

**Pennsylvania Department Mid-Year Business Meeting
Held at Hoss's Steak & Seafood, Mid Way, PA
October 26, 2013**

The meeting was called to order in shortened fashion by Department Commander Richard Essenwein at 9:03 AM. A roll call of officers was taken with all elected officers present with the exception of Department Council Members John McNulty & Howard Wolfe. Each Officer read their report and action was taken up on each of the Officer's recommendations as follows. See Officers & Committee Reports for recommendations;

Dept. Commander –

Recommendations #1 & 2 – Motion made by PC-in-C Orr to form a committee to investigate and report back. Motion was seconded by PC-in-C Kuhn and carried unanimously.

Recommendation #3 – Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Jr Vice Commander John Frantz and seconded by Ivan Frantz PDC to table the recommendation. Motion carried.

Jr. Vice Commander –

Jr. Vice Commander added that he was sending the application he received from National to Camps that were more active when several Camps exist in a particular area. This would encourage new Members to become involved and active.

Secretary – Treasurer –

Secretary – Treasurer added that the Peace Light Ceremony sponsored by the SUVCW that took place in Gettysburg over the Sesquicentennial of the Battle was very moving and he had received many positive comments. He also reported that he had arranged for the remaining badges to be sold to the National Organization at cost with the Department retaining the first ten badges numbered 1 through 10. These will be sold at a later date on the internet when prices rise for memorabilia.

Chaplain –

Recommended that the Commander appoint a committee to check on placing a VAVS Representative from the SUVCW on the VA Administrative Staff. He also recommended that Camps should volunteer time at the VA hospitals in their area.

Historian –

The Historian asked what he should do with all of the records of the Department. He was instructed that the Pennsylvania State Archives was the official repository of these records and he should arrange for them to be taken there. He also asked the National Treasurer what financial records he should maintain from the Department and for how long.

The following officers had nothing to add or report; Sr. Vice Commander, Camp #300 Secretary, Patriotic Instructor, Chief of Staff, Color Bearer, Guide, Counselor, Graves Registration officer, Signals Officer, News Letter Editor.

The Fraternal Relations Committee reported on the health and condition of PC-in-C Bud Atkinson. They asked that we all keep him in our prayers.

No other committee had anything to report or add to their report.

Communications were read.

Under the subject of Unfinished Business;

- 1) PDC Frantz reported on the purchases for the upgrade of the PA System that the Department has.
- 2) The site of the 2014 Department Encampment was announced and it was reported that we are looking in the Erie area for the 2015 Encampment.

Under the subject of New Business;

- 1) Discussion ensued at great length on going to a one day Encampment to help bolster the sagging numbers at the Department Encampments and reduce costs. It was reported that Pennsylvania was the only Department that continued to have a multiple day Encampment. Members that belong to other Departments reported an increase of attendance after going to a one day Encampment and debriefed the body on how they get all their business taken care of in one day. The Commander appointed a committee to calculate cost savings for going to a one day Encampment and investigate how to present this information to the women's organizations.
- 2) The Commander reported that Camp #71 was no longer in existence and they had forfeited their Charter and checking accounts. The Brothers that were in Camp #71 would be offered a transfer to Camp #300.
- 3) Due to the legal ramifications leading from the Jerry Sandusky trial, the Order is rethinking its stand on Brothers under the age of 18. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning this subject. The Jr. Vice Commander made a motion and it was seconded by several present that the Department Commander issue a Department Order placing a moratorium on any new Brother being admitted to a Pennsylvania Camp under the age of 18 until the National Order had sufficient time to examine the issues at hand and come up with a solution to the problem.
- 4) PC-in-C Rich Orr, National Treasurer, reported on the following, 501c3 status, filing of Form 8822B with the IRS, Proofs of lineage required for joining the Order, availability of Camps to obtain VA Headstones.
- 5) Motion made by PC-in-C Charlie Kuhn and seconded by John Gibson that the Secretary prepare a resolution to National concerning VA headstones. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) Motion made by PC-in-C Rich Orr nominating Brother Gene Mortorff for Sr. Vice Commander in Chief. Motion was seconded by PC-in-C Charlie Kuhn. Motion carried unanimously.

Under the topic of "Good of the Order";

- 1) It was reported that the 2015 National Encampment was going to be in Richmond, VA.
- 2) PDC Frantz reported on the upcoming Remembrance Day Banquette run by the Past Presidents & Past Commanders Association will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg.
- 3) Greg Cline reported that there would be a dedication of the Cap Stone for Coopers Battery Monument in Gettysburg on Remembrance Day in November this year at 09:00 hours. All were invited to attend.
- 4) Department Commander Rich Essenwein reported that Camp #43 would be dedicating a monument to Indiana County Civil War Veterans on Veterans Day this year at 12:00 noon.

With all in order and everyone hungry the meeting closed in good order at 12:30 PM.