



Wisconsin

Department Dispatch



Summer 2006

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

Meet Your Wisconsin Department Commander

Brian G. Peters, PCC, is your new Department Commander, elected at the 125th Wisconsin Department Encampment in Saukville on June 10, 2006. Brother Peters has previously served in the Department offices of Graves Registration Officer, Department Council member, Junior Vice Commander, and most recently Senior Vice Commander.

As a young boy growing up on a dairy farm in Pepin, Wisconsin, Brian's grandmother told him that her grandfather had served in the Union Army during the Civil War. For Brian, this sparked an intense interest in Civil War history that continues to this day. The veteran ancestor referred to by Brian's grandmother was Gilbert Lockwood Wheeler. Gilbert was orphaned at a young age, and in 1853 emigrated to Pepin County Wisconsin from New York state with an uncle and other relatives. Gilbert enlisted in the 17th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in January of 1862 and served to the end of the war. He attained the rank of Sergeant in Company D. Gilbert's uncle Ira Bradley Wheeler was also a Civil War veteran who served in the 37th Wisconsin Infantry, Company E.

Brother Peters joined the SUVCW in 1991 and was member of Col. Henry Harnden Camp # 2 for over 10 years. In 1999 Brother Peters also became a member of Old Abe Camp # 8 which had recently been chartered in the Oshkosh area. In Camp 8 Brother Peters has served as Senior Vice Commander, Camp Commander 2002-2004, and currently holds the office



(Left to Right) Outgoing Dept. Commander Kent Peterson, Senior Vice Commander in Chief (now CinC) Jim Pahl and newly elected Dept. Commander Brian Peters

of Camp Secretary. Brian is a member of the Sons of Veterans Reserve and also enjoys reenacting as 1st Sgt. of McAllister's Battery D, 1st Ill. Light Artillery.

Brother Peters is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point with a degree in Wildlife Biology. Brian has been employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources since 1980 and has worked in the areas of law enforcement, pheasant game farm operations, and currently as a wildlife property management technician at the George W. Mead state wildlife area near Stevens Point.

Brian's wife of 22 years is Lucy. Lucy is currently serving as Chaplain for the ASUVCW Wisconsin Department. They have two children. Their daughter, Angela is attending UW-Madison and is a Midshipman, Marine Corps option, in the

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NROTC program there. Angela is a member of the ASUVCW and has played "Taps" for many of Camp 8's headstone dedication ceremonies. Brian & Lucy's son Ian has graduated from Mid-State Technical College in the automotive technician program and is now studying computer animation graphics at Academy College in Bloomington, Minnesota. Ian is also a member of the SUVCW, Old Abe Camp # 8.



Department Pioneer Profiles



Frederick Julius Walthers

Frederick Julius Walthers was born January 30, 1863, in what was the thriving little village of Humboldt, now part of Milwaukee's northside. His father, Capt. William Walthers von Alten, a pioneer Milwaukee educator, served as captain of Company K, 34th Wisconsin Infantry.

At age 18, Frederick graduated from the city high school, 3rd in a class of 30. At 19, he graduated from the Milwaukee Normal School as salutatorian. He then worked as a teacher in Milwaukee's public schools for three years. In 1885, he began law school at the State University in Madison, graduating in June 1887. He had a frank and genial nature, was popular and a good talker. He was president of the Law Class Society, a prominent member of the leading literary and debating society, and active in athletics.

After graduating, Walthers spent six months in Europe. Upon his return, he opened a law and real estate office on Milwaukee's south side, helping immigrants learn English and obtain their papers. He was also active in the Republican Party, the Kindergarten Verein, the Iroquois Club, and the Milwaukee Bar Association.

He married Emma Maier on July 14, 1892 and had one son, William Kearney, who became an electrical engineer and founded W.K. Walthers, Inc., a model

railroading company.

When the Sons of Veterans organized in Wisconsin, F.J. Walthers was appointed the 3rd Grand Division's Assistant Inspector General and an aide to the Commander-in-Chief. In late 1883, he organized Milwaukee's Robert Chivas Camp #7, the predecessor of Badger Camp #1, and was elected its captain (Camp Commander). He resigned this post when he went to Madison. In October 1885, while attending law school, he organized Col. Charles Gill Camp #15 and was again chosen captain. He served as such until elected to the colonelcy (Commander) of the Wisconsin Division (Department) on July 24, 1886. Before leaving office in August 1887, the number of Wisconsin's working Camps had risen from three to 25.

