



Wisconsin *Department Dispatch*



Winter 2023-2024

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Wisconsin Brothers participate in Wreaths Across America



(Above) Wreaths laid on headstones at Madison's Forest Hills Cemetery.

Photo by Scott Schable



Brothers from Colonel Hans C. Heg, Camp #15 laid wreaths at Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery in Union Grove, Luther Parker Cemetery in Muskego and at Norway Lutheran Cemetery in Norway. Photo on the right is the wreath on Colonel Hans C. Heg's grave.

Photo by PDC Jeff Graff

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

"PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD"

Wreaths Across America



Patriots of multiple eras and Camps participated in Wreaths Across America on Dec. 16 at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee. PDC Tom Brown, Camp #1 and PCC Craig Wheeler, Camp #4, on the right.

Above left: Brother Bill Seaman, Camp #1 plays taps at Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Wood.

Photos by PDC Kent Peterson.



Brothers from Henry Harnden Camp #2 fire a salute at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Forest Hills Cemetery Union Rest in Madison.

Photo by Scott Schable



Wisconsin Department Pioneers

Charles J. Brewer



“Historical Anomaly”

Charles J. Brewer was born December 16, 1864, the third youngest of seven children born to David and Melissa Burcher Brewer in Maiden Rock, Wisconsin. In Spring 1882, when 17, he first taught school in a nearby district.

He was educated in at the State Normal School at River Falls, receiving a bachelor of education degree and began teaching near Maiden Rock. Later, he became the supervising principal of schools at Ellsworth and New Richmond before becoming superintendent at schools at Chippewa Falls and in Pierce County.

He married Sarah “Sadie” L. Goodell on June 27, 1893, in Red Wing, Minnesota. They had one child, Charlotte Louise (1917-).

In 1916, he came to Eau Claire as training school principal and vice president of the college.

Brewer was an authority on training teachers for district schools. In 1931, he became president of the Northwestern Wisconsin Teachers’ Association, the Wisconsin State Teachers’ Association and the Mason’s fraternity. He retired from teaching in August 1938 at age 74, after over 50 years in teaching. A tenure law, requiring retirement at age 70, went into effect that September.

Upon his retirement, an oil painting of Brewer was commissioned and hung at the Eau Claire Teachers College. The school’s alumni association established the Brewer Award, presented to an outstanding student teacher.

Brother Brewer was an historical anomaly. He did not hold any division staff positions before being elected division commander in 1922 and didn’t hold any afterwards. He seemingly disappeared from the division rolls after his term. Despite this, there was a noticeable increase interest in the Sons of Veterans in several communities. Some disbanded camps came back. For example, the Keshena camp, composited of Native American men, was organized for a third time. And, of course, the positive effect of the National GAR Encampment coming to Milwaukee in September 1923 should not be underestimated.

Besides the Sons of Veterans and the Masons, he was a member of the Eau Claire Kiwanis, serving as vice president in 1927.

He died on March 14, 1948, at age 83 and was buried in Eau Claire’s Forest Hill Cemetery. His wife followed him two years later.

In 1960, the education section of the professional teacher training plant, housing the education, psychology and philosophy departments, was named in his honor, as “C.J. Brewer Hall.” In 2023, plans were made to demolish the building.

By PCinC Steve Michaels with research assistance from PDC Kent Peterson

Information Sources:

Ancestry.com Eau Claire Leader-Telegram; 15 Jun 1922, 9 Dec 1927, 12 Mar 1939, 19 Mar 1960



By PDC Brian D. McManus
National Patriotic Instructor

The majority of our Brothers recite the following creed at many events. Here is the history of the creed, and where its sentences originate.

The American 's Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

Key to the The American 's Creed:

- 1. Closing words of Preamble to the Constitution*
- 2. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*
- 3. Declaration of Independence*

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4. *James Madison in The Federalist, No. X*
5. *Speech by Daniel Webster, Jan. 26, 1830*
6. *Preamble to the Constitution*
7. *Adapted from closing words of Declaration of Independence*
8. *Speech by John Hancock*
9. *United States Oath of Allegiance*
10. *George Washington's Farewell Address*
11. *War Department Circular, April 14, 1917*
12. *Oath of Allegiance*

The American's Creed was the result of a nationwide contest for writing a National Creed, which would be a brief summary of the American political faith founded upon things fundamental in the nation's history and tradition.

