

CENTRAL REGION

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
AND
AUXILIARY TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

COLORADO-
WYOMING

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

IOWA

KANSAS

MICHIGAN

MINNESOTA

MISSOURI

NEBRASKA

OHIO

OKLAHOMA

WISCONSIN

MINUTES

CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 3-4, 1992

LANSING, MICHIGAN

The Central Region Conference, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was called to order October 3, 1992 at 2:02 pm at the Midway Motor Lodge by Commander James Lyons. The opening prayer was led by Chaplain Ron Gill after opening the bible. The pledge of allegiance was led by Patriotic Instructor Alan Loomis.

The following introductions of National Officers were made:

Allen Moore	Sr. Vice C in C	SUV
Keith Harrison	Jr. Vice C in C	SUV
Doug Park	Nat. Coord. MAL	SUV
Gary Gibson	Nat. History Book	SUV
Richard Williams	Nat. Membership List	SUV
Alan Loomis	Nat. Site Committee	SUV
Jim Lyons	Nat. Secretary	SUV
Rhoda Lemanski	Nat. Press Correspond.	AUX

Michigan Dept. Commander James Pahl was introduced and he responded with a welcome to all participants and appropriate remarks.

The roll call of officers was taken as follows:

Commander Jim Lyons	present
Sr. Vice Commander	present
Jr. Vice Commander	present
Secretary (pro tem) Alan Loomis	present
Treasurer Ellinore Johnson	excused
Patriotic Instructor Alan Loomis	present
Chaplain Ron Gill	present
Guide (pro tem) Doug Park	present

The roll call of states was taken with the following representations:

Colorado-Wyoming	0
Illinois	0
Indiana	4
Iowa	0
Kansas	0
Michigan	9
Minnesota	0
Missouri	0
Nebraska	0
Ohio	0
Oklahoma	0
Wisconsin	4
Total	17

Communications from the following:

A letter from Tom and Ellinore Johnson was read. Both regretted they would be unable to attend this year's Central Region Conference due to a medical condition.

The financial report submitted by Ellinore Johnson, Central Region Conference Treasurer was submitted. Motion by Gary Gibson to accept the report; seconded by Peggy Schaefer. The motion passed. This report is made a part of these minutes.

The minutes of the 1991 Conference were submitted. A motion to accept was made by Ed Krieser and seconded by Keith Harrison. Motion passed.

The following committee appointments were made:

1. Auditing- Peggy Schaefer
Ron Gill
Paul Hodges
2. Resolutions Alan Loomis
Doug Park
Robert Wiesian
- 3.. Nominating Keith Harrison
Rhoda Lemanski
Allen Moore

Reports of Regional Conference Officers

I. Commander Jim Lyons

A. Contacts were made concerning the 1991 Central Region resolution dealing with the 125th Anniversary of General Logan's Gen. Order #11 - Memorial Day. Postmaster General Runyon was contacted concerning issuance of an appropriate commemorative stamp. A picture of Gen. John A. Logan and Gen. Order #11 were provided. A reply has not been received.

B. The resolution passed in 1991 concerning records in Carlisle Barracks was presented to the 1992 National Encampment. The resolution was adopted by the National Encampment and referred to National Historian for action.

II. Sr. Vice Commander Peggy Schaefer

A. No activities as Sr. Vice Commander.

B. Acted as temporary Dept. Treasurer for Wisc. Dept., SUVCW to reconstruct financial books.

C. Located and erected markers and held service for 15 Civil War veterans.

III. Jr. Vice Commander Gary Gibson

A. Placed plaque at door of former GAR Headquarters in Michigan State Capitol.

Communications from the following:

A letter from Tom and Ellinore Johnson was read. Both regretted they would be unable to attend this year's Central Region Conference due to a medical condition.

The financial report submitted by Ellinore Johnson, Central Region Conference Treasurer was submitted. Motion by Gary Gibson to accept the report; seconded by Peggy Schaefer. The motion passed. This report is made a part of these minutes.

The minutes of the 1991 Conference were submitted. A motion to accept was made by Ed Krieser and seconded by Keith Harrison. Motion passed.

