27, 2016, at 8:01 PM, RAY WHEATON <rbw008@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

> I have no problem on reimbursement, but have we any budgeted funds for
> this bill. Will it have to wait for the encampment.

>

> Ray

>

>

> Ray Wheaton

> Retired Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal

> Ithaca Fire Department

> 12 Olli Road
> Newfield, NY 14867
> 607-564-7227
> 607-227-0109

>

>

>> On Jan 27, 2016, at 3:57 PM, Raymond LeMay <raylemay3@gmail.com> wrote:

>>

>> Gentlemen,

>>

>> I am requesting reimbursement for the engraving of the Oliver Clarke Plaque and mailing to the Baldwin Camp of said plaque and Kernan Cup for the award winners of 2015. I am respectfully requesting the reimbursement of the total funds of \$59.84 from my slush fund to be reimbursed for the expenses of the USPS mailing of \$12.86 and the Engraver expense of \$46.98 for the good work of the order.

>>

>> Thank you!

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>> Please find attached all receipt documentation.

>>

>> Yours in F,C,& L,

>> Ray LeMay

>> Cmdr.

>> <Plaque (1).pdf>

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2016.0.7357 / Virus Database: 4522/11466 - Release Date: 01/23/16

Email Chain 2
Footnotes 4 (and 1)

From: "RAY WHEATON" <rbw008@yahoo.com>
To: <flycar@frontiernet.net>
Cc: <dwheel2@twcny.rr.com>; "Jeffrey Albanese" <jalb@frontiernet.net>; "Raymond LeMay" <raylemay3@gmail.com>; "D. Dziwulski" <dmdeezee@nycap.rr.com>; "Richard E. Straight" <restraight1@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Reimbursement Request
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2016 8:30 AM

As I said no budget no money until the Encampment.

Ray

Ray Wheaton
Retired Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal
Ithaca Fire Department
12 Olli Road
Newfield, NY 14867
607-564-7227
607-227-0109

> On Jan 28, 2016, at 6:54 AM, "flycar@frontiernet.net" <flycar@frontiernet.net> wrote:

>

> In relation to giving out the Awards in the past, during my term as Commander, we had absolutely no records on which to go by, they all being with Bennett, and also we were not certain of our finances. I incurred a lot of expenses for which I did not seek compensation. I did come up with the numbers for 2015 however. Maybe some of the records to which Commander Lemay referred to a while ago hold that information. I would like to see those records go to the Dept Secretary at the next Encampment.

>

> Yours in F, C, and L,

>

> Bob

>

>

> On Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:09 AM, "dwheel2@twcny.rr.com" <dwheel2@twcny.rr.com> wrote:

>

>

> Brothers

>

> As councilor I agree with Jeff we must follow the budget. It seems to me that awards are to be turned in each year if that is done we would not have this problem in the first place.

>

> Yours in FC&L

> Danny Wheeler PCinC

> NY Councilor

>

>

>

>

> ---- Jeffrey Albanese <jalb@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> > Gentlemen

> >

> > The answer to this question is simple. There are no funds budgeted for these items. The Department votes on a budget, the budget has a line item for plaques and has a budget on that line for The Rippey Award. Yes indeed there is a budget for the Commanders expenses. The intent of that budget is to compensate the Commander for travel expenses, postage and similar items in order to perform his function as commander. In addition there is precedent for it to be used for for such things as small monetary donations to organizations promoting the ideas of the order and usually the subject of prior resolutions of support by the order. The two that come to mind are for Grants Cottage and for General Thomas Grave renovation. However in each of those instance prior approval and review was sought either from the Treasurer or the Council prior to incurring the actual debt. Recently Brother Wheeler asked me in advance whether there was money in the budget to pay for the repair of the recently issued PDC badge issued to George Weinmann which apparently broke due to a purported defect and after discussion we agreed that there was no emergency and this needed to go to the Encampment for approval. In this instance there was no such prior review sort it was just done without consideration of the budget or the budgetary process because it could be taken out and I quote from the "slush fund". Frankly and with all due respect I find great offense with calling this fund a slush fund. It implies illegality, illegitimacy and secrecy with no control. We just have gone through numerous years of illegality, illegitimacy and misappropriation of Department funds without any oversight or control. With acts of commission by our Treasurer in misappropriating funds and acts of omission by our council in not properly reviewing the books. We had allowed these funds to become a slush fund for those in control. We have vowed to stop that sort of loose handling of funds. In this instance there was no urgency in obtaining these items whatsoever, nor were these items required to be purchased by our bylaws. Nor was this a case of where we budgeted for an item but it cost more than we budgeted. I would think based on that history both I as Treasurer and the Council would be much more careful in handling these funds in all instances small or great. There was no reason that prior consultation or approval in advance should not have been sought. There is no reason why this should not be submitted to the Department Encampment for approval since it is not a budgeted item although there is a budget line for it. Do not budgets mean something to this organization? Have we not learned our lesson with our most very recent problems with the handling of our funds? Should we not be extremely careful with how we spend Department funds and only spend that which is funded, or mandated by our bylaws or has precedent? If not then I think I may need to turn my attention elsewhere and frankly what bothered me most about this request was the reference, which I now have seen three times, that this budget line is a slush fund.

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>> Jeffrey Albanese, PDC

>>

>> Sent from my iPad

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>>>> Please find attached all receipt documentation.

>>>>

>>>> Yours in F,C,& L,

>>>> Ray LeMay

>>>> Cmdr.

