



Michigan's

Messenger

Official Newsletter of the Department of Michigan - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Winter, 2023

John K. Mann, Editor Emeritus

Richard C. Danes, Sr. Editor

*Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award for Best Department
Newsletter of the Order 2002, 2007, and 2011*

REPEAT of DEPARTMENT ORDER #11  SERIES: 2023- 2024

HEADQUARTERS

697 Wynding Oaks, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

18 September 2023

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered as follows:

The 2024 Annual Michigan Department Encampment will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the Okemos Event Center located at 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos, MI 48864.

Information and forms for the Annual Michigan Department Encampment will be posted on the Department of Michigan website at: www.suvcwmi.org as they become available.

A block of rooms is being held at the Best Western for the nights of April 26th and 27th at a rate of \$112.00. All guests can call the hotel, located adjacent to the Okemos Event Center at 2209 University Park Dr., to book rooms at 517 349-8700 and ask for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War group block rate.

General Order #2 on Membership Qualification Ratification will be reviewed and voted upon at the 2024 Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

The 2024 Annual Michigan Department Encampment Site Committee consisting of Gary L. Gibson PDC (Chair), Steven S. Martin DSVC and David Kimble DJVC are hereby discharged from their duties contained in their committee appointments. The Department Commander thanks the Site Committee members for their able service to the Department of Michigan.

This is so ordered, on the eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and the one hundred and fifty-seventh year since the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty, Gary L. Swain

DEPARTMENT ORDER #12  **SERIES: 2023- 2024**

HEADQUARTERS
697 Wynding Oaks, Kalamazoo, MI 49006
25 September 2023

RE: DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S SCHEDULE

The Department Chief of Staff will coordinate the Department Commander's schedule. Requests for the Department Commander at Camp events, including officer installations and other Camp activities should be coordinated directly with the Department Chief of Staff, Gary L. Gibson, PDC, at chiefofstaff@suvcwmi.org, or posted to 2339 Harmon Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49004.

This is so ordered, on the eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and the one hundred and fifty-seventh year since the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Gary L. Swain
Gary L. Swain, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of
Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST
/s/ Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War

DEPARTMENT ORDER #13  **SERIES: 2023- 2024**

HEADQUARTERS
697 Wynding Oaks, Kalamazoo, MI 49006
18 September 2023

RE: CAMP REASSIGNMENTS

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1- Attached is a color-coded map of the updated Camp Geographical Boundaries for the Department of Michigan. These updates were the result of Camp No. 22 and Camp No. 160 disbanding. Every effort was made to distribute the open counties to neighboring Camps. Additional adjustments will be made as new camps are formed.

Section 2- The Camps listed below gained counties as follows:

1. March to the Sea Camp No. 135 gains Branch County
2. Gov. Henry Crapo Camp 145 gains Shiawassee County
3. Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 gains Calhoun County

This is so ordered, on the twenty-seventh day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and the one hundred and fifty-seventh year since the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

/s/ Gary L. Swain
Gary L. Swain, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of
Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST
/s/ Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War

DEPARTMENT ORDER #14  **SERIES: 2023- 2024**

HEADQUARTERS

697 Wynding Oaks, Kalamazoo, MI 49006
29, January 2024

RE: NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND LETTERS OF INTENTION

Background:

BYLAWS ARTICLE IX, Section 12. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five Brothers who are NOT currently elected to an office of the Department. A Nominating Committee Chair shall be appointed by the Department Commander and shall not vote except when there is a tie vote of the Nominating Committee for any given candidate. There shall not be more than one Brother from one Camp within the Department on the Nominating Committee. The Committee's purpose shall be to prepare a slate of officers, listing one or more Brothers for each elected office of the Department, for the presentation at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. A Brother(s) nominated for Department Commander must be qualified to be elected by virtue of having served as Past Camp Commander or is currently seated as a Camp Commander. A candidate nominated for any elected office other than the Department Commander shall have demonstrated his ability to responsibly and capably serve in any office to which he has been nominated. The Nominating Committee shall exercise due diligence in ascertaining via peer review or other methodologies that the candidate so selected by the Nominating Committee has demonstrated his abilities for good service and leadership.

Further, any Brother who is a member of the Nominating Committee shall, in the event a candidate who is a member of his Camp are selected for nomination, shall recuse himself for voting for that candidate.