The following committee appointments were made:

1. Auditing- Peggy Schaefer
Ron Gill
Paul Hodges
2. Resolutions Alan Loomis
Doug Park
Robert Wiesian
- 3.. Nominating Keith Harrison
Rhoda Lemanski
Allen Moore

Reports of Regional Conference Officers

I. Commander Jim Lyons

A. Contacts were made concerning the 1991 Central Region resolution dealing with the 125th Anniversary of General Logan's Gen. Order #11 - Memorial Day. Postmaster General Runyon was contacted concerning issuance of an appropriate commemorative stamp. A picture of Gen. John A. Logan and Gen. Order #11 were provided. A reply has not been received.

B. The resolution passed in 1991 concerning records in Carlisle Barracks was presented to the 1992 National Encampment. The resolution was adopted by the National Encampment and referred to National Historian for action.

II. Sr. Vice Commander Peggy Schaefer

A. No activities as Sr. Vice Commander.

B. Acted as temporary Dept. Treasurer for Wisc. Dept., SUVCW to reconstruct financial books.

C. Located and erected markers and held service for 15 Civil War veterans.

III. Jr. Vice Commander Gary Gibson

A. Placed plaque at door of former GAR Headquarters in Michigan State Capitol.

B. A Medal of Honor headstone was placed on the grave of a Civil War veteran in Coldwater, Mich.

Officer Training

1. The membership chairman is the Junior Vice Commander in Chief and all Department Jr. Vice Commanders are recruitment chairpersons for their respective departments.

2. The Department Junior Vice Commander and all Camp Jr. Vice Commanders represent recruitment officers for a department.

3. Doug Park suggested officers should write short synopses of officer duties above and beyond that found in C&R and ritual. This would be helpful to those persons elected to a new office.

A round table discussion was led by Bro. Keith Harrison, Jr. Vice Commander in Chief, concerning membership recruitment and retention. Excellent ideas were brought forward and analyzed. The meeting was recessed about 4:30 pm to prepare for the evening banquet.

The Central Region Banquet was held at 6:30 pm. Following the dinner, Bro. Allen W. Moore, Dept. of Indiana, was installed as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, SUVCW by National Secretary Jim Lyons. National Secy Lyons also presented the U.S. Grant Award, signifying superior membership recruitment, to Robert Wiesian, Chief of Staff, Dept. of Wisconsin. Dr. Weldon Petz then presented "A Pilgrimage with Abraham Lincoln." Dr. Petz is a world renown authority on Lincoln and has over 40,000 artifacts in his personal collection.

SECOND SESSION OCTOBER 4, 1992

The second session of the Central Region Conference was opened by Commander Lyons at 9:15 am in the Midway Motor Lodge.

Chaplain Ron Gill opened the bible and made a few appropriate remarks about Abraham Lincoln, his religious beliefs and the legacy of his religious beliefs for us.

Patriotic Instructor Alan Loomis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bro. Keith Harrison continued discussion concerning membership recruitment. Following the discussion, he summarized the salient points raised during the two day discussion (see attachment).

The Auditing Committee report was presented by Chairman Peggy Schaefer. Doug Park made a motion to accept the report and Rhoda Lemanski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Alan Loomis presented the Resolution Committee report. Motion by Ron Gill to accept report; Keith Harrison seconded. Motion passed (see attached).

Keith Harrison presented the Nominating Committee report. The slate of nominations were:

Commander	Peggy Schaefer
Sr. Vice Commander	Gary Gibson
Jr. Vice Commander	Alan Loomis

Secretary
Treasurer
Pat. Instructor
Chaplain
Guide

Doug Park
Ellinore Johnson
Ronald Gill
Robert W. Wiesian
Edward Krieser

Motion to accept by Ron Gill; seconded by Rhoda Lemanski. Motion passed.

Motion made by Doug Park to donate \$10.00 to National Patriotic Instructor's Fund. Seconded by Keith Harrison. Motion passed.

Installation Officer Rhoda Lemanski installed the officers, as presented by the Nominating Committee and as elected, for the 1993 Central Region Conference.

Past Commander Lyons passed the gavel to newly installed Commander Schaefer who conducted closing business.

Past Commander Lyons moved that minutes of the 1992 Central Region Conference be prepared and sent as soon as possible to all conference officers, department commanders and presidents, department secretaries and treasurers, key national officers. Seconded by Keith Harrison. Motion passed.

Discussion of 1993 Conference topics ensued and resulted in two topics.

