

Deo adjuvanti non timindin (With God's help, we need not fear)

# THE DIXON BLUE LIGHT NEWS

Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962  
Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)

[www.scvcamp1962.org](http://www.scvcamp1962.org)

Editor: Lady Sharon Red, Cell 618-622-8949



MAY 2018

Spring rebirth is here – come celebrate being alive and share your special life with us

at our  
next meeting  
6:30 P. M.

TUESDAY, MAY 8  
Belle-Clair Fairgrounds



## FROM YOUR COMMANDER

First, I would like to thank you for coming to all our meetings. You are an important and valuable member who not only pays dues but is the backbone of our Confederate structure. You are value added who plays an active role in the decisions and present and future plans for our camp.

Second, on Mother's Day, May 13, best wishes to ALL MOTHERS, STEP-MOTHERS, GRANDMOTHERS, GREAT-GRANDMOTHERS, and MOTHERS-TO-BE. You, ladies, are the reason to celebrate our living because of your giving, caring, nurturing, and endless loving.

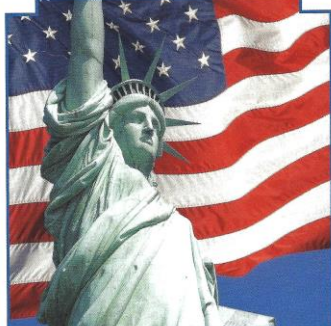


Third, May 19 is Armed Forces Day and it is very appropriate that I quote an old barracks ballad from General MacArthur in WWII: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away. Like the old soldiers of that ballad, they closed their military career and faded away -- an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him with the light to see that duty." It is my distinct pleasure to be around and work with respected veterans in our camp. I honor them on this day and every day. They set a wonderful example for me, the USA, and all of us in the camp for their proud service and inspiration. Many thanks to our veteran members: JEFF BARNES, ERIC FUNKHOUSER, DAVID HAAKE, WALTER HALL, GORDON HAYES, ROGER HEINRICH, JOHNNY KICKLIGHTER, MATT KING, CHARLES LEE, BOB MARLEY, JOHN MASSEY, MARK MORGAN, DWIGHT MOORE, GALE RED, JACK SANDFORD, DAVE SCHMITT, JOHN STANTON, PHIL TATE, ARTHUR TULAK, AL WANDLING, and STEVE WHEAT. Let's remember these gentlemen, Confederate veterans, and all veterans serving our country all over the world on May 19, 26, and 28. Thank you.

Confederately,

*Ron Lakin*

Thank You, Veteran!



\*\*\* NEXT CAMP DIXON MEETING \*\*\*  
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2017 ~ 6:30 p.m.

Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center  
200 South Belt East  
Belleville IL

Parking/Entrance on West Side of Building

**PROGRAM:** Mother's Day, Mothers, and Women in the Civil War

**SPEAKER:** Lady Sharon Red

**REFRESHMENTS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Cmdr Johnny Kicklighter

Questions? Call Gale Red, Cell 618-622-8949

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## CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ APRIL 10, 2018 Muster

The members and friends of the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, SCV, conducted their monthly muster at 6:30 p.m. on April 10, 2018 at the Belle-Clair Exposition Center, 200 South Belt East, Belleville IL, this being the 4<sup>th</sup> Muster of the year for 2018.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander John Stanton.

**INVOCATION:** Chaplain Mike Biekert.

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Stanton. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. flag and Salute to the Confederate flag.

**WELCOME:** Commander Ronald Lakin.

**ROLL CALL (22):** Mike Biekert, Bill Boyd, Eric Funkhouser, J. C. Gideon, Walter Hall, Bob Herr, Johnny Kicklighter, Eva King (guest), Matt King, Greg Krieg, Ronald Lakin, Jim Lumma, Ralph Oelschlager, Justin Ottolini, Gale and Sharon Red, Dale Rice, Bobby Samuel, Dave Schmitt, John Stanton, Phil Tate, and Steve Wilson.

### PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

**MARCH 13 MEETING MINUTES (Commander Lakin):** Motion to accept by Bob Herr, seconded by Ralph Oelschlager. Minutes accepted by a show-of-hands vote. Motion carried. Minutes accepted.

**FINANCIAL REPORT (Adjutant Red):** Current balance was reported. No outstanding bills until we distribute the next newsletter. Motion to accept by Phil Tate, seconded by Walter Hall. Report accepted by a show-of-hands vote. Motion carried. Financial report accepted.

### COMMUNICATIONS

**ANDREW NAVARO AND WIFE (Commander Lakin).** Are still wintering in Florida and not expected home for another month.

**JOHN & JANE McKEE (Commander Lakin).** Are gone this week to Montgomery AL; John is taking an AF Leadership Training course.

### OLD BUSINESS/REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

**MEMORIAL DAY EVENT, MOUND CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY, MAY 26, 10:00 am (Commander Lakin).** It takes about 2½ hours to get there, so leave early enough to arrive 20-30 minutes prior. Please put on your calendar to support. We need you there.

**(Bobby Samuel)** We have our Confederate portion of the program approved by Jefferson Barracks. Copies of the guidelines from them for review by Commander Lakin. Need to be aware of penalty fees for trash misuse and sexual harassment. Making progress with them. They seem to forget we have a service after the Union event. Guest Speaker is John Stanton who will discuss "Brother Against Brother." Working on providing music. Alan Winthrop and Dan Toka will be there with their cannons. How many will come? *(Eight people raised their hands.)* It's a worthy commitment. I want this to be the best one we have ever had. Musket fire permitted.

**(Bob Herr)** Recommend we purchase a \$100 lifetime membership for the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962 in the Preservation Commission. Motion made by Greg Krieg and seconded by Dale Rice. Motion accepted by a show-of-hands vote. Motion carried. Purchase of lifetime membership accepted. I will mail application to Gale to submit check.

**MEMORIAL DAY AT JEFFERSON BARRACKS NATIONAL CEMETERY MAY 28, 10:00 am (Show 9:30 am) (Commander Lakin).** A show of hands revealed the following members will be in attendance: Phil Tate, J. C. Gideon, Jim Lumma, Ron Lakin, Janice Beasley, Greg Krieg, Gale Red, and Steve Wilson.

**MEETING PROGRAM SPEAKERS.** We still need volunteers to do a program for us at our meetings. If you have a subject near and dear to you, please let Adjutant Red know so he can get you on the schedule. If you know of someone who would possibly be a good speaker for us, please let Adjutant Red know.

## CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ APRIL 10, 2018 Muster (cont'd)

**CANNON SHOOT FOLLOWED BY POT LUCK/BBQ AT JANICE BEASLEY'S HOME, WALSH IL (Commander Lakin).** Bob Herr will bring his 16-pounder to demonstrate the art of artillery.

**(Bob Herr)** It was brought to my attention May 13 is Mother's Day, so do you want to move it? Membership said yes. **Alternate date is June 3, 1:00 pm.** I will give a 10-minute talk on artillery and train you on how to operate the guns. I have ear plugs or bring your own protection. For the pot luck dinner dishes, please bring a dish to go with the BBQ. Soda and plates/utensils will be furnished. Bring your own chairs.

### Directions to Janice Beasley's home, 7894 Schuline Road, Walsh IL

**Via Rt 4.** Follow Rt. 4 through Sparta IL. About 2 miles south of Sparta see the green sign: Schuline 4 miles, Walsh 8 miles. Turn right here, this is the Schuline Road. When you get to Walsh, continue on 0.3 miles past the Catholic Church and you are at her home. Look for the orange traffic cone by her mailbox.

**Via Rt. 3.** Follow Rt. 3 south through Columbia, Waterloo, Red Bud, Ruma, to Evansville. When you cross the river at Evansville, turn left off the bridge into Evansville. At the stop sign, turn right. This becomes the Schuline Road. Drive 5 miles, see the orange traffic cone by her mailbox.