Nominations from the floor will continue to be accepted at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

- 1. That the following Brothers were hereby duly appointed on April 3, 2023, under Department Order No. 1, to serve on the Nominating Committee: 1.) Chair – Richard E. Danes, PCC, 2.) Dale L Aurand, PDC, 3.) Nathan Tingley, PCC, 4.) Gary Naugle, PCC.*
- 2. Brother Gary L. Gibson, PDC, of the General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20, is hereby appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee.*
- 3. That any brother interested in running for an elected Department Office should submit their letter of intention, credentials and any recommendation letters to Committee Chair Richard E. Danes at redanes@aol.com.*
- 4. The deadline to submit a letter of intention is Friday, March 29, 2024. However, the committee would appreciate this communication at the earliest convenient date. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Department Encampment scheduled for April 27, 2024.*

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

*/s/ Gary L. Swain
Gary L. Swain, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of
Union Veterans of the Civil War*

*ATTEST
/s/ Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War*

DEPARTMENT ORDER #15  SERIES: 2023-2024

HEADQUARTERS

697 Wynding Oaks, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

19 FEB. 2024

RE: SUSPENSION OF CAMP NO. 250 FOR FAILURE TO FILE FORM 22, Form 22MI

Whereas, it has been reported that Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 250 within the Department of Michigan has failed to file a FORM 22, FORM 22MI and a CURRENT ROSTER as required by the Charter, Constitution and Regulations by the February 15, 2024 filing deadline, and;

By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

4. **The Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 250** of Shepard/Mt. Pleasant shall hereby be suspended for failure to file Form 22, Form 22MI and a current roster as required by Chapter 1 - Camps, Article 1, Section 16 of the Charter. Constitution and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
5. The suspended camp shall remain so suspended until the required forms have been appropriately filed with the Department Secretary.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

/s/ Gary L. Swain

Gary L. Swain, PCC

Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST

/s/ Richard Denney, PCC

Secretary, Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Future Michigan's Messenger Publications Submittal Dates and

Publication Dates Winter - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Spring- June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Summer - September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Fall - December 1 for a December 15 Publication

Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at editor@suvcwmi.org, or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48124-3204

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

Please do not send me photos without the names of persons in the photo and a suggested caption. Thanks for your support!

2023 - 2024 Department Officers

Commander

Gary Swain, PCC
697 Wynding Oaks
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Senior Vice Commander

Steven S. Martin, PDC
400 Catholic Church Road
Leslie, Michigan 49251

Junior Vice Commander

David Kimble
910 Queen Street
Owosso, MI 48867

Recording Secretary

Richard Denny
30090 Orla Eagle Road
Colon, Michigan 49040

Treasurer

Bruce S. A. Gosling, PCC
20388 US Hwy. 12
White Pigeon, MI 49099
bgosling@charter.net

Department Council

Robert R. Payne, PDC Secretary
David S. Smith, PDC, Chair
Nathaniel L. Smith, PDC

Chaplain

Rev. Charles Buckhahn, PCC

Patriotic Instructor

Terry McKinch, PDC

Color Bearer

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Military Affairs

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Counselor

Nathan L. Smith, PDC

Guard

Lloyd Lamphere, Sr PCC

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Lloyd Lamphere, Sr. PCC

Signals Officer

Robert R. Payne, PDC

Michigan's Messenger Editor

Richard E. Danes, Sr. PCC

Historian

David F. Wallace, PDC

Guide

Leonard Sheaffer, CC

Graves Registration

Richard E. Danes, Sr., PCC Chair

GAR Records

Gary L. Gibson, PDC Chair

Civil War Memorials

Leonard Sheaffer, CC Chair

Chief of Staff

Gary L. Gibson, PDC Chair

Camp At Large Coordinator

L. Dean Lamphere, Jr, PDC

Aide de Camp

L. Dean Lamphere, Jr, PDC

Camp Organizer

James B. Pahl, PC-in-C

Ceremonies and Rituals

L. Dean Lamphere, Jr, PDC

DEPARTMENT ORDER #16  SERIES: 2023- 2024

HEADQUARTERS

697 Wynding Oaks, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

27 FEB. 2024

RE: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AWARDS RECOMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

1. That Nominations for the Abraham Lincoln Award are hereby open.
2. That the following three-member panel have been duly appointed to serve on the Abraham Lincoln Award panel: 1.) Chair – Nate Smith, PDC, 2.) Richard Denney, Dept. Secretary, 3.) Charles Worley, PDC.
3. Recommendations can be submitted to the Committee Chair: natesmithmsu14@gmail.com
4. The nominating period should end on Monday, 15 April, 2024

