

MINUTES

Ben Harrison Camp No. 356

November 9, 2024

Wayne Branch Marion County Public Library and Zoom

Call to Order: Commander Brian 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 Bruce Kolb; Camp Eagle Scout Coordinator John Bowyer; Camp Guide, Joe Beckman. In all, eight camp members were present, either in-person or via Zoom, including Department of Indiana Commander Thomas Schmitt.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was distributed and read. The Treasurer reported that he has the camp financial reports in-hand for the Camp Council to review.

Report of Sick Brothers or Families in Distress: Sister Jennifer Thompson's funeral was attended by several camp members on November 4, 2024. A moment of silence was conducted in remembrance of Sister Thompson.

Membership Application Received: None

Initiation of New Members: Brother Joe Townsend was initiated into the order with proper ritual.

Orders, Communications, and Bills: Commander Mexin Beck informed the camp about General Order #4, 5, and 6.

Unfinished Business:

* Bruce Kolb informed the camp that the Nurse Medallion (coin) proof was presented to the Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment with a very positive response from the members. The thought is to have the camp pay for the medallions and then to ask for donations from others to defray the cost. Estimated cost for 100 medallions is [REDACTED]. Bruce Kolb made a motion for the camp to purchase 100 medallions and it was seconded by Joe Beckman, motion passed. The camp secretary will purchase the medallions within the next week, using the camp debit card.

* Garry Walls recommended that the camp cemetery work day in 2025 be held in the Eagle Creek Cemetery, Hamilton County. This is the same cemetery that the camp worked in in 2023. The hope is that we will be able to finish the work that was started in 2023.

New Business:

* Commander Mexin recommended that the camp make a donation to the Daughters of Union Veterans scholarship fund in Jennifer Thompson's name. A motion was made and it was seconded by Bruce Kolb to contribute [REDACTED] to this fund. Additional contributions from members will be solicited until mid-December and then a check for the final amount will be mailed to the DUV scholarship fund.

* Mike Beck reported that during the recent Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment it was agreed upon that an exploratory committee be formed to possibly host a National Encampment no earlier than 2027. Also, Bruce Kolb reported that the Ben Harrison Camp will be hosting the 2025 Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana at the Indiana Veteran's Home, West Lafayette, Indiana, on April 26, 2025.

* Camp Commander Mexin reported that he attended the Hawpatch-Liberty Cemetery Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony on October 26, 2024. This was a DAR/SAR sponsored event and members of John B. Anderson Camp from Columbus, IN were also in attendance.

* Bruce Kolb informed the camp that he attended and presented an Eagle Scout certificate at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 28th, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Carmel, Indiana.

* Bruce Kolb reported to the camp that he recently visited an awesome bookstore located in Tipp City, Ohio called Browse Awhile Books. He reported that they have 4,000 Civil War books and many Civil War regimental histories.

Installation of 2025 Camp Officers

All 2025 Camp Officers in attendance were installed by Department Indiana Commander Tom Schmitt, with appropriate ritual.

2025 Ben Harrison Camp Elected Officers:

Camp Commander – Brian Mexin, PCC
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

2025 Ben Harrison Camp Appointed Officers:

Camp Patriotic Instructor - Lloyd Atterson
Camp Chaplain – Jerry Thompson, PCC
Camp Counselor – Bruce Kolb, PDC
Camp Graves Registration Officer – Tim Beckman, PDC
Camp Guide– Joe Beckman
Camp Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator – John Bowyer, PCC
Camp Signals Officer – Tim Beckman, PDC

Upcoming Camp Meeting Dates and Dept. Events

No Camp Meeting in December

Wreaths Across America, Williams Creek Cemetery– December 14th, 11AM, Arrive Early by 10AM

Camp Meeting - January 11, 2025 - Zoom Only

Note: Commander Mexin informed the camp that he will be distributing the 2025 camp meeting schedule to the camp membership in December.

For the Good of the Order:

None

Patriotic Instruction:

Commander Mexin shared with the camp President Abraham Lincoln’s Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863.

Tim Beckman, Secretary

Brian Mexin, Commander

11/9/2024
Date