

Department of Maine
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
141st Annual Encampment
June 17, 2023

Minutes of the 141st Annual Encampment respectfully submitted by Eric Boothroyd, P.D.C., Department Secretary-Treasurer.

The 141st Annual Encampment of the Department of Maine, SUVCW, was held at Governor's Restaurant, Waterville, Maine, on Saturday, June 17, 2023. It was held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the Department of Maine, DUVCW.

The Encampment was opened with full ritual at 9:07 AM with Department Commander Peter Redman presiding. For the sake of the ritual, Brother Donald Grinnell was asked to occupy the vacant station of Senior Vice Department Commander, and PDC Morris Berry was asked to fill the vacant station of Department Patriotic Instructor.

Roll Call of Department Officers:

Commander Peter Redman – present
Sr. Vice Commander Howard Black, Jr. – absent
Jr. Vice Commander Steven Gibbons – present
Council #1 Larry Bonney – present
Council #2 James Bonney - present
Council #3 Morris Berry – present
Secretary-Treasurer Eric Boothroyd - present
Patriotic Instructor Steven Gibbons – present
Chaplain James Bonney – present
Counselor Eric Boothroyd – present
Historian Wayne Bennett – present
Graves Registration Officer Howard Black, Jr. – absent
Civil War Memorials Officer James Ewing - present
Guide Harry Epp – absent
Color Bearer James Ewing – present
Guard Harry Epp – absent
Acting Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator Eric Boothroyd – present
Signals Officer Peter Redman – present

The Commander appointed the following Brothers to the Credentials Committee:
Eric Boothroyd

The Commander then introduced our National Representative; National Patriotic Instructor and Chief-of-Staff Benjamin Frail from the Department of Rhode Island. We were informed just last evening that Brother Ben would be attending in the place of his father, Commander-in-Chief Bruce Frail, due to illness.

Report of the Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee reported 11 Brothers of the Department and 1 guest present. All Department Brothers were Members and eligible to vote. \$42 was collected in registration fees at the door. The roll call of the Encampment membership was reported by the secretary as follows:

Peter Redman, PCC, DC	Camp 3	Morris Berry, PDC, CC, Council	Camp 68
James Annis, delegate	Camp 11	Steven Gibbons, JVDC	Camp 68
Eric Boothroyd, PDC, Sec/Treas	Camp 11	Donald Grinnell, delegate	Camp 68
Wayne Bennett, PCC	Camp 11	Barry Tracy, delegate	Camp 68
Larry Bonney, PDC, Council	Camp 11	James Ewing, CC	Camp 86
James Bonney, Council	Camp 11		

Appointments to other standing committees were as follows:

Constitution & Regulations

Larry Bonney, Wayne Bennett

Resolutions

James Bonney, James Ewing

Officers' Reports

Steven Gibbons, Donald Grinnell

Fraternal Relations

Larry Bonney

Officers' Reports

Written reports (to be included with the Encampment proceedings) were submitted and presented by Commander Peter Redman; Senior Vice Commander Howard Black; Secretary-Treasurer Eric Boothroyd; Patriotic Instructor Steven Gibbons; Chaplain James Bonney; Graves Registration Officer Howard Black; Historian Wayne Bennett; and acting Eagle Scout Coordinator Eric Boothroyd.

A verbal report was presented by Steven Gibbons in his position as Junior Vice Commander, filling the unexpired term of Brother Robert Richford since February. He reported that we are receiving more membership inquiries on our Department website. Verbal reports were also given by Civil War Memorials Officer James Ewing and Signals Officer Peter Redman.

National Patriotic Instructor Frail commended Brother Gibbons for his timely and accurate filing of his annual Dept. Patriotic Instructor report to National. These reports document man-hours spent on events and are important for our 501(c)(3) status. Brother Gibbons asked if planning time could be included. Brother Frail did not think so and was planning to offer revisions to the current form to include them. [Before the meeting ended, Brother Frail received confirmation from PCinC James Pahl that planning time can be included in calculating event hours.]

The written reports were referred to committee.