Section 3. Authorization for a Department certificate of appreciation award is provided. The award shall be known as the Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Award. The Department Commander shall confer the award upon any individual or entity who, in the judgment of a three-member panel appointed by the Department Commander, has through his/her/their actions, words, and/or deeds significantly contributed to and supported the furtherance of the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic; the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and has demonstrated significantly in keeping Green The Memory of Michigan Soldiers, Sailors, Marines who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion of 1861-1865, including but not limited to remembrance ceremonies, gravesite restoration, erection of monuments, scholarship and educational efforts concerning the understanding and causes of the Civil War, publications, and efforts by the media within the State of Michigan. Recommendations for possible recipients of said award shall be submitted, along with a one---page description of the contribution made, to the Committee Chair, whose email address shall be included with the notice that nominations are open, no later than two (2) months prior to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. Recipients of the award shall be publicly announced, and a certificate presented at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. No more than three (3) recipients shall be selected for the award in any one year.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

/s/ Gary L. Swain

Gary L. Swain, PCC

Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of
Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST

/s/ Richard Denney, PCC

Secretary, Department of Michigan Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War

April 10, 1863

The 27th Michigan Infantry was mustered in at Ypsilanti. This regiment consisted of companies originally intended to form two regiments, the 27th and 28th Infantry. Because of the slowness with which recruits came in, however, the decision was made to consolidate them into one regiment. The unit left the state on April 12 with 865 officers and men, Colonel Dorus M. Fox of Lyons commanding.

DEPARTMENT ORDER #16  SERIES: 2023- 2024

HEADQUARTERS

697 Wynding Oaks, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

27 FEB. 2024

RE: REVISED ABRAHAM LINCOLN AWARDS RECOMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS

It has been brought to our attention that Department Order No. 16 was inconsistent with the Department BYLAWS Article XIX, Section 3, 2nd Paragraph (See Below) in that it allowed nominations beyond the two (2) months prior to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment, as stipulated in the BYLAWS. Therefore, by the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered that Department Order No. 16 is amended as follows: 1. That the following three-member panel, having been duly appointed, by Department Order No. 16, to serve on the Abraham Lincoln Award panel, remain in those positions and includes:

1.) Chair – Nate Smith, PDC, 2.) Richard Denney, Dept. Secretary, 3.) Charles Worley, PDC.

2.) Nominations for the Abraham Lincoln Award received prior to February 27th, 2024 are referred to the Abraham Lincoln Award Panel. Nominations for the Abraham Lincoln Award received after February 27, 2024 will be referred to the 2025 Department Encampment.

Article XIX, Section 3. Authorization for a Department certificate of appreciation award is provided. The award shall be known as the Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Award. The Department Commander shall confer the award upon any individual or entity who, in the judgment of a three-member panel appointed by the Department Commander, has through his/her/their actions, words, and/or deeds significantly contributed to and supported the furtherance of the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic; the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and has demonstrated significantly in keeping Green The Memory of Michigan Soldiers, Sailors, Marines who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion of 1861-1865, including but not limited to remembrance ceremonies, gravesite restoration, erection of monuments, scholarship and educational efforts concerning the understanding and causes of the Civil War, publications, and efforts by the media within the State of Michigan.

Recommendations for possible recipients of said award shall be submitted, along with a one--- page description of the contribution made, to the Committee Chair, whose email address shall be included with the notice that nominations are open, no later than two (2) months prior to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Recipients of the award shall be publicly announced, and a certificate presented at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. No more than three (3) recipients shall be selected for the award in any one year

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Gary L. Swain, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of
Union Veterans of the Civil War

/s/ Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War

SPECIAL MESSAGE #1  SERIES: 2023- 2024

HEADQUARTERS
697 Wynding Oaks, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

12 MARCH. 2024

RE: 140th DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN ENCAMPMENT

Brothers:

Department Order No. 11, dated 18 September 2023, indicated that the 140 th Department of Michigan Encampment will be held at the Okemos Conference Center on 27 April 2024. You are encouraged to visit the Department web site, then from the Home Page navigate to the 140th Department Encampment page and select the links for the following options:

- 2024 Michigan Department Encampment Hotel-If you have not made your hotel room reservations you can do so on this link. The Best Western/Okemos, adjacent to the Conference Center, is holding rooms for this event until 5 April 2024 at a special SUVCW price of \$112.00
- 140 th Annual Encampment Registration Form-The registration form, with a check for the preregistration fee of \$5.00, must be mailed by 10 April 2024 to arrive by 20 April 2024. If you are unable to preregister, you can register at the door for a fee of \$10.00.
- Boxed Lunch Reservation Form-Honey Baked Ham will cater the boxed lunches for the day of the Encampment. Please fill out the lunch reservation form, include your check for \$13.50 and mail to the address provided to arrive by 17 April 2024.

