



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
PICACHO PEAK CAMP No. 1  
DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST**



**CAMP NEWSLETTER**



**To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union 1861 to 1865**

January 2016

Camp Web site: [suvwaz-camp1.org](http://suvwaz-camp1.org)

**PICACHO PEAK CAMP No. 1—NO LONGER A CAMP-AT-LARGE!**



**Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War**

Office of the Commander-in-Chief  
70 Curtis Drive, East Berlin, PA 17316



**GENERAL ORDER - 07 Establishment of the Department of the Southwest**

On November 17, 2015, I received a request from the following Camps to form a Department.

- Picacho Peake Camp No. 1 of Phoenix, Arizona
- General R. H. G. Minty Camp No. 2 of Tucson, Arizona
- General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 of Flagstaff, Arizona

In accordance with National Regulations, Chapter II, Article I, Section 7, the petition of said Camps is approved and the **Department of the Southwest** is hereby established and shall be composed of the states of **New Mexico and Arizona**. The Department of Texas is commended for its past stewardship of the state of New Mexico. The Date of Rank for the Department of the Southwest is: December 3, 2015.

The Department of the Southwest is hereby authorized to hold a Special Department Encampment to complete the organization of the Department, including the election of Officers, Delegates to the National Encampment, and the adoption of Department By-Laws.

Ordered this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2015, in the Town of East Berlin, Pennsylvania.

ATTEST /s/ Alan L. Russ, PDC  
National Secretary

/s/ Eugene G. Mortorff  
Commander-in-Chief

## Minutes of the November 14, 2015, Camp meeting

Location:  
Deer Valley Airport Restaurant  
702 W. Deer Valley Rd.  
Phoenix, Az.

The regular quarterly meeting of Picacho Peak Camp No. 1 and its Auxiliary was held at noon on November 14, 2015, at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant. Fifteen brothers and 8 sisters and guests were in attendance. The meeting was led by Camp Commander John Conrad and Auxiliary Vice President Verna Maleski

### *Camp officer reports:*

Camp Commander Conrad noted the passing of Brother Paul Davis' wife and the continued illness of Brother Bob Young

Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Bloom reported on the finances of the Camp and also repeated the call for 2016 dues.

### *Camp officer election & installation*

As the last order of business the following Brothers were duly elected and installed as Picacho Peak Camp officers for 2015-2016:

Commander: Gerald N. Bloom  
Senior Vice Commander: James M. Heller  
Junior Vice Commander: David R. Palmateer  
Secretary/Treasurer: David A. Swanson PCC

#### Camp Council:

Don Strachota  
John R. Conrad PCC  
William Hearter Jr. MD

The following Brothers were appointed to the following offices:

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Don Strachota  
Chaplain: Mark Haynes  
Counselor: Bob Young  
Guide: Chris Beisner  
Color Bearer: David Vessels  
Guard: Al Harrica  
Graves Registration: Jan Huber  
Civil War Memorials: David A. Swanson  
Patriotic Instructor: Robert Massey  
Historian: David A. Swanson  
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Dennis Lamb  
Camp Signals Officer: Jeff Burgess

The camp then elected delegates (Jerry Bloom, John Conrad) and alternates (all other Camp members) to the Department Encampment and to the National Encampment in August, 2016 in Springfield, IL.



Installing Officer John Conrad PCC (center) installing the 2016 Picacho Peak Camp Officers (L-R) Al Harrica, Jim Heller, Jerry Bloom, David Palmateer, David Vessels, Bob Archibald, and Chris Beisner.



2016 Camp officers (L-R) Al Harrica, Jim Heller, Jerry Bloom, John Conrad, David Palmateer, David Vessels, Chris Beisner and Bob Archibald



Camp Commander Gerald N. Bloom





Past Camp Commander John Conrad (R) passing on the Camp charter to new Camp Commander Gerald N. Bloom



Past Camp Commander John Conrad receiving a plaque for his outstanding service to our Camp



Auxiliary Vice President Verna Maleski and Camp Commander Gerald N. Bloom

**Petition to form the Department of the Southwest**

Commander Conrad announced that General U. S. Grant Camp No. 3 was awarded its charter effective September 11, 2015. Since there are now 3 camps in the state of Arizona, those camps may now petition to form a department. The other two camps have already voted to petition for the formation of a department. After discussion, Picacho Peak Camp #1 voted unanimously to support the formation of the Department of the Southwest and to authorize Commander Conrad to petition the Commander in Chief.

