

MINUTES
Ben Harrison Camp No. 356
September 12, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Call to Order: Commander Floyd called the meeting to order.

Roll Call of Officers: 2020 officers present were Commander and Patriotic Instructor Jim Floyd; SVC, Treasurer, and Memorials Officer Mike Beck; JVC, Secretary, Graves Registration and Signals Officer Tim Beckman; Camp Council Jerry Thompson; Camp Council, GAR Records Officer Bruce Kolb; Camp Chaplain Robert Winters. In all, fifteen brothers were present. Special guest was Department Commander Dennis Hutchinson.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve July minutes as distributed made by Jerry Thompson and seconded by Robert Winters, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve as distributed was made by Robert Winters and seconded by Bruce Kolb, motion passed.

Report of Sick Brothers or Families in Distress: Prayers are asked for the daughter of Brother [REDACTED], who has been very ill.

Membership Application Received: Motion to accept the applications of our three new members Adam Fledderman, William Gillispie, and Luke Jackson was made by Robert Winters and seconded by Mike Beck, motion passed

Initiation of New Members: All three members above were initiated with proper ceremony.

Reports from Committees:

* Camp Baseball Cap Committee: No update

* Cemetery Cleaning and Restoration Committee: Mike Beck continues to work with Eagle Scout/Boy Scouts in Hurricane Cemetery in Johnson County. Twenty-five veterans stones were cleaned and/or reset. Approximately 10 people helped with this project.

* Confederate Memorial and Monument Committee: Wayne Sharp updated the camp about the ongoing issue with the dismantlement of the PAX cenotaph (Camp Morton POW Monument) at Garfield Park via email: Due to the failure of the SCV to provide promised manpower and equipment to move the PAX Monument (if the Federal Court had approved of our taking possession of the monument) AND since the Veterans Administration will not provide assistance in this endeavor (because in 1993 they paid for the Crown Hill Markers) all efforts have ceased and I assume the PAX Monument has been destroyed. I respectfully request the photo of the PAX Monument appearing on the Meeting Slide Presentation be replaced by a Crown Hill Burial Site photo. My efforts now turn to protecting the Confederate Mound - Crown Hill burial site of the 1,616 deceased POW's. It has already been tarred and feathered. The Cemetery seems serious about protecting the Federal Property in which the Confederate bones are buried and therefore additional security measures are now in place, including surveillance cameras and extra patrols. We shall see if this is enough. Future Project - I am invited to speak at the Monthly Meeting of the UDC on September 19th on the topic of Camp Morton, as the ladies are now starting up "in person" meetings once again. I have obtained permission to make my presentation mask less.

* Community Public Relations Committee: No Report

* Sultana Monument Committee: No updates at this time. The new camp members were briefed, by Bruce Kolb, about this project.

Orders, Communications, and Bills: Commander Floyd reminded us about five newly issued General Orders:

General Order No. 33: Suspension of Department of Connecticut Lifted.

General Order No. 34: Passing of Richard Orr, PCinC.

General Order No. 35: Lobbying - The National Organization is a 501(c)(3) entity, and our Departments, Camps, and Sons of Veterans Reserve Military Districts and Units are 501(c)(4) entities. No Lobbying on behalf of the SUVCW is allowed. Individuals are still encouraged to make their personal opinions known to their representatives.

General Order No. 36: Gift Giving - Banner on National Web Site to Make Donations.

General Order No. 37: 2020 National Encampment to take place via Zoom on October 24th

General order No. 38: 2020 Remembrance Day events scheduled for November 21 in Gettysburg have been cancelled.

Unfinished Business:

* Memorial Service for Ron Gill, PDC, took place in Valparaiso, on July 25, 2020. Camp members Jim Floyd, Tim Beckman, and Robert Winters attended.

* Edwin Sexton - Ceremony of Last Soldier of Huntington County took place on July 25, 2020. Camp members Jim Floyd and

Robert Winters attended.

- * The Ben Harrison Camp honored the 187th birthday of President Benjamin Harrison, on August 22, 2020, with a small service and the firing of volleys by the 27th Indiana S.V.R. at his grave in Crown Hill Cemetery.
- * Sgt. Jacob Hocker Gravestone Dedication at Crown Hill Cemetery on September 5, 2020. We has a very good turnout with excellent local TV news coverage. Commander Floyd showed the news clip from Channel 13 concerning the ceremony.
- * Kimmel Park G.A.R. Monument, Vincennes, IN : No new update.
- * Indiana Monument at Vicksburg Update: No new update.
- * Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Evansville, IN: No new update. Dept. Commander Hutchinson briefed the new camp members on the project. Dept. Commander Hutchinson also communicated to the camp that he would like to host the 2022 Midwinter Encampment in the Farragut GAR Post No. 27 room in the Coliseum, if it all possible.
- * Thomlinson Hall in Indianapolis, IN: No new update. Brother Kolb briefed the new members about the project.
- * Brother Beck briefed the new members about the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

Upcoming 2020 Camp Meeting Dates

October 10 - Camp Officers Will be Slated

November 14 - Election of Camp Officers

December 12 or 19 (depending on the date of the Crown Hill Wreaths Across America) - Camp Officers Installation

New Business

- * Tim Beckman made a motion to donate [REDACTED] to Mission Restore Bonze Indiana and was seconded by Jerry Thompson, motion passed.
- * Camp decided not to attend the Genealogy and Local History fair this year.
- * Brother Kolb briefed the camp concerning U.S. House Bill 7608. This concerns prohibition of confederate monuments and flags on National Parks Service battlefields. His opinion is that this will not pass the U.S. Senate this year.
- * Proposed Slated Camp Officers for 2021: Commander Bruce Kolb, SVC Mike Beck, JVC Tim Beckman, Secretary Tim Beckman, Treasurer Mike Beck, Camp Council #1 Garry Walls, Camp Council #2 Jim Floyd, Camp Council #3 Jerry Thompson.

Upcoming Events

December 14/19, 2020: Wreaths Across America, Crown Hill National Cemetery, Indianapolis (tentative, but might be cancelled).

Patriotic Instruction: Commander Floyd showed the camp a picture of his September 11th flag that he flies every September 11th at his house. Brother Kolb showed the camp a flag that has the names of all 3,000 people who lost their lives on September 11th.

Show and Tell: Brother Kolb showed the camp an Edison cellulose cylinder that he purchased that has the second known recording of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address as recited by Harry Humphrey in 1912. He also played a recording of this for the camp. Commander Floyd showed the camp a book on the 50th Gettysburg Reunion.

Tim Beckman, Secretary

Jim Floyd, Commander

9/12/20_____
Date