Communications

The Secretary reported that, surprisingly, we did not receive any endorsements or resolutions in favor of candidates for National officers this year. Brother Frail read the names of the Brothers running for elected offices from the National website.

Special Order #3, which was just issued last evening by the C-in-C, announced that the National Quartermaster Shop will not be taking any new orders or filling any existing orders until a new QM is elected at the National Encampment in August. The interim QM has had to step back from his duties for medical reasons. Brother Boothroyd suggested that our Camps communicate to share any essential items needed until the QM Store is reestablished.

A short recess was called by the Commander so that committees could confer. The Bible was closed at 10:23.

The Encampment was reconvened and the Bible was opened at 10:54. Ten members were reported present.

Unfinished Business

Dirigo Award Committee (R. Redman, M. Berry, L. Bonney, H. Epp) – Since last year's suggestion by C-in-C Paquette, Commander Redman said he researched the criteria of the Dept. of RI award and outlined his parameters for this award which would result in the presentation of a plaque or certificate to a Maine resident or business not affiliated with the Allied Orders for service that promotes the principles of the SUVCW. Brother Gibbons suggested that it should be a plaque *and* a certificate. This could raise cost concerns. One award will be made each year,

Brother Annis entered the Encampment room at 10:59, bringing the membership back up to eleven.

Brother Frail explained that in RI, each Camp nominates a recipient, and the Camps vote to select the winner. Brother Grinnell made a motion to adopt the award based on the RI model. Brother Gibbons seconded the motion, and it was APPROVED. Brother Gibbons further moved to make the Dirigo Award Committee a standing committee of the Department. Brother Ewing seconded it, and the motion was APPROVED.

Archives and Relics Committee (M. Berry, D. Sosnowski) - Once again, we discussed Department property that is housed at Bath Historical Society, Bangor Library, Bangor Historical Society, Taconett Falls Chapter of MGS, Rockland Historical Society, and the homes of various Brothers. We have no central repository. Brother Tracy said he would be willing to digitize any paper records that could be preserved electronically. Brother Frail added that whatever is digitized should also be sent to National. Physical property

ownership should be legally agreed upon before depositing any items with a facility, and the Dept. Commander and C-in-C should sign off on the agreement. Brothers Berry and Gibbons agreed to work on this.

Relationship Chart Project (M. Berry) - Brother Berry reported that he has had very little data voluntarily submitted to him by Brothers on their qualifying ancestors and Civil War service. Should Camp Secretaries contribute this information? It was pointed out that the Department Secretary holds copies of all membership applications. It was decided that Brothers Berry, Gibbons, and Boothroyd would work together to complete this project based on our current membership.

SUV Grave Marker Flags – The Department proposed a resolution two years ago to support the making of a standard SUVCW grave flag to be issued by the National Quartermaster. Last year, the C-in-C said he would check on the status of that request. We have heard nothing, and the QM Shop does not offer any. Brother Ben Frail could not provide any new information.

Camp 69 Disbandment – J. L. Chamberlain Camp #69, So. Paris, had its Charter revoked on March 8, 2023, by the C-in-C in General Order No. 20. The Department has issued transfers and/or discharges to the 13 remaining Brothers who had been under suspension. PDC Larry Bonney has received some physical property from the former Camp Commander, including the original SV-USA Charter (1915) and the replacement SUVCW Charter (ca. 1925). The Charters were turned over to Brother Frail for return to National HQ, and he provided the Department with a receipt of acceptance. Brother Boothroyd spoke to former Camp Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Gray about ten days ago inquiring about the Camp treasury. Dennis said he was waiting for the May bank statement to come, then he would close out the accounts and send a check to the Department. The value is about \$700. Brother Boothroyd also advised Dennis to get in contact with Brother Bonney to arrange for pickup of any physical Camp property he may have. As of this Encampment, Brothers Boothroyd and Bonney have not seen or heard anything. We will wait for a response until the end of the month.

