

John A. Logan Camp #26

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Camp Minutes

Meeting at Memorial Hall

December 2, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Com. Dyer at 7:08 pm. 12 members present: Steve Aarli, Greg Carter, Leonard Cassaro, Terry Dyer, Raymond Empereur, Bill Johnson, Jim Lyon, Jon McGinty, Tom Oestricher, David St. John, John Wade, and Paul Zeien. One guest: Kim Johnson.

Officers Reports:

Secretary: The Minutes for Nov. 4 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer: We have a balance of \$524.06 in the account. The \$14.70 mentioned last month was for postage, not a mistake on the part of the bank. Annual dues of \$40 are now due and can be paid at the end of tonight's meeting.

Old Business:

Terry Dyer was inadvertently left out of the nominations for new officers last month. He was intended to become Junior Vice-Commander. The nomination was made and accepted unanimously by the members present.

John Wade reported that his church will not be suitable for SVR training sessions, as the ceiling is too low for the color guard to carry flags. Steve A. suggested we investigate use of the National Guard Armory in Machesney Park. Jon McGinty will inquire about its availability. Terry D. showed his design for the jacket to be worn by SVR members. Buckles and belts are available for purchase after the meeting. Our Camp Flag should be ready for shipment within the next two weeks.

The traveling exhibit, "Portrait of a Soldier," was viewed by many during its brief stay at Memorial Hall last month. Gov. Eugene Quinn was in attendance and gave an excellent speech, according to Terry D.

Pfc. Andrew Braun was sent a thank-you email for his contribution of a flag to our Camp. He will join us as a member in February when he returns from Afghanistan.

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The Lincoln Death Day celebration in Springfield is tentatively scheduled for April 30, but may have to be moved to avoid a conflict with _____. Com. Dyer has invited both Gov. Quinn and Mayor Morrissey to attend the ceremonies. The Mayor is considering presenting a proclamation to the city council that week to honor our Camp's participation in the events. The order of events in Springfield cannot be changed next year (2010), but may be in 2011, so we would visit Petersburg after the tomb events. Tom O. suggests we consider going down the night before with spouses, and make it a social event. Bill J. (last year's bus driver) suggests joining with other camps in the area to rent a bus.

New Business:

New Camp Officers will be formally installed on Jan. 30 at the annual Illinois Department meeting in Downers Grove. The dinner is \$25, and all members are urged to attend this important event.

Br. Carter, Aarli and Zeien have all successfully completed the Officers Training course on the national website. All officers are urged to complete the training.

Photos of the Lincoln Bicentennial Square dedication and tonight's "passing of the torch" to our new officers should be sent to the Railsplitter and the Banner as soon as possible. Jon Mc. agreed to do so.

Bill J. attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies at Gettysburg on November 19. The events were quite impressive; the parade alone took 1 ½ hours to pass in review. Illinois participation was sorely lacking.

Paul Z. has designed and posted a new website for Camp #26 on the Internet. It is very impressive, and can be accessed at <http://www.logancamp26.com/> He wants members to submit content for inclusion in later postings.

Tom O. received kind words from Dept. Com. Westlake about our Camp. He said we are setting a standard of participation and activity for the other Illinois camps to follow. He also has a flag staff to donate to the Camp.

Battery G members approved their participation in three reenactment events so far for next year: Hollandale, Franklin Grove, and Sycamore.

The new officers for 2010 were passed the torch and took over the rest of the meeting: Commander Greg Carter, Secretary Paul Zeien, and Treasurer Bill Johnson.

New Business: (Begin meeting with Commander Carter)

Commander Carter began his tenure with a brief statement in regard to the John A. Logan Camp. He outlined his expectations on continuing the momentum that Commander Dyer

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had began with the forming of this camp. His platform is based on continuing the promotion of the order via expansion of the camp as well assisting PCC Dyer with his initiatives at the Department. Commander Carter presented PCC Dyer with the PCC Jewel in recognition for his service to the camp.

