

Brothers:

Another good meeting! We had 8 in attendance once again. Still hope for more. For our brothers who live overseas, we cross our fingers to bring you luck in winning the lottery so that you might join us sometime for a meeting!

We did a lot of planning which included much discussion. Following are some important dates and events to remember:

- The **next Camp Mess will be Tuesday, 10 March 2015, at 12 Noon at Calhoun's on the Creek in Maryville, TN.** Hope we can have more brothers in attendance as we continue to build a plan for what will be a successful year!!
- Our **quarterly camp meeting will be held Monday, 23 March 2015, starting at 6:30 PM in the Sharon Lawson Room at the Blount County Public Library in Maryville, TN.** Senior Vice Commander Mike Downs will present the education as he portrays the experiences of his ancestor during the Civil War. We will install new members and will formally install new officers that were elected in December. And we will follow the official ritual for the meeting. Prospective members and the public are invited to attend. Let's get the word out as much as we can! It's a big room so we can host lots of members and guests. Wives and children might be interested as well.
- Junior Vice Commander Steve Wallace suggested that our camp participate in the Civil War Encampment at the Thompson-Brown House which is across 321 from Blount Memorial Hospital that usually takes place the last weekend in April. We will put the exact date in next week's newsletter. We should put up our tent and provide information about our fraternal organization at what has been a well attended event.
- Much discussion ensued around the big **Blue & Gray Reunion and Jubilee to be held in Knoxville, TN from 30 April 2015 to 3 May 2015.**
- **On 1 May 2015 there will be a Blue & Gray Dinner at the Convention Center in World's Fair Park starting at 7 PM.** It would be great if we could have several members of our camp attend and those who have uniforms, wear them. Tickets are available through Brother George Lane.
- **On 2 May 2015 there is an all day Civil War Exposition at Krutch Park in downtown Knoxville.** We will need to man an information tent. Brother George Lane, who will be conducting bus tours, will set up the tent and take it down. Commander David McReynolds will be there in the morning and Senior Vice Commander Mike Downs in the afternoon. ***We need more brothers to help out.*** A sign up list will be distributed closer to the date of the event.
- **On 3 May 2015 our camp will host the re-dedication of the Sultana Monument at Mount Olive Cemetery on Old Knoxville Highway. The event will start at 2 PM.** Brother George Lane is attempting to arrange through the Blue & Gray event organizers a bus to bring attendees from downtown Knoxville to the cemetery for the event. We will be performing the official SUVCW ritual. Norman Shaw will present an educational program on the Sultana disaster.

Brother Doug Fidler has arranged for a high school ROTC color guard, rifle team and bugler to participate. We have also invited a local boy scout troop to participate in uniform. We will need to set up tents and chairs earlier in the day. It was suggested that a local funeral home might donate this service for us.

- **Also on 1 May 2015 (at 10:30 AM subject to change), our camp will participate in a memorial ceremony commemorating the 75th anniversary of the death of Blount County's "Last Civil War Veteran" - Private Benjamin Franklin** of the 1st United States Colored Heavy Artillery. The event will be held at Maple Grove Cemetery, 726 Dunlap Road - which is just off Lamar Alexander Parkway behind the Lone Oak Baptist Church. Brother Doug Fidler has also arranged for a high school ROTC color guard, rifle team and bugler to participate in this event as well.
- We **also set the date for our second quarter camp meeting - Monday, 22 June 2015, 6:30 PM at the Blount County Public Library in Maryville.** We will need to have an educational program on tap for this meeting as well.
- We **also discussed the formation of an Auxiliary for our camp.** Commander David McReynolds provided information to Treasurer Bob Wallace to take to his spouse, Chloe Wallace, who along with Commander McReynolds's spouse, Cindy, have expressed interest in leading the effort. Remember wives and daughters would be eligible and associate memberships are available for an auxiliary just like for the camp itself. Hopefully there will be enough interest for us to act upon this at either our March or June meeting.

Brother Craig Brown volunteered to lead the PR effort and as you all can see, we have a lot on our plates. We all need to take part in getting the word out about what our plans are and the events in which we will take part. Hope to see all the USA brothers in our area at the next Camp Mess on 10 March 2015! We must have all hands on deck to do the great job our camp can do the first weekend in May.

And this is just the first half of the year. We have plans for that as well. See the newsletter for more information.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

David McReynolds

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