



# THE DISPATCH

FALL 2016

PUBLISHED BY THE SUVCW DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

## Contents

Camp News	Pages 2-
Camp Namesakes-- Alonzo Cushing	Page 5
Patriotic Instruction	Page 6-7
Notices	Pages 8
Camps & Officers	Page 9

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

## Comments from Your Wisconsin Department Commander



Brothers,

Greetings. First, the department newsletter editor and the past and current DC's have decided to expand our department newsletter from three to four issues per year. This is issue number four. The editor has high hopes for success.

I need volunteers for three staff positions that were created by resignations before my election. We need a GAR Highway Coordinator, an ROTC Award Coordinator, and a Patriotic Instructor. These positions are essential to the good of the order. The current ROTC Coordinator (Alan Hembel) said that he will coach the new coordinator on all the details of the job and help him with the transition. I, myself, have been Patriotic Instructor at the camp and department levels. The position is not that hard

and is a fulfilling position, vital to the order. It is our highest department position, below the elected officers.

If there are any questions about the GAR Highway Coordinator's responsibilities, I am sure that Dan Chroninger will answer any questions you may have.

This was a good year for the order. The national encampment went well. Don Martin was elected C-in-C and I hope to see him in February. Wisconsin fielded nine delegates at the encampment. Not our worst or our best. I hope to see more in Michigan next year.

The more we turn out, the more influence we can have.

The date for the Department Mid-Winter meeting is set for Feb. 4, 2017. Camp #1 and their auxiliary will provide us with further details soon.

Camp elections are coming up in November. Please contact me ASAP about the time and location of your respective elections meetings so that I can arrange a department officer (DC hopefully) to be there for the swearing in of the new officers. I have had some contact from three camps already. I need dates and places to schedule this.

Camp #49 is still raising funds to restore the Boscobel GAR hall, last original GAR hall left in Wisconsin. My camp has voted a generous donation to the cause. They still have quite a ways to go to finish. Could the other camps chip in and help them? Until next time.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,  
Alan O. Petit, DC

## Camp News

### Camp 1

Camp 1 had several proud moments in the last few months, topped by the election of Auxiliary 4 Sister Denise Oman as national Auxiliary president, along with helping to start work to restore the Fond du Lac cemetery of its own Col. C.K. Pier.

Oman was elected at the National Encampment of the Allied Orders in Springfield, Ill., to be Auxiliary president for 2016-2017.

"This is a dream come true. What a great way to honor my great-great grandfather," Oman says.



Newly elected national Aux. President Denise Oman, of Auxiliary 4 in Milwaukee.

That was Pvt. Joseph Friedl of the 35th Wisconsin Infantry, who lost his left arm when wounded at Spanish Fort, Ala., on March 27, 1865. He died in 1902 and is buried in Milwaukee.

Oman had been national vice president, and before that served one year as Auxiliary 4 president and, over the years, one-year terms as national patriotic instructor and chaplain. She has been in Auxiliary 4 for about 15 years, plus Auxiliary 5 of the Sons in Waukesha for the past several years.

Her twin sister, Danielle Michaels, was national Auxiliary president from 2003 to 2004.

In Fond du Lac, PDC Tom Brown discovered during a visit last spring that the condition of the little Pier Family Cemetery had deteriorated – overgrown with tall trees, weeds and brush, and its stone wall was decaying in places.

Brown, a descendant of Pier, soon reached out to the Fond du Lac County Historical Society and local government to help assess and prioritize the needs and launch a recovery plan.

The Camp was invited to have a booth at the society's ice cream social in August, and sought donations from attendees to help the cemetery.

The cemetery has 17 graves listed in Find a Grave, dating to 1838. Colwert K. Pier was born in 1841 and died in 1895.

#### Also in Camp 1:

PCC Tom Mueller, the Department GRO, has been wrapping up his 13-month project to catalog all Civil War graves at Wood National Cemetery. Only a few random checks for accuracy remain. The number is nearly 5,950, which is more than the sum of graves in next five-largest Wisconsin counties combined (Dane, Waupaca, Sauk, Richland and Columbia and Vernon).

