

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
143rd PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT
ENCAMPMENT

SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR

JUNE 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th 2023
ALTOONA GRAND HOTEL
ALTOONA, PA.

BROTHER DANE A. DiFEBO
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

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

NOTE: Order of business is correct, results are correct, but words and discussion are paraphrased and not verbatim.

[Transcribed by William E. Fischer, Jr., PCC, PA Dept SVC]

Thursday, June 22nd, 2023

Pre-encampment activities included a guided tour of the historic Baker Mansion and attending an Altoona Curves minor league baseball game.

Friday, June 23rd, 2023

A Joint Opening and Memorial Service was held by the Sons, Auxiliary, Ladies of the GAR, Daughters of Union Veterans, and Woman's Relief Corps. Department Commander Dane DiFebo, ASUVCW President Ann McMillin, DUVCW President Linda Kao, LGAR President Shirley Dines, and WRC President Betsy Matthews were introduced. The Allied Orders Officers expressed their wishes to all assembled for a good Encampment/Convention, and that the time assembled would be productive for everyone.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

Department Commander (Dept Comdr) Dane DiFebo called the 143rd Pennsylvania Department Encampment to order in ritualistic fashion at 1:05 PM, June 23rd, 2023.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Department Commander Dane A. DiFebo	present
Department Sr. Vice Commander William E. Fischer, Jr.	present
Department Jr. Vice Commander Michael Peter	present
Department Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koenigsberg	present
Department Council Ivan E. Frantz, Jr.	present
John McNulty	present
John Gipson	present
Department Patriotic Instructor Theodore Zeman	not present
Department Patriotic Instructor (Alternate) Kyle Waite	present
Department Chaplain Clark Brocht	present

Department Guide Josh McMillin	present
Department Guard Steve Indan	not present
Department Guard (Alternate) Wayne Blattner	present
Department Color Bearer Mark Schlegel	not present
Department Color Bearer (Alternate) Trevor Taylor	present

HOUSEKEEPING

Sec'y Koenigsberg, who umpires local youth baseball, was approached and asked if the PA Dept would sponsor a base (\$250) for the upcoming Dean Patterson Little League World Series. A kepi was passed for a free will offering (no dept funds) to support the All-Star tournament; a total of \$350 was raised.

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Committee members Brothers Greg Kline PDC and Scott Debo PCC reported that the following Brothers were registered:

Past Commander-in-Chief	1	Total registered – 35 (32 present)
Department Commander	1	Camps represented – 14
Past Department Commander	7	
Camp Commander	4	
Past Camp Commander	8	
Delegate	10	
Visitor (Dept of Rhode Island)	1	

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Brother [Br.] Ben Frail PDC, Dept of Rhode Island, is the National Patriotic Instructor and National Chief of Staff. He represented CinC Bruce Frail and provided greetings from the CinC and issues of significance.

1. Memorial University was updated more than a year ago, is more user friendly, and has had a large increase of brothers graduating. Many new training courses have been added. Ideas appreciated. See suvchwmu.org.

2. National has instituted a YouTube channel. Br Frail noted the PA Dept's great work on YouTube and stated it was a driving force for National to institute the same. Brother Rod Fraser is the administrator; contact him to have PA Dept videos uploaded. Business cards with info were distributed.

Br. Doug McMillin PDC, who oversees the PA Dept YouTube channel, stated that National is welcome to download or share anything posted to the dept channel.

ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEES

The following committees were appointed by PA Dept Comdr DiFebo:

Committee on Officers Reports/Resolutions

Ivan Frantz, Jr. PDC, Doug McMillin PDC, William Fischer, Jr. PCC

Committee on Constitution & Regulations

Mike Paquette PCinC, Greg Kline PDC, John Gipson PDC

Fraternal Relations Committee (standing committee)

John McNulty PDC, Doug McMillin PDC, and Greg Kline PDC

Visiting Committee

Mike Paquette PCinC, Mike Peter PCC, Rob Koenigsberg PCC, Josh McMillin

OFFICER REPORTS

Br. Frantz, Jr., as Parliamentarian, stated that in accordance with the Bylaws, the Dept Comdr must read his report to the department in encampment. All reports have been printed, are available for review, and do not need to be read. However, the Encampment should review all reports.

Control of the Dept transferred to the Sr Vice Comdr [SVC].

Report of the Department Commander – was read to the Encampment.

[The second recommendation in the report was rescinded by the Dept Comdr]

MOTION by Br. Frantz, Jr. /second by Br. McNulty – Br. Sr Vice Comdr, I move you that the Dept Comdr's report be accepted with the thanks and the commendation of the PA Dept for the work that he has put forth in the past year and that his report and all subsequent officers' reports be forwarded to the Committee on Officers Reports for appropriate action.

Point of Order by SVC Fischer: that he installed the Searfoss Camp 273 officers, and not DC DiFebo, to prevent any perceived conflict of interest. MOTION PASSED

Command of the PA Dept was returned to the Dept Comdr.

COMMUNICATIONS

No Communications received from National or from Candidates for National Office.

RECESSED at 1:45pm [so Visiting Committee can meet].

CALLED TO ORDER at 2:10pm

COMMUNICATIONS

Dept Comdr read letter (dtd. Jun 10, 2023) from Baker-Fisher Camp 101 Comdr William Massinger, requesting the honor for Camp 101 to host the 2024 PA Dept Encampment in the King of Prussia area.

Br. McNulty, as a Camp 101 member, stated that several of the Allied Orders had previously been contacted and are supportive of holding the encampment/conventions in SE PA.

Discussion between Br. Frantz, Jr., and Br. McNulty, about when this should come before the Encampment.

Dept Comdr DiFebo opened NEW BUSINESS to only discuss this item.

MOTION by Br. Fischer/second by Br. D. McMillin – only Discussion was by an unidentified Br. to pass the motion before Camp 101 changed its mind. MOTION PASSED

Br. Frantz, Jr., stated that in the Rituals and Ceremonials, Dept Encampment Order of Business No. 9, *Reception and reference of communications* says “All communications shall be submitted in writing and be referred to the proper committees without debate.”

But it also says at the end of the Order of Business that “*This order of business may be transposed except that the installation of Officers shall not be held until all other work has been completed.*”

For those of you who have never referenced the Ritual, that’s what we’re making sure we get procedurally correct.

The Dept Comdr then closed New Business for the time being.

VISITATION COMMITTEE reported to Dept Comdr that the mission was accomplished.

