

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
142ND PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT
ENCAMPMENT

SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR

JUNE 16TH to 19TH, 2022
GENETTI HOTEL
WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

BROTHER JOHN GIPSON
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD
IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY AND
LOYALTY

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Friday, June 17th, 2022

A joint opening service and Memorial Service to remember our Brothers and Sisters that passed on during the last year was held by the Sons, Auxiliary, Ladies of the G.A.R. and Daughters of Union Veterans. Department Commander John Gipson, Department President Barbara Indan of the Auxiliary to the SWUVCW, Department President Maureen Snowden of the Daughters of Union Veterans, and Corps President Daryl Reed of Comrade Gabrio Corps #136 of the Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the G.A.R. all extended greetings and best wishes for a good and productive Encampment to the Brothers and Sisters assembled.

Department Commander John Gipson called the 142nd Pennsylvania Department Encampment to order in ritualistic fashion at 1:32 PM, June 17th, 2022.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Department Commander John Gipson	Present
Department Sr. Vice Commander Dane DiFebo	Present
Department Jr. Vice Commander William Fischer	Present
Department Secretary/Treasurer Rob Koenigsburg	Present
Department Council Ivan E. Frantz, Jr.	Present
John McNulty	Present
Greg Kline	Present
Department Patriotic Instructor Steve Johnston	Present
Department Chaplin Clark Brocht	Present
Department Color Bearer Alex Johnston (substituting)	Present
Department Guide Bob Wrigley (substituting)	Present

Preliminary report of the Credentials Committee

Commander-in-Chief Mike Paquette	1	Camps represented	14
Past C-in-C	0		
Department Commander	1	Brothers registered	30
Past DC	6		
Camp Commander	0	Brothers present	17, not present 3
Past CC	9		
Delegates	10	Visitors	1
Alternates	0		

The following Encampment Committees were appointed:

Committee on Officers Reports – Doug McMillin, Mike Peters, Dave Demmy Sr.

Committee on Resolutions – Rich Essenwein, Greg Kline, Wayne Blattner

Committee on Constitution and Regulations – John McNulty, Ivan Frantz, Jr.

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Visiting Committee for the Ladies Orders – John McNulty, Scott Peters, C-in-C Mike Paquette

OFFICERS REPORTS

Command of the Encampment was turned over to the Dept. Sr. Vice Commander.

Department Commander John Gipson read his report to the Encampment. The Department Commanders report is included in the addendum to these proceedings, along with all of the other Officers Reports.

MOTION by Ivan Frantz, Jr./second by John McNulty – that the Department Commanders report be accepted with the thanks of the Encampment for a job well done during the year, and that the Department Commanders report along with all subsequent officer reports be referred to the Committee on Officers reports for their recommendations.
MOTION PASSED

Command of the Encampment was returned to the Department Commander.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Brother Rich Denny of the Department of Michigan sent a letter to the Department asking that the PA Dept. endorse Brother Donald Shaw for election to the office of National Quartermaster, and Brother Robert R. Payne for the Council of Administration.

It was pointed out that as per the Pennsylvania Department By-laws the Department will not endorse Brothers for National Office from other Departments in the Order.

At this point Dept. Commander Gipson had the C-in-C read his recently issued General Order #15, regarding people suspended from the Order or removed from the Order, are not allowed to attend any Camp or Department meetings of any of the Allied Orders or to represent themselves as a member of the Order while under suspension. This was issued in response to some recent activity involving some of the ladies groups associated with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Brother John McNulty of the Flag Committee reports that a new United States flag has been donated to the Department of Pennsylvania by the recently disbanded Pfeiffer Camp # 60 that was located in New Oxford, PA. Brother Doug McMillin helped obtain a new pole and finial for the new flag to be ready for this Encampment. Brother McNulty wanted to know if the Department wanted to purchase or obtain a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania flag for the Department. It was suggested that maybe the Flag Committee

could look into getting a flag donated from the State, or possibly a flag donated by a State Representative or State Senator.