Committee Reports

Officers' Reports: Brother Boothroyd amended his treasurer's report after Brother James Bonney found a discrepancy while auditing the books as Council Member. The amount of money received from the Wreaths Across America sponsorship rebates was under-reported in his written report. Brother Gibbons recommended that the officers' reports be accepted as presented and amended. A motion was made by Brother L. Bonney and seconded by Brother J. Bonney to accept the recommendation of the committee. The motion was voted and APPROVED.

The report of the Department Council (not referred to committee) was presented by Brother J. Bonney, who reported that the Council audited the financial records of the Secretary-Treasurer and found them to be in order. He also put forward a motion to

ACCEPT, which was seconded by Brother L. Bonney and APPROVED by the Encampment.

National Patriotic Instructor and Chief-of-Staff Benjamin Frail offered the greetings from the National Organization. Commander-in-Chief Bruce Frail sent his regards to the Encampment. Unfortunately, he came down with pneumonia and was hospitalized last weekend while attending an Encampment in the Midwest. He is home now and resting, and Brother Ben is attending our Encampment in his place.

Brother Frail mentioned the controversial topics that will be addressed at the National Encampment in Nashua, NH, in August (which we have scheduled to discuss at this meeting). He also mentioned the improved Memorial University online training course for Brothers who wish to learn more about the SUVCW Constitution & Regulations. The National Organization now has a YouTube channel as well.

Brother Don Grinnell announced that the Town of Union will be celebrating their sesquicentennial next year and plan to rededicate their Civil War monument. He is seeking contact information for reenactment groups. Brother Boothroyd said we could provide him some and reminded the Brothers that our own SVR unit can conduct dedication ceremonies.

Commander Redman called a recess for lunch. The Bible was closed at 12:04 PM.

Following the combined luncheon with the Sisters of the DUVCW, a joint Memorial Service was officiated by the Sisters. Our departed Brothers were recognized by Chaplain James Bonney. They were PCinC David Medert, PCinC Donald Shaw, PCinC Keith Harrison and SVR Brig. Gen. Henry Shaw, Jr.

The meeting of the Department Encampment was reopened by Commander Redman at 1:22 PM. Ten Brothers of the Department and one guest were reported present. [Brother D. Grinnell was absent for the rest of the meeting.]

New Business

CD Renewal - Secretary-Treasurer Boothroyd reported that our certificate of deposit comes due at the end of this month. Our current APR is .25%. There may be a promotional offer still available for a 15 mos. CD at 4.0%. The other rates are 18 mos. at .95% and 24 mos. at 1.01%. Brother L. Bonney moved to renew to the 15 mo. special, if still available, and the 18 mo. CD if not. The motion was seconded by Brother J. Bonney and was APPROVED by vote of the Encampment.

Dept. Per Capita Tax – Due to the increase in the National per capita tax, Brother Boothroyd suggested that we could lower the Department per capita tax to allow Camps to retain more of their Camp dues. Currently, a Camp charging \$40 for annual dues is only keeping \$2 per Brother, whereas it was \$12 last year. Brother Gibbons argued for

keeping the per capita at its current rate as a known entity, rather than lowering it and having to raise it again. Brother L. Bonney moved to retain the Dept. per capita tax at \$5, with a second from Brother Gibbons. The motion was APPROVED by a majority vote.

Encampment Registration Fee – Brother Berry moved to keep the Encampment registration fee at \$2. The motion was seconded by Brother J. Bonney and was APPROVED.

Nat'l Representative Meals - Brother L. Bonney moved that the Department pay for the Encampment meals for our National Representative, Brother Ben Frail, in the amount of \$37. With a second from Brother Gibbons, the motion was CARRIED unanimously.

Donations - Brother J. Bonney moved to donate \$50 to the Taconnett Falls Chapter of the Maine Genealogical Society in support of their research library in Winslow which houses old Department membership records. The motion was seconded by Brother L. Bonney and APPROVED.

Brother L. Bonney moved to donate \$150 to Wreaths Across America and participate in the group fundraising program, as we have done in past years. The motion was seconded by Brother Gibbons, voted by the membership, and APPROVED.