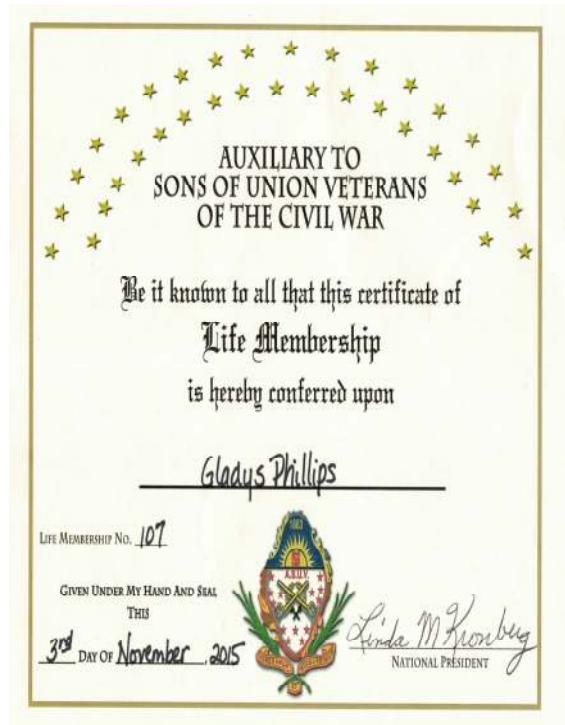
**Report on National Encampment**

Commander Conrad reported on the proceedings of the National Encampment that was held August 20-22 in Richmond. There was further discussion of the Gilbert Library presentation on February 6, which the Camp and the Auxiliary will participate in



**Auxiliary News**

Auxiliary Sister Gladys Phillips, age 90, is now a proud Life Member of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.



Congratulations Sister Gladys!



### 2016 Camp Meeting dates

Picacho Peak Camp meeting dates for 2016 are as follows—all meetings start at 12:00 noon. Location: Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix, Arizona

- February 13
- May 14
- August 13
- November 12

### February meeting information

Our speaker for the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Brother John Kohl who will speak about “Blacks during the Civil War.”

**Please make every effort to attend our Camp and Auxiliary meeting!**

### Nevada becomes the 36th state

On October 31, 1864, Nevada became the 36<sup>th</sup> state in the United States. So, what’s the big deal?

Our country was in the throes of a civil war when 11 states attempted to secede (had they been successful Nevada would have been the 25<sup>th</sup> state), but beyond that look at the Civil War politics involved and the implications of the telegraph which was invented 20 years earlier.

The following information is taken from [History.com/this day in history](http://History.com/this-day-in-history).

“On [October 31] 1864, anxious to have support of the Republican-dominated Nevada Territory for President Abraham Lincoln’s reelection, the U.S. Congress quickly admits Nevada as the 36th state in the Union.

“In 1864, Nevada had only 40,000 inhabitants, considerably short of the 60,000 normally required for statehood. But the 1859 discovery of the incredibly large and rich silver deposits at Virginia City had rapidly made the region one of the most important and wealthy in the West. . . .

“The decisive factor in easing the path to Nevada’s statehood was President Lincoln’s proposed 13th Amendment banning slavery. Throughout his administration Lincoln had appointed territorial officials in Nevada who were strong Republicans, and he knew he could count on the congressmen and citizens of a new state of Nevada to support him in the coming presidential election and to vote for his proposed amendment. Since time was so short, the Nevada constitutional delegation sent the longest telegram on record up to that time to Washington, D.C., containing the entire text of the proposed state

constitution and costing the then astronomical sum of \$3,416.77.

“Their speedy actions paid off with quick congressional approval of statehood and the new state of Nevada did indeed provide strong support for Lincoln. On January 31, 1865, Congress approved the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning slavery.”

What about the telegraph? In 1844 when Samuel Morse tapped out the following message “What Hath God Wrought?” the seismic shift in worldwide communications was likened to the invention of the computer.

“For thousands of years messages had been limited by the speed with which messengers could travel and the distance at which eyes could see signals such as flags or smoke. Neither Alexander the Great nor Benjamin Franklin (America’s first postmaster general) two thousand years later knew anything faster than a galloping horse.” (*What Hath God Wrought*, by Daniel Walker Howe.)



### Department of the Southwest

Brothers of all three Camps will be notified as we progress with the formation of our new Department of the Southwest.

