

MINUTES
Ben Harrison Camp No. 356
September 14, 2024
Michigan Road Branch Marion County Public Library and Zoom

Call to Order: Junior Vice Commander Mike Beck called the meeting to order.

Roll Call of Officers: 2024 officers present were JVC and Treasurer, Mike Beck; Secretary, Graves Registration and Signals Officer, Tim Beckman; Camp Council and Camp Chaplain, Jerry Thompson; Camp Eagle Scout Coordinator, John Bowyer; Camp Guide, Joe Beckman. In all, eight brothers were present, either in-person or via Zoom, including Department of Indiana Commander Tom Schmitt.

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

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

Report of Sick Brothers or Families in Distress: Brother [REDACTED] is in the hospital with pneumonia and a partially collapsed lung. Prayers go out to all the sick and distressed brothers.

Membership Application Received: A new membership application was received from Joseph P. Townsend who derives his membership from his 3rd Great Grandfather, Onslow Glenmore Frazier, Sr, who served as a Private, in Co. A, Seventh Tennessee Infantry. A motion was made by Jerry Thompson to accept him into the order and it was seconded by Joe Beckman, motion passed. Congratulations to Joe Townsend!

Initiation of New Members: None

Orders, Communications, and Bills: Brother Beck informed the camp about General Order #1, 2, and 3 and the Department Order 1-2024 concerning Department and Camp officer bonding.

Unfinished Business:

* Mike Beck briefed the camp on the Peterson Cemetery (Montgomery County) Grave Rededication Ceremony of Jacob Boots, Private, Co. A, 11th Indiana Infantry, that took place on August 17th.

* The Franklin Fall Festival Parade will take place on September 28th. The hope is to have a members march in this parade. If interested, please contact Camp Commander Brian Mexin.

* A mockup of a Civil War Nurse medallion (coin) was presented to the camp from the vendor. Brother Bruce Kolb has been working directly with the vendor on the design. It is the same size of the Last Union Veteran coin with wording on one side only in order for the coins to be affixed to a headstone. The camp liked the design. The design will be presented to the Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment in November for their review. The thought is to have the camp pay for the medallions and then to ask for donations from others to defray the cost.

New Business:

* There will be a headstone dedication ceremony to take place at the Bellfontaine Cemetery, Mount Veron (Posey County) on September 28th at 11:00AM CDT. The Foster Camp is organizing this event and all are invited to attend.

* There will be an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 28th, at 11am, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Carmel, Indiana. Brother Bruce Kolb, PDC will be attending this event.

* The camp was informed that Mike Beck and Tim Beckman, on September 12th, installed new VA supplied headstones at the Peterson Cemetery (Montgomery County) for three Civil War veterans: William L Price, Co. E, 135th Indiana, William C Wilson, Co. C, 120th Indiana, and William Wolfe, 1st Sergeant, 5th West Virginia Infantry.

* Mike Beck reminded the camp that several counties in the area still need Last Union Veteran coins attached to headstones.

* The camp was reminded that the Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment will take place on November 4, 2024 at the Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne.

Election of 2025 Camp Officers

The following members were nominated and voted into office, for the year 2025, by a unanimous vote of the camp:

Camp Commander – Brian Mexin
Senior Vice-Commander – Garry Walls, PCC
Junior Vice-Commander – Mike Beck, PDC
Camp Secretary – Tim Beckman, PDC
Camp Treasurer – Mike Beck, PDC
Camp Council Member #1 – Garry Walls, PCC
Camp Council Member #2 – Bruce Kolb, PDC
Camp Council Member #3 – Jerry Thompson, PCC

As a reminder, all 2025 camp officers will be installed at the November 9th Camp Meeting.

* Department Commander Tom Schmitt informed the camp that the Mother George monument will be dedicated on October 19th, 12:00 PM, at the Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne and all are invited. He also informed the camp that the charter has been received for the new camp in Bluffton!

Upcoming 2024 Camp Meeting Dates and Dept. Events

Franklin Fall Festival – September 28th
Bellfontaine Cemetery Headstones Rededication, Mount Vernon – September 28th
Department Mid-Year Encampment, Fort Wayne, November 2nd
Camp Meeting, Wayne Branch Indianapolis Public Library, November 9th

For the Good of the Order:

A bio of Brother Lloyd Atterson was shared with the camp.

Patriotic Instruction:

None

Tim Beckman, Secretary

Mike Beck, Jr. Vice Commander

9/14/2024_____
Date