Brothers helped determine the site of an unmarked Civil War grave in Oak Creek, and a tombstone has been ordered.

Family had reported the possibility of the grave of Pvt. William Kolbow of the 28th Wisconsin Infantry at St. John Lutheran Church. Kolbow died in 1885.

Within only a few days, the site was determined by Mueller, who lives a mile and a half away; Tom Ludka, Camp graves registration officer; and Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps. All three also are members of the Oak Creek Historical



Past National Auxiliary President Danielle Michaels and Brother Brian Craig check the condition of Col. C.K. Pier's grave and his family cemetery in Fond du Lac.



PDC Kent Peterson, who has a website of [www.28thwisconsin.com](http://www.28thwisconsin.com), honors a member of that regiment who died in 1885 but never had a gravestone. Peterson put a GAR marker on the grave of Pvt. William Kolbow in Oak Creek, on the 131st anniversary of Kolbow's burial. A stone is on the way.

## Camp 15

*Camp 15 at the dedication for the Town of Brighton's new monuments.*





## Camp News

I was in Baxter Springs this summer, and saw this fact in one of the pieces of literature at the museum there. So I looked it up some more when I got home.

Q: How did two Wisconsin brothers in the same company of the same regiment earn the Medal of Honor?



A: Both were in Company C of the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry. First Lt. James Pond of Janesville was cited for "extraordinary heroism" when ambushed by Quantrill's Raiders at Baxter Springs, Kan., on Oct. 6, 1863, and Pvt. George Pond of Fairwater in Fond du Lac County was cited for the same reason in attacking a superior force of guerrillas and rescuing prisoners at Drywood, Kan., on May 15, 1864. At the times of their heroism, James was age 25 and George was 19. James died in 1903 and is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in New York City; George died 1911 and is buried at Evergreen Cemetery at Fort Scott, Kan.

Tom Brown

## Camp 15



*Camp 15 CC Jeff Graf congratulates SVC Bob Koenecke on his 15+ years with the SUVCW*



*Camp 15 CC Jeff Graf congratulates Br. Pat Kulas on his 15 year service award with the SUVCW*



*Br. Max Frederick promoted from Junior to lineal member at Camp 15's October meeting. Shown with his new badge presented by CC Graf.*





## Camp News

### Camp 49



*Attendance at our 20 Aug meeting*

### Camp 8

Brother and Camp 8 Patriotic Instructor took part in the Annual D.C. Everest Junior High “Civil War Days”

Prior to the day, the class homerooms are assigned significant regiments of the war, both Union and Confederate, and research them and write essays. On the Civil War day the classes rotate over the school ground visiting more than a dozen displays and get a short talk about the display. Displays include and medical display, an artillery unit, and talk about “Quaker guns” rope making, and an infantry man’s encampment amongst others.



Brother Johnson, interpreting his 2<sup>nd</sup> Great-Grand Uncle, Col. William Robinson talked about the Famous “Iron Brigade” to about 300 students during the day

On Aug. 11th, Camp 8 brothers MAJ John Bowe and BG Vince Barker visited the Big Hole National Battlefield located in the Bitterroot Valley in western Montana.

The Battle of Big Hole took place on Aug 9-10, 1877, and involved MG John Gibbon's 7th Infantry and the Nez Perce Indians under Chief Joseph.

After Gibbon's troops initially charged into the village, killing mostly non-combatants, the Nez Perce braves counterattacked, pushing the Soldiers up a steep mountainside near the village. Over the course of the afternoon and into the night, 30 soldiers were killed, before the Nez Perce retreated after US reinforcements began to arrive.

Gibbon had brought along a small mountain howitzer that arrived late in the battle. After setting up on the mountain side the gun crew fired two rounds, which fell short, before they were overrun by the Nez Perce braves, killing one of the gun crew.

The Indians dismantled the gun; however the tube was recovered the next day and is now on display in the Big Hole Visitor's Center.

The cannon in the photo is a reproduction but is in the exact location of the original engagement.