INTRODUCTION OF ENCAMPMENT BROTHERS HERE ASSEMBLED

OFFICER REPORTS HIGHLIGHTS (See compiled report package for complete review)

GAR Highway Officer. Dept Comdr, as GAR Highway Officer, had discussion with Br. Peter Hritsko, SVCinC and National GAR Hwy Off, on how to work with municipalities to get signage at PA county lines. DC DiFebo has surveyed some of the eastern part of GAR Hwy (US 6). Work still needed to ensure proper marking of US 6 across northern PA. There are signs available for purchase from a vendor in Ohio.

There once was a GAR Hwy Association that covered part of western PA.

Challenges across the country in depts dealing with their respective DOTs for signage.

Camp Revitalization Committee. Dept Comdr, as chair, noted that the dept lost 58 brothers due to non-payment of dues.

Secretary/Treasurer Report. Br. Koenigsberg reported the following for 2023:

22 Camps in Good Standing (1 camp suspended)

492 Members	58 Life Members	41 Associates
3 Junior Members	1 Junior Associate	

561 Total (100 fewer than 2022) with 27 Dual Members

Consolidated Reports. Br. McNulty noted development of a *PA Joint Fraternal Relations Committee* to enhance communications among the five Orders. We are stronger when working together to achieve our mutual goals.

Patriotic Instructor Report. (Br. Zeman). The compiled data from the camp patriotic instructors goes to the National PI and is valuable to the Order to show the IRS we are fulfilling our 501(c)3 responsibilities. Only 12 PA camps submitted reports. Br. Frail reminded camps to include planning time and number of brothers participating in events. As a bottom-up organization, camps must provide accurate accounting.

PCinC Mike Paquette noted that final responsibility falls to the camp commander to ensure all camp reports are filed as required.

Chief of Staff Report. (Br. Chris Carty PDC)

PA Dept Website does not have an accurate list of dept and camp officers. Also, disparities between officers listed in the C, C & R, Rituals & Ceremonials, Dept Bylaws, and various Forms that need reconciled to be consistent.

Need to find a way to protect email addresses on PA Dept Website to prevent bot harvesting.

Past recommendation for dept to purchase a PA flag has not had action.

Discussion of how many PA Dept Council Members vice Counselors. Some said there has only ever been one Counselor but other brothers state that there have been more than one Counselor. Bottom line is that the current Dept Comdr can determine whom he needs to *advise* him as Counselor(s).

[Officer Reports Highlights temporarily suspended]

VISIT FROM LADIES OF THE JOINT ENCAMPMENT/CONVENTIONS SITE COMMITTEE

Spokesperson Sister Ellen Higgins asked if the Sons were having any issues, and noted that there was a signed contract pending approval for the 2024 Encampment/Conventions in King of Prussia, June 27-30. The committee will meet in September for further planning. Nothing has been finalized

regarding the 2025 Encampment. Dept Comdr DiFebo and the brothers properly thanked the committee for its good work.

OFFICER REPORTS HIGHLIGHTS (resumed)

Graves Registration (Br. Fischer)

Thanked Br. Sean Bersell and Davis ☆ Camp for its great work in Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh. Many camps provided an update on graves work.

Suggested that Last Veteran flag holders have the veteran's name engraved on it should it be moved from the proper gravesite.

Eagle Scout Coordinator (Br. Don Houston)

Recommended minor changes to the application and certificate.

Br. Fischer, noted that Camp 8 coordinator Jim Jones had concerns that finding the Eagle Scout application on the new SUVWCW website is more difficult than before the update.

Br. Frail noted that National is updating the Eagle Scout application form.

[Officer Reports Highlights temporarily suspended]

VISIT FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Sister Faye Pleso (President, Tent 55, Gettysburg) and Sister Kristen Caddy (Jr Vice President, Tent 64) offered greetings. Br. Frantz, Jr. offered an appropriate response.

OFFICER REPORTS HIGHLIGHTS (resumed)

Encampment Site Committee (Br. Bob Wrigley). The committee met three times. Found that the Altoona Grand Hotel and Genetti Hotel (Williamsport) both are cost-effective locations to host the Allied Orders. The primary source of income are booklet ad sales. More Sons committee representation is needed, as are sites to consider for 2025 and beyond.

ROTC Committee (Br. Fischer). Remains a challenge to make contact with units as well as have brothers attend ceremonies to present the ROTC Award. Opportunity to develop relationships with the next generation in performing service in local communities.

Education Committee (Br. D. McMillin). Videos completed on Roberts Rules Basic, how to run a Ritual Meeting, headstone dedication ceremonies, an interview with Br. Frantz, Jr.; all still need editing,

which is time intensive. Discussion of a dept-sponsored Civil War day camp have bogged down but continue.

Will continue with any UNFINISHED BUSINESS tomorrow, beginning at 8:30am.

RECESSED at 3:30pm [to allow Encampment Committees can meet].

Saturday, June 24th, 2023 (second day of business session)

Dept Comdr DiFebo called the 143rd PA Dept Encampment to order in ritualistic fashion at 8:32am, June 24th, 2023.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Department Commander Dane A. DiFebo	present
Department Sr. Vice Commander William E. Fischer, Jr.	present
Department Jr. Vice Commander Michael Peter	present
Department Secretary/Treasurer Rob Koenigsberg	present
Department Council Ivan E. Frantz, Jr.	present
John McNulty	present
John Gipson	not present
Department Patriotic Instructor Theodore Zeman	not present
Department Patriotic Instructor (Alternate) Kyle Waite	present
Department Chaplain Clark Brocht	present
Department Guide Josh McMillin	present
Department Guard Steve Indan	not present
Department Guard (Alternate) Wayne Blattner	present
Department Color Bearer Mark Schlegel	not present
Department Color Bearer (Alternate) Trevor Taylor	present

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Bylaws Committee Report (Br. McNulty, Br. D. McMillin, Br. Rich Essenwein)

Br. Frantz, Jr. stated that a recommendation was submitted regarding Youth. The Bylaws Committee sent notice to all PA Dept camps in March informing them that there was a Bylaws change proposal, with the proposal attached. The notification requirement has been met and the Encampment is legally able to act on the proposed change.

The proposed change is as follows:

Add the following as Article XVII and renumber current Article XVII and all following Articles to the next higher number.

Article XVII. Members and Associate Members Under 18 Years of Age

Section A. Requirement to be Accompanied at PA Department and Camp Activities

All Brothers under the age of 18 years of age must be accompanied at all times by a parent or person over the age of 21 designated as *loco parentis* when participating in ANY PA Department or Camp activity.

