

DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 1
SERIES 2001-2002


19 September 2001

I wish to express my appreciation to the membership of the Department of Missouri for entrusting me with the leadership of the department for the new year. I wish to thank past commanders Petrovic, Leitch, Rutherford and Stottlemyre for their time and efforts in bringing the department along from its humble beginnings. We have been a department for five years and can no longer be considered fledgling. We need to push in directions that will strengthen department unity, build a strong membership base and increase our prestige in the eyes of our brothers nationally. I believe we have a team in place that can accomplish this. But it will take some extra effort. I would like to begin this odyssey by outlining my plan of attack.

1. First, the officers elected at the 2001 Department Encampment held in St. Louis on 23 June, are: Commander - Don Palmer, Senior Vice Commander - John Martin, Junior Vice Commander - John Pillers, Secretary/Treasurer - PDC Bob Petrovic and Department Council - PDC John Rutherford, Jack Grothe and Charles Funck. I wish to ask John Avery to again serve as Patriotic Instructor, Emmett Taylor to again serve as Department Chaplain and Bob Ansler to again serve as Department Counselor. I also ask that PDC Vern Stottlemyre serve as Department Historian.
2. As of July 2001, the Department of Missouri has By-Laws approved by the Commander-in-Chief. This was a major undertaking and essential in giving our department credibility. The next step is to develop a strategic plan for the department containing specific goals and objectives for the department and how we are going to meet them. I consider this essential in order for us to charter a course for success over the next decade. All successful organizations and businesses develop strategic plans. I would like to call our plan "Missouri Vision 2010", which will help us define what the department will look like at the end of the decade. Key elements of this plan will include organizational growth, finances, community relations, department initiatives and support of national initiatives such as graves registration, Civil War memorials/monuments and GAR records.
3. Membership may be the single most important issue relative to our functionality as a department. As of June 2001, we stood at about 150 members departmentwide. Although we have experienced modest growth over the past five years, we still make up only 2% of the overall SHVCW membership. Since Missouri was one of the three most contested states during the Civil War, coupled with the fact that interest in the Civil War in Missouri is still strong, I believe the Department of Missouri should constitute at least 4% of the overall membership. I am asking that Junior Vice Commander John Pillers, Chairman of the Membership committee, work with camp junior vice commanders and assemble a plan to increase Missouri membership to at least 250 members by the year 2005 and establish a goal for growth through 2010. Generating new members is only part of this plan. The other critical aspect is reducing the attrition rate of standing members. The most recent per capita tax returns show that this may be as high as 10%.
4. We currently have seven operating camps in the Department of Missouri. We also have camps being organized in the Columbia/Jefferson City area, Joplin and Washington. I would like the Camp Organizing committee to define, based on intelligence from all parts of the state, where camps should be organized and a plan to execute such. The ultimate goal will be to define the number and location of camps to target by the year 2010. The department also lacks an auxiliary. The most successful departments in the organization have functioning auxiliaries that provide invaluable support to the camps within those departments. I would also request that the Camp Organizing committee include in the camp organization strategy plans for forming auxiliaries associated with camps where support is strong. I am looking for a member to organize and chair this committee.
5. Secretary/Treasurer Bob Petrovic reported that the department has improved its financial position over the past several years and that no officer should bear the burden of doing business for the department any longer. As part of Missouri Vision 2010, I would like to assemble a financial plan showing projected

revenues through 2010 based on per capita tax (membership), donations, merchandising and fund-raising activities. This will be essential in helping to sponsor a variety of department initiatives over the next decade. The financial plan should be developed by a committee chaired by the secretary/treasurer and includes the department commander and the department council.