An interesting note, MG Gibbon and his Soldiers from the 7th US Infantry were the same Soldiers who were the first to arrive on the Little Big Horn battlefield and discover the bodies of Custer and his 220 troopers from the 7th Cavalry, a little more than a year earlier.

## Camp Namesakes

### Alonzo Hersford Cushing



Alonzo H. Cushing was born in what is now the city of Delafield, Wisconsin and raised in Fredonia, New York. His younger brother was future Union Navy officer Lt. William B. Cushing. They were the youngest of four brothers who eventually served in the Union forces (Their brother Howard was also killed while fighting the Chiricahua in 1871).

#### Civil War service

Cushing graduated from the United States Military Academy in the class of June 1861, and received commissions as second and first lieutenant on the same day. He was brevetted major following the Battle of Chancellorsville. Cushing commanded Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery at Gettysburg, and was hailed by contemporaries as heroic in his actions on the third day of the battle. He was wounded three times. First, a shell fragment went straight through his shoulder. He was then grievously wounded by a second shell fragment, which tore into his abdomen and groin. This wound exposed his intestines, which he held in place with his hand as he continued to command his battery. After these injuries, a higher-ranking officer said, "Cushing, go to the rear." Cushing, due to the limited number of men left, refused to fall back. The severity of his wounds left him unable to yell his orders above the sounds of battle. Thus, he was held aloft by his 1st Sergeant Frederick Fuger, who faithfully passed on



Cushing's commands. Cushing was killed when a bullet entered his mouth and exited through the back of his skull. He died on the field at the height of the assault. He was 22 years old.

His body was returned to his family and then interred in the West Point Cemetery in Section 26, Row A, Grave 7. His headstone

bears, at the behest of his mother, Mary, the inscription "Faithful unto Death."

Cushing was posthumously cited for gallantry with a brevet promotion to lieutenant colonel.

#### Medal of Honor

Cushing was nominated for a belated award of the Medal of Honor, beginning with a letter campaign in the late 1980s by constituents of Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin. The measure was also advocated by Congressman Ron Kind of Wisconsin's 3rd congressional

February 2010. In district. In 2002, Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) nominated Cushing for the Medal of Honor and, following a lengthy investigation, the U.S. Army approved the nomination in order for the medal to be awarded, it had to be approved by the United States Congress. It was announced on May 20, 2010 that Cushing would receive the Medal of Honor, 147 years after his death.

However, the provision granting Cushing the Medal of Honor was removed from a defense spending bill by Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) in December 2012. In December 2013, the Senate passed a defense bill that included a provision granting Cushing the Medal of Honor. The nomination was sent to the Defense Department for review, before being approved by President Barack Obama. On August 26, 2014, the White House announced Cushing would be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. On November 6, 2014, 151 years after Alonzo Cushing's death, President Obama presented the award at a ceremony at the White House, attended by two dozen relatives of the Cushing family.

#### Legacy

Alonzo H. Cushing Camp #5 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War serves the Ozaukee County region of Wisconsin. A small state park in Delafield was dedicated to the memory of Cushing and two of his brothers, William and Howard. While the park remains dedicated to the memory of the Cushing brothers, it is now the property of the City of Delafield. Cushing Elementary School in Delafield (part of the Kettle Moraine School District) is also named after the brothers. A stone monument in honor of Cushing marks the spot where he was killed during the Battle of Gettysburg. The marker is located on Cemetery Ridge, along Hancock Avenue, at The Angle.





## Patriotic Instruction Civil War Flags



Flags were very important in the civil war, for many reasons.

First: Civil War tactics were essentially “line of sight” meaning a Colonel on horseback was theoretically able to see his regiment of 1,000 muskets in two rows from end to end.

Directions were given by bugle and signals from the officers with their swords. Flags were markers for the center of the line

Second: Flags provided an identity for the individual unit. Flags preceded the regiment on the march and a rally point during battle. Union troops used two flags, a national standard and a regimental flag, while the Confederates usually only used a battle flag.

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

Until the Executive Order of June 24, 1912, neither the order of the stars nor the proportions of the flag was prescribed. Consequently, flags dating before this period sometimes show unusual arrangements of the stars and odd proportions, these features being left to the discretion of the flag maker.