2. A flag from a former Camp located in Charlestown, West Virginia was found in material recovered from the G.A.R. Museum in Philadelphia. At one time Camps in the state of West Virginia were included in the Department of Pennsylvania for administrative purposes. This flag was presented to C-in-C Pacquette.

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The Encampment was recessed at 2:10 PM, June 17, 2022.

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The Encampment was called to order at 2:50 PM, June 17th, 2022.

3. A report from Davis Star Camp was made about the work that was accomplished on the A.P. Davis Mausoleum in Pittsburgh since last year.

At this point a visiting committee from the Daughters of Union Veterans was admitted to the Encampment and consisted of Sisters Daryl Reed, Cheri Banks and Kala Reed. The Sisters expressed their pleasure at being able to visit and hoped that we were having a good and productive Encampment.

Discussion continued on the A.P. Davis Mausoleum. At last Encampment action was taken to establish a fund in the Department dedicated to future maintenance of the A.P. Davis Mausoleum. There was a problem in taking action on this because of IRS regulations, mostly because the Department has no legal ownership interest in the mausoleum. This particularly applies to IRS 501(c)3 organizations. Because of this the process of establishing a separate fund for the mausoleum was discontinued.

4. Brother John McNulty related that after looking at the way committees are addressed, the By-Laws Committee did not feel that making the Education Committee a "standing committee" as suggested at the last Encampment was appropriate. The Education Committee is doing very good work, but the By-Laws Committee feels that the Education Committee should just be re-appointed each year as need dictates instead of changing the Department By-Laws.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Committee on Officers Reports

Department Commanders report – the Department Commander recommended a change in the way that the Department Mid-year meeting is held, it was pointed out that the Department By-Laws specify how the Mid-year meeting is to be held so this would require a By-Laws change. The Committee did
NOT CONCUR.

Motion by Ivan Frantz, Jr./second by John McNulty – that the report of the Committee be accepted, and the Committee recommendations be accepted ad seriatim at the sound of the gavel if there be no objection. MOTION PASSED.

The Committee recommendation was not to concur with the proposed changes to how the Mid-Year is held. MOTION PASSED.

The Department Commanders 2nd recommendation about having a future hybrid Mid-year meeting in person along with ZOOM participation, the Committee did CONCUR. MOTION PASSED.

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Department Chief of Staff report – the Department Chief of Staff made a recommendation that any Committee that has not made a report, or reported no activity for 2 or more years, that that Committee be abolished. The Committee CONCURED.

MOTION by John McNulty/second by Ivan Frantz, Jr. – that the Encampment not concur with the recommendation, It was pointed out that there are 4 standing Committees specified in the Department By-Laws that cannot be discontinued without changing the BY-laws. The Department Commander always has the option to not appoint anybody to a committee that currently has no business to conduct. The vote was 7 yea, 10 nay. The committee recommendation stands and is PASSED.

JROTC Officer Report – the JROTC Officer had two recommendations. It was pointed out that these recommendations should be forwarded to and addressed by the National Council of Administration.

Education Committee report – several recommendations were made by the Education Committee.

The subject of these recommendations has been addressed by the Department By-laws, so the committee decided to withdraw the two recommendations that were made.

Secretary/Treasurer Rob Koenigsburg reported to the Encampment that of two Camps that had been suspended, Gettysburg Camp has been re-instated. This makes the Department membership now total at 667 members. The other Camp that is still suspended is Camp #48, with 17 members as of their last report.

At this point in the proceedings an award was presented to Brother Dane DiFebo. Brother Dane received an award for the Department getting the most new members

under the age of 40 in the year 2022. This award had been delayed by the National Organization because of Covid restrictions.

The Encampment was recessed at 3:55 PM, June 17th, 2022.

The Encampment was called to order at 8:56 AM, June 18th, 2022.

