



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

OFFICE OF THE  
Commander, Department of Missouri *(includes Arkansas)*

Randal A. Burd, Jr., P.C.C.  
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Department Website: <http://www.suvcwmo.org>

**Department Communique No.1,  
Series 2016-2017**

**8 Sep 2016**

Brothers of the Department of Missouri,

It is with heavy heart that I must bring you news of the passing of Lucy Palmer, mother of Past Commander-in-Chief Donald Palmer of Grant Camp #68. According to correspondence received from Grant Camp Commander Mark Coplin, Ms. Palmer was ill for but a short period of time, and no local services are planned. We have been informed that Grant Camp Commander Coplin has ordered his camp charter and camp member badges draped in black beginning 6 Sep 2016 and lasting for a period of 30 days to honor the memory of Lucy Palmer and to show support to Brother Donald Palmer and his family.

The Department of Missouri, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, offers its condolences to Brother Donald Palmer, PCinC, and his loved ones. The Department Chaplain and the National Chaplain are both receiving this notification of Ms. Palmer's passing. As members of a fraternal organization, it is the right, good, and proper thing as brothers that we individually reach out to our fellow brother afflicted at this time with the grief which comes in losing a parent.

Individual condolences can be sent to Brother Donald Palmer, PCinC, at:

**147 Lucerne Place  
Ballwin, Missouri 63011**

Or via email at:

**[pondook@aol.com](mailto:pondook@aol.com)**

Our thoughts and prayers remain with Brother Donald Palmer, PCinC, and his family at this time.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Randal A. Burd, Jr., PCC  
Commander  
Department of Missouri  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Cc:

Robert D. Hammack  
Chaplain, Department of Missouri, SUVCW

Jerome W. Kowalski  
Chaplain, National Organization, SUVCW



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**Department Communiqué No.2,  
Series 2016-2017**

**31 Jan 2017**

Brothers of the Department of Missouri,

I have a couple bits of time-sensitive information to share with you before the next business meeting on Saturday, March 11, 2017.

1.) Chapter II, Article VII, Section 1c, of the National Regulations states that as Department Commander, one of my duties is to provide camp secretaries and treasurers with report blanks in the month of January. Let me fulfill this obligation by directing these camp officers to the Governance Page of our National Order's website: [http://www.suvcw.org/?page\\_id=262](http://www.suvcw.org/?page_id=262). On this page, camp secretaries and treasurers will find the following forms necessary for the discharge of their duties:

Form 22 - Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers (due Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> each year)

Form 27 – Camp Annual Report (due April 30<sup>th</sup> each year)

In addition to these forms, other forms including membership, transfer, camp status report, etc., are all available on the Governance Page of our National Order's website as shown above. If you have any questions about these forms, I would be happy to assist you. If for some reason your camp cannot access these forms, I can print them and snail-mail them to you; however, if you have computer access, it would be much more cost and time efficient if you can download and print what you need from the National Website.

2.) If you have not yet paid your annual dues, JVC Sumner Hunnewell has recently become a Life Member of the Order and has information on the SUVCW's Life Membership program. The SUVCW allows you to pay your life membership fee in three installments; JVC Hunnewell would be happy to provide more information. Form 9 is the Life Membership Application for the Order.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Randal A. Burd, Jr., DC

Commander

Department of Missouri

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**Department Communique No.3,  
Series 2016-2017**

**31 Mar 2017**

Brothers of the Department of Missouri,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of progress made on plans for the 2018 Department Encampment.

You'll recall from Department Order #3 that Encampment Site Committee members Walter Busch, PDC and Sumner Hunnewell, CC were tasked with making preparations for the 2018 Department Encampment. Preliminary discussion had leaned toward having the 2018 Department Encampment at Bennett Springs State Park in Lebanon, Missouri. A deadline for alternate proposals from camps for other venues was set for 1 Oct 2016. The deadline passed and no additional proposals were received.

The committee reported at the March 2017 Department business meeting that further research has been done on the Bennett Springs State Park venue. The park charges \$100 for all-day use of an enclosed shelter with a kitchen. There are restaurants in the area, and visitors can rent a condo/room or a campsite at the park. There are plenty of hotels in the area and the park lodge is open for lunch. The available amenities point to Bennett Springs State Park in Lebanon, Missouri, as being an excellent venue for a Department of Missouri encampment.

Despite the favorable conditions for a Department Encampment at Bennett Springs State Park, it was the general consensus at the March 2017 Department business meeting to accept proposals from camps for alternate 2018 Department Encampment venues up until the 2017 Department Encampment. Those present at the business meeting wanted to be sure that any camp who might desire to host an Encampment in their area had the opportunity to submit a proposal. Provided no other proposals are received, the Encampment will vote on the current proposal and our 2018 Department Encampment will likely be at Bennett Springs State Park in Lebanon, Missouri.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

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**Department Communique No.4,  
Series 2016-2017**

**28 May 2017**

Brothers of the Department of Missouri,

I would like to take this opportunity to communicate with you once more before our annual Department Encampment next weekend on Saturday Jun 3, 2017 in Branson, Missouri.

- 1.) It is Memorial Day Weekend, and I was privileged to attend the rededication of the Missouri Monument in Vicksburg National Military Park (VNMP). The grand hospitality shown by the National Park Service, Friends of VNMP, City of Vicksburg, and the Vicksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau was notable. The event itself was impressive. It was a proud day for the Department of Missouri, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

From inception to completion the success of this project was made possible by the vision and leadership of Dr. Donald Palmer, PCinC, and the work of his committee: Mark Coplin, PCC, Larry Dietzel, PDC, and Gary Scheel, PCC. There are many more individuals who contributed greatly both at the event and behind the scenes and deserve recognition, but I won't try to make a comprehensive list for fear of leaving people out. However, I do want to mention the beautiful singing of Nora Dietzel. Thank you all for a wonderful and meaningful event.

- 2.) Memorial Day is tomorrow and Commander-in-Chief Donald L. Martin has released General Order #20, Series 2016-2017, reminding us to remember especially those soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice only to be buried unknown in marked and unmarked graves.
- 3.) I have combed through all past Department Orders since our 1996 re-chartering and made a list of brothers of this Department who have passed. Of course, there are many Department Orders which are missing, and thus I am sure we are missing a few names of brothers who have left us. If you have those missing names to add, please send them in so they can be added. I intend to start an annual tradition at this upcoming Department Encampment where we will read the list of names of those who have left us and remember the fraternity and common purpose we shared.
- 4.) I will end with another reminder of the 22nd Department Encampment of the Department of Missouri, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, this next Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the Camden Hotel and Conference Center in Branson, Missouri. Officers and Camps need to submit their reports. It is my hope that Camp Commanders and Secretaries have stressed the importance of the Department Encampment, elected delegates, and encouraged attendance even when they themselves cannot attend. I look forward to seeing a good turnout of my brothers in Branson.

Thank you for the work each and every one of you puts into furthering the Mission of the Order.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Randal A. Burd, Jr., DC  
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