In late 1888, Walthers organized and was elected commander of Milwaukee's C.K. Pier Camp #35. He led the Camp for three years and remained active through its 1901 merger with Camp #1.

During the 1889 National GAR Encampment in Milwaukee, Walthers served on the Sons of Veterans Committee, coordinating support, as well as a separate Sons campfire program and reunion. He was listed as one of 24 charter members on the Department charter. Over the next three decades, he served in various capacities at the Camp, Department and National level.

Walters was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 1919 National Encampment. Despite a post WWI depression, competition from new veterans' organizations and an uncertain political climate, he was convinced of our Order's great possibilities. He saw the Sons exerting an educative influence on the citizenry, especially youth, and upholding the guarantee of our Constitution for present and future generations.

Brother Walthers death on August 4, 1924, at age 61, was a very hard blow to Camp #1. He had been a very energetic member and was well liked and thought of by everyone. Per his request, Camp 1 charter members acted as pall bearers, during his funeral. Forty members were in attendance. He was buried in Milwaukee's Forest Home Cemetery in Section 4, Block 44, Lot 27.

From **Borgwardt Sons Funeral Home**, Milwaukee

Milwaukee County Historical Society

Milwaukee Sentinel

Press Forward the Good Work, History of the Wisconsin Dept. SUVCW by PCinC Stephen Michaels, Wisconsin Dept. SUVCW, 1998 and 2006

Department Orders # 1

Series 2006-07

Brian G. Peters, Wisconsin Department Commander

646 Rays Lane

Stevens Point, WI 54481-9260

715 344-7924

commander@suvcw-wi.org

- 1) Your delegates to the 123rd Wisconsin Department Encampment have seen fit to elect me as your Department Commander. I humbly accept and assume the duties of this office and establish headquarters at the above address. I thank you for this honor and your confidence. May we all strive to work together to attain our stated purposes of Honoring Union Veterans, Preserving & Perpetuating the GAR, and Patriotic Education.
- 2) I commend and thank the members of Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing Camp No. 5 for a job well done in hosting the 123rd Department Encampment.
- 3) Your excellent team of elected and appointed officers are as follows, please communicate with them and use them as a resource for advice and assistance. I thank each one of you for your dedicated service.

Commander	Brian Peters, PCC	646 Rays Lane	Stevens Point, WI 54481-9260
Sr. Vice Commander	Bruce Laine, PCC	421 S. Sherman St.	Eagle, WI 53119
Jr. Vice Commander	Thomas J. Brown, CC	5025 N. 105 th St.	Milwaukee, WI 53225
Dept. Council 1	Kent Peterson, PDC	6024 S. Kirkwood	Cudahy, WI 53110-3106
Dept. Council 2	Andrew Bollen III	621 Sheridan Drive	West Bend, WI 53095
Dept. Council 3	Kim J. Heltemes	W2570 Archer Ave.	Pine River, WI 54965
Secretary	Randy Novak, PDC	641 Bowen St.	Oshkosh, WI 54901
Treasurer	Dale Brassler	1201 Hillcrest Dr.	Manitowoc, WI 54220
Patriotic Instructor	Alan Petit, CC	E7602 Cutoff Road	New London, WI 54961-9007
Dept. Counselor	Steve Michaels, PC-in-C	6623 S. North Cape Rd.	Franklin, WI 53132
Chaplain	Rev. Maurice Felton, PCC	7760 S. 51 st St.	Franklin, WI 53132
Dept. Color Guard	Bob Mann, CC	2375 Rockway Lane East	Brookfield, WI 53005
Graves Registration	Virgil Matz	1215 Spring St., Box 425	Black Earth, WI 53515
Guide	Ronald Knaus, CC	1601 Paramenter St.	Middleton, WI 53562
Dept. Historian	James L. Johnson, PCC	100 E. Main St.	Waukesha, WI 53092
R. and R. Comm.	Fred F. Murphy, PDC	4462 S. Lake Drive	Cudahy, WI 53110-1249
Dept. Eagle Scout Coord.	Charles White	205 Sunset Lane, Apt. 3	Boscobel, WI 53805
Iron Brigade Highway	Daniel Chroninger, PCC	117 S. 3 rd St.	Readstown, WI 54652
Grant Awards Coord.	Alan Hembel, PCC	Box 620-203	Middleton, WI 53562
Monuments Registration	Kim J. Heltemes	W2570 Archer Ave.	Pine River, WI 54965
Dept. Signals Officer	Kent Peterson, PDC	6024 S. Kirkwood	Cudahy, WI 53110-3106
Camp Organizer	Thomas J. Brown, CC	5025 N. 105 th St.	Milwaukee, WI 53225

