

**MINUTES OF THE 2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION
SONS OF SPANISH AMERICAN WAR VETERANS
HELD JULY 31 - AUGUST 2, 2009
IN THE DRAWBRIDGE INN, FT. MITCHELL, KY
AS RECORDED BY BERNARD B. O'BRYAN III,
ACTING SECRETARY**

Members in Attendance at all or some portion of the Convention:

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| National President Raymond W. LeMay III | 168 |
| National Senior Vice President Timothy Downey | 167 |
| National Trustee Jim Kiger | 167 |
| Jim Blackwell | 168 |
| Steve Clifford | 167 |
| Bob Clements | 167 |
| Bernie O'Bryan | 167 |
| Paul John Schwene | 167 |
| Kenneth W. Striker | 167 |
| Arvin R. Striker | 167 |
| Jeff Hampton | 167 |

The Council of Administration meeting was held Friday night, July 31. One important item of business, the revision of the Order's Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, was given much discussion. The previously appointed Chair of the Committee to revise these documents had not fulfilled his obligations to carry out his task. However, written suggestions for revisions from other Members were presented. The Members of the Council present discussed the proposed revisions at length and prepared a presentation of their suggested revisions.

Saturday morning, August 1, a joint memorial service was conducted by the SSAWV and Daughters of '98. A member of the City Council of Fort Mitchell welcomed the Orders and gave a short history of the city. After the service, the Daughters stayed in the meeting room to begin their proceedings, and the Sons left for another room specially set up for their meeting.

The meeting was opened by National President Raymond LeMay. Brother Bernie O'Bryan was appointed as acting Chaplain, Brother Jim Blackwell as acting Sergeant-at-Arms and others attending stepping in for various positions as needed. The current National Secretary not being in attendance, National President Raymond LeMay appointed Brother Bernie O'Bryan acting Secretary for the Convention.

National President LeMay read the Minutes from the 2008 Convention. The motion to approve the Minutes as read was passed without opposition.

National Senior Vice President Timothy Downey read the National Treasurer report, which had been submitted by National Secretary / Treasurer Ken Robison, who could not attend. National President LeMay submitted an amendment to this report. This amendment consisted of a bill for \$136.06 for the purchase of two National seals. National President LeMay had not received any

reimbursement or acknowledgement of this bill from National Treasurer Robison. The amendment was accepted and both the report and amendment were approved.

During the morning session, Sergeant-at-Arms Blackwell responded to a visitor to the Convention. Mr. Hershel Freeman had read an article on the Convention published in a local paper and sought to join us. Mr. Freeman's father was Anderson Freeman of the 1st Kentucky Infantry. Mr. Freeman joined Camp 167 as a Real Son.

A motion to approve the creation of Cuba Libre Camp 172 in Mobile, Alabama (Camp President - John O'Donnell-Rosales) was approved.

Motions for the reimbursement of National Supply Officer Jim Kiger's purchase of stamps for the mailing of General Orders 1 and 2 were approved. Payment was ordered to be made to Brother Kiger for the amounts of \$106.94 and \$63.48.

President LeMay reported on:

- "Cuba Libre" Camp membership and previous contacts with their now new Camp President.
- A letter from Brother Alexander Loo on membership.
- Phone and email contacts from the membership.

The following reports of Officers and Committees were given:

- National President's report was read and approved.
- National Senior Vice President Downey's report was read and approved.
- Ways and Means Committee report was read and approved.
- National Supply Officer Kiger's report was read and approved.
- Jim Kiger's Military Order of the Rats Committee report was read and approved.

Charters for the following Camps were signed:

- Egbert-Reed-Wetherhill Camp No. 167, Kentucky (Charter was presented to those Members present)
- James J. Dunn Camp No. 170, Brooklyn, New York (Charter is to be mailed)
- Cuba Libre Camp No. 172, Mobile, Alabama (Charter is to be mailed)

A recruiting report was given.

President LeMay reported that our National Charter is in the Sandusky, Ohio "Ohio Veterans Home Museum" along with other artifacts in an appropriate display room devoted to the Spanish-American War, but that there had been some misunderstanding about access to the documents and other artifacts that he and others are resolving. Motion to add the Ohio Veterans Home Museum to our mailing list, along with all allied orders, was approved.

A proposed embroidered patch of our Order's logo for the placing on caps, clothing, etc. was discussed. Samples of Camp and National Office pins for placing on the membership badge ribbon were shown. The design of the patch and the samples (from Simon Brothers in Philadelphia, Penn.) as presented, were approved for sell to Members. Brother Jim Blackwell was appointed as committee chairman to explore the cost of producing the patch. He is to report his findings to the National President and Supply Officer. National President LeMay is to provide ordering and

pricing information for the pins to National Supply Officer Kiger. Brother Bernie O'Bryan suggested that the emphasis should be placed on creating and selling objects to the larger audience of the general public as a bigger source of revenue rather than concentrating on the, by comparison, small market of our own membership. Other Members mentioned the high desire on the part of our membership for tokens and objects with our Order's name on it as a source of pride and marketing of our Order. No further decisions on this matter were made after this discussion.

On Saturday, the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations revision suggestions were presented to the membership of the Convention. All revisions as presented by the CofA were approved. These changes will enhance the opportunity for our Order's 501c3 charity designation. A Brother of the Order has been in contact with National President LeMay and has agreed to donate his time and talent to help our organization through this process.

The Nomination and Election of Officers followed.

National President LeMay read several letters of support he had received from the membership and gave a short statement as to why he was seeking re-election. National Senior Vice President Timothy Downey also gave a statement concerning his own candidacy. Brother Downey received a majority of votes for the office of National President.

Brother Jim Blackwell was elected National Senior Vice President.

Brother Jim Kiger was elected National Junior Vice President, then immediately resigned as National Trustee.

Brother John Lamp continues as a National Trustee 1 year.

Brother Arvin Striker was elected National Trustee 2 year.

Brother Raymond LeMay was elected National Trustee 3 year.

Brother Bernie O'Bryan was appointed National Secretary and accepted the appointment.

No other items of business were brought before the Convention.

The Ladies of the Daughter of '98 were invited to the meeting room. Our Officers were then installed.

On Sunday, there was a breakfast, followed by a short tour of Fort Thomas and a talk by newly-appointed National Secretary Bernie O'Bryan on the 6th Regiment, which was stationed there before and after the Spanish-American War. The tour and talk included a look at the trophy Spanish Coastal Cannons brought back from Cuba, memorials to the 6th and Colonel Egbert, who was later killed in the Philippines during the Insurrection.

PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL BY NATIONAL SECRETARY O'BRYAN

8/11/09

EDITED AND APPROVED BY NATIONAL PRESIDENT TIMOTHY H. DOWNEY

8/20/09