



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



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**CAMP NEWSLETTER**  
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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: suvewaz-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 3rd 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.

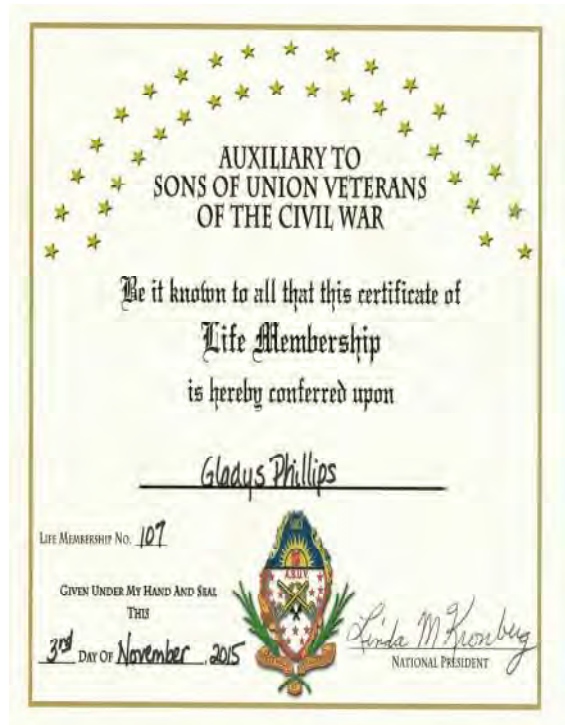
Report on National Encampment

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 13th 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 36th 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 25th 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:

David Swanson PCC (480) 515-2798

E-mail: swanson1854@yahoo.com

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