INTRODUCTIONS

An opportunity was taken to go around the room and have the Brothers introduce themselves to each other.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Department Jr. Vice Cdr. Bill Fischer reported he attended the Dept. of New York Annual Encampment and some of the following items were discussed: the Dept. Cdr. copy Dept. Officers and Camp Commanders when filing reports with National to improve communication; annual Officers reports be submitted 3 weeks ahead of time for Encampment and sent to Department officers; the National Organization create a Secretary's manual for Camp and Department Secretaries; ask that the National Organization move the yearly Camp Audit certification from the Form 22, report of Camp elections, to Form 27, the Annual Camp Report. The Jr. Vice Cdr. put together a tri-fold recruiting brochure that can be handed out with local Camp contact information. He also reported that Camps are participating in the JROTC program in this Department, and it does get a big assist from the National Organization.

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2. Brother Bob Wrigley of the Encampment Site Committee reported the Encampment in 2023 will be in Altoona. The Committee is looking for a site in 2024, and again considering Williamsport for 2025. If a Camp would like to host an Encampment the Committee will work with the Camp to talk with the hotel, and to help with other aspects of the planning.

3. Brother Steve Johnston remarked that the title that has been used for Encampment for some time, using the phrase Allied Orders, creates some confusion and questions just as to who is included in that group and who should participate. He pointed out that the National Encampment is listed as the National Encampment of the SUVCW, and other related Orders are encouraged to meet in the same city at the same time, and hopefully in the same hotel.

MOTION by Steve Johnson/second by Ivan Frantz, Jr. – that in the future the title of the Encampment be changed on the Encampment program as the “Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Department SUVCW” and the other Orders that decide to join with us then be listed separately, with the sequential number of their Encampment in the

program. Other Orders that do not join the Pennsylvania Department SUVCW will not be listed. However all Orders will be invited to join, and planning will be done by the SUVCW and the Orders that join them. Orders not participating in a joint Encampment may send representatives to joint functions such as memorial service and banquets, but are not required to do so, and should let the Encampment Committee know of their intentions.

There was an extended discussion on this topic. It was pointed out to the Encampment that the Auxiliary is required by their Const. & Regulations to meet with us, but the other ladies groups are not required to do so. Brother Ivan Frantz, Jr. rose to explain the history of the phrase "Allied Orders of the GAR" and it has been in use for almost 60 years. At one time all five of the "Allied Orders" used to meet together every year. It was only in the last 15 - 20 years that was stopped because of the decline of the Women's Relief Corps. It was pointed out that the use of the term "Allied Orders" was never officially established by the National Organization. It was pointed out that if any of the ladies groups would not be participating, they would not have to have a representative on the Encampment Site Committee. It was also pointed out that if this procedure and wording is changed, it could alienate some of the ladies organizations. It was also pointed out that many of the ladies belong to more than one organization, and one Sister could represent more than one organization on the Encampment Committee.

At this point the motion was placed "on the table". The Department Commander would appoint a committee to look at refining the wording of this motion to best properly address the situation.

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A visiting committee of 7 Sisters from the Auxiliary was admitted to the Encampment, headed by Sisters Barb Indan and Ellen Higgins. The Sisters extended their greeting and best wishes for a smooth and productive Encampment

Sister Ellen Higgins, a member of the Encampment Committee commented about the 2024 Encampment possibly being held again at the Crown Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia. The Encampment would be hosted by Camp #1 and Auxiliary #1. No contract was yet signed at this point, but it was felt that terms could be favorable as they were when we met there before.

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MOTION by John McNulty/second by Ivan Frantz, Jr. - that this proposal be forwarded to the Encampment Site Committee for recommendations. MOTON PASSED.

Brother Ivan Frantz, Jr. responded to the Sisters from the Auxiliary.

The Encampment was recessed at 10:21 AM, June 18th, 2022.

