

MINUTES

ALLIED ORDERS OF THE GAR CENTRAL REGION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE OCTOBER 1, 2005 LAWRENCE, KANSAS

The 2005 Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Central Region Association Conference was opened at the Holiday Inn Lawrence Holidome at 1:40 pm by Central Region Commander C.R. Stephen of Iowa.

Secretary-Treasurer Don Palmer called the roll of officers:

Commander	C.R. Stephen	Iowa	Present
Senior Vice Commander	Merle Rudebusch	Nebraska	Present
Junior Vice Commander	Mary Fritz	Illinois	Present
Secretary-Treasurer	Donald Palmer	Missouri	Present
Patriotic Instructor	Jeff Stephen	Iowa	Absent
Chaplain	Robert Kennedy	Iowa	Present
Color Bearer	Danielle Michaels	Wisconsin	Absent
Guide	Lee Fritz	Iowa	Present
Historian	Alan Teller	Indiana	Present

Commander Stephen, in the absence of a Color Bearer, appointed Ron Rittel of Iowa as acting Color Bearer. He also appointed Gib Young of Indiana as Guard.

Chaplain Bob Kennedy led the attendees in prayer. Acting Color Bearer Ron Rittel led the attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

A total of 32 attendees were registered for the 2005 Central Region Conference. The number of attendees per Allied Order organization represented (as registered) are shown below:

- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War -	25
- Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War -	2
- Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic -	3
- Woman's Relief Corps -	1
- Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War -	1

In lieu of introducing all attendees, Commander Stephen wanted to use the time to allow Allied Orders National leaders time to address the conference. Commander Stephen introduced dignitaries present, including:

- **Opal Nelson**, National President, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, presented greetings.
- **Barbara Knopke**, National Junior Vice President, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic
- **Tom Crawford**, Central Region Past Commander

- **Maggie Grothe**, Central Region Past Commander
- **Maj. Jack Grothe**, Commander, 4th Military District, SVR
- **Dave Stephen**, National Council of Administration, SUVCW

Commander Stephen noted that Past National President Dolores Hubbard of the Ladies of the GAR was registered, but was not in attendance due to her husband's illness.

Upon a recommendation by Alan Russ, the business session was temporarily suspended at 1:55 pm for the program presented by Dr. Jay Price on the effects of generational changes on volunteer organizations. After the presentation, a certificate of appreciation was presented by Jim Knopke of Kansas for his time and effort.

The business session was reconvened at 3:00 pm.

The minutes of the 2004 Central Region Association Conference held in Milwaukee, WI in October 2004 were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Bob Petrovic and seconded by Alan Teller. **Motion carried.**

Commander Stephen announced the appointment of the conference committees as follows:

Nominating Committee	Resolutions Committee	Auditing Committee
Bob Kennedy –Chair	Dave Stephen – Chair	Lee Fritz – Chair
Ron Rittel	Alan Teller	Maggie Grothe
Tom Schmidt	Jack Grothe	Randy Durbin

Officers Reports:

Commander Stephen stated that he enjoyed his experience as Commander of the Central Region and commended the Central Region staff for their efforts.

Senior Vice Commander – No report

Junior Vice Commander Mary Fritz stated that she enjoyed serving as Central Region Junior Vice Commander and communicating with the Allied Order organizations.

Secretary-Treasurer Don Palmer presented the Treasurer's report, noting a balance on hand of \$1355.66. He also indicated that he had yet to receive 2004 dues from a number of Allied Order Departments. In addition, he distributed a hand-out summarizing key Central Region statistics from 1999-2005 including annual meeting attendance and treasury balance.

Patriotic Instructor – No report

Historian Alan Teller requested photos, newspaper articles, meeting announcements, etc., from previous Central Region Association meetings.

Chaplain Robert Kennedy stated that he enjoyed serving as Central Region Chaplain.

Communications – None reported

Unfinished Business:

Central Region Membership – A committee was formed at the 2004 conference to identify all Allied Order organizations (i.e., Departments, Camps, Auxiliaries, Tents, Circles) within the Central Region. Beth Brockman of Wisconsin was appointed chair; however, was not able to attend. In her absence, Past Commander Maggie Grothe asked representatives from each of the ladies organizations to present their information. Arlene Rudebusch presented for the DUVCW and reported that there are 3,474 members in the DUVCW, 1526 of which are in the Central Region. She indicated that she would e-mail a listing of Departments and Tents in the region. Lee Ann Teller, representing the LGAR, reported that there are 22 circles in the Central Region, with a total of 238 members. She indicated that she needed to obtain names and contact information for the Circles identified. Maggie Grothe, representing the ASUVCW and WRC, reported that there were 1101 and 700 total members, respectively. She did not have the breakdown for the Central Region. Jeff Stephen was appointed to the committee to obtain the member organizations in the SUVCW. He was not able to attend the meeting, and therefore, no information on the SUVCW was presented. Secretary-Treasurer Don Palmer was tasked by Commander Stephen to pull the SUVCW information together for presentation at the 2006 conference. Jack Grothe made a motion to keep this committee together over the next year to complete the database. Second by Bob Petrovic. **Motion passed.**

