

MINUTES

GAR Allied Orders
Central Region Association Conference
October 5, 2013
Bardstown, Kentucky

The 74th Annual Central Region Conference was brought to Order by Commander Cindy Norton at 2:26 PM. The Conference was opened per the ritual. Fourteen members were present. They were Donald Shaw, Michigan; Cindy Norton, Ohio; Bob Petrovic, Missouri, Barbara Stone, Indiana; Alan Teller, Indiana; Lee Ann Teller, Indiana; Martin Aubuchon, Missouri; Mike Downs Tennessee; Timothy Downey, Kentucky; Jim Pahl, Michigan; Cher Petrovic, Missouri; Walt Bush, Missouri; Don Palmer, Missouri; and Dale Aurand, Michigan.

Roll call of officers:

Commander	Cindy Norton	Ohio	Present
Senior Vice Commander	Martin Aubuchon	Missouri	Present
Junior Vice Commander	Jim Pahl	Michigan	Present
Secretary/Treasurer	Judy Rock	Michigan	Excused
Patriotic Instructor	Lee Ann Teller	Indiana	Present
Chaplain	Walter Busch	Missouri	Present
Color Bearer	Barbara Stone	Indiana	Present
Guide	Bob Petrovic	Missouri	Present
Historian	Alan Teller	Indiana	Present

Donald Shaw was appointed acting Secretary/Treasurer for this meeting in the absence of Judy Rock.

Following the roll call of officers, general introductions were done and all in attendance introduced themselves. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented and approved unanimously.

Commander Norton appointed members to three Conference committees. They were:

Audit Committee:

Walt Busch
Barbara Stone
Dale Aurand

Resolutions Committee:

Donald Palmer
Martin Aubuchon
Jim Pahl

Nominating Committee:

Donald Shaw
Lee Ann Teller
Bob Petrovic

The Treasurer's report was offered by acting Treasurer Shaw. It revealed that our accounts are placed with Huntington Bank, and that there is currently \$1,396.84 in the treasury. There appeared to be no outstanding expenses according to the notes from Treasurer Rock. Walt Busch, who was one of the persons responsible for setting up this particular conference added that as far as covering our expenses related to this conference, that we are doing well.

Officer Reports:

Commander Norton reported that it has been a busy year with her making multiple appearances at Allied order events.

Senior Vice Commander Aubuchon reported that together with Walt Busch and Bob Petrovic, he helped set up this conference. He has also gone to National events within the Allied Orders.

Junior Vice Commander Pahl Reported that in addition to attending national level Allied Order events, that the facebook page for the CRA has been set up.

Acting Secretary/Treasurer Shaw offered no further report

Chaplain Busch gave no report

Color Bearer Stone gave no report

Guide Bob Petrovic gave no report

Historian Alan Teller reported that CRA records dating back to 1940 went to Judy Rock in April, 2013. They will be located in the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic Home, (hereinafter LGAR Home), in Sandusky, Ohio. Judy will confirm once the records are placed at the LGAR Home. Discussion was also had on possible problems with storage at the LGAR Home, but at this point the plans for storage there remain unchanged. He also noted that next year in Ohio will mark the 75th Annual Conference of the Central Region Association. He asked for the conference attendees email addresses.

Old Business:

Walt Busch commented that as to CRA archival storage and the LGAR Home, that if we need a back up plan for what ever reason, a possible alternate records storage site would be the St. Louis Mercantile Library. They do take records from organizations such as ours.

Barbara Stone suggested a time limit of two years in dealing with the record storage problem, and that if there are problems at that point with the storage of records in Ohio, that another institution be approached in that regard. She told of the possibility of the Ft. Wayne library as a possible repository.

Bob Petrovic reported as to the Dr. Benjamin F. Stevenson Memorial Project that last year we donated \$185.00 by agreeing to purchase a brick for the project. He further reported that it doesn't look like they will move on this project until they get 90 percent of the fund necessary paid, and that looks increasingly like it won't happen. He mentioned that if we haven't sent anything in yest, that we hold off until they are closer to getting this done. Consequently, Bob Petrovic moved, supported by Jim Pahl, that we not purchase the brick until we know the project is going through and the City of Petersburg moves on the same. Passes unanimously.

