

**Department of Missouri
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Special Meeting Minutes
Date of the meeting: October 22, 2005**

Present: John Avery (JA), Walter Busch (WB), Mark Coplin (MAC), Charlie Funck (CF), Jack Grothe (JG), Bob Petrovic (BP), John Martin (JM) Emmett Taylor (ET)

Meeting held at Meeting Room 6 – State Capital – Jefferson City, MO

John Martin Commander started at 11:00am– Opening

Acting Chaplin – John Avery read the opening prayer and opened the Bible.

Roll call of Officers – Commander, SVC, JVC, Sec/Tress, Member of Council – As mentioned above.

- A. Meeting minutes from June 18, 2005 - Department Encampment – CF mentioned to members – Special Note to mailing to MAL Notes Handed Out – CF WB motioned to except – JM / JG Second – Passed**

Senior Vice Commander – No report

Junior Vice Commander – Gave Report Verbally -

JM asked if we should get letter out to MAL – WB? BP – Need to have the by laws changed first before letters can be sent to the MAL with any changes. Jim Pahl needs to over look the proposed changes to make sure they are acceptable. Then the Department can get the letter out to the MAL. Need to have MAL letter ready to go once the changes are approved. CF- Mentioned dues at \$30 for MAL and each camp has individual dues. Some are \$25 and some are \$35. JM - Same situation from about one year ago. Individuals would get more out by being a member of camp. They would get a news letter and other opportunities to participate in camp activities. BP – MAL if the changes are allowed would have 30 days to comply – if they did not pick a camp we should rotate those members with all the camps. WB – Problem with choosing a camp. Phelps Camp in Springfield won't take members unless approved by the membership of the camp. MAC – Many members have been dropped since last year. Did not pay their dues. JVC is the camp commander of the MAL. We had 33 members at the beginning of the year and now are down the about 14 of 16. They did not pay dues and the proper forms where not sent to the MAL for dismissal. If all members are part of a camp – it will eliminate the confusion of MAL members with dues and payment. Dropped – need to check with WB about whom to contact to renew membership. ET – May need to reduce fees for those members who can't be part of a camp. Keep the rate at the basic level and don't charge for any extra fees that a camp charges their members. JM – For those members who are MAL they should continue to pay the same dues that they are paying currently. JG – If I were a MAL I would be wanting to go to the cheapest camp in the department. ET – Assign to a camp after 30 days. Pay the same as the current MAL even if the dues for the camp are higher. JG – Is National against the MAL camp? Any support from National on what we are trying to do here? BP – National is

discouraging a large MAL camp. They feel that if members are part of an active camp they will continue being members of the organization. 33 MAL in a camp is discouraged. National considers the MAL camp to consist of 2 to 5 members. We need to put many of these MALs into camps. The Department of Kansas went through the same thing last year. They eliminated there MAL camp. JM - Give them a choice. If we assign the camp - we may not see that member any more. BP – Why are we getting rid of the MAL completely? I will tell you why - because we are losing members like MAC reported. If the camps is not taking care of the members and keeping tabs on them we will lose members. The Department Secretary should not be responsible keeping tabs on 33 members. CF - John Anderson got tired of doing this as well in Tennessee – I told John to join Sherman Camp. As a member of the camp we will keep records and let him know when dues are coming up. Members then can brake off to form own camp. Camps can do what the department can't. In some cases we have members that we know can't afford their dues and the camp pays the dues to help out that member. Some don't want to join a camp – just have them stay MAL. JG – What is our problem – I don't see why the MAL can't pay the same dues they pay now and join a camp. It's good for the member and good for the camp. JM – More contact with with the order if they belong with a camp. MAC - Camps need to take over member at large. A camp can track dues and membership easier then the Department Secretary/ Treasurer. WB – Need to pick a camp. No longer need a MAL Camp. CF – To contact John Pahl to see if the changes to the bylaws are okay. To get MAL form approved. Transfer form sent to each MAL. Needs to be sent. JM – Starts with WB BP – Bylaws have not been approved? We cannot start any where yet. CF – Will look into the status of the report by John Pahl.