We look forward to seeing the Brothers of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the 140th Department Encampment.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Gary L. Swain, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of
Union Veterans of the Civil War

/s/ Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War

**Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum Expanded Sat. Hours!**

My apologies, my email of Sunday night was incorrect. Yes, we have new artifacts to display and are anxious to show off, but they are not from Gettysburg. They were donated to us by the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia.

We are no less very happy to add these items to our collection and very much appreciate the recognition of the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia.

We do hope you will join us during our expanded hours Sat. March 13 from 10 to 4.

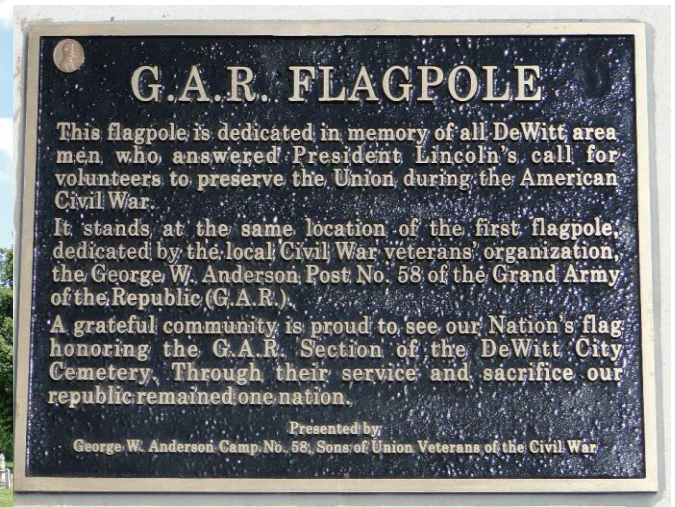
George W. Anderson Camp No. 58*Submitted by Todd Cordill, Senior Vice Commander*

The members of George W. Anderson Camp No. 58 have had a busy schedule during the year 2023.

- We obtained and helped install 3 military veteran headstones in *Maple Rapids, MI. cemetery*
- Obtained 2 military veteran headstones at *Gunnisonville Cemetery* in *DeWitt Township, Clinton County*
- Participated in the annual *Memorial Day Ceremony* in *St. Johns, MI* with the *American Legion* and *VFW*

- We presented material and gave a lecture about our order and the Grand Army of the Republic at the *Meridian Township Heritage Festival* at *Meridian Historical Village*. This was in cooperation with *Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17*;

- Furnished and installed a new bronze memorial plaque at the *DeWitt, MI city cemetery*.



This is in memory of the brave men from the area that fought to preserve the Union in the Civil War.

- Flag holder styles and locations have also been noted. In the future, other counties in the Camp No. 58 geographic area will be done.
- Installation of new camp officers occurred during the regular meeting in November 2023.

The members of George W. Anderson Camp No. 58 have had a busy schedule during the year 2023.

Further items of note for Camp No. 58 during 2023:

- Obtained and helped install 3 military veteran headstones in *Maple Rapids, MI. cemetery*
- Participated in the annual *Memorial Day Ceremony* in *St. Johns, MI* with the *American Legion* and *VFW*
- Presented material and gave a lecture about our order and the Grand Army of the Republic at the *Meridian Township Heritage Festival* at *Meridian Historical Village*. This was in cooperation with *Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17*.
- Installation of new camp officers occurred during the regular meeting in November 2023.
- Initiated an extensive in-person survey of all cemeteries in *Clinton County* to update the graves registration and clean headstones. Flag holder styles and locations have also been noted at veteran headstones. In the future, other cemeteries and monuments in the Camp No. 58 geographic area will be surveyed.
- Took an instrumental role in having a former flagpole base monument successfully relocated and restored in *Carson City, MI* (*Julius T. Barrett Post No. 173, GAR*).



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

SUBMITTED BY REV. CHARLES BUCKHAHN PCC, DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Easter During the American Civil War

Easter comes early this year, March 31st to be exact. During the Civil War, Easter fell on the following dates: March 31, 1861, April 20, 1862, April 5, 1863, March 27, 1864, and April 16, 1865. Let us take a look at where each Easter celebration fell in the timeline of the Civil War.

