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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

Office of J. Douglas Park,
Central Region Secretary
404 Kenway Drive
Lansing, MI 48917

MINUTES CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2-3, 1993 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The Central Region Conference, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Auxiliary, was called to order October 2, 1993 at 2:05 pm at the Manchester East Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin by Commander Peggy Shaefer. The meeting was opened per proposed ritual provided by Secretary Park. The pledge of allegiance was led by Patriotic Instructor Ron Gill.

The following introductions of National Officers were made:

Allen Moore	Commander-in-Chief	SUV
Keith Harrison	Sr. Vice C in C	SUV
David Medert	Jr. Vice C in C	SUV
James Lyons	Nat'l Secretary	SUV
Gary Gibson	Nat'l Patriotic Instr.	SUV
Dick Williams	Nat'l Membership List Coord.	SUV
Doug Park	Nat'l Membership-at-Large Coord.	SUV
Ed Krieser	Personal Aide	SUV

The roll call of officers was taken as follows:

Commander Peggy Shaefer	present
Sr. Vice Commander Gary Gibson	present
Jr. Vice Commander Al Loomis	present
Secretary Doug Park	present
Treasurer Ellinore K. Johnson	present
Patriotic Instr. Ronald Gill	present
Chaplain Robert W. Wiesian	excused
Guide Ed Krieser	present

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

Colorado-Wyoming	0
Illinois	3
Indiana	4
Iowa	0
Kansas	0
Michigan	5
Minnesota	0
Missouri	0
Nebraska	0
Ohio	2
Oklahoma	0
Wisconsin	<u>10</u>
Total	23

Cdr Shaefer asked for acceptance of the 1992 CRC minutes. Rhoda Lemanski suggested one clarification. George Nuoffer moved to accept the minutes as clarified. J. Lyons seconded. Motion carried.

The following committee appointments were made:

- 1. Auditing- Keith Harrison
Al Loomis
Ross Dunlop
- 2. Resolutions- Jim Lyons
Nick Kaup
Barbara Moore
- 3. Nominations- David Medert
Rhoda Lemanski
Ron Gill

Reports of Regional Conference Officers

I. Commander Peggy Shaefer

A. Attended the "Civil War In our own Backyard" program in Fall, 1992 hosted by the Milwaukee Public Schools and the University of Wisconsin. Included the impact of the Civil War on Milwaukee residents and the importance of the Historic Old Soldiers Home District. Her representation provided valuable insight in the discussion.

B. Attended the Lincoln's Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois, April 14-15, 1993. Also toured the Lincoln Home with Auxiliary National President Frances Murray.

C. Represented our Order on June 6 this year when the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison was officially opened. The Museum contains a significant display area for GAR artifacts. Assisted Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown in searching for a Civil War ancestor with the National Park Service computer provided.

II. SVC Gary Gibson

A. Gary was appointed National Patriotic Instructor of the SUVCW by Commander-in-Chief Moore at the National Encampment in Portland, ME.

B. Attended the 125th Anniversary Ceremony of General Logan's Order #11 held at the State Capitol, Lansing, MI.

C. Contributed as a speaker on Civil War subjects on several occasions during past year.

III. JVC Al Loomis

A. Participated in the May 31, 1993 rededication of the GAR Opera House. The House, in which the local GAR Post met, had been recently restored by the Memorial House Foundation, Valparaiso, IN at a cost of approximately \$100,000. The structure is now sealed against outside weather but will likely require nearly \$500,000 to restore the interior. The original dedication was Nov 27, 1893.

B. Has worked on the project to designate US 12 as the Iron Brigade Hwy. Indiana was the first of several states to successfully have a legislative resolution passed.

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B. Has worked on the project to designate US 12 as the Iron Brigade Hwy. Indiana was the first of several states to successfully have a legislative resolution passed.

Alan Nolan, a brother and author of the book on the Iron Brigade, has participated in the project. First indications are that the first sign will be at visitors park where the Indiana National Lakeshore is located. Other states involved in this effort are Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

C. Participated in February in school settings with life skill teaching. The focus was learning how to use the National Archives to find a Civil War ancestor.

IV. Secretary Doug Park

A. Discussed the proposed CRC Ritual which was prepared at the request of members of the 1992 CRC. The Ritual includes provision for Opening, Closing, and Officer Installation Ceremonies as well as an Order of Business.

