

MINUTES
Ben Harrison Camp No. 356
January 13, 2024
Zoom Only

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

Roll Call of Officers: 2024 officers present were Commander and Patriotic Instructor Brian Mexin; JVC and Treasurer, Mike Beck; Secretary, Graves Registration and Signals Officer Tim Beckman; SVC and Camp Council, Garry Walls; Camp Council and Camp Chaplain Jerry Thompson; Camp Eagle Scout Coordinator, John Bowyer; Camp Guide, Joe Beckman. In all, ten brothers were present, including Department of Indiana Commander Thomas Schmitt.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve the December 2023 minutes as distributed was passed, with one minor amendment.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was distributed and read. The Auxiliary line item will be dropped in future treasurer's reports, but will still be included in the total camp income.

Report of Sick Brothers or Families in Distress: [REDACTED] wife slipped on some ice this morning and hurt her knee. No other report of sick or distressed brothers or family members.

Membership Application Received:

* Brandon Porter informed the camp of his intention to be reinstated as a member in good standing after having paid his 2024 dues and the reinstatement fee. A motion was made by Mike Beck and seconded by Jerry Thompson to reinstate Brandon Porter, motion passed.

* New membership application was received from Lloyd Atterson, who has based his eligibility on the service of his Great Great Grandfather, Wiley Joseph Martin, who served as a private in Company F, of the 4th Tennessee Mounted Infantry. Motion to accept Lloyd Atterson as a member was made by Mike Beck and seconded by Garry Walls, motion passed. Congratulations to Brother Lloyd Atterson!

Initiation of New Members: None

Reports from Committees: No report from any committees.

Orders, Communications, and Bills: None reported.

Unfinished Business: None Reported

New Business:

* Bruce Kolb received a bible, from the National Assistant Executive Director of the SUVCW, that belonged to former Ben Harrison Camp member and Past SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Frank Huston. Camp Commander Brian Mexin shared with the camp a short biography of Frank Huston.

* Mike Beck shared a PowerPoint from the Williams Creek Wreaths Across America ceremony that took place on December 16, 2023.

*Department Commander Schmitt stressed the need for open communication among the camps of the department. He also informed the camp of the need to follow proper safety procedures when using black powder rifles and to follow inspection protocols before, during and after events.

*Garry Walls continues to finalize the 2024 Memorial Day program and briefed the camp about the issue of not having enough active participation of camp members at meetings.

Upcoming 2023/2024 Camp Meeting Dates and Dept. Events

February 11th - Lincoln Day Ceremony – Lincoln Boyhood Home, Lincoln City, Indiana, 2:00PM CST.

March 9th – Camp Meeting, Decatur Branch, Marion County Public Library, 5301 Kentucky Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46221

For the Good of the Order:

Camp Commander Mexin informed the camp that he intends to use For the Good of the Order to be an open forum for the members to be able to get to know each other better. With that said, he informed the camp that his oldest son is continuing his basic training in the army. Garry Walls reported that his son will soon be deployed to the middle east until June. Please keep all those who are serving in the Armed Forces in your prayers.

Patriotic Instruction:

Camp Commander Mexin gave a short report and a recommendation of the book “The Brothers of War-The Iron Brigade at Gettysburg” by Michael Eisenhunt.

Tim Beckman, Secretary

Brian Mexin, Commander

1/13/2024_____
Date