6. It is important that we maintain awareness of legislative actions in the state of Missouri, especially in areas that impact Civil War history in Missouri and our objectives as an organization. I would like the Committee on Legislation establish a process for maintaining an awareness of activity in the Missouri Legislature, reporting items of significance to cognizant department and national officers and for correspondence with the appropriate representatives in the Missouri House and Senate. Two initiatives I would like the department to consider are the establishment of a Missouri GAR Highway and a GAR Museum in Missouri. Both of these will require support from the state government. Since we are a not-for-profit organization, we may be able to secure funds from the state to support these initiatives. I would like the Committee on Legislation to investigate the possibilities of securing financial support for these programs.
7. It has become obvious that we need to increase the visibility of our organization within our respective communities. Many people believe the SUVCW is a Civil War re-enactment organization and are unaware of our efforts to preserve the history of the Grand Army of the Republic and Civil War veterans who fought to save the Union. I would like to establish a special committee on Community Relations to coordinate a plan in conjunction with the camps to help the respective communities gain an understanding and an appreciation of our value as an organization. Some activities that should be considered include cooperative ventures with the Boy Scouts and veterans organizations such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, planned programs for elementary and secondary schools, collaboration with state and national historic sites and participation in state-sponsored programs such as "Adopt-a-Highway". I would like this committee to be chaired by the Department Patriotic Instructor, John Avery, with membership consisting of camp patriotic instructors or individuals designated by the Camp Commanders.
8. Graves Registration is one of three National initiatives we need to strongly support as a department. Although we have been supporting this on camp and individual levels, we need to coordinate all activities on the department level. I have asked Mark Trout of U.S. Grant Camp #68 to serve as Department Graves Registration Officer, chair a Committee for Graves Registration and develop a 10-year plan to document all Union Civil War graves in Missouri in an organized fashion. The foundation for this plan should be based on a geographic apportionment commensurate with the seven camp locations. Each Camp Commander should identify a focal point for this activity.
9. Civil War Memorials is another National initiative that requires our support. There has been some activity in Missouri over the past two years in support of this initiative, but I don't know where we stand. I am looking for a volunteer to chair a committee for Civil War Memorials in Missouri and operate in a manner similar to that established for graves registration. The number of memorials/monuments in Missouri will be far less than the number of graves, and therefore, I believe the documentation phase should be completed within five years. The second phase, periodic condition monitoring, should be considered for out-years.
10. GAR Post Records is the third National initiative that we need to grasp. Through the efforts of Doug Niernmeyer of the William T. Sherman Camp #66 and PDC Vern Stottfemyre, a complete list of over 500 GAR posts in Missouri was compiled and submitted to the National committee on GAR Post Records. We now need to launch an initiative I designated as "Show-Me the GAR", which is designed to document the specific meeting locations of these GAR Posts, photograph the location if it still exists, and work with local historical societies to locate records associated with each post. I would like either Doug or Vern to chair the Show-Me the GAR committee and develop a 10-year plan to complete this initiative. Like the Graves Registration effort, the foundation for this plan should be based on a geographic apportionment commensurate with the seven camp locations. Each Camp Commander should identify a focal point for this activity as well.



11. Now that the foundation for "Missouri Vision 2010" has been outlined, I would like to touch on several other items. First, I would like to generate a department newsletter for distribution to the camps within Missouri. Department Commanders and the Commander-in-Chief. Some of the camps within the department already generate excellent camp newsletters, but I think it's important for the Department to produce one so that camps within the state are aware of what their brethren are doing. It also provides a means to share our experiences with other departments as well as inform the national organization of items of significance on a regular basis. I am proposing the newsletter be titled, "Missouri Unionist", but I am still open to suggestions. As Department Commander, I will serve as editor of the newsletter, with publication dates for the next year as follows:

- 31 October 2001 (inputs must be received by 15 October)
- 31 January 2002 (inputs must be received by 15 January)
- 30 April 2002 (inputs must be received by 15 April)
- 31 July 2002 (inputs must be received by 15 July)

12. In order to provide incentives for camps and members within the department, I would like to institute an awards program for "best camp" and "most valuable member". My thoughts are to name the award for best camp after Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, who was generally credited with saving Missouri for the Union. This award shall be based on a points system, with each camp accumulating points for new members, graves registered, post records identified, community support, etc. I was also considering naming the award for most valuable member after Gen. Francis Blair, who served Missouri well in uniform and in the legislature. This award will be based on nominations and will be selected by the Awards committee, a three-member panel appointed by the Department Commander. These awards should be presented at the annual Department Encampment. The committee shall also determine the form of the awards (certificate, trophy, medal, etc.) and ensure their readiness for presentation at the Department Encampment.