B. Discussed efforts in Michigan relating to designating US 12 as the Iron Brigade Hwy. A legislator, a brother of the Order, has introduced appropriate language and the Deputy Director of the MI Dept. of Military Affairs has called to relay the support of his department for the effort. Due to prior designation of U.S. 12 for another worthy association, co-designation may be the answer in Michigan.

C. Recently participated with the Questers, a group chartered in 1944 in Pennsylvania who restore items of antiquity. A chapter in Michigan adopted a project of restoring a GAR monument in Newburgh Cemetery, Livonia, MI. The monument which commemorated a GAR Post named after two brothers who died at Gettysburg, had nearly collapsed and was restored and dedicated in a ceremony last month. The color guard was composed of members of Gov. Crapo Camp #145, Flint. Our two organizations, previously unknown to each other, benefitted from the joint exercise. We were able to discuss membership and camp organization with many individuals.

D. Participated as a speaker at the 125th Anniversary celebration of Gen. Logan's Order #11 at the Michigan State Capitol, 30 May 1993.

Commander Shaefer called upon SVC-in-C Keith Harrison to lead the resumption of the 1992 discussion of membership recruitment and retention. Bro. Harrison summarized the discussion to this point, i.e. fundamentals are a) publicity, b) follow-up, c) amenities like certificates, dinner programs, etc. and d) retention through planned activities. Keith said the National JVC-in-C recruiting program fielded 702 names of interested individuals and the SUVCW experienced a net gain of 433 members (3148 total members at year's end). Keith said advertising will increase next year and will include the Vietnam Magazine. The American Legion Magazine has a subscription of 2,900,000 and will also be investigated.

The key to membership building is follow-up by camps. Some camps are very active and others doing nothing.

JVC-in-C Dave Medert discussed his program to require quarterly reports from Dept JVC on membership recruiting starting Jan. 1, 1994. He restated the importance of follow-up and said a public profile program like the Rosehill Cemetery rededication by Custer Camp No.1, Illinois is a good example of how to successfully recruit. He suggested using camps-at-large if applicants just want to represent an ancestor. Also, the idea of auctioning off a \$100 bill peaks a lot of interest, generates \$300 to \$500 of revenue and involves women as well as men. Most importantly, Dave said to include dinner or other social functions along with the camp meeting. This formula has led to gatherings of 50-60 out of a membership of 88.

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Col. Jim Muetling offered that a replica Civil War sword or any other valid Civil War attention-grabbing item is the best recruiting tool. Civil War shows are great opportunities to interface with the public and capture the public interest.

George Nuoffer related how the national membership program had resulted in 4 new members joining his camp. He said, "It works!"

Doug Park related how the Michigan Dept JVC and Editor have worked together to produce recruitment brochures which are both updated and packaged to quickly get appropriate materials into the hands of a potential applicant. The system is suitable at Civil War shows, reenactments, or any other public forum. Materials include a system for camp follow-up and directions and an application for contacting the National Archives for ancestral data. The system also includes a survey form which is sent to non-responders to help determine why an individual who indicated initial interest in our Order would choose to not answer our solicitation. Some of the answers have been informative, e.g. preference for a camp-at-large over a camp where activity is expected, etc.

Keith Harrison mentioned advertising programs are not confined to national publications but should also include local sources as well. George Nuoffer mentioned three local newspapers have no costs to advertise.

C-in-C Allen Moore mentioned that a) the scholarship program brought in a number of new applicants, b) the SAR is a source of SUVCW applicants and c) The SCV should also be considered a source since many individuals descend from ancestors on both sides of the conflict. He also reminded all to mention the SUVCW to a) those who sell Civil War memorabilia and, b) those with brothers with C.W. interest.

Ron Aronis, Doug Park, Jim Muetling and Keith Harrison all stated problems with the present application. Keith indicated this is well known and updating the form is one of the top agenda items in his committee. Jim Muetling said he wants the new application now. Jim Lyons said the Publications Committee or the Program/Policies Committee should tackle this as well as the transfer card which is also out of date.

Dave Medert said we need to find a place to start a camp and consider places like a local American Legion Post. Some are known to contain GAR charters and other personal memorabilia. He also mentioned finding a book of GAR membership cards with stubs still attached in a GAR Hall.

Ed Krieser asked if we could obtain access to the National Park Service computer program listing those who served in the Civil War. This was considered a worthy question which should be pursued.

