

MINUTES  
Ben Harrison Camp No. 356  
July 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 via Zoom, including Department of Indiana Commander Tom Schmitt.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report was distributed and read. The camp's IRS 990N was submitted and a copy was forwarded to Dept. Secretary Bill Adams.

**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:**

**Orders, Communications, and Bills:** Commander Mexin informed the camp about General Orders #11 through #22.

**Unfinished Business:**

\* Brother Beckman informed the camp that the VFW Post at Fort Ben would not work for our camp meeting location due to the hours of operation (3PM to close on Saturdays). Brother Beckman thanked Brother Lloyd Atterson for his assistance in this matter. A new permanent meeting location is still a work in progress at this time.

\* Brother Garry Walls thanked the camp for their participation in this year's Memorial Day ceremony in Bloomfield, IN.

**New Business:**

\* Mike Beck informed the camp about the upcoming grave stone rededication for Jacob Boots, Co. A, 11<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry, to take place on August 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00PM. Rifles are needed for this ceremony.

\* Mike Beck briefed the camp on the ongoing work to mark the unmarked graves in the Peterson Cemetery located in Montgomery County. Two of the VA supplied military stones have been delivered to the Township Trustee (after one had to be resent due to damage). Research into the last unmarked grave in this cemetery was finalized and William Wolfe is not a CSA veteran but a Union veteran who served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry (later the 5<sup>th</sup> West Virginia, Private, Co. E. The paperwork has been submitted to the VA for his stone.

\*Commander Mexin informed the camp about possible camp participation in the Franklin Fall Festival Parade on September 28<sup>th</sup> and the Indianapolis Veterans Day Parade on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

\* Tim Beckman informed the camp about an upcoming work day to take place at the Williams Creek Cemetery, on July 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. While this is not an official camp event, he will be helping to reset a fallen private stone for Civil War veteran Robert Tingle and his wife which fell a few weeks ago. Any member who is interested is invited to come and help.

\* Garry Walls reminded the camp about the unfinished work in the Little Eagle Creek Cemetery. A work day might be scheduled sometime in September or October (after the weather cools off).

\*Garry Walls is investigating a possible camp activity at the Mustering Elm Park at Trinity Springs, located in Shoals, IN.

\* Tim Beckman shared an image of a possible Civil War nurse medallion. Feedback is welcomed.

\* Department of Indiana Commander Tom Schmitt informed the camp that he has set October 19<sup>th</sup> as the date for the Mother George Monument Dedication at the Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne, IN.

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

National Encampment – Lexington, KY August 1-4

Peterson Cemetery Grave Rededication (Montgomery Co.) August 17th, 1PM EDT

Camp Meeting September 14th

**For the Good of the Order:**

Commander Mexin shared with the camp a brief biography of camp member Brother Michael Gilmore.

**Patriotic Instruction:**

Camp Commander Mexin gave an interesting presentation on Thaddeus Sobieski Constantine Lowe, a Civil War balloon aviator.

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Tim Beckman, Secretary

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Brian Mexin, Commander

7/13/2024\_\_\_\_\_  
Date