Section B. Prohibition of 'One-on-One' Contact

At no time shall a non-related Brother who is 18 years of age or older be permitted 'one-on-one' contact with a Brother under the age of 18 years. Any interaction with a Brother under the age of 18 years shall include at all times at least one (1) Brother age 18 years of age or older AND the parent or person over the age of 21 designated as *loco parentis* while participating in ANY PA Department or Camp activity.

Section C. Reporting of Possible Abuse

While attending ANY PA Department or Camp sponsored event, a Brother who witnesses or suspects in good faith any type of physical, mental, sexual or other abuse of any Brother under the age of 18 years shall immediately report such suspicion to local authorities, then report the same to the PA Department Commander and Camp Commander immediately thereafter.

1. Given its definition, the PA Department of Human Services could consider Brothers involved with PA Department or Camp sponsored events as Mandated Reporters, meaning reporting of child abuse is mandatory. See their website for more information.

Section D. Complying with Local and State Laws

All Brothers should become familiar and must comply with all applicable local and state laws pertaining to child abuse.

[End of proposed Bylaws change]

Br. Frantz, Jr. reminded the Encampment, that given what has happened over the last series of years in different organizations in the Commonwealth, that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has designated changes like this that organizations must make to their rules, regulations, and bylaws concerning interaction with minors (people under the age of 18).

Br. Frantz, Jr. so moved that this proposed change, with appropriate prior notice having gone to PA Dept camps, be adopted.

MOTION by Br. Frantz, Jr./second by Br. McNulty

DISCUSSION – Br. McNulty (Bylaws Cmte Chair) stated that a similar piece was in our PA Dept Bylaws following the bruhaha about youth about ten years ago. It mysteriously disappeared when the Bylaws were recently electronically updated.

Br. Frail asked for a copy be sent to him, with Br. Frantz, Jr. agreeing to send it electronically. He also asked if it applied to electronic communications (email, etc). Although it is not specifically addressed, the words “ANY PA Department or Camp activity” is included in the proposal, and can by inference include electronic communications.

An unidentified brother urged passage, having been involved with Scouting youth protection training, noting that the proposal protects the dept as much as it does individuals.

PCinC Paquette provided information about changes in the National C & R, stating that there are limits to what National can include given differences in state laws. He supports this Bylaws proposal. Br. Frantz, Jr. further stated that the language in the proposal is language mandated by the Commonwealth of PA.

Br. McNulty asked Br. Frail if the proposal was sufficient or if specific language dealing with “electronic” communications were needed to be added later. Br. Frail said it depends on state requirements and pointed out that Br. Frantz, Jr. said that the proposal mimics Commonwealth language. However, when dealing with social media, dept and camp site administrators should be familiar with this Bylaws article and act in accordance with it when dealing with minors.

Br. McNulty asked how to deal with such. Br. Frail said when he finds out he is dealing with a minor, he replies, “please email so-and-so [the appropriate SUVCW brother and Br. Frail] and cc your guardian on the email,” to ensure that there are two brothers, the minor, and guardian, all included in the electronic communications. Do not communicate one-on-one with a minor on social media direct messaging. Br. Frail will check National social media policy and email findings to Br. McNulty so the PA Dept Bylaws Cmte can determine if additional amendments are needed.

Br. Carty noted that private messaging (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) is difficult to monitor. Br. Frail reiterated that further electronic contact should move to a platform like email where the guardian and additional brothers can be added so a “buddy system” is in place.

Br. Fischer stated that he wrote the proposal, and having had extensive youth protection training with the Scouts, noted that even a long and well-developed program such as used by the Scouts did not prevent that organization from going bankrupt due to the actions of rogue behavior by some. We will not be able to police all rogue behavior. He wrote the proposal in the hopes that it was detailed enough but that it would not get bogged down in minutiae.

PCinC Paquette pointed out that this Bylaws change helps address PA requirements. Regarding Br. Frail’s comments, social media guidelines should be developed.

Br. McNulty agrees that this proposal should be passed now and that brothers need to become more social media aware moving forward and develop future points to address such.

Br. D. McMillin asked Br. McNulty a question [garbled in the recording]. Br. McNulty said it was probably in March 2023 and he would have to look at his email.

An unidentified brother stated that those who work with children have mandated reporting training (i.e. teacher, police officers, etc). The state does offer online training that would help brothers better understand reporting requirements. Everyone is becoming a “whistle blower” and the hotlines are getting clogged with calls that don’t meet the threshold for child abuse.

Bylaws changes require a 2/3 vote to accept. Br. Kline (Credentials Committee) stated 36 authorized to vote, with 24 affirmative votes needed to pass. **MOTION ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Committee on Constitution & Regulations (PCinC Paquette, Br. Kline, Br. Gipson)

No actionable items at this time. Request to keep committee in place until end of Encampment; Dept Comdr agreed.

Committee on Officers Reports/Resolutions (Br. Frantz, Jr., Br. D. McMillin, Br. Fischer)

The committee commends the officers for their attention to duty in what they have done for the PA Dept this year, particularly the Dept Comdr and commend him for it. Also, thanks to the Chief of Staff for putting all of the officer report recommendations in a format that simplified review.

RECOMMENDATIONS (see Officer Reports for exact wording)

1. Dept Email Phishing (Dept Comdr Report) stated problems with email phishing by spammers and scammers. The Cmte noted how difficult it is to police such in an everchanging electronic world. The Cmte concurs with the recommendation to seek options to resolve the problem. The problem must be investigated, perhaps with the Dept Signals Officer as the lead, with input from other brothers.

Motion Br. Frantz, Jr./second by PCinC Paquette – that as the Recommendations are read and the Cmte offers its concurrence/non-concurrence, that the Recommendations be adopted/rejected *ad seriatum* at the sound of the gavel for all of the Officers Reports where there is no objection. **MOTION for *ad seriatum* process ACCEPTED.**

Cmte concurs that email phishing needs further investigation. **RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.**

2. Zoom Pro Account (Dept SVC Report). That PA Dept purchase a Zoom Pro Account for \$150/year to allow for expanded use of Zoom to enhance PA Dept and Camp virtual meetings. The Cmte concurs with the Recommendation. Br. Fischer stated that if the account does not prove beneficial, it does not need to be renewed. **RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.**

3. Camp Patriotic Instructors Appointed and Reports Filed (Dept PI Report). The Cmte concurs. **RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.**

4. Last Veteran Flag Holders be engraved with Veterans' names (Dept GRO Report). In case the flag holder gets moved, it can be returned to the proper grave. The Cmte concurs. Discussion of how to be done; that is up to the camp on how name is recorded (engrave, paint, Sharpie, etc). RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