**From the fairgrounds at Belleville.** Leave the fairgrounds turning left and go to the stoplight on Rt. 159. Drive about half mile south on 159 to the ramp for Rt. 13 going west. Take this road through Freeburg, past New Athens. Once past New Athens about 1 mile, see the Baldwin Rod. Turn right here. You will drive through Baldwin and on another 7 miles to Walsh. At the stop sign in Walsh, turn right, go 0.3 miles to her house, see orange traffic cone by her mailbox.

### NEW BUSINESS

**ILLINOIS GRAVES PROJECT (Adjutant Red).** Been working on this for 17 years. Enlisted Matt King to work 1,800 people at Alton. Now, just have their names but Matt will obtain more info such as birth date, profession, etc. I have a list of men buried in the Confederate cemeteries under the VA. Need help with 45 (and unknowns) at Mound City, 864 at Camp Butler, 2,000 at Rock Island, and 6,000 at Oakwoods in Chicago. If you like to do genealogy and have access to Ancestry.com or the American Civil War database, I will show you how to do it. Please contact me.

**SO WE CAN PLAN TO PARTICIPATE, NEED DATES OF SMITHTON AND FREEBURG HOMECOMINGS (Adjutant Red).** To Ron Lakin: please obtain the Freeburg date. (I have already committed us to Smithton.)



**MEETING GROUP PHOTO (L-R)**

**(1<sup>st</sup> row)** Phil Tate, Jim Lumma, Gale Red, and Matt King

**(2<sup>nd</sup> row)** Janice Beasley, Dave Schmitt, Bobby Samuel, Greg Krieg, Ronald Lakin, Dale Rice, Eva King (Matt's mother), and J. C. Gideon

**(3<sup>rd</sup> row)** Johnny Kicklighter, Bill Boyd, and Eric Funkhouser

**(Last row)** Ralph Oelschlager, John Stanton, Bob Herr, Steve Wilson, Justin Ottolini, and Mike Biekert

**Photographer: Sharon Red**



## CAMP DIXON MEETING MINUTES ~ APRIL 10, 2018 Muster (cont'd)

**COLLECTION OF CANCELLED STAMPS/YOUR STAMP COLLECTION (Compatriot J. C. Gideon).** Sometimes the small things we do are just as important as the large things. Have been sending cancelled stamps to the VA for an activity by the veterans (for their collections). Looking for your cancelled stamps or stamp collections. Suggest we make this a camp project. Just cut off stamps on your mail, save them, and bring them to the camp meetings. Motion made to begin collecting, seconded by Bob Herr. All hands agreed. Passed.

**LEE-JACKSON BALL (Mike Biekert).** Reported that Mary is working on the Lake Point Mansion. Gale asked Mike to have Mary call him.

**ANCESTOR HONORED ON A TRIP DOWN SOUTH (John Stanton & Justin Ottolini).** We played a part in a parade (and carried our flag) honoring our ancestor and where the Union Army killed and poisoned wells in the entire region. The area from the war still shows the poisoned wells. Awesome trip!

### **PRESENTATION: The Sultana Disaster by Adjutant Gale Red.**

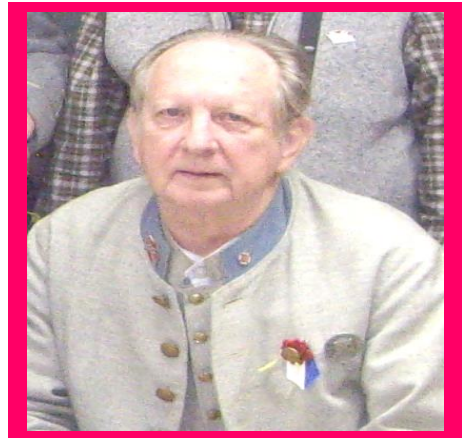
The sinking of the Sultana was more significant than the Titanic. This year marks the 153<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of its sinking. It was the greatest maritime disaster in US history. The ship was state of the art and cost \$100K to build it. Ten years prior steam boats traveled up and down the river and went all over our country – was a wonderful means of transportation for people and cargo.