>>>> <Plaque (1).pdf>

>

>

Email chain #3

Footnote 6

Footnote 5

From: "Jeffrey Albanese" <jalb@frontiernet.net>

To: <dmdzee@nycap.rr.com>; <restraight1@gmail.com>; "Ray Wheaton" <rbw008@yahoo.com>

Cc: <dwheel2@twcny.rr.com>; <flycar@frontiernet.net>; "Raymond LeMay" <raylemay3@gmail.com>;

<pegsox24@gmail.com>; "Daryl VerStrete jr." <daryl_7374@hotmail.com>

Subject: Department Treasurer's 2015/2016 financial records

Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 1:26 PM

Dear Department Council Members:

Please let this email serve to advise you that today, April 15, 2016 I have transmitted via the USPS to the Council Chairman a copy of the Treasurer's records for the period May 1, 2015 to date per the Bylaws of the Department of New York for examination by the council. These records include bank statements for all 3 Wells Fargo accounts, the two Berkshire Bank CD accounts, and the Northwestern Mutual Fund including the January 1-March 31, 2016 quarterly statement for the Department mutual fund, as well as the checking account register, check and deposit detail reports and other assorted records. These records do not reflect Department monies which I recently discovered were apparently being held by a Department Committee on GAR & SUVCW Artifacts and Property which I have requested be turned over to me pursuant to the National Rules & Regulations for deposit in the Department Accounts. Although that has not yet occurred I did receive two days ago a report regarding the amount of those funds and an accounting although I have received no documentation. I hope to receive that at the Encampment but at this point make no representations regarding those department funds, nor why they are not in my possession. I will remind everyone that the Department Bylaws I am complying with are in addition to what is required by the National Rules & Regs and were only recently enacted by us due to the very recent failure of this organization to insure accountability of all Departments funds and the failure to comply with National Rules & Regulations, whether they be archaic, as has been suggested, or not. Updated bank statements and check register will be provided at the Encampment.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,
Jeffrey Albanese, PDC, Dept. Treasurer

Sent from my iPad

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2016.0.7539 / Virus Database: 4545/12040 - Release Date: 04/15/16

Email #4
Footnote 7

From: "D. Dziewulski" <dmdeezee@nycap.rr.com>
To: <restraight1@gmail.com>; "Wheaton Ray" <rbw008@yahoo.com>
Cc: "LeMay Raymond" <raylemay3@gmail.com>; "Albanese Jeffrey & Maryellen" <jalb@frontiernet.net>
Subject: Annual Department Audit
Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 10:47 PM

Brother Council Members:

Treasurer Jeff Albanese mailed the documentation for the annual audit on April 15. All of you were copied on his email of the same date; please refer to its content for additional information. The material was received on April 18 and I scanned it into three groups on April 19. One group contains the documents for 2015-2016 divided into seven different batches (as received clipped together). The second group contains the documents from 2014-2015 for reference. The final attachment is the budget. All expenditures should be compared to the expenses allowed by the budget. If you have any questions be sure to ask them but copy everyone on this email.

One item was not scanned. The receipt for #7 in the 2015-2016 group, for hotel accommodations, got stuck to another page during the scan. I assure you that the receipt was sent and it was received. It will be available for review at the encampment. Thanks for your understanding.

This email is being sent with a "read receipt" request. Please do not ignore it.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty
David M. Dziewulski, PCC
Council Member, Memorials Officer
Col. G.L. Willard Camp 154
Council Chairman, Memorials Officer
Dept. of New York

PDF AuditSuvcw_2015_16_budget.pdf
PDF AuditSuvcw_2014_15Matl.pdr
PDF AuditSuvcw_2016_1.pdf

Subject: [No Subject]
From: dwheel2@twcny.rr.com (dwheel2@twcny.rr.com)
To: flycar@frontiernet.net;
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 8:19 AM

Bob

Sorry for being so late . The work load with National has been more then anyone should go thru.

Here is my report

Commander and fellow brothers

As your councilor it has been a busy year and have found my self going thru the bylaws for National and department a lot. I have read and approved 27 General orders I believe it is the most I have ever had to do. Their were some that had to be revised etc. It is great hope that I have done my best and everyone knows that I have done everything I could for the good of the order.

Yours in FC&L
Danny Wheeler PCinC
Department Councilor

Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

“Patriotic Instructor Annual Report”

March 30, 2016

Dear Commander LeMay and Brothers of the Department of New York,

Since becoming Patriotic Instructor at the State Encampment in April, I was asked by Commander LeMay to conduct a Survey of the what each camp in the Department did on May 30th to commemorate Memorial Day. After sending out an e-mail and receiving no response, I decided to call all the Patriotic Instructors to introduce myself and conduct the survey first hand on the phone. The results of the information gathered were used by Commander LeMay to compile a report to Brother, Al Peterson, PDC, National Chairperson of the Committee to Restore Memorial Day.

“Communication” is the exchange of information between people and can be obtained through many different means. Speaking, writing or the use a common system such as e-mail, the telephone or letter in the mail, can all bring about this exchange.

My goal as Department Patriotic Instructor this year was to have 100 percent participation from the Patriotic Instructors in all 18 camps within the department. Since my previous attempts at emails and the phone proved unsuccessful, I decided to rely on the older form of communication, the US mail. To accomplish this, using the mailing address of each Patriotic Instructor provided on the department web site, I put together a cover letter, a copy of the form, Annual Report of the Patriotic Instructor to the Department Patriotic Instructor, and a stamped return self-address envelope and mailed them out asking that they be returned by the end of February. The results of this undertaking have been highly successful, with 16 out of the 18 camp responding and submitting their camps annual report as requested.