Central Region Awards Program – At the 2004 conference, a committee was formed to develop an awards program for the Central Region. Secretary-Treasurer Don Palmer was appointed chair and presented the draft program. The proposed program contained provisions for a Meritorious Service Award and Certificates of Appreciation. Alan Russ indicated that a couple of corrections to the wording should be made. Don Palmer made the motion to accept the proposed awards program as amended. Second by Bob Petrovic. **Motion passed.** Recommendation was made by the committee to keep committee together for another year to help implement the program. No objections were made and recommendation was accepted.

2006 Conference - A motion was made by Dave Stephen to hold the 2006 Central Region Association Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Second by Bob Kennedy. **Motion passed.** October 7 was proposed as the date for the 2006 meeting. Some discussion was held regarding conflicts with MOLLUS meeting and the potential for moving to the following weekend, which conflicted with Columbus Day. Commander Stephen requested that the host committee consider October 7 as the date for the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Auditing Committee – Lee Fritz reported that the treasury was in order and there were no objections to the treasurer's report.

Resolutions Committee – Dave Stephen presented the recommendations made by the Resolutions Committee to (1) send a letter to the Lawrence Holiday Inn thanking them for their efforts in providing a venue for a successful conference; (2) send a letter to the Department of Kansas thanking them for hosting an excellent event and present a check for \$100 to the Department of Kansas to support a project of their choosing; (3) thank Alan Russ for his efforts in organizing

this event and coordinating the training program; and (4) moment of silence for present day soldiers, sailors and marines currently in harms way.

Past Commander Tom Crawford requested that an amendment to the recommendation regarding the donation be made to increase the donation to \$200. Jack Grothe requested that this be tabled until all expenses have been accounted for. Tom Crawford subsequently withdrew his recommendation.

No objections were made and the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee were approved ad seriatum.

Nominating Committee – Bob Kennedy presented the recommendations made by the Nominating Committee for 2005-2006 officers:

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| • Commander | Merle Rudebusch. | Nebraska |
| • Senior Vice Commander | Mary Fritz | Illinois |
| • Junior Vice Commander | Alan Russ | Kansas |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Lee Ann Teller | Indiana |

No objections were made and the recommendations of the Nominating Committee were approved.

New Business:

Commander Stephen noted that there are no By-Laws that govern the Central Region. A recommendation was made to establish a committee to develop Central Region By-Laws. A motion was made by Bob Petrovic to establish such a committee. Second by Dave Stephen. **Motion passed.** Commander Stephen subsequently appointed Secretary-Treasurer Don Palmer chairman of the By-Laws Committee.

Jack Grothe indicated that the organization has only two (2) Past Commanders badges remaining. Motion made by Bob Petrovic to approve the purchase of three (3) new Past Commanders badges. Second by Bob Kennedy. **Motion passed.**

Secretary-Treasurer Don Palmer distributed a proposal for establishment of job descriptions for elected Central Region officers. He referenced the fact that the Junior and Senior Vice Commander have no documented responsibilities and, as such, typically offer no reports at the Central Region Conference. Junior Vice Commander Mary Fritz requested an amendment to one of the responsibilities of the Central Region Commander. Dave Stephen made a motion to accept the proposal as amended. Second by Ethan Schmidt. **Motion passed.**

Arlene Rudebusch made a motion to appoint Past Commander Maggie Grothe as chairman of the Central Region Membership committee replacing Beth Brockman. Second by Bob Petrovic. **Motion passed.**

Election of Officers

Commander Stephen asked if there were any other nominations to be made for the 2005-2006 elected offices. No other nominations were made. Given that there were no other nominations, Commander Stephen asked the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee. No objections were made. Those nominated were elected.

Commander-elect Merle Rudebusch made the following appointments:

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| • Patriotic Instructor | Jeff Stephen | Iowa |
| • Chaplain | Bob Kennedy | Iowa |
| • Color Bearer | Arlene Rudebusch | Nebraska |
| • Guide | Gib Young | Indiana |
| Historian | Alan Teller | Indiana |

Installation of Officers:

Past Commander Maggie Grothe conducted the installation of officers with the assistance of Chaplain Bob Kennedy and Guide Lee Fritz.

Closing

Commander-elect Merle Rudebusch assumed control of the meeting and closed the 66th annual Central Region Association Conference at 5:40 pm.

Submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Donald D. Palmer, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer