



Maj. General Wm. T. Sherman

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Dept. of Michigan March to the Sea Camp Number 135 January-February 2009

Newsletter

"Preserved by the grace of God...."

Camp Officers:

Commander, Bruce Gosling
Sr. Vice Commander, Phillip Cripe
Jr. Vice Commander, David Gosling
Council Members, Carl Holsinger
Christopher Herrmann
David Herrmann

Secretary, Treasurer, Rick Shafer
Chaplin, Richard Cripe
Patriotic Instructor, John Dudd
Signals Officer, Bruce Gosling

Camp happenings:

Proposed amendments to our Camp Bylaws that mirror the National Organization's adoption of a Junior Associate class of membership as well as correct a few typographical errors in the original document were introduced at the January induction meeting. This would allow those who are ages six to fourteen without a direct lineage from a Union Civil War Veteran to join and become active in our mission. These amendments will be brought to the floor and voted upon at the March Camp meeting on March 17.

Also at the initiation, Brother Chuck made the announcement that he is throwing his hat into the ring for Department of Michigan Commander. This is both a huge honor for Chuck, and for Camp 135. I propose that our camp strongly consider adopting a resolution of support for his candidature at the March meeting.

The Oaklawn Cemetery cannon restoration project in Sturgis is moving ahead. The monument has been registered with the National Organization, which gives us the opportunity to apply for grants if needed. The committee created to

investigate the project met with Mr. Lyman Brown who has been actively trying to get the monument remounted over the last several years. He has fabricated mounting hardware that has been both hardened and powder coated. It was the consensus of the committee to proceed with his offer of the hardware, and a plan that would restore the monument to its original appearance mounted at ground level. This will be discussed further at the March meeting of the Camp.

January Initiation Meeting:

Our elected officers were inducted into their respective offices on January 20, 2009 at our annual dinner with our own Brother Chuck officiating in his capacity as Sr. Vice-Commander of the Dept. of Michigan. We are looking forward to a productive year with remounting the cannon at Oaklawn Cemetery moving right along and a similar project in Niles possibly on the horizon. More will be known and shared on this new project at our March membership meeting.



Camp 135 2009 officers, left to right John Dudd, Dick Cripe, Carl Holsinger, Rick Shafer, Bruce Gosling, Phillip Cripe, Chuck Worley and Chris Herrmann

Upcoming Events:

Here are a couple of dates to consider marking on your calendars:

On April 18, 2009 the SUVCW and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) will be conducting their annual Abraham Lincoln Death Day Observance in Springfield IL. This being the 200th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth makes this an even more meaningful event. If you would like any further information on this please contact CC Bruce.

The Department of Michigan Encampment will be held on the weekend of April 24-25 in Lansing at the Great Lakes Christian College. Details are in the last Michigan Messenger. Again, if contact CC Bruce if you need further information. I hope that we will be able to put together a good contingent to support Bro. Chuck in his candidature for Dept. Commander.

The 2009 National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on August 13-15. More information will be available in the upcoming release of the Banner, and can be found on-line at the National Organization website.

Congratulations!

To Brother Rob Sisson for being named the next president and CEO for Republicans for Environmental Protection (REP). REP is a national grassroots organization dedicated to "greening" up the GOP since 1995. Happily, this promotion does not look as if a move from Sturgis will be required.

Item of interest:

From the February *Civil War Times*; there is an online site being developed for the search of National Archives pension information for Civil War veterans. This is a joint project between the National Archives and Records Administration and the website Footnote.com. I did a little poking around after reading the article, and it is definitely under development. However, it may prove to be a great source for research on Civil War ancestors. Visit Footnote.com if you are interested in finding out more on this service.

Remember, there will not be a meeting in February. Our next meeting will be at the Stone School on March 17 at 7:00 PM.

In fraternity, charity and loyalty
Bruce Gosling, Signals Officer