- 4) Congratulations to newly elected Auxiliary Department Officers. From the Wisconsin Department SUVCW, I extend friendship and support to you and to all of the other Allied Orders
- 5) Past Department Commander Kent Peterson has and continues to serve the Order in a most exemplary fashion. A most heartfelt thank you is extended to you Kent. Your work is truly appreciated.
- 6) To each of the CAMPS, Officers and Members – you are the foundation of our Order. Success comes through your active participation. I challenge each Camp to accomplish the following goals during this year, 2006 – June 2007 :
 - By recruiting new and retaining current members, have a minimum net gain of 2 members by June of

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2007.

- Register a minimum of 50 Union Veterans' graves on the National Graves Registration database.
- Camp Grave Registration Officers – please summarize your Camp's total grave registrations for each of your Camp's members, beginning from January 2004 to the present, and forward these summaries to Dept. GRO Virgil Matz. This will enable us to give deserved recognition for your members' accomplishments in the graves registration project.
- Register a minimum of one civil war monument using the National registration forms and forward these completed forms to the Dept. Monuments Officer Kim Heltemes.
- Begin writing the history of your Camp by covering the first two years of its' existence, and forward this document to the Dept. Historian Jim Johnson. Copies of these documents will be forwarded to National Headquarters and to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum for permanent archiving. Let's ensure that future generations will know we existed.
- Nominate one of your most active members for Department and/or National awards.
- Contribute at least one article for publication in the Department Dispatch Newsletter. Let others know of your accomplishments and activities.
- Budget for and make an annual contribution to the Department Patriotic Fund by sending a Camp donation to Dept. Treasurer Dale Brassler marked "Patriotic Fund". This fund pays for our annual US Grant ROTC awards, donations to VA Hospitals, and with approval may assist in funding other worthy projects.
- Participate in your local Memorial Day ceremonies.

It will be an honorable credit to your Camp if you can accomplish these goals by the June '07 Department Encampment. Let your Camp Commander's reports reflect success!

7) To Brothers, family and friends who are suffering with health problems, may you be touched by a healing hand. To those who have lost loved ones, I give my sincere sympathy.

Ordered this 1st day of August, 2006

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Brian G. Peters

Department Commander



Attest: Randy K. Novak

Department Secretary



Department Commander's Report Kent Peterson, PDC

This year has flown by remarkably fast. I would have to say that the most enjoyable part of serving as your Department Commander was visiting each and every Camp to install this year's officers and meet so many of you who previously were known to me as a name on a roster. It's so much better to know who are and what you're doing in your Camp to fulfill our great mission. I was especially pleased when visiting our newer Camps 49 and 56 to see progress being made in building their activities.

In the past year I have:

- Made patriotic presentations on Civil War Medicine to a class of nursing students; on the 28th Wisconsin Infantry to Mukwonago High School students; and assisted the Mukwonago Historical Museum with a display on the 28th Wisconsin.
- Participated in the memorial service for PDC Herman Black in October;
- Conducted the Department Mid-Winter Meeting;
- Served as an instructor at the 2006 Member Orientation program;
- Provided assistance in hosting the March Council of Administration meeting in Milwaukee;
- Worked with the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum to archive Department publications;

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- Worked with the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum to archive Department publications;
- Served as a living history interpreter (ghost) at the 2006 Reclaiming Our Heritage Cemetery-by-Lantern Tour
- Attended meetings and installed officers for Camps 2, 4, 5, 8, 49 and 56.

Attended or made appearances at:

- Menomonee Falls Civil War weekend
- Muskets and Memories Civil War Weekend, Boscobel
- Wade House Civil War Weekend
- Star Spangled Concert at the Milwaukee Soldier's Home
- Cudahy Flag Retirement Ceremony
- Milwaukee Patriotic Luncheon
- MG John Gibbon Birthday Dinner (Camp 4)
- Mother of Good Counsel (Milwaukee) Flag Retirement Ceremony
- Headstone dedication service for Boatswain's Mate Michael McCormick at Wood National Cemetery
- Memorial Day Ceremony at Milwaukee's Calvary Cemetery

Membership - One of my disappointments this year was the overall drop in membership experienced by this Department. At the start of my term I had asked Camps to work on increasing their membership by three new members this year, and while some met with success in meeting that goal, we lost too many existing members. Part of our problem is **retention**, and this must be closely examined every year by every Camp. What do you do to get your new members involved as soon as they join? The sooner you can give them a worthwhile task to accomplish, the more likely they will feel a part of the organization and keep coming back.

