

Minutes of the June 12, 2019, meeting of the Brig. Gen. Joseph Bailey Camp No. 5, SUVCW held at the South Shreveport Branch Shreve Memorial Library.

The meeting opened at 6:10 p.m. Members present were Brothers Prime, Henigan, Heller, Vets II, Porter, Elliott, Offer and Vets Sr.

The stations and colors were recited. The invocation was offered by Chaplain Heller, with the assembled members then reciting the Americans' Creed and the Pledge of Allegiance. The formal meeting then commenced.

Minutes for the Camp's May meeting having been emailed to members, a motion was made to accept these, seconded and approved.

The treasurer's report by Brother Prime noted the beginning bank balance of \$828.13 increased by \$28 through a reimbursement from the Department of Texas, but diminished by \$336 through a dues payment to the Department, leaving us with a final balance of \$520.13. The treasurer's report was moved, seconded and voted for approval.

The meeting opened with brief discussion of the late June Department of Texas encampment in Houston. Brother Prime in his role as camp secretary distributed participation cards to members going to this event.

Camp Commanders Bo Vets commander's report noted camp participation in Memorial Day observances at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Haughton and the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery at Keithville. Brother Prime advised a wreath presentation at Greenwood Cemetery on the traditional Memorial Day, three days after the official observance. Commander Vets noted our camp should plan or facilitate a Memorial Day observance at Oakwood Cemetery in Jefferson, Texas, where almost two dozen Union soldiers, including a Medal of Honor recipient, are buried. The commander established a committee to pursue this, headed by Brother Elliott. There also was brief discussion whether the camp should be involved in Independence Day observances.

Brother Prime noted that a member candidate proffered by Department of Texas was steered instead to the Lea Camp in Texas, and reminded members that a major push by national this year was to recruit new members. Commander Vets reminded all that our organization allows associate memberships as well.

Brother Elliott reminded members of the upcoming Civil War Symposium in Jefferson, Texas, in which Camp Member Gary Joiner will be a speaker. Brother Bill Offer noted his college also can offer a good setting for speakers.

There then followed a presentation on Shreveport in the closing months of the Civil War and the Reconstruction, which included CD copies of a PDF of an excellent dissertation on this subject. In Q&A at the close of the talk, a member asked if there exist any monuments in Shreveport to its Union garrison presence. Brother Prime noted the city's poor record in preserving monuments or markers to either side in the conflict, but did note there once was a suggestion for a marker at Festival Plaza, where the Union quartermaster was based.

Commander Vets asked members for a suggestion for a presentation at the July meeting. Brother Elliott offered to talk on the history of the GAR.

Brother Heller noted he purchased SUVCW wooden nickels with website information from National and suggested their distribution to entice prospective members. These were distributed to camp members.

Brother Bill Offer noted a prospective member, Shreveport Police historian and detective Gayle McFarland.

There was a question and general discussion of procuring Civil War uniforms and portions thereof by members.

There being no further new business, a closing prayer was offered by Chaplain Heller. The meeting ended at 6:52 p.m.

The next camp meeting will be July 10, 2019, 6 p.m. at the Bert Kouns library location.