

Proceedings of the 137th Encampment of the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The Encampment was called to order at 9:20am on Saturday, June 6 2020 by Commander Richard Straight. The Encampment was held electronically using the ZOOM application.

Department Secretary Robert Pugsley called the Roll of Officers.

The Blessing was invoked by Paul Ellis-Graham.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commander Straight.

Guests Present– Leo Kennedy, National Junior Vice Commander Mike Paquette

Committee on Credentials Report

29 Delegates

11 Past Department Commanders

2 Current Commanders

7 Past Camp Commanders

2 Past Commander in Chiefs

1 National Junior Vice Commander

10 Regular Delegates

Elected Officers Reports

Commander Straight – Report was read and is attached. Further comments by the Commander indicated that the Department's communications can be improved. There was discussion on the average age of the NY Department members (about 70) and that we need to recruit younger members.

The Dr. Mary Edwards Walker award was given to Ms. Kaye Foit.

The Joseph S. Rippey award was given to PDC Leo McGuire.

Senior Vice Commander Everdyke – Report was read and is attached. There was further discussion of future options for ticket prices, etc...

Junior Vice Commander Cleaveland – Report was read and is attached.

Secretary Pugsley – Was read and is attached.

Treasurer Albanese – Report was read and is attached.

We are one of the few Departments that still hold a traditional encampment for multiple days and include the Daughters. We need to have some extra funds available to cover hotel and banquet reservations in the event of a shortfall in attendance. We have to sign contracts and they need to be reviewed prior to signing as there may be extra charges.

The Treasurer had extensive follow-up commentary on various subjects.

A question was asked about raising the annual dues, it was Treasurer Albanese's opinion that we should not.

There was discussion about scholarship programs in relation to gaining younger members.

Brother Duffy asked about the total in all accounts. There was a follow-up discussion about donations to other organizations and potential priorities.

Brother Wheaton inquired about bringing back money from the Archivist's account. It shouldn't be separate from the Department Treasurer as per National regulations. The Archivist will be directed by the Commander to send the account to the Treasurer.

Brother Duffy discussed ways to make donations to get the organization more publicity.

Reports of Committees and Appointed Officers:

Department Counsellor Wheeler –

Patriotic Instructor Stump – Was read.

Chaplain Isaacs- absent. The names of deceased members were read at the opening of the meeting. Paul Ellis Graham asked that a moment of silence be held for them.

Assistant Secretary Everdyke – Report was submitted.

Eagle Scout Coordinator Castler- Report was submitted.

Archivist Ingmire (Not present) – Brother McGuire stepped in and asked about how to handle Camp and Department archives in the event of death or disaster. He

suggested a dedicated, secure place for each entity's materials. The discussion was ended – to be taken up again under “New Business”.

Historian Orton – Report was submitted.

GAR Highway Officer Hereford – No report

Graves Registration Officer Duffy – Report submitted

Memorials Officer Dziejulski- Report submitted

Webmaster LeMay – Report submitted. Further recommendations – a Department recognition to the previous Web Master Bob Ball for his work over the years on the old web site. A request for Camp e-mail lists to be sent to the Department Web Master. That the Department consider a FB advertising campaign targeting men interested in historical things. Brother Lemay detailed various levels of advertising involving Paypal, fundraiser buttons, etc... Brother Albanese stated that the proposed budget contains a \$2/day/180 day trial for FB advertising that may reach up to 260 people per day.

Volunteer Editor Everdyke – Report submitted

ROTC Liason French – No report. PDC McGuire added that there were no requests from NY ROTC. Brother French will be asked to submit a report even if there is no activity. Brother Wheeler stated that there may be as few as 4 ROTC programs left in NY State.

Musician Ball- No report

Veteran's Home Visitation Officer Russell – No report.

Color Bearer Kuntz – Nothing to report

Guide VerStraete- No report

Guard Jockimo – No report

Report of Committees:

Legislation Committee- Report submitted by Brother Duffy– no changes to the recommendations. The recommendations will be discussed and voted on after the committee reports.

Encampment Committee – Jeff Albanese- Report submitted. Recommendation that we attempt to return the encampment to Suffern next year, preferably at the Crown Plaza.

GAR and SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee- No report received

Memorials and Monuments Grants – Jeff Albanese– Report submitted- National JVC Paquette added that there can be grants from the National level.

Rally Round the Flag Committee – Richard Straight– Report submitted. No recommendations...no positive results expected given the State and National situation.

(At this point the Visitation was scheduled to commence and Commander Straight and Brother LeMay left the “room”)

Proceedings Committee – Jeff Albanese – Still gathering material, almost done.

Recruitment and Public Relations Committee – Jeff Albanese – No report.

Report of Department Council – Ray Wheaton – Was read and will be submitted.

Unfinished Business :

Raffle Drawing- John Goodnough won the grand prize of \$150 and donated it back to the organization to be used for the greatest good.

(The Encampment took a 20 minute break)

(At this point the Daughters’ (WHO WAS THIS lady?) visited the Sons encampment and expressed best wishes.)

Adoption of the Budget –

Paul Ellis Graham made a motion that the new Commander “Send a letter to Archivist Lance Ingmire requesting that he follow up on the 2017 order to send the funds remaining in the archive accounts to our treasurer so that they can then be set aside for that purpose”. Brother Wheaton seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

Brother Wheeler discussed the status of various quartermaster supplies, medals, etc. He also discussed the new Department flag. A 4 X 6' flag will be \$314

including the postage. It will be mailed to the new Department Commander. Both points are addressed in the budget.

Paul Ellis Graham made a motion that the budget be approved. Brother Bruce Crandall seconded the motion. The motion was called and passed.

New Business:

Resolutions- Brother Duffy brought up a previously proposed resolution that amends a prior resolution in re. the “Rally Round the Flag” resolution. There was extensive discussion on the resolutions and their value. Brother Duffy made a motion on the resolution, it was seconded and failed on a roll call vote.

Brother Duffy brought up a second resolution on the previously proposed by-laws changes. There were extensive discussions. He agreed to withdraw his first of 3 proposed changes as it is National’s prerogative. Brother Duffy made a motion to combine the other two proposals in re. the Legislative Committee’s duties and to pass them. The motion was seconded and passed on a roll call vote.

PDC McGuire re-iterated the importance of protecting Camp and Department Archives.

PDC LeMay asked that the current Department flag, when retired after the arrival of the new flag, be given to the NYS Military Museum. PDC Wheeler asked that pictures be taken of the existing flag. PDC LeMay asked that there be a ceremony to retire the old flag at the 138th Encampment.

There was discussion on the location of the 138th Encampment.

Election of Officers-

Commander - Darin Everdyke

SVC- Brian Castler

JVC - Perry Cleaveland

Treasurer (stays the same- Jell Albanese)

Secretary (stays the same- Robert Pugsley)

Department Council – Ray Wheaton

Paul Ellis Graham

Daryl Verstreat

There was an extensive discussion on delegates for the National Convention.

Brother Albanese made a motion that “All of the attendees of the 137th Encampment who are not Past or Current Department Commanders be elected as Delegates to the National Encampment”. Brother Wheeler seconded the motion. There was more extensive discussion on who would be a delegate and how many we’re allowed. The motion passed.

Motion was made by Brother Albanese made a motion and it was seconded by Brother Wheaton that “All remaining Brothers in good standing at the time of this Encampment are hereby elected as alternates to the National Encampment.” The motion carried by voice vote.

The Junior Vice Commander in Chief had a few remarks for the Encampment.

The new Department officers were installed by the National Junior Vice Commander in Chief.

The meeting was closed at 1:43pm by Commander Everdyke.