The Department Patriotic Instructor Award according to the Department By-Laws shall be presented to any and all camps that meet the criteria as outlined by the Department Patriotic Instructor.

I would like to thank all these Camp's Patriotic Instructors for their diligence to duty in responding. I would also like to thank Brother Robert Keough for his design and printing of these beautiful certificates.

This year's Camp Patriotic Instructor Award, of \$100.00 dollars goes to the Col. John B. Weber, Camp 44, Camp and Patriotic Instructor Brother Michael E. Erb. The reason for this selection was based on his dedication and understanding of his duty as his Camps Patriotic Instructor in being pro-active an submitting his camps Patriotic Instructors Report in the most timely manner even before receiving my mailing requesting it.

Respectfully submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Richard E. Straight,

Department Patriotic Instructor

Subject: Historian's Report
From: Orton Jerome (orton50@aol.com)
To: flycar@frontiernet.net;
Date: Sunday, April 17, 2016 8:47 AM

April 16, 2016

Ray LeMay III
Department Commander
NY Department, Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War
10 Knabner St.
Mechanicville, N.Y. 12118

Dear Department Commander:

This year marks two significant 150th anniversaries. April 6 marked the anniversary of the founding of the GAR and May 5 the founding of Memorial Day.

The department's Bells Across NY State to commemorate the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic was marked on May 9.

The village of Waterloo will host various activities throughout the month of May to celebrate and commemorate Memorial Day.

The histories of our department encampments, 1884 to 2015 is now on our website. This was a labor of love by me and my late wife, Lorraine. Many thanks are extended to our webmaster, Bob Paul, for putting this history on our website as well as all the other material.

The amount of material accumulated by our department is overwhelming, just incredible, over 50 boxes.

The archive committee's report will detail the Himalayan task of deciding what to do with material. I went through the material as best as I could on two occasions and put aside some material pertinent to my office.

There are at least three Sons of Union Veterans halls now headquarters for the American Legion. They are located in Broadalbin, Nunda and Dalton. The GAR/SUV hall in Ovid is being repaired by camp 146 and Seneca County.

Jessie Montag, PO Box 317, 413 Pine St., Augusta, WI 54722 is a real daughter. Her father, James Terry served in Co. B, 7th NY Art. She

wss on their area television station for Veteran's Day.

There is so much of our history on the internet it is impossible to keep track of it.

The memory of the Boys in Blue and Memorial Day would be lost if it were not for our members. Their activities exemplify our motto, Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

Sincerely submitted in F, C and L,

Jerome Orton
Department Historian

Annual Report
May 2015-May 2016

US Rt. 6 Grand Army of the Republic Highway
Matthew J Hereford PCC US RT 6 Highway Officer

April 27, 2016

Dear Commander,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for my appointment as the US Route 6 Grand Army of the Republic Highway Officer for the Department of NY Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 2015-2016 term.

Below is a brief summary of the highlights of the GAR Highway within NY

1. To follow up on the purchase of two GAR road signs for the City of Peekskill, NY, the John L. Worden Camp purchased two signs at a cost of \$125 + \$25 shipping. A dedication service for the signs was conducted April 25th at the Lincoln Depot Museum in Peekskill and I gave a brief speech about US RT 6 GAR Highway. The signs were coated in a special paint that helps protect them and then placed on Route 6 coming into the city limits and leaving the city. This adds two new signs to the NY area.
2. NY Department US Route 6 GAR Highway Brochures are being distributed through the courtesy of the Bear Mt. Toll House Tourist Information Center.
4. Membership, ours being free as a not-for-profit, has been renewed in the US Route 6 Tourist Assn. for the 2016 year.
5. I regret that I cannot attend the 2016 Encampment but I remain willing to continue as GAR Highway Officer if the new commander wishes.

Recommendations: None at this time.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Matthew J. Hereford PCC

Final Report of the Memorials Officer
Department Encampment April, 2015

The appointment of Memorials Officer was formalized in Order #4, Series 2015-2016 in an email of June 6, 2015. This report covers the next ten months of activities.

In an email of June 11, 2015 I requested permission to pursue a project involving the identification and registration of Civil War/GAR monuments in NY with the National SUVCW . The purpose of the project is twofold: To increase the number of registered monuments and to collect sufficient information on New York State monuments to produce a short book honoring the Sesquicentennial of the Grand Army of the Republic. An outline was submitted to Commander LeMay and a final product was produced and emailed on August 21 (see below).

Also on June 11 Brother Keough agreed to assist in the design and production of the booklet. Brother Orton agreed to supply information about, and the location of, monuments he has documented in his travels.

Brother Walter Busch, National Memorials Officer, was contacted via email on July 1 to determine the number of registered monuments in New York State. Brother Busch replied on July 4 and notified the Dept. of NY that there were a total of six (6) monuments registered. In addition a booklet was submitted that contained a number of monuments in NY. The booklet was produced for the 125th Anniversary of the formation of the first GAR post in NY. Brother Jerry Orton subsequently provided a copy of the document to the Monuments Officer for review. It should be noted that although this booklet is on file with our National Organization the monuments containing within the booklet are not formally registered in the monument record.

On July 28 an email outlining the Monuments registration project was sent to 15 Camps; one Camp does not have a legitimate email address for their Monuments or Graves Officer; one email bounced back as an illegitimate email address (See Appendix A). Through August 20 there was an 13.3% response to the email (2/15).