5. That PA Dept pay for Gen G.P.S. Gobin Camp 503's next Last Veteran Flag Holder at a cost of \$65, the camp having already paid for four such flag holders (Dept GRO Report). The Cmte concurs. Discussion that other camps have paid for several such flag holders and it is not fair to the other camps if the dept pays for Camp 503's next flag holder. The Dept GRO argued that the dept can consider this again when other camps are preparing for their fifth Last Veteran ceremony. Another brother argued that those camps going outside of their "home" county are going above and beyond, are doing the dept's work, and he sees no issue with this and future such recommendations. Br. McNulty objected to this proposal; vote called. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

6. Let National Organization know that Form 42 and Form 49 need updated (Chief of Staff Report). The Cmte concurs. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

7. Let National Organization know that officers listed in the C&R are not included in the Camp Officer Installation ritual in the Blue Book, and are not rank ordered (Chief of Staff Report). The Cmte concurs. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

8. Recommend only one Dept Counselor (Chief of Staff Report). Cmte believes it is the Dept Comdr's privilege to seek advice from whomever he wishes to seek advice. The Cmte does not concur. RECOMMENDATION DEFEATED.

9. Recommend Dept Bylaws are added to the Dept website (Chief of Staff Report). The Cmte concurs. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

[Recommendations review temporarily suspended]

VISIT FROM SISTERS OF THE AUXILIARY TO THE SONS

Sister Joyce Fowler (Camp 502 Aux), Sister Ann McMillin (PA ASUVCW President), Sister Faith Troyan (PA ASUVCW Council), and Sister Darlene Alcorn (PA ASUVCW Vice President) offered greetings. Br. Rob Koenigsberg offered an appropriate response.

[Recommendations review resumed]

10. Recommend creating a PA Dept Life Member program and badge device (Chief of Staff Report). The Cmte determined that this likely conflicts with National Organization regulations. More information needed to determine what National regulations would allow. Badge devices must be approved by National since all insignia are controlled at the National level. Therefore, the Cmte does not concur. Discussion followed.

One brother suggested a possible friendly amendment to strike the badge and device from the recommendation. Br. McNulty noted that National already has a Life Member device, so something else would need designed, and suggested splitting the recommendation. PCinC Paquette stands in opposition, and asked Br. Carty who would administer the funds for a dept life membership; Executive Director Demmy does so for the National Organization. Br. Carty then stated that he now stands in agreement to the non-concurrence [laughter].

PCinC Paquette stated that whomever managed the program would first need to be a National Life Member, but to throw this on the dept secretary/treasurer who is already too busy to have such a burden added to his responsibilities. While the idea has merit, the mechanics are problematic.

Br. McNulty previously discussed this with Br. Carty over Memorial Day. The idea was that it might encourage more members to stay active in the dept. There are a lot of “ifs” but it might be worthwhile to have a committee formed to further investigate.

An unidentified brother then stated that the C&R strictly forbids depts from having their own Life Member programs.

RECOMMENDATION WITHDRAWN by Br. Carty.

11. Recommend a special badge or device for the membership badge in recognition of 10 years as a secretary or treasurer (Chief of Staff Report). The committee does not concur since National is the only authority over badges and devices. In discussion with the cmte, PCinC Paquette suggested that casting an existing badge in a different color might be a feasible recommendation rather than asking National to go to the expense of creating a new badge. But this must be a National decision.

Discussion: Br. Carty stated it was his intention that the dept forward such a recommendation to National to consider, not for the PA Dept to do unilaterally.

PCinC Paquette stated that this issue came up at a previous National Encampment and because the way the C&R is written, it was inferred that those who served ten years as a camp sec’y or treasurer could be bestowed PCC Honors, or a dept sec’y or treasurer could be bestowed PDC Honors, with voting rights as such. By extension, it was assumed that they could wear that PCC or PDC Badge. Following a heated discussion, there were enough brothers who, while agreeing with the honors, voted against allowing the wear of the PCC or PDC Badge for those who served ten years. There was continued discussion in the C of A but it likely was lost in the transition between National administrations concerning the cmte that was considering it. PCinC Paquette believes it is worthwhile to again pose this question back before the National Organization. Those brothers who have dedicated such service deserve a badge that recognizes the honorarium already found in the C&R. You can vote down this recommendation but you should ask the question of National to what happened with the previous cmte work on this issue.

MOTION by Br. D. McMillin/second by Br. Stephen Law to move this recommendation to NEW BUSINESS to consider re-wording and forwarding to National based on PCinC Paquette's discussion.

12. Camps be notified of the Encampment schedule and an agenda early enough for Brothers to be able to research the issues being discussed (Chief of Staff Report). The Cmte concurs. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

13. That recommendations from Officers Reports that were approved by Department Encampment be posted in a Department Order so that Camps know what was decided (Chief of Staff Report). The Cmte concurs, with a modification of the wording: that instead of a D.O., a Dept Communication be sent to camps by the Recording Secretary after the encampment. Modification accepted by Chief of Staff. MODIFIED RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

14. The Department use an anti email harvesting strategy on our department website. Either convert an email from jsmith@aol.com to jsmith at aol dot com, or converting the email to an image, or use email obfuscation in JavaScript (Chief of Staff Report). This has been previously addressed. The Cmte does not concur. RECOMMENDATION DEFEATED.

15. Previously recommended that the PA Dept acquire a Pennsylvania State flag, pole and stand. I recommend that again. (Chief of Staff Report). The Cmte does not concur.

Comment: Br. Frantz, Jr. has been coming to PA Dept Encampments for 67 years, and Br. Frantz, Sr. served as dept sec'y/treasurer for 20 years; it was his responsibility to bring all required materials to the encampment. In his decades of attending encampment, Br. Frantz, Jr. does not recall the encampment ever having a PA flag. It would just be another piece that will need to be carried back and forth by someone. The Commonwealth flag is simply not a necessity.

Discussion: Br. Law asked what would our forebears think? Would a PA regiment go into battle without a PA flag? Br. McNulty stated that PA regts did not carry PA flags. Br. Frantz, Jr. stated that PA regts had a state color that looked like the national color but had the PA Coat of Arms in the blue field. An unidentified brother asked if the dept should then have a similar state color that matched what PA regts carried. A brother, perhaps Br. Law, asked if it was too much trouble to have a commonwealth or state color since PA is what we are about. Is having one more thing to carry to encampment a reason not to have one?

