

# WISCONSIN

## DEPARTMENT DISPATCH



Summer—Fall 2001

Inside —

Meet the Commander.....2  
2001 Awards.....2  
New Officers.....2  
Notes from National.....3  
Central Region Conf.....4  
Preserving their Memory..5  
Council Guidance.....5  
Calendar of Events.....6  
Camp Chronicles.....6

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

# SUVCW

### LOOKING FORWARD

by *Cmdr. Randy Novak*

This being the first newsletter published under the direction of the new Dept. staff, it seemed like a good time to recall a few items from the recent past, and plant a few thoughts for the future. First, I would like to thank PDC Fred Murphy and his staff for the fine job they did this past year. Fortunately, Fred has offered his services to represent the SUVCW as needed, and so this office intends to take advantage of Fred's experience and willingness to help. Second, this past spring Dept. Jr. Vice Commander, and Commander of Camp 4, Eric Peterson took a job out of state, we wish Eric the best in this new venture.

The list of the Dept. staff is being finalized and sent to National. Even though the "official" list will show individuals in all positions, there are several jobs that will be turned over to small groups, and the officers will actually supervise those groups. This is to spread out the workload a little more, and allow those who are willing, to participate at the Department level.

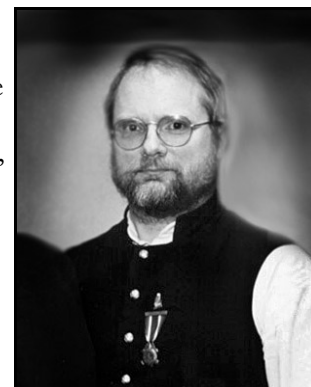
Soon I will be sending out letters to all on the Dept. staff, advising them of the duties of their position, and the Departments expectations for this next year.

One of the things that will likely be a noticeable change is that the individual Camps will be encouraged to supply the displays, hand out materials, and personnel to support information tables at various events. Some of the Camps have already been doing this, some have been relying on the Department staff to do this. Each Camp should be capable of be relied upon to furnish something to promote the SUVCW at events in their area. For the larger re-enactment events like Boscobel and Greenbush the Department has already made arrangements to have a space for displays available, at which all Camps are invited to have a display or materials of some sort. As many of us are also re-enactors, manning a display at a re-enactment can be very difficult. However, a simple informational board, with handouts available can do a good job. Discuss the ideas with your Camp Commander. Sr. Vice Commander Kent Peterson will be offering some ideas regarding Camp displays.

Growth is a fundamental requirement for our long term success as an organization. Each Camp must to its best to continue the work the G.A.R. left for us. There are so many projects waiting to be accomplished, and so few of us to do the work.

The graves registration program has been very successful, but we have the opportunity to push that program to the next level. More information will be made available from the Graves Registration Officer concerning this, in the near future.

Likewise, registration of our existing Civil War monuments must continue. We must accomplish this feat cognizant of the fact that there are many deteriorating Civil War monuments that exist around us, badly needing documentation and volunteer work to bring them back to their former glory, without the need to search out the most obscure.



*Commander Randy Novak*

## Meet the Commander

Our newly elected Commander, Randy Novak, was born in 1956 in Mendota, Illinois, and remained in that general area until about age 19. While growing up the family moved around a lot from farm to farm, as his folks were tenant farmers. They ended up living on his grandparents place, which was the original homestead/farm of John William Weidner, his Civil War veteran ancestor. The house and several of the buildings were built shortly after arriving in this country in the 1850's. One of his son's was Randy's great uncle Ern who lived on the farm his whole life, never marrying. Ern never threw anything away. The Commander writes, "When he moved out into a nursing home and my grandparents moved into the house in the early 60's, my grandmother, and then my mother did save some documents they had found, including the old veterans muster and pension papers, which were passed along to me. John Weidner was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry, and I clearly remember my grandmother showing me a picture of him in uniform, with saber in hand."