Setting Goals - Does your Camp set annual goals, then assess success or failure in meeting these goals? A goal-setting session should be conducted annually by officers, then discussed and adopted by the Camp membership. Make sure everyone buys in to goals which are reasonable and attainable. When you identify goals that are most important to you, you begin to figure out ways you can make them come true. You develop the attitudes, abilities, skills, and financial capacity to reach them. Establish concrete criteria for measuring progress toward the attainment of each goal your Camp sets. When you measure progress, you stay on track, reach your targets, and experience the exhilaration of achievement that spurs you on to continued effort required to reach your goals.

Department Officers - I was very pleased with the group of fine Department Officers we had this year. You represent a good cross-section of our Department and your participation and enthusiasm has been inspiring. You guys made me proud. Thank you. I was also to see greater participation by Department Officers in writing articles for the *Department Dispatch* newsletter. Thank you for your attention to this task. We need to keep this up, year after year. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Department Commander this year.

Archiving Project with Wisconsin Veteran's Museum

In 2004 we were contacted by the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum Archives Division with an offer to permanently archive materials from the SUVCW Department of Wisconsin. The Museum has one of the top collections of state military records in the country, and it is a real feather in our cap to have this offer made.

In May 2005, I met with Museum archivists and dropped off the first batch of materials - twenty-two issues of the *Department Dispatch* newsletters dating to 1998. All issues were not available to present, so there is some catch-up work to do there. Also donated were:

- *History of the SUVCW Department of Wisconsin, Vol. I and II*, by Steve Michaels
- *Introduction to the SUVCW* by Steve Michaels
- 2004 Constitution and Regulations

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- 2003 Department of Wisconsin By-Laws
- *The SUVCW in Madison*, by Steve Michaels
- List of Wis. Department Encampments and Dept. Commanders, 1884-2005

I would like to see copies of minutes from Department Encampments compiled as the next set of documents to be archived.

In a subsequent meeting with Museum staff on March 23, 2006 I brought additional items for the Wisconsin Department SUVCW collection, including the following:

Back issues of *The Banner*

Department Encampment minutes

Finally, as I mentioned at the Mid-Winter meeting, **I urge all Camps to add the Veteran's Museum to their newsletter mailing list** so these publications may be archived as well. Back issues of newsletters and copies of your Camp's meeting minutes are also welcome. I would emphasize that the Veteran's Museum is not really interested in collecting our "stuff" as they are in archiving our written records.

Respectfully submitted,
Kent A. Peterson, PDC



The 125th National SUVCW Encampment – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The National Encampment began with a Memorial Service at the Albert Woolson monument, near Gettysburg cyclorama on Thursday evening. This was well attended and very moving, as the heads of the Allied Orders not only presented wreaths, but each also spread a little earth, collected at GAR Founder Dr. B.F. Stephenson's grave in Petersburg, Illinois.

The Encampment opened on Friday, August 11th in Harrisburg, with the largest attendance in at least 50 years...230 brothers were present. Twenty of the 26 Department Commanders were present. The Wisconsin Department delegation consisted of PCinC Steve Michaels, DJVC Tom Brown, CC Garen Enquist (Camp 56) and Junior Mikko Lagunero (Camp 1).

Despite Wisconsin's low representation, the Central Region was well-represented:

Department	Membership	Del. Allowed	Del. Present
Illinois	180	8	6
Indiana	213	10	11
Iowa	168	8	6
Kansas	146	7	6
Missouri	148	7	6
Nebraska	53	3	2
Wisconsin	217	10	3 + 1 Junior

Several Brothers, Camps and Departments received recognition for outstanding work. Among these, Chaplain Jerome Kowalski (IL) received the Cornelius F. Whitehouse Award for being this year's most outstanding brother. Some may recall that Br. Kowalski spent several months last year living with and caring for a Brother, who had undergone a bone marrow transplant. In the coming year, Br. Kowalski will be working on a Chaplain's Handbook for use throughout our Order.

