



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
PLEASANTON CAMP #24

MINUTES OF CAMP MEETING ON FEBRUARY 18TH, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Brother Ken Felton at 7 p.m.

Roll was taken; in attendance were Brothers Ken Felton, Jeffrey Vaillant, Charles Kenyon, John Gee, Robert Mayer, and Steve Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Treasurer's Report: Brother Steve reported that the balance of the camp's bank account as of January 31 was \$949.73. Members who still have not paid their dues will be contacted by phone and/or e-mail.

Brother Ken reported that the next clean-up of the Martinez city cemetery - which has some G.A.R. headstones - will be Saturday, May 2. The group decided that we will participate in the clean-up and hold our May meeting at the cemetery. Ken will find out if the historical society there will let us clean the headstones of the soldiers buried there.

We discussed our participation at events during the year so we could complete the Patriotic Instructor Form. We listed our involvement in the Civil War Days at both Alcatraz and Fort Point, Memorial Day Services at the Presidio, Civil War programs Brother John and Steve do at Fort Point, and the education we do at re-enactments (Brothers Charles and Robert).

Brother Charles gave a presentation on Living History. He defined it as a way of teaching history as accurately as possible, and a chance to dispel some of the inaccuracies that people may have about a particular time period.

He classified participants in Living History into 3 groups:

- 1) those who do it for fun but aren't especially focused on accuracy or educating people
- 2) those who try to be extremely accurate in dress, food, and performance, even in their speech, and stay in character all the time
- 3) those who are between the other two - they try to be accurate but also try to engage the public in what they are doing and why they are doing it

Charles discussed the main Civil War re-enacting groups — the NCWA, the ACWA, the RCWA, and CHAS — and how they evolved into separate groups. Interestingly, more and more they have been joining each other in the various re-enactments in Northern California, including the Civil War Days at Alcatraz and at Fort Point.

He also related how officers are chosen in each group (by election), various duties of the members, and the cost of re-enacting (uniforms can cost anywhere from \$300 to \$900, a musket typically costs \$700 - \$900). By the end of his talk, we were better informed about the commitment re-enactors have to make to become part of that community. We are fortunate to have re-enactors in our camp who strive to show the public how Civil War soldiers drilled, dressed, slept, ate, played, and fought - presenting a living picture of their life in the 1860's.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephen Johnson
Secretary, Camp 24