A second draft email outlining the project to the various Camps in the Department was submitted to Commander LeMay for review on August 13. The email was sent on August 21. Attached to this email (Appendix B) was an outline of the project (Appendix C) and a copy of the National monuments registration form CWM_61 (available on line). Through the current date (10/18) there has been a 6.7% response to the follow-up email.

At the mid-year meeting in October, 2016, the proposed next step was to contact each camp via telephone and discuss possible monument research. After a cursory review, most Camps can be assigned a county with one or more monuments. Some of these are listed in the quasquicentennial booklet noted above.

Between March 6 and April 2 I attempted to make contact all Camps in the Department (Appendix D). This was primarily via telephone but three Camps did not have any reliable contact information available and two camps did not respond to a final email contact. Through research on-line it was a simple task to align 83% of the Camps with at least one un-registered monument in a nearby county. At the end of this effort contact was made with 66.7% of the Camps (i.e., 12 out of 18 Camps).

A fully successful response to the original July and August 2015 email outlining the project was judged to be as follows:

1. My verbal or email communication with the Graves or Memorials Officer of a Camp.
2. Affirmation by the Camp of activity related to the formal registration of a monument.
3. Filing Form 61 with National Memorials Officer Busch.
4. Providing a copy of Form 61 to the Memorials Officer of the Department of New York.

Of the 18 Camps in the Department only two Camps (11%) successfully completed all four tasks. Three other Camps (16.7%) submitted registrations but did not submit documentation to the Department. The Department Monuments Officer would like to recognize the following two camps for completing all four tasks:

1. The Col. Augustus von Horne Ellis Camp 124 for being the first
Brother Bruce Crandall
4 Monuments submitted
2. The Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 for being the only other camp to complete all tasks
Brothers King (4) and Robert Keough (1)
5 Monuments submitted

The Department Monuments Officer would like to recognize the following Camps for having submitted registration documentation and/or having validated monuments with the National Monuments Officer:

3. The Col. David Ireland Camp 137
Brother Doug Deuel
5 Monument Registered
4. The Abraham Lincoln Camp 6
Brothers William Poulton and Anton Schwarzmüller
2 Monument Registered
5. The Moses A. Baldwin Camp 544
Brother Scott McKendrick
2 Monuments Registered

In a short 10 months New York State has gone from only having 6 monuments registered to currently having a total of 24 monuments registered or submitted to our National Organization.

My deepest gratitude for honoring our veterans during this Sesquicentennial of the formation of the Grand Army of the Republic. I'm sure they are also proud of you.

Recommendations:

1. Although a commemorative GAR Sesquicentennial book won't be produced this year, and it may not be possible in the short term, the registration effort should be considered successful. It is recommended that the next Memorial's Officer continue to actively solicit registrations of monuments each year.
2. It is suggested that each camp register at least one monument in their area per year.

3. It is important for Camp Memorials Offices not to assume that material seen on line that is linked to the National SUVCW website includes formally registered monuments. The links for New York monuments on the National SUVCW are to a private individual's website that has nothing to with our Order. Therefore, double check your sources and your records.

Submitted by
David M. Dziewulski, PCC
in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty
Department of New York Council Memorials Officer
April 24, 2015

Appendices

Sesquicentennial of the GAR

From: D. Dziewulski <dmdzee@nycap.rr.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 10:14 PM
To: David M. Dziewulski <DMDZEE@nycap.rr.com>
Cc: raylemav3@gmail.com <raylemav3@gmail.com>; Jerry Orton <ortongar@gmail.com>; Keough, Robert P. <rpkeough@aol.com>;
Bcc: Richard E. Straight <restraight1@gmail.com>; John Swarthout <jswarthout@verizon.net>; Leo McGuire <mcguire331@msn.com>; Steven Teeft <stevecsa2@msn.com>; Bruce Paulson <htd208@aol.com>;
Doug Deuel <cheryl.deuel@frontier.com>; Bruce Glaser <Indian658@gmail.com>; Jeffrey French <jfrench@aol.com>; George Weinmann <qjweinmann@aol.com>; Ray Wheaton <rbw008@yahoo.com>;
Danny Wheeler <qm@suv.w.com>; Jerome Beigh <beighjr@yahoo.com>; Bruce Crandall <bcran12@earthlink.net>; Joseph Hervas <jwhfm92@gmail.com>; Conrad Janik <janikemp@aol.com>;
James Kling <jkling@yorkshiredvelopment.com>; Kevin Gilfo <sgt92fs@gmail.com>; James Bond <bondpatricia@rocketmail.com>; Michael Erb <mikeerb@hotmail.com>;
Subject: Sesquicentennial of the GAR

Brothers:

