

October 29th at 6:00pm.

The meeting was called to order with 18 members present, via ZOOM.

Commander O'Brien's attendance was delayed due to technical issues.

While waiting for the Commander, the members discussed which CW flag would be preserved – in re. the money dedicated for this purpose at the Dep't Encampment in May. Baldwin Camp will be contributing as well. It was agreed to prioritize flags that are in the worst condition, and with the most interesting history. The members agreed to look at several flags, but with most support to the 130thNY's flag. It was agreed to contact the Museum and George McGraw for their input. (Follow-on... the Museum and Mr. McGraw both agreed that the 130thNY's flag should be the one preserved at this time).

From PDC Jeff French – the Fundraising Committee – There is a \$1.5 million grant existing for preserving flags. The Museum staff said to hold off on flag preservation efforts because there is nowhere to house the flags once they are preserved. They are looking into a new building or renovating a facility.

Reports of elected officers –

Commander-

Attended the National Encampment in Nashua.

The NY Department will vote on National's resolution on the definition of "male" in May 2024 at our Department Encampment.

The 2026 National Encampment Committee is working with the Rochester Hyatt. Working on resolutions to separate ROTC and JROTC badges.

The Department continues to honor the CW memory with activities and markers.

SVC – not present

JVC not present

Dep't Sec. Pugsley – Was read. Deceased Brother Warren McFarland was discussed and honored.

Treasurer – Was read. Still holding \$4000 for the previously discussed flag preservation.

Council – No report. Prices going up on various supplies, certificates, labels and stickers...

Committee reports-

2024 Encampment – Hotel registrations open for Canandaigua Encampment. The caterer has gone out of business, working with a new caterer. Sunday morning event in planning. Meeting with Daughters in November to discuss the 2025 Encampment, probably in the Utica area.

Department Archives storage– Brian Castler – still looking.

Fundraising – The hoodie sales didn't go well. Might try candy/nut sales with Dep't logo on them. Might try apparel with Nation's 250th anniversary. Discussion on various possibilities and suppliers.

Caywood Camp and Smith Camps are repairing their GAR halls. There is an organization in NY that may help with grants to repair GAR halls. PDC French will help the Camps look into this.

(Commander O'Brien now attending)

Discussed potential by-laws changes to add another Assistant Secretary to further divide the Secretary's duties and lighten the load. Assistant Secretary Everdyke will be picking up the Encampment Proceedings, along with currently doing meeting minutes. Further discussion on divisions of duties. Brother Pugsley will be retiring from the position after his term is ended in 2025. He will be putting together a booklet listing all Secretary duties. So far there has been no Brother interested in taking up the job.

Revisited the ROTC and JROTC badge/medal and certificate subject. A proposal will be put together to properly separate the awards.

Commander O'Brien brought up a potential change to National C&R "Calling a Special Meeting" to clarify how to do it and make it easier.

Discussed Lefferts Camp and lack of communication from them. They are under suspension and it was discussed to initiate a reorganization. Letters will be sent by Commander O'Brien to each member of the Camp offering transfers and asking the status of the Camp. Secretary Pugsley has repeatedly attempted contact with the Camp Officers and not received any response.

Discussed the differences and value of Forms 3 and 30... whether to propose eliminating one of them.

Discussed Form 27, Camp Annual Report, where it asks for "bank balance". There is no date specifying which date to state the balance on... Propose to National they specify a standard reporting date.

Discussed annual Department awards, actual physical cups and plaques. Many are outdated and some are missing. Proposed to eliminate physical awards and only do certificates.

Brother Duffy asked about posting Form 35s and installation reports on the web site with personal info redacted.

Discussed National not answering questions or changing by-laws due to General Orders. There doesn't seem to be a detailed budget available, it hasn't been posted and was passed in a closed meeting. Further discussion on if it was available to the Brothers during the National Encampment. Brother French to write a proposal to return the budget vote to the open Encampment.

Brother Albanese will propose a change to the By-Laws language around the Permanent Fund.

The Brothers observed a moment of silence in memory of late Brother Warren McFarland.

The meeting concluded at 8:20pm.