



# Wisconsin *Department Dispatch*



Winter 2006-2007

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## Department Commander's Comments

Brothers,

Recruiting new members and the retention of existing members should be placed at the top of your Camp's priority list. Your Department Junior Vice Commander, Tom Brown has developed and sent out a survey to the Camps in the hopes that your responses will help him assist in improving our recruiting efforts. Camp JVCs and/or Commanders – please respond to this survey. After responses are in we will try to develop some recruiting recommendations to help our Wisconsin Department grow in numbers.

As I write this note, the day of Thanksgiving is approaching. Let us all be thankful each day for the many blessings we have. I thank YOU for the time and effort that you selflessly devote to our Order! Know that your work is appreciated! Wishing you a most joyous Christmas, and may the New Year of 2007 be filled with positive achievements for our families, Camps and country.

I Remain,

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,



Brian Peters  
Department Commander



## Department of Wisconsin Annual Mid-Winter Meeting

Saturday, February 3, 2007

9:30 a.m.—Noon

Bluemound Gardens Restaurant, 11703 W. Bluemound, Wauwatosa

All members are invited to attend, and Department officers are expected to be present.

This is your chance to find out what's been going on, and what's being planned for the future, in our Department. The meeting will be immediately followed by Camp 1's 37th Annual Patriotic Luncheon (see page 8 for details).

"PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD"

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

# SUVCW



**Milton Cushing Phillips**

Milton Cushing Phillips, of Welsh and Dutch descent, was born in Royalton, Wisconsin, on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1856. His father, Bradford Phillips was a lumber manufacturer on the Little Wolf River in Waupaca County and was well-read and a natural orator; his mother was well educated and a woman of strong character and high personal attainments. His father served as orderly sergeant in Co. A, 8<sup>th</sup> Wis. Infantry until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Corinth, when he died of exposure and sunstroke.

In 1872, the young Phillips entered Oberlin College, where he studied science for four years before becoming a station agent on the Green Bay, Winona & St. Paul Railroad. After some years as a station agent and in manufacturing cheese and broom handles, he began studying law in the office of Brown & Bump in Waupaca and was admitted to the bar in 1879.

That same year, Phillips married Marcia H. Eastman, a college graduate and youngest daughter of a Congregational clergyman. They had five children—Bradford E., Ermine J., Phillip, Lewis, and Miriam H.

Phillips began his professional practice in Clintonville. In 1881, he and another Sons member, N.A. Burnham, published the first issue of the *Clintonville Tribune*. Soon afterwards, Phillips sold out to Burnham and in 1884, he and his law partner moved to Oshkosh. Two years later, a new partnership was formed with E.R. Hicks, which continued until 1889 and began again in 1895. The two

specialized in corporate and insurance law. When the city of Phillips was destroyed by fire, Mr. Phillips was retained and successfully recovered insurance from about 40 companies that declined payment.

When the Sons of Veterans was organized in Wisconsin in 1883, M.C. Phillips was appointed Judge Advocate of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grand Division. Once settled in Oshkosh, he began organizing the Old Abe Camp, which was chartered on May 17, 1885.

At the 1892 Department Encampment in Oshkosh, the Old Abe Camp was in charge of the local program and Phillips was elected Department Senior Vice Commander.

The Financial Panic of 1893 devastated the Department's membership, including that of the Old Abe Camp. Phillips admitted that the word "disbanded" was a common one associated with many Camps during the previous nine years. But he was confident that the Sons would eventually "recognize its own mission and methods more distinctly." He wrote articles, clarifying the Order's history and objectives, solidifying wavering GAR support. He re-organized the Oshkosh Sons as Nathan Paine Camp #80 on June 6, 1894.

Phillips was also a Knight of Pythias, an Odd Fellow and a Mason of high standing. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Church of Oshkosh.

In 1894 and 1896, he was chosen chairman of the Republican Committee of Winnebago County. In 1897, President McKinley appointed him the U.S. District Attorney for the eastern district of Wisconsin.

Milton Cushing Phillips died on August 2, 1916 at age 60 and was buried in Oshkosh's Riverside Cemetery, in Block 78, Lot 10.