This is an exciting and historic time and you are part of it!



**We are Brothers in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War not because of anything we have done, but because of the sacrifices of *our* Civil War ancestors who saved the Union!**

**Address Change**

Brothers, if you change your address, *e-mail address* or phone number please advise our Camp Secretary/Treasurer David Swanson at your earliest convenience.

This will ensure that you get *The Banner*, our Camp newsletter, and additionally this will enable us to contact you.

**A standing invitation to join the SUVCW and our Camp**

Brothers, please help spread the word about our Camp! Male descendants, (son, grandson, great grandson, nephew, grand nephew, great grand nephew, etc.) aged 14 years or older, of a Union Civil War soldier, sailor, marine, or member of the Revenue Cutter Service who honorably served in the Civil War between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865, are eligible for membership. A Junior membership for those aged 6-14 (meeting the above requirements) and an Associate membership are also available.

Please contact the Camp Junior Vice Commander for more details and assistance.

**If you are receiving this newsletter in black & white via the Unites States Postal Service and an e-mail color version would work just as well for you, e-mail the newsletter editor—**

**Ancestor Biographies wanted**

If you have a biography of your Civil War ancestor that you would like to see published in the Camp newsletter please send it to the editor. Try to keep it to a maximum length of one double sided page. Your Civil War ancestor biography will also be posted on our excellent Camp website!

**Past Camp Commanders**



- Larry Fuller 1995-2003 †
- David A. Swanson 2003-2006
- Robert Hannon 2006-2008 †
- John R. Conrad 2008-2010
- David A. Swanson 2010-2013
- John R. Conrad 2013-2015



**Camp Officers for 2016**

**Commander:**

Gerald N. Bloom (602) 955-3091

E-mail: jerrybloom@q.com

**Senior Vice-Commander:**

Jim Heller (623-975-4300

E-mail: jmh7116@aol.co

**Junior Vice-Commander:**

David R. Palmateer (928)-978-0066

E-mail: Palmateer@npgcable.com

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

David A. Swanson (480) 515-2798

E-mail: swanson1854@yahoo.com

**Assistant Secretary/Treasurer**

Don Strachota Jr. (See Camp Council)

**Camp Council:**

John Conrad (602) 750-0938

E-mail: jrconrad@post.harvard.edu

Don Strachota Jr. (480-588-6589

E-mail: antondon@cox.net

William Hearter Jr. MD (480) 596-6750

E-mail: whearter@yahoo.com

**Signals Officer**

Jeff Burgess 602-819-0795

E-mail: jeffreydavidburgess@gmail.com

**Chaplain:**

Mark Haynes (928) 755-3714

E-mail: haynes9@frontiernet.net

**Patriotic Instructor:**

Robert C. Massey (602)-298-2656

E-mail: rmassey6165@yahoo.com

**Eagle Scout Coordinator:**

Dennis Lamb (480) 595-6356

E-mail: dennislamb@msn.com

**Graves Registration**

Jan Huber: (623) 975-4805

E-mail: jandhuber1933@gmail.com

**Civil War Memorials Officer:**

David Swanson PCC (480) 515-2798

E-mail: swanson1854@yahoo.com

**Historian:**

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**Counselor:**

Bob Young (602) 841-7037

E-mail: bob.young1@cox.net

**Color Bearer:**

David Vessels (602) 369-8165

E-mail: dtkv@cox.net

**Guard:**

Al Harrica (623 322-5939

E-mail: dharrica@cox.net

**Guide:**

Christopher Beisner (623) 692-8488

E-mail: cmbeisner@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor/Publisher**

David A. Swanson

## 2016 ANNUAL DUES

### ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE!

**Please use this form to submit your Picacho Peak Camp 2016 dues.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Regular member dues for calendar year 2016 are \$36.00. (Which includes national dues of \$23 and camp dues of \$13.) If you are a Life Member see that section below.

Dues enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Life Member dues for calendar year 2016 are \$13. (Life Members are exempt from national dues and only pay camp dues).

Dues enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dual member dues for calendar year 2016 are \$36.00. Dual members are those who have primary membership in one camp and dual membership with another camp. (If you are a dual member and a Life Member your Dual Member dues are \$13.00.)

Dues enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to Picacho Peak Camp No. 1

Please mail to:

David Swanson PCC, S/T  
4851 E. Fernwood Court  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331