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The Encampment was called to order at 11:00 AM, June 18th, 2022

NEW BUSINESS

3. Allied Orders Wording (continued)

The motion about the wording of “Allied Orders” for the Annual Encampment was taken off the table for discussion. The Department Commander commented about the situation with several of the Ladies organizations in planning for this Encampment, but noted that everything did come together. It was decided at this time not to take any further action, so the motion was returned to the table. If no further action is taken by this Encampment because the motion has been left “on the table” the motion will die at the end of the Encampment.

4. Computer used by the Department Secretary/Treasurer – The computer used by the Department Secretary/Treasurer for Department business has died. MOTION by Doug McMillin/second by John McNulty – that a budget item of \$700 to purchase a new computer for Department use be included in the budget for next year. MOTION PASSED.

5. The Department Secretary commented that the Recruiting Flyer was going to be made easier to find on the Department website.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The Department Membership awards were presented at this time.

The Ivan E. Frantz, Sr. Award for the highest percentage gain in Camp membership for the last year was presented to Capt. J.P. Brindle, Camp #50 of Carlisle for a membership gain of 33%.

The Rosenberg Award for gaining the most new members for the year was split between 3 Camps for each gaining 5 new members during the past year. The three Camps were Davis * Star, Baker-Fisher Camp # 101, and Isaac Eaton Camp #501.

REMARKS BY Commander-in-Chief Paquette

Commander-in-Chief Paquette was given the opportunity to address the Encampment. The C-in-C related that a statue was dedicated Massachusetts to a former slave woman who had become a member of the W.R.C and taught slaves and former slaves to read, and then also became a nurse. This was done in co-operation with the local American Legion and other veterans groups and points out what we can do with help from other groups. The Kitt Carson monument in New Mexico is in contention about

its future, and possible ownership by the SUVCW. This will be an item of discussion for the upcoming National Encampment. It was pointed out that the SUVCW would abide by the flag placement policy put out by the National Park Service at Gettysburg for placing flags in the National Cemetery for Remembrance Day. There is also a question about the hotel contract with the Wyndham for Remembrance Day weekend. The C-in-C pointed out the importance of the Eagle Scout Program and the JROTC Program in helping us be visible in the community. It was still being worked on to get a National Training program up and running to better inform our members and Camp and Department Officers. It is also being looked at the update and put in place technology to better keep our membership informed, and to be better available to answer questions and address problems that the membership runs up against.

The Encampment was recessed at 11:41 AM, June 18th, 2022.

The Encampment was called to order at 1:07 PM, June 18th, 2022.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT COUNCIL

Department Council reported that during the year their work in co-ordination with the Department Commander and the Department Secretary/Treasurer was a real pleasure. It was a relatively quiet year until recently with some of the Ladies Organizations having some problems, which were discussed by Council, but we could not take any action since we are restricted to the Sons. There were some minor procedural matters which were addressed. Department Council has audited the Department financial records and found them to be complete and correct. Council commends the Department Secretary/Treasurer for the excellent job he does maintaining the Department records and financial accounts.

Department Council presented the Department Budget for the year 2022 – 2023, with the assistance of input from the Department Secretary/Treasurer. A copy of this budget is included as an addenda to these proceedings. It was pointed out that once again a deficit budget has been proposed as in the past. But for some time a deficit for the year has not occurred because money is traditionally included in the budget that is not always required to be spent. As a matter of fact, over the last five years Department assets have continued to increase.

MOTION by Ivan Frantz, Jr./second by John McNulty – that the Department Budget for the year 2022 – 2023 as proposed by Department Council be adopted as presented.
PASSED.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

1. Department Commander Gipson reported that recently in Madison, Wisconsin was restored after being vandalized with a brand new statue of a former abolitionist and Union Army veteran Hans Christian Hague.

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2. Recently in Waverly, PA near Scranton, a walking tour was put together covering abolitionist and Underground Railroad sites in the town. They were also recently included in the National tour of Underground Railroad history sites that have been put together.

