

Curtenius Guard Camp #17

Department of Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Minutes

Meeting of the Camp
Tuesday, November 26, 2002
Samuel W. Grinnell
GAR Post #283 Hall
115 Main Street
Sunfield, Michigan
49058

Commander James Lyons, PDC, assigned Brothers to fill vacancies of absent officers by appointment Pro Tem.

I. Opening Ritual:

Commander Lyons opened the Camp meeting per ritual at 7:08 P.M. on Tuesday, November 26, 2002 at the Samuel W. Grinnell G.A.R. Hall, Sunfield Michigan.

II. Roll Call:

Brothers present:

Jeff Adams, Robert Aumaugher, Marc Bennetts, David Coon, Kyle Emerick, Thomas Emerick, Keith Harrison, Paul Hodges, Charles Langworthy, Jim Lyons, Brian MacVean, John Nash, James Neal, David Neese, James B. Pahl, Todd Rakestraw, David Rehkopf, Kenneth Rousseau, George Roux, Ron Shull, Brian Shumway, Dana Traub, and Dick Williams.

Brothers excused:

Steve Church, Nathan Harrison, Richard Lee, Mike Mitchell, Mark Neese, Michael Neese, James A K Pahl, J. Douglas Park, and Joshua Russeau.

Sick Call:

None reported.

III. Welcome to Guests:

Bro. Thomas Emerick introduced his eldest son, Robert Warren, who was in town from Fremont, North Carolina for Thanksgiving with his wife and 3 children. Bro. Coon introduced his 9 year-old son, Zach. It was heartily noted

by the Camp that Zach would make an excellent Junior member candidate.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Bro. Rehkopf moved, seconded by Bro. Hodges, to approve of the minutes of the September 30, 2002 meeting. Discussion was called for. No discussion was forthcoming. Motion carried.

V. Concerns for Brothers:

None reported.

VI. New Members and Initiations:

No report.

VII. Recess:

Camp was recessed for a break at 7:44 P.M. and the meeting reconvened at 7:58 P.M..

VIII. Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

SVC Roux moved, seconded by Bro. Hodges, to accept the proposed Camp By-law changes. Discussion was called for. No discussion was forthcoming. Motion carried.

Memorials and Graves Registration:

Bro. Williams reported work is progressing towards verifying the Department database to Camp #17 records. This will be completed immediately following the conclusion of the deer hunting season. Commander Lyons has provided him with the Ingham County records. He is hoping to complete updating of these records and forward them to the Department by the 2nd quarter of 2003. The Eaton County records will be sent in by February 2003.

Membership:

JVC David Neese reported the recruiting tent at the Bowen's Mills event, October 12-13, was manned by Bro. MacVean and himself. He has sent out 6 follow-up letters to potential members. While at the event he was interviewed by a reporter from the *Boston Globe Reporter*. JVC Neese also reported Shawn Connally, the Michigan State University student interested in joining the Camp. Mr. Connally could not attend the evening's meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Bro. Williams reported receiving communication from Bro. William Lowe of a potential candidate attending the Camp's January business meeting.

Memorial Day/ Day of Remembrance:
No report.

Military Affairs:

No report.

Patriotic Instruction:

No report.

Program and Publicity:

Bro. Hodges reported there will be a presentation, on behalf of Camp #17, of an SUVCW Eagle Scout certificate on December 7, 2002 at 2:00 P.M.. The Boy Scouts of America Court of Honor will be held at the Michigan Historical Library auditorium. All Brothers are invited to attend. Bro. Hodges is obtaining certificates for 3 other candidates to be presented in December and January. Finally, Bro. Hodges encouraged all Brothers to forward copies of any military or pension records to him for retention within the Department archives.

Bro. Hodges circulated photographs of the building housing the South Haven G.A.R. post organized in 1881. The building was the city library built in 1902, which the post obtained permission to use one room within. The photographs depicted the hall, meeting room, gun racks, chairs, and cannon at the front of the library.

Grinnell Award:

No report.

Camp Council:

No report.

Hall Restoration:

Commander Lyons reported Bros. Aves and Williams completed work on the privy and a majority of the work on the hall. A final coat of paint on the west exterior wall will be needed in the spring.

Color Guard:

Bro. Coon reported 9 members from the Camp and 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B re-enacting group participated in the Lansing Veteran's Day Parade. Bro. James B. Pahl singled out the field music (Bros. Rakestraw – fife, Thomas Emerick – drum) for providing musical accompaniment during all of the various programs throughout the year.

