

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

Camp # 17 Meeting Minutes for the November 25, 2025 Camp # 17 Meeting. The 7 PM meeting location is the G.A.R. Hall, Sunfield, Michigan.

I. Opening Ritual:

At 7:00 P.M. Camp # 17 Commander Steve Carr opened the November 25, 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, C. Orr, J. B. Pahl, R. Payne, and R. Shull.

Officers Excused: M. Hoffman, B. Shumway .

III. Roll Call of the Camp:

Roll of the Camp not called.

IV. Guests:

Guests present - Anthony Vela, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Miller.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Commander S. Carr asked the Camp # 17 Brothers if they have any objections, or questions about the September 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes. There being no objection Camp # 17 Commander S. Carr asked for a motion to accept. Motion made by Brother S. Martin to accept the minutes as presented. Second.

Motion passed.

VI. Treasurers Report:

-Treasurer J. B. Pahl presented the report dated September 30, 2025 to November 24, 2025. The report included a proposed budget. Commander S. Carr asked if there are any objections. There were no objections. Motion made by R. Payne to accept the treasurers Report as transmitted. Second. Motion passed.

-Treasurer J.B. Pahl is collecting Camp # 17 2026 dues. The dues amount is \$51.00.

VII. Concerns for Brothers:

Concerns, thoughts, and prayers were expressed for the following Brothers: D. Bankhead, L. Bowerman , J. D. Park's wife, M. Hoffman, W. Peabody, D. Arnold - Sue is having knee surgery, and R. Shull.

VIII. Reading of Applications from Candidates, for Membership:

-Anthony Vela application was passed on to the Investigating Committee at the September 30, 2025 meeting. The investigating Committee announced he is approved for membership into Camp # 17. - Don Miller presented his transfer in to Camp # 17, application. He initiated on August 15, 2024 into Department of Michigan Benjamin Prichard Camp # 20. He derives his membership from his ancestor Franklin Price who enlisted August 18, 1862 into 107 Ohio Infantry. He discharged June 29th, 1865.

IX. Balloting for Candidates for Membership:

- The ballot box was located and a vote taken for Don Miller's acceptance into Camp # 17. Commander S. Carr was presented the ballot box. He announced Don Miller's transfer into Camp # 17 is approved. Brother D. Miller welcomed into Camp # 17 with a round of applause following the announcement.

X. Initiation of New Brothers:

-Brothers present to initiate include Leslie Bowerman, and Anthony Vela. The new Brothers were called forward for the initiation. The initiation was preformed. They were welcomed into Camp # 17 with a round of applause following the initiation.

XI. Meeting Recess:

-A recess was not taken.

XII. Committee Reports of the Camp:

By-Laws: No Report

Investigating Committee Reports:

- Anthony Vela's membership paperwork given to the Investigating Committee at the September 30 Camp # 17 meeting. They reported back that he is eligible to be a Camp # 17 member.

-Memorials and Graves

Registrations:

-Brother M. Hoffman E-mailed the following report for the 25th meeting. I continue to input additions and corrections into the national graves registration database. Our next Department GRO meeting is December 13 and we will discuss upcoming revisions to it. The changes sound like good ones to simplify the

process and also address suggestions our members and others have raised.

-Brother C. Czopek informs us that the Delta Township Cemetery has a cannon with local names on it that served in the Civil War. They have recently had it completely restored.

G.A.R. Monuments:

- No Report.

Eagle Scout Certificates: No Report.

Military Affairs: No Report.

Membership:

-Transfer in forms from Brother Don Miller.

Remembrance Day:

-No report.

Patriotic Instructor: R. Payne provides the following report: I was given a box of Civil War related documents. Many include something about the G.A.R. One is information promoting the election of a Comrade from Wisconsin as Commander in Chief. He also talked about the privilege of meeting in the Sunfield GAR Hall and of being surrounded by the artifacts that remind us of our sacred obligation of remembering them.

Programs and Publicity: No report.

Hall Restoration:

Brother A. Dickinson, has installed the front deck railing it looks sturdy, and great. However, we are unsure if he is completely done? When the job is completed Camp # 17 needs an Invoice for the total quoted of \$1090.00, for us to make payment, plus before and after photos are also needed. A paid in full copy of the

invoice, check, and before and after photos needs sent on to Randal Tooker at the Eaton County Historical Commission.