Easter, March 31, 1861, came just weeks after Lincoln's first inauguration and less than two weeks before the bombardment of Fort Sumter. However, it came in the midst of the threat of a civil war.

Easter, April 20, 1862, came four days after the elimination of slavery in the District of Columbia, it fell during the campaign to take New Orleans (April 18-24, 1862), and it fell five days before the taking of Fort Macon, NC by Union forces. One Union soldier, Alexander Gwen, wrote of this Easter, "This is Easter and a pretty day. We had 2 eggs a piece this morning."

Easter, April 5, 1863, came ten days after West Virginia voted for a gradual emancipation of slaves within the state, twenty-five days before the battle of Chancellorsville, and about a month before General Grant's successful Vicksburg campaign.

Easter, March 27, 1864, came two days after the Attack on Paducah, Kentucky by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Another Union soldier, Daniel Chisholm, wrote of this Easter, "The beautiful Easter Sunday finds us all OK for it is as pretty and warm day, but we have no eggs. We could have them at 40 cents per doz. but I guess we will do without this time."

Major General Stephan A. Hurlbut, commanding the Union forces in the Department of the Gulf, issued this order on April 14, 1865: "The major-general commanding requests all persons, civil and military, in this department to assemble at their various places of worship on Easter Sunday next (16th), and on that day, which commemorates a risen Saviour, to return thanks to the God of Nations for the great favors vouchsafed to our country and for the bright prospects of solid and enduring peace." The General did not know at the time of the assassination of President Lincoln which took place on Good Friday, April 14th.

While there are few, if any, Easter sermons online for the years above, online one can find many Easter sermons preached in 1865, memorializing the fallen President. One such sermon was preached by the Rev. Cephias Bennett Crane of The South Baptist Church in Hartford, CT. He exclaimed: "Yes, it was meet that the martyrdom should occur on Good Friday. It is no blasphemy against the Son of God and the Savior of men that we declare the fitness of the slaying of the Second Father of our Republic on the anniversary of the day on which he was slain. Jesus Christ died for the world; Abraham Lincoln died for his country. The consecration of Jesus to humanity began in the antiquity of eternity, and found its culmination when he cried with white, yet triumphant, lips, on the cross, "it is finished." The consecration of Abraham Lincoln to the American people had its phenomenal and most manifest beginning in the summer of 1858 when he entered upon that memorable Senatorial Campaign..."

May Easter, 2024, find you and yours celebrating the Resurrection of our Savior, our Captain in the well fought fight of faith. A blessed Easter to you all!

Chaplain Charles F. Buckhahn, PCC, Department Chaplain

GRAVES REGISTRATION

Submitted By Rick Danes, Committee Chair



Jane S. Parmelee Haight
Sherman City Cemetery, Isabella County

The effects of recent changes in the National and Department programs there is no need for the DGRO to handle records for the Department, only to review records for the National. This is not a bad thing, just a change. The committee members attending the last meeting voted to decrease the number of graves meetings from four to two per year. The next meeting will be on May 4, 2024, and the following meeting will be on October 19, 2024 at the State Library.

CURTENIUS GUARD CAMP 17

Submitted by Harold Holcomb, Camp Secretary



In January, Camp 17 elected officers for the 2024 Season.

Those elected (from left to right) are: Aaron Dickinson, SVC, Ron Shull, Council, Steve Carr Jr., JVC, Dave Bankhead Patriotic Instructor and Council, David Grimes, CC, David Kimble DJVC, Rod Russell Chaplain, Rob Payne Council, Harold Holcomb Secretary, James B. Pahl Treasurer and Memorials, Marvin Hanes Color Bearer, and Brian Shumway Historian.

GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444 – March 2024

Submitted by: David S. Smith, LM, PDC – Camp 444 Commander

After a successful 2023 campaign, the Brothers of General Orlando M. Poe Camp 444 continued with work on behalf of the Order into the Christmas 2023 season.

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Brothers of Camp 444 participated for the first time in bell ringing for the Salvation Army in Cadillac. The Brothers volunteered to bell ring during the cold, but sunny morning in front of Family Farm & Home on Cadillac's northside. Camp 444 members highly enjoyed the camaraderie, and the wonderful opportunity to volunteer for such a great cause. A steady amount of generous donations were made from the public into the kettle. The Brothers intend to volunteer to bell ring next year!



