

MINUTES

ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GAR CENTRAL REGION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2, 2004 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The 2004 Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Central Region Association Conference was opened at the Ramada Inn Airport Hotel at 1:55 pm by Central Region Commander Margaret Grothe of Missouri.

Secretary-Treasurer Don Palmer called the roll of officers:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| Commander | Margaret Grothe | Missouri | Present |
| Senior Vice Commander | C.R. Stephen | Iowa | Present |
| Junior Vice Commander | Merle Rudebusch | Nebraska | Present |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Donald Palmer | Missouri | Present |
| Patriotic Instructor | Alan Russ | Kansas | Present |
| Chaplain | Mary Fritz | Illinois | Present |
| Color Bearer | Gloria Murphy | Wisconsin | Present |
| Guide | Jeff Stephen | Iowa | Present |
| Historian | Alan Teller | Indiana | Present |

Chaplain Mary Fritz led the attendees in prayer. Patriotic Instructor Alan Russ led the attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

A total of 40 attendees were registered for the 2004 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 - | 28 |
| - Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - | 9 |
| - Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic - | 1 |
| - Woman's Relief Corps - | 1 |
| - Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War - | 1 |

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

- **Steve Michaels**, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, presented greeting from the SUVCW National organization. C-in-C Michaels introduced SUVCW National officers in attendance: National Council of Administration members Bob Petrovic, Dave Stephen and Charles Kuhn, who was visiting from Pennsylvania; National Chief of Staff Don Palmer, National Aide-de-Camp Fred Murphy, National Color Bearer Tom Brown and National Webmaster and Wisconsin Department Commander Kent Peterson. Also introduced was Major Jack Grothe, Commander of the 4th Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve.
- **Ed Krieser** – Past Commander-in-Chief, SUVCW

- **Danielle Michaels** – Past National President, Auxiliary to the SUVCW. Also introduced was Mary Fritz, ASUVCW National Chaplain.

Commander Grothe, 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 2003 Central Region Association Conference held in Grand Rapids, MI in October 2003 were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Merle Rudebusch and seconded by Danielle Michaels. **Motion carried.**

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

| Nominating Committee | Resolutions Committee | Auditing Committee |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alan Russ –Chair | Ed Krieser – Chair | Fred Murphy – Chair |
| Bob Petrovic | Alan Teller | Arlene Rudebusch |
| Gloria Murphy | Danielle Michaels | Tom Crawford |

Officers Reports:

Commander Grothe reported that she represented the Central Region at a number of functions throughout the year, including the MOLLUS National Conference (West Point, NY), Remembrance Day (Gettysburg, PA), Dinner for Auxiliary National President Danielle Michaels (Milwaukee, WI), SUVCW-SVR Dinner (Washington, MO), Sherman Birthday program at Calvary Cemetery (St. Louis, MO), Lincoln Tomb Ceremony (Springfield, IL), GAR Founders Ceremony (Petersburg, IL), GAR Hall Tour (Boscobel, WI), Memorial Day at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery (St. Louis, MO), Missouri Department Encampment (St. Louis, MO), SUVCW/ASUVCW National Encampment (Cedar Rapids, IA) and POW-MIA Ceremony at Scott Air Force Base (Mascoutah, IL).

Senior Vice Commander – No report

Junior Vice Commander – No report

Secretary-Treasurer Don Palmer presented the Treasurer’s report, noting a balance on hand of \$1168.07. He also indicated that he had yet to receive 2004 dues from a number of Allied Order Departments.

Patriotic Instructor – No report

Historian Alan Teller reported that he uncovered Central Region Conference minutes from 20 October 1940. Members from Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin attended the meeting, which was held in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Minutes were also presented from 1946 and 1948, along with a letter from 1947. Based on this information, the 2004 Conference would be the 65th meeting of the Central Region, and not the 68th as was previously assumed. From this point on, the meeting minutes should reflect the correct sequence. He also requested that he be provided old photos and/or documents if found

Chaplain Mary Fritz reported that she sent cards of condolence to families of real sons that had passed away during the previous year and families of soldiers killed in Iraq, both on behalf of the Allied Orders Central Region Association.

Communications – None reported

Unfinished Business:

Revision of Rituals – Danielle Michaels reported that the Rituals Committee appointed at the 2002 Central Region Conference did not meet during the 2003-2004 administrative year due to a multitude of other commitments.

Past Commanders Badges – Jack Grothe reported that nothing was decided; however, some discussion was held regarding issuance of past commanders badges to Secretary/Treasurers who serve multiple terms. Another option being considered is offering the Secretary/Treasurer who serves a full three year term to be considered for the office of Commander without the need to move up through the Vice Commander offices. Dave Stephen responded that this option is moot as anyone can be nominated for Commander and that the past commanders badge should be given only to past commanders. Bob Petrovic noted that Camps and Departments in the SUVCW offer the past commander title to Secretary/Treasurers who serve at least 10 years in that office. Bob Petrovic made the motion that Central Region Secretary/Treasurers who serve three terms (9 years) be awarded the past commanders badge. Dale Calder seconded. **Motion passed.**

Commander Grothe then announced that, based on “Commander’s privilege” given at the 2003 Central Region Conference, she was awarding a past commanders badge to Steve Michaels for 8 years of developing/coordinating training programs for the Central Region.