The second vote to amend Chapter III, Section 2 of the current By-Laws, as required for CRA By-Law amendment, on the question of adding Arkansas to the Central Region's geographic service area was raised. Discussion followed and the matter proceeded to a vote. The motion failed and therefore the Proposed By-Law amendment fails.

New Business:

Don Palmer began a discussion regarding increasing CRA meeting attendance. Past meetings have had as many as 40 to 50 people in attendance. Lately we have been getting about 12 to 15. We need to make meetings meaningful to Allied Order members. Ideally, we need to attract local level commanders and should push for agendas that would help them do a better job with their local responsibilities. We may need to encourage local level people to come to the conferences and ask them to spread the word that we can be helpful to them. We also need to have some person or committee responsible for publicizing our meetings and what we do. We need to talk up the CRA within our Departments. It was noted that Lee Ann Teller and Alan Teller have worked tirelessly to publicize the CRA. Further discussion was that a flyer be developed regarding the CRA for distribution at the National Encampments and put into the "Welcome Bag" that each delegate receives. We should follow up with our attendees from year to year, encouraging their participation at the upcoming conference and encourage non participating states to come in or come back. We may also want to see how the New England Regional Association publicizes their events. In the end, the Conference formed a group consisting of Cher Petrovic, Alan Teller and Jim Pahl to do a flyer that could be used to publicize the organization.

Discussion turned to the website. There was discussion had regarding whether or not the National Organization could host the CRA website. No further action was taken at this time.

Discussion returned to the task of publicizing the CRA. Mention was that by providing training and developmental opportunities we would sell the CRA to non attendees. A deadline for brochure development was discussed for April in Springfield at the Tomb Ceremony. No further action was taken in this regard however. The idea was also put forth that we extend an invitation to Past Regional Commanders who no longer attend these meetings to come back.

Discussion turned to upcoming conferences and locations. 2014 is set for Oberlin Ohio on October 4, 2014. Room rates appear to be \$98.00 per night at the Conference Hotel. Michigan is on line for hosting the 2015 Conference. Tennessee was mentioned as a possible site for the 2016 Conference. There was a motion by Walt Busch, seconded by Stone, that the CRA pay for the dinners for our Conference speakers and their guests. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

The meeting resumed at 4:00 PM

The Audit Committee reported that they are satisfied with the condition of the books and that all appears to be in order.

The Resolutions Committee reported out the following resolutions with a recommendation that each of them pass:

1. That we send a Thank You to the Hotel.

2. That we send a Thank You to the Host Committee.
3. That we send Thank Yous to our speakers.
4. That we make a \$100.00 donation to the Host Committee.

All of the foregoing passed. The Host Committee members, all of whom were present, voted to make a \$100.00 donation to the CRA so as to return the money.

The Nominating Committee reported the following nominations:

For Commander – Martin Aubuchon
For Senior Vice Commander – Jim Pahl
For Junior Vice Commander – Don Palmer

There were no other nominations and the foregoing slate was unanimously elected. Commander Elect Aubuchon appointed the following individuals to serve in the posts as indicated:

Patriotic Instructor – Barbara Stone
Chaplain – Walt Busch
Color Bearer – Lee Ann Teller
Guide – Dale Aurand
Historian – Alan Teller

The officers were sworn in by Alan Teller acting as installing officer. At the conclusion of the swearing in, he presented the Commander's Badge to Martin Aubuchon. Past Commander Norton still needs to receive a Past Regionald Commanders Badge at this point.

Closing remarks were given by Commander Aubuchon.

Walt Busch suggested that we may want to do a commemorative coin in connection with the 75th Annual Meeting of the CRA. On Walt Busch's motion, the possibility of such a coin was left in the hands of the Executive Committee.

Chaplain Busch offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was closed per Ritual at 4:20 PM.