Ernst Frankenberg first interested Randy in the SUVWC during the "Spring Muster" at Greenbush one year. Shortly after Steve Michaels approached him about starting a Camp in the Oshkosh area, which was done, forming Old Abe Camp a couple of years later. It was named "Old Abe" as the first Camp in Oshkosh in 1885 was by that name. Randy is in his third and last year (per Camp by-laws) as Camp commander. He writes, "My goal was, before my three years were up, to make Camp 8 a recognized and accepted part of the community, which I feel we are achieving."

He has also been involved in re-enacting for about 5 years, serving with McAllister's Battery which is based out of the northeastern IL area.

## New Department Officers

The following officers were installed by PDC Thomas L.W. Johnson at the June 9<sup>th</sup> Department Encampment:

### COMMANDER

PCC Randy K. Novak  
(920) 426-2763  
tcraft@thesurf.com

### SR.VICE COMMANDER

Kent A. Peterson  
(414) 769-0681  
kap@execpc.com

### JR.VICE COMMANDER

Brian G. Peters  
(715) 344-7924  
peters@powercom.net

### SECRETARY

PCC Ronald M. Aronis  
(262) 284-3654  
RMASUVCW@aol.com

### TREASURER

Dale J. Brassler  
(920) 682-5478

### COUNCIL

Council 1—Richard J. Rohan  
Council 2—PDC Stephen A. Michaels  
Council 3—PCC Alan G. Hembel

### Appointed Officers:

Patriotic Instructor - Don Strube  
Chaplain - Carl Liebert  
Historian - James Beneware  
Graves Registration - Brian Peters,  
chairman, James Beneware, Don Strube  
Color Bearer - Jim Johnson  
Signals Officer - Kent Peterson  
Memorials Registration - Richard Beggs,  
chairman, Mike Wertel  
Iron Brigade Highway - Alan Hembel  
U.S. Grant Award Coordinator - Tom Johnson

## AWARDS 2001

At the Department Encampment in June, a number of awards were presented to members:

**Br. Leonard Thompson, Camp #56** — For recruiting at least 6 new members.

**Br. Virgil Matz, Camp #2** — Graves registration award for "Exceptional performance by submitting approx. 600 registrations since the last Dept. Encampment".

**Br. Donald Strube, Camp #8** — Graves registration award for "Meritorious performance by submitting approx. 1,600 registrations since the last Dept. Encampment".

**P.D.C. Stephen Michaels, Camp #1** — Special service award for Exceptional service by researching and authoring several pamphlets, booklets and periodicals, which serve to further the missions of the Order.

**Br. Kent Peterson, Camp #1** — Special service award for "Meritorious performance as Department Signals Officer, in designing, building and expanding the Department Web site".

During the Encampment proceedings, the membership was pleased to present a 50-year badge to **PDC Thomas L.W. Johnson**, who joined the SUVWC in Illinois in December 1950.

## Notes from the 120th National Encampment

*Prepared by PDC Stephen Michaels, Dept. Council #2*

The 120th National Encampment was held 10-11 August 2001 in Springfield, MO. Representing the Dept. of Wisconsin were PDC Stephen A. Michaels and PDC Frederick F. Murphy. Delegates attending:

PCC Ronald M. Aronis (Camp #1 & #5)  
Timothy Barrett (Camp #2)  
PCC Ross Dunlop (Camp #56)

CC Rev. Maurice Felton (Camp #1)  
Richard Rohan (Camp #5)  
J. Brent Norlem (Camp #56)

Of the 116 registered representatives, Wisconsin had the 5th largest delegation. Overall attendance was down over previous years, especially in the delegations from eastern Departments. This was to the advantage of the western and midwestern departments, especially during voting. C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 was honored to receive the National award for the most outstanding newsletter during the last year. Br. Peterson is the editor of paper.