Al Loomis, after unsuccessfully goading National Secretary Lyons with vestiges of Northern Michigan pulpwood regarding the inflated prowess of a little known midwestern school with indecision about team colors, proceeded to discuss the concept of a memorial service at Fr. Corbin's grave in South Bend, IN. This is proposed as seed for starting a SUVCW camp on this and other college campuses. We were reminded that GAR Posts were formed at Decatur College, ILL and Milliken College, IN.

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Tom Johnson said this was a fine discussion led by Keith but many of these ideas had been heard years ago. The difference is today the national organization supports this recruiting effort and the infrastructure is now there.

Doug Park offered the idea of a computer-printed national membership card which had been first discussed with PCC-In-C Bud Atkinson Fall, 1992. Bud liked the idea and asked that it be explored. Doug and Dick Williams have not yet researched this but it would seem likely to have advantages over the handwritten and typed system now in place, especially if member information were to flow through departments. The processing could take many forms but, essentially, computer-printed cards, which could be stamped/authorized at the local level, much like the American Legion, would offer many advantages. Ron Aronis said the present card doesn't fit a wallet, nor the scroll space of a typewriter. Jim Muetting offered that the tri-color membership certificate does not fit a typical printer either. George Nuoffer said it was time to get out of the 1940's and into the 1990's.

Commander Shaefer rose to thank everyone for the lively discussion. She also said the tour guide this morning had expected non-enthusiastic old men in their 80's. She said h was quite surprised at our enthusiasm.

Recess was called by Cdr. Shaefer at 4:15 pm.

The Central Region Banquet was held at 6:30 pm in the Hotel's Green Tree Library. Following the dinner, Toastmaster Tom Johnson introduced Lewis P. Mallow, Jr. who presented "Gettysburg, the Battle and the Speech." This very excellent program was followed by comments by Commander-in-Chief Allen Moore. Commander Moore referenced recent activities at the rededication of Libby Prison, the restoration of 100* cannon in a local cemetery and his desire that his administration be focused on recruiting and member retention. Following this, the host department held a raffle. Nearly everyone was a winner and some, like Keith Harrison, won more beans than required.

SECOND SESSION
OCTOBER 3, 1993

The second session of the Central Region Conference was opened by Commander Shaefer at 9:30 am in the Manchester East Green Tree Library.

After the formal opening, Keith Harrison resumed leadership of the recruiting discussion from the previous session. Bro. Harrison moved the CRC request the Commander-in-Chief assign to the National Membership Committee the task of developing a recruiting manual to be presented to the 1994 National Encampment in Lansing and, following adoption, said manual would be made available to all camps and departments. Jim Lyon seconded and suggested ideas from the 1926 SUVCW and 1988 SCV manuals might be explored. Tom Johnson rose on point of order to state the motion should be considered during the business session. Commander Shaefer agreed to delay the vote on the motion.

Keith Harrison reiterated the four basic components in a recruiting package and said the principal point for success will be adoption by the National Encampment.

Dave Medert asked about developing minimum standards for recruiting members. Everyone agreed this area is worthy of development. This should be included in the manual mentioned by Keith Harrison.

Tom Johnson rose to lead the discussion on the Constitutional Impact of the Civil War. Tom prepared by laying out the background of U.S. Supreme Court members since John Marshall's tenure ended with Marshall's death in 1834. The Court President Lincoln inherited upon his inauguration was divided in its support for the President but he had 3 and, ultimately, 4 vacancies to fill during his term. The men who ultimately filled these vacancies did not always support their benefactor. Some of the decisions facing Lincoln's Court and generated by the Civil War were:

- The blockade of southern ports
- Lincoln's call for 22,000 soldiers and 18,000 seamen
- The suspension of the writ of habeas corpus (Maryland)
- Burnside's arrest of one making seditious remarks during war
- The Conscription Act of 1863

Following this excellent overview, Ross Dunlop added to the discussion by analyzing the source of our personal rights. These are derived not only from the U.S. Constitution but from English Common Law. The example was the case involving Lambden Milligan where Lincoln appointee David Davis wrote that military courts had violated the writ of habeas corpus and Milligan should have been tried in civil courts. It is interesting to note Davis rode with Lincoln prior to 1860 on a circuit in Illinois and was Lincoln's campaign manager previously but disagreed on this important point with his long time legal ally. Also noteworthy was ex parte Milligan gave the U.S. Supreme Court an opportunity to regain credibility lost as a result of the Dred Scott decision.