- B. Secretary – Treasurer Report – See Attached Copy of Report - BP moved to approve JG Seconded – JG Commented that the report should be commended.
- C. Signal Officer Report – Section projects and events on the website. Associates and Junior Members. The only camp that has projects on the event section is Westport. New sections and events for each camp and in the department. JM – Is this redundant? CF – Does not feel the information is redundant. The department should have links to each camp website. JM - Master page – to include events listing and dates. Provide information. BP – Need to get information to Bryan for events for National. Need to send a copy of the list of National Events to JM to see that it gets on the website. JM – Some information on the current department website is obsolete. Other members associate and juniors – membership and types –

2005 Officers Assignments. Any corrections to signal officer. JA - Publishing names and information on the website is not advisable. That section needs to be removed so sensitive information is not available on the website. MAC – Assign each member an email through the website holding company – signals officer is currently the only one using the system. BP – Commander in Chief at National they have a system in place to link personal information with a separate address that is dedicated to the organization. Example – Darby Commander in Chief – email SUVWCW-CC. SUVWCW.org. ET – email address for each member of the military. If you don't have a computer you can go to a local library computer. WB – Don't put Junior

members information on the web. JM – Need to have a codeword. JG - Members need to be in control. ET – Strongly recommend to set this up – Contacting someone in the Department would be so much easier. MAC – Have Bryan check into email system that is best for the Department and get it set up. BP – Need to check the website email system. JM – Needs to look into this to see what advantage to this type of system. ET – Login set up to email system for the department. CF – Last year made a change on annual report form. Report the Officers. That form was down loading - some camps can't down load – number one problem is information. All camp officers and information are current on the website. JM - Do you know how hard it was to get that information? CF - Camps need to forward information to the secretary and to the webmaster. JM - Camp elections are coming up soon - if you have information get it to the department ASAP. Don't sit on the forms. JM – Some information not on the site until June or July. Because of cost of gas will not be able to get to each camp this year. BP – May be able to get all the St. Louis area camp meetings.

D. **Eagle Scout Report:** JA – To date the department has issued 33 Eagle Scout Certificates to date this year. Need to continue to get information to Districts and Troops so we can honor these young men who have done something special.

E. **Communications:** Two letters received CF – Banner will be late. The editor of the Banner's wife had past away. MAC – Would be nice to see more articles from the Department of Missouri. Need to have more information to show national that we are doing things. JM – Need more communication from the camps. Camps need to be more involved in the Department.

F. **Old Business :**

- **Unionist – JM – Asked Don Palmer to send him information on when the Unionist will be ready to be sent out. Information not sent as far as he knows. BP – Not enough funds for the Unionist – Don't have the funds. JM – Did we not raise dues to pay for the Unionist? BP- Lost money on the Department Encampment and funds are limited. Unionist will be coming soon with funds. WB – Can we do PDF files so that we can email to each member a copy of the Unionist. Save on postage and printing costs. Each camp member can print out their own copy if needed. If a member doesn't have a computer – another member of that person's camp could print a copy of the newsletter. JG – Lets get one out and then worry about the PDF file later.**
- **National Encampment –**
- **Last Soldier Project – JM – The reason this has not happened is me. The only thing we need to do is spend time on this project. I have found a list of all Missouri Counties. We need each camp to go out to each county and historical society and search for this information. Each Camp Commander needs to assign a member of the camp to be the Last Soldier Project Coordinator. CF – St. Charles has found 2 last soldiers and WB mentioned that he has found 4 so far. In Madison County they found the last soldier and then were disputed. WB – Research papers and books. Search in the 1930-1940 Encampment Guides – they**

listed the deaths of members for the year. Years 36, 38, 39 and 40 that is where you are going to see a lot of this information. JG – Labor of love – Some have found some people that get involved. Local County member that loves to do research for their county. We do have special awards for non – members who help out the order. WB – GAR Post, Map of Missouri with each county listed. If you have it listed on the website someone in Boone County may see that they could make a difference in their county and help our order. All we need is to verify the information. Only 109 Counties to go. JM – I'll have Bryan Smarker talk to WB about this project. People out there want to help.