Br. McNulty had a question about the PA Dept banner. Br. Frantz, Jr. stated, going back 40-50 years, when encampments were held in the old traditional, inner-city hotels, i.e., the Abraham Lincoln in Reading, the Yorktowne Hotel in York, the Penn Harris in Harrisburg, those hotels had lobbies with balconies and railings. It was tradition for the Allied Orders to hang banners in those lobby balconies. Modern hotels generally do not have such balconies. Our banner is a holdover from those days.

A brother, possibly PCinC Paquette, stated that the recommendation is incomplete since cost is not included and the encampment could not approve such without knowing cost. Br. McNulty said that a state colors, based on reenactor unit estimates, would run about \$2000. And those flags were historically large and unwieldy. Br. Law (?) stated that such flags can be made of nylon, the 15th PA (reenactor unit) has one.

A brother asked PCinC Paquette what other depts do. He replied that in his travels as CinC, he did not recall seeking a state flag. Br. Frail said that Dept of Maine had a state flag, and Rhode Island has one primarily for carrying in parades.

Br. Brocht said that dept should pursue a state color since it can serve as an educational tool. Br. Essenwein noted that the discussion has moved from purchasing a modern PA state flag to a historical regimental state color. Which one are we discussing? Br. Frantz, Jr. said that the recommendation implies a modern PA flag. Br. McNulty stated that Searfoss Camp 273, of which Br. Carty is a member, also carries the PA flag in its color guard.

Br. Scott Teeters stated that since most dept members are Pennsylvanians, that it would not be inappropriate to have a PA flag. He felt that it should not be nullified simply by it being one more piece of dept property to deal with. The discuss should be, "Why do we want to have it here?"

Br. D. McMillin commented that the dept comdr is responsible for the dept property needed for the encampment, and that it is a lot of stuff to carry and store. It is a burden. With Sister Ann McMillin involved with the PA ASUVCW, the McMillins had to come to the encampment/convention in two vehicles to carry all the needed property for the PA ASUVCW convention. It is a burden on the dept comdr. For over 140 years, the PA Dept has not had a state flag; our forefathers have spoken clearly on this matter.

Br. Koenigsberg noted that the PA Legislature is currently considering changing the state flag, so keep that in mind when considering this issue [laughter and disbelief].

Br. McNulty responded to what our forebears would think. In 2000, this dept met at Gettysburg. Br. Charlie Kuhn pushed the idea of buying small US flags to put on every PA soldier graves in the Soldier Cemetery there for Remembrance Day and Memorial Day. The discussion continued with the idea of putting PA flags on those graves as well. So it does not seem inappropriate for the dept to also have a commonwealth flag.

Br. Carty then stated that when he made this recommendation when he was dept comdr, that it had been approved. Past Proceedings would need to be reviewed. PCinC Paquette noted that if a past Encampment (2019?) approved such, then this Encampment would be reversing that decision. If that is true, is that really the intent of this Encampment? It would be inappropriate to vote until we've verified if it was previously agreed to.

Dept Comdr DiFebo agreed to table further discussion until the 2019 Proceedings were reviewed.

Br. Teeter noted that since the dept displays the current (50-star) US flag, that it would not be inappropriate to display the current PA commonwealth flag, but might be to display a Civil War replica state colors at the same time.

Br. Frantz, Jr. stated that he has the 2019 Encampment Proceedings and read from them. Dept Comdr (Br. Carty) Recommendation No. 2, that the dept acquire a state flag, pole, base, and storage bag and three flag carriers be obtained if it is desired to carry the flags in a parade. The cmte agreed and the motion was PASSED.

Dept Comdr DiFebo therefore ruled this RECOMMENDATION OUT OF ORDER.

16. That the Camps continue to use various forms of media to promote and advertise Camp events in their respective communities and to share this information with the Department especially for posting on the Department's Facebook page. (Public Relations Cmte). The cmte concurs. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

17. Continue working with our four Sister Organizations to forward our mutual work (Fraternal Relations Cmte). The cmte concurs. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

18. Seek out and pursue efforts to participate in community events to increase public visibility and promote membership recruitment (Camp Revitalization and Development Cmte). The cmte concurs. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

Since there was mention in the full recommendation about pamphlets available from the QM Store, Br. Frail noted that the QM is not accepting new orders until after the National Encampment.

19. Strongly recommended that we continue to work together and further develop the concept of the Joint Fraternal Relations Committee (Chairman of said cmte). The cmte concurs. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

20. The Encampment Site Committee needs more Sons representation (said committee). Discussion: Br. McNulty noted that in the past there have been more than one Sons rep on the cmte and that Br. Bob Wrigley (the Chair of said cmte) is currently the only Sons rep and is overworked. The cmte concurs. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

21. Need recommendations of future Site locations for planning 2025 and beyond (Encampment Site Cmte). The cmte concurs. RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED.

RECESSED at 10:21am

CALLED TO ORDER at 10:47am

HOUSEKEEPING

Br. Dave Beresovske (Camp 34 Commander) brought past PA Dept Encampment badges that are free for the taking.

Br. McNulty asks that all PA Dept PDCs have lunch together today, as well as PCinC Paquette and Br. Frail.

NEW BUSINESS

Br. Kevin Kuhn, Signals Officer/Webmaster, asks for a committee to be formed and have a meeting with dept council regarding phishing issues for email addresses posted to the dept website. Seeks to put together information for brothers on how to identify phishing schemes.

MOTION by Br. Kuhn/second by Br. D. McMillin – to form a committee to address email phishing concerns.

Discussion. PCinC Paquette stated that all personal email addresses and personally identifiable information (PII), with very few exceptions for business expediency, have been removed from the National Organization website. Each dept must make this decision for themselves. He suggests that the Signals Officer reach out to the National Signals Officer for recommendations on how to proceed.

Br. D. McMillin asked for and received clarification of the motion.

Br. Scott Teeters (Camp 89) asked how much phishing does the website receive. Br. Kuhn stated that it is not a large number overall. As a stopgap, Br. Teeters suggested possibly having all incoming email go into one box and have one brother, perhaps the Signals Officer, be able to sort legitimate and phishing emails before forwarding the legitimate emails to the appropriate brothers for action.

MOTION PASSED

MOTION by Br. Fischer/second by Br. Carty – to forward a Recommendation to the National Encampment for consideration regarding establishing a medal for those who served ten years continuous service as Secretary or Treasurer at the camp or department levels (as stated in Br. Carty's Chief of Staff Report). **MOTION PASSED**

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

Br. McNulty: Yesterday, he met an African American family in the hotel hallway and after passing greetings, Br. McNulty asked them if they were aware that over 100,000 black men fought to defend the Union during the Civil War; they were unaware. Br. McNulty asked Br. Harry Blackwell, who confirmed that many African Americans are not aware of such service. Br. McNulty told the folks in the hallway that they can become members of the Sons or Auxiliary since we need the next generation to continue telling the story. Bottom line is that we corporately are not doing a good job of sharing broadly the stories of ALL those who fought to defend the Union and free the enslaved during the Civil War, especially with the black community. Br. Harry, do you have any comments?