3. The Education Committee is beginning to look into having a Civil War Day Camp program for young people and youth. There are many things that need to come together to make this happen, including partnering with other organizations such as the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg and/or the U.S. Army Heritage Center in Carlisle. Issues such as insurance, sponsors, and facilities also need to be addressed. Help will be needed from Brothers in the Department to also help with staffing.

4. The C-in-C remarked that it should be the goal of everybody to help recruit younger members to help look toward the future of the SUVCW. The SUVCW needs to find ways to reach younger potential members and educate them about the SUVCW and get them interested in joining.

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS

The floor of the Encampment was opened for the nomination of officers. The following nominations were received:

Department Commander – Dane DiFebo

Department Sr. Vice Commander –William Fischer

Department Jr. Vice Commander – Steve “Pete” Johnston and Mike Peters

Department Secretary/Treasurer – there is one year left in a two year term for Rob Koenisberg

Department Council : 1 year term – John Gipson

2 year term – Ivan Frantz, Jr.

2 year term - one year is left in the two year term of John

McNulty

MOTION by Ivan Frantz, Jr./second by John McNulty – That where there be no opposition for an office the Secretary be empowered to cast a unanimous ballot in favor of the slate of nominees, and where there is opposition that a proper vote be held. MOTION PASSED.

A vote was conducted by having the two candidates for Department Jr. Vice Commander leave the room, and a show of hands was counted. The results of the vote were 5 votes for Brother Steve Johnston, and 20 votes for Brother Mike Peters, with one abstention. Brother Mike Peters is elected to the office of Department Jr. Vice Commander.

The Encampment was recessed at 2:15 PM, June 19th, 2022.

The Encampment was called to order at 2:40 PM, June 19th, 2022.

MOTION by Ivan Frantz, Jr./second by John McNulty – that the traditional “Housekeeping Motions” adopted by previous Encampments, again be adopted, included in the Proceedings of this Encampment, and carried forward by this Encampment.

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The Housekeeping Motions are as follows:

1. That a letter of thanks be sent to the Encampment Committee, the local municipality, and the hotel expressing the pleasure of having a good Encampment.
2. That the delegates to the National Encampment be instructed to support, and Past Commanders-in-Chief and Past Department Commanders be requested to support the actions taken by this Encampment at the upcoming National Encampment.
3. That the Department Secretary/Treasurer be empowered to transfer funds as necessary to meet the financial obligations of the Department during the coming year.
4. That the Department Committees for this Encampment, with the exception of the Credentials Committee, be discharged with the thanks of the Encampment, and the Credentials Committee may be discharged after its final report.
5. That the Department Patriotic Instructor be permitted to make a post Encampment financial report.
6. That the Department purchase a full page ad in the National Encampment booklet to list the Past department Commanders and Department Officers.

FINAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The following Brothers are registered for this Encampment:

Commander-in-Chief represented	1	14 Camps
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Past Commander-in-Chief	0	Brothers registered –
31		
Department Commander	1	Brothers present – 30
Past Department Commander	5	
Camp Commander	2	
Past Camp Commander	9	
Delegates	12	

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Pennsylvania Department Officers for the year 2022 – 2023 were installed in ritualistic fashion with Commander-in-Chief Mike Pacquette as installing officer.

MOTION by Ivan Frantz, Jr./second by Mike Peters – that the names of all Past Department Commanders and all Camp Commanders be nominated as delegates to the upcoming National Encampment. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION by Ivan Frantz, Jr./second by John McNulty – that all members of the Department in good standing be nominated as Alternate Delegates to the upcoming National Encampment. MOTION PASSED

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MOTION by Ivan Frantz Jr./ second by John McNulty – that the minutes and recordings of this Encampment, as transcribed, become the official Proceedings of the 142nd Annual Pennsylvania Department Encampment. MOTION PASSED.

The Encampment was closed in ritualistic fashion by Department Commander Dane DiFebo at 3:03 PM, June 18th, 2022.

