

# Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Curtenius Guard Camp # 17

Camp # 17 Meeting Minutes for July 29, 2025. The meeting is being held at the Michigan G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum, in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

## I. Opening Ritual:

At 7:05 P.M. Camp # 17 Commander Steve. Carr opened the July 29, 2025, Camp # 17 meeting. Brothers were appointed to fill the vacancies of absent Officers by appointment, pro-temp.

## II. Roll Call of Officers:

**Officers Present:** J. Armstrong, D. Bankhead, S. Carr, D. Grimes, M. Hanes, H. Holcomb, S. Martin, C. Orr, J. B. Pahl, R. Payne, and R. Shull.

**Officers Excused:** M. Hoffman and, B. Shumway.

## III. Roll Call of the Camp:

Roll of the Camp not called.

## IV. Guests:

Guests present - Kermit Douse, Forest Babcock, and Steve Shoup.

## V. Approval of Minutes:

Commander S. Carr asked the Camp # 17 Brothers if they have any objections, or questions about the May 30, 2024 Meeting Minutes. There being no objection Camp # 17 Commander S. Carr asked for a motion to accept. Motion made by Brother D. Bankhead to accept the

minutes as presented. Second. Motion passed.

## VI. Treasurers Report:

-Treasurer J. B. Pahl presented the report dated 5-30-2025 to 7-28-2025. Commander S. Carr asked if there are any objections. There being no objections he asked for a motion to approve. Motion made by Brother R. Payne to approve the report as transmitted. Second. Motion passed. Treasurer J. Pahl informs us we have received a \$1000.00 donation from the Eaton County Historical Commission to put toward the Old Sunfield G.A.R. Hall railing project. We need to thank them.

## VII. Concerns for Brothers:

Concerns, thoughts, and prayers were expressed for the following Brothers: D. Bankhead, L. Bowerman's cancer treatments Department of Michigan Commander D. Kimble, B. Shumway following spine surgery, J. D. Park's wife, M. Hoffman, W. Peabody, D. Arnold, and R. Shull's successful malignancy treatments.

## VIII. Reading of Applications from Candidates, for Membership:

-Leslie Bowerman application for membership was approved by the Investigating Committee.

## IX. Balloting for Candidates for Membership:

- None.

## X. Initiation of New Brothers:

-None.

## XI. Meeting Recess:

-A recess was not taken.

## XII. Committee Reports of the Camp:

### By-Laws:

Curtenius Guard Camp # 17 Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Proposed Resolution to amend the Camp # 17 BY-LAWS: It is proposed to amend the By-Laws, Article XIII Section F, to change the number of Brothers constituting a Quorum from 10 to 5 Brothers, and a proposed change to Article VIII, Section 3. These proposed changes are for debate, and vote on at the July 29, 2025 Camp # 17 meeting.

-The By-Laws to then read:

Section F. A quorum shall consist of those present and eligible to vote, provided that this number is less than five, and provided further that Associates in attendance do not exceed 49 percent of the roster of those present pursuant to ARTICLE IV, Section B of these By-Laws. All matters brought before the Camp at a Regular or Special Meeting shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and entitled to vote at said meeting with one exception, that being the election of Camp Council, Delegates and Alternates.

A vote on the above By-Laws change taken. Motion passed.

Article VIII, Section 3 to be amended as follows:

Section C. Notification of Regular and Special meetings shall be the responsibility of the Camp Secretary. He shall provide written notice, including agenda, of the meeting within three days of his receipt of appropriate order from the Camp Commander or Camp Council. A

minimum of ten days notice shall be given to Brothers for either Regular or Special meetings.

-Any and all such notices of any regular or special meetings, or any other notice required by these Bylaws, National Regulations, or by law, may be by e-mail or other electronic means in the sole discretion of the Camp Commander.

-A vote to taken to approve the above By-Laws change. Second. Motion passed.

#### **Investigating Committee Reports:**

- The Investigating Committee met: They report they approved Brother Leslie Bowerman's application for membership. Secretary H. Holcomb will forward his paperwork on to the Department of Michigan Secretary Dick Denney.

#### **-Memorials and Graves**

##### **Registrations:**

-Brother M. Hoffman E-mailed the following report: Work continues on updating the Michigan records in the National SUVCW database. We don't have a date for the next department GRO meeting but continue to swap information and tips among the group in the interim. Let me know if you have any edits or additions related to your ancestors or veterans buried in local cemeteries.

##### **G.A.R. Monuments:**

- No Report.

**Eagle Scout Certificates:** Brother Ron Shull indicates that we have an Eagle Scout that we need to present a certificate to honor him. He is attempting to work out a convenient

time with the Eagle Scout to present it.