Since there were no certifications/inspections of the ships' boilers, they blew up. Have U-tube videos for your viewing pleasure to better understand the scope of this. Aboard the Sultana was a crew of 85. The government paid good pay to the Captain to board travelers: \$5 for each enlisted and \$10 for an officer. The Captain was getting a kick-back of \$2 for Union officers to receive from the fees. The Sultana had a 376 carrying capacity but 1,800 died in their final journey – far more than the Titanic.

It was totally preventable. The Captain put off repair of the boiler. Union officers that were loading the soldiers knew of the problems and there were three other steam ships nearby empty – one with only 17 passengers.

At first, people thought it was Confederate sabotage. Investigation proved it was due to the boilers. The spring flooding brought a fast and heavy flow of water forcing the steam ship to weave cross-wise and this caused the ship to tilt and fill the boilers with water.

The Sultana carried a maximum of 2,400 – 1,700 died with 700 survivors – 500 went to hospitals in Memphis and 200 of these died.



**REFRESHMENTS** were provided by Compatriot Phil Tate.

**BENEDICTION** was given by Chaplain Biekert.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:25 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Exposition Center.  
**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander Johnny Kicklighter.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gale F. Red*  
Adjutant

# Presentation of the SCV H. L. Hunley Junior AFROTC Award Medal & Service Ribbon



**The Sons of Confederate Veterans**  
takes pleasure in presenting  
**THE HUNLEY AWARD**

After having demonstrated the traits of **HONOR, COURAGE** and  
**COMMITMENT** to your JROTC Unit, you are recognized as having similar  
**CHARACTER** of those men who perished aboard the H. L. Hunley on  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1864. Wear this badge with pride.



Given under my hand

Thomas V. Strain, Jr.

Thomas V. Strain, Jr.  
Commander-in-Chief  
Sons of Confederate Veterans



**Certificate to Accompany the Award  
of the  
2017-2018 AFJROTC SCV  
H. L. Hunley Medal  
and Service Ribbon  
from the Illinois Division of  
The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV)**

On behalf of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Illinois Division, and the Lt. George E. Dixon Camp #1962, I would like to present the JROTC H. L. Hunley Award to the cadet who most demonstrated the core values of honor, courage, and in particular commitment to his/her unit during the 2017-2018 school year. These were the same values exhibited by the last crew of the C. S. S. H. L. Hunley who courageously made the commitment to honorably risk and ultimately give their lives in defense of their country and the City of Charleston, S. C. after two crews had already suffered tremendous loss in previous training exercises.



Given under my hand

Gale F. Red

Gale F. Red  
Commander

Illinois Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans





# Mascoutah High School, Illinois – April 27, 2018



IL Div Cmdr Gale Red presents the **H. L. Hunley Award** to Cadet/Airman Christina Branum. Christina is very deserving of this award and received other honors for her year's work: ribbons for longevity, dress & appearance, attendance, health & wellness, recruiting team, and drill team. She was also thrilled to tears to hear she's been promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.



**The Proud Branum Family Photo (L-R)**

Div Cmdr Red, Christina, Tonya (her mother), Charles (her father), and Tanner (her brother).



Compatriot Charles Lee and Div Cmdr Gale Red



Colonel Steve Hopkins, Charles, & Gale



CMSgt (Retired) Charles Lee presents the **American Legion Scholastic Award** to Cadet/Capt Jessica Bergona



CMSgt (Retired) Lee presents the highest award **Air Force Association Award** to Cadet/Vice Commander Joseph Howe

# Alton High School, Illinois – April 28, 2018



**Before Presentation**

(L-R) IL Div Cmdr Gale Red, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr John Stanton, and Col. Wangler



**Award Presentation**

IL Div Cmdr Gale Red presents the **H. L. Hunley Award** to Cadet/Capt. William Allred with 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmdr John Stanton on the right