1. Follow-up of 1992 recruitment discussion

2. Importance of the Civil War on the U. S. Constitution

Suggestion by and for the new secretary:

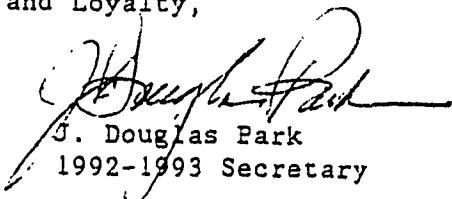
1. Prepare a ritual for installation of Central Region Conference officers.
2. Place a short non denominational service within the Sunday A.M. program to be led by the Conference Chaplain.

Commander Schaefer thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone safe travel home. A motion and second to adjourn were made. Motion carried. The 1992 Central Region Conference was duly closed at 10:47 am.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alan Loomis,
1992 Secretary (pro tem)

Alan Loomis

by 
J. Douglas Park
1992-1993 Secretary

Secretary	Doug Park
Treasurer	Ellinore Johnson
Pat. Instructor	Ronald Gill
Chaplain	Robert W. Wiesian
Guide	Edward Krieser

Motion to accept by Ron Gill; seconded by Rhoda Lemanski. Motion passed.

Motion made by Doug Park to donate \$10.00 to National Patriotic Instructor's Fund. Seconded by Keith Harrison. Motion passed.

Installation Officer Rhoda Lemanski installed the officers, as presented by the Nominating Committee and as elected, for the 1993 Central Region Conference.

Past Commander Lyons passed the gavel to newly installed Commander Schaefer who conducted closing business.

Past Commander Lyons moved that minutes of the 1992 Central Region Conference be prepared and sent as soon as possible to all conference officers, department commanders and presidents, department secretaries and treasurers, key national officers. Seconded by Keith Harrison. Motion passed.

Discussion of 1993 Conference topics ensued and resulted in two topics.

1. Follow-up of 1992 recruitment discussion
2. Importance of the Civil War on the U. S. Constitution

Suggestion by and for the new secretary:

1. Prepare a ritual for installation of Central Region Conference officers.
2. Place a short non denominational service within the Sunday A.M. program to be led by the Conference Chaplain.

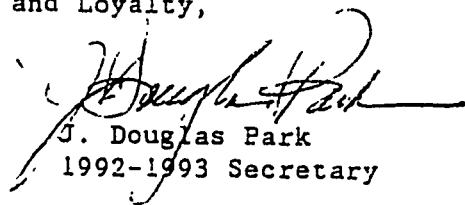
Commander Schaefer thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone safe travel home. A motion and second to adjourn were made. Motion carried. The 1992 Central Region Conference was duly closed at 10:47 am.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Alan Loomis,
1992 Secretary (pro tem)

Alan Loomis

by



J. Douglas Park
1992-1993 Secretary

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE

Lansing, Michigan

3 & 4 October 1992

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that a letter be sent to the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, to thank them for the hospitable reception the participants of the Central Region Conference received.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to the Midway Motor Lodge in Lansing, Michigan for the courtesies extended to the Central Region Conference.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that a standing vote of thanks be given to Commander Jim Lyons and his officers for their unselfish efforts to carry out a most successful Central Region Conference.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that a letter be sent to Mrs. Kerry Chartkoff for her most informative tour of the restored Michigan State House. We of the Central Region Conference further acknowledge her promotion and preservation of Civil War heritage during the restoration process.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to the annual banquet speaker, Dr. Weldon Petz, for his appropriate and inspiring remarks "a Pilgrimage with Abraham Lincoln."

Respectfully submitted in F., C., and L.,

Signed:

Alan R. Loomis
Robert A. [unclear]
J. Douglas [unclear]

October, 1992

To-the Regional Commander, Officers and Members of the Central Region Conference.

Greetings:

I wish to submit to you my report for the year 1991-1992. It is as follows:

Balance on hand September 30, 1991		\$695.28
Wisconsin Dept. Sons.....	\$ 5.00	
Wisconsin Department Aux.....	5.00	
Iowa DepartmentSons	5.00	
Ohio Department Sons.....	5.00	
Michigan Deptment Sons	5.00	
Iowa Department Aux.....	5.00	
Illinois Dept. Sons.....	5.00	
Indiana Department Sons	5.00	
Illinois Department Aux.....	5.00	
Ohio Department Aux.....	<u>5.00</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Other Receipts	<u>56.00</u>	<u>56.00</u>
		\$801.28
Disbursements		
Robert M. Graham - Postage.....	18.40	
N.P.I. Jim Lee - Donation	10.00	
Dept. of Michigan - Flag	15.00	
Memorial - Mich. Camp #17	<u>10.00</u>	<u>53.40</u>
Balance on hand as of September 30, 1992.....		\$747.88

Respectfully submitted,

Ellinore

ELLINORE K. JOHNSON, Treasurer
Central Region Conference

October, 1992

To the Regional Commander, Officers and Members of the Central Region Conference.

