

The November 14, 2018 meeting of the Brigadier General Joseph Bailey SUVCW Camp 5 commenced at 6 p.m. at its usual location, the Hamilton/South Caddo branch of Shreve Memorial Library. Submitted and approved at the Camp's December 12, 2018 meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Prime called the roll of the camp. Present were brothers Brasher, Elliott, Heller, Henigan, Porter, Prime, Tony Vets Sr. and Tony "Bo" Vets II, camp commander.

Absent were brothers Cox, Joyner, Offer, Oliver, Penfield, Vaughan, JJ Vets and Judge Walter. Brother Cox arrived after the meeting opening. Guests were Paul Gramling, national commander in chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and David Hill, commander of the local Richard Taylor Camp of the SCV.

Following the prescribed motions of the meeting opening, Chaplain Heller offered a blessing. Recitation of the Americans Creed and the Pledge of Allegiance then followed.

The meeting then officially opened.

Thanks were offered by the commander to Brother Prime for the laminated placards of meeting procedures.

In the Camp Commander's report, it was noted that a planned history minute would not be given due to the absence of Brother Joiner.

In the next order of business, it was noted that nominations taken for officer slots for consideration at the December meeting.

Then followed discussion over dues, with note made that anniversary dates of members would be needed to establish dues totals.

The treasurer's report by Brother Prime noted a checking balance of \$113.63, reflecting an unexpected \$15 service charge. Discussion ensued over such charges. Commander Vets offered to make a donation to cover minimum balance. Visitor David Hill suggested the local SCV camp's bank, Carter Federal, which levies no non-profit charges. There was a motion to explore new banking options, so seconded and approved.

Under old business, there was no update on ROTC/JROTC honors awards. The flag awards presentations update noted that in East Texas the Marshall and Tatum independent school districts both properly display and honor the US flag. There was a motion to recognize Tatum ISD for its flag recognition efforts, seconded and approved.

Here it was noted that the SUVCW Banner report on the national encampment noted presentation of the charter to a new camp, ours, without offering the name of the camp or a photo.

Brother Prime reported he visited Union graves in Greenwood Cemetery and in Bossier Parish. The Jasper Van Deusen grave is in good condition, but three in the Confederate Bivouack are not regulation. Visitor David Hill noted the markers were erected by the UCV Leroy Stafford Camp erected the three markers, which matched those used by the UCV at the time. Discussion ensued over what grave repairs could be undertaken at Greenwood. Visitors Gramling and Hill were asked if there would be any objections to the Bailey Camp undertaking repairs or replacement. No objections were voiced.

Commander Vets noted the camp has three choices: repair the existing markers; apply to the VA for replacements; or, failing that, to purchase new tombstones. Brothers Prime and Porter were tasked with approaching the VA.

Brother Prime offered a pennant update: No progress has been made yet, the balance in the coffers the limiting factor.

Under old business, the October 10, 2018 meeting minutes were put up for approval, so moved, seconded and approved.

At this time, Paul Gramling, national commander in chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, was invited to speak. Commander Gramling noted that protests over the display of the Confederate Flag and the removals of Civil War monuments continue but have lessened in numbers in recent months. He noted progress in the local SCV endeavors to erect flagpoles on private property along I-49 and I-20. Commander Vets noted that CiC Gramling has attended two of our three meetings so far and extended an invitation to him to attend and all meetings he can.

After CiC Gramling's remarks, the meeting moved to new business, beginning with nominations for officers for elections to be held at the December meeting. Positions to be filled include commander, vice commander, secretary-treasurer and chaplain. Commander Vets was nominated by a member to continue as commander and while he agreed to do so if seconded and voted on, did note that he is NOT local and that the position would benefit greatly from someone familiar with the local area. He jokingly asked Paul Gramling if he wanted the job, which Mr. Gramling declined with regrets. At this point it was noted by members that continuity of officer position incumbents would benefit the new camp, a motion that was seconded and passed by acclamation. Officers present accepted and Commander Vets suggested that historian Gary Joiner, a camp member, would be a splendid patriotic instructor. That motion was seconded and passed without objection. Brother Prime agreed to inform Brother Joiner, who was absent.

It was observed that the full complement of officers, if filled, would consume almost all the camp members. Commander Vets agreed and noted that a major goal of his for the coming year is for each current member to enlist a new ACTIVE member into the SUVCW and the camp. In ensuing discussion, Paul Gramling noted that at a recent event he was asked about the relative size of the SCV to the SUVCW -- 33,000 members in the SCV, reflecting great recent growth compared to 5,000 and change for the SUVCW -- and why that is so. Commander Gramling noted the growth seems to be due to the attacks on the heritage of the Confederacy and the flags/monuments issues. He said that as attacks on the US flag (kneeling at NFL games, etc.,) and protests around common American history (Christopher Columbus, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and others) membership in our group also should see an increase.

There also followed discussion of local dues and when these will be payable. Those, \$16 locally per bylaws, along with national dues (calculated with respect to join dates), are due January 1.

There being no further new business, Chaplain Heller was invited to offer a final prayer for the Good of the Order and a wish for health blessings upon Lynda Gramling.

The next meeting was set to be Dec. 12, 2018, at same place.

The meeting then adjourned at 7 p.m.