Annual Knox Day - Brother Berry indicated that he will continue to represent the Order and lay a wreath at the grave of Gen. Henry Knox in Thomaston on Knox Day in July at no cost to the Department.

New Lineage Documentation – Last fall, General Orders #5 and #7 were issued to require more documentation to support proof of lineage for new members. There was such opposition to them that G.O. #11 rescinded those orders in November, but the discussion has been deferred to the National Encampment. Our Department Officers met in October and drafted a letter of opposition to these requirements, which was read to the Encampment by Brother Boothroyd. Brother Frail spoke to the issue and indicated that RI was doing these things already, and that the C-in-C didn't expect such pushback. He also mentioned, in regards to our concerns that extra staffing may be required at the National level, that they have two people in place who could fill the needs to support these requirements. Commander Redman questioned whether these requirements were an attempt to provide "legitimacy" to our Order, like some other heritage organizations, and would any Brothers who had joined prior to these provisions be considered "illegitimate"? Brother Frail said that we do need to have a documentation trail to support membership qualifications if Congress should ever investigate our organization. Brother Larry Bonney spoke on the issue of trust, and that we should trust that the information provided by new members to be true and correct. Brother Frail felt that candidates recruited from online sources should require more scrutiny. He also said that National is open to just an attested visual confirmation of documents, rather than submitted hard copies, so as not to compromise personal information. Brother Larry Bonney proposed a motion that the Department take a stance of opposition to these orders at the National Encampment as outlined in our letter to the National Committee on Membership last fall. Brother Ewing seconded the motion, and it was APPROVED.

Proposed Membership Qualification Revisions (Gender Language) – Like other male organizations today, the SUVCW finds that it needs to define the term “male” in reference to its membership qualifications. A special committee was formed by the Commander-in-Chief to explore this issue, and a report with their recommendations was filed in February. In essence, they suggest that membership eligibility be defined to “males assigned at birth as biologically male”. General Orders Nos. 26 & 27 (released yesterday) present resolutions from the Departments of Ohio and New York, respectively, to make the necessary changes to the C & R. This ensures presentation at this year’s National Encampment.

Discussion was opened as to the opinion of this Department. Brother L. Bonney suggested that the committee recommendations be put forward as proposed. Brother Berry did not agree. He thought this was a solution in search of a problem. Brother Frail was asked if there was an incident that prompted this action. He said a gender-reassigned child of a Brother in another Department put that child’s membership qualifications in question. Brother Frail also stated that if Congress should ever define the terms “male” and “female”, those definitions would supersede ours. Commander Redman found these proposals disturbing and spoke strongly against them on Christian principles. Brother Tracy spoke to the gender fluidity of these times but agreed with Brother Bonney that this was a reasonable definition of “male” for the purpose of membership.

It was clear that there would be no consensus from the Department on this issue, and that any voting at the National Encampment would be left to the personal discretion of the delegates.

Weapons Ban – Brother Boothroyd read General Order No. 24, released in May, which bans all weapons from SUVCW meetings and events, with some exceptions. This order drew immediate criticism in the Order nationwide on 2nd Amendment rights. This is another issue that will come up at the National Encampment.

Brother Frail said this order was prompted when a Brother asked about open carry of a revolver at an SUVCW event. Commander Redman stated that Maine allows for Constitutional carry and recognizes out-of-state concealed handgun permits, so this order can’t really be enforced here. Brother Frail said the lawyers are studying the implications of this. Brother Boothroyd was concerned about checking for weapons at events. Brother Frail stated the orders do not compel the weapons check. In fact the lawyers are saying that most people are not qualified to check for weapons and that law enforcement or a qualified person may need to be called to disarm someone.

This is another controversial topic that will be left to the personal discretion of the voting delegates.

Town of Union Sesquicentennial – Brother Gibbons reminded the Department that the sesquicentennial celebration in Union will occur on July 20, 2024, and will include a rededication of their Civil War monument. Department participation would be welcome.