Greetings:

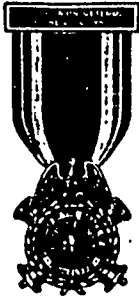
I wish to submit to you my report for the year 1991-1992. It is as follows:

Balance on hand September 30, 1991		\$695.28
Wisconsin Dept. Sons.....	\$ 5.00	
Wisconsin Department Aux.....	5.00	
Iowa DepartmentSons	5.00	
Ohio Department Sons.....	5.00	
Michigan Deptment Sons	5.00	
Iowa Department Aux.....	5.00	
Illinois Dept. Sons.....	5.00	
Indiana Department Sons	5.00	
Illinois Department Aux.....	5.00	
Ohio Department Aux.....	<u>5.00</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Other Receipts	<u>56.00</u>	<u>56.00</u>
		\$801.28
Disbursements		
Robert M. Graham - Postage.....	18.40	
N.P.I. Jim Lee - Donation	10.00	
Dept. of Michigan - Flag	15.00	
Memorial - Mich. Camp #17	<u>10.00</u>	<u>53.40</u>
Balance on hand as of September 30, 1992.....		\$747.88

Respectfully submitted,

Ellinore K. Johnson

ELLINORE K. JOHNSON, Treasurer
Central Region Conference



7

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

KEITH G. HARRISON
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
4209 Santa Clara Drive
Holt, Michigan 48842
517-694-9394

MEMORANDUM

October 15, 1992

TO: Department and Camp-at-Large Junior Vice Commanders
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

FROM: Keith G. Harrison
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, SUVCW *KGH*

SUBJECT: DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE GRASSROOTS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The following is a brief discussion on how to obtain and retain new members. A good share of this paper is the direct result of the discussion topic for the 1992 SUVCW AND SUVCW Auxilliary Central Region Conference which was held in Lansing, Michigan.

There are numerous ways to recruit new members. This paper will present some of the more successful ones which have been used. As you read through this, I am certain that you will see some ideas which you are already using. Hopefully, you will also see some ideas which you could try. Finally, I am certain that I undoubtedly missed some ideas. I would greatly appreciate learning of other ways that you have recruited new members.

An effective membership recruitment program is one which focuses on four factors:

- A. Publicity,
- B. Follow-Up,
- C. Amenities, and
- D. Retention.

A. PUBLICITY:

1. First and foremost, develop an information brochure on your organization. The National Organization SUVCW is currently in the process of having a new brochure developed. This brochure is nationally orientated, however. As a consequence, you also may wish to develop a flier which talks specifically to your local Department and/or Camp.

2. Set up an information booth/table at Civil War reenactments, genealogical shows, old book shows, antique shows, and gun (especially black powder) shows. At these shows have your brochures and SUVCW applications ready for distribution to the public. Also, have a sign-up sheet available for people to provide their names, addresses and telephone numbers.

3. Place your brochure/flier into libraries and then periodically check to ensure that there is always a sufficient supply of the material on hand.

4. "Piggy-back" onto local community programs, activities and festivals as appropriate with your information booths/tables and brochures.

5. Sponsor an annual SUVCW program; for instance, a boy scout, eagle scout, ROTC or citizen awards program, or a flag presentation program to a school, community or college; anything which can generate publicity about the SUVCW.

6. Write and submit articles for publication in your local newspapers. The articles can be about your Camp or Department meetings. You can also use this vehicle to announce the results of Camp and Department elections. Publicize the fact that your Camp meets and also publicize any special programs, memorials or ceremonies that your Camp or Department will be participating in or sponsoring. Write articles for local and statewide genealogical and historical magazines. Again, the article can be about your local or statewide activities or it can just be a generic article on the SUVCW. Always include the name of a contact person in your article.

7. Publish a Camp or Department newsletter and send it to local and state wide genealogical societies, historical societies, Civil War reenactment units, veterans organizations and libraries.

