

MINUTES
Ben Harrison Camp No. 356
February 18, 2023
In-Person (Speedway MCL Cafeteria) and Zoom

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

Roll Call of Officers: 2023 officers present were Commander Bruce Kolb; SVC, Garry Walls, Treasurer, Mike Beck; JVC, Brian Mexin; Secretary, Graves Registration and Signals Officer Tim Beckman; Camp Council Garry Walls, Jerry Thompson; Camp Chaplain Brian Mexin; Camp Eagle Scout Coordinator, John Bowyer; Camp Color Bearer and Camp Guard, Joe Beckman. In all, eight brothers were present in-person and five via Zoom.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve the December 2022 minutes as distributed was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was distributed and read by Mike Beck.

Report of Sick Brothers or Families in Distress: Brother [REDACTED] informed the camp that he is recovering from shoulder surgery. No report of any other sick or distressed members. Prayers go out to all who are sick or in distress.

Membership Application Received: None.

Initiation of New Members: None

Reports from Committees:

* Sultana Monument Committee: Commander Kolb informed the camp that received the Sultana plaque and a time will have to be arranged to have the plaque installed on the stone. At this time, the exact location of this memorial on the grounds of the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne, is not known.

* Commander Kolb updated the camp on the progress of Last Union Veteran coins/medallions. He received a quote from the vendor. He recommended that we go with the antique brass coins. The quote was for 100 coins at a total cost of \$530 not including tax and shipping. Raymond Brown suggested that these coins should last at least 10 years before needing cleaning. The wording on the coins is as follows: "Last Union Veteran Buried in this County" on the top with the dates "1861-1865" on the bottom. Mike Beck made a motion to accept this design as submitted, and it was seconded by Jerry Thompson, motion passed.

* Cemetery Cleaning and Restoration Committee: Garry Walls informed the camp that he obtained approval from the caretaker of the cemetery for the camp to conduct our annual cemetery work day on May 13th at the Eagle Creek/Little Eagle Creek Cemetery near Westfield (Hamilton County). During his recent site visit he found that there are at least 16 Civil War veteran stones that need to be reset and cleaned. This will probably have to be a two-year project to get all of these stones reset and cleaned.

* Commander Kolb informed the camp that the 2023 Memorial Day service will take place on Monday, May 29th at the grave of past camp member Graham Morey, who was a Vietnam War veteran. His grave is in the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, 2446 S Meridian Street, Indianapolis.

Orders, Communications, and Bills: Commander Kolb informed the camp about General Orders # 14-18, and Department Circular 2022-4 and 2023-1.

Unfinished Business:

* Garry Walls informed the camp that he and Brother Tim Beckman, on February 19, 2023, will be attending the meeting of the Greene County Historical Society, to discuss a possible Memorial Day ceremony to take place in Bloomfield in May 2024.

New Business:

Brian Mexin asked the camp if they would be interested in participating in the Veterans Day parade in downtown Indianapolis on November 11, 2023. He is currently waiting on a response from the Indianapolis Veterans Day Council.

Upcoming 2023 Camp Meeting Dates and Dept. Events

March 11 - Camp Meeting – Virtual Only

April 8 - Camp Meeting

April 29 - 137th Annual Encampment, Dept. of Indiana, Kokomo

May 13 - Cemetery Cleaning, Eagle Creek Cemetery, Westfield, Hamilton County

May 29 - Memorial Day Ceremony, St. Joseph Cemetery at the grave of Graham Morey

For the Good of the Order: None

Patriotic Instruction: None

Tim Beckman, Secretary

Bruce Kolb, Commander

2/18/2023
Date