

Officers of Major William A. McTeer Camp 39 met at Starbucks on Alcoa Highway, Alcoa, for the first McTeer Officers Mess at 1300 hours on Thursday, 28 Jan 2016.

PRESENT: CC David McReynolds, DC Mike Downs, SVC Max Renfro, JVC Richard Holmes Secretary/Treasurer Doug Fidler, Chief of Staff Bob Wallace. Guest: Bro. Allan E. Nicholls

1. Commander David H. McReynolds called the meeting to order at 1305 hours. This was the first meeting of McTeer Officers to address broader aspects of policy and programs. He asked Brother Doug Fidler to introduce a special guest of the meeting: Brother Allan E. Nicholls, Association Member of McTeer Camp 39, who is visiting the Secretary/Treasurer from Bexleyheath, Kent, England. Bro. Allan has been very active in events sponsored in the Greater London area. He was co-winner of the 2013 SUVCW Founders Award for his work to recognize and restore the gravestone of Pvt William Blazey in the Bexleyheath Cemetery.
2. The Commander explained that he wished to reemphasize and further explain the five goals he has for McTeer Camp in 2016
  - a. Goal 1. Growth of membership will enlist new additional brothers to fulfill the purpose and programs of the Orders. He stressed the need to expand into Knoxville and surrounding counties. There should be special emphasis on recruiting a younger membership that would add much needed labor and enthusiasm to that already provided by more senior members. He then inviting the officers to discuss ideas for growing membership. These included the following: encourage all members to recruit applicants just by talking about activities; having more joint meetings with other patriotic and heritage societies in the local areas; add links to websites of organizations with similar goals and purposes; placing ads in select media such as the Civil War News (Tennessee Section); develop a closer bond with the Knoxville Civil War Round Table.
  - b. Goal 2. Use our two big local events as a springboard to draw more attention to our purposes and contributions to the community: Memorial Day and one other activity each year. There will be two “other” events in 2016: Centennial of the Dedication of the Sultana Monument in 1916 and the Sesquicentennial of the Readmission of Tennessee into the Union in 1866. Details are on the website.
  - c. Goal 3. Stressing of the Order’s history and rituals through educational programs at the local level and encouraging all officers to complete the SUVCW Memorial University, a self-paced, on-line, series of lessons about the Order on the national website. The camp will draw on PowerPoint presentations found there.
  - d. Goal 4. Continue quarterly meetings that will interest members of the community to find out more about us. Programs for 20 Mar and 19 Jun are in works.
3. The Commander next discussed some upcoming events that he hoped would encourage more of our Brothers to participate in 2016 and invited suggestions and opinions.
  - a. He recommended as a worthy project the erection of an historic sign in the Blaine, TN, area to honor Gertrude Janeway (3 Jul 1909-17 Jan 2003), the last known Federal Civil War Widow. It would also honor Bro. Charlie Engle, a recently deceased brother who stressed the importance of the project.

- b. He reminded the officers of some major events coming soon and referred them to the camp website for further information.
- c. DC Downs added that the Annual Encampment of the Department would occur near Memphis, TN, on 20 February. Thus far, Bros. Downs, McReynolds, and Fidler, will be attending. He also mentioned that the Department of Tennessee will host the first meeting of the Central Region Allied Orders, 30 Sep-1 Oct 2016, in Nashville, TN. Bro. Mike encouraged greater attendance because it provides an opportunity to exchange ideas and brotherhood with those from all over the region.
4. The Commander requested that brothers of the camp volunteer for the Camp "Adopt-a-School" program, to include public, private and home schools. It will be an excellent way to fulfill our goal of educating the public about the Civil War and its causes and consequences. Participation can be either on an academic or reenacting subject. He asked that volunteers contact him to be placed on the list of speakers.
5. Finally, the commander assigned duties to the appropriate officer for obtaining information and participants in the two major events coming this summer: the Sultana Monument Centennial, and the Sesquicentennial of the Readmission of Tennessee.
6. Commander McReynolds closed the meeting at 1335 hours.

FOR THE COMMANDER



Douglas K. Fidler, PhD, PDC, PCC  
Camp Secretary/Treasurer  
Maj Wm A. McTeer Camp 39  
Department of Tennessee