



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Gen. Alfred Pleasonton Camp 24
Minutes of the Meeting of January 16, 2021

Meeting called to order by Commander Robert Mayer at 10:03

Roll call of officers was taken and all were present:

Commander Robert Mayer

Senior vice-commander Ken Felton

Junior vice-commander Glenn Martin

Secretary/Treasurer Steve Johnson

Members present were brothers Gary Hormel, Brad Schall, Greg LaFramboise, Mark Wilson, Joshua Barger, Chris Wimmer

We were honored to have the Department Commander, Rudy Velasco, join us to administer the oath of office to the officers of the camp for 2021. The officers were duly sworn in.

We were pleased to have Chris Brozek join the meeting as a new member. He lives in San Carlos, works for a firm on the peninsula, and has a wife and three teen-aged kids. He served in the Navy from 1991 to 1999. His interest in the SUVCW came about because of his wife, whose ancestor was Charles Stein and who served in the Union Army in 1865. Chris wanted to join our organization because he felt our values of patriotism, honoring the past service of veterans, and loyalty to the country are sorely needed right now and are ones that he shares. He was inducted into the camp after the members' vote to receive him, and after reciting the oath administered by Junior vice-commander Glenn Martin. Welcome, Brother Chris!

Brother Gary reported that as of now there are no volunteers allowed at the Park Service sites at Fort Point, Alcatraz, and the Presidio due to the surge of the virus. No living history events are planned until further notice.

Commander Robert announced the formation of a Sons of Veterans Reserve unit which will be attached to our camp. This unit will perform uniformed ceremonial activities, such as at the Veteran's Day parade. It will be the Third Artillery, Company H unit of the SVR.

Brother Steve reported that he received a response from a member of the San Francisco School Board regarding the letter he sent about dropping the name of Lincoln from one

of its high schools (the re-naming committee accused Lincoln of being a racist). The letter, from Commissioner Matthew Alexander, stated that Lincoln was a good politician and strategist but prejudiced against black people and Native Americans. He thought the board should honor people like Harriet Tubman instead. I responded that it is a mistake to judge 19th century individuals by 21st standards and not consider the milieu in which the person lived; and anyway, Lincoln's accomplishments to free the black people and to keep the Union intact should far outweigh any personal faults. If you wish to see the full letter by Mr. Alexander, email me for a copy. It may not be too late to write to the commissioners yourself about this issue. <https://www.sfusd.edu/about/board-of-education>

Brother Mark Wilson invited members to join him on a camping trip at the Little Big Horn Battlefield site in Montana in June. He goes there every year as a re-enactor, and said the re-enactment - done by the Crow Nation - is something to behold. He mentioned that one of the founding members of our camp, "Corky" Reid, asked to have his ashes spread near the site, which Brother Mark accomplished. He recommended the new movie coming out, "Custer's Strategy for Defeat". A trailer can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seZpPzFlZXA> Brother Mark can be reached at wwht@sbcglobal.net

Brother Ken said he has been working on documenting the graves of Union soldiers in Hanford, California. He has identified and recorded seven graves there, including a female whose grave marked her as a Union nurse. She apparently arrived at the Union hospital to nurse her wounded husband; when he died she continued to nurse other wounded men.

Brother Steve gave a brief slide show about the Civil War Days on Angel Island, held every June (though probably cancelled this year). Hopefully it's an event we can participate in next year.

It was decided to hold our next virtual meeting on Saturday, April 24th, at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Johnson
Secretary, Camp 24