Union flags were usually 72x72 inches and made of silk, with the stripes sewn together and the stars were generally painted on the blue field. It was important that the flag were as light and visible as possible. It has been said that a good flag could fly visibly on the march and with only the slightest breeze.

Both flags were usually cased during the march, especially after they became tattered and holed in battle in order to preserve them.

Many of the flags for the early regiments were handmade by seamstresses or ladies of the community.

Designs of the flags varied greatly mainly in the design of the canton (blue area) and arrangement of the stars. While many had the square arrangement as seen in the example to the right, there were also oval and arched arrangements, some with eagles present.

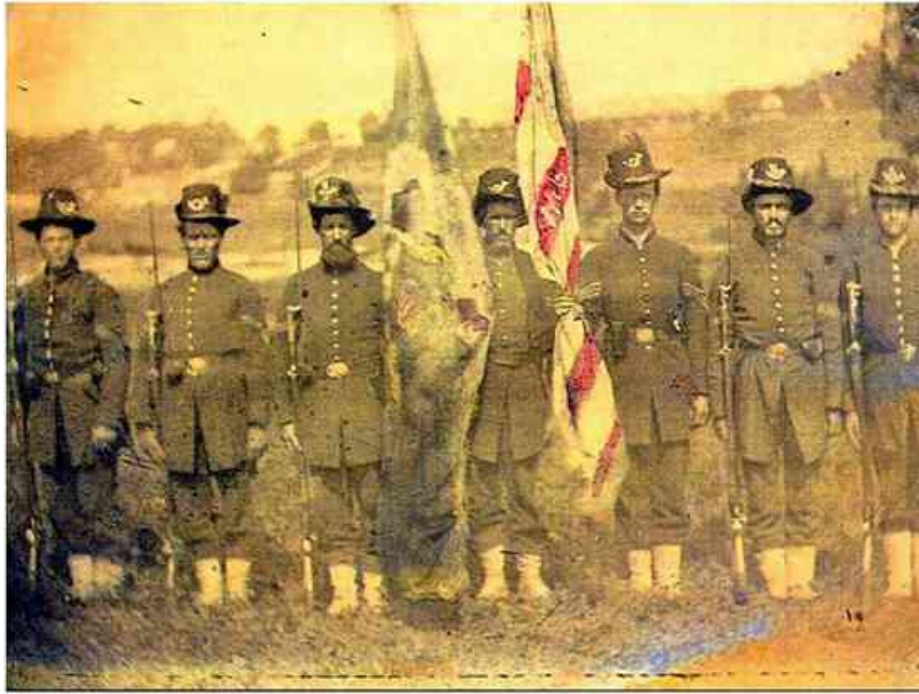
The regimental flags of the Union were generally blue with some sort of emblem and scroll to indicate the name of the unit. Again these were 72x72 inches and made of silk.



**Preserved remnant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wis.Vol. Inf. regimental flag, also hand made in Madison**



**Preserved remnant of the handmade 2<sup>nd</sup> Wis. Vol. Inf. flag, made in Madison and presented to the regiment as they left for Washington D.C**



**Color Guard of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wis. Vol. Infantry**

Each regiment had a color company or a color guard, whose assignment was to bear the colors into battle and protect them. Each member of a color guard or company was selected for this position based on his courage and steadiness under fire, by the Regimental Commanders. The flags were carried by unarmed color sergeants, and accompanied by armed color corporals, who were instructed not to engage in combat unless the flags were in immediate danger of capture.

Being a color guard was a highly dangerous position, since capture of the colors could deal a devastating blow to any unit. It is reported that on the first day of Gettysburg in the fight at Willoughby's Run and Herbst Woods the 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan and the 26<sup>th</sup> N. Car., lost about a dozen color bearers between them.