The contest was the idea of Henry Sterling Chapin, commissioner of education of New York State. More than 3,000 entries were received, and William Tyler Page was declared to be the winner in March 1918. On April 3, the speaker of the House and the commissioner of education of the state of New York accepted the Creed for the United States.

It was a time when patriotic sentiments were very much in vogue. The United States had been a participant in World War I only about a year at the time the Creed was adopted.

William Tyler Page was a descendant of John Page, who had come to America in 1650 and had settled in Williamsburg, Va. Another ancestor, Carter Braxton, had signed the Declaration of Independence. Still another ancestor, John Tyler, was the 10th president of the United States.

William Tyler Page had come to Washington at the age of 13, in December 1881, to serve as a Capitol page. Later he became an employee of the Capitol building. He served there for almost 61 years, including as House clerk and emeritus House minority clerk. He died on Oct. 20, 1942.

Page said the Creed "is the summary of the fundamental principles of the American political faith as set forth in its greatest documents, its worthiest traditions and its greatest leaders."

(Right) William Tyler Page's entry was chosen in 1918 as the winner of a patriotic contest. He was a longtime employee of the Capitol at that point, and continued there until his death in 1942.



A Chinese Civil War Union Veteran

This article is provided by PCC Tom Mueller, Camp 1



Edward Day Cohota was the only full-blooded Chinese to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War. He fought for the nation and served in the Army for three decades, but was not successful in his own battle for U.S. citizenship.

Cohota died in 1935, at age 92, at Parmalee, S.D.

His story begins in 1845, when a ship named the Cohota left Shanghai, China. Two days later, two small Chinese boys were discovered aboard the ship. They were half-starved and did not know their names. This left Captain Silas S. Day in a dilemma – he decided not to turn back, but rather to raise the boys as his own. Their ages were about 6 and 4; the eldest boy died a few days later and was buried at sea.

The captain took the remaining boy to his home at Gloucester, Mass., and named him Edward Day Cohota; the last being the ship's name. Dec. 27, the day he was found, was taken as his birthday.

In February 1864, Edward joined the 23rd Massachusetts Infantry and served his adopted country through the rest of the war.

During the Battle of Drewry's Bluff in May

1864, Cohota emerged from the fighting with seven bullet holes through his clothing but no wounds. He had a similarly close call during the June Battle of Cold Harbor, when a minié ball grazed his head. Cohota put himself in harm's way to save the life of fellow soldier, William Low, who had been shot in the jaw and lay in the middle of the field. Seeing his dire situation, Cohota dragged Low behind a boulder before rejoining the fight. After the battle ended, he carried Low to medical help, saving his life.

At the end of the war, Cohota was mustered out at New Bern, N.C. Returning to Massachusetts, he could not find work. While in Boston he met a recruiting sergeant whom he had known in the service, and in the fall of 1866, Cohota re-enlisted in the Army.

He said his longest walk was when his outfit marched from Kit Carson, Kan., to San Antonio, Texas. Blisters formed on his shoulder from carrying a heavy rifle, and blisters covered his feet from shoes too large. Edward served in Texas; New Mexico; at Fort Sheridan, Ill.; Fort Randall, S.D.; and Fort Niobrara, near Valentine, Neb. While at Fort Randall, he said, he stood guard over Indian chief Sitting Bull and spoke of him as a friendly chief.

Cohota retired from the Army in 1895. Cohota's last great battle was with the federal government. Although fighting to preserve it in the Civil War and continuing as one of its soldiers, Cohota was ironically never a citizen of the U.S. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 made it legally impossible.



The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 prevented Civil War veteran Edward Day Cohota from becoming a U.S. citizen, which he did not know until 1912.

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Cohota had always assumed he was a citizen. In fact, he never missed an election to vote in, and was dismayed in 1912 when he was informed he was not a citizen. Cohota took the issue to Congress and the courts, fighting hard until his death, but to no avail. He did receive a veteran's pension, at least.