**Posing with the Award Winner**

(L-R) Gale Red, Cadet/Capt William, John Stanton, and Colonel Wangler



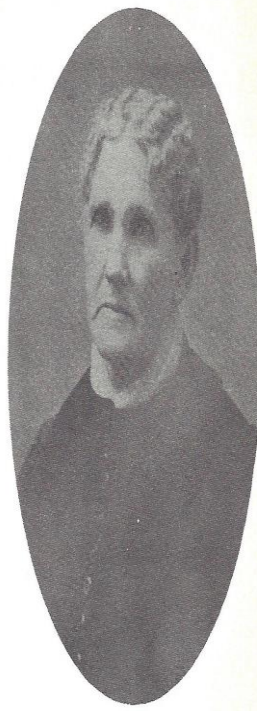
**Photo Moment with the Allred Family**

(L-R) Gale Red, Melissa (Cadet's mother), Cadet/Capt William Allred, Thomas (cadet's father), and John Stanton



# The Soldiers' Mother

MARY ANN BICKERDYKE



"Mother" Bickerdyke

BY BUTCH SHARICK

Lombard Junior High School, Galesburg

IT WAS A quiet day in Galesburg, Illinois. It was a Sunday morning during the Civil War and almost everybody was in church. The minister, Dr. Edward Beecher, opened the service with a hymn and a prayer; then he took a letter from his pocket. It was from Dr. Benjamin Woodward, a Galesburg doctor stationed at Cairo, Illinois. The letter told how the soldiers were dying—not on the battlefield, but in the filthy hospitals. The doctor asked the townspeople if they would send help. They did.

One of the helpers sent to Cairo was Mary Ann Bickerdyke, who took with her bandages, food, and money. When she arrived, the doctors did not want her to help, so she went directly to General William T. Sherman, who ordered them to let her stay, and when the army moved on, she went with it.

At that time there was a national charitable organization called the Sanitary Commission which sent supplies and bandages to the armies. The head of this group went down to Cairo to talk with Mrs. Bickerdyke and persuaded her to become a Sanitary Commission agent. Having this title, she could draw supplies from the local sanitary stores. This she did very freely.

During a battle there were never enough bandages, so after one day of fighting, she got many iron pots, went to a stream, filled the pots with water, and boiled all the bandages for use during the next encounter. She went everywhere during the war, caring for the boys'

wounds and other ailments. They thought that she was so much like their own mothers that the soldiers called her "Mother Bickerdyke."

When the Civil War was over, the men were discharged from the hospitals and sent home. But many veterans had no real homes to go to, and Mother Bickerdyke set about helping them. She talked to Charles Hammond, president of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad, and he granted her free passage for fifty veterans and their families to go to Kansas to homestead. Since she didn't have enough money to help them buy supplies, Jonathan Burr, a banker, loaned her \$10,000 on her personal note. With this and with money also provided by the railroad, Mother Bickerdyke went to Salina, Kansas, bought a large house, and started a hotel for disabled soldiers. Since she didn't charge these soldiers anything, she couldn't pay off her mortgage, and the railroad eventually took over the establishment.

In 1870 her friend and co-worker during the war, Mary Safford, thought that Mother Bickerdyke could clean up the slums of New York single-handedly and urged her to come and try. Mrs. Bickerdyke labored there for four years but finally left to go to Kansas to see her own sons who were also living there. She stayed at their farm and in her spare time rode around the countryside visiting her old patients. During the winter she became very sick. Deciding that she needed a milder climate, her sons sent her to California, and she regained her health. But she did not quit working for the soldiers. In 1873, upon hearing that her soldier friends were not getting pensions, she went to Washington to try to straighten things out for them; she had to travel all over the United States to do it. While working as a clerk in the San Francisco Mint, she decided to spend the rest of her days by the Golden Gate. Her mind was changed, however, when she received a letter from her son telling her that his half-sister was dying of cancer in Covington, Kentucky. She went at once, and when the half-sister died, Mrs. Bickerdyke went back to Kansas with her son Jim. Arthritis continued to plague her, and the hands that had cleaned and scrubbed for thousands were now useless. Mother Bickerdyke passed away on November 8, 1901.

During World War II, a ship was christened the S.S. *Mary A. Bickerdyke*. It was a "workhorse of the sea" and, like Mother Bickerdyke, it took no part in battle and gained no publicity, but it did carry food and medical supplies, the like of which she never dreamed.