8. Develop a speakers bureau from within your Camp's membership to give presentations to local schools, genealogical societies, veterans organizations, historical societies and business groups. The topic for discussion can be general; for example, a generic presentation on the SUVCW, GAR, or Civil War; or it can be specific to a given program that you are sponsoring or for which you are soliciting support. Whatever the program, make certain that you bring along your SUVCW brochures, fliers and applications; and something to take down potential applicants' names, addresses and telephone numbers.

9. Finally, in all cases be enthusiastic in what you are doing. This enthusiasm is contagious and will rub off onto the prospective applicants.

B. FOLLOW-UP:

All the publicity in the world will do absolutely nothing unless you follow-up with the potential applicants who expressed interest in your organization. Therefore, once you get home from your event or activity, you need to sit down and get a letter and an application out to the prospective members. Also, make certain that you invite them to your next Camp meeting.

Although the current SUVCW applications appear, on the surface, to be simple, there are several areas where more explicit instructions could be helpful. Some of the more obvious problems are as follows:

1. There currently is no area on the application to include a return address. Many applications have not been filed because of this.

4. "Piggy-back" onto local community programs, activities and festivals as appropriate with your information booths/tables and brochures.

5. Sponsor an annual SUVCW program; for instance, a boy scout, eagle scout, ROTC or citizen awards program, or a flag presentation program to a school, community or college; anything which can generate publicity about the SUVCW.

6. Write and submit articles for publication in your local newspapers. The articles can be about your Camp or Department meetings. You can also use this vehicle to announce the results of Camp and Department elections. Publicize the fact that your Camp meets and also publicize any special programs, memorials or ceremonies that your Camp or Department will be participating in or sponsoring. Write articles for local and statewide genealogical and historical magazines. Again, the article can be about your local or statewide activities or it can just be a generic article on the SUVCW. Always include the name of a contact person in your article.

7. Publish a Camp or Department newsletter and send it to local and state wide genealogical societies, historical societies, Civil War reenactment units, veterans organizations and libraries.

8. Develop a speakers bureau from within your Camp's membership to give presentations to local schools, genealogical societies, veterans organizations, historical societies and business groups. The topic for discussion can be general; for example, a generic presentation on the SUVCW, GAR, or Civil War; or it can be specific to a given program that you are sponsoring or for which you are soliciting support. Whatever the program, make certain that you bring along your SUVCW brochures, fliers and applications; and something to take down potential applicants' names, addresses and telephone numbers.

9. Finally, in all cases be enthusiastic in what you are doing. This enthusiasm is contagious and will rub off onto the prospective applicants.

B. FOLLOW-UP:

All the publicity in the world will do absolutely nothing unless you follow-up with the potential applicants who expressed interest in your organization. Therefore, once you get home from your event or activity, you need to sit down and get a letter and an application out to the prospective members. Also, make certain that you invite them to your next Camp meeting.

Although the current SUVCW applications appear, on the surface, to be simple, there are several areas where more explicit instructions could be helpful. Some of the more obvious problems are as follows:

1. There currently is no area on the application to include a return address. Many applications have not been filed because of this.

Department and Camp-at-Large Junior Vice Commanders
October 15, 1992
Page 3

2. There currently is no area on the application which states to whom the check should be made payable.

3. The current application implies by its form that only direct descendants of a Civil War veteran are eligible for membership. However, and according to the SUVCW Constitution and Regulations, direct (sons, grandsons, great grandsons, etc.) AND collateral (nephews, grand nephews and great grand nephews, etc.) descendants are eligible for membership. This confusion has also cost the Order some members due to the lack of clarification in the application.

4. The current application does not have a place for zip codes or telephone numbers. These are critical pieces of information.

The above shortcomings may be easily resolved in one of two ways. One way is to add the missing information and instructions to the existing SUVCW application form. Another way is to develop an Instruction Sheet with the clarifications on it and to ENSURE THAT NO APPLICATION IS GIVEN OUT WITHOUT THE INSTRUCTION SHEET ATTACHED.

C. NEW MEMBER AMENITIES:

What does the new member get when he joins the SUVCW? Based on a poll of some local Camps, it varies. Some Camps provide nothing, some provide a membership card, some a certificate, and even some, a membership badge. It all boils down to either how much a local Camp charges for dues or how rich a local Camp is. At a minimum, the member should get a membership card and certificate. The National Organization is currently looking into upgrading the membership certificate, which is greatly needed. Another amenity is a newsletter or minutes, or some sort of written material to keep the Camp membership informed about the Camp and its current and up-coming activities. This latter type of amenity is extremely important to those members who cannot attend meetings. Without it, they have absolutely no tie to the Camp or Department.