"He was a highly patriotic individual who raised and lowered a flag in front of his house every day," said Montgomery Hom, a filmmaker who researched Cohota's story for a documentary.

"That's kind of the greatest tragedy," Hom said. "He did all this for his country, but his country didn't recognize him."

This piece appeared in the October newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and is an expanded version. The original is available at:
<https://www.milwaukeeecwrt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/MCWRT-General-Orders-10-23.pdf>

Department Events Calendar

February 3

Department Mid-Winter Meeting,
9:30 a.m., Alioto's Restaurant,
Wauwatosa

February 3

Camp #1's Patriotic Luncheon
12:30 p.m., Alioto's Restaurant,
Wauwatosa (see pages 16-17 in this
newsletter)

May 11

SVR Artillery Safety School, Boscobel

May 27

Memorial Day

June 9

141st Department of Wisconsin
Encampment, Boscobel

The *Wisconsin Department Dispatch* is

published four times per year for members of the Wisconsin Department, SUVCW. Articles, photos and news items may be submitted to PDC Bruce Laine at brucelaine@gmail.com. Editorial deadlines are the 1st of April, July, October and January.

Visit us on the Web at

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

**Thank you to everyone who
contributed to this Edition!**





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Camp News & Activities

CK Pier Badger Camp #1 - Milwaukee

Five Civil War veterans who were buried in pauper's cemeteries were honored on Veterans Day, with the help of Camps 1 and 15. Their graves are among thousands that had been disinterred or lost in the last century.

The event was held at 11 a.m. Nov. 11, the time and date of the World War I armistice, on the County Institutions grounds in Wauwatosa, at West Watertown Plank Road and 87th Street. Also honored was a vet of the Spanish-American War.

It was organized by the Descendant Community of Milwaukee County Grounds Cemeteries, with major help from Camp 1 Chaplain Dean Collins. Camp 15 also participated, which was particularly meaningful because one of the soldiers served under its Col. Hans Heg. That was Pvt. William Herman Benz, of Heg's 15th Wisconsin Infantry, who died in 1909.



Above: The Iron Brigade Guard (SVR) fires a salute.

Above right: Milwaukee County Cemetery information sign.

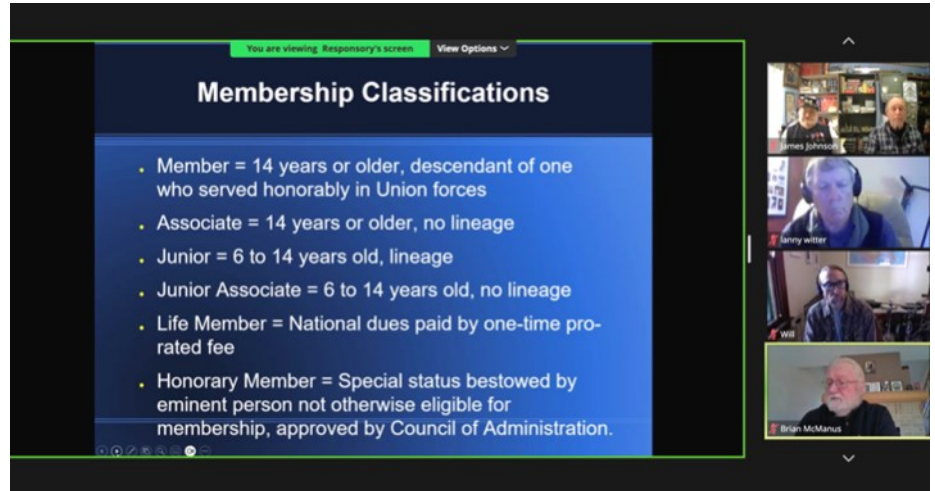
Right: PCinC Steve Michaels presents a folded flag to descendants of Poor Farm soldiers, on behalf of a grateful nation. The Iron Brigade Honor Guard fires a solemn salute.



CK Pier Badger Camp #1 - Milwaukee (continued)

At right and middle right: Brothers from all over the Department Zoomed in for a member orientation seminar in October.

Segments included the context of formation of the national SUVCV in 1881, tangible and intangible benefits of joining, badges and proper badge wear, and the Allied Orders.



