



Department of Missouri Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Meeting 14 March 2026
Jefferson City, Missouri

Department Commander Mark Coplin called the meeting to order at 10:03 am

We opened with a prayer by appointed Chaplain Sumner Hunnewell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Department Commander Mark Coplin, Sumner Hunnewell, Robert Amsler, Jr, Robert Bach, Glennon Alsop, Robert Aubuchon, Pete Oetting, and Gary Scheel for a total of 8. We had quorum to proceed with a legal business meeting.

We opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a prayer by appointed Chaplain Sumner Hunnewell.

Roll call of officers was conducted.

Minutes of the 18 October 2025 Department Meeting were sent out by email previous to the meeting for review and were approved by consent of members present.

Department Commander reported that we have 1 Real Son, 30 Life Members, 122 Members, 8 Associate Members, and 1 Dual Life Member who is a dual life member with another Department. For a total of 162 members in the Department as of today.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer reported a total of \$15,379.42 in all of our accounts

MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to review

Motion was made by Sumner Hunnewell. Seconded by Gary Scheel. Motion approved by voice vote.

There was a question of the CD's after noting that we had only made \$33.08 in interest.

We discussed placing it into a S&P 500 computerized mutual fund (like a Fidelity account where we can withdraw the money at any time unlike a CD where the money is tied up until the CD matures).

MOTION: When the CD is available to be liquidated that we place in a S&P 500 computer managed fund (such as a reputable Vanguard/Fidelity type brokerage firm) and all that money goes into that account.

Motion was made by Bob Amsler, Seconded by Pete Oetting it was approved by a voice vote.

Council Report was reviewed. We were informed that an additional \$500.00 was suggested to be added to the \$500.00 that was set aside for the two Brice's Crossroad Battlefield Monuments. Results of the vote of the Council, the additional \$500.00 was approved bringing the total commitment of the Department of Missouri at \$1,000.00 for the two monuments. The St. James Camp has pledged \$500.00 towards the project.

The monuments are going to cost approximately \$4,500.00. Missouri Red Granite with proper inscriptions is one of our options. The 4th Missouri Cavalry and the 10th Missouri Cavalry were involved in this battle we are planning to place a monument for each regiment.

The Department of Missouri Senior Vice Commander and the Junior Vice Commander both resigned. Brother Walt Busch volunteered to finish the term of the Senior Vice Commander and Brother Bob Bach volunteered to finish the Junior Vice Commanders term. Results of the vote of the Council was since Walt Busch was volunteered to fill the position of Senior Vice Commander and Bob Bach volunteered to serve as Junior Vice Commander, they be appointed to fill the respective positions.

Eagle Scout Coordinator Sumner Hunnewell would like to be reimbursed \$226.25 for the 75 Eagle Scout Patches that he paid for. The reimbursement was for the patches and shipping of the patches and 100 Eagle Scout Certificates. Result of the vote of the Council was that the Department reimburse Bro the \$226.25.

Counselor Report: No actions to be report.

Grave Registration Report: Brother Glen Alsop, a member of the Wilhelmi Camp, reported that he has registered 2,765 graves. If he sees anything relating to the veteran was a member of the G.A.R., he shares that information with Walt Busch who is our Historical Records Coordinator. St. James Camp sent in 245 grave registrations.

Eagle Scout Coordinator Report: Reported on the 23 Eagle Scouts that received their Eagle Scout Medals at SEMO in Cape Girardeau. There was a total of 52 Eagle Scout Medals and Certificates handed out so far which is huge. Recommendation for a \$25.00 gift certificate to Culvers for Slyvia Hunnewell for doing all of the calligraphy on the certificates.

MOTION: We purchase a \$25.00 Culvers gift card for Slyvia Hunnewell for her work on the Eagle Scout Certificates.
Motion made by Gary Scheel, seconded by Glen Alsop, and approved by a voice vote.

ROTC/JROTC Coordinator Report: Brother Sumner Hunnewell spent much time going through the records. He has contacted the ROTC programs and has received three or four responses already. He reported that he is getting reports on Cadets from the Cadre of ROTC units.

BYLAWS: Presented by Mark Coplin. Discussions followed about the changes that we should make to the bylaws as presented. The following bylaws with changes will be presented at the Department Encampment.

“The Department Commander with the majority vote of the Department Council shall have the authority to call a Special Department Meeting/Encampment to discuss any issues. Issues must be enumerated and only those issues shall be addressed at this special meeting. There shall be a thirty (30) day notice prior to the date of said meeting/encampment.”

