

## MINUTES

### ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GAR CENTRAL REGION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE OCTOBER 4, 2003 GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

The 67<sup>th</sup> Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Central Region Association Conference was opened at the Grand Rapids Hilton Hotel at 1:45 pm by Central Region Commander Thomas Crawford of Indiana. Commander Crawford noted that SUVCW Past Commander-in-Chief Robert Grim had a previous commitment to the Sons of the American Revolution in West Virginia and was not able to attend. Jeff Stephen, SUVCW member from Iowa, mentioned that SUVCW Council of Administration member Dave Stephen was unable to attend due to an illness in the family.

Secretary-Treasurer Don Palmer called the roll of officers:

Commander	Thomas Crawford	Indiana	Present
Senior Vice Commander	Margaret Grothe	Missouri	Present
Junior Vice Commander	C.R. Stephen	Iowa	Present
Secretary-Treasurer	Donald Palmer	Missouri	Present
Patriotic Instructor	Merle Rudebusch	Nebraska	Present
Chaplain	Jerome Kowalski	Illinois	Absent
Color Bearer	Virginia Temme	Wisconsin	Absent
Guide	Ronald Aronis	Wisconsin	Absent
Historian	Alan Teller	Indiana	Present

In the absence of the officers noted, Commander Crawford appointed the following to serve in an "acting" capacity:

Chaplain	William McAfee	Michigan
Color Bearer	Ron Gill	Indiana
Guide	Russ Kirchner	Indiana

In addition to the officers noted above, Commander Crawford appointed SUVCW National Counselor James Pahl as Parliamentarian.

Acting Chaplain William McAfee led the attendees in prayer. Patriotic Instructor Merle Rudebusch led the attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

A total of 48 attendees were registered for the 67<sup>th</sup> Central Region Conference. The number of attendees per Allied Order organization represented (as registered) are shown below:

- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War -	41
- Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War -	5
- Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic -	1
- Woman's Relief Corps -	1
- Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War -	0

In lieu of introducing all attendees, Commander Crawford wanted to use the time to allow Allied Orders National leaders time to address the conference. Commander Crawford introduced dignitaries present, including:

- **Lynne Bury**, National President of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, presented greeting from the LGAR National organization. Commander Crawford presented her with a “duck” as token of his appreciation for attending.
- **Danielle Michaels**, National President of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW. She presented greetings from the ASUVCW and introduced National officers Jim Pahl (Counselor) and Mary Fritz (Patriotic Instructor).

**Kent Armstrong**, Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW. C-in-C Armstrong presented greetings from the SUVCW and introduced National officers Steve Michaels (Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief), Bob Petrovic (Council of Administration), Ron Gill (Council of Administration), William McAfee (Chaplain), Past Commanders-in-Chief Ed Krieser and Al Loomis and members chairing/serving on National committees. He took this opportunity to present a 25-year membership certificate to Gary Gibson of Michigan and a 20-year anniversary certificate to Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20. C-in-C Armstrong discussed the cases of SUVCW members Ty Streeter and Christopher Geiger who were serving in the front lines in the war on terror. Brother Streeter was wounded in Iraq. Brother Geiger was killed in Afghanistan.

Commander Crawford, as a means for the members attending to get to know each other, asked some questions to see who has been involved with unique activities.

The minutes of the 66<sup>th</sup> Central Region Association Conference held in St. Louis in October 2002 were read. A motion to approve was made by Al Loomis and seconded by Alan Teller. Motion carried.

Commander Crawford announced the appointment of the conference committees as follows:

<b>Nominating Committee</b>	<b>Resolutions Committee</b>	<b>Auditing Committee</b>
Merle Rudebusch –Chair	Alan Teller – Chair	Jack Grothe – Chair
Ron Gill	Alan Russ	Edward Kreiser
Mary Fritz	Margaret Grothe	Danielle Michaels

Commander Crawford then noted that he was adding a committee on Central Region Past Commanders badges. He appointed Kent Armstrong and Russ Kirchner as the committee.

#### **Officers Reports:**

Commander Crawford reported that he represented the Central Region at the Lincoln Boyhood Home ceremony and the Lincoln Death Day ceremony.

Senior Vice Commander – No report

Junior Vice Commander C.R. Stephen recommended that the Departments of Oklahoma and California & Pacific be allowed to become members of the Central Region Association and attend meetings. Commander Crawford responded that the Department of Oklahoma has been approached several times, but has not yet accepted.

Secretary-Treasurer Don Palmer presented the Treasurer's report, noting a balance on hand of \$974.04. He also indicated that the bill for the Past Commanders badges was paid and that a number of Departments have yet to pay their 2003 dues. A motion was made by Jack Grothe and seconded by Bob Petrovic to have the dues for the following year paid at the present Central Region Conference (effective at the 2003 Conference) – Motion passed.