ABOVE (L-R): JVC/Secretary Aurand, Commander Smith, GRO/CWMO Jones, Council/PI Walker, SVC/ESC Sible, and Treasurer Welliver (photo courtesy of GRO/CWMO Jones)

02 December 2023 saw the Brothers of Camp 444 and their guests come together for fellowship and good food at the 3rd Annual Camp 444 Christmas Campfire Luncheon. In addition to great conversation, awards were bestowed, and two new members were initiated. Before the meal, the two newest members of Camp 444 were initiated per the Ritual. Charles Walker and Quin Walker, both sons of Council/Patriotic Instructor Jeff Walker. Council Chairman Denney served as Chaplain for the initiation in relief for Chaplain Calvin Murphy who was unable to attend. Commander Smith requested Council/PI Jeffrey Walker to serve as the Guide for the initiation ceremony. Both young men were initiated per the Ritual, and provided their SUVCW membership badges, which were pinned on by their father Council/PI Walker. Each of the young men were provided a Camp 444 membership badge, which was pinned on by the Brothers of their Investigation Committee – SVC/ESC Sible, JVC/Secretary Aurand, PDC, and GRO/CWMO Jones. The new Brothers received a rousing welcome from the Camp and guests in attendance. Brother Charlie is the youngest regular member of the Camp, while Brother Quin is the youngest overall Brother in the Camp, and its first Junior Member.



ABOVE LEFT: Council Chair Denney (Chaplain), Council/PI Walker (Guide) and Commander Smith perform the Initiation Ritual for the candidates while Council/PI Walker serves as Guide (photo courtesy of PAP Lisa Smith)

ABOVE RIGHT: PDC Aurand and GRO/CWMO Jones pin the Camp 444 badges on Brother Charlie and Brother Quin as their father Council/PI Walker, Council Chair Denney, and Commander Smith look on (photo courtesy of PAP Lisa Smith)

Later during the Christmas Campfire Luncheon, an awards session was held to honor several Brothers, as well as other worthy recipients of the community external to the SUVCW. Commander Smith announced a new honor that he wanted to present to two Brothers of the Camp. The new honor was presented to highlight the “behind the scenes” and “doing the little things” efforts that sometimes go unnoticed or are completed without fanfare. The accolade was named The Unsung Pioneer Certificate of Appreciation, in honor of the soldiers serving as Pioneers that were used to accomplish many hands-on engineering tasks during the Civil War. Commander Smith revealed that the two Brothers to receive the honor were Council/Patriotic Instructor Jeff Walker and Historian/Captain of the Guard George Scheck. Brother Walker was presented with the certificate at the luncheon, while Brother Scheck will be presented his certificate at a later date.

GRO/CWMO Kenny Jones, known within his hometown as “the consummate volunteer”, was awarded The Engineer Award for the second straight year. Brother Jones continues to perform at the highest levels within the Camp and outside of the Camp. His selflessness and dedication for honoring and serving our Veterans of the past and present is an example to all. While he no longer wears the uniform of our country, he continues to serve his fellow Veterans through his generous volunteerism and his work within the SUVCW.



ABOVE LEFT: Council/PI Walker displaying his well-deserved accolade of The Unsung Pioneer Certificate of Appreciation with Commander Smith (Photo courtesy of PAP Lisa Smith)

ABOVE RIGHT: GRO/CWMO Jones and Commander Smith pose with The Engineer Award (photo courtesy of PAP Lisa Smith)

Camp 444 had the honor in bestowing the Sarah Edmonds Award three times in 2023. The first award was presented to Auxiliary No. 9 President Lorraine Aurand. Sister Lorraine’s work in support of Camp 444 serving as Chaplain at ceremonies when called, and furthermore, her support of the SUVCW for many years is incredibly appreciated and most deserving of the award.

The second award was given to Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 (ASUVCW). The Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 have been provided support and aided Camp 444 since the beginning of the Camp’s existence. In the year 2023, the Sisters of Auxiliary No. 9 have attended and participated in Camp 444 ceremonies and events demonstrating their fraternal ties to the Brothers of Camp 444, but more importantly in our joint efforts to honor the Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The third award was bestowed upon Mrs. Linda Bailey of Harrison. Mrs. Bailey has provided support to Camp 444 over the past two years in participating at two ceremonies in Clare County dressed as a lady in mourning from period, and promoting the Camp’s ceremonies in the Clare County area on her own initiative. Additionally, Mrs. Bailey is a force in the Clare County area in aiding the community with historical and genealogical research and projects. She also has been extremely active in Civil War reenacting for many years. Mrs. Bailey was unable to attend, and her award will be presented to her at a later date.



