

Minutes of the 138th Annual Encampment of the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

May 15th, 2021 (online via ZOOM)

The Encampment was called to order by Department Commander Darin Everdyke at 9:05am with 31 Brothers present.

The Secretary called the Roll of the Encampment.

Department Chaplain the Rev. Dr. Isaacs gave the opening Blessing.

The Department gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee on Credentials:

31 Brothers present of 32 registered

Inc- 11 PDC, 1 PCiC, 1 DC, 5 PCC, 2 CC

Roll call of members as reported – done –

Appointment of Committees - Constitution and By-laws Committee combined with Resolutions

Committee – Jeff Albanese, Danny Wheeler and Dennis Duffy

Reports of Elected Officers:

Department Commander Darin Everdyke – was read and is attached

Senior Vice Commander Brian Castler – was read and is attached – with comments and additional info in re. the status of the Department Archives to be addressed later.

Junior Vice Commander Perry Cleveland – was read and is attached.

Secretary- Robert Pugsley – was read and is attached - with a recommendation – To request National to have the due dates for the Camp and Department Annual Reports to be the postmark dates of April 30th and May 31st, respectively.

Treasurer – Jeff Albanese -- was read and is attached – with a recommendation – That the Department Commander appoint a committee of at least 3 members to investigate having the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, form a Scholarship Committee to issue an annual scholarship to a deserving high school senior in New York in the

amount of at least \$1000. Membership in the Allied Orders should not be a criterion for applying. Said committee to propose the makeup of the committee, the scholarship application, the awarding procedure and the fundraising mechanism to fund the scholarship and make its recommendations at the 139th Department Encampment.

There was subsequent discussion in re. a section of the Treasurer's Report in re. gaining new members. PDC McGuire related a large gain in new members in his Camp from the Wreaths Across America project, and from reaction to a CW statue being vandalized.

Department Council Report – Brother Paul Ellis-Graham stated for the Council that the Council has reviewed the Department Treasurer's books and have found them to be in good order. They wish to thank Brother Albanese for his good work as always and following due diligence for the Department.

Department Officers – for Recommendations and Awards:

Secretary – Bob Pugsley – Oliver P Clarke Award for recruiting the most new members – Adam Page Hess of the Leffert's Camp. Bob asked that, when filling out applications for new members, please be sure to fill out the line – “recommended by”. About 2/3 do not have that filled out.

Assistant Secretary- Darin Everdyke – No recommendations

Patriotic Instructor- William Stump – Recommended that reports be submitted electronically instead of by ground mail.

Department Councilor – Danny Wheeler – No recommendations

Department Chaplain – Mark Isaacs – None.

Eagle Scout Coordinator – Brian Castler – None

Archivist – (previously addressed by Brian Castler)

Historian – Jerry Orton – None

GAR Highway Officer- Matt Hereford – Not present

Graves Registration Officer – Dennis Duffy- Award to Bruce Crandall for registering ~ 975 graves. Honorable Mention to Donald McMahon for registering 675 graves.

Memorials Officer – Office vacant

WebMaster – Ray LeMay – Not present, the Camp website award goes to the Moses Baldwin Camp #544.

“The Volunteer” Newsletter Editor – Darin Everdyke – No recommendations – the best Department Newsletter Award goes to “The Guidon” by Willard Camp.

ROTC – JROTC Liaison – Jeff French – No recommendations

Musician – Ray Ball – Not Present

Home Visitation – James Russell – Not present

Color Bearer – Kuntz- not Present

Guides – none

Committee Reports –

Legislation Committee – One Recommendation – In response to conflicting National General Orders in re. lobbying, the Committee proposes – “That the Department write to the Commander in Chief (either by the Legislation Committee Chair or the incoming Department Commander) asking for permission to lobby in specific areas.”

Encampment Committee – Recommendation – If in-person - to have the 2022 Department Encampment in the Southern part of the State – preferably in Suffern, where we’ve tried to have it the last 2 years.

Property and Artifacts Committee – Brother Orton spoke on the need to sort through the Archives and properly inventory it. Brief discussion on the location and disposition of the remaining archives. Brother Castler states that there are now about 20 “banker” boxes of material in the Department Archives. Some of this may be moved to the Military Museum in Saratoga. We will adhere to National directives on property and document retention as we do this. Brother Albanese added that the Archives should only consist of documents generated by the Treasurer and Secretary, to be held for the period of time required by government and by National SUVCW.

Memorials and Monuments Grants Committee – Per Brother Albanese - no current activity, but one Camp is working on an application that may be submitted soon. Brief discussion on a grant applied for from National for the monument in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Brother VerStreate added that he has burial plot information for open plots in the GAR section in Mt. Hope.

Rally Round the Flags – None.

Recruitment and Public Relations – Partially covered in the Treasurer’s Report – The Facebook advertising campaign is continuing, and the previously mentioned scholarship proposal may be initiated.

Appointed Officers’s Reports-

Assistant Secretary- Darin Everdyke – Submitted – no changes

Patriotic Instructor – William Stump – Submitted – Caywood Camp’s numbers are submitted subsequently.

Department Councillor – Danny Wheeler – Submitted – no changes

Department Chaplain – Rev. Dr. Mark Isaacs – No report

Eagle Scout Coordinator – Brian Castler – Submitted – no changes

Archivist – Office vacant and in transition – no report.

