

2020 Mid year meeting of the New York Department of the SUVCW

Held via Zoom on Nov 14th, 2020

16 Brothers present.

Called to Order at 9:10 by Commander Darin Everdyke

Blue Book Article IV, section 1 “Meetings” generally followed

Officer’s Reports – Commander Everdyke-

-Camp Commander (Weber Camp, Buffalo) Bill Tojek has had a heart attack – well wishes extended to him.

-Attended the National Encampment on 10/24 – the following points may affect the

Department:

Streamlining the Membership Application and Transfer process

Permanent Social Media Committee

Making permanent the provision to hold meetings at all levels via Zoom

Automatic suspension for Departments failing to file Annual Reports

Created the positions of Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer – optional

The CIC may suspend or cancel National Encampments if necessary

Changes to Rituals – room layout, process, receiving guests

-Brother Wheeler mentioned that there ARE forms at the National level to get a 501C(3).

-Trying to reach Lance Ingmire in re. the account and archival materials

- Question on timely updating of the Department Web site... will ask Ray LeMay

Senior Vice Commander Castler

- 2 separate raffles, working with the Allied Orders, one raffle will be a quilt.
- Tickets should be coming out in February
- Bad addresses, about 10%, complicate the process
- Camp Commanders not updating their rosters or notifying Secretary Pugsley or address changes
- Dennis Duffy made a motion that the Brothers at the next Encampment ask the National Secretary to send any forms that don’t have the Department Secretary’s signature on it, back to the Department. Per Secretary Pugsley, all Form 30s have to go through him to start with. Motion not seconded.

Junior Vice Commander Cleveland

- Applications are trickling in, working on some verifications.
- Visited Grant's Cottage

Treasurer Albanese

- Filed the Department's 990
- New Lefferts Dues came in.. 29 new members plus juniors

Secretary Pugsley

- The new Lefferts Camp has 28 new members and one Dual member.
- 477 Members, 40 new, 29 in the Lefferts camps, 10 deaths.
- For those Camps whose fiscal year ends June 30th, their 990N's are Due Nov 15th.
- If we have an in-person encampment, the Department Officers are strongly encouraged to visit the Encampment Guide to learn what their duties are.
- 2019-2020 Oliver Clark Award goes to Dennis Duffy for 2nd year in a row -

Graves Registration Officer Duffy

- Tremendous increase of graves registered in NY this year, mostly due to Brother Bruce Crandall +800. Don McMahon about 800 graves, Dennis 480
- Extensive discussion on procuring and placing headstones through the VA. The instructions on the VA web site are confusing. National SUVCW order states that Department GRO needs to sign off on applications. Discussion on VA and local regulations.
- PDC VerStreate offered some words of advice for headstone ordering and placement.
- Discussion on GRO submitter accounts at the Camp level

Committees

Recruitment and Public Relations Committee – Brother Duffy

- Facebook account- paid for, advertising not started yet.
- Legislation Committee – Brother Duffy- Restricted to Department activities only, Nat General Order issued proscribing lobbying. Discussion on how 501C3 organizations might lobby and under what conditions they might legally do so. The CIC has issued an order against any lobbying. Lobbying may still be done individually, privately, but no use of the SUVCW name is allowed.

Encampment Committee- Brother Albanese

- Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, we'll likely have it via ZOOM again.... It's getting too late to make solid plans. The date will likely be early June or mid-May.

New flag.....Brother Wheeler

- Orders are running slow.
- Badges are running slow as well, the metal involved is scarce..

Historian - Jerry Orton

2 known Real Sons still alive – other reports coming

Discussed “Last Veterans” in the various Counties. Last Real Sons...

Newsletter editor – Brother Everdyke

Next edition due on December 1, send your material in soon.

General items-

Brother Duffy asked about updating the by-laws per past changes.

Discussion on grants for a GAR building in Little Valley, Cattaraugus County, maybe getting a \$500 grant through National. Questions raised on segregating funds donated to National. Perhaps, applying to the Department of NY. If the Department awards a grant, the work needs to be done, then an invoice get submitted for re-imbursement.

National regs specify that Treasurers shall be “bonded”. How many Camps in NY are bonded? Should the Department of NY, at the next Encampment, ask National to rescind that as impractical? Brother Wheeler offered to bring this up at the next National Council meeting.

A discussion on Camp and Department archives. They should be in an institutional setting rather than a private residence in case of death, fire, flood or other disaster. Brother LeMay and Brother Orton may have an inventory or knowledge of what’s in there. GAR memorabilia should go to Saratoga. Cornell university may take quite a bit of material.

Secretary Pugsley asked about digitizing past proceedings, applications, etc.,and storing or disposing of paper records...This could be done at the Camp and/or Department level. Storage in the cloud or on thumb drive. We should review the Department records retention policy. Could we see a budget line for digitizing of the documents?

The new Lefferts Camp is almost on board- the by-laws have been submitted to National.

The meeting was concluded at 12:10pm