



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Florida



Minutes of the 21st Annual Department of Florida Encampment
20 February 2016
3101 17th Street
St. Cloud, FL 34769
Cypress Room

Hall was opened at 8:15 AM

DC Whitlam went to retrieve Continental Breakfast Foods while arriving members began to set up and interact with each other.

PDC Linscott of Camp No. 5 set up registration and sign in sheets for arriving members, and issuance of Dept. Encampment badges.

11:45 AM DC Whitlam went to Publix to retrieve luncheon foods.

12:30 National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski said the blessing and lunch began.

1:30 Cmdr Reeves called for the Officers and members of the 21st Encampment of the Florida Department of the Sons of Union Veterans come to order.

Cmdr Reeves Asked the Dept. Secretary to call the roll of Officers of the Encampment.

Cmdr Reeves	Present
SVCmdr James G. Ward	Present
JVCmdr David Palmer	Present
Council 1 Harvey Linscott	Present
Council 2 John M. Vaughn	Absent
Council 3 (Pro temp) James Ward	Present
Dept. Sec./Treas. Clair Whitlam	Present
Patriotic Instructor Edward Manak	Present
Graves Registration Ron McCracken	Present
Civil War Memorials Off. R. McCracken	Present
Dept. Chaplain Acheson	Present
JROTC Coordinator Richard Shaffer	Present
Eagle Scout Coordinator Bob Jones	Present
Counselor Bob Jones	Present
Guard Larry Peck	Present
Color Guard Ron McCracken	Present
Newsletter David Chestnut	Excused
Signals Officer Brian French	Excused

Cmdr Reeves gave an exhortation to the Department members reminding us of our duty and responsibilities to honor our ancestors. He then asked the Dept. Chaplain to give the opening prayer.

Dept. Chaplain Acheson gave the opening Blessing.

Cmdr. Reeves asked the Color Guard to present the Colors.

Cmdr. Reeves led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cmdr. Reeves asked that we take a moment of silence to remember our brothers who have passed and thoughts for our soldiers who may be in harms way.

Cmdr. Reeves declared the 21st Annual Encampment of the Florida Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War official open to conducted what ever business that may come before it.

Cmdr. Reeves asked the Guard to allow in anyone whom may be entitled to be in.

Cmdr. Reeves asked the Department Secretary to call the roll of the Camps.

In compliance:

Camp #1	Here
Camp #3	Here
Camp #4	Here
Camp #5	Here
Camp #7	Here
Camp #9	Here
Camp #25	Not present

Cmdr Reeves said, "I am going to appoint Brother Harvey Linscott PDC, as Chairman of the Committee on Credentials.

Cmdr Reeves acknowledged the Guests present:

National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski and asked him if he would join him at the docket. He also recognized St. Cloud Mayor Rebecca Borders and asked her to come forward. He presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and gift card for the Outback Restaurant for her recognition of the SUVCW in St. Cloud. Cmdr. Reeves gave her an opportunity to speak to the Department membership.

Cmdr Reeves asked the guard to escort Mrs. Larisa Roderick to the front. He then presented her with a Certificate of appreciation and a gift card for her also. Ms. Roderick was successful in locating the final resting place of 35 Union Soldiers in Mt. Peace, procuring and setting headstone for each. She acknowledged that the Presence of the SUVCW at the dedication ceremonies in Mt. Peace was so appropriate.

Cmdr. Reeves acknowledged the National Officer Chaplain Kowalski and gave him the opportunity to speak to the Department.

Chaplain Kowalski, expressed greetings from CinC Mortroff who was unable to come to the Encampment and is recuperating from a stroke. Chaplain Kowalski encouraged members to register and come to the National Encampment in Springfield, Illinois in August if at all possible. He also expresses some of the difficulties concerning the publication of the Banner, which has a new editor and it will be coming out shortly. The new Banner is PCinC Paul and he is calling for articles and information from the Membership Departments and Camps. Chaplain Kowalski recalled his previous visits as National Installation Officer at the Florida Encampments and some of those things that had impressed him then.

Cmdr. Reeves asked that all Past Dept. Commanders in attendance to stand, five in all he thanked them for their service.

Cmdr Reeves called for Officer Reports and asked that they be kept to a min. of five minutes.

Senior Vice Commander, James G. Ward PDC, gave his reports as Council on the Annual receipts, expenditures and books of the Department of Florida, both written and oral. As SVCmdr he gave his written and oral report on his review of the Dept. By-Laws and his recommendations and his work with the National Encampment 2015, the Councils of

Administration August and November 2015 and Remembrance Day at Gettysburg 2015 plus various events in the State of Florida.

DJVC Dave Palmer gave an oral report of activities between July 2015 and February of 2016 and handed in a written report. There have been no paperwork from the National Website for new members from May 15, 2015 to today. He added that over the last several years there have been usually seven applications for new members, however National Officers added that membership applications as a whole are down, perhaps because the bi-centennial is now over. He expressed concern over dual membership and our need to recruit more people into our Department. Lastly he advised his report on the expansion of the Department of Florida and information that he has concerning contacts for Eagle Scout and JROTC awards in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean area. He recommended that we get a report from our Eagle Scout Representative and JROTC contact person give us a report at our semi-annual meeting regarding contacts made for these areas.

Patriotic Instructor Edward Manak gave his oral report on their local Court House and displays on the Civil War in Florida from now until the 2nd of July, he also advised of work being done at a National Cemetery he recounted Camp #3 commitment to honor the Civil War Veterans at the Olustee Battlefield and the efforts of the Sons to have the monument completed.

ROTC Coordinator Richard Shaffer reported that there were no ROTC awards made between November through February as the ROTC Award are usually presented in the Spring He urge Camp Representative to be sure and order sufficient medals and Awards for the coming cycle of Ceremonies.

