
The California Column

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Department of California and Pacific Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

A Message from the Editor

Dear Brothers: For those of you who have not heard yet, I have some very tragic news to report. Recently a major fire roared through northern San Diego County in Calif., destroying over 40 houses and burning hundreds of acres at nearby Camp Pendleton. Unfortunately one of those homes belongs to our very own **JIM CHURCHYARD** (chairman of the Department Council) and his wife **ALBERTA "AL" PARKER** (member ASUVCW) of Fallbrook, California.



JIM is not only a member of the SUVCW but is with the SAR and other organizations. He is also a genealogist who had collected years of

In an effort to help them get by over the next couple weeks or so until other sources can help, the Department of California and Pacific has contributed to them as well as several Camps and individual Brothers. If ever there was a time when we have a "Brother in need" this is it! If you are able to help with anything, whether it be cash donations, clothing, or otherwise, please contact Department Commander Bob Lowe at <cavalry21@aol.com>

Inside This Issue

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 116th Annual Dept. Encampment |
| 2 | Department Finances |
| 3 | Department Orders |
| 3 | Department Fundraiser |
| 3 | Keith Camp Charter |
| 4 | Chaplain's Corner |
| 5 | Proposed Bylaws Amendments |
| 5 | 3 rd Annual Lincoln Day Dinner |

research. With the exception of the clothes on their backs, their car, and a couple computer disks, he and Al lost everything. With the assistance of the Red Cross and insurance, they are currently staying at a local motel.

or send contributions to him at 780 Paulsen Ave, El Cajon, CA 92020-7346. Checks should be made payable to Jim Churchyard. Any amount will help.

*Thank you,
DANIEL R. EARL, Editor*

Department Encampment

Well, it's that time of year again! In less than a month the Department of California and Pacific will be hosting its 116th Annual Encampment. This year we will be returning to San Luis Obispo, CA, but rather than using the facilities of the Elks Lodge as we have done the past few years, the Encampment will take place at the SLO Grange Hall, 2880 Broad Street. The dates for this year's Encampment are Friday, 15 March 2002 and Saturday, 16 March 2002. Our honored guest will be **COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GEORGE L. POWELL**.

The traditional "campfire social" will be held Friday evening at the Grange Hall from 1630-2000. A no-host dinner will be available for those interested with your choice of chicken, veal chop, or ham steak for \$9.00. The business session of the Encampment will begin at 0900 Saturday morning. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

We will have access to the building at 0730 Saturday morning for setup and to begin registration. There will be space available for Camps that wish to display memorabilia, camp scrapbooks, camp projects, etc.

This year's featured guest speaker is **BECKY REDWINE**, who portrays the wife of her collateral ancestor, Confederate **GENERAL STAND WATIE** (1806-1871) who was a half-blood Cherokee Indian.

Following the "program" portion of the Encampment, a buffet lunch of chicken, salad, pasta, vegetables, dessert, and beverage will be served. At the conclusion of lunch, a Department Fundraiser drawing will be held to help raise money for some of the expenses associated with the Encampment.



DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER BRAD SCHALL has spent a great deal of his own time preparing for this Encampment, including many hours of traveling and phone calls. He is truly dedicated to the Order and this Department. Be sure to thank him for all of his hard, tireless work on this project. Additionally, please do not forget Brother **ED STROEBRIDGE** of San Luis Obispo. His assistance with preparing for the Encampment has been invaluable.

Thank you Brothers Brad and Ed!

Department Finances

Now for the fun stuff we all like to avoid: deciphering our Camp and Department finances. As

you all know, quarterly per capita dues and reports are due on or **BEFORE** the end of each quarter during the year. It is **ESSENTIAL** that these reports be submitted to the Department Secretary in a timely fashion. If they are not, the Department Secretary is unable to complete the Department Quarter Report and submit that to National with the appropriate per capita dues.

Since the end of last year's 3rd Quarter in September, there have been several Camps that have not submitted their reports and dues in a timely manner. Again, when this happens the Department Secretary is unable to complete the Department Report and submit it to National. As a result, our Department (that means all the Camps) are deemed to be "**NOT IN GOOD STANDING**." That is our current status until National receives all the necessary paperwork, including membership rosters.