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*From: History of the Bench & Bar of Wisconsin; H.C. Cooper Jr., & Co.; Chicago 1898*

*History of Wisconsin by Clark S. Matteson; Wis., Historical Publishing Co., Milwaukee 1893*

**Milwaukee Sentinel**

**Riverside Cemetery, 1901 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh**



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## Some Thoughts On Proper U.S. Flag Etiquette

By Alan Petit, Patriotic Instructor, Department of Wisconsin

One of the most controversial subjects of recent discussion is the proper handling and display of the United States flag. Really, there is no need for any controversy as almost every conceivable situation is covered in the U.S. Code, Title 36, Chapter 10, referred to as the United States Flag Code.

Most incidents of disrespect to our flag are due to the ignorance of this code by the average American citizen and are not done out of malice, although there are a number of acts of desecration perpetrated by less than highly motivated individuals. As members of the SUVCW, we are duty bound to help rectify this situation. There are several things we can do to help.

The U.S. flag code is not generally taught in our schools, so as concerned citizens, we must publicize it on our own. A starting point is the SUVCW Flag Facts pamphlet. This brochure is available from the camp patriotic instructors and can be downloaded from the Publications for Patriotic Instructors CD disk, given to each camp at the last departmental encampment. This is a brief one page brochure designed to be given away as a SUVCW publicity and recruitment aid. Patriotic Instructors should distribute this brochure to all members of their camps and encourage them to circulate it as widely as possible. Chapters four and five of the Patriotic Instructor's Handbook cover the flag of the United States and give a brief history of the flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and flag holidays. There are also four websites listed that cover this information in all its detail. I learned a lot myself from these publications.

In regard to flag desecration, or deliberate disrespect, there is not much that can be done, short of enacting a constitutional amendment on flag desecration, given recent court decisions. With the lack of legal penalties, our only course here is moral pressure and social ostracism of the perpetrators of such acts.

As members of the SUVCW we must be leaders in this cause and not followers. For more information on the flag code, contact your camp patriotic instructor, or me, or go to the websites listed below.

[www.usa-flag-site.org/kids-resources.html](http://www.usa-flag-site.org/kids-resources.html)

[www.foundingfathers.info/American-flag/](http://www.foundingfathers.info/American-flag/)

[www.usflag.org/toc.html](http://www.usflag.org/toc.html)

[www.suvcw.org/flag.htm](http://www.suvcw.org/flag.htm)

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## Department Web Site Update

By PDC Kent Peterson, Signals Officer, Department of Wisconsin

### Web Site Statistics

Last year, it was becoming evident that the service which provides our Web site visitor statistics was not tracking accurately, so we switched to a different (and free) service in November. What a difference! In the 12 months since then, we have seen about 4,000 individual visitors to our site (the old service said we were getting about half that). Eighty percent of the people coming to our site are first-time visitors, often reaching the site based on a search on Google, Yahoo or AOL. This is an important indicator of how valuable our Web site can be when used to not only convey information to current members, but help us recruit new members, too. Is your Camp information up to date? Are your contact persons listed? You can e-mail Camp updates to the Dept. Signals Officer at any time.

The Camp pages and the Civil War memorials page have been among the most widely-viewed pages, after the homepage. The most commonly used phrase used when searching (and finding) our site is "sons of union veterans" which is probably no surprise.

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(Continued from page 3)

New is a page listing the date, location and presiding Department Commander of every Wisconsin SUVCW Encampment. Thank you to PCinC Steve Michaels for compiling this information.

## **Last Soldier Project**

Beginning in 2003, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) embarked on the Last Soldier Project. The purpose of the project is to locate and appropriately mark the final resting place of the last Civil War Soldier buried in each county/parish and in each state of this great country. The Last Soldier Project Web pages have 37 counties and soldiers listed, up from 20 last year.

Camps are encouraged to work with other organizations, the SUVCW National organization and the media for recognition and funding of suitable memorials or markers. A Last Soldier Ceremony may be conducted by SUVCW Camps at the gravesite of these veterans. Details are available on the SUVCW National Web site at <http://suvchw.org/last/lastsoldier.htm>.