Last Veteran Markers – Brother Gibbons said Camp 68 has identified the graves of the last CW veteran in Waldo and Knox County as part of the Last Veteran Project and asked if the Department would pay for the Last Veteran grave markers, or perhaps sixteen of them; one for each county. Brother Boothroyd pointed out that Camp 3 had already done

Last Veteran services in recent years for Piscataquis and Penobscot County, and the Camp purchased their own markers. Brother Gibbons withdrew his request.

Next Year's Encampment – Sisters Elsie Bonney and Estella Bennett were invited to attend the discussion. Brother Gibbons felt our Encampment meetings were too long and not interesting. People left early both last year and this. He suggested ways used at Masonic meetings to limit discussion time and streamline the flow of the meeting. Commander Redman wants the Encampment locations to move. Neither the Sons nor the Daughters are committed to Governor's in Waterville. We have had some issues in the past, but it is a central location. Brother Tracy mentioned a facility in Fairfield that might have meeting space and the ability to provide catered food. This is similar to discussions we had at the fall officers' meeting about seeking veterans' posts, fraternal organizations, or technical schools as possible venues. The consensus of this Encampment is that we *do* want to continue meeting with the Daughters. Venues would need ample meeting space for both. Do we need to meet in June to comply with DUVCW bylaws? Sisters Bennett and Bonney felt they could work around that if necessary.

It was clear that no firm decisions could be made now. It was decided that a Joint Encampment Planning Committee would be formed after this Encampment.

Nomination of Officers for 2023-2024

The Commander opened nominations for the elected officers of the Department. The nominees were:

Commander: Peter Redman

Sr. Vice Commander: Howard Black, Jr.

Jr. Vice Commander: Larry Bonney

Council (2 yr.): Morris Berry

Council (1 yr.): Steven Gibbons

Secretary/ Treasurer: Eric Boothroyd

Nominations were opened for (4) delegates to the National Encampment as follows:

Howard Black, Jr.	Harry Epp
Scott Black	James Ewing
Brendan Black	James Bonney
Wayne Bennett	

With nominations ceased, Brother Boothroyd moved that the secretary cast one vote for the uncontested slate of Department Officers. Brother J. Bonney seconded the motion, and it was CARRIED unanimously.

Paper ballots were cast for the four delegate positions and returned to the secretary.

The Commander called a brief break to count the ballots. The Bible was closed at 3:47, and the Encampment was reconvened at 3:58 with ten Brothers of the Department and one guest present.

The results of the delegate elections were as follows:

Howard Black, Jr. – 9*	Harry Epp – 6*
Scott Black - 1	James Ewing - 5
Brendan Black - 1	James Bonney – 9*
Wayne Bennett – 9*	

* winners

Brother Boothroyd further moved that all remaining Brothers of this Department in good-standing at the time of this Encampment be hereby elected as Alternates to the next annual National Encampment of the SUVCW. Brother J. Bonney seconded this motion and it, too, was CARRIED.

Installation of Officers

Commander-elect Redman prepared his list of officer appointments and yielded the Chair to National PI and Chief-of-Staff Benjamin Frail, who served as Installing Officer.

Brother James Bonney served as Installing Chaplain, and Brother James Ewing served as Installing Guide. The secretary called the roll of officers-elect with the Commander-elect making the following officer appointments:

Patriotic Instructor: Steven Gibbons

Chaplain: James Bonney

Graves Registration Officer: Howard Black, Jr.

Historian: Wayne Bennett, PCC

Counselor: Eric Boothroyd, PDC

Eagle Scout Coordinator: Larry Bonney

Civil War Memorials Officer: James Ewing

Guide: Harry Epp

Color Bearer: Barry Tracy

Guard: Harry Epp

The officers were duly installed according to the ritual. The gavel was placed into the hands of Department Commander Redman to preside over the remainder of the Encampment.

With no other business to come before the Encampment, the secretary was instructed to present the minutes.

Minutes of the Encampment

Secretary Boothroyd read back the minutes of the meeting. Brother J. Bonney moved to accept the minutes as reported. With a second from Brother L. Bonney, the motion was voted and CARRIED.

The 141st Encampment of the Department of Maine was duly closed with ritual at 4:40 PM by Department Commander Peter Redman.