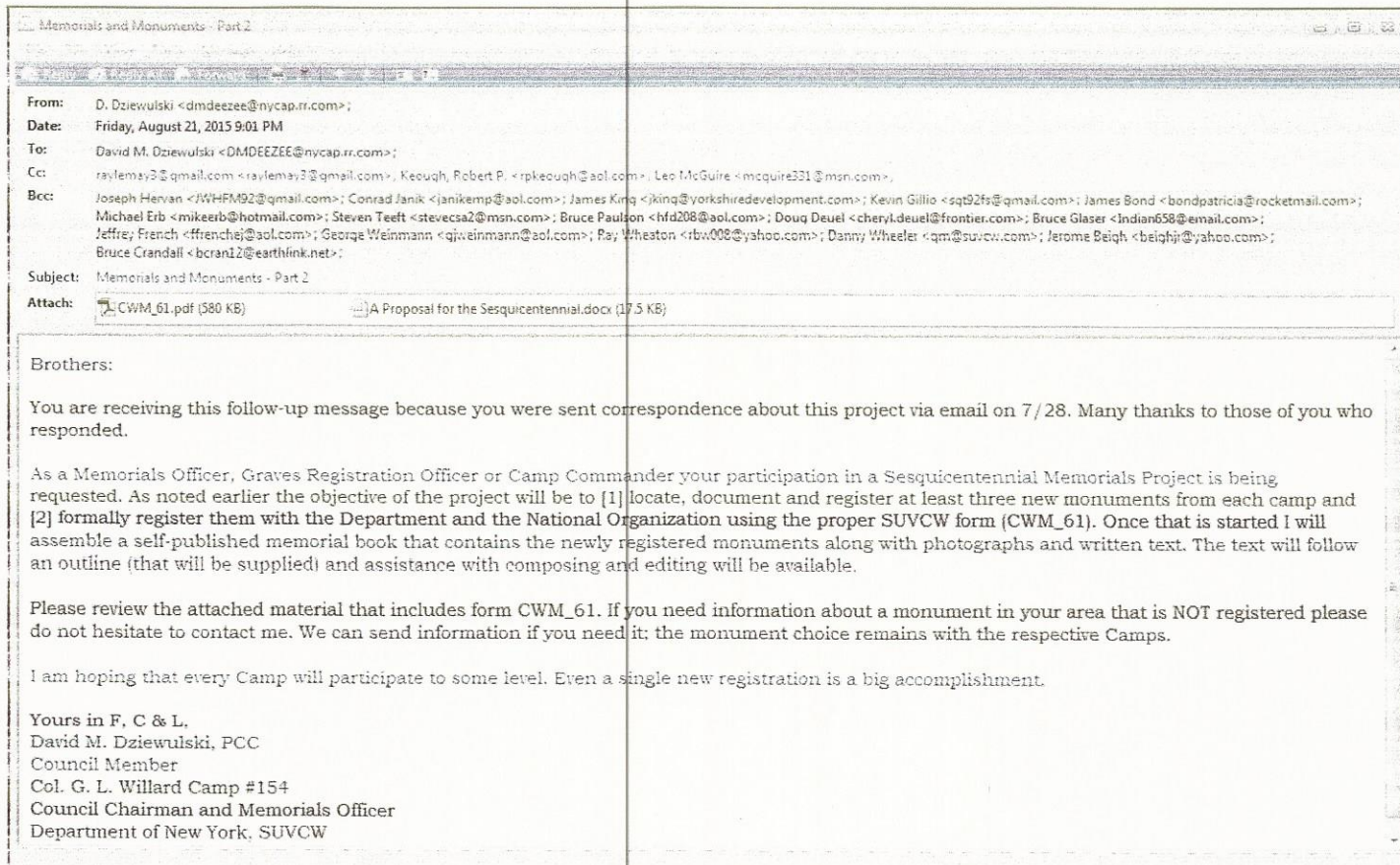
You are receiving this email because you are a Memorials Officer, Graves Registration Officer or Camp Commander. I am the newly appointed Memorials Officer for the Department of NY and I am attempting to launch a project for the Sesquicentennial of the GAR in 2016. The objective of the project will be to [1] locate, document and register at least three new monuments from each camp and [2] formally register them with the Department and the National Organization using the proper SUVCW form (CWM 61). Once that is started I am hoping to assemble a self-published memorial book that contains the registered monuments along with photographs and written text. The text will follow an outline (that will be supplied) and assistance with composing and editing will be available.

Please realize that very few of the GAR/Civil War monuments in New York State are actually registered with the National organization. You may know that a booklet was prepared for the 125th anniversary of the GAR and that record has been retained by National. However, I received confirmation that nearly all of those monuments are not properly registered.

I am hoping that every Camp will participate to some level. A more detailed email will follow but, in the meantime, please reply with comments and how you anticipate your Camp may be able to participate. This project has been endorsed by Commander LeMay and I am pleased to note that Brother Jerry Orton has offered his assistance as needed.

Yours in F, C & L,
David M. Dziewulski, PCC
Council Member
Col. G. L. Willard Camp #154
Council Chairman and Memorials Officer
Department of New York, SUVCW

Appendix A



Appendix B

Appendix C

A Proposal for the Sesquicentennial of the Formation of the Grand Army of the Republic

Commanders, Monument/Memorials/Graves Officers and Brothers:

The Department of New York is working on ways to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the formation of our antecedent ancestral organization, the Grand Army of the Republic or GAR, on April 6, 2016. There is little time to organize memorials and other means to recognize the GAR but we believe it is important to attempt a tangible and public recognition of the connection between the GAR and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

Our proposal: We are requesting that each Camp take the time to locate three new GAR monuments in their territory and submit the information to the National organization for incorporation into the list of registered monuments. However, we are also requesting that you submit photographs of each monument and a brief but detailed description of its history to the Department. The information submitted would be material from the registration form but re-written in a readable form (narrative). When this is completed the material will be edited and the photographs selected. An introductory chapter will be written about GAR memorials and their role in remembrance and the charge to our order: To keep green the memory of the Boys in Blue by maintaining their monuments and gravesites. Each Camp will be recognized for their contribution. The Department will request volunteer reviewers (no more than three) to look at the assembled product and edit it appropriately and constructively. Once the narrative and photographs are accepted we will submit it for publication by Lulu.com (<http://www.lulu.com/create/books>) or a similar on-line publishing company. In this way there is no need to purchase many copies up front and prints can be ordered one at a time. Therefore, each Brother, Camp or Allied Order member can order one or multiple copies of the short (roughly 80-to-90 page book). All proceeds from sales would go to the Department Monument Fund.