If you have confirmed the last Civil War veteran to be buried in a Wisconsin county, and would like to submit your finding to the Web site, please contact [lastsoldier@suvchw-wi.org](mailto:lastsoldier@suvchw-wi.org). Please include reference sources for your information. Often times, local newspaper articles confirm when the last Civil War soldier in a specific locale passed away.

## **Department Dispatch Available Online**

We continue to convert the *Department Dispatch* newsletter to the electronic PDF file format, which is universally readable on any PC or Mac computer with the free Acrobat Reader software. This allows posting of newsletters on our Web site for download by anyone. More than 40 members subscribe to the *Department Dispatch* electronically, meaning that the Department saves nearly \$50 per year in postage. Each time a newsletter is published, subscribers are e-mailed a link to the newsletter document. The link is also posted on the Dept. Web site's "What's New?" page. You can help the Department save in postage costs if you are willing to receive the newsletter electronically. Please contact Kent Peterson at [webmaster@suvchw-wi.org](mailto:webmaster@suvchw-wi.org) if you would like to be added to our electronic distribution list.

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## **Department Orders # 2**

### **Series 2006-07**

Brian G. Peters, Wisconsin Department Commander  
646 Rays Lane  
Stevens Point, WI 54481-9260  
715 344-7924  
[commander@suvchw-wi.org](mailto:commander@suvchw-wi.org)

- 1) **Camp Officers Note:** One of my duties as Department Commander is to appoint an installing officer for each Camp's newly elected officers. Such installation is to take place between November and January at a regular Camp meeting. This is specified in the Department By-Laws. Please let me know when you plan to install your new officers and I will appoint an installing officer for your Camp. The installation of officers report (Form 22) must be signed by the installing officer and submitted to the Department Secretary.
- 2) Camp Officers – Please review the list of goals suggested in my Department Orders # 1, Item 6. It is my sincere hope that you will attempt to achieve or exceed these goals this year.
- 3) Listed below are some additional goals for Camps to consider. Keep your members active!

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# I DIED FOR MY COUNTRY

By Kim J. Heltemes, , SVC, Camp #8

This is the photograph of the headstone of Charles Collier, Belmont, Wisconsin (near Waupaca). He fought in Company A, 8th Wisconsin Infantry.

He enlisted in the 8th Wisconsin, the Eagle Regiment, on August 25, 1861. The Regiment was named after their mascot, Old Abe, the war eagle. Collier died in Madison, Wisconsin on July 15, 1864. He was brought home and was buried in the Parfreyville Cemetery on Hwy K, south of Waupaca.



The graveyard was researched for Civil War veterans and cross referenced against the cemetery records and the "Roster of Volunteers". Where it was needed, a new marker was ordered through the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. 7 new markers were ordered. They were installed on Sunday October 29, 2006, by Old Abe Camp #8 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The gravesite of Collier was a broken headstone with the upper part out of sight and the lower section lying down. When we started to dig out for a new headstone and came across something like a rock, I mentioned that it was the top to the old marker. It was dug out with

care and it was indeed the top section. As we cleaned it up it became apparent that this was something special. As the marker top became clean, the hair on our arms began to rise. The ribbon type banner on the very top of the marker says it all - "I DIED FOR MY COUNTRY".

I have had the honor to replace or install markers on unmarked gravesites for many Civil War veterans. We have never seen a marker so patriotic as this one. Many that are in the area have a similar motif as an engraved scene but none were so blunt in meaning.

In the photograph above are Alan Petit, Camp #8 Commander, Kurt Kirk, Vince Barker, and Don Jager. The photograph was taken by Kim J. Heltemes.

In the photograph to the right, the new marker for Jonathan W. Lawrence, is shown with Camp #8 members. They are kneeling, l to r, Vince Barker, Kurt Kirk, Alan Petit, and Don Jager. Standing l to r are Don Blaney and Kim J. Heltemes.

Lawrence died during the Civil War too. He was the SGT in Company A, 8th Wisconsin. Lawrence enlisted in the 8th Wisconsin Infantry on August 7, 1861 and rose to the rank of SGT. He was discharged for disability on January 6, 1863. He died in 1863 - another soldier from the area to die during war time at home. Both are buried in the Parfreyville Cemetery.