-The Daughters have installed a ramp on the back porch.

Memorial Day:

- No Report.

Grinnell Award: No Report.

Veterans Day: November 11, 2025.

-Four Brothers attended The Michigan G.A.R. Memorial Hall. Brothers attended other events too.

XIII. Orders and Communications:

SUVCW National Issued the following General Orders

-#9-Annual Awards and Recognitions are listed.

Special SUVCW Orders:

-None.

Special Message:

-#3-About Camp and Department Website content.

-#4-Order provides some ideas about Engaging Brothers in the work of the order.

-#5-Answering the call: Why we must all stand together.

-#6-Grant writing guides are now available on the S.U.V.C.W. website.

-#7-This order is about Gratitude and Thanksgiving.

National Special Committee on Social Media (Signals Corps) Reach Out:

-Having Zoom Internet Meetings.

-Using Social media apps to promote SUVCW.

The SUVCW Department of Michigan Issues the following

Orders:

None.

Department Special Messages:

-A notice of 2026 Department Encampment Award Submission Deadlines.

Camp # 17 Orders: No Orders.

-Orders are accessible on the Camp # 17, the Department of Michigan, or SUVCW National website.

XIV. Old Business:

-The Porch railing project has moved forward. The new railing is up.

XV. New Business:

-Election of Camp # 17 Officers for 2026. Commander S. Carr opened nominations for 2026 Camp # 17 Officers. He read the slate of Officers. Following each nomination Commander S, Carr asked if there are any other nominations. There were none. He then asked the Brother if they will serve. All Brothers nominated agreed to serve. Since only one Brother was nominated for each Officer position. Commander S. Carr announced that all nominations are closed. Brother J. B. Pahl made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot to elect the entire slate of nominated Officers, and to nominate officers, and delegates to the 2026 Department of Michigan Encampment. The following Brothers were nominated as delegates that do not have standing credentials: Brothers nominated as delegates include: Brothers C. Orr, H. Holcomb, J. Armstrong, and A. Vela. Additional delegates to be filled in alphabetically by Brothers attending who do not have standing credentials. Motion second. Motion passed.

The following is the slate of 2026 elected Officers:

- Steve Carr Commander
- Dave Bankhead Sr. Vice Commander
- Cody Orr Jr. Vice Commander
- Steve Martin Council
- Dave Bankhead Council
- Ron Shull Council
- James B. Pahl Treasurer
- Harold Holcomb Secretary

Appointed Camp # 17 Officers to be installed at the January 27, 2026 meeting include:

- Marvin Hanes Chaplin
- Robert Payne Patriotic Instructor
- Mark Hoffman Graves Registration
- Rodney Russell Guide
- Brian Shumway Guard
- Chris Czopek Historian
- Ron Shull Eagle Scout
- Jon Armstrong Color Bearer
- James B. Pahl Counselor
- Robert Payne Webmaster
- David Grimes Memorials

The installation of Camp # 17 Officers is to be held at the January 27, 2026 Camp # 17, 7 PM meeting.

XVI. Good of the Order:

-The 2026 Department of Michigan Encampment is April 27, 2026 at the Okemos, Michigan event center.

-The National Encampment is at Gettysburg July 31-August 2, 2026.

-December 6, 2025 is the premier of the film Battle Flags of Michigan. Several times are available when they plan to run the film. The location is 323 W. Ottawa St, Lansing, MI. Many who participated in the "Save the Flags" event plan to attend. I believe extra tickets are available at

www.eventbrite.com.

Michigan G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum:

-A 2026, Events and Presentations list is anticipated on the museum's website.

-We are asking for volunteer tour guides to cover days we plan to be open.

-“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.

Camp # 17 Website:

curteniusguardcamp17.org

Pass the Hat:-We did not pass the hat.

XVII. Closing Ritual:

-Camp # 17 Commander S. Carr closed the meeting at 8:25 PM. The next meeting is January 27, 2026. The meeting time is 7:00 PM. The meeting location is the old Sunfield G.A.R. Hall

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Harold Holcomb
Curtenius Guard Camp # 17,
Secretary