**Military Affairs:** No Report.

##### **Membership:**

-Commander Carr is working on a new member.

##### **Remembrance Day:**

-No report.

**Patriotic Instructor:** R. Payne provided the report: July of 1863 was a very important time in the history of the Civil War. Many eventful Battles were beginning to lead to the eventual Confederates defeat.

**Programs and Publicity:** No report.

##### **Hall Restoration:**

-The Eaton County Historical Commission mailed a check of \$1000 for repairs to the Old Hall's porches. Brother R. Payne is looking into if we need to consider replacing all the top boards on the front porch, as well as the railing.

##### **Memorial Day:**

- No Report.

**Grinnell Award:** No Report.

**Veterans Day:** No Report.

### **XIII. Orders and Communications:**

#### **SUVCW National Issued the following General Orders**

-#19- June 19, 1865 is the date when G. Granger ordered the final Emancipation Proclamation.

-#20-July 4<sup>th</sup> is Independence Day is a time to celebrate.

-#21-The 2025 flood and the loss of many lives in Texas is a major tragedy.

-#22 -This Order establishes, the Department of Arkansas.

-#23-This he Order is revocation of William B. Keith Camp # 12, Department of California.

-#24-Passing of Auxiliary President Margaret Atkinson.

-#25-Lists the sense of duty of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts, July 18, 1863 fateful assault of Ft. Wagner. It is the 162<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

##### **Special SUVCW Orders:**

-None.

##### **Special Message:**

-#4-A message about the 2025 National Encampment in Texas.

#### **The SUVCW Department of Michigan Issues the following Orders:**

-#5-Establishes a committee to look into having the Department of Michigan host the 2028 National Encampment.

##### **Department Special Messages:**

-A notice of 2026 Department Encampment Award Submission Deadlines..

**Camp # 17 Orders:** No Orders.

All of the Orders are published on the Department of Michigan website.

### **XIV. Old Business:**

-Brother D. Bankhead is looking into starting Sunfield Seminars. A location to have them is an issue.

### **XV. New Business:**

- Motion by Brother D. Bankhead to donate \$100.00 to the Michigan G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum. Second. Motion passed.

-Motion by J. Pahl we take no action on the request for a donation from the Robinson Battery for ammunition

to fire their cannons in Tennessee.  
Second. Motion passed.

-Kermit Douse is asking for Camp # 17 presence and support at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nashville in on July 26, 2026. A Parade and a flag raising ceremony are planned. On October 25, 2025, 1 PM, a man named Jack Dempsey will be speaking at the Nashville VFW. His topic is to be Michigan in the Civil War. He wants to extend an invitation to the Camp # 17 Brothers to attend, both of the above. The Camp # 17 Brothers desire is to provide support for these events.

#### **XVI. Good of the Order:**

Brother D. Bankhead has Swede's agreeing to do the September 30, 2025 dinner meeting. The dinner location is the Sunfield Community Center. It is on the North side of Main Street. We cannot go to the Welch Museum because of a leaky roof. It is closed. Thank you to Brother Dave Bankhead for making the dinner meeting arrangements.

- A dedication for J. B. Pahl's Great Grandfather was held in Indiana. Several Brothers attended.

-The 2025 National Encampment is in Houston, TX, August 7-10, 2025.

#### **-Michigan G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum:**

-Please see the 2025, Events and Presentations list on the museum's website. The next seminar is scheduled on August 19, 2025. Mike Cox will speak about, Senator Zachariah Chandler Reports on the joint effort Committee on the Conduct of the War. -  
September 16, 2025 Deb Malewski

speaks about the History of Eaton Rapids.

- We are asking for volunteers to do a Kids Camp in Charlotte this summer. Please consider helping us. Chris Allen is the person to contact.

-“Annual Sponsorships”, from \$25 to \$200 are available to help support the, “Michigan G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum. Volunteers are needed to work the first two Wednesdays of each month.

-Historian Cody Orr explained his intention to digitize Camp # 17 historical records. We need to obtain two flash drives for him at some point in time.

#### **Camp # 17 Website:**

[curteniusguardcamp17.org](http://curteniusguardcamp17.org)

**Pass the Hat:**-Passing the hat collected \$56.00.

#### **XVII. Closing Ritual:**

-Camp # 17 Commander S. Carr closed the meeting at 8:30 PM. The next meeting is on September 30, 2025. This is a dinner meeting. The dinner location is the Community Center in downtown Sunfield. Dinner is about 5:45. A dinner cost of around \$15 is anticipated. The meeting time is 7:00 PM at the Old G.A.R. Hall right across the street.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Harold Holcomb  
Curtenius Guard Camp # 17,  
Secretary