In 1863 Wisconsin had not yet adopted an official State flag and the Civil War regiments in the field were requesting an official banner to fly. The legislature formed a five-member joint select committee to respond to these requests to report "a description for a proper state flag." As a result 1863 Joint Resolution No. 4 was adopted. This resolution essentially adopted a design that was already in use by the Wisconsin regimental troops. On the 25th of March, 1863, the legislature, by joint resolution, adopted a state flag, described in the resolution as follows: "To be of dark blue silk, with the arms of the state of Wisconsin painted or embroidered in silk on the obverse side, and the arms of the United States painted or embroidered in silk on the reverse side; the name of the regiment, when used as a regimental flag, to be in a scroll beneath the state arms."

At the time of the "re-flagging" of the regiments it was permitted to paint the names of the battles the regiment participated in, a precursor to the "Battle Honors" ribbon presently displayed on regimental flags of the Army and its reserve components.

Since the close of the Civil War Wisconsin state militia regiments came to use a state flag somewhat different in both size and design, - smaller, and with the Wisconsin coat of arms on both sides; but there was no law making this the state flag, excepting that of common use as such by the militia regiments. In 1913, this resolution finally made it into the official state statutes of the state of Wisconsin. In 1913, the flag was changed, specifying a dark blue background with the state coat of arms centered at each side. That design remained unchanged until 1979, when legislature was asked to change the flag design so it would appear more distinctive and recognizable. They added the word "Wisconsin" and the statehood date in "1848" in white letters, centered respectively above and below the coat of arms.

A good reference for Wisconsin Civil War Flags is the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum's website flag page <http://www.wisconsinbattleflags.com/>





## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BANQUET & MEETING

### FUTURE, PRESENT AND PAST

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

La Sure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St., Oshkosh, WI

**5:00 pm** – Social & Cocktails (Cash Bar); Peruse displays of past events, socials, floor plans and newspaper headlines

**6:00 pm** – Welcome, Invocation and Dinner along with photographs on Powerpoint

**6:30 pm** – 1SG (Ret) Joe Blando, *US Army 1984 – 2007-Read his biography on back.*

**6:45 pm** – Business Meeting: State of the MVMEC      Treasurer's Report

Board of Directors Elections - Returning candidates:	<i>Larry Kuepper</i>	<i>Ron Metz</i>
	<i>Ron Twellman</i>	<i>Don Verhoff</i>
New candidate:	<i>Pete Weidner</i>	

Door prizes      50/50      Election results

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Return this portion with **payment by October 19. Make checks out to: Military Veterans Museum, Inc.**

**Mailing address:** P.O Box 2194, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2194

**OR** Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MVM Members Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$19 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (After Oct. 19 add \$5)

Non Members Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$21 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (After Oct. 19 add \$5)

Donation to MVM = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2017 Raffle Ticket (\$50 ea.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Your raffle ticket(s) will be given to you at this event.*

**TOTAL =** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enter the name(s) of each person after his/her meal choice.

**NAMES:**

**Baked Ham with pineapple glaze and cheesy hash brown potatoes** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chicken Parmesan with fresh herb marinara sauce on fettuccini noodles** \_\_\_\_\_

**Beef Tender Tips in a burgundy sauce with garlic mashed potatoes** \_\_\_\_\_

Meal will include Wisconsin blend vegetables, coleslaw, rolls, butter, coffee, milk, tea and dessert.

**Questions: Contact Terri Schlack, Secretary - 920- 267-2703 (cell)**

If you wish to purchase a 2017 Sportsmen's Raffle ticket and not attend the dinner, contact the MVMEC Office at 920-426-8615 or visit on a weekend.





To reach either the Camp's page or its Face book Page, hold curser over the name, hold "Ctrl" and left click

[C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1](#) - Milwaukee  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month except Aug.  
Kent Peterson [kapeterson@wi.rr.com](mailto:kapeterson@wi.rr.com)  
C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary 4

[Henry Harnden Camp 2](#) - Madison  
Henry Harnden Auxiliary 2  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Alan Hemple [agh@tds.net](mailto:agh@tds.net)

[Major General John Gibbon Camp 4](#) - Waukesha  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, monthly  
Patrick Lynch [Patrick\\_lynch13@hotmail.com](mailto:Patrick_lynch13@hotmail.com)  
Ammo Hawks Auxiliary 5

[Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing Camp 5](#) – Saukville  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. last Tuesday of month  
Andrew Bollen [andbit@att.net](mailto:andbit@att.net)

[Old Abe Camp 8](#) - Fox Cities [Face Book Page](#)  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of odd months  
Kirby Scott [cowkissing@gmail.com](mailto:cowkissing@gmail.com)  
Edward S. Bragg Auxiliary 6

[Hans Heg Camp 15](#)  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Brian McManus [bmcmamus1@wi.rr.com](mailto:bmcmamus1@wi.rr.com)

[L.G. Armstrong 49](#) – Boscobel  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Gary Young [gnuoy@centurytel.net](mailto:gnuoy@centurytel.net)

[William Colville Camp 56](#) - Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Meeting held Quarterly, time, date place TBA  
Randy Nelson [LN4243@msn.com](mailto:LN4243@msn.com)

	
Dept. Commander	Alan Petit, PCC <a href="mailto:commander@sucvw-wi.org">commander@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Sr. Vice Commander	Brian McManus, PCC <a href="mailto:svc@sucvw-wi.org">svc@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Jr. Vice Commander	Andrew Bollen III, PCC <a href="mailto:jvc@sucvw-wi.org">jvc@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Council 1	Kim Heltemes, PDC <a href="mailto:council1@sucvw-wi.org">council1@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Council 2	Tom Brown, PDC <a href="mailto:council2@sucvw-wi.org">council2@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Council 3	Kent Peterson, PDC <a href="mailto:council3@sucvw-wi.org">council3@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Secretary	Brian Peters, PDC <a href="mailto:secretary@sucvw-wi.org">secretary@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Treasurer	Alan Hembel, PCC <a href="mailto:treasurer@sucvw-wi.org">treasurer@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Patriotic Instructor	Ronald Miswald <a href="mailto:pi@sucvw-wi.org">pi@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Graves Registration Officer	Tom Mueller <a href="mailto:gro@sucvw-wi.org">gro@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Ron Knaus, CC <a href="mailto:scouts@sucvw-wi.org">scouts@sucvw-wi.org</a>
ROTC Award Coordinator	Open
GAR Highway Officer	Open
Civil War Memorials	Craig Wheeler, PCC <a href="mailto:memorials@sucvw-wi.org">memorials@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Chaplain	Dean Collins <a href="mailto:chaplain@sucvw-wi.org">chaplain@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Counselor	Kent Peterson, PDC <a href="mailto:counselor@sucvw-wi.org">counselor@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Historian	Bruce Laine, PDC <a href="mailto:historian@sucvw-wi.org">historian@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Camp Organizer	Kim Heltemes <a href="mailto:organizer@sucvw-wi.org">organizer@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Guide	Ronald Knaus, CC <a href="mailto:guide@sucvw-wi.org">guide@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Color Guard	Bob Mann, PCC <a href="mailto:guard@sucvw-wi.org">guard@sucvw-wi.org</a>
Signals Officer	Kent Peterson, PDC <a href="mailto:webmaster@sucvw-wi.org">webmaster@sucvw-wi.org</a>

*Officers were elected at the 11 June 2016 Department Encampment at Wind Lake, Wis. and will serve until the 2017 Department Encampment.*



SUVCW

## NOTICE

**Wisconsin Department Dispatch** is published four times per year for members of the Wisconsin Department, SUVCW. articles, photos and news items may be submitted to:

Paul Johnson at:

[johnson@newnorth.net](mailto:johnson@newnorth.net)

Editorial deadlines are March, July, October & December

Visit us on the Web at

<http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

Winter Published, January 6, 2017

Deadline December 30, 24, 2016

Spring Published April 7, 2017

Deadline March 31, 2017

Summer Published July 7, 2017

Deadline July 1, 2017

Fall Published October 2, 2017

Deadline September 5, 2017

Dept. of Wisconsin Mid-Winter meeting,  
February 4th 2017 – Alioto's, Hwy 100 and Burleigh Rd. Wauwatosa

Dept. of Wisconsin Annual Encampment,  
June 3rd, 2017 – Saukville Town Hall, Saukville WI