

Department Orders No. 1
Series 2002 ~ 2003

1. Having been duly elected and installed by the 113th Encampment of the Department of Michigan, command is hereby assumed. Department Headquarters will be located at 1691 Summerfield Street, Kentwood, Michigan 49508-6499. Home phone: 616-827-3369. Cell phone (best way): 616-291-6939. Fax: 616-827-3366. Email: civil-war@attbi.com
2. My sincere thanks go to all the Brothers of the Department for bestowing this honor upon me. It will be my humble desire to lead by example and I encourage every Camp to do all within their power to “keep green the memory” while adhering to the principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.
3. To do so will require your help and support; I give you mine and trust you will do likewise. We do not have to recreate the wheel; we simply must strive to keep it rolling forward. In short, I believe we need to get “back to the basics” in some areas: communication, dependability, and dedication.
4. I am a member the same as you, and as such, required to fulfill the pledge I took when I became a member to do all within my power to “keep green the memory” and to obey the Constitution, Regulations, and By-Laws of the Order.
5. I believe communication as being essential to conducting the business we have to do in order to have success in the pursuit of our purposes and goals. I pledge to return phone calls and emails within two-days of receipt. I would appreciate the same consideration in return, even if not a full reply, at least an acknowledgement.
6. I also understand we are all busy with family, jobs, other organizations, and our Order and I can appreciate that. As a volunteer organization, everything we accomplish can be tiring but oh so rewarding. Like your English teacher of yesteryear, who was interested only in your English assignment and not what you did for Math or Sports, I was elected to oversee what you are doing for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, nothing more. No disrespect is ever intended towards your other endeavors. The good news is I will not be using a ruler on your hands.
7. The office of Department Commander exists to provide guidance and instruction to each Camp, Officer, and Brother. As such, I will, with assistance from fellow Department Officers, be visiting each Camp during my tenure.
8. I salute the 40 plus delegates who dedicated their time to take part in the April Encampment. We were honored with the attendance of our Commander-in-Chief, George Powell.

9. Congratulations to Sisters Eleanor Newberry (WRC) and Cynthia Van Antwerp (DUVCW) for their reelection as Presidents of their respective Orders. I look forward to working with them in the next year.
10. A salute goes out to Brothers Don Londo and Bruce Zann, both of Maj. Robert Anderson Camp No. 139, for traveling the most miles (from Alpena, MI) to take part in the Encampment.
11. Congratulations to Brother Bruce B. Butgereit, II, Secretary of Camp No. 1 for being awarded a tuition scholarship from the Woman's Relief Corps, at the 2002 Department Encampment.
12. Minutes of the Encampment are to be published and distributed by Dept. Secretary Lee by the first day of August 2002.
13. The Encampment voted in support of submitting the Department of Michigan's name for possible election to host the 2008 National Encampment. A letter has been submitted to the National Encampment Site Committee.
14. I will have the date, time and place of the various committee meetings placed on the Department "Events" web page once informed of such by each Committee Chairman. All Brothers are welcome to attend these meetings.

Our standing/special committees are and chaired by:

By-Laws: DSVC – Phil Parks

Legislative: Commander – Bruce B. Butgereit

Membership: DJVC – Neal Breaugh

Graves Registration: DGRO – Rick Danes

Civil War Memorials: DCWMO – Doug Armstrong

G.A.R. Records: G.A.R. Historian – Jim Lyons

Communication and Technology: DSO – Eric Kirchberg

Weekend of Remembrance: PC-in-C Keith Harrison

Ceremonies and Rituals: PDC – Greg Hayes

Andersonville 2004: Commander – Bruce B. Butgereit

Department Encampment 2003: C-of-S Rick Greene and Howard Streeter

Nominating: To be announced

15. Committee chairman are asked to submit the names of Brothers for appointment to their committee to this Office.
16. All Camps are encouraged to submit to the Department Signals Officer, any and all special events (not regularly scheduled meetings), for inclusion on our Department EVENTS web page.

17. A proud salute goes out to all Brothers, and our Sisters in the Allied Orders, who attended the 100th anniversary rededication of the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis, IN on May 11, 2002. As a Department, we made an excellent showing of support to our Brothers in Indiana. A special commendation to our two “true sons” Edward Blakely and Harold Becker for their attendance at this worthy event.
18. I instruct each Department Officer to place on their schedule and to attend the Ceremony of Remembrance and Old Soldiers Picnic to be held at the Grand Rapids Veterans Home, 3000 Monroe Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI on Saturday, August 3. We officers must lead by example and this event is the only one sponsored by the Department. Department officer and other attendee’s pictures will be taken at that time.

All Brothers are also encouraged to attend. While many of us participate in Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other community services, this one is special as it is held within our own state on the same grounds that many of “boys in blue” also walked. See pre-registration in this issue.

19. Department publication...I have created an informational flyer that includes a listing of all the Department of Michigan Camps, commanders, and contact information. Copies will be provided to Camps participating in events where out-state visitors might attend, such as Fort Wayne in Detroit, Charlton Park in Hastings, The Muster in Jackson, etc. This will be provided at no cost to the Department or Camp.
20. Camp publication...I have reworked the informational flyer for Camp No. 1 and am willing to create one for each and every Camp in the Department should you request one (a sample will be sent to each Camp). I will require some Camp history, some history of the G.A.R. in your community (obtained from Brother Jim Lyons), your meeting’s time, place and frequency, and your dues schedule. If you have any active Allied Orders in your community, also share their contact information with me. Once completed, I will provide several MASTERS to each Camp, free of charge, for reproduction and distribution by your Camp at your local events. They also work well for museums, libraries, and such.
21. Projects publication...I am looking into creating a flyer to share with the public some of our projects, such as G.A.R. Records, Civil War Memorials, and Graves Registration. I have found many circumstances where the public just doesn’t know what we are working on and are willing to help us once they learn.
22. Camaraderie...is one of the things that our ancestors shared in their time of service in the Civil War and one of the blessings we can enjoy today by working together. Share your events with other Camps and invite them to join you; attend their events. Plan a picnic or a cemetery walk with a neighboring Camp. Invite any Sisters of the Allied Orders to join you in your events and offer your

attendance and/or Color Guard to their events. We are Brothers and Sisters in one of the greatest organizations in the world. Let's all dedicate ourselves to the basics that made it so.

23. As Department Commander, I have participated in the following events (Camp No. 1 Commander events not included):

- A. May 3 - A Michigan "Save the Flags" program in Mattawan (2nd MI Inf.)
- B. May 3 - A Michigan "Save the Flags" program in Mattawan (24th MI Inf.)
- C. May 11 – The Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Monument rededication
- D. May 18 – Helped organize a headstone ceremony in Monroe, conducted by Sister Marcia Bruin (WRC) and Brother Tom Emerick
- E. May 24 – A Michigan "Save the Flags" program in Madison Heights (10th MI Cav.). "True son" Edward Blakely accompanied me, as this was the flag his father served under.
- F. May 29 – Spoke at Monterey Memorial Day services
- G. May 29 – Spoke at Poplar Hill Memorial Day services in Hopkins
- H. June 14 – Spoke at the Flag Day program at the Michigan Historical Museum
- I. June 22 – Organized and conducted Civil War monument rededication service in Grant