Registration moved more smoothly than in previous years. A 1st-Timer's Guide to the Nat. Encampment was included in everyone's packet and was a welcome addition. This year, voting cards were used instead of a show of hands for each vote and this was an excellent improvement over previous years.

Among the business items discussed:

The **ROTC program** is being revamped. The award elements with shipping will not exceed \$5 and will be now ordered from the National Quartermaster, using the Form 5.

Civil War Memorials: One of the unscrupulous dealers in Civil War cannon, living in Pennsylvania, is undergoing a divorce. All brothers are asked to be vigilant, in the event tubes begin showing up in other locations. The dealer's



The 2006 Wisconsin Delegation to the National Encampment with Commander in Chief Jim Pahl

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Civil War Memorials: One of the unscrupulous dealers in Civil War cannon, living in Pennsylvania, is undergoing a divorce. All brothers are asked to be vigilant, in the event tubes begin showing up in other locations. The dealer's property may be disbursed.

The Department of Iowa was successful in getting state legislation enacted to protect veteran cemetery markers.

The Department of Maryland successfully recovered the A.P. Davis badge patent letters from an eBay seller and these were presented to the National Order.

The **National website** will change servers, allowing the Order much more space. There are 426 "photos of the past" posted. The move will be seamless.

The **Graves Registration** database continues to grow and is expected to top 400,000 entries in the next month.

In the future, the **SUVCW Scholarship** recipient will be a member of the Allied Orders and is eligible to receive the scholarship only once.

The appropriation for the annual **Lincoln Tomb Ceremony** in Springfield, Ill., was increased to \$2200 to ensure

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quality and participation would continue.

The **Sons Charitable Foundation** now has a website, www.suvcw-cf.org and has produced an information pamphlet.

All **Department Commanders** or their representative received a CD with the C&R and all applicable forms to assist them in the administration of their commands.

All **National candidates** ran unopposed. The following were elected for the ensuing year:

CinC James B. Pahl (MI)

SVCinC Charles Kuhn, Jr. (PA)

JVCinC David V. Medert (OH)

New Department Leadership Conference to Debut

Those who attended our Department Encampment last June heard me say that “Training is a journey, not a destination.”

Unfortunately, our Order does not do a very good job of preparing our brothers for success. Too often, each is left to his own resources. We need only ponder the highs and lows of our Camps to find that this tact has not worked very well. We always must be mindful that the SUVCW is a dynamic organization and there is continually new information and new methods for accomplishing our missions. And that our Order is limited only by our brothers’ abilities and preparation.

Following the success of the **Member Orientations**, which began six years ago, a new offering has been developed to assist our Brothers at the Camp level. The **Department Leadership Conference** is a 4-hour program of seminars, designed to continue the learning that took place at your Member Orientation. The first DLC is tentatively scheduled for 1pm, Sunday, November 12th, at Building 1 of Milwaukee’s Soldiers Home. Presentations on Communication, Management, Staff Duty Familiarization, Problem Solving, and Recruiting & Retention are planned. Experienced discussion leaders will come from the ranks of both the Sons and Auxiliary. Successful participants will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to build a better Camp.

Much of the curriculum has been gleaned from recent Region Conferences. Previous attendance at a Member Orientation is recommended. Questions? Contact PCinC Steve Michaels at (414) 425-4648 or e-mail steve_michaels@metronetworks.com for further information.

CAMP NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



Members of Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4 march at the Remembering Our Heritage event at the Soldiers Home in Milwaukee

Camp #1—Milwaukee ~

At the June Department Encampment, C.K. Badger Camp #1 received the “Alonzo Cushing Camp #5 Traveling Membership Trophy” for having the greatest number of new members and retention of existing members over the past year.

Camp #4 ~ Waukesha County ~

February 4th attended the Department Encampment and Camp #1 Patriotic Luncheon.

April 8th the Camp participated in the Manitowoc Historical Societies’ Civil War Encampment.

April 13th Camp #4 Participated in Mukwonago School Day

April 15th the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony was attended by Camp Commander.

April 22nd the Camp held a very successful and enjoyable Gibbon

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Dinner

May 5th the Camp participated in the Dousman Stagecoach Inn School Day program

May 5th & 6th the Camp participated in the Dousman Stagecoach Inn Civil War Spring Muster and manned a Camp display table.. In addition Camp Meeting was held on site.

May 12th six members of the Camp participated and help organize the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Company K school day event. Despite the inclement weather approximately 2,000 students received a very high quality School day. We hope other Camps will add there support for the event next year.