By Laws – No one knows anything.

MAL – Letter?

Oglesby – MAC - Letter was sent to them in regard to their per-capita tax – They sent a letter back report that this will not happen again. Only had one signature on the account. The individual camp members have sent in their funds directly to me from their own personal accounts. All records and account are in one location now; they had a change in bank accounts. They are and active camp in their area and do programs. DP and I attend one a few years ago.

CF- Only a few active members in their camp - but they do school programs and city activities.

BP- Most members are re-enactors. JM- Maybe we can help them stay strong. JG- Their SVR troops have done some stuff in the past. As long as dues are paid they can continue to belong.

Break 12:40 to 12:50 Bible closed and then re-opened.

JM – Encampment booklet (to help with the 2006 Department Encampment) where are we at currently? BP – Is on hold for the moment secondary to the 2007 National Encampment. JG- With the experience we have in St. Louis we can get it done. If in KC we can help JM. – Logistics is my specialty. BP – Need meal and room prices established along with forms to register members – etc.

2007 National Encampment BP - WB will probably be Department Commander - BP- Will be putting together a National Encampment Booklet – Convention Plan so that every department can put on a convention – review several hotels, set up proposals. BP – About a week ago I talked with the – Frontanac Hilton - Contract pending food price. Room rate locked in at \$92.00 and food at \$30. ET- Pricey for the area. BP- We have the front building the second building could be used for the Daughters. If they plan on doing more then just the banquet. CF – The only thing the Dtrs will be doing is the banquet. BP- That is that is what I said – Has their (Dtrs) committee chosen a hotel? CF – The two separate kitchens concern the Dtrs. They don't want them to have something in one area and not have people to take care of their needs. JG – If you go some where else you can't get the service if the Elks are there. The Hilton should be prepared to handle multiple groups. CF – I will be going there Monday to check out the facility and look into the arrangements. BP

– I have not made any arrangements for the Dtrs only for the Sons. You will need to set up your own arrangements for the Dtrs.

2006 June Department Encampment – JM – A lot of emails if things go on as it is now 16th and 17th of June in the Kansas City area. BP – Don Darby has commented to him that he wants to come to our encampment – but Father’s Day is that weekend. That is the weekend Ohio has their encampment. Dave Medart Jr. has also voiced that he would like to attend our encampment. If we keep it where it is we will never have a national officer at an encampment. We may want to move the encampment to a different weekend. The following weekend is the Department of Pennsylvania’s encampment. Second weekend in June. Keep it the same weekend from now on. Easier to schedule each year.

ET – Pushing the date for years – I apologize that I am a re-enactor - Turner Brigade. Move to change the Department Encampment to the 3rd weekend of May. CF - 2nd the motion Don Palmer – Chief of Staff – State department encampments. When can the National Commander in Chief make the meeting? JM - May is a bad month. Can we vote on the motion? Not enough members present to vote? 2nd weekend in June may be better. MAC – We don’t have a quorum. We have 8 members in attendance.

ET – Motion to move the date 2006 Encampment to the weekend of June 9 and 10th. MAC – 2nd the motion. Those present agreed to the motion. Will need to contact camps to see if such a move can be done. Unofficial vote here today but by presenting it to the camps it can be ratified.

We can visit it again to motion to move the date permanently when we have a quorum -

WB – Move to have Department Encampment look into making a permanent date set at the 2006 Department Encampment. BP 2nd CF- Friendly amendment -30 days prior to the dept encamp to have each camp commander and dept officer. 7 to 1 in favor MOTION PASSES.

Record archival – JM- Bryan Shay was to be here for the meeting – I have lost cell phone number. Need to archive all records. Oglesby camp member has experience in archiving records.

Budget – BP- Do we need one?

GAR Highway – Bob Chaplin all held up in the house. CF – Changed

BP – John Bucheit of Asboth to help with marketing the department. ET - Lunch with him once a week. Pass out hand outs and talked about camp.

Motion to adjourn by BP - ET 2nd Passed

JA - Chaplin closed the Bible at 1:40 pm - Next meeting to be held in April.