Our Goal: One-hundred percent participation by the camps so that we can, in unity, produce a memorial to the GAR in its sesquicentennial year. It is anticipated that each camp will submit material for no more than six pages of text and photographs. With 100% participation there would be a maximum of 84 pages along with introductory material and a Table of Contents (additional 5

to 8 pages). The small book would be available until sales drop off to nil. However, we anticipate submitting copies for sales at local county historical societies, museums and similar like-minded organizations. They can also be used as recruitment tools for our Camps.

What is needed:

- Ambition and dedication at the Camp level to locate and photograph a minimum of **three** unregistered monuments. However, even a single registration will be an accomplishment.
- A Camp member (or members) who will complete form CWM #61, submit it to the National Monument Officer and Department Monuments Officer and convert the information into a readable narrative. Key information would include:
 - Physical Location (Street, City/Town/Village)
 - Name of the Cemetery, municipal building, etc.
 - Physical details, markings, inscriptions and other unique characteristics such as cannons, additional plaques or stones;
 - Date of dedication and/or completion;
 - Multiple photographs;
 - Etc.

Form 61 provides an excellent outline for your short story of the monuments that you locate. Department assigned editors could help write the narrative.

Wishing you much success in your contribution to this project, I remain

Sincerely yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

David M. Dziewulski, PCC
Monuments Officer
Council Chairman
Department of New York, SUVCW

Endorsed,

Raymond LeMay, III, PCC
Commander
Department of New York

August 20, 2015

Appendix D - Contact Tracking

Camp	contact	position	email #1 - 7/28 response	email #2 - 8/21 response	Follow-up Call or email	Follow-up Result	Contact Success	Comments
Lincoln	Bruce Glaser	graves & memorial	none	none	circa 03/06/16	Haven't submitted information yet. Working on two monument registrations worked on the project yet. Camp is involved in a restoration; re- sent email	1	Two monuments validated
French	Jeffrey French	memorial	none	none	3/12/2016	Submitted form 61 to National but did not submit information to the department as requested.	1	Follow-up.
Tilden	James Bond	graves	none	none			0	
	George Weinmann	memorial	none	none	4/1/2016	Re-sent August email.		
Sydney	Danny Wheeler	graves	none	none				

August 20, 2015

	Ray Wheaton	memorial	7/29 - Will help but would like to see a program that is Microsoft and Apple compatible. Asked what he had in mind for the "program"; 7/30 - suggested PI as lead. Response sent about memorials, graves, commander.	no follow up	3/12/2016	No movement on the project. Upcoming meeting will be used to re-introduce the project to membership. Will email if any success.	1	03/22/16. Three monuments in Tompkins County will be registered.
Weber	Michael Erb	graves	none	none	3/20/2016	Rec'd email on 03/22/16. Camp mtg. cancelled. Mike will get back to me on the project.	1	No update as of 04/03/16
	Timothy Leary	memorial	none	none				
Hicks	Danny Wheeler	memorial	none	none	4/1/2016	Re-sent August email.	0	Have been corresponding with Brother Wheeler on other issues. No response on this issue.
Searle	Jerome Beigh	graves & memorial	none	none	3/20/2016	Jerry is no longer an officer. Re-send August email. Done	1	
Ellis	Bruce Crandall	graves & memorial	none	none	3/20/2016	Chatted about project; discussed their list; at least three Form 61s sent	1	Rec'd copies of 3 form 61 that were completed and sent to national. Ellis Camp was the first to accomplish the task. Follow-up with national indicated a 4th monument was submitted.
Stewart-Hope	Richard Gunsalas	graves & memorial	illegal email address	none	3/20/2016	No success	0	Bad inbox

August 20, 2015

Ireland	Doug Deuel	Commander	none	none	3/6/2016	Initiating project. Re-sent August email	1	Five monuments validated
Caywood	Bill Sebring	Commander	none	none	4/1/2016	Re-sent email from August to brother Sebring		
Worden	Kevin Gilleo	graves	none	none	3/20/2016	Spoke with Bruce Paulson; claims that all monuments in the Camp area are registered with National and Dept.	1	Follow-up with national.
	Bruce Paulson	memorial	none	none				
Willard	James King	graves	7/29 - responded and willing to work on it. Surgery pending. Camp will assist.	Responded that he would like a list of monuments in our territory.	4/2/2016	Discussed update information of monuments in Albany and Saratga Springs	1	Graves Officer King agreed to work on the Memorials project so that the statewide program could be done by the Memorials Officer from Willard (Dziewulski). Bro. King registered 4 monuments and Brother Keough registered one.
Smith			no legitimate email addresses	none			0	
Cook	Conrad Janik	graves	none	none	4/1/2016	no answer/no msg machine/no contact. Re-sent August email.	0	
	Steven Teeft	memorial	none	none				
Caitlin	Carl States	graves & memorial	none	none	3/14/2016	re-sent August email per request.	1	
Baldwin	Joseph Hervan	graves	none	none	3/14/2016	Will be discussing the project at the next meeting.	1	Two monuments validated
	John Dolan	memorial	none	none				

August 20, 2015

Tanner	Lindemann	memorial	*	*	3/6/2016	Haven't submitted information yet. Working on two monument registrations	1	
			11.1%	5.6%			66.7%	
			12.5%	6.3%				

*Tanner camp was inadvertently omitted from the contact list.