Br. Blackwell: You know that I belong to several organizations, one being The Retired Enlisted Association. One thing that I've realized through my participation in these organizations is that you have to go out and "hard sell" those individuals who are not aware of your presentation [i.e. USCT] or organization [SUVCW]. You have to make the effort and you may be surprised at the results.

Question to Br. Frail as National Rep on issues the CinC wished shared. Br. Frail replied that the only things were Memorial Univ and YouTube which were mentioned in my Greetings yesterday. There is one new item: the SUVCW has presented three podcasts focused on recruiting, and each episode has had over 30,000 downloads. Hence, National is incorporating new methods to let the public know about our organization and seek new members. This really is the focus at National – to find ways to reach the public. Please share your ways since "no idea is a dumb idea." Being flooded with ideas on how to reach the public is a good problem to have!

Br. Fischer: Last month I gave a presentation on the USCT at a history conference at the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. One black woman in attendance, who is an author of historical fiction focused on the American Revolution, came up to me afterwards and said that she learned a lot, having already been aware that the 1st Rhode Island regt in the Revolution was an integrated unit of majority blacks, along with white and Native American soldiers which fought from 1778 through the end of the war. This past Monday was Juneteenth, which is now a federal holiday, and it's not just a "black" holiday, it's an American holiday. Juneteenth is not only an opportunity for us to make our Order known to a broader audience, but to let others know of the service of 200,000 black soldiers and sailors. They don't deserve any more respect than any others who served, but they do not deserve any less. Juneteenth is a chance to tell others that "they" are a part of us and that we are a part of you.

A Brother (Ralph?) from Camp 112: Gettysburg Camp 112 just started a Facebook page and did a Juneteenth honoring of the 2nd USCT who fought just south of Tallahassee FL in an effort to capture the FL capital. There is a 2nd USCT reenactment group at Florida A&M Univ I'm trying to make contact with. Living in Glen Rock PA, I came across the highest-ranking Civil War vet in the cemetery near my house, who was Captain of Co F 2nd USCT. White officers leading USCT soldiers risked the death penalty by doing so.

Br. D. McMillin: Two weeks ago, we commemorated the 160th anniversary of the shelling of Carlisle PA [by CSA troops]. In the very early stages of planning, we reached out to the organization that hosts the Carlisle Juneteenth celebration and we asked them to join in the 160th event. We offered them the highlight spot after the reenactment concluded to hold their Juneteenth activities in order to make this an expanded commemoration of the Civil War and celebration of liberation. That organization rejected us outright and stated that they had no idea with the Civil War has to do with Juneteenth. Okay. We drew 800 to the 160th commemoration and they drew 20 to their Juneteenth celebration. We all felt bad and even the mayor was stunned by the outcome. Yes, we are not doing enough to educate the broader audience on the impact and results of the Civil War. Unfortunately, we will have difficulty bridging that gap if that's the reception we get when we reach out our hand and say, "Let's work together."

PCinC Paquette: Yesterday, Br. John [Gipson], we were having a conversation about G.O.s 26 [Dept of OH] and 27 [Dept of NY]. These dealt with proposed constitutional changes on gender and membership to ensure that the issues were raised at the next National Encampment.

Br. Gipson: The question came up during Committee on C&R discussions as to whether the PA Dept should submit agreement or disagreement with the two depts responses to the proposed constitutional changes.

PCinC Paquette: Last year, as CinC, I formed a special cmte to address "membership issues" and at last year's National Encampment, I specified what membership issues I was asking the cmte to address, which is specifically about "gender." I appointed three attorneys to the cmte to find out what legal grounds have been established federally and among the different states in order to put our organization in the best legal standing to address such gender issues.

Why is it important? Because we can't have one dept in one part of the country admitting someone to membership, and then have another dept in another part of the country making the exact opposite decision. National must have consistency in membership decisions.

The special cmte made five recommendations, and in order to have them discussed at the National Encampment, those recommendations needed to have at least one dept state that the dept wanted it discussed at the National Encampment. While there is no action needed by the PA Dept, the dept should ensure that whichever delegates attend will represent the feelings of the PA Dept. Hence, a discussion is advisable; but not before lunch since this discussion is likely to go on for a while. That's the background on this. Dept Comdr, it's your call.

Br. Teeters: Earlier today we had a discussion about the PA flag, and Br. Frantz, Jr. read an excerpt from the 2019 PA Encampment Proceedings.

Do we have a method when actionable items are approved to have them be assigned to brothers. Today, we had a lot of recommendations approved about things that need to be done. Is there a mechanism to have assignments doled out? Unless we do, we are likely to continue down the same path of approving items and not having them completed.

Dept Comdr DiFebo: That should be the responsibility of a Digest of Decisions Cmte, but we've never really appointed one and never really worked out the details of how that cmte would operate. I believe that there was a motion on the National level to help depts get those [Digest] cmtes working. The PA Dept has never appointed that operation.

PCinC Paquette: If it's a purchase with a known expense, that is something that a dept treasurer could complete without further investigation. I highly recommend that if a brother is making a recommendation that requires an expenditure of funds, that brother include a cost recommendation. If approved, it needs to be included in the dept budget with a "not to exceed" cost. Otherwise, a cmte would need to investigate costs, and it would probably not be actionable until the next encampment approves the expenditure.

Br. Teeters: This should be relatively simple for most recommendations, i.e. "Have Brother Bob Smith purchase x and not exceed x dollars." So, I do not have a motion.

Br. McNulty: The usual way is for the three members of Dept Council to investigate and make such purchases. The Dept Council has the authorization to expend funds when the dept is not in encampment, and along with the dept comdr and sec'y/treasurer, we work through it.

Br. Frail: We were previously talking about ways to reach out to the African American community to make them aware of the contributions of USCT soldiers. One thing that the Dept of RI is doing making the local Providence RI community aware of the 14th RI Heavy Artillery (later the 11th USC Hvy Arty) trained on part of what has since become a community park. We are working with the state and the city to get a group of USCT reenactors to have an encampment in that park to recreate the training that occurred there.

RECESSED at 11:27am

CALLED TO ORDER at 1:00pm

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

PCinC Paquette asks to revisit the gender issue that will come before the National Encampment.