ABOVE LEFT: Commander Smith and President Aurand pose with the Sarah Edmonds Award (Photo courtesy of PAP Smith)

ABOVE RIGHT: Receiving the Sarah Edmonds Award on behalf of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 was PAP Lisa Smith and AP Lorraine Aurand, with Commander Smith (Photo courtesy of GRO/CWMO Jones)

The final awards to be bestowed were for the Camp's highest honor, the General Orlando M. Poe Award. The recipients for the award were most deserving for their long-term sustained exemplary and extraordinary efforts in "keeping green the memory" of the Grand Army of the Republic, the operation of the Department of Michigan, and the SUVCW as a whole.

The first award was presented to Camp 444 Charter Member and Council Chair Richard W. Denney. Brother Denney has faithfully served the Department of Michigan as Secretary for many years of exemplary service to the Department and its Camps across Michigan. This service includes regularly mentoring even the most seasoned of SUVCW members on important matters, where his knowledge and input is highly respected. He also regularly serves Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry, "Irish Rifles" of the Sons of Veterans Reserve where he has achieved the rank of Corporal.

Brother Dick was instrumental in his support and participation in chartering Camp 444. In addition to these roles, Brother Dick has been very active for numerous years in March to the Sea Camp No. 135 in Centreville, holding various offices with Camp No. 135. As anyone that knows Brother Dick can testify, he goes the extra mile in everything he does and is an extremely valuable asset for any organization to which he belongs.

The second award was conferred to Camp 444 Charter Member and JVC/Secretary Dale L. Aurand, PDC. Brother Aurand has served the Department of Michigan in numerous offices and committee roles (and continues to serve in committee roles currently), with the highest being Department Commander in 2015-2016. At the Camp level he has held every elected office, as well as numerous appointed offices throughout his time in the SUVCW. Brother Dale is also a member of Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry, "Irish Rifles" of the Sons of Veterans Reserve and



ABOVE LEFT: Council Chair Denney, PCC and Commander Smith pose with the General Orlando M. Poe Camp 444 Award. (Photo courtesy of PAP Smith)

ABOVE RIGHT: PDC Aurand and Commander Smith pose with the General Orlando M. Poe Award. (Photo courtesy of PAP Smith)

has attended many national events consistently such as the National Encampment, Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, and Remembrance Day. PDC Aurand is an SUVCW Memorial University graduate, which is a rare accomplishment in the organization. Always willing to mentor new members and participates at all Camp events, Brother Dale is ever present to support the Camp to be the best it can be. All Brothers that know him, or know of him, consider him to be one of the most committed members of the Order.

The Brothers of General Orlando M. Poe Camp 444 had the high honor of being invited and participating at the very first Wreaths Across America event held at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac on Saturday, 16 December 2023. The Marie Therese DAR Chapter of Cadillac organized and sponsored the event. The ceremony prior to placement of the wreaths was held at the Washington GAR Post 444 plot at Maple Hill. With the SUVCW being the legal heir and successor of the GAR, Camp 444 was asked to begin placing the wreaths at the GAR plot. Additionally, Brother Rodney Welliver was requested to perform Taps before the ceremony began. Another high honor for Camp 444 and the very first Wreaths Across America in Cadillac. The Wreaths Across America event and Camp 444 also received support from Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9's Sister Valerie Jones. In addition to the Washington GAR Post 444 plot, additional locations across the cemetery were decorated with wreaths on the gravesites of Cadillac's sons and daughters that served their Nation proudly. Marie Therese DAR Chapter is already beginning to plan for 2024, and Camp 444 is looking forward to the 2nd annual installment next year. Camp 444 highly commends the Marie Therese DAR Chapter for all of their planning and efforts to make the inaugural Wreaths Across America event at Maple Hill Cemetery such an amazing success.



ABOVE LEFT (L-R): GRO/CWMO Kenny Jones, JVC/Secretary Aurand, PDC, Treasurer Welliver, and Commander Smith, PDC (photo courtesy of GRO/CWMO Jones)

ABOVE RIGHT: Sister Valerie Jones and GRO/CWMO Jones with PDC Aurand (photo courtesy of GRO/CWMO Jones)



ABOVE LEFT: GRO/CWMO Jones salutes after placing a wreath at the grave of a GAR Veteran (photo courtesy of Darlene Hinkley, DAR)

ABOVE CENTER: Commander Smith places a wreath at the gravesite of a GAR Veteran (photo courtesy of GRO/CWMO Jones)

ABOVE RIGHT: Treasurer Welliver plays Taps at the beginning of the ceremony (photo courtesy of Darlene Hinkley, DAR)

The Brothers of Camp 444 are excited for the 2024 campaign with many plans being kicked off, and wishing all of the Brothers and Sisters of the Department of Michigan a fully productive, safe, and healthy 2024 campaign season!

