

General Pleasonton Camp #24

MINUTES OF THE CAMP MEETING

June 20, 2020

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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The virtual meeting via Zoom was called to order by Commander Robert Mayer at 10:10 a.m.
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Members in attendance: Brothers Ken Felton, Steve Johnson, Joshua Barger, Dale Smith, Gary Hormel, Mark Wilson, and Brad Hatton (briefly). Unfortunately Brothers Jeff Nibert and John Gee tried but were unable to connect with us. The officers will work on making sure everyone will be able to connect to our next meeting.

The minutes of the February camp meeting were unavailable at the time of the meeting, but are now attached so that members can review them. Unless there are any objections, the minutes will be considered approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brother Johnson reported that the camp has \$1,041.25. This includes \$300 in the Braden Schall Memorial Fund. Our account is with Union Bank.

Memberships: We have three new members this year. Brother Jeffrey Nibert who lives in Pleasanton, Brother Gregory LaFramboise who lives in Concord, and Brother Joshua Barger who lives in San Francisco. Brother Barger gave a brief description of his ancestor Stephen Underwood, who served with the 19th Michigan and saw action at Chattanooga and with Sherman's campaign. We are delighted to have these Brothers join our camp, and each will receive a membership medal.

Camp Business:

- Brother Ken Felton received the Department's Officer of the Year Award for his tireless efforts to have a proper headstone placed over the resting place of Jose Ramon Pico, who served the Union in California by raising the only lancer company in the U.S. Army. He also arranged a ceremony at the National Cemetery at the Presidio to place a Medal of Honor plaque over the grave of Matthew Arthur, a Union sailor recognized for his valor aboard a gunboat while under fire. Congratulations to Brother Ken!
- Brother Gary reported that the National Park Service is still working out the details of opening up Alcatraz for visitors. Right now the idea is to have one boat of 100 visitors per hour, and there will be limited outdoor programs. Volunteers will not be included in the opening at first, until the NPS works out safety procedures for them.
- Brother Robert said that the Living History Days at Fort Mervine in Monterey have been

cancelled, and it may not be revived next year due to diminishing participation.

- Brother Robert described our participation in the Patriotism Award given out at the local Naval Sea Cadet programs, and if circumstances permit the next award will be given out in January.
- Brother Robert reported that there is a new camp organizing in the state of Hawaii.

New Business:

- The camp voted to have Brother Gary take over the position of Junior Vice Commander.
- Brother Robert requested all members to think about nominations for camp officers for our next meeting, including oneself. Ballots will be sent out afterward and the election will be held at our October meeting. We also need a member now to volunteer to be a council member. The council members review the bank statements in October to make sure all is in order.
- The next camp meeting will be in August and if conditions are favorable, we might be able to meet outdoors at the Benicia Museum. In any case it will include a virtual meeting component so that all members can participate.

Brother Steve gave a 30 minute presentation about the military career of Albert Sydney Johnston. He was the commander of the Department of the Pacific (and thus of Fort Point and Fort Alcatraz) who at the beginning of the Civil War resigned and joined the Confederacy. His is an interesting story and if you want to read more about him I recommend this excellent resource for the history of California and the Civil War <http://www.militarymuseum.org>

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer, Camp 24