

**Department of Kansas**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
**Minutes of the Spring Council Meeting**  
**March 12, 2011**

1. Meeting was called to order at the Watkins History Museum in Lawrence, Kansas, at 10:15 AM, by Department Commander James R. Knopke, PDC. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.
2. Roll call of officers was conducted by Secretary Alan L. Russ, PDC.
  - a. The following voting members were present:  
Department Commander James R. Knopke, PDC  
Senior Vice Department Commander Roy A. Lafferty, PDC  
Junior Vice Department Commander Robert L. Wandel  
Secretary/Treasurer Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Council Member Thomas E. Schmidt, PDC  
Council Member Randal L. Durbin, PDC  
Council Member Blair D. Tarr
  - b. The following voting members were absent:  
Immediate Past Department Commander James M. Converse, PDC
  - c. The following brothers were also present:  
Richard Bennett, Camp Commander, Camp 1, Wichita  
Kent Melcher, Camp Commander, Camp 16, Topeka  
Mike Hadl, Camp Commander, Camp 4, Lawrence  
Alan Van Loenen, PCC, Camp 4, Lawrence.
  - d. A quorum was declared to be present.
3. The compiled minutes from the Department Electronic Boardroom were read. It was moved by Secretary Russ to accept them as read. Motion carried.
4. Under unfinished business, Secretary Russ presented the information, as known at this point, concerning the visit by CinC Schall to the Department Encampment, along with a dinner on Saturday evening. Details will be provided as they become available.
5. Under unfinished business, Council Member Schmidt moved the issue of creating a Department badge be tabled to the Department Encampment, in order that input may be received from those in attendance. Motion carried.
6. Under unfinished business, SVDC Lafferty reported briefly on the Department of Kansas Facebook page, which is now up and running.
7. A brief discussion was conducted about the 2011 Department Encampment on April 30, 2011, in Lawrence. It will be held at the American Legion Bingo Hall.
8. Secretary Russ reported that the 2011 Central Region Conference, on October 1, 2011, will be hosted by the Department of Indiana. It will be held in Rockville, Indiana.

9. Secretary Russ stated he had not received any applications or offers from any camps to host the 2012 Department Encampment. Commander Melcher, Old Abe Camp 16, requested to have the opportunity for Old Abe Camp to submit a proposal. Secretary Russ moved to allow Topeka to submit its proposal at the Department Encampment, with the Emporia Senior Center to be the second choice. Motion carried.
10. Secretary Russ addressed SUVCW Sesquicentennial Signature Events. He passed out copies of the application and instructions. It was discussed that this is something the Camps within the Department should try to utilize.
11. It was requested by Council Member Wandel that the opportunity for the Department to host a “Quantrill’s raid walk-through” by LTC(Ret) Ed Kennedy, Leavenworth, be added to the Department Encampment agenda for discussion. Department Commander Knopke directed the Secretary to add the item to the agenda.
12. Council Member Schmidt led a brief discussion concerning difficulty in retention this year..
13. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

These minutes are submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

*/s/Alan L. Russ*  
Alan L. Russ, PDC  
Secretary