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## WISCONSIN MEMORIALS AND MONUMENTS

One of the ways in which the members of the G.A.R. honored their own kind, the Civil War Veteran, was by erecting monuments. One of the more important reasons for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is to honor those same veterans. By doing so, we need to save and document those memorials, not only for ourselves, but for the future, too.

As many of our members travel throughout the countryside, they will come across different statues, plaques, and monuments. They may be in town squares, in cemeteries, or in parks. As we look at the monuments, we need to start looking at them in a different way. We need to start examining the structural depreciation that is taking effect on their overall appearance and integrity.

If you go to <http://suvcw.org/ftp/memorial-fi.pdf> you will find a Civil War/ G.A.R. memorials assessment form (CWM #61). This form should be taken with you so an assessment of any memorial can be done on the spot. It is so much easier to fill out the form with the memorial in front of you than to go home and remember several days later to fill out the form. The same goes for taking photographs of the memorials. As part of the assessment form, several photographs are asked to be taken so they can be recorded as a means to review the changes in the memorial in the upcoming years.

In the past, we have become lax in the recording of the Wisconsin memorials. As the Memorials and Monuments Officer for the Department, I'm asking all of you to become more aware of any Civil War memorial that crosses your path. Many community memorials become a part of everyday living and they blend into that blur we call life. Don't take the memorials for granted. Without the proper care, they will not be here too much longer. Please record the sites they are on. If you don't want to do an assessment, then let me know and I can get it done. Email at [heltemesk@vbe.com](mailto:heltemesk@vbe.com). But first, we need to list of where they are located. We need your help.

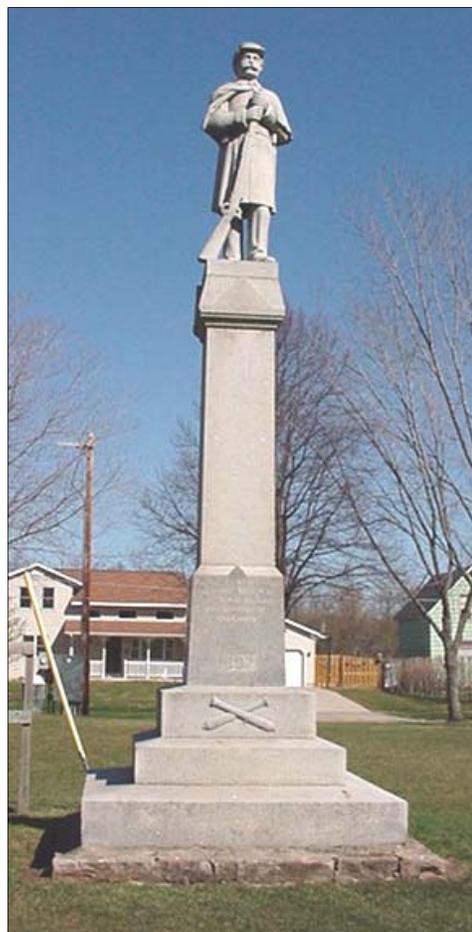
The assessment only takes a few minutes. But if you have the time, any and all information about the memorials can be accumulated. The length of your research is up to you. Don't be surprised that as the history is uncovered,

there will be an urge to have the memorial restored if needed. Get the community involved. Write a story about the memorial for the newspaper. You can stir up emotion by educating others. Let them understand the importance of the memorial. This is the reason for our organization.

Past histories have been forgotten. Use the memorials as a means to revive our Civil War history. As many of our towns are celebrating their 150 years anniversaries, the Civil War history fall within this time period. It has become an amazement of how little community members know of their Civil War history. You can help them. And you can help our organization too.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Kim J. Heltemes  
Memorials and Monuments Officer  
Wisconsin Department, SUVCW



The GAR/WRC Memorial in New  
Lisbon, Wis.