D. MEMBER RETENTION:

After you have gotten your new member, the next step is to retain him. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways. However, good programs and good projects tend to be the two best ways. In terms of programs, and depending on your Camp's format, you may be able to invite a speaker to talk on a particular subject. This doesn't need to be done for every meeting. For instance, if you always tend to have business meetings in your Camp, maybe you could devote one of those meetings a year to a speaker and program. You might even consider having a dinner in conjunction with the program. Another possibility might be to have some of your members speak about their Civil War ancestor or the unit in which they served. Maybe some of your members have antiques or artifacts from the War, the GAR or from their ancestor that they could talk about. There are a lot of possibilities for topics.

In terms of projects, you could adopt a GAR building or hall restoration project if you happen to be lucky enough to have a GAR Hall in your Camp area. Or, you could adopt a project entailing an inventory of the Civil War graves or memorials in your community, county, etc. Another project could be inventorying and cataloging local museum Civil War, GAR and/or SUVCW holdings. You would be suprised at how much material exists in our local museums.

Fund raising projects are also good projects to begin. An additional side benefit of some of these is that they can also attract considerable publicity in the process. One such project could be a fund raiser to purchase new GAR markers for veterans' graves. Another one, although a bit more energetic, could be a fund raiser to restore a Civil War monument, save a Civil War battlefield, or restore a Civil War era flag. Finally, in most states there now exists a program to adopt a stretch of highway for cleanup. This does not cost anything except a little of your time and effort. Most states will place a marker naming your organization as responsible for that particular stretch of highway.

FINAL NOTES ON MEMBERSHIP:

Currently, our Order does not accept for membership individuals younger than 14 years. Personally, I feel that this age should be lowered. At 14, most boys are just beginning to have other concerns on their minds, not the least of which are girls and sports. I feel that we should be bringing in members much younger and prior to this change in focus. Based on current child psychology literature, it is at the younger ages where we can be much more effective in terms of instilling and nurturing such ideals as ancestry, history, patriotism and country. No doubt, interest will wane during their teen years; however, the seed will have been planted, and during their 20's and early 30's, it will again surface. It is my intention to offer a recommendation to lower the membership (but not voting) age to at least 8 years at the 1993 National Encampment. I hope that your Departments and Camps will also look at this issue prior to the National Encampment.

Another area in which the SUVCW has not been as active as it could be is in the recruitment of Blacks into the Order. Even our forefathers, the GAR, recognized the need to include these veterans into their ranks. The least that we can do is to include their descendants into our ranks.

Finally, many people that I have talked with have expressed discouragement with the absenteeism of some of their Camp members. A point which you should always keep in mind about your membership is that not all members will participate equally in your Camp activities. Within most organizations, there tends to be three classes of members:

1. Members who pay their dues but never attend a single meeting,

Department and Camp-at-Large Junior Vice Commanders
October 15, 1992
Page 4

In terms of projects, you could adopt a GAR building or hall restoration project if you happen to be lucky enough to have a GAR Hall in your Camp area. Or, you could adopt a project entailing an inventory of the Civil War graves or memorials in your community, county, etc. Another project could be inventorying and cataloging local museum Civil War, GAR and/or SUVCW holdings. You would be suprised at how much material exists in our local museums.

Fund raising projects are also good projects to begin. An additional side benefit of some of these is that they can also attract considerable publicity in the process. One such project could be a fund raiser to purchase new GAR markers for veterans' graves. Another one, although a bit more energetic, could be a fund raiser to restore a Civil War monument, save a Civil War battlefield, or restore a Civil War era flag. Finally, in most states there now exists a program to adopt a stretch of highway for cleanup. This does not cost anything except a little of your time and effort. Most states will place a marker naming your organization as responsible for that particular stretch of highway.