Patriotic instructor Report

Submitted by Terry McKinch, Department Patriotic instructor

Department Patriotic Instructor Meeting Saturday 1.13.2024

Started @ 1900

Do not use No LIVE PERFORMACE AUDIO for Zoom

1. Attendance

- a. Terry McKinch – Department of Michigan
- b. Dale Willett - #145 dswillett@me.com
- c. Chuck Worley - #135 worleychk@gmail.com
- d. Brent Sible – #28 brent.sible@gmail.com
- e. David Kimble - #7 david.kimble@sucwmi.org
- f. David Smith – #444 wyattusmagnus@gmail.com
- g. Roland Rowe - #135 roweworld@yahoo.com

2. Importance of Patriotic Instruction

- a. Wearing member badge
- b. Recording of Camp activities for tax purposes, 501 C3
- c. A record of the Camp's alignment with the Constitution and Regulations, Members Oath and the Camp's By-Laws.
- d. Something to add to the meeting concerning patriotism.
 - i. Does not need to be about the war of rebellion.
 - ii. May include artifacts.
 - iii. Flag etiquette
 - iv. Civic responsibilities
 - v. Must have something every time.

3. Fill Form 40 Patriotic Instructors Report

- a. <https://sucw.org/governance-forms/camp-patriotic-instructor-annual-report>
- b. Entries include,
 - i. Time to and from event, or time participating .
 - ii. Milage to and from event.
 - iii. Money spent on event including Federal mileage allowance.
 - iv. Involvement with other veterans' groups.
 - v. Involvement with women's GAR groups
- c. Can be mailed to;
 - i. Terry McKinch, 3278 S. Duffield Road, Lennon, MI 48449
 - ii. Electronically to terry.mckinch@sucwmi.org
 - iii. Still must be signed by Patriotic Instructor and Camp Commander

4. Next meeting will be at the Department of Michigan Encampment, Saturday April 26, 2024, time to be determined.

Meeting adjourned @ 1957 Hours.

Yours in F, C, & L Terry McKinch Department of Michigan Patriotic Instructor

Brothers,

We did have a Patriotic Instructors' Zoom meeting on January 13, 2024, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. It was a great success, and we had six Brothers

Attending:

Dale Willett – Camp 145,
Chuck Worley – Camp 135,
Brent Sible – Camp 28,
David Kimble Camp #7,
David Smith – Camp #444,
Roland Rowe – Camp #135.

The I am going to attach the minutes for the meeting to this months Michigan Messenger. Our next meeting will be at the Department of Michigan Encampment, April 26, 2024.

The Camp Patriotic Reports, Form 40, are due now. The form can be found here <https://suvchw.org/governance-forms/camp-patriotic-instructor-annual-report>.

Form 40 needs to be specific.

- Time to and from event, and time participating .
-
- Mileage to and from event.
-
- Money spent on event including Federal mileage allowance.
-
- Involvement with other veterans' groups such as VFW or American Legion
-
- Involvement with women's GAR groups

The form 40 reports can be emailed to tmckinch@suvchwmi.org, or tmckinch@outlook.com

or mailed to:

Terry McKinch
3278 S. Duffield Road
Lennon, MI 48449

Commanders and Patriotic Instructors make sure these reports are sent in. I have already received two reports, and that is a start.

Lastly, I want to thank all those Brothers' attended the meeting. We had a great discussion and look forward to seeing you all at the Department Encampment at:

**Okemos Events Center
2187 University Park Dr.
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-8700**

Governor Crapo Camp 145
Submitted by Terrance L. McKinch, CC, PDC



We had another great parade season this year. Last year only doing one parade, while this year we have increased to three. We started off the year in Vernon, Mi with the Memorial Day parade and ended up at the New Veterans Memorial for services honoring our past veterans. The 4th of July brought us to Birch Run, Mi. Here we participated in their annual Independence Day festivities. We received an award for the most patriotic float of the parade. Named the Shorty Fent Memorial Award. Then in October back to the Tuscola County Pumpkin festival in Caro, Mi. Where we received for the second year the first place trophy in the military division. We've had such a great time and a-lot of fun bringing patriotism and awareness to the communities and to the SUVCW. It's been a great season with the brothers and sisters and we want to thank everyone who participated with us.