Continued from page 4)

- Check the National website for projects that your Camp can become involved in. An example is the Last Soldier Project. There are several projects explained on the National website. Check them out.
  - Encourage meeting and event attendance by all your Camp members, and give them a project to work on. Active members are lasting members.
  - Replace a Civil War Veteran's broken, worn or missing headstone.
  - Try new methods and seek two new venues for recruiting new members in your communities.
  - Plan and hold one Camp event annually where members' families are invited and can get together to meet each other and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere where no Camp business is conducted. Only goodwill, camaraderie and friendship will be the order of the day.
- 4) The Department Mid-Winter meeting will be held on Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 at 9:30 AM. The location will be the same as in previous years, Bluemound Gardens in Wauwatosa. All members are invited, not just officers.
  - 5) Department Officers and Camp Commanders are asked to provide a brief report for the Mid-Winter meeting to update fellow Brothers with two or three highlights from your Officer duties or Camp activities. You may send the report to me and/or present it at the meeting.
  - 6) Congratulations are extended to C. K. Pier Badger Camp # 1 on the event of your 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thank you for your hospitality at your meeting and anniversary celebration, (the cake was delicious).
  - 7) Congratulations and hearty thanks are extended to the Brothers who recently conducted the first Leadership Conference educational program. Your work with this educational opportunity and also with the Member Orientation course are exemplary!
  - 8) Commander-in-Chief James Pahl has requested that each Department form a "GAR Post Records Committee" to work on locating and preserving any remaining GAR Post records. Please contact me if you would be interested in serving on this committee.
  - 9) I have received a recommendation for a proposed change in the Department By-Laws to have elected Department Council members serve staggered 2-year terms, and to have the immediate past Department Commander automatically serve on the Council for one year. This would mean we would elect one Council member at each Department Encampment. This proposed change will be considered per the process outlined in the Department By-Laws.
  - 10) Thank you to all members who participated in Veteran's Day ceremonies, parades and events. We honor those who are the guardians of Freedom!

Ordered this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2006

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Brian G. Peters

Department Commander

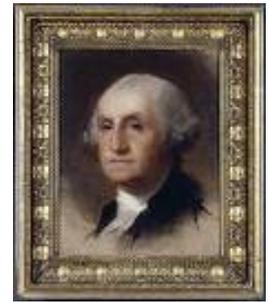
Attest: Randy K. Novak, PDC

Department Secretary





Don't Miss the 37th Annual  
**Patriotic Luncheon**  
Saturday, February 3, 2007 at 12:30PM



**Bluemound Gardens**  
11703 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa

Hosted by C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 & Auxiliary #4

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Dr. J. David Hoeveler  
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Professor and Author

## “Morality & Politics: The Genius of Lincoln”

\$18 per person  
For more information, call (414) 425-4648

### Camp News and Activities



*Camp 1 Commander Tom Brown and Auxiliary 4 President Anne Michaels cut the cake at the Camp's 105th Anniversary meeting and reception on November 1.*

### Camp #1 - Milwaukee Celebrates it's 105th Year!

On November 1st, C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1 celebrated its 105th year of service with a special meeting and reception, held in the Governor's Mansion of the Milwaukee VA's historic Soldier's Home. Glen Grippen, VA Medical Center Director and member of Camp 1, graciously provided the use of his family's home for the meeting. He and his wife, Mary Jo, not only hosted the event but also provided tours of the historic structure, which has been home to nineteen Soldier's Home Governors and VA Center directors since 1868.

The Camp held a shortened version of the usual business meeting in order to accommodate a reception,  
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tours and guest speaker. Many special guests were in attendance, including Philip Walthers, grandson of F.J. Walthers, a founder of Camp 1, and representatives from the Soldier's Home Foundation, Women's Relief Corps, and Sons of the Revolution. The Dept. of Wisconsin was represented by Commander Brian Peters and SVC Bruce Laine, and Camp Co. Bob Mann attended from Camp 4. The Sisters of Auxiliary 4 created a fantastic buffet of appetizers for the reception and a spectacularly decorated cake in honor of the occasion. In a special presentation to wrap up the evening, Kristin Gilpatrick of the Soldier's Home Foundation updated the audience on fundraising activities and restoration projects that are underway.

To commemorate the event, Camp 1 members who were in attendance received a personalized, replica color lithograph membership certificate, with the design based on the SUV membership certificates used 105 years ago.