Commander Carter appointed the following officers:

- Patriot Instructor: Ray Empereur
- Graves Registration/Memorials Officer: Steve Aarli
- Chaplain: Dave Eisele
- Historian: Jon McGinty
- Junior Vice Commander: Terry Dyer
- Guard/Guide: John Wade
- Signal Officer: Paul Zeien

Commander Carter reviews old and continuing business and goals for the camp.

- Restoration of the Stillman Valley Cemetery mortars and the GAR sundial at Sinnissippi Rose Garden during the course of 2010.
- Request is still in for the fixing of the Department website by adding a star representing John A. Logan Camp #26 on the map.
- A request to the camp's re-enactors to submit a confirmed schedule of activities that they will be participating in. The request is made so that the camp can confirm participation at the event for recruitment purposes. Events within our camp area should be given the highest priority for participation.
- Discussion was held in regard to a recruitment booth at the Winnebago County Fair. Staffing is critical and this event coincides with the National Encampment.

Commander Carter outlines new goals for the camp.

- **Graves registration.** The objective is to complete at least one entire county this year, possibly Stephenson or McHenry. Com. Carter is requesting a commitment of 3 days by the membership looking in (April, July, September) to canvas the county we choose and record every cemetery in the county. Com. Carter will be giving his attention to Whiteside beginning in the spring. Brother Aarli, requested that prior to anyone visiting a cemetery that they contact him for any possible information that he may already have. This is to prevent redundant efforts for this project.
- **Recognition.** Eagle scouts and the ROTC battalions in Freeport, Beloit, Auburn, and NIU will be emphasized. Com. Carter will pursue the state ROTC officer to get the appropriate awards. Com. Carter has requested 10 awards from the national quartermaster.
- **Honorary Member.** The camp will select an honorary member from our community, who exemplifies the values of the SUVCW, and present his honorary award and badge at the state encampment in May. Any recommendations must be

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- submitted for review by the February meeting so we notify the person and obtain supplies needed.
- **Education.** Five camp members graduated or enrolled and are in progress of the OCS course. We currently hold the record and we need to continue to work on this.
 - **Recruiting.** Our goal is to grow our camp in 2010 by 4 members or 20%. We can always exceed this goal but that is the minimum. Ratio must be 60/40 in regard to Sons/Associates. I also wish to grow the SVR, (Rockford Zouaves), by 3 members. This will qualify PCC Dyer for an award. Com. Carter has challenged the membership to join and will pay the first years dues for anyone that joins. Brother Zeien has joined the SVR to assist with this request.
 - ***Ceremony.*** The joint swearing in of camp commanders will be in Downers Grove on Saturday January 30th. I will need a confirmed count of those who want to attend by the January meeting so that the Custer Camp can plan catering appropriately. I would like to remind membership that our camp is ahead of the Department because we have an earlier fiscal year. Regardless of bylaws and regulations for when the Department swears in officers, our camp will always be ahead of the state because of this difference.
 - ***Investment of Members.*** At the January meeting we will take time to properly swear in any members of the Logan Camp who have not been sworn in over the Bible and colors, please let me know today.
 - ***Memorial Day.*** Rockford has still not decided whether they will have any Memorial Day program. Regardless of Rockford's decision the SUVCW mandates that a celebration of Memorial Day commences. The camp will begin reviewing other possible venues in the event that Rockford does not have a celebration.
 - ***State Encampment.*** Rockford will host the spring encampment of the Department of Illinois on May 8th at 11:00 am. As we prepare for this event I ask that every member who can contribute time and effort plan on attending this program so that we can make it memorable and successful. The Department membership requested the same food we served last time by acclamation. Com. Carter will take charge of coordinating the preparation.

Brother Buerger requested the status for ordering the red kepi for the Rockford Zouaves. Be prepared to present your measurements at the January meeting for ordering purposes.

On behalf of Commander Carter and the membership, a Thank you to the 2009 leadership team for your service to the order for the 2009 year has been extended. Your efforts and leadership are deeply appreciated and noted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jon McGinty &
Paul T. Zeien Jr.
Secretary / Signal Officer