On the Knox County Courthouse lawn in Galesburg, Illinois, stands her only monument showing her kneeling beside a wounded soldier, holding a cup to his lips.—[From Nina B. Baker, *Cyclone in Calico*; Earnest E. Calkins, *They Broke the Prairie*, pp. 303-4.]

Source: Illinois History, *Famous Illinois Women*, Volume 13, Number 4, January 1960



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE CAMP

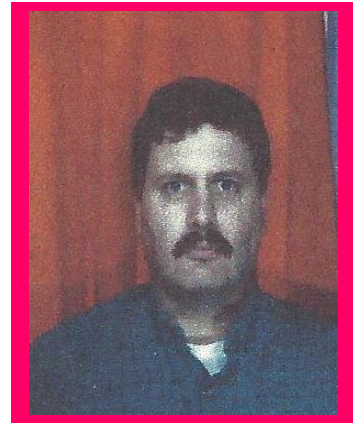


**APRIL 30, 2018**

## **BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR NEW HOME**

Compatriot and Mrs. Phil Tate had a new one-story home built not far from their previous residence in Mascoutah IL and were scheduled to move in the end of April.

Best of luck to Phil and Dianne. You deserve the best!



**APRIL 2018**

## **THINKING & PRAYING FOR YOU**

Compatriot Ham Lemmer is suffering from two kinds of cancer and now is unable to walk and confined to a wheelchair. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers for a healing miracle. *(The camp sent a get-well card.)*



**APRIL 30, 2018**

## **BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR NEW JOB**

Commander Lakin has been accepted as an auto parts maker starting April 30 in Nashville IL. We hope he's very happy and will be very successful.



**MAY 5, 2018**

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO COMPATRIOT & MRS. JAMES LUMMA ON THEIR 58<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

We have been so blessed to have Jim and Barb as very supportive members, and we wish them a very Happy Anniversary and many more happy and healthy years together. *(The camp will send a congratulatory card.)*



**MAY 9, 2018**

## **CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE JUSTIN**

Compatriot Justin Ottolini graduates from Alton High School with honors and maintains an A+ average. His future plans include attending SIUE majoring in Artificial Intelligence.

Congratulations, Justin. We're very proud of you.

*(The camp will send a congratulatory card.)*

# CAMP CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## MAY

5 SCV HUNLEY AWARD TO JROTC  
BY ADJUTANT RED (DUPO IL)  
5 5:30 SCV HUNLEY AWARD TO JROTC  
BY ADJUTANT RED (O'FALLON IL)  
8 6:30 CAMP DIXON MEETING  
13 MOTHER'S DAY  
19 ARMED FORCES DAY  
26 10:00 SCV MEMORIAL (MOUND CITY IL)  
28 10:00 SCV MEMORIAL  
(JEFFERSON BARRACKS MO)

## JUNE

3 1:00 CANNON SHOOT  
FOLLOWED BY POT LUCK/BBQ  
(Janice Beasley's Home, Walsh)  
12 6:30 CAMP DIXON MEETING  
14 FLAG DAY  
17 FATHER'S DAY  
21 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER

## JULY

10 6:30 CAMP MEETING  
29 6:00 SMITHTON HOMECOMING  
PARADE



## MAY

3 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Cmdr JOHNNY KICKLIGHTER (Belleville IL)  
5 JOHN KICKLIGHTER (Smithton IL)  
23 GREGORY CARTER (Carbondale IL)



### CAMP DIXON LEADERSHIP

Commander	Ronald Joseph Lakin	Cell 618-420-6358
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Commander	John Douglas Stanton	618-610-6464
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt Commander	John Wayne Kicklighter	618-257-9079
Adjutant	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Asst Adjutant	John Mitchell McKee	618-416-5072
Chaplain	Walter Michael Biekert	618-972-8190
Sgt of Arms	David Francis Schmitt	Cell 618-334-6148
Program Chairman	Gale Franklin Red	Cell 618-622-8949
Historian	VACANT	
Door Greeter	VACANT	
Quartermaster	VACANT	