



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Florida



Minutes of the Department of Florida 30th Encampment

1 March 2024
IMAG Museum
2000 Cranford Ave.
Fort Myers, FL

Present at this Encampment were Department Commander Timothy E. Campaign; the Representative of the National Organization was Council of Administration Member Roderick Fraser, DC; from Camp 1 CC William H. Brabazon, Larry E. Oppenheimer, Robert W. Kerr, W. Richard Young; From Camp 2 SVC Robert W. McGuire, Harry S. Bovee, Ronald E. Peck, Christopher J. Jenner, Harry O. Hendry, Jeffrey F. Brunelle, Shawn C. Roser, Forest C. Myers, Martin J. Calkins; from Camp 3 CC Jeffery A. Garten, Edward J. Manak, Brian K. Wysong, Guy P. Bachmann, Roderick Fraser, Thomas Gaard; from Camp 4 Richard E. Wilder, Henry L. Wilder, Heubert L. Williams, Mark A Finken: from Camp 7 CC Raymond Hatfield, Richard D. Shaffer; from Camp 9 (via Zoom) Lawrence E. Scovotto; from Camp 10 Robert B. Humker; Representing the SVR Harmon Company was Thomas Van Dyke and visiting was Brother Martin Higgins from the Department of New Jersey. Representing the DUVCW were PNP Ellen Higgins and Sandy Vogelpohl; representing the ASUVCW was National Patriotic Instructor Rebekah Thomas. Additional guests included Mrs. Angela

Fraser, Mrs. Deena Campaign, Mrs. Joanne Hatfield, Mrs. Janice Wilder and Mrs. Anne McGuire. If I missed anyone, please accept my apology.

Pre-meeting activities began on Friday afternoon with an informal get-together at the IMAG Museum and a visit to the memorial statue dedicated to the men of the 2nd United States Colored Troops (USCT) in downtown Fort Myers. On Saturday morning a breakfast was served and displays were set up along with camp flags. The attendees were welcomed by Kevin Anderson, Mayor of Fort Myers. At midmorning the Brothers departed to visit the Old Fort Myers Cemetery where 21 Union soldiers are buried. A formal ceremony was conducted with rifle and cannon salutes. The group returned to the museum where Brother Hendry gave a talk on Battle of Fort Myers and the history of his family, which goes back to the founding of city. We then enjoyed lunch at the museum followed by the business meeting.

The formal opening of the 30th Encampment of the Department of Florida was held at 1 p.m. with Department Commander Timothy Campaign conducting the ceremony. The Secretary called the roll of the Officers:

Commander Campaign	present
Senior Vice Commander Manak	present
Junior Vice Commander Garten	present
Council Member 1 Palmer	absent
Council Member 2 Shaffer	present
Council Member 3	vacant
Secretary Oppenheimer	present

Treasurer Young

present

Chaplain Williams invoked the opening prayer. The flag was presented and the Pledge of Allegiance recited. The National Anthem was then played.

Following the opening ceremony the representatives of the Allied Orders were introduced. Brother Larry Scovoto, who attended by Zoom, was introduced and his work on updating the Department web site was acknowledged. National Officer Rodrick Fraser was called to the podium to address the group. He stressed the importance of having delegates at the National Encampment, which will be in Houston this year. Recruitment was stressed as being vital to the organization with suggested actions which would aid in recruitment. Finally he spoke about the Organizations Monument Grant Fund and the Charitable Foundation, either of which might be used to help finance projects undertaken by Departments or Camps. Brother Fraser ended with a tribute to Brother Mike Urell, who had just passed away. Following there was a brief discussion of tangible reasons for being a Brother in the Organization.

The Commander asked for a report from the Treasurer. Details can be found in the addendum to these minutes. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Secretary then read his report, which is in the addendum. A motion was made to accept the Secretary's Report. It was seconded and passed unanimously. A second motion was made to dispense with the reading of the prior year's minutes. This was also seconded and passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Camp Reports. Camp 1 reported that it had provided 14 JROTC medals of which 8 were awarded by camp Brothers. Camp 1 has 35 Brothers, up from 32 last year. Camp 2 was still recovering from the results of hurricane Ian when the storms of 2024 caused more disruption. In addition, their efforts to deal with the IRS have so far come to nought. None the less they had several successful meetings and in spite of their difficulties the Camp will survive. Camp 3 reported on their recruitment efforts and fund raising. They are also involved in the graves registration project. They awarded 8 JROTC medals, up from 4 the previous year. Much like Camp 2, Camp 3 is having problems getting the IRS to restore their tax exempt status. With the SVR, the Camp participated in a number of events honoring veterans. The group will form the color guard at several baseball games this year. A number of additional activities have been planned for 2025. Camp 4 members took a trio to Mississippi with the Buffalo Soldiers. This was part of an effort to work with other organizations to recruit new members. The result here was to be instrumental in getting the first Camp in Mississippi organized.

Appearances at two events in St. Cloud has resulted in possible new members showing interest in the organization. A Liars Bench has been installed at Mt. Peace Cemetery with a plaque dedicating it to the memory of Brother Mike Urell. Brother Wilder stressed the importance of “thinking out of the box” for activities such as recruiting and fundraising. Commander Campaign continued with a short talk about the annual Christmas Ball co-sponsored by Camp 4. Camp 4 raised and donated \$1,800 to veterans’ organization in 2024.

After a short break Camp reports continued with Camp 7 having had members attend reenactments, parades, Boy Scout activities, living history events and more. For a small Camp they were very active. Last Camp 10, a new Camp located in Melbourne, reported they participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Moving Vietnam Veterans Wall and did several recruiting events.

After the Camp reports Brother Ed Manak gave a report on his attendance at the 2024 National Encampment. On Friday, prior to the meeting, he was part of a group which visited Camp Nelson, KY, and he spoke of the history of that Camp. The business meeting was held on Saturday. Brother Manak reported on each motion voted on during the meeting. (Editor’s Note: The Encampment Minutes will appear in excruciating detail on the Department website on the “Who We Are” page under Past National Encampments and Proceedings.) Brother Manak was the

only delegate from Florida at the Encampment and he was proud to represent the Department.

Commander Campaign found there was no old business to deal with so he moved on to new business. The discussion of Brothers going to the 2025 National Encampment was next. Brother Manak indicated that he would like to attend. Brother Bovee was running an auction of Civil War related items at the meeting and will use any profits from the auction to help offset the expenses of anyone attending. A motion was made to provide a stipend from the Department to anyone attending the Encampment in Houston. Brother Richard Wilder suggested that each Camp have some activity during the year to raise funds specifically for this purpose. The motion was seconded and passed over the objection of the Treasurer. Then there was a discussion of what the amount of the stipend should be. Finally a motion was made to have \$600 as the amount to be divided among those attending the next National Encampment. This was seconded and passed with the Treasurer opposed.

A discussion of JROTC awards ensued as to whether or not the award could be sent to the awarding school or if it had to be sent to a SUVCW member. This will be researched. Also the number of awards made should be included on the Camp Patriotic Instructor Report (Form 40) each year.

Next on the agenda was Department elections. The gavel was given to Brother Fraser to conduct the nominations and election. Fraser called for nominations of the JVC. Jeffrey Garten was the only nominee, he agreed to serve in this position. An identical process resulted in Edward Manak being nominated to be Senior Vice Commander, Lawrence Scovotto being nominated to be Department Secretary, Robert Humker being nominated to be Department Treasurer and Timothy Campaign being nominated to be Department Commander. A motion was made and seconded to accept this slate of officers as elected. This motion passed unanimously and was so recorded by the Secretary. Commander Campaign then announced his choices of appointed officers as follows: Jeffrey Garten as Graves Registration Officer, Larry Oppenheimer as Counselor. Richard Young, Richard Shaffer, and Robert Kerr were appointed to serve on the Department Council. (Note: This was out of order since the Council members must be elected.) Brother Edward Manak was appointed Patriotic Instructor and Heubert Williams was appointed Chaplain. Brother Fraser then performed the installation of the elected and appointed Brothers followed by the installation of the Department Commander. The gavel was then returned to Commander Campaign.

The Commander then called for a motion that, due to their 9 years of service to the Department, Brother Oppenheimer be awarded the title of Secretary Emeritus

and Brother Young the title of Treasurer Emeritus. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Brother Young then made a motion that Brother Humker, as Treasurer, be authorized to sign checks on the Department account and that he be named Key Executive of that account. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Commander Campaign then made presentations of some awards: to Richard Young a Certificate of Commendation for 9 years of service as the Department Treasurer; to Larry Oppenheimer a Certificate of Commendation for 9 years of service as the Department Secretary; to Larry Scovotto a Certificate of Commendation for his work on updating the Department website; to Jeffrey Garten a Certificate of Commendation for his work in organizing activities of the SVR; to Camp 2 a Certificate of Commendation in appreciation of their hard work in organizing and hosting this Encampment; to Jack Bovee a Certificate of Commendation in appreciation of his hard work in organizing this Encampment; to Camp 4 a Certificate of Commendation for recruiting the most new members to the Department. The Commander then called Brothers Young and Oppenheimer forward and presented to each of them a gold watch engraved "SUVCW Florida Thank You".

The location of next Encampment was discussed and it was moved that it be held in St. Augustine. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The results of the 50/50 raffle which had been running during the meeting and of the silent auction were then announced.

There being no further business to conduct, the closing ceremony was conducted by the Commander and the Encampment adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by Larry Oppenheimer