

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department of Missouri

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Department orders #1 2000-2001

1. I have talked with my State Representative Don Summers about getting a meeting room in Jefferson City at the State Capital building for the afternoon of Oct. 28, 2000 and he informed me that there should not be any problem in getting a room for us on that date. At this time I do not have a room Number but will pass that information along when I get it. At the time I expressed my shock that the rooms were not equipped with a national and state flag. Don promised to look into this as he was not aware that there were any rooms that did not have flags in them. We have several items that we need to talk about so it would be great if we could get some representation from each of the camps. I feel that the Jefferson City area, though a drive for all of us, is a more central area for most parts of the state allowing more of our members a chance to come.

2. Most of the members of the Bylaws committee should by this time have had a chance to look them over and hopefully allowed your camps a chance to do the same. One of our first orders of business at the meeting will be to go over these bylaws and make any changes that will better reflect the needs of the Department of Missouri. A few of the committee members have already been in touch with me on a few additions and subtractions that would better serve our Department. I will bring those ideas with me. As most of you know the bylaws that I have written are a near copy of the Department of Michigan's Bylaws which have just been approved by the National organization. We stand a better chance of getting ours approved if we can make as few changes as possible. There are several items in their bylaws that do not pertain to Missouri and we have a few things that need to be added that have anything to do with the Department of Michigan. Look them over bring them and your ideas with you we will do our best to pound out a final draft for your inspection.

3. The 2001 National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the GAR will be held in Springfield Missouri. I am sure that by this time that is not news to anyone in the Department of Missouri but something that some of you may not be aware of is the fact that the Department of Kansas has withdrawn their support of this Convention. It seems that the Department of Kansas felt that we were only using them for the financial support that they could give us. It was my understanding that we were both using each other for that purpose just so we could get an encampment into the real Midwest. Folks we are on our own for this Encampment but I do not feel that this will be a problem. Now we are free to use more Missouri based ideas and we have several that should

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make this convention one of the better ones of recent times. We have some plans that discussed by the members of the Department so we can start making plans to get the needed information to Die sinkers, Musicians, ect. I think that the Members of the Department of Missouri will be able to pull this off without any problem whatsoever. We already have our fund-raisers well underway. The Forms for the Loyalty Bond are out there in the hands of the Camp Commanders and hopefully many of the members will take part in this painless way of raising some seed money for the Encampment. I too hate to sell raffle tickets but I feel that we have some very good items in this raffle. We had very little problem selling tickets for the items at national convention the items we have are things that please a wide range of people, something for almost everyone. All of the commanders should have copies of the tickets in their hands at this time just make as many tickets as you can sell or tickets of the items that you have call for if you let people know what you have I think the tickets will sell themselves. If you have any ideas for the Encampment as to what we can do or other ways to raise money bring them with you.

4. Something that struck me at the National Encampment that Missouri needs to get more evolved with is the national Graves and Monuments Committees. We as a State are ranked number three in the number of Civil War battles but very few of our monuments are registered and we have only a few over 2000 graves on the list of Civil War veterans in the National SUV rolls. I have worked on some of the cemeteries in my county and have only scratched the surface of what I have to do, in fact sometimes I have my doubts if I will ever live long enough to visit all the Civil War Veterans graves in Sullivan County. I would not be shocked if there are 2000 CW Vets buried in my county alone. I know that Missouri is a big state and at this time we do not have members in some parts of it, that would let a great many places fall through the cracks. I feel that it is the duty of us all to check those areas that are near to where we live. It is true it does take a little time and for most of us that is in short supply but if we keep working at it we will make a difference.

After looking at the Iowa SUV web page I feel a little sad that we are not able to do something like they have done with their monuments. If you get the time take a look, they have taken photos of monuments in each county of the state and posted them for the world to see. It's Great. I have been taking photos of the monuments that I have found but I am sorry to say have not passed that info on to anyone. So far I have visited only six, it is surprising to find so few still around. My county had 5 GAR posts but I can find no surviving monuments that they may have put up nor anyone who can remember if they did. If we do not do this now in a few years there may not be any remaining monuments to the GAR in our state. Many communities are looking at such things as Civil War Cannons as an easy source of fresh money. Many of these Cannon are the only Monument that the old Veterans of the Civil War had set up in their memory. It is our job, as I see it, to find them and make sure they remain as the reminders they were intended.

5. Some notes from The National Encampment that I need to pass along. Edward Krieser of Valparaiso Indiana was elected to the position of Commander-in-Chief in his General orders #1 there are a few items that I should pass along to the membership as follows.

Point #2 All business correspondence should be sent to: Executive Director, James T. Lyons, 14650 Willowbrook Drive, Lake Odessa, MI 48849-8491

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Point #11 It is now part of the C&R that Quarterly Reports must be properly and timely submitted for camps to be in good standing with Departments and for the the Departments to be in good standing with the National Organization. The reports of election and Installation of officers is part of the Quarterly reports.

Point #17 All per Capita tax and other quarterly reports are to be forwarded to the Executive director on time

Point #20 All Departments who have not already done so this year are to send current rosters to the Membership List Coordinator.

The other items in his orders will appear in the banner if you would like to see his orders #1 I can send them to you by e-mail or I will have a copy with me at the Department meeting on Oct. 28th. I hope to see you all there.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty



Vern Stottlemyre

Commander Department of Missouri