IX. Orders and Communications:

Commander Lyons encouraged all Brothers to review the calendar for the upcoming year published in the latest edition of the *Michigan Messenger*. He cited the February 22nd Department Mid-winter conference at the local Midway Lodge as an excellent training program for new and experienced Camp officers. Bros. Hodges and James B. Pahl emphasized this year's gathering is especially important due to the many changes generated by the recent National Encampment. The program is to be followed by the annual Washington/Lincoln Dinner. Dinner will be served at 6:00 P.M. followed by the program at 7:00 P.M..

Commander Lyons reported on the receipt of meeting minutes from our sister Camp, Helen M. Edwins Tent #30, DUVCW.. They held their officer elections 2 weeks ago. Elaine Nash was elected President. Commander Lyons emphasized the need to continue our strong support of the Daughters activities at the annual Sunfield Farmer's Picnic and Parade scheduled for August 16-17, 2003.

Bro. James B. Pahl reported on the G.A.R. Remembrance Day ceremonies in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The SUVCW presented a \$4,500 donation to the National Park administration. The Park is utilizing brass brigade markers to identify where individual brigades fought on the battlefield during the conflict. The Michigan Department contingent held a special ceremony at the site of the 5th Michigan Infantry monument this year. Bro. Pahl presented a flag streamer commemorating the event to Commander Lyons.

Bro. Williams reported Department Commander Butgereit intends to attend 1 business meeting at each Camp throughout the upcoming year. Commander Butgereit has noted the lack of communication between Camps and poor coordination of efforts to support ceremonies. Commander Butgereit is encouraging all Camps to visit their Brother Camps and open up lines of communication. Commander Lyons indicated the Mid-winter Conference was an excellent venue to facilitate communication between Camp officers.

Commander Lyons read excerpts from letter issued by Department Commander Butgereit to all Camp Commanders and Secretaries. The letter addressed new forms, procedures, upcoming by-laws changes, and updates to the new Department website. It indicated the "Red Book" for Camp procedures was to be updated and distributed at the Mid-winter Conference.

Bro. Rousseau raised the issue of the Camp initiating programs in the local school systems. Commander Lyons agreed this was valid item to be pursued in the future.

X. Unfinished Business:

Commander Lyons reported on the Charlotte cannon restoration project. The project is on hold pending the Association's Buildings and Grounds Committee decision on the proposed restoration techniques and materials to be utilized.

The Camp's 20th anniversary dinner in 2003 was discussed. It was noted that Bros. Keith Harrison and Mitchell are the only remaining founding members from the original 5 Brothers. Bro. Nash reported his discussions with the Lansing Old Country Buffet restaurant regarding seating and meal costs. Commander Lyons suggested a June or July date with the event to be held at the local Sunfield Community Hall or the Sunfield Park picnic area and shelter. Bro. Harrison stated the city of Sunfield was integral to the formation of the Camp and we should hold the event within it's environs. Bro. Williams suggested the Camp provide meat, drinks, plates, and utensils. Invitations will be created and sent out by Bro. Williams. A volunteer is being sought to post the event announcement on the Department website. The program is to include an exhibit of historical documents and activities of the Camp since it's inception. Bro. Nash will follow-up on all of the suggestions and report back at the next meeting.

XI. New Business:

Bro. Williams reported receiving from Bro. John Mann, *Michigan Messenger* Editor, volumes 1,2, and 4 of past Eaton County newspaper extracts. Commander Lyons provided an example of the value of the index in the documents. He noted this was

an extremely valuable contribution to the Camp's historical archives and to future research. Commander Lyons proceeded to review the many contributions of Bro. Mann throughout the years of his association with the SUVCW. It was suggested a nomination of Bro. Mann for the Lincoln Award was justly deserved. Bro. Williams reported Bro. Mann has received an award at the National Encampment each of the last 3 years for his excellent work on the *Michigan Messenger*.

Commander Lyons reported on his discussions with the Sunfield Library manager regarding storage of the Camp's historical records. The library is hesitant about storing the Camp's records unless they can take ownership of the documentation. There are several boxes of 3-ring binders. The manager was extremely impressed with the volume of information and indexing methods utilized. Commander Lyons will meet with him again in the first quarter of 2003. The Camp intends to digitize the many forms, correspondence, minutes, etc. and record them onto CD media. This will reduce the need to retain printed documentation. This project is being proposed as a pilot program to be taken advantage of by other Michigan Camps and possibly the Department. Bro. Coon expressed a concern regarding disposal of original documents given the printed forms may have valuable historical significance.

