

NYSUVCW, Dep't of NY.

Mid year meeting minutes

Ithaca, NY, October 12

Called to order at 10:30am by Commander Straight with 9 members present (Duffy, Wheeler, Goodenough, Wolczanski, Wheaton, McGuire, Everdyke, Orton, Straight)

Commander Straight opened his report with extensive remarks on attendance and communications:

- Camps should make greater efforts to ensure representation at the Dep't Encampment and mid year meeting. Overall attendance has been slipping.
- Camp Commanders, Secretaries and other officers need to exercise greater diligence in responding to requests, ie. for updated rosters and e-mail addresses. Very few camps have completed and returned corrected Camp rosters. The Dep't is trying to create an accurate e-mail database for dissemination of Dep't newsletters, communications, notifications, etc.. Recent efforts by Brother LeMay were stymied by a large number of incorrect e-mails and addresses. Form 30 was discussed as a conduit for making regular roster update notifications.

Secretary's Report – Assistant Sec'y Everdyke filling in. The Proceedings from the Dep't Encampment in Lake George are being worked on and will be submitted soon. The Proceedings from this, the mid-year meeting, will be compiled in the next few days and submitted to the Commander and Secretary. They might be included in the Winter edition of "The Volunteer".

Treasurer's Report – None.

SVC – Discussion on how to assimilate a prospective member living in France.

Discussion on the annual fundraising raffle. We currently have three cash prizes and 5 items donated. Members wishing to donate items, please contact SVC Everdyke.

Webmaster – Working on an accurate Dep't e-mail roster to create a group e-mail. The full report will be attached.

Recruitment and PR Committee – Now has the full 5 member roster. Jeff Albanese was nominated to be the committee chair.

Encampment Committee – The 2020 Dep't Encampment will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3 Executive Blvd, Suffern, N.Y. 10901 on June 5-7, 2020. The 2021 Encampment might be held in Binghamton...

Legislative Committee – Brother Duffy discussed the "Rally 'Round the Flags" effort. Much of the discussion centered on how to privately fund the effort to preserve the flags. A proposal was made and voted on (Prop. –Wheeler, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Duffy) to bring to the Encampment - "The Department of NY should propose to the National Organization, 60 days prior to the National Encampment, that a national account be set up under the National's 501c(3) to hold and dispense private donations for the purpose of preserving Civil War flags."

There was also extensive discussion on the NY Military Museum where many flags are being held. Where does the money go that's donated for flag preservation? The Board of the Friends of the

Museum is currently short by several members. It was generally agreed that we should try to get members on the Friends Board.

There should also be greater efforts to influence State lawmakers on this issue. Perhaps the webmaster could put a form letter on the Dep't web site that members and groups could fill out and mail to legislators.

Newsletter Editor- The next edition will come out on Dec 1. Please send your submissions to the editor by Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

General discussion: The Gen. Thomas grave restoration efforts are almost complete with the rebuilt iron railing.

Brother Orton read a historical tribute to James D. Bell, past C-in-C of the GAR.

Commander Straight pointed out that the Dep't flag is in rough condition and will propose, at the June Encampment, having a replacement made.

For publicity for the SUVCW, the National has a 30 and a 60 second commercial on their web site. They're for our use.....