13. The 2002 Department Encampment will be held in St. Louis at a date to be determined. I would like to make the Department Encampment more of an event than what we had in the past. Some of the more successful departments hold their encampments over a weekend and includes an encampment dinner and entertainment, along with a full day for the meeting. I would like to establish a committee consisting of EDC Bob Petrovic, Council member Jack Grothe and I to plan and execute the 2002 Department Encampment.

14. My plan is to be an active Department Commander. As such, I would like to attend at least one meeting of every camp in the Department during my term in office. I believe this is important in order to meet members throughout the state and give the department visibility within the camps. Given this, I would like Camp Commanders to send the meeting location for their respective camps and designated meeting dates through May 2002.

15. I am calling for a Special Department Meeting to be held on Saturday, 29 September from 1200 to 400 at the Tesson Library in St. Louis. The discussion will focus on Missouri Vision 2010 and other proposed department initiatives along with wrap up discussions relative to the recently concluded National Encampment, issues relating to the current per capita tax and appointment of committee chairs.

By Order of:

Donald D. Palmer, Jr.
Department Commander
19 September 2001



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Missouri



Office of the Commander

DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO.2 SERIES 2001-2002

04 January 2002

1. After being introduced in Department Orders #1, Missouri Vision 2010 is now being developed by the current administration. The Vision focuses on membership growth, financial health, enhanced communication and support of National initiatives. All Camps shall support the next steps in the development of Vision 2010 in the following manner:
 - Mark Trout, Department Graves Registration Officer, has developed a preliminary plan to break the state into regions of influence corresponding to locations of Camps. The goal is to maximize efficiency in recording the locations of as many Union graves throughout the state as possible. All Camp Commanders shall appoint a Graves Registration Officer for their Camp to serve on the Graves Registration Committee chaired by Mark. The names and addresses (and e-mail, if applicable) shall be forwarded to Mark Trout at mt trout1963@msn.com, with copies to Department Secretary/Treasurer Bob Petrovic and myself by 31 January 2002.
 - Doug Niermeyer has volunteered to serve as Chairman of the "Show-Me the GAR" committee and will be responsible for developing a plan to locate the sites of the over 500 GAR Posts that once existed in Missouri and identify what records still exist and where. The approach will be similar to the Graves Registration initiative in that the state will be broken into regions of influence corresponding to Camp locations. All Camp Commanders shall appoint a GAR Post Records representative for their Camp and forward their names and addresses (and e-mail, if applicable) to Doug Niermeyer at momollus@usmo.com by 31 January 2002. Again, copies should also be sent to Bob Petrovic and myself.
 - John Avery, Department Patriotic Instructor, will also serve as Community Relations Committee Chairman. This special committee will develop and coordinate a plan in conjunction with the camps to help the respective communities gain an understanding and an appreciation of our value as an organization. It was anticipated that Camp Patriotic Instructors will serve on this committee; however, if camps do not have an appointed Patriotic Instructor, then the Camp Commander shall appoint a member of their camp to serve on this committee. All Camp Commanders shall forward the names and addresses of their Patriotic Instructors or appointments to the Community Relations Committee to John Avery at ja_very1129@aol.com by 31 January 2002.
 - I am still looking for a volunteer to serve as chairman of the Department Civil War Memorials/Monuments Committee and three volunteers to serve along with Department Secretary/Treasurer Bob Petrovic and myself to form the Legislation Committee. Please take this request back to your Camps. These are perfect opportunities for a member to get involved on a state-wide level and help build the prestige of the department in the eyes of the National organization.