The following are some of the major items addressed:

1. Extensive discussion ensued about whether or not to continue Life Memberships. The Life Member committee was instructed to go back and study the program again, as the Encampment did not like the options presented, one being to charge \$1000 for applicants under age 65. Life members under the previous two plans and their Camp's reimbursement are not affected at this time.
2. The C&R was changed so that the position of Graves Registration Officer was officially made a Department Officer and a mandatory position.
3. The minimum age for Juniors was lowered to 6 years old.
4. The SUVCW is negotiating with a commercial publisher to print and sell advertising for the Banner. The SVCinC will become editor of the Banner, becoming the Order's point-of-contact for article submissions.
5. A ritual for proper burning of worn U.S. Flags will be developed by the Sons, incorporating those already in use by the VFW and American Legion.
6. Photos and info on specific CW Memorials, already surveyed, will appear on the National website soon. C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 was one of three camps, which applied for CW Memorial grants last year. The Encampment voted to award \$1349 in excess funds from unclaimed grant moneys to the Auxiliary to complete the restoration of the Albert Woolson monument at Gettysburg.
7. National SUVCW Membership status (as of 6 August 2001):

Members (lineal) = 6,368  
(My notes indicate that there were 5,348 in 1999)  
Associates = 536  
Camps = 199  
Departments = 25

Life Members = 311  
True Sons = 26  
Juniors = 80  
Camps-at-Large = 4

8. Military Affairs/Sons of Veterans Reserve - SVR Membership is up 20% to 736 members and 5 new units joined during the last year. The 5th Military District is being reactivated with 3 units in California. Interestingly, the 4th MD brought in 9 new members at its booth at the Encampment.

9. An optional badge device, to be awarded to outstanding ROTC and JROTC cadets, has been authorized and will be made available through the Nat. Quartermaster.

10. Future National Encampments:

2002 (8-11 Aug) = Renaissance Hotel, Springfield, IL  
2003 (6-9 Aug) = Drawbridge Hotel, Ft. Mitchell,

KY

2004 = Texas or Iowa  
2005 = unknown  
2006 = Pittsburgh, PA  
2007 = Missouri

11. Officers elected for 2001-02 were:

C-inC: George Powell (PA)  
SVCinC: Robert Grim (OH)  
JVCinC: Kent Armstrong (MI)  
Secretary: PCinC Edward Krieser (IN)  
Treasurer: Max Newman (MI)  
CoA: (3 yrs--contested) Ronald Gill (IN),  
(1 yr--contested) Robert Petrovic (MO)



Dept. of Wisconsin Delegates (left to right): Br. Ross Dunlop, Camp 56; PDC Steve Michaels, Camp 1; Br. Tim Barrett, Camp 56; PDC Fred Murphy, Camp 1; Br. Dick Rohan, Camp 5; CC Maurie Felton, Camp 1; J. Br. Brent Norlem, Camp 56; PCC Ron Aronis, Camp 5.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Central Region Conference

The 2001 Central Region Conference promises to be an interesting and informative meeting with a chance to renew old friendships with members from throughout the Midwest. The Conference will be hosted by the Department of Illinois and convenes **October 12 and 13 at Glenview, IL.**

The conference site will be the **Fairfield Inn**, 4514 West Lake Avenue, Glenview, IL, 60025. Telephone (847) 299-1600. The motel is in a northern suburb of Chicago and is accessible from major Interstate highways, west of I-294 and west of I-94. The room rate is \$67.50 per night. Be sure to indicate you are attending the Central Region Conference when making your reservation. **Room reservations should be made directly with the motel.**

Lunch is Saturday at noon with a cost of \$12.00 per person. The Saturday evening banquet is \$20.00 per person. Reservations and payment should be sent to not later than October 5, 2001. See the reservation form at the bottom of this page.

The program for Friday, October 12 is check-in at the motel and an informal get-together for registration in the motel meeting room. Dinner will be across the street at Johnny's Restaurant, from a varied menu.