August 20, 2015

Webmaster 2016 Annual Report, Department of New York

April 24, 2016

The web site has been maintained. This includes, but is not limited to, the following --

- Publication of department orders
- Addition of various monument and grave photos
- Creation of a new calendar page
- Upgrade of the "Find a Camp" page with live links on the NYS map
- Better automation in maintenance of department officers
- Updated current department committees
- Posted Encampment History prepared by Brother Jerry Orton
- Past department commanders
- Oliver P. Clark Award recipients
- PDC John G. Kernan Cup Award recipients
- Simplified URL, www.suvcw.org/ny

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Paul, PCC

Webmaster

Department of NY

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK JROTC LIAISON OFFICER

29 April 2016

Department Commander Raymond LeMay II,

It is with pleasure that I report to you and our fellow Brothers the last year activities from the JROTC Liaison Officer.

Since the last Encampment, we have assisted LTC Spence out of NJ for the JROTC award. The Army has sent a list of schools that they are in and this list will be posted on site within 4 months by area.

It has been an honor to serve in this capacity. I do send my regrets for not being able to attend this year Encampment due to work. Any questions please feel free to contact me.

//SIGNED//

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty
Brother Jeffrey French
Department of NY JROTC Liaison Officer
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

YOURS IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY

Standing Committee Reports

SUVCW DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE 2016

This year, attention was given to assist the Rally Around the Flag Committee in obtaining funds to continue New York State's efforts to restore its collection of Civil War battle flags. After conversations with Flag Committee chair Brother Richard Straight, it was decided that as soon as proposed legislation was drafted by the state legislature, a statewide effort would be made to pass such legislation.

In F., C., and L.,

Paul F. Ellis-Graham,
Legislative Committee Chairperson

Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

“Rally Round the Flags Committee”

Committee

Richard E. Straight, Chairman, Camp # 154

Vincent M. Jockimo, Camp # 154

Leo McGuire, CC Camp # 154

April 30, 2016

Dear Commander LeMay and Brothers of the Department of New York,

June 25, 2015 The “Rally Round the Flags Committee” met with Senator Amedore’s, Legislative Director, Kaitlyn MacLeod, at Senator Amedore’s Office in Albany, she advised us that the Senator’s office needed to do more research into past legislation and funding before moving forward. We discussed some of the issues such as continuous funding until the collection was preserved and keeping the collection together in one storage area. **Brothers** Attending: Richard E. Straight, Vincent Jockimo, Leo McGuire

January 28, 2016 “Rally Round the Flags Committee” met with Senator George A. Amedore and his Legislative Director, Kaitlyn MacLeod, at Senator Amedore’s Office on Western Avenue, Albany. We discussed some of the history of the flag collection and past efforts to support their preservation through funding issues. We also considered other issues, such as continuous funding until the collection was preserved, and storing the complete collection together in one storage area. We were asked by the senator to recommend to his office how much money would be needed over a period of time to complete the preservation of the New York State Battle Flag Collection. **Brothers** Attending: Richard E. Straight, Vincent Jockimo, Leo McGuire and Lance Ingmire.

February 3, 2016 “Rally Round the Flags Committee” met at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga with curator Chris Morton to again discuss in his estimate how many flags and at what cost could be preserved in a year, based on past years of preservation. Determining the cost and time, as he explained involves many different factors, the size of the flag and the condition, which is hard to determine until the flag is actually laid out from its rolled up position of 150 years on its staff.

The Committee also contacted the Department of Parks and Recreation, where the previous conserved flags were worked on and spoke to conservator Sarah Stevens inquiring into how many flags could Parks and Recreation if given the opportunity conserve in a year. Her estimate was that Parks and recreation could preserve 40 Civil War flags at a cost of 150,000.

Both parties that we consulted with also concurred that the best way to guarantee that the money goes to the flag collection would be through “The Natural Heritage Trust—DMNA Flag Project” <http://nysparks.com/natural-heritage-trust> Brothers Attending: Richard E. Straight, Vincent Jockimo, and Leo McGuire.

February 9, 2016, Based on the information gathered, the committee made the following recommendations to Senator George A. Amedore’s Office.

Letter mailed to Kaitlyn MacLeod, Legislative Director, for Senator George A. Amedore.

February 9, 2016

The “Rally Round the Flags Committee”, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War recommends that the line item number for the preservation and storage of the New York State Battle Flag Collection be set at \$ 150,000 per year until all (450-500) 19th century flags of the collection be completely conserved and housed in appropriately preservation conditions. We also recommend that the wording of the line item so indicate that the money allocated be used only for the Flag Preservation Project and for the preservation and storage of the flags of the New York State Battle Flag Collection. One way to guarantee that the money goes to the flag collection would be through “The Natural Heritage Trust—DMNA Flag

Project” <http://nysparks.com/natural-heritage-trust/> people at both the Military Museum and Parks and Recreation agreed that the Heritage Trust would be the way to go.

February 11, 2016, Text of attached letter from Senator Amedore to Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan requesting funding for the Battle Flag Collect.

February 11, 2016
The Honorable John Flanagan
Senate Majority Leader
New York State Senate
330 Capitol
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Senator Flanagan:

I respectfully request your assistance in securing \$150,000 for the New York State Battle Flag Collection located in the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs NY.

New York State has an extensive battle flag collection. Currently there are one thousand five hundred (1500) battle flags that need to be restored and preserved. There are about 500 battle flags from the 19th century that are deteriorating at a rapid rate. These flags need to be restored and preserved as soon as possible or we risk losing them. Each battle flag costs between \$8,000 and \$12,000 to repair and archive. This dedicated funding will enable the museum staff to begin working on preserving the oldest battle flags in our collection.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you need additional information.