XII. Good of the Order:

Bro. Shumway expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Camp for the cards and telephone calls received on behalf of his son John's recent accident. John is reported to be recovering nicely.

Bro. Williams circulated photographs of the Grand Ledge monument re-dedication ceremony in the Fall of 2001. The pictures were graciously forwarded to our Camp on behalf of George W. Anderson Camp #58 of DeWitt.

XIII. Treasurer's Report:

Bro. Williams Treasurer's report showed a balance of accounts at \$2,735.86 as of November 26, 2002 with \$22.00 in checking, \$1,263.07 in the Hall Restoration Fund, \$62.62 in the Memorial Fund, and \$1,388.17 in savings. Liabilities included \$259.40 earmarked for the Max O'Neil Fund. The Profit & Loss Statement for

September 24, 2002 through November 26, 2002 showed total income for the period of \$232.00 and total expenses of \$330.00 for net loss for the period of \$98.00.

Bro. Nash moved, seconded by Bro. Coons, to accept the Treasurer's report. Discussion was called for. No discussion was forthcoming. Motion carried. +

Bro. Williams reported on his attending other Camp meetings. He noted our Camp application fee is currently \$15. The fee breaks down to \$5 for National, \$5 for the ritual booklet, and \$5 for miscellaneous costs. Other Camps include the cost (\$25) of a membership badge in the fee. Our Camp in past years had done the same but eliminated this due to costs and re-supply problems. Bro. Keith Harrison stated it was important to maintain the fee for the ritual guide no matter what other action was to be taken. A motion was proposed to add fee to purchase a membership badge and raise the application Camp fee accordingly. Discussion ensued and a majority of the Camp decided to maintain the current \$15 fee. The original motion failed for lack of support. It was noted order forms for the badge are available in the Banner and online at the SUVCW website.

Bro. Williams reported the National Per Capita fee is has been increase to \$18 from \$12. The Department Per Capita is being maintained at \$8. Bro. Williams moved to increase the Camps dues to \$30 due no later than the annual March meeting date. Commander Lyons noted the Camp by-laws require payment by January 31st or a late fee penalty will be imposed. Discussion ensued whereby Bro. James B. Pahl noted the non-paying Camp members had to be dropped from the Camps muster role before March or the Camp would be assessed the National and Department annual fees. He suggested using the intervening 60 days to contact delinquent members and drop them from the roster if payment is not received by the March meeting. Bro. James B. Pahl suggested establishing the fee wording and deadline to be effective as of January 1, 2003. Bro. Williams amended his motion to incorporate the suggestions regarding payment and to enforce a dues deadline of February 1st or a \$5 late fee penalty will be applied. Bro.

Coons seconded the amended motion to accept the changes to the Camp fee structure. Discussion was called for. No discussion was forthcoming. Motion carried.

Bro. Thomas Emerick presented the Camp with a grant check of \$200 received from his employer, Jackson National Life Insurance. This is the second year the Camp has received this grant to be applied towards preservation of the G.A.R. Hall. Bros. Thomas Emerick and Williams were heartily commended for their endeavors in obtaining this funding.

\$37.00 in donations was raised as part of "Passing the Hat".

XIV. Officer Elections and Installation:

Nominations Committee

Bro. John Nash presented a slate of officers for 2003:

- Commander – Brian Shumway
- S.V.C. - George Roux
- J.V.C. – David Neese
- Secretary - Thomas Emerick
- Treasurer - Richard Williams
- Camp Council:
 - Laverne Aves
 - David Coon
 - John Nash.

Bro. James B. Pahl moved to close nominations and adopt the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee by unanimous ballot. Seconded by Bro. Keith Harrison. Discussion was called for. No discussion was forthcoming. Motion carried and the slate was duly elected.

Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison, as Installing Officer, performed the installation of Camp officers per the established ritual.

Commander Shumway proceeded to announce his slate of appointed officers:

- Chaplain – John Nash
- Color Bearer – David Coon
- Counselor – James Neal
- Graves Registration Officer – Dick Williams
- Guard – Kyle Emerick
- Guide – Brian MacVean
- Historian – James Lyons

- Monuments & Memorials Officer – James Lyons
- Patriotic Instructor – Michael Neese

XV. Closing Ritual:

New Commander Brian Shumway closed the meeting per ritual at 9:45 P.M..

Notes on the Program of the Evening

No report.

+ Indicates that a written report has been submitted and is available for inspection.

Respectfully Submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

**Thomas L.
Emerick**

Secretary

Any additions, corrections, or inquiries regarding the newsletter can be directed to:

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