Patriotic Instructor – No report

Historian Alan Teller compiled a list of Past Commanders of the Central Region Association dating back to 1955 based on the information found in the history files.

**Communications** – None reported

**Unfinished Business:**

Revision of Rituals – Rituals committee appointed at the 66<sup>th</sup> Central Region Association Conference reported on their activities. The committee consisted on Danielle Michaels, Russ Kirchner and Jerome Kowalski. Russ Kirchner discussed proposed revisions to make them more inclusive of all Allied Orders rather than just the SUVCW and ASUVCW. Motion was made by Danielle Michaels and seconded by Jack Grothe to allow the committee to review and change some of the references (e.g., he, his, etc.) to more “gender appropriate” terms. Motion passed.

**Guest Speaker** – Unfinished business was temporarily suspended to allow Jim Pahl to speak on Roberts Rules of Order. The presentation was well received as parliamentary procedure is important to all of the Allied Orders.

**Unfinished Business (Cont.)**

Past Commanders Badges – Russ Kirchner made a motion that Past Commanders badges be awarded to Past Commanders and those who have served to a great extent in another capacity to be approved by the Central Region Commander. Second was made by Jack Grothe. Motion passed. Jack Grothe also recommended that a committee be formed to work the finer details of those that should be awarded with the Past Commanders badge and investigate producing a smaller lapel size version of the badge.

Committee Reports:

*Auditing Committee* – Jack Grothe reported that the books and the treasury report are all in order.

*Resolutions Committee* – Alan Teller presented the recommendations made by the Resolutions Committee to (1) send a letter to the hotel thanking them for their efforts in providing a venue for a successful conference; (2) send a letter to the Department of Michigan thanking them for hosting an excellent event and present a check for \$100 to support a restoration project in Michigan; (3) thank Michigan Department Commander Bruce Butgereit for organizing and conducting a wonderful re-dedication ceremony of the Kent County Civil War monument in Grand Rapids; and (4) thank James Pahl for an outstanding presentation on the proper use of Roberts Rules of Order. Motion was made by James Pahl and seconded by William McAfee to approve these recommendations ad seriatum. Motion passed.

*Nominating Committee* – Ron Gill presented the recommendations made by the Nominating Committee for 2003-2004 officers:

- |                         |                 |          |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| • Commander             | Margaret Grothe | Missouri |
| • Senior Vice Commander | C.R. Stephen    | Iowa     |
| • Junior Vice Commander | Merle Rudebusch | Nebraska |

No recommendations were made for Secretary-Treasurer due to the fact that this is a three-year term and will not be up for election until 2005.

Motion was made by James Pahl and seconded by Russ Kirchner that since there were no other nominations, the Secretary cast one vote for the slate of officers presented. Motion passed.

Commander-elect Margaret Grothe made the following appointments:

- |                        |               |           |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| • Patriotic Instructor | Alan Russ     | Kansas    |
| • Chaplain             | Mary Fritz    | Illinois  |
| • Color Bearer         | Gloria Murphy | Wisconsin |
| • Guide                | Jeff Stephen  | Iowa      |
| • Historian            | Alan Teller   | Indiana   |

#### **New Business:**

PCinC Al Loomis discussed a couple of programs the David Porter Camp of Indiana is working. On October 25, there will be a program at the Snide Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame on George Barnard, a Civil War photographer, beginning at 10:00 am (central). Following this program, there will be a ceremony at Rolling Prairie Cemetery in Rolling Prairie, Indiana honoring a Union veteran. The ceremony will begin at 3:00 pm (central). On November 8, there will be a ceremony honoring Father Corby on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. The ceremony will commence at 8:00 am (central) at the statue in front of Corby Hall. Father Corby, a chaplain with the Irish Brigade, gave absolution to the troops on the second day of Gettysburg, and after the war, formed only GAR Post made up entirely of clergy.

The location for the 2004 Central Region Association Conference has been tentatively set for Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Alan Russ volunteered Kansas (Topeka or Lawrence) as a potential location for the 2005 conference.

#### **Installation of Officers:**

ASUVCW National President Danielle Michaels conducted the installation of officers with the assistance of SUVCW National Chaplain William McAfee and acting Guide Russ Kirchner.

#### **Closing**

Commander-elect Margaret Grothe assumed control of the meeting and closed the 67<sup>th</sup> annual Central Region Association Conference at 4:30 pm.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
Donald D. Palmer, Jr.  
Secretary-Treasurer