Graves and Registration officer Ronnie G. McCracken reported that he has been the Graves Registration Officer for eight months he was not very please with his accomplishments and for personal reasons has decided to resign from that position. He reassured the Department that he and Dept. Cmdr Reeves will have a suitable replacement and keep the momentum going for the registration of Veterans Graves. He continued with reporting that he has very recently registered the graves that Larisa Roderick located, he will photograph those graves, but those 35 new tombstones are on the data base. Also eight others who cannot get a gravestone from the Veterans Administration because they already have a private headstone on their grave. I have made a list of cemeteries in the surrounding counties of several graves. He again thanked Larisa for her efforts in finding the location of the 35 making over 400 Union Soldiers graves in Mt. Peace in the data base.

Cmdr Reeves inquired of Brother Linscott what was the count in attendance. Twenty was the response.

Secretary/Treasurer Whitlam Expressed his regrets for not having a written report because his working computer crashed last week which contained it. Orally, Secretary Whitlam reported that he had received some dues for MAL members and had re-instated one member who had fallen by the wayside a few years ago, totaling 28 members in Camp 25. He also expressed his concern for the records of some current members that aren't on file in the Department lateral files and his hope that among the twenty plus boxes of Department files those records will be found when he goes through them to arrange them in some methodical order. Over the years as officers change from year to year somehow we end up with another box of papers which may contain a several year span withing them instead of one box containing four or five years in chronological order and that order continue in the next box and so forth. Former Sec./Treas. Farrell was attempting to digitize those files and make it simpler to

maintain, prior to his resigning from our Order. Two years ago CinC Freshley the Department Encampment directed Dept. members to throw away several boxes of unnecessary paperwork. Sec. Whitlam went on to say that he had received communication from PDC Johnathan Davis of the Department of Ohio was seeking our support in his efforts in the election of National Secretary at the National Encampment in Illinois. He then read to the Department Encampment a letter that had been sent to him and the Dept. Cmdr. From former member Michael Farrell concerning the Silver Anniversary of the Department of Florida and efforts which he and other members of the Department began over the years to write a book on the Florida Department as it began and developed over the years. Secretary Whitlam exhorted Camps to be sure and file the 990n e-cards with the IRS and send a copy of their acceptance email to him for filing, so he can fill out the form 11 for the Department and send it to National by March 13th. He also exhorted the Camps to work on the surrounding county high schools and Eagle Scout Offices to expand our efforts to honor those JROTC cadets and Eagle Scouts respectively.

Treasurer Whitlam gave the treasurers Report for the period of November 21 to February 16th. Treasurer Whitlam spoke to National Chaplain to verify the amount of funds that he contributed to the Olustee Monument Fund that he would like returned to him.

Chaplain Acheson gave a written and oral report on the members that we had lost during the balance of the year, Camp #7 Brother Richard Bickford August 4, 2015 and Camp #4 Brother Charles "Buck" Custer December 19, 2015, Camp #5 Brother Ron Irons, January 21, 2016, MAL Brother Bruce W. Beeson Jr. February 10, 2016, Camp #1, headstone dedication for Brother Jim Hayward on February 15, 2016. Chaplain Acheson also reported on the activities of Brother Martin Swartz as Chaplain and Rabbi at the Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville.

Councilor Robert Jones, asked what was the exact amount that remained with the Florida Department as an allocation for the Olustee Monument. Treasurer Whitlam referred to the previous Treasurer's Report where the allocation was \$640.00 remained after the settlement of all of those whom request a change in their donation and would be now minus \$25.00 to be returned to Chaplain Kowalski.

New Business:

SVCmdr Ward present his 19 proposed changes to the Department By-Laws one at a time and Secretary motioned them to the Department and they were all accepted by unanimous consent.

Commander Reeves called for a motion that the Department of Florida take a full page ad in the National Encampment Booklet at a \$50.00 minimum expense. The Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Delegate for representation at the National Encampment in August were elected, Cmdr. Reeves, James G. Ward, Roger L. Heiple and John F. Horrichs.

Commander Reeves called for the Nominating Committee Report for the Officers for the 2016-2017 year. (Charles S. Reeves, Commander, David R. Palmer, Senior Vice Cmdr, Edward J. Manak, Junior Vice Commander, Harvey K. Linscott PDC, Council #1, John Vaughn III PDC, Council #2, Ronnie G. McCracken PDC, Council #3, Clair D. Whitlam PDC Secretary/Treasurer, Roger L. Heiple, Patriotic Instructor, David R. Acheson CC, Chaplain, Adam C. Klohr, Graves Registration Officer, Adam C. Klohr, Civil War Memorials Officer, Robert M. Jones, Eagle Scout Coordinator, Robert M. Jones, Counselor, Michael E. Urell CC, Appointed Chief of Staff, Richard M. Shaffer PCC, Appointed ROTC Coordinator, David M. Chestnut, Appointed Newsletter Ed. Steven A. Williams, Appointed Signals Officer).

The Report was read and the election of each office began by asking for nominations from the floor. The election of officers proceeded as submitted with the exception of Robert Jones being elected from the floor as Department Council #2.

Cmdr. Reeves turned the Department Gavel over to the National Officer Chaplain Kowalski for the induction of the newly elected Officers.

Chaplain Kowalski inducted the newly elected officers and returned the gavel over to Department Cmdr. Reeves who express his thanks for being elected for his second and last time.

Commander Reeves asked Department Chaplain Acheson to give the closing Prayer.

There being no further business to come before the Camp,
Commander Reeves declared the 21st Annual Department of Florida Encampment Closed
5:15 PM.

Submitted by:
Clair D. Whitlam FL Dept. Secretary