2024 Camp #1 Officers:

Commander - Grant Johnson

Senior Vice Commander - Mike Benton

Junior Vice Commander - Tom Hesse

Secretary - PCC Tom Mueller

Treasurer - PDC Kent Peterson

Camp Council - PCinC Steve Michaels,
PDC Tom Brown and PCC Patrick Fallon



Auxiliary 4 Sister Susan Fallon, on behalf of the Mary Chesebro Lee, Tenet 23, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, presented certificates to Brothers from Camp #1 in recognition of their service in the armed forces during the Vietnam War. *Above right:* Brother Mike Deeken displays his certificate and pin.



Left: PDC Alan Hembel accepts the Veterans Recognition Week Proclamation from Governor Tony Evers at the State Capitol in Madison.

Below: Brothers from Camp #2 observed the presentation.



★★★
★★★
★★★
2024 Camp #2 Officers
★★★
★★★
Commander - Ben Hobbins
★★★
Senior Vice Commander - Tom Trimble
★★★
Junior Vice Commander - Scott Schable
★★★
Secretary - PDC Alan Hembel
★★★
Treasurer - PCC Fred Campbell
★★★
Camp Council - PCC Thomad Brodd,
PDC John Decker, Scott Schable
★★★
★★★

Commander ~ Ben Hobbins

Senior Vice Commander ~ Tom Trimble

Junior Vice Commander ~ Scott Schable

Secretary ~ PDC Alan Hembel

Treasurer ~ PCC Fred Campbell

Camp Council ~ PCC Thomad Brodd,
PDC John Decker, Scott Schable



2024 Camp #4 Officers

Commander ~ Andy Nordin

Senior Vice Commander ~ PCC Alan Keinert

Junior Vice Commander ~ PCC Bob Mann

Secretary/Treasurer ~ PDC Bruce Laine

Camp Council ~ PCC Craig Wheeler,

Commander ~ Andy Nordin

Senior Vice Commander ~ PCC Alan Keinert

Junior Vice Commander ~ PCC Bob Mann

Secretary/Treasurer ~ PDC Bruce Laine

Camp Council ~ PCC Craig Wheeler,

2024 Camp #8 Officers
Commander ~ Vince Barker
Senior Vice Commander ~ TBD
Junior Vice Commander ~ Kirby Scott
Secretary/Treasurer ~ Kurt Kirk
Camp Counsel ~ TBD, Kirby Scott, David Melancon

Camp Counsel ~ TBD, Kirby Scott, David Melancon



2024 Camp #15 Officers

Camp Commander ~ Sam Keith

Senior Vice Commander ~ Jerry Coveney

Junior Vice Commander ~ PDC Jeff Graf,

Secretary/Treasurer ~ PDC Brian McManus

Camp Council ~ PCC Gerry Drought,
DC Robert Koenecke, PDC Jeff Graf

Camp Council ~ PCC Gerry Drought,
DC Robert Koenecke, PDC Jeff Graf



GAR Hall Gets Face Lift

The GAR Hall in Boscobel, (last active hall in Wisconsin) is getting a much-needed face lift and internal repairs.

The GAR Hall was recently repainted and eve troughs installed; eves where needed to protect the handicap access ramp. Repairs to the outside coincided with the 20th anniversary of the rechartering of Camp #49 in 2003. A ceremony honoring Gary Young for his diligence and hard work in hall restoration, in working with the WRC and Boscobel Hall preservationists. Gary was presented with plaque and photo (of the dedication ceremony) by Commander Dan Chroninger, fellow brothers and members of the WRC.

Plastering of the up stairs meeting room was completed, with available funds by the preservationists, more funds will be needed to further repair plaster in the stairs and other portions of the hall.

Work was completed upstairs in preparation for the upcoming June state meeting to be held in Boscobel.

On the Right, PCC Dan Chroninger and PCC Gary Young hold the Camp #49 Charter back in 2003. PDC Randy Novak, who has since passed away, is to their left.



Below, the Boscobel VFW Honor Guard outside the GAR Hall.



