

MINUTES  
Ben Harrison Camp No. 356  
April 13, 2024  
Decatur Branch Marion County Library and Zoom

**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 Councilor Bruce Kolb; Camp Council and Camp Chaplain Jerry Thompson; Camp Guide, Joe Beckman. In all, ten brothers were present, either in-person or via Zoom.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve the March 2024 minutes as distributed was passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report was distributed and read.

**Report of Sick Brothers or Families in Distress:** No report of sick or distressed brothers or family members.

**Membership Application Received:** None Received

**Initiation of New Members:** None

**Reports from Committees:**

\* Mike Beck informed the camp that, as part of his JVC duties, he was contacted by past camp member Mike Tomey who has inquired about him possibly being reinstated. He was also contacted by Christopher Powers, PCC of the David D. Porter Camp, who will be locating to Indianapolis and would like to connect with the camp at that time.

\* Mike Beck briefed the camp on the ongoing work to mark the unmarked graves in the Peterson Cemetery located in Montgomery County. Applications have been approved from two of the unmarked graves has been sent to the Township Trustee for her to sign for the two unmarked Union veterans. Research is still ongoing to document and mark the one Confederate veteran buried there. The stones will likely be installed later this spring or early summer. A rededication ceremony for these two new stones and for the one stone that has previously been installed will take place maybe in August. Brothers Mike Beck, Tim Beckman, and Joe Beckman plan a site visit to the cemetery after the Department Annual Encampment on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Orders, Communications, and Bills:** Commander Mexin informed the camp about upcoming Department of Indiana Annual Encampment and about the new camp being formed in Bluffton.

**Unfinished Business:** Brother Lloyd Atterson welcomed the camp to consider a meeting location at the VFW hall located in Lawrence (Fort Ben area). Commander Mexin asked for a show of hands for those members who would be willing to have the camp meetings at one set location. Most members liked the idea of having one set meeting location. Brother Tim Beckman volunteered to meet with Brother Atterson sometime in June to look over the location and meeting room and report back to Commander Mexin.

**New Business:**

\* The annual cemetery work day, scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup>, has been cancelled.

\* A motion was made by Garry Walls and was seconded by Jerry Thompson to approve the purchase of a new Eagle for the top of the new flag pole for the camp national flag, at a cost of \$28.83. Motion carried.

\* Garry Walls reminded the camp about the upcoming Memorial Day ceremony to take place at the Grandview Cemetery, Bloomfield, Indiana on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM. Members were encouraged to arrive by 10:30AM.

\* Tim Beckman informed the camp about the Old Ossian Cemetery rededication to take place on May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00PM. All members are encouraged to attend.

\* Tim Beckman informed the camp about an upcoming work day to take place at the Williams Creek Cemetery, on June 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. While this is not an official camp event, he will be helping to reset monuments at the cemetery. Any member who is interested is invited to come and help.

\* Commander Mexin informed the camp about the upcoming Fourth of July parade to take place in Waldron, Indiana on July 6<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that maybe a few members will be able to participate in this event. More details will be distributed to the camp as they become available.

\* Bruce Kolb informed the camp about the recent proclamation, from Governor Holcomb, making May 30, 2024, as Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Day.

**Upcoming 2023/2024 Camp Meeting Dates and Dept. Events**

April 27th – Department of Indiana Annual Encampment, Indiana Veterans’ Home, West Lafayette, IN 9:00AM EDT

May 27<sup>th</sup> – Camp Memorial Day Ceremony, Grandview Cemetery, Bloomfield, Indiana, 11:00AM EDT

**For the Good of the Order:**

Commander Mexin, shared with the camp, a biography of camp member Jerrod Baugh.

**Patriotic Instruction:**

Camp Commander Mexin gave a presentation on Ford’s Theater in Washington, DC.

**Memorial Service:**

A short memorial service was conducted in honor John J. Copeland, who passed away on July 1, 2023.

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Tim Beckman, Secretary

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Brian Mexin, Commander

4/13/2024  
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Date