Br. Fischer has the information on his laptop and will read the proposals as they are listed on the Dept of OH recommendation, found in G.O. #26, Series 2022-2023, titled "Department of Ohio Proposed

Change to C&R”

Back in February the SUVCW Special Cmte to Review Membership Requirements put together a report and recommendations for the National Encampment. The cmte explained their background meetings and concerns [not expounded on before the PA Encampment] but after due diligence, the cmte proposed five recommendations, which Br. Fischer read to the Encampment:

“Recommendation 1: The Constitution of the Order is hereby amended as follows:

Article III, Eligibility to Membership, is hereby amended to read as follows:

All male descendants assigned at birth as biologically male, whether through lineal or collateral line of ages lineages specified in Article VII of this Constitution who are blood relatives of soldiers, sailors, marines or members of the Revenue Cutter Service, who were regularly mustered and served honorably in, were honorably discharged from, or died in the service of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America or such State regiments as were called into active service and were subject to orders of United States general officers, during the War of the Rebellion between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865; who have never been convicted of any infamous or heinous crime; and who have, or whose ancestors through whom membership is claimed have, never voluntarily borne arms against the Government of the United States of America shall have eligibility to membership.

Recommendation 2: The Constitution of the Order is hereby amended as follows:

Article VII, Membership, Section 2, Subsections (a) and (b), are hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. Associates. There shall be two classes of Associates.

- (a) Associates are males assigned at birth as biologically male at least fourteen (14) years of age who do not meet the blood relative qualifications stipulated in Article III of this Constitution and Section 5 of the Articles of Incorporation but otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization.**
- (b) Junior Associates are males assigned at birth as biologically male at least six (6) years of age but less than fourteen (14) years of age who do not meet the blood relative qualifications stipulated in Article III of this Constitution and Section 5 of the Articles of Incorporation but otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization.**

Recommendation 3: The Constitution of the Order is hereby amended as follows:

Article VII, Membership, is hereby amended to add a new Section 6 to read as follows:

Section 6. A Brother who has been duly elected to membership in the Order shall not be subsequently disqualified from membership or be involuntarily discharged from the Order solely because of that Brother’s change in gender or sexual identification.

Recommendation 4: The Regulations of the Order are hereby amended as follows:

Chapter V, Article X, Junior Associates, Section 2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. Junior Associates shall be males assigned at birth as biologically male at least six (6) years of age but less than fourteen (14) years of age, who do not meet the ancestor service qualifications stipulated in Article III of the Constitution and Section 200303 of the Articles of Incorporation but

otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization.

Recommendation 5: It is recommended that Form 3, Membership Application, be amended so that the declaration in Part II, Application Information and Declaration, be amended to read as follows: I declare that I am a male, assigned at birth as a biological male, and that this application has been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is true, correct and complete and, if accepted, I will obey and support the National Constitution of the Order, the Bylaws of the Department and the Bylaws of the Camp.

Processes to Present to the National Encampment

The Special Committee notes that Article IX, Amendments, or the Constitution provides that proposed amendments (Recommendations 1-3):

1. Shall be submitted in writing to the Commander-in-Chief
2. Upon prior approval by some Department
3. Not later than 40 days preceding the meeting of the National Encampment and
4. Shall be published in general orders preceding such meeting
5. Shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present and entitled to vote at a stated meeting of the National Encampment
6. Must be favorably acted upon and ratified by not less than 50% of the Departments
7. And thereafter proclaimed in general orders.”

PCinC Paquette: I was hoping to have the original language for those sections as well as the changes.

Essentially, what was added by the special cmte was “assigned at birth as biologically male” in those first four recommendations. It is to further define “male” as to how the Order is to ascertain qualification for membership; not that someone identifies as male or had surgery performed. We are saying that you had to be male at birth to be considered for membership in our organization.

To reiterate what I said this morning, we had three attorneys look at this. One looked at all the state legislation so we knew what was going on in the states. Nonetheless, we need to follow federal law, being chartered by Congress. My challenge to the special cmte was that the Order needs to know what is the proper legal definition at this time.

The last recommendation is that the man applying for SUVCW membership affirms that he is “a male, assigned at birth as a biological male.” If he later decides to identify as something else, our organization has no legal ground to dismiss him from the Order. Recommendation 5 is probably the most contentious of the recommendations for some brothers.

This is not based on an emotional response from the special cmte, nor a moral or religious concern. The special cmte was strictly tasked to determine a legal definition of male. What follows from this is that we cannot have women who later decide that they are male. These

recommendations would clearly exclude anyone not assigned at birth as a biological male from joining our organization.

The CinC needed at least one dept to make the request in order to bring the proposed changes before the National Encampment. Based on this background, what is the PA Dept's feeling on those recommendations?

MOTION by Br. Frantz, Jr./second by PCinC Paquette – To spur discussion, that the PA Dept concur with the recommendations as submitted by the special cmte.

DISCUSSION:

A brother asked: What if a male decides at age 15 to become a female? He was a male and was a biological male at birth; there is some confusion between the first four recommendations and the last.

Br. Carty: If someone is born a female and are legally accepted to be male, I don't know if s/he can have the birth certificate amended. How will we know what they were assigned at birth?

PCinC Paquette: Some states do allow changes to birth certificates, but there is a record that the birth certificate has been altered. The out is that on the application is that he declares that he was born a biological male. If that is not true, that person would be dismissed.

Br. Fischer read part of Proposal 5 on how the amended Form 3 would read: "I declare that I am a male, assigned at birth as a biological male, and that this application has been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is true, correct and complete...."

MOTION PASSED

Dept Comdr DiFebo asked three times if there was any further **NEW BUSINESS** to come before the Encampment. Hearing none, **NEW BUSINESS** is closed.

REPORT OF COUNCIL (Br. Frantz, Jr., Br. McNulty, Br. Gipson)

The Dept Council, either individually or as a Council, has been contacted several times by the Dept Comdr or Sec'y/Treasurer seeking advice.

I can state, as senior member of Dept Council, that the issues addressed were relatively minor and were satisfied. I commend the Dept Sec'y for the excellent way in which he administers his office, particularly with reports and ensuring dept obligations are met properly and on time. The brothers should be very pleased with the work that Br. Rob does for the dept.

Council met on Thursday (June 22, 2024). The books were audited and found to be correct and properly balanced.