May 16th The Camp and friends from Camp #1, 5th and 2nd Wisconsin Infantry acted as the Color Guard at the



At the Headstone Dedication of 2nd Lt. Jesse Barber in Little Prairie Wisconsin: (L to R) Dept. SVC Bruce Laine, Walworth County Veterans Services Officer Christine Jordan, Dept. GRO Virgil Matz, Dennis Villwock Camp #4, Camp Commander Robert Mann Camp #4, Patrick Lynch Camp #4 & 1, & Basil Mroz of the Little Prairie Cemetery Association

Brewers Game at Miller Park..

May 19th The Grant Award Presentation to ROTC students at St. John's Military Academy

May 25th Lannon Elementary School Day was conducted by members of the Camp.

May 28th Participated with Camp #1 at Woods VA Cemetery for their Tribute & Marker Dedication for Civil War Medal of Honor recipient USN Boatswain's Mate Michael McCormick.

May 29th Memorial Day the Camp participated in the City of Waukesha's parade. This was followed in the afternoon by a ceremony at Prairie Home Cemetery, Pastor Paul Koester of Greenfield Park Lutheran Church was the guest speaker.

May 31st Eagle Elementary School Day was conducted by members of the Camp.

June 2nd Reclaiming Our Heritage School Day

June 3rd & 4th Reclaiming Hour Heritage at Wood Veteran Center. Members participate with there re-enacting units in the events activities, such as the Great Civil War Shoot-Out.

June 15th Camp participated in the West Allis western Days parade

June 17th Headstone Re-dedication for Jesse Barber at Little Prairie Cemetery. This was followed by members participating in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church event.

June 24th & 25th Camp participated with their units in the re-enactment in Cudahy at Warnimont Park.

July 4th Camp #4 Acted as Color Guard for the 1st Brigade Band in the Watertown parade. Some members participated in a cook-out at Brother Villwock's home.

July 16, 2006 Camp #4 Meeting held at Old Falls Village during the Menomonee Falls Historical Societies Civil War Days event.

Camp #5 - Saukville

Brothers Alan Wambold, Ken Stetzel, Andrew Bollen, and Ron Aronis set a new headstone for Civil War



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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 Bruce Laine at svc@suvcw-wi.org. Editorial deadlines are April, July and October 15.

Visit us on the Web at

<http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

Department Events Calendar

- 23-24 Sept: Wade House Civil War Weekend, Greenbush
- 7 October: Central Region Conference, Cedar Rapids, IA
- 11 November: Veteran's Day
- 12 November: Dept. of Wisconsin Leadership Conference, Milwaukee (hosted by Camp 1)
- 18 November: Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA

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veteran, Pvt. Norman Sischo of Btry I, Ill. Light Artillery on July 22, 2006.

Pvt. Sischo died in 1869 and is interred in Gage Cemetery in the town of Auburn in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. Many of the local residents also came out to assist

Camp #8 - Fox Cities

Dedications keep Old Abe Camp #8 busy in May

Camp #8 was busy on May 13, from the efforts of one of its Camp members, Don Strube. The first dedication of the day was at the Plainfield Cemetery in Plainfield,



Wisconsin. A new marker for Hiram Wilcox had been ordered and installed through the work of Strube. Wilcox was in Company G, 30th Wisconsin Infantry. In the afternoon, Camp members went to Stevens Point for another dedication. For this dedication, Strube had replaced 42 markers of Civil War veterans. Camp #8 helped pay for a flag pole for a veterans memorial of stone and decorative landscaping placed in the Union Cemetery.

Several veterans groups helped Strube install the markers, landscape, and install the memorial stone and flagpole. A small plaque noted all that contributed. The

cemetery has taken on a new look with the gleaming white markers sticking out of the ground. Don Strube, the Camp Graves Registration Officer, shown above, can be proud of his accomplishments for the last few years work. The results are very obvious when a person looks across Union Cemetery. The timing of the Honor Guard during the 3 gun salute was near perfect. The Honor Guard only had a few dry runs before the dedications to improve the Manual of Arms needed make the salutes perfect. Thanks to Dave Dresang, the Camp Guard Commander, the salutes and dedications went on without a hitch.

Department Graves Registration Officer Virgil Matz receives award



Virgil Matz, Grave Registration Officer for the Wisconsin Department received a Certificate of Appreciation from SUVCW National, for his work on the National Graves Registration Project. To date, Brother Virgil has registered over 3900 graves in Wisconsin.