Historian – Jerry Orton – Submitted – No changes

Highway Officer – Not present

Graves Registration – Dennis Duffy – Submitted – no changes

Webmaster- Ray Lemay (not present) – Report submitted

Newsletter Editor – Darin Everdyke – Submitted – no changes

ROTC Liaison – Jeff French – Nothing to report

Veteran’s Home Visitation – James Russell– not present

Awards

John Kiernan Cup – Most members recruited by a Camp-

Joseph Rippey Award – Member making an outstanding contribution to the Department – Goes to Brother Dennis Duffy.

Communications – Secretary Pugsley received:

A recommendation from the Caywood Camp to ask National to make changes to the membership cards to make them easier to print.

A letter in support of Jeff French for the position of Senior Vice Commander.

Three letters (Weber, Lincoln and Caywood Camps) in support of Edward O’Brien for the position of Junior Vice Commander.

At 10:20 the Encampment took a break. The By-Laws and Resolutions Committee will take this time to consider the items placed before it.

The Encampment re-convened at 11:00 with a visit from DUVCW President Nicolle Beyer Beatty. At 11:15, Commander Everdyke left to visit with the DUVCW in their Encampment.

Department SVC Brian Castler drew the names for the raffle prizes – the winners list is attached.

Recommendations and By-Laws Committee – Approved by the Committee for further action -

Recommendation - That the Department write to National and ask them to get rid of the bonding requirement for Camps. Brother Albanese made the motion, seconded by Brother French – the motion was approved by voice vote.

Recommendation - From the Caywood Camp to ask National to make changes to the membership cards to make them easier and less expensive to print. Motion made by Brother Albanese, seconded by Brother Wheeler, approved by voice vote.

Recommendation - To request National to have the due dates for the Camp and Department Annual Reports to be the postmark dates of April 30th and May 31st, respectively. Brother Albanese made the motion, seconded by Brother Duffy, approved by voice vote.

Recommendation – To send a letter to the National Commander asking for National to allow the Department to lobby public officials for specific purposes. Motion made by Brother Duffy, carried by voice vote.

Recommendation - That the Department Commander appoint a committee of at least 3 members to investigate having the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, form a Scholarship Committee to issue an annual scholarship to a deserving high school senior in New York in the amount of at least \$1000. Membership in the Allied Orders should not be a criterion for applying. Said committee to propose the makeup of the committee, the scholarship application, the awarding procedure and the fundraising mechanism to fund the scholarship and make its recommendations at the 139th Department Encampment. Brother Albanese made the motion, seconded by Brother Wheaton, carried by voice vote.

A resolution from the Ellis Camp for the Department to support, and to ask National to support, making “Juneteenth” a Federal Holiday. The motion was made by Brother Albanese, seconded and approved by voice vote.

By-Law change- To add a new section to Article 10 on Committees, to renumber existing Section 3 to Section 4, and insert as Section 3 – (makes the Memorials and Monuments Committee a permanent committee of the Department). Motion made by Brother Albanese, seconded by Brother Duffy, carried by voice vote.

As a housekeeping measure, the by-laws changes from the previous 2 Encampments will be combined with this Encampment’s changes and the entire by-laws submitted to National for approval.

Adoption of the Budget – The proposed budget was sent out with yesterday’s ZOOM invites – Brother Albanese pointed out that this is the budget for the next fiscal year starting on July 1st. If anyone needs re-imbursement expenses incurred this year, please get the requests to him ASAP to avoid issues with next year’s budget as published. Brother Ellis-Graham moved for the adoption of the budget, seconded by Brother Duffy, carried by voice vote.

Unfinished business – none

New Business –

Brother McGuire noted the existence in the Archives material of items from other States and Departments. He asked if the NY Department would give those items back to the original States. There was general agreement.

Brother McGuire asked about needing insurance when using various venues for meetings. He asked about approaching National to ask about having some sort of umbrella SUVCW insurance for that. There was a discussion about various meeting options. Brother O'Brien discussed Caywood Camp's lease for a County bldg. and an added insurance requirement. Brother Straight discussed added requirements for his Camp with where they meet. Further discussion on meeting at various historical venues. Brother Duffy offered to talk with State Farm Insurance Co. for information. Brother Wheeler discussed various patriotic, Veterans and Historical groups that might allow use of their facilities if one of us was a member there.

Daryl VerStreate asked for the Department's support to run for a position on the National Council of Administration. Brother Ellis-Graham made a motion, Brother Wheeler seconded, to recommend Brother VerStreate for the office.

Secretary Pugsley asked about the records retention policy for the Secretary's and Treasurer's documents. Seven years was the general thought for retaining documents.

Brother Duffy asked Secretary Pugsley about assigning membership numbers to better differentiate members with the same names. National has been asked about this, but with no resolution. Brother Orton had a similar system years ago. Brother Albanese made a motion to ask National to institute a numbering system, and to authorize Secretary Pugsley to begin the system at the Department level. Brother Wheeler seconded and, after some discussions and suggestions, it passed by voice vote.

Election of Officers

Department Commander – Brian Castler

Department Senior Vice Commander – Jeff French

Department Junior Vice Commander – Ed O'Brien

Department Council – Daryl VerStreate

Ray Wheaton

Paul Ellis-Graham

National Delegates – were designated as pretty much everyone in attendance.

Incoming Department Commander Castler chose Brother Wheeler to be the Installing Officer.

Brother Richard Straight performed the Department Chaplain's duty.

Commander Castler closed the Encampment at 1330 hours.