



Major William A. McTeer Camp No. 39
Department of Tennessee
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

MINUTES – QUARTERLY MEETING – 23 MARCH 2015

1. Camp Commander David McReynolds opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. in the Sharon Lawson Room of the Blount County Public Library in Maryville, Tennessee. The following brothers were in attendance: David McReynolds (Commander), Michael Downs (Senior Vice Commander), Stephen C. Wallace (Junior Vice Commander), Doug Fidler, PDC, PCC (Secretary), Max Renfro, Nicholas Knight, Sam Wilson, Lee Johnson, Roy Gamble, Scott Alley (Chaplain) and George Lane, PCC. Chaplain Scott Alley read the Divine Blessing followed by Commander McReynolds leading the camp in reciting the American's Creed and the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Camp Commander McReynolds greeted the brothers in attendance and offered a brief summary of camp activities since the December encampment. He expressed his optimism of what can be accomplished this year given the camp's ambitious schedule of events for April and May including the re-dedication of the Sultana Monument at Mount Olive Cemetery as part of the Blue & Gray Reunion and Freedom Jubilee, the State of Tennessee's signature sesquicentennial event for 2015. Three camp mess meetings have been held this year and will continue monthly throughout the year. These meetings are helping the camp plan events, keep itself organized and promote fraternal relations between brothers.
3. Secretary Doug Fidler called the roll of officers. Present were Commander McReynolds, SVC Downs, JVC Wallace, Secretary Fidler, Chaplain Scott Alley and Past Commander Lane.
4. Having received the minutes of the December 2014 annual encampment for review prior to the meeting, the brothers voted unanimously to accept them as presented.
5. In the absence of Treasurer Robert Wallace, Commander McReynolds presented a brief Treasurer's Report for the camp. The balance in the camp's checking account at February 28, 2015 was \$1,169.92. Secretary Fidler reported that most 2015 dues had been collected although there were a few yet to come in. He will follow-up and report to the Commander and at the next Camp Mess meeting.
6. Commander McReynolds offered the camp's sympathies and condolences to JVC Stephen Wallace on the recent death of his wife. He offered the support of the brothers of the camp in any way that could help Brother Wallace at this time of grieving. Commander McReynolds also reported on medical conditions of several other camp brothers and asked the camp to remember them in their thoughts and prayers.
7. Department Commander Michael Downs then proceeded with the initiation of two new brothers to the camp: Sam Wilson and Roy Gamble. Both Brothers Wilson and Gamble are descendents of Union soldiers who were on board the Sultana when it sank April 27, 1865.
8. New Business
 - a. Commander McReynolds, on behalf of the Camp, presented Brother George Lane, PCC the Past Camp Commander's badge. Brother Lane expressed his appreciation for having had the opportunity

to serve as Commander in 2014 and looked forward to working with new Commander David McReynolds in 2015.

- b. Commander McReynolds reminded the brothers that the next Camp Mess meeting would be on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 12 Noon at Calhoun's on the Creek Restaurant in Maryville, Tennessee and that the next quarterly meeting will be at the Blount County Public Library on Monday, June 22, 2015 starting at 6:30 p.m.
 - c. JVC Wallace reminded the brothers of the camp's commitment to participate in the Thompson-Brown House Heritage Festival and Civil War Encampment on April 18, 2015. We will need brothers to man our tent and table all day.
 - d. Both Commander McReynolds and PCC Lane discussed the upcoming event to re-dedicate the Sultana Monument on May 3, 2015 and the other events of the Blue & Gray Reunion and Freedom Jubilee taking place April 30, 2015 to May 3, 2015. Brothers are encouraged to attend the banquet on Friday evening, May 1st at the Convention Center in Knoxville. And we will need brothers to help man our tent and table on Saturday, May 2nd for the Civil War Exposition to be held in Krutch Park.
 - e. Commander McReynolds announced that the SUVCW National Encampment will be held in Richmond, Virginia from August 20 through August 23, 2015. Several brothers have expressed interest in going and attendance is encouraged. It is advised that reservations and other arrangements be made as early as possible in order to take advantage of special rates and to assure a place at the banquet.
9. Department Commander Michael Downs then presented a very interesting educational program entitled "I am Corporal William Downs, but you can call be Bill". The program was a first person interpretation of the experiences of a soldier from the 73rd Indiana, an ancestor of Michael Downs.
 10. Department Commander Downs then conducted a formal installation of officers' ceremony for the Camp. Although the election had occurred in December and the new officers began their service in January, the Camp had not had the opportunity for a formal installation of officers' ceremony until this March quarterly meeting.
 11. Before closing the meeting, Commander McReynolds reminded the camp of his goals for 2015: (1) to meet more frequently in order to provide more opportunities for our camp to bond as a cohesive working unit, (2) to include at least quarterly educational opportunities in order to potentially attract new active members, (3) to select events in the East Tennessee area for camp participation and by promoting only a few events encourage more camp participation, (4) to grow the camp by 10 new active members, and (5) to ensure camp participation in Department and National activities. He hopes that we can not only meet these goals but exceed them by a wide margin.
 12. There being no further business to come before the camp, Commander-elect McReynolds closed the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

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