Saturday's schedule begins at 8:30 a.m. with an assembly in the lobby and then a tour of the Chicago Historical Society's Civil War exhibit. There may be a nominal charge for the tour. Next stop is Hackney's Restaurant via Rosehill Cemetery for lunch from the selected menu. The conference will start at 1:15 p.m. with a brief business session followed by contributions from each Department. A break from 5:00 – 6:00 will be followed by the banquet, which will feature a guest speaker.

Questions, and your reservation form, should be directed to Nick Kaup at the address found below.

Central Region Conference Registration

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration fee @ \$5.00 per person

Meal Reservation:

\_\_\_\_\_ Lunch on Saturday, October 13 @ \$12.00 per person  
Choice of sandwiches, pasta or salad plus beverage.

\_\_\_\_\_ Banquet on Saturday, October 13 @ \$20.00 per person  
Choice of:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Butt Steak  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Breast  
\_\_\_\_\_ Orange Roughy

\$  Total amount for registration plus meals (include check or money order)

This registration form and your payment should be returned to Mr. Nick Kaup no later than October 5, 2001. Tickets for meals will not be available when you arrive for the conference. Copies of this form may be made as needed.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
  
PDC Nick Kaup  
Dept. of Illinois  
Central Region Conference  
1206 Gregory Avenue  
Wilmette, IL 60091  
  
(847) 256-1942

## Graves Registration Update Preserving Their Memory

By Br. Brian Peters, Wis. Dept. GRO



As of our last Dept. Encampment in June, we have sent 4,255 grave registrations to the national database. Several hundred more are being processed. Your outstanding and growing commitment to this high priority project has prompted me to set a goal of registering 3,000 additional graves by the next Department Encampment in June of 2002. To accomplish this goal, I ask for your participation. The following brothers have responded to my request for assistance with the task of entering the registration data into the computer database: Don Strube, Camp #8; Bruce Laine, Camp #4; and Jim Benware, Camp #5. Thank you for stepping forward! Completed registration forms can now be sent to these brothers or to myself for entry into the national database. If any other members would like to assist with the computer data entry task, please contact me for more details.



*Tomb of the Civil War Unknown Dead at  
Arlington National Cemetery.*

I would like the Camp Grave Registration Officers to encourage their camp's members to participate in the grave registration project. A good example is Camp #5's new G.R.O., Andrew Bollen, who has recently become active with the project, and is doing an excellent job in organizing and submitting registrations from his camp. Thank you to the other Camp G.R.O.'s for your involvement. As this project expands, we will need to be well organized at the camp level. If you have not contacted me already, please let me know what cemeteries are being worked on. I will keep a list of cemeteries completed and also work in progress, in an effort to prevent duplications. Please contact me before starting on a cemetery to see if it has already been covered. The counties with the highest coverage so far are: Dane; Sauk; Portage; Waupaca. About half the counties in the state have some coverage.

Contact your Camp G.R.O. or myself if you'd like to help. It's a good way to fulfill your obligation to Preserve the Memory of the Boys in Blue.

## The Brothers' Primer Councils Provide Financial, Staffing Guidance

by PDC Stephen A. Michaels

Following the Grand Army tradition of post, department and national trustees, the SUVCW provides for councils at all levels of its organization.

A council is different from a counselor. A counselor acts as a legal advisor and upon request, may provide advice and interpretation of Department By-laws, National Constitution & Regulations and parliamentary questions. In contrast, the Camp Council devises and recommends ways of preserving and increasing Camp funds. It makes investments, leases and other contracts, secures a meeting place, and settles and disposes of all disputed accounts between the Treasurer and Camp members. The Council examines books, vouchers and other papers of the Camp officers and completes a quarterly report, showing the transactions and financial condition of the Camp. The Department Council does likewise at its echelon, reporting to the Department Encampment. The Council fills any vacancy in an elective office, not filled temporarily by the officer next in rank. Proxy and absentee voting at Council meetings is prohibited.