## Camp #4 - Waukesha County

The following members of Camp #4 participated in the Madison Veteran's day parade: Camp Commander Bob Mann, Sec./Treas. Jeremy Johnson, PCC Jim Johnson, Patrick Lynch, Tim Grover and Dan Palama, along with Co. K, 2nd WI Inf. And Battery B, 4th US Light Art. It was the first Veterans Day Parade in Madison in 30 years.



*Commander Bob Mans (left) and Secretary/Treasurer Jeremy Johnson at Prairie Home Cemetery in Waukesha, during Camp #4's grave dedication ceremonies for Walter Dewing, of Co. A, 10th WI Inf, Norman McBeath, of Co. E, 4th WI Cav., & Byron W. Sears, Co. K, 28 WI Inf.*



*PDC Ron Aronis stands guard over the grave of Pvt. Norman Sischo at the grave dedication ceremony.*

## Camp #5—Saukville

Was instrumental in submitting resolution for the SUVCW to be changed from a 501C4 to 501C3, at June 10, 2006 Department Encampment.

Submitted a resolution for the placement of a monument identifying the Union Soldiers at Fort Donaldson. Brothers Ron Aronis and Andrew Bollen are on the National committee for this project.

Together with Cushing's Battery and American Legion Post 384, participated in the headstone dedication of Pvt. Norman Sischo, at Gage Cemetery, near Kewaskum in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. Pvt. Sischo served in Battery I, 1st. Illinois Light Artillery. Commander Dennis Bingen, American Legion Post 384 assisted in the ceremony.

## Camp #8 - Fox Cities

This past weekend, the Nat. Council of Administration meeting in Gettysburg, Br. Vince Barker was appointed a

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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](mailto: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

10 Dec - Camp #1 & Auxiliary #4 Holiday Party, Milwaukee  
3 Feb - Mid-Winter Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Wauwatosa  
3 Feb - Patriotic Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Wauwatosa  
15 April - Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, Springfield, IL  
28 May - Memorial Day  
9 June - 124th Wisconsin Department Encampment

*(Continued from page 7)*

National Aide. PCinC Steve Michaels received a certificate and ribbon for Br. Barker, recognizing his recent success in recruiting six new brothers for our Order. He is authorized to wear the Nat. ribbon behind his Membership badge for the next 12 months, so his will be a visible example for all brothers to see. If you see or talk to Vince, please congratulate him on this achievement!

## Camp #49 - Boscobel

In August, Camp #49 set up and manned an SUVCW information booth at Boscobel's Muskets & Memories. We take applications, commit to research Civil War ancestry for people, pass out applications and info on the Sons, and pass out various Civil War magazines as promotional items, provide directions to CW Veterans Graves in the cemetery and sell complete cemetery maps and veterans lists of CW vets in the Cemetery. We have our own tent and fly to this purpose. Also, Camp #49 opens and conducts tours of the GAR hall for reenactors on Friday night of Boscobel's Civil War Weekend (Muskets & Memories).

Also in August, Camp #49 hosted a BBQ at the GAR Hall...invitation only. Attendees included the mayor, the local press and prominent local business managers and opinion makers. The program included personal tours of the Hall, a presentation about the preservation and restoration project, and general discussion among attendees as to what they thought. Response was positive.

In October we started to kick off the Camp #49 scholarship program. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior (boy or girl) who is a descendant of a Civil War Veteran. Seniors eligible will be from Kickapoo, Boscobel, North Crawford, Riverdale, Fennimore, and Seneca.

## First Annual Leadership Conference

The Department of Wisconsin recently hosted its first Leadership Conference. Held at the Historic Soldier's Home at the Milwaukee VA, the afternoon sessions included presentations on management and staff roles, recruiting and retention, practice at public speaking and an interactive management workshop. Workshop presenters were PCinC Steve Michaels, PDC Fred Murphy, PCC Bruce Laine and PDC Kent Peterson.



*PCinC Steve Michaels talks to the group about the steps of recruiting and retention.*



*PDC Fred Murphy discusses the answers of a quiz on SUVCW procedures and regulations.*