Sincerely,
George A. Amedore, Jr.
45th Senate District.

April 25, 2016, Received phone call from Senator Amedore, Legislative Director, Kaitlyn McLeod informing the committee that the line item directed for \$150,000 for flag preservation failed to be included in the 2016 budget.

The Senator's Office is still working to secure funding for the Battle Flag Collection, but as of now there will be no money allocated to the preservation and storage of the New York State Battle Flag Collection.

The Flag Committee will meet again and plan what action needs to be taken to help in securing the funding necessary to help reach the goals set for in the Department Resolution.

Contacting the State Senators and Assemblymen in the district where the infantry regiment or artillery unit was raised and who's Flags are the in need of preserving, might help in securing addition support for the next time.

The Committee will also arrange to meet within the next few weeks with the Adjutant General of the State of New York in hopes of obtaining what together the Department of Military and Naval Affairs and The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War can do to help in the preservation of the New York State Battle Flag Collection.

Respectfully submitted,

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Richard E. Straight,

Committee Chairman

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE
CIVIL WAR**

133rd Department Encampment Committee

Jeffrey Albanese, PDC Committee Chair

19 Gregory Drive, Goshen, N.Y. 10924

jalb@frontiernet.net

845-294-0924

April 30, 2016

Dear Commander and fellow Brothers of the Department of New York:

Please have this serve as my report regarding the activities of the 133rd Department Encampment Committee for this year. In the summer of 2015 I was asked by the Commander to attend a meeting with the DUVCW at a hotel in Tarrytown, New York then under consideration for the 133rd Encampment. After the meeting it was decided by the attendees that the hotel, both in terms of facilities and cost, would not meet the requirements for our annual Encampment. A decision was then made to look for different facilities in both the Westchester and Rockland County venues. At the suggestion of my daughter, who works in the hospitality and hotel industry, we decided to consider the Crown Plaza Hotel in Suffern, New York. Again at the request of the Department Commander, I attended a meeting at that hotel with the Daughters and after a tour and lunch and a discussion with hotel management it was agreed by the attendees that this hotel would meet our needs as both the room costs and the banquet costs were significantly lower than in Tarrytown and also the meeting facilities were larger.

Subsequent thereto I was appointed to the Department Encampment Committee and put in charge of the Department's involvement in setting up its 133rd Department Encampment which I did in conjunction with the DUVCW and also the Auxiliary. In view of the rotation process we had been following the DUVCW took responsibility for the Banquet, the Auxiliary the Memory Book and the SUVCW, the Memorial Service, Campfire and the Sunday Cemetery Ceremony. Although in all these activities there was close cooperation and communication with all three of the Allied Orders involved, particularly the Daughters.

Since my Camp, the Colonel Ellis camp #124, also covers the area in which the Encampment was being held they graciously agreed to help sponsor the Encampment. After the hotel contract was reviewed by me and the President of the daughters and revised and then signed we began to prepare for the Encampment. On behalf of the Sons these activities included, soliciting speakers for the campfire, contacting the Rockland County Bureau of Tourism, contacting various local officials, arranging for a ceremony at the historic Mount Moor Cemetery through the Palisades Mall, designing and printing various programs and notices, arranging for registration, contacting the hotel regarding facilities, securing insurance for the ceremony event, writing press releases and numerous other details in scheduling a convention at a hotel.

I would like to thank the members of my committee from the Ellis camp for their service, these include our Past Camp Commander Barry Hawkins who suggested and supported the funding of the ceremony insurance by the Ellis camp, Commander Raymond Brown for his

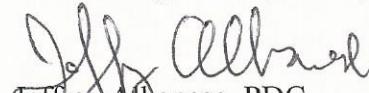
support and in securing numerous items from the Rockland county Bureau of Tourism and others for distribution to attendees, to Jim Meaney, PCC and Bruce Crandall, PCC for making the arrangements for the Mount Moor cemetery ceremony, to Department Senior Vice Commander and Ellis camp member Paul Ellis Graham, PCC who dealt with public relations and also made all the arrangements for the Campfire. In addition I would like to thank Ellis camp brothers, John Dickerson, PCC, Barry O'Neil, Warren McFarland, and Tony Houston for their assistance both before and during this encampment.

I would be neglectful in not thanking my daughter, Francesca, for pointing us in the right direction. It would appear that paying for all that schooling including that semester abroad studying spa management and beverage management in Switzerland and in Tuscany was good for something.

In regards are sister Orders I would like to thank my long time friends Lynne Dolan, PDP and Janice Guy of the Daughters and Hope Parker President of the Auxiliary for all the work they and their organizations have done in putting this together. Finally, a special thank you for President Eileen Sleckman of the Daughters who I have conferred with regularly throughout the year on arranging for this Encampment certainly without her we would not be here.

To pieces of advice to future encampment committees. First and most important, this is a joint venture with both the Daughters and the Auxiliary, everyone should be heard and consulted throughout the process, no one group is better than the other. We all seek the same goal, we all share the same interest, this is all our Encampment. Secondly, I was lucky to have had the opportunity to have been involved in the planning to some degree of four prior Encampments. It is important that the Encampment committee have someone on it that has done it before, it makes it a lot easier.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,



Jeffrey Albanese, PDC
Chair 133rd SUVCW, Dept. of N.Y
Encampment Committee