2005 Conference - A recommendation was made to hold the 2005 Central Region Association Conference in Lawrence, Kansas. Motion made by Alan Russ and seconded by Fred Murphy. **Motion passed.** Potential dates include 01 October or 08 October.

The business meeting was temporarily suspended at 2:45 pm to conduct the seminar coordinated by Wisconsin Department Commander Kent Peterson on “Communicating with the Masses”. Lectures were also provided by Bruce Laine from Gibbon Camp #4 – Waukesha, WI and Patricia Lynch of Auxiliary #4 – Milwaukee, WI in support of the seminar topic.

The business meeting was re-convened at 4:50 pm by Commander Grothe.

Committee Reports:

Auditing Committee – Fred Murphy was emphatic in reporting that the books and the treasury report are all in order.

Resolutions Committee – Ed Krieser 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 Wisconsin thanking them for hosting an excellent event and present a check for \$100 to the Department of Wisconsin for the Soldiers Home restoration project in Milwaukee; (3) thank Wisconsin Department Commander Kent Peterson for his efforts in organizing this event and coordinating the training program; and (4) moment of silence for present day soldiers, sailors and marines currently in harms way. Recommendations approved ad seriatum.

Nominating Committee – Alan Russ presented the recommendations made by the Nominating Committee for 2004-2005 officers:

- Commander – nominations were brought forth supporting both C.R. Stephen of Iowa and Ed Krieser of Indiana, therefore, the committee recommended that an election be held.
- Senior Vice Commander Merle Rudebusch Nebraska
- Junior Vice Commander Mary Fritz Illinois

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.

New Business:

Jack Grothe announced that it appears that all five Allied Orders will participate in the 2007 National Encampment to be held in St. Louis. On a related note, he asked who the focal points are for each of the Allied Order Departments that form the Central Region. Nobody appeared to have this information available. A motion was made by Beth Brockman that a committee be formed to establish a database of all Allied Order Departments in the Central Region. A second was made by Dale Calder. **Motion passed.** Commander Grothe subsequently appointed the following committee:

- Beth Brockman (Chair) – representing the ASUVCW
- Arlene Rudebusch – representing the DUVCW
- Lee Ann Teller – representing the LGAR
- Maggie Grothe – representing the WRC
- Jeff Stephen – representing the SUVCW.

C.R. Stephen asked the officers and conference attendees to consider Cedar Rapids, IA as the site for the 2006 Central Region Conference. Commander Grothe responded that the date/location for 2006 will be determined at the 2005 Conference.

Stuart Stefany announced that Custer Camp #1 in Illinois is selling bronze plaques to support the "Last Soldier Project", one of the newer initiatives in the SUVCW. The cost of each plaque is \$170.

As a follow up to the discussion under unfinished business regarding the awarding of past commander badges for exemplary service, Don Palmer inquired about the possibility of setting up an awards program for the Central Region consistent with those offered by some Allied Order organizations. This way, the individual who goes "above and beyond" can be appropriately recognized without compromising the intent of the past commanders badge. A motion was made by Don Palmer to establish a committee to define the award(s). A second was made by Bob Petrovic. **Motion passed.** Commander Grothe then appointed the following committee:

- Don Palmer (Chair)
- Jack Grothe
- Maggie Grothe
- Dave Stephen

Election of Officers

Commander Grothe asked if there were any other nominations to be made for the 2004-2005 elected offices. No other nominations were made.

A motion was made by Nominating Committee Chairman Alan Russ to accept the Junior Vice Commander and Senior Vice Commander nominations as recommended. Second was made by Alan Teller. **Motion passed.**

As recommended by the Nominating Committee, an election was held between C.R. Stephen and Ed Krieser for Commander. C.R. Stephen was elected.

Commander-elect C.R. Stephen made the following appointments:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| • Patriotic Instructor | Jeff Stephen | Iowa |
| • Chaplain | Bob Kennedy | Iowa |
| • Color Bearer | Danielle Michaels | Wisconsin |
| • Guide | Lee Fritz | Iowa |
| • Historian | Alan Teller | Indiana |

Installation of Officers:

SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Steve Michaels conducted the installation of officers with the assistance of Chaplain Mary Fritz and Guide Jeff Stephen.

Closing

Commander-elect C.R. Stephen assumed control of the meeting and closed the 65th annual Central Region Association Conference at 5:40 pm.

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