FINAL NOTES ON MEMBERSHIP:

Currently, our Order does not accept for membership individuals younger than 14 years. Personally, I feel that this age should be lowered. At 14, most boys are just beginning to have other concerns on their minds, not the least of which are girls and sports. I feel that we should be bringing in members much younger and prior to this change in focus. Based on current child psychology literature, it is at the younger ages where we can be much more effective in terms of instilling and nurturing such ideals as ancestry, history, patriotism and country. No doubt, interest will wane during their teen years; however, the seed will have been planted, and during their 20's and early 30's, it will again surface. It is my intention to offer a recommendation to lower the membership (but not voting) age to at least 8 years at the 1993 National Encampment. I hope that your Departments and Camps will also look at this issue prior to the National Encampment.

Another area in which the SUVCW has not been as active as it could be is in the recruitment of Blacks into the Order. Even our forefathers, the GAR, recognized the need to include these veterans into their ranks. The least that we can do is to include their descendants into our ranks.

Finally, many people that I have talked with have expressed discouragement with the absenteeism of some of their Camp members. A point which you should always keep in mind about your membership is that not all members will participate equally in your Camp activities. Within most organizations, there tends to be three classes of members:

1. Members who pay their dues but never attend a single meeting,

Department and Camp-at-Large Junior Vice Commanders
October 15, 1992
Page 5

2. Members who attend most meetings and actively participate in the day-to-day running and operation of the organization, and

3. Members who only sporadically attend meetings, but show up to help out on special projects.

You need all three classes of members in order for your organization to grow and remain viable.

Please share this memorandum with the Camp Junior Vice Commanders within your jurisdiction.

Thank you and good luck with your recruitment program.

cc: National SUVCW Officers
Department Commanders and Secretary-Treasurers
Camp-at-Large Commanders and Secretary-Treasurers

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

BANQUET PROGRAM

Saturday, October 3

9:30 A.M. Tour of the Michigan Capitol Building -Kerry Chartkoff
Meet in the Senate Suite.

NOON Lunch

1:30 P.M. Registration - Senate Suite

2:00 P.M. Call to order and opening of business -

Panel discussion on topic: "Membership & Recruiting"

4:30 P.M. Recess

6:30 P.M. Banquet - Senate Suite

Sunday, October 4

9:00 A.M. Resumption of discussion, if required - Symposium

Business session

1. Committee reports

2. Election and Installation of Officers

Adjournment

Toastmaster James T. Lyons

Invocation Ronald Gill
Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance Alan Loomis
Patriotic Instructor

DINNER

Installation of Senior Vice Commander-
in-Chief - Allen W. Moore, Indiana

Presentation of the Grant Cup to Wisconsin

Guest Speaker Dr. Weldon Petz

"A Pilgrimage with Abraham Lincoln"

Introduction of Distinguished Guests

Benediction Ronald Gill
Chaplain

OFFICERS OF THE CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE

Commander	James T. Lyons Michigan
Sr. Vice Commander	Peggy Schaefer Wisconsin
Jr. Vice Commander	Gary L. Gibson Michigan
Secretary (pro temp)	Alan Loomis Indiana
Treasurer	Ellinore K. Johnson Wisconsin
Patr. Instructor	Alan Loomis Indiana
Chaplain	Ronald Gill Indiana
Guide(pro temp)	J. Douglas Park Michigan

CENTRAL REGION
CONFERENCE

SCNS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
AND

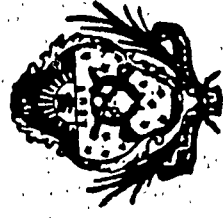
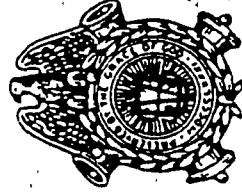
AUXILIARY

October 3 & 4, 1992

Midway Motor Lodge
Lansing, Michigan

HOST

Michigan Department SUVCW



CENTRAL REGION

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
and
Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

23 July 1992

Office of

Colorado-
Wyoming

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Kansas

Michigan

Minnesota

Missouri

Nebraska

Ohio

Oklahoma

Wisconsin

James T. Lyons
411 Bartlett St.
Lansing, MI 48915

Dear Mr. Lyons:

Inclosed you will find a copy of the 1991 minutes of the Central Region Conference, held in Lansing Michigan. I have also mailed a copy to all of the 1991 Regional Officers. Also inclosed are the original minutes.

I am as of this date resigning as secretary of the Central Region Conference. I have cancelled all reservations and arrangements that I had made in Springfield for the Conference. You may make any arrangements that you wish to make.

I will mail you all the supplies that I have belonging to the Central Region.


ROBERT M. GRAHAM

CC: All 1991 Regional Officers