Clearly this is **NOT** a good thing for our Department. If our status remains like this at the close of the quarter prior to the National Encampment -- which means June 30th for us -- we **WILL NOT** be permitted to attend the

National Encampment. All Camp Officers to be as diligent as you can with preparing these reports. At first they may seem a bit intimidating, but are really not that difficult after reviewing them. One manner of handling these reports would be for each Camp to close its books the month *prior* to the end of the Quarter. This would give you a full month to prepare the report. As you become more proficient with the reports you should be able to narrow this time down closer to the true end of the quarter. Doing this should provide you ample time to complete and submit the report and dues to the Department.

ASAP!

If any Camps are late with their reports in the future, there may be no alternative left but for the Department Commander to suspend the Camp, meaning it would be considered “NOT IN GOOD STANDING” and any benefits it receives from the Department would be suspended, including the newsletter, and most importantly being able to send Delegates to the Department Encampment. If any Camp has ANY questions whatsoever, please contact Department Secretary-Treasurer Dan Earl via email at <danearl@inreach.com> or phone him at 408-874-8388. He will be glad to assist you

with any issues associated with these reports.

Department Orders correction

In the previous issue of *The California Column* Department Order #3, relative to per capita dues for Juniors, was mistakenly printed with the Juniors’ minimum age as 8 years old. This should be 6 years old. The corrected section of the order should read:



“Section 1: ‘Junior’ members, those between the age of 6 and 14 years old, inclusive, shall be exempt from per capita taxes (dues) that are required of regular members by § 1 of Article V of Department Bylaws”

Department Fundraiser

What’s a Department Encampment with having some prizes?

Well, there will be plenty for this year’s Encampment. In addition to other events, a Department fundraiser benefit will be held following lunch.

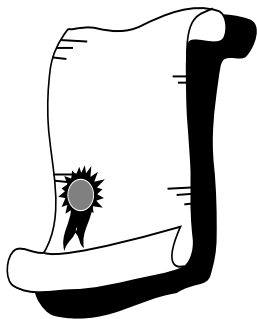
This fundraiser, which is conducted to help defray some of the costs associated with sponsoring the Encampment and, is accomplished with various items, most of them donated by our own Camps. Tickets are being sold at 7 tickets for \$5 or 20 tickets for \$10 for those who desire to participate. Each Camp Commander should have been given a supply of tickets.

Please encourage Brothers, whether they are Delegates or not, to participate by donating to this fundraiser. Remember, tickets are not restricted to members of the Order. They need not be present to win. Some of the featured items that will be “distributed” include various Civil War books, video tapes, etc.

KEITH CAMP CHARTER

After just under a year of work, the William B. Keith Camp #12 of Las Vegas was presented its Camp Charter. On behalf of the Department of California and Pacific, Commander Bob Lowe and Secretary-Treasurer Dan Earl presented the Charter to Camp Commander-elect Al Peterson. Commander Lowe also served as the installing officer for the Camp.

Others in attendance included Commander Lowe's wife, Rosemary Lowe, Past President ASUVCW, Dept. Councilmen Ed Burger and Tad Campbell, Dept. Chaplain Mark Woolfington, Dept. Color Guard Dave Allyn, Brother Jerry Sayre, and numerous other Brothers, family, and friends.



In addition to the formalities of the Camp business, Councilwoman Lynette Boggs McDonald, representing the City of Las Vegas was the guest speaker and presented the Camp with a proclamation on behalf of the entire City Council naming 12 January 2002 as the William B. Keith Camp #12 of Las Vegas Day.

Chaplain's Corner

by
Dept. Chaplain
Mark D. Woolfington

I was asked a rather interesting question recently. A member of my congregation asked, "Is that Civil War group of yours a Christian group?" I had to admit I hadn't thought about the Sons of Union Veterans in

that way before. After a moment I replied, "Well, that depends. If by a 'Christian organization' you mean a group that is affiliated with a church or other religious body, the answer is no. On the other hand, I know that some Brothers in our Department are active in the church, synagogue or temple of their choice." She seemed satisfied by my answer, but her question prompted me to consider the matter further.