An issue was brought up during the year and was further discussed in detail at the Thursday Council meeting. Some time ago the dept received from the GAR Museum in Philadelphia dept materials that had been stored there. Those materials had been moved there years ago, when Bill Simpson, a PCinC, was removed from the office of PA Dept Sec'y/Treasurer. Recently, the GAR Museum moved and the dept had to recover the property. Some of that material is in the Gettysburg GAR Hall, some is in a paid rental storage unit in Carlisle, and some minor items are in brothers' homes. The problem is the material in the storage unit; over the past two years the dept has spent between \$2500-\$3000 for storage unit rental (about \$165/mo).

Br. D. McMillin, who led the recovery of dept property from the GAR Museum, has looked through some of that property and has found that not all the items are PA Dept property; some belongs to the Auxiliary. The property includes artifacts, uniforms, books [including many commonly found books that could be donated to a library or VA hospital], and ephemera. We must go through the property and keep only what is necessary in order to reduce the monthly storage expense.

The IRS requires organizations to keep seven years of financial records; anything beyond seven years can be disposed of. I suggest that the PA Dept keep ten years of financial records and the rest be disposed of. Property of the Allied Orders needs to go to the Allied Orders. We do not have a museum, hence we should find better homes for them where they can be properly conserved and possibly displayed.

However, all dept property is held in trust for the National Organization, so the PA Dept has no right to dispose of it. I argue that if this is the case, and we cannot reasonably get rid of irrelevant material, then National should be paying for storage, and not the PA Dept.

I am recommending [not as a motion] that the dept keep ten years of financial records, all PA Dept Encampment Proceedings, and all genealogical material, including past applications and associated supporting genealogical materials. It is possible that other genealogical organizations would be interested in digitizing such material and make it available to the dept and others. Otherwise, we will run out of money paying for storage. With the recent annual National per diem increase, the PA Dept lost fifteen percent of its membership this last year. The storage issue **MUST** be addressed.

2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET (presented line by line by Br. Frantz, Jr.)

See attached budget worksheet, with not all expenses occurring each year.

Projected deficit of \$4,599 for 2023-2024 (nearly half being storage costs)

MOTION by Br. Frantz, Jr./second by Br. Kline – that the proposed budget for 2023-2024 be adopted as read. **MOTION PASSED.**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Br. McNulty spoke with Br. Scott Fasnacht and Br. Wrigley of Gen Thomas Camp 19. They noted that the Reynolds plot in Lancaster Cemetery is in great need of repair. The plot includes the gravesites of

Gen John Reynolds (KIA at Gettysburg) (an obelisk) and his brother, Admiral William Reynolds (a flat marble covering stone). Both are deteriorating badly, especially John Reynolds' obelisk sub-plinth which carries the weight and has cracks in it. Repair work is estimated to be \$25,000. The PA Dept should help with this effort.

There have been some fundraising suggestions, including a speaker series with some academic powerhouses that have some tie to PA, such as Prof Carol Reardon. The Thomas Camp knows who owns the family plot but Br. McNulty does not know. We should rally around this project. Visit reynoldsrestoration.org

PCinC Paquette noted that National has a fund to assist with such projects. Also, the SUVCW Charitable Foundation could assist, but wants to have 50% of the funds already raised before participating.

Br. Law said photos of the monuments are on Find A Grave and clearly show the deterioration.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS (presented by Br. Koenigsberg)

Ivan Frantz, Sr. Award (largest percentage gain in membership)

Baker-Fisher Camp 101 with 22.2% increase

Don Rosenberg Award (most new members)

Baker-Fisher Camp 101 with eight new members

Congratulations!

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Department Commander Dane A. DiFebo (Nominated by PDC Carty)

Department Sr. Vice Commander William E. Fischer, Jr. (Nominated by PCC Koenigsberg)

Department Jr. Vice Commander Michael Peter (Nominated by PDC Kline)

Department Secretary/Treasurer (two year term) Robert Koenigsberg (Nominated by PDC Frantz, Jr.)

Department Council (two year term) John McNulty (Nominated by PDC Frantz, Jr.)

Department Council (one year term, typically the immediate PDC) John Gipson (nominated by a Davis
☆ Camp member)

There were no other nominations for the offices and all agreed to serve

MOTION by PCinC Paquette/second Br. Waite – that where there stands a single nominee for each elected dept office, that the Dept Sec'y cast a single vote on behalf of the Encampment.

MOTION PASSED.

DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT (22 Delegates Authorized)

Dept Comdr asked who in attendance plans to attend the National Encampment in Nashua NH.

PDC Carty, PDC McNulty, PDC D. McMillin, and DC DiFebo (do not count against Delegate count)

Br. Fischer, Br. Peter, Br. Demmy, Br. David Demmy, Jr. would go as Delegates

MOTION by Br. Frantz, Jr./second [Unidentified Br.] – that Brs. Demmy, Demmy, Jr., Fischer, and Peter be elected as Delegates to the National Encampment in Nashua NH, and that any other brothers who wish to attend, and are in good standing in the PA Dept at the time of this encampment, and up to the limit authorized, be included as Delegates to the National Encampment.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by PCinC Paquette/second Br. McNulty – that all brothers in good standing in the PA Dept at the time of this encampment, be authorized as Alternates to the National Encampment, since Delegates must be by name. Friendly Amendment accepted by Br. Frantz, Jr.
MOTION PASSED.

See Br. Koenigsberg for your Credential Card for the National Encampment.

Because all positions for election office were unopposed, the final report of the Credentials Committee will be submitted in written form to the Secretary.

RECESSED at 2:25pm

CALLED TO ORDER at 2:50pm

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The PA Dept Officers for 2023–2024 were installed in ritualistic fashion by PDC Kline.

HOUSEKEEPING MOTIONS by Br. Frantz, Jr./second by Br. Law – that:

1. A letter of thank you be sent to the Encampment Committee, the local municipality, and the hotel expressing the pleasure of having a good Encampment.
2. 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. The Department Secretary/Treasurer be empowered to transfer funds as necessary to meet the financial obligations of the Department during the coming year.
4. 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 it makes its final report.

5. The Department Patriotic Instructor be permitted to make a post Encampment financial report.
6. The Department purchase a full-page ad in the National Encampment booklet to list the Past Department Commanders and current Department Officers.

MOTIONS PASSED

MOTION by Br. Frantz, Jr./second by Br. Kline – that the transcriptions of the notes and recordings as recorded during this Encampment, as transcribed, become the official Proceedings of the 143rd Pennsylvania Department Encampment. MOTION PASSED.

The 143rd Pennsylvania Department Encampment was closed in ritualistic fashion by Department Commander Dane DiFebo at 3:10pm, June 24th, 2023.