Article XX- Amendments. Section 2

shall be “transmitted by any recognized legal method of communication. Nothing herein shall prohibit any ammendment change to the bylaw brought by motion from the floor during the encampment.

AWARDS: This year Award nominations should be sent to Senior Vice Commander Walt Busch no later than April 30th. The normal due date is April 15th but because Walt will be unavailable to work on the Awards until the 30th. He said he will still have time to produce the awards.

ENCAMPMENT SITE REPORT: Report was presented and there were no questions and everything was approved by consent.

10 MINUTE BREAK

CAMP REPORTS: The following Camps presented reports. Grant #68 and St. James #326 both had written reports that were presented. This was followed by verbal reports from members of the Fletcher Camp #47, Wilhelmi Camp # 17 and Lillie Camp #6. These Camps are representing the SUVCW in a great way.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Brice’s Crossing Battlefield Monument: Brother Sumner Hunnewell gave the report and stated that a cannon would cost \$7,500.00. The cannon is more the idea of the ladies organization that he has talked to. He has been in touch with the DUVCW. He passed around maps of the battlefield. This is not a National Park so there is no limit on what type of monuments we can place. The verbiage they want is pretty much restricted on the front they want to limit it to Units, their Commanders and Casualties during the battle. He mentioned that during their meeting with them about using red granite and they thought that would be fine. He has talked to some other Missouri Civil War organizations in hopes of raising money. There are plans for the cannon and the monument. When more information and details are finalized the Department will submit a request to National for funds for the monuments. Up to \$2,000.00.

Flyer to Attract New Members: Department Commander will contact Randal Burd about the progress on the flyer. Brother Amsler reported that National has some new graphics which can be used on a flyer and one was included for the 250th Celebration. <https://suvcw.org/patriotic-holiday-graphics>

MO/ARK National Encampment in 2029 or 2030

We discussed whether we want to participate in an encampment. Department Commander said he would talk to the Department Commander of Arkansas. This was tabled.

COMMANDERS NATIONAL AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS.

We discussed the nominations that he presented and agreed with him.

NEW BUSINESS

Commander Coplin was asking if the Camps had any upcoming 250th Anniversary activities.

250th Pin, Sumner Hunnewell brought up about one he had seen and stated that it had the images of President Washington, President Lincoln and President Grant on it. Founder, Savior and Defender of our nation. One of the options that was discussed was maybe something for your lapel or a challenge coin or medal. We could have some made and sell them and make some money.

It was discussed about whether we want to make an item that would have these three likenesses to commemorate the 250th Anniversary and it seemed that everyone was in favor of that. Brother Sumner said he would be glad to find out more information as far as cost. It was mentioned that we could approve it at the Department Encampment in June but since the 250th Anniversary of the 4th of July is less than a month after our encampment we should check into seeing how much they cost and maybe purchase them sooner.

MOTION: If the Department Council approves allocating the money for the medal or lapel pin to have it made prior to our encampment.

Motion was made by Brother Bob Amsler it was seconded by Pete Oetting and was approved by a voice vote.

250th Anniversary activities by Camps. US Grant Camp is doing an activity on Memorial Day in Manchester to commemorate it. The Fletcher Camp is participating in a parade on the 4th of July in DeSoto, and the St. James Camp is having a living history at the Felix Valle SHS in Ste. Genevieve. Brother Glen Alsop of the Wilhelmi Camp stated that he does a rotating display in one of the local banks and his display will honor the Revolutionary War buried in their area.

Missouri Monument at Andersonville Prison

Brother Walt Busch has found over 100 Missouri Men who buried in Andersonville. He started conversations with those who have control of the National Park. We cannot place a marker on the National Park but we may be able to place one outside of park near the cemetery. It was brought up if we could put up a Missouri red granite marker maybe we could purchase three (includes the two for Brice's Crossroad) and get them cheaper. Women's Relief Corps was originally deeded the Anderson Prison site. Department Commander stated that he would learn more about this project when talking to Walt.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

We discussed the Life Membership that the SUVCW has available. The question was asked is there any way that the Camps can be contacted when a member becomes a Life Member.

The SUVCW just signed a contract with the Henry Rifle Company to make a 44.40 Henry Rifle which commemorates the SUVCW and the 250th Birthday. The cost to the members will be \$2,500.00 and the cost to the public will be \$3,100.00. Each rifle sold to the public will include an SUVCW application for membership. The discussion led around to purchasing one of these to raffle off. We pretty much talked ourselves out of it.

Benediction by Acting Chaplain Sumner Hunnewell