Some Camps within our Department use more ritual and ceremony than others. For example, my own Camp, the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21, is very informal. However, at our regular meetings, we open the Bible and use the Invocation and Benediction found in the ritual and Ceremonies manual of our Order. Some of the prayers listed in the "R&C" could be described as "Christian," since they mentioned Jesus Christ by name. Others are more generic, referring instead to "Providence," and one of my favorite titles for God, who is described as the "God of peace and battles."

During my two terms as Department Chaplain, I have learned that our Department is comprised of men of various religious backgrounds, and practices. Among our ranks are everyone from devout church-goers to practicing atheist (or should that be "non-practicing atheist"?). In this regard, we are not too different from our ancestors, in the Grand Army of the Republic. Each Post of the GAR had a Chaplain, just as each Camp in the SUVCW is served by a Chaplain. Ordained clergy, such as myself, have served both

organizations in this capacity, along with many committed laymen over the years. Your Camp Chaplain stands ready to assist you and your family if there is an illness or death. If you are aware of a need within the Department, please don't hesitate to contact your Camp Chaplain, and then the Department Chaplain. We can only be of service to you if we are made aware of the needs of our Brothers.



May God bless each of you in 2002, and my God bless the memories of the Boys in Blue.

Department Chaplain REV. MARK D. WOOLFINGTON has served as the Senior Pastor of the First Advent Christian Church in Tustin since 1996. He is a member of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 of the SUVCW.



PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

Most of you have probably heard by now, but among other things Delegates at next month's Department Encampment will be asked to ratify a series of proposed Bylaws amendments. The Bylaws adopted last year, which were subsequently approved by then-CinC Krieser, were never intended to be our "final" document. They were a basic set of bare-bones Bylaws, enough to comply with the National C&R requirement that each Department have Bylaws. In the meantime Department Counselor Dan Earl and others have had an



opportunity draw up a more comprehensive document. Once ratified and approved, this new draft should require little if any amendments in the future, beyond minor details as the National C&Rs are modified from time to time at each National Encampment.

Each Camp Commander and Department Officer

should have already received a copy of these proposed amendments and Standing Rules for our Department. If you haven't yet, please take the time to peruse them prior to the Encampment. Assuming there are no major objections, they will hopefully be ratified unanimously and then prepared for deliver to the Commander-in-Chief for his approval.



SVR UPDATE

Shortly after the National Encampment last summer, the 6th Military District of the Sons of Veterans Reserve was reactivated. This district includes the states of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington. Brother Charles J. "Corky" Reed has been promoted to the rank of captain and appointed District Commander. After considerable "maneuvering" Capt. Reed has establishes his District Staff with the following commissions and appointments: Capt. Daniel R. Earl, Adjutant General, Capt. David E. Allyn, Chief of Staff, and 2nd Lt. Daniel M. Bunnell (PDC), Chaplain. The District now has four

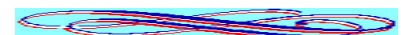
Companies within its jurisdiction: Co. A, 5th C.V.I., commanded by Capt. James Spencer; Co. C, 8th C.V.I., commanded by 1st Sgt. Dave Schleeter; Co. G, 1st C.V.I., commanded by 1st Sgt. Corky Reed; and, Co. G, 5th C.V.I., commanded by 1st Sgt. Dave Allyn.

Congratulations are extended to the District Staff and Companies for their hard work in reactivating the 6th Military District!

3rd Annual Lincoln Day Dinner

Brothers from the Pleasonton Camp 24 and Sheridan Camp 4 joined with others of the "Civil War community" to celebrate the birth of our 16th President. The dinner took place at the Carrows in Dublin, Calif. on Saturday evening, 9 February.

Portraying President Lincoln and reading the Gettysburg Address was Michael Ray. Also attending was Jahnis Abelite, speaking as the Imperial Grand Duke Alex and describing the highlights of his life in the U.S. Finally, Nora Whitley, speaking as Mrs. David Reed, sister of Gen. Custer, described the role of women during the Civil War.



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**Fraternity Δ Charity Δ Loyalty**

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