Col. William Colvill Camp #56 - Minnesota

Camp #567 finished with 23 Last Union Veteran ceremonies in 2023, and the final flurry of activity was on September 23, 2023, with Clay and Wilkin County being completed. Taps played once more for Pvt. Joseph Uebersetzig (Clay) and Pvt. Horace Eaton Davis (Wilkin) on a rainy fall day. Notwithstanding the adverse weather conditions, SUVCW Brothers James Johnson, Vern Barker, and Ken Kunze devotedly carried out the mission to honor the LUV of each county. David Dahle of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, traveled to honor his great-great-grandfather Davis at the Wilkin County Ceremony. The heavens opened yet again during Uebersetzig's ceremony, leaving

those in attendance thoroughly drenched but far from dispirited. A consolidation of the Breckinridge VFW Post 2766 and American Legion Post 53 provided Honor Guard Support for the program.

A contingent of special guests from Moorhead attended the LUV at St. Joseph's Cemetery, including Uebersetzig's great-grandson, "Chub" Olson, and his son Brad. Eleven Fargo Memorial Honor Guard members attended to offer a final rifle salute to Uebersetzig. At his passing in 1938, Uebersetzig's flag-draped coffin on a gun caisson passed through his home of Barnesville

pulled by a team of horses. As a fitting tribute, many businesses and local schools closed at noon to partake in the burial of the 96-year-old Uebersetzig.

Camp #56
conducted 23
Last Union Veteran
ceremonies in 2023



Having completed another twenty-three Last Union Veteran Ceremonies for 2023, the camp has set its sights on twenty for 2024, hoping that a few more might get added as the year progresses. The research for Hubbard, Polk, Norman, Traverse, and Chisago County has been completed, with eleven more under research. We continue to grow as a camp, adding three more members with several other applications in progress for the future. Commander Carlberg continues his quest to boost camp coffers by

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contacting VFW and American Legion posts statewide. By the number that have responded to his call, his efforts have been rewarded with many contributing to our efforts. The camp has identified a few hundred soldiers who need a headstone at one cemetery alone. While the VA provides them free, the cemetery has fees that are often beyond our financial capabilities. Camp 56 has added 2,500 soldiers to the national database, bringing Minnesota's total to 9,602.

Commander Carlberg, aka Maj. Gen. George Meade gave a stirring address at the 57th Annual Veterans Day Program in Menomonie, Wisconsin, on November 10. Meade recognized the brave soldiers of the Iron Brigade, who fought a delaying action at the onset of the Battle of Gettysburg, helping the rest of the Union Army to arrive in time to establish a strong defense position just south of the city. His message resonated well with the assembled students, staff, community members and veterans in attendance. His reciting of the Gettysburg Address was especially moving and meaningful even today.

Camp 56 held its final meeting of the year on November 4. At that meeting the camp by unanimous vote maintained all current officers for next year (see below). The camp also initiated three new members and established its goals for our continued LUV Project for 2024. Due to the generous donations from VFW and American Legion Posts, our work to replace headstones at Lakewood Cemetery in Hennepin County is moving forward. This massive undertaking is made more difficult due to the large number of soldiers who lack a headstone or need a replacement. As of today, 159 headstones are needed, with about 500 more likely in the future. Our efforts to increase camp coffers will assist in this endeavor; however, Commander Carlberg has met with cemetery officials to work out further details to reduce the replacement fee from \$550 per headstone to something more manageable. Camp 56 looks forward to another busy year in 2024.