More in-depth material on this subject can be found in Davis' biography, Lincoln's Manager written by William King. Another excellent reference is Lincoln's Supreme Court, David M. Silver, University of Chicago Press, 1950.

Commander Shaefer thanked all the presenters for excellent research and leadership in this year's discussions. She called for a report of the Auditing Committee.

Bro. Harrison announced the treasurer's books were all in order. Jim Lyons moved to accept the report. Tom Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

As no resolutions were offered for consideration, Cdr. Shaefer offered that the standard courtesy resolutions which are sent to the hotel and host department be considered for adoption. Gary Gibson moved to have these sent. Keith Harrison seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Ron Gill presented the Nominating Committee report. The slate of nominations were:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Commander | Gary Gibson |
| Sr. Vice Commander | Alan Loomis |
| Jr. Vice Commander | Timothy Frake |
| Secretary | Ron Gill |
| Treasurer | Ellinore K. Johnson |
| Patriotic Instructor | Robert Wieslan |
| Chaplain | George Nuoffer |
| Guide | Robert Grim |

Keith Harrison moved to accept report. Dick Williams seconded. Motion carried. Jim Lyons moved the slate be elected as a unanimous ballot. Tom Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Cdr Shaefer asked the Secretary to read the motion made previously by Keith Harrison on the membership manual. This was done and the previous second noted. Motion carried.

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Keith Harrison moved the CRC accept the ritual as prepared by Doug Park and amended by written comments by Keith Harrison, Gary Gibson, and Peggy Shaefer. Tom Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Doug Park moved the CRC pay for a rubber stamp for the CRC letterhead to save on preprinting envelopes. Jim Lyons seconded. Motion carried.

Ellinore Johnson passed out the Treasurer's report. After discussion, Jim Lyons moved to accept the report. Gary Gibson seconded. Motion carried.

Jim Lyons moved the Treasurer be authorized to pay enumerated bills pertinent to the conference. Tom Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

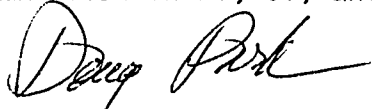
Cdr. Shaefer asked for consideration of the location of the 1994 and 1995 CRC. Motion by Jim Lyons to hold the 1994 CRC in Galena, Illinois and the 1995 CRC in Indiana, city to be named. Tom Johnson seconded. Motion carried. The subject of the 1994 CRC will be "U.S. Grant-Before and After". Tom Johnson will lead discussion.

Tom Johnson moved the CRC thank the current officers for a job well done. Keith Harrison seconded. Motion carried. Cdr. Shaefer thanked all who came and made a delightful conference. She asked if Gary Gibson had chosen an installing officer for the Officer Installation. Gary asked C-in-C Moore to preside.

The slate of elected officers to serve during 1993-1994 were installed per ritual.

Commander Gibson thanked everyone for their attendance and past support. He then closed the 1993 Central Region Conference per ritual.

Submitted in F., C., and L.,



J. Douglas Park
1992-1993 CRC Secretary

October, 1993

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

Greetings:

I wish to submit to you my report for the year 1992-1993. It is as follows:

Balance on hand September 30, 1992		\$747.88
Receipts:		
Iowa Dept.- Aux.....	\$ 5.00	
Wis. Dept. Aux.....	5.00	
Wis. Dept. Sons.....	5.00	
Michigan Dept. Sons.....	5.00	
Mo. Billy Yank Camp #65.....	5.00	
Ohio Dept. Sons.....	5.00	
Indiana Dept. Sons.....	5.00	
Illinois Dept. Aux.....	5.00	
Ohio Dept. Aux.....	<u>5.00</u>	45.00
		<u>792.88</u>
Other Receipts.....	<u>34.00</u>	<u>34.00</u>
		<u>\$826.88</u>
Disbursements:		
Curtemius Guard #17 Camp Mi. Mem.	10.00	
Dept. of MI - Flag.....	15.00	
C.A.Rogers, N.P.I. - Donation.....	10.00	
J. Douglas Park, Sec. - Postage.....	<u>29.00</u>	64.00
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Balance on hand as of September 1, 1993.....		\$762.88

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