

Brothers:

It was exciting to have the first Camp Mess of the Major William A. McTeer Camp No. 39 of the SUVCW today at Calhoun's in Maryville, TN. In attendance were Mike Downs, SVC; Doug Fidler, Secretary; Steve Wallace, JVC; George Lane, PCC; Bob Wallace, Treasurer; David McReynolds, Commander; and new members Sam Wilson and Roy Gamble. Both Brothers Wilson and Gamble are descendants of survivors of the tragic explosion of the Sultana on the Mississippi River near Memphis. PCC and Counselor Craig Brown was unable to attend due to last minute work commitments. I believe that we had both good company and good food together. We plan to do much more of this in the future.

In fact, we have planned our meeting schedule for 2015. **The next Camp Mess will be Tuesday, 10 Feb 2015, at 12 Noon, again at Calhoun's in Maryville.** All members and prospective members are welcome to attend. Just please let us know who is planning to attend so that we can arrange appropriate space at the restaurant.

Future meetings will be the second Tuesday of each month for lunch at a site or sites to be determined.

We also plan to have one formal camp meeting each quarter with an educational presentation. The first of these meetings is tentatively scheduled for Monday evening, 23 Mar 2014, from 7-9 pm at the Blount County Public Library (pending Brother Steve Wallace's confirmation of its availability). An alternate date of the following Monday was selected if the first choice proves unavailable. At this first meeting, SVC Mike Downs will put on his performance as Corporal William Downs of the 73rd Indiana.

We had a good discussion about the Camp's commitment to honor the Sultana survivors and descendants as part of the Blue and Gray Reunion and Freedom Jubilee taking place 30 Apr 2015 to 3 May 2015. **The Sultana event will take place at Mt. Olive Cemetery on 3 May 2015 at 2:00 P.M.** There is a lot of work to do in getting ready. The educational program is already arranged. Steve Wallace is coordinating the availability of his brass band to perform at the event. We will need 3 tents, a program and as much publicity as we can generate. I'm sure there will be more to talk about at next month's Camp Mess on 10 Feb 2015. PCC George Lane is to get a full agenda of events for the Blue and Gray Reunion to Commander David McReynolds prior to the Department Encampment (31 Jan 2015).

Remember the Department Encampment on 31 Jan 2015 at Fort Negley in Nashville, TN. The National Encampment will be 19 Aug 2015 through 23 Aug 2015 in Richmond, VA. The location should provide an opportunity for good camp attendance and participation in the affairs of the SUVCW National.

All for now. Will likely send out other e-mails on individual topics and with additional information.

In fraternity, charity and loyalty,

David McReynolds
Commander, Maj. Wm. A. McTeer Camp No. 39, SUVCW