2024 Camp #56 Officers

Commander—Gary Carlberg

Sr. Vice Commander—Mike Huttner

Jr. Vice Commander—James Johnson

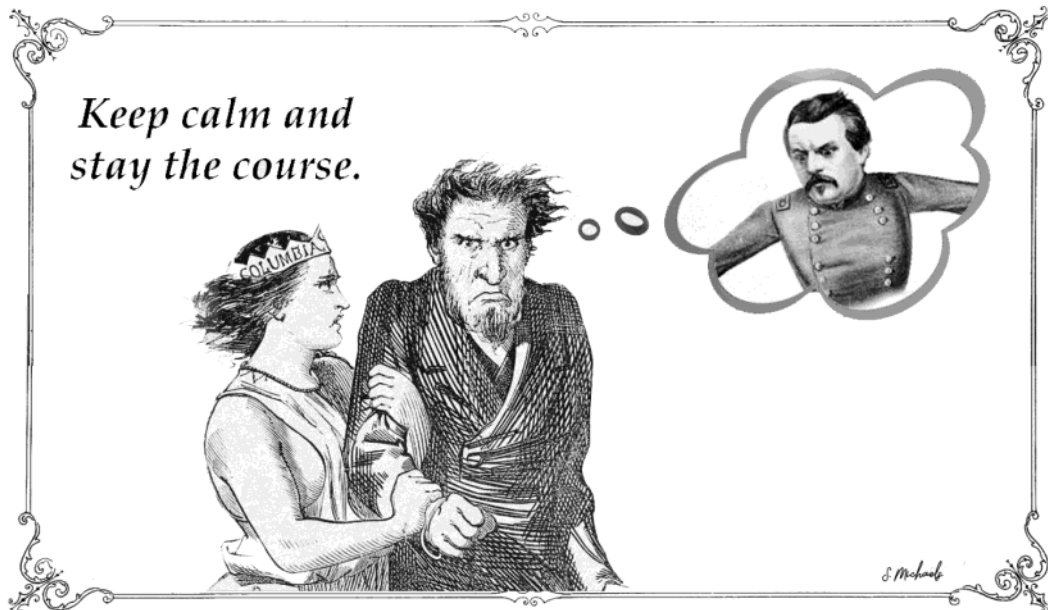
Secretary/Treasurer—Mark Campbell

Camp Council—Randall Nelson,
Doug Urbanski, and Bob Selden

You're invited to our 54th Annual **Patriotic Luncheon**

Honoring Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley

Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.



"The 1864 Presidential Election – Lincoln's Other Struggle for Victory"

Guest Speaker: Nic Bur

- Bid on premium silent auction items
- Choose from a multitude of prizes in our \$1 raffle
- Make new friends among more than 30 patriotic, hereditary, fraternal, historical and service organizations in attendance
- Luncheon buffet price still only \$25 per person

Location: Alioto's Restaurant

3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, Wis.
(exit Hwy. 45 at Burleigh; east to Hwy. 100; turn right to restaurant)

Luncheon buffet includes:

Tenderloin Tips with Noodles or Baked Chicken. Served with honey glazed carrot, buttered new potatoes, assorted relish tray, tossed garden salad, Italian bread, coffee, sherbet for dessert.

**Hosted by C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Registration form and program advertising information on the reverse side.

For more information, call (414) 614-3690

Spread Your Message in the 2024 Patriotic Luncheon Program

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and its Auxiliary began the observance with a speaker's program in February 1890. We invite you to be a part of this long tradition, by placing an ad in the luncheon program booklet. Proceeds from ad sales are used to support history education in schools and the community, Eagle Scout recognition programs and Civil War monument restoration. Use the order form at the bottom of this page to place an order for your ad.

- Sell Your Product/Business
- Send Greetings/Congratulations
- Remember Your Ancestors

Quarter Page Ad = 2" tall x 5" wide = \$5

Half Page Ad = 4" tall x 5" wide = \$10

Full Page Ad = 8" tall x 5" wide = \$20

Back Cover (only one) = \$30

INSTRUCTIONS

For meal and/or ad payments, please make checks payable to "C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1"
and mail by the respective deadline to:

PDC Kent Peterson, 6024 S. Kirkwood Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110



2024 Patriotic Luncheon Meal Reservation Form

Deadline for meal reservations is Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.

Name(s): _____

Organizational Affiliation: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I/we would like to join you at the Patriotic Luncheon: _____ meals X \$25 each = \$ _____



2024 Program Booklet Advertising Order Form

Deadline for advertising is Friday, Jan. 19, 2024.

My ad is a NEW ad: ☐

Re-use my ad on file: ☐

Your name: _____ Phone: _____

Subject or title of ad: _____

AD SIZE: ☐ Quarter Page \$5 ☐ Half Page \$10 ☐ Full Page \$20 ☐ Back Cover \$30

Special instructions: _____ My ad payment = \$ _____

Please e-mail ad copy/artwork to **kapeterson0681@gmail.com** or you may attach your ad copy to this form.