



Department of Missouri
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
www.suvcmo.org

Department Meeting Minutes, 18 Oct 2025 at Jefferson City, MO

Members in attendance were Department Commander Mark Coplin, Junior Vice Commander Dawson Ballard, Secretary Gary Scheel, Patriotic Instructor Randal Burd, PDC Bob Aubuchon, Frank Mathews, Craig Mathews and Pete Oetting

Meeting was opened by Department Commander Mark Coplin at 10 a.m.

Acting Chaplain Gary Scheel led in the Invocation and DC Mark Coplin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was called by the Secretary.

Installation of Appointed Officers was conducted by PDC Bob Aubuchon who performed the duties of Installation Officer. Appointed officers who were installed to the offices they had been appointed were Department Commander Mark Coplin and Junior Vice Commander Dawson Ballard.

Department Encampment Minutes of 7 June 2025 were presented for approval. Motion was made by Craig Mathews to accept minutes as presented with a second by Frank Mathews. Minutes were approved by voice vote of the members present.

Officers Reports.

Department Commanders report was discussed and he told about meeting Junior Vice Commander Michael Hammerson of the Ensign John Davis Camp #10 of the SUVCW in England. This Camp has twenty members and the members are spread throughout England

Senior Vice Commander – No Report

Junior Vice Commander – Stated he had no report.

Secretary reported that we have 162 members with 5 dual members one of the dual members being from a different department for a total of 158 members. We have 6 associate members and 23 life members.

Treasurer's Report stated that both accounts were balanced with the bank and only one outstanding debit. A motion was made by Craig Mathews to approve the Treasurers report as presented and seconded by Frank Mathews and approved by a voice vote.

Council report contained information about the resignation of Department Commander AuBuchon and the appointment of new officers to fill the vacated positions. We voted to approve the additional \$5.00 for the Past Commander-in-Chiefs shirt. Recommendation: We increase the amount the Department is willing to pay for the Past Commander in Chiefs shirt.

MOTION: To increase the amount authorized for the purchase of the Past Commander-in-Chief Shirt (referred to as the Twinkee Shirt) to \$100.00. Motion made by Frank Mathews and seconded by Craig Mathews. Motion was approved by voice vote of members present.

Quartermaster – Plaque plates were discussed. A couple of the plaques have plates with years inscribed on them and there was some communication problems this past year. Brother Pete Oetting volunteered to work with the plaque company.

Grave Registration – Wilhelmi Cam subitted 1,345 Grave Registrations, St. James Camp submitted 128 Registrations.

Signals Officer – Created an Arkansas Section on our web pages. All other updates performed as needed.

Unionist Editor – Please send articles as soon as you have the activity. This will help Brother Randal because of the increase of time required to perform his job, his time for working on the Unionist has been greatly reduced.

Eagle Scout Cooridinator – Seven Eagle Scout Certificates were sent out.

ROTC Cooridinator – No activity reported

Encampment Site – it will be on June 6, 2026 in Ste. Genevieve. Motel rooms, meeting room, and Friday eveing meal room have all been reserved.

Unfinished Business

By-Laws Committee – the 4th Draft that was tabled on June 7th Encampment was resubmitted for consideration. Those present agreed with the changes and it was decided that we would vote on it at the Encampment in June because it is a By-Law change.

New Business:

Pete Oetting presented a flyer on the Merrill's Horse Flag Installation Ceremony. He gave a brief history of returning the flag back to Missouri. The ceremony will take place at 2 pm on November 15th at the Missouri Capital Rotunda. We were all encouraged to attend.

We discussed the monument proposal for two Missouri Regiments that participated in Brices Crossing Battlefield in Mississippi. We were told that it was estimated that it may cost around \$4,600.00 for a monument. It was discussed the Department of Missouri donate \$500.00 from our funds. We discussed ways to help raise funds for the monument. We learned that the Henry Repeating Arms Company is considering making a Henry Rifle Special Edition commemorating the SUVCW. There was discussion about the possibility of purchasing one and auctioning it off. We also discussed whether we can legally auction off firearms.

Motion: Department of Missouri raise funds in order to purchase a monument for the Missouri Units at the Battle of Brices Crossing Battlefield in Mississippi. Motion made by Pete Oetting and seconded by Frank Mathews and approved by a voice vote.

The Grant Symposium is scheduled to take place on November 7th in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Several members were interested in attending this function.

Department Commander Coplin brought up his concern about attracting new members. One suggestion was to design a flyer that would be similar to the famous "I Want You" with a likeness of Uncle Sam on it to encourage enlistment during World War I. Brother Randal Burd volunteered to work on one.

We had voted at the encampment in June to partner with the Department of Kansas to secure a National Encampment for the closest year available. We were told the years 2029 or 2031 were available. Since then the Department of Kansas has withdrawn from this adventure. Brother Dale Crandell had suggested that we contact the Department of Arkansas to see if they would be interested in co-sponsoring a National Encampment on either of those years. Further discussion on this subject will continue to see if they would be interested.

Meeting was closed with a benediction by acting Chaplain Gary Scheel at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary L. Scheel, PDC
Department Secretary