



Minutes of the Meeting of Camp 24
Saturday, August 8, 2020

The meeting via Zoom was called to order at 10 a.m. by Commander Robert Mayer. Members attending were Brothers Brad Schall, Gary Hormel, Steve Johnson, Brad Hatton, Ken Felton, Dale Smith, Jeffrey Nibert, Glenn Martin, and Greg LaFramboise. Guests were past member John Gee and Wayne Eder of the Sons of Union Reserve.

Brother Eder is the commander of the Sixth District of the Sons of Union Veterans Reserve, and is a member of SUVCW Camp 25 in Reno, NV. Since that district includes San Francisco, Brother Eder wanted to invite any of our camp members to form a unit of the SUVR. This branch of the SUVCW is the military unit which marches in parades, does flag ceremonies at gravesides, and visits schools. They typically carry muskets and have a high standard of uniform appearance. If any of our members are interested in forming a unit, they should contact our camp commander.

Brother Steve had sent out the minutes of the last meeting, and they were approved at this meeting. He also reported that our balance as of July 31 at Union Bank was \$890.03.

Our new members introduced themselves. Brother Glenn Martin is a veteran, and lives with his family in Walnut Creek. He said his ancestor, Caleb Seacord, was in the Third Delaware Infantry. That unit saw action at Antietam, ColdHarbor, and Petersburg. He served for three years. Glenn is eager to join us at living history events once they resume.

Brother Jeff Nibert lives in Pleasanton with his wife and daughter - his sons live elsewhere. His great-great-great grandfather, John Guest, served in the 1st Maryland Cavalry, starting in 1861. In 1864 he was taken prisoner and

paroled to a hospital in 1865 but died of dysentery just 11 days before Appomattox.

Brother Greg LaFramboise (French for raspberry) is married, has two sons, and lives in Concord. His third great-grandfather was Robert Lewis Phillips who mustered into the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry in 1862. For medical reasons he was discharged in 1863.

We warmly welcomed all these brothers into our camp and look forward to future times when we can all participate in various activities at Civil War sites.

Brother Steve mentioned that Alcatraz NP will open on August 17th but with limited numbers (100 persons per boat), only 5 boats/day, and the audio guide will tell the history of the prison as visitors walk around the cell house (but not inside). For now there will be no volunteers coming onto the island.

Brother Gary reported that he has put in an application for us to participate in the San Francisco History Days in September. It is unknown right now in what way we will participate (Zoom? Exhibit?) but Gary will keep us informed. We have participated in this event for several years when it was held at the Old Mint and it was a good way to reach out to the public and maybe get new members.

Brother Robert mentioned that Angel Island State Park is open again, and we will inquire as to whether they are allowing volunteers to do any interpretation. (The annual Civil War Days, held every June, was cancelled this year.)

Nominations were accepted for positions for the year 2021. They were:

Commander: Robert Mayer

Senior Vice-commander: Ken Felton

Junior Vice-commander: Glenn Martin

Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Johnson

Council Member 1: Jeff Nibert

Council Member 2: Dale Smith

Council Member 3: Greg LaFramboise

Ballots will be sent to members next month.

Brother Steve will find out if the National Cemetery in the Presidio will allow us to give graveside presentations on Veterans Day. We stand by the headstones of notable Civil War soldiers (and one Union female spy!) and tell a short story about them. If it's a go, more info will be sent to members.

Brother Ken reported that he is still involved in researching the graves at the cemetery in Hanford, CA, to see if the Union soldiers buried there are correctly identified and if they need headstones. He also mentioned that anyone can access the graves registration page on the SUVCW website.

There was some discussion about the proposed letter regarding the removal of U.S. Grant's statue in San Francisco. Brother Brad referred us to the National hdqrs order that came out recently (which we mailed to all members); our proposed letter falls within their guidelines. Several brothers suggested changes to the letter, which has been done, and the final draft will be sent to everyone.

It was suggested that our next meeting be held on a Saturday in October. If there is a Saturday that you cannot attend, please let the commander or the secretary know. Also, if you wish to obtain a roster of our camp, let the secretary know.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Johnson
Secretary, Camp 24