Council members are not elected individually, as other officers are. They are elected by a plurality vote. That is, of all council members listed on the ballot, the top three vote-getters are those elected to office. The Commander, Secretary and Treasurer are prohibited from serving on the Council. Upon its installation, the Department Council immediately meets and elects a chairman and secretary. There is no such requirement for Camp Councils.

Camps and Department are wise to elect Past Camp and Department Commanders to their councils. Often, Councils are tasked with other special assignments along with their prescribed duties. These officers' experience and ability is invaluable in managing the financial and staffing needs of the SUVCW, as well as in problem solving and decision making. Without them, continuity in our volunteer organization would be difficult to maintain.

The *Wisconsin Department Dispatch* is published three times per year for members of the Wisconsin Department, SUVCW. Articles, photos and news items may be submitted to SVC Kent Peterson, 6024 South Kirkwood, Cudahy, WI 53110 or e-mailed to [kap@execpc.com](mailto:kap@execpc.com). Editorial deadlines are April, July and October 15.

Visit us on the Web at  
[www.execpc.com/~kap/suvcw-wi/](http://www.execpc.com/~kap/suvcw-wi/)

## CAMP CHRONICLES



As Br. Tom Johnson looks on (left), Br. Harold Klubertanz of **Henry Harnden Camp #2** reads the Gettysburg Address at the State Capitol in Madison during Memorial Day ceremonies.

**Old Abe Camp #8** held three grave marker dedication ceremonies this spring: on May 6, a marker for Pvt. Eugene Leach, Co. G, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry was held at Howes Corners Cemetery in Waushara County. On May 19, members gathered at Forest Cemetery in Stevens Point to honor MOH recipient Charles W. Doloff of the 1st VT Heavy Artillery (11th VT Infantry). Then on May 20th, Camp 8 helped honor Daniel C. Perkins, a Civil War veteran who died on his way to a GAR encampment. One hundred years after his death, he finally received a marker in Clark County's Sherwood Cemetery.

There are a number of projects in which **William Colville Camp #56** members continue to be involved. Robin Eichleay is compiling the camp Ancestor History project, Brent Nörlem is spearheading the Eagle Scout Certificate project (in addition to serving as a delegate to the 120th National Encampment) and Frank Fourre is assisting in responding to Civil War information requests.

## CALENDAR

- 9-12 August: National SUVCW and ASUVCW Encampment, Springfield, MO
- 18-19 August: Pigeon River Civil War event, Clintonville, WI
- 1-2 Sept.: Civil War Weekend, Old World Wisconsin, Eagle, WI
- 3 September: Labor Day (flag holiday)
- 8-9 Sept.: Black River Falls, WI, skirmish based on the Siege of Ft. Donelson (recruiting)
- 29-30 Sept.: Wade House Civil War Weekend, Greenbush, Full-scale battle reenactment (recruiting)
- 6-7 October: Days of Glories Past, Cutler Park, Waukesha Urban skirmishes; memorial dedication
- 13 October: Central Region Conference, Glenview, IL
- 11 November: Veteran's Day
- 17 November: Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA



**Lt. Governor Margaret Farrow** (left) takes hold of the lanyard and prepares to fire, but not at state democrats. It was all part of an appearance by **Cushing's Battery** at Berlin, Wisconsin's

"Victorian Days" in June. Jim Petersen and Mike Wertel of **Old Abe Camp #8** were also in attendance with an information display.

During state budget negotiations in July, members of **C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1** lobbied joint finance committee members and the governor with a letter and e-mail campaign to encourage state financial support for the renovation of The Victorious Charge, downtown Milwaukee's century-old Civil War memorial. At last word, the funding was included in the budget sent to the Governor for approval.

Members of **MG John Gibbon Camp #4** participated in the Memorial Day Parades in Waukesha and West Bend, and marched in the 4th of July Parade in New Berlin.