

Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Curtenius Guard Camp # 17

Camp # 17 Meeting Minutes for the January 27, 2026 Camp # 17 Meeting. The 7:10 PM meeting location is the G.A.R. Hall, Sunfield, Michigan.

I. Opening Ritual:

At 7:10 P.M. Camp # 17 Commander Steve Carr opened the January 27, 2026, Camp # 17 meeting. Brothers were appointed to fill the vacancies of absent officers by appointment, pro-temp.

II. Roll Call of Officers:

Officers Present: J. Armstrong, D. Bankhead, S. Carr, D. Grimes, M. Hanes, H. Holcomb, C. Orr, J. B. Pahl, R. Payne, and R. Shull.

Officers Excused: M. Hoffman, R. Russell, and B. Shumway .

III. Roll Call of the Camp:

Roll of the Camp not called.

IV. Guests:

Guests present tonight: Caleb Robinson, and Mrs. Don Miller.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Commander S. Carr asked the Camp # 17 Brothers if they have any objections, or questions about the November 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes. There being no objection Camp # 17 Commander S. Carr asked for a motion to accept. Motion made by Brother R. Payne to accept the minutes as presented. Second.

Motion passed.

VI. Treasurers Report:

-Treasurer J.B. Pahl is collecting Camp # 17 2026 dues. The annual dues amount is \$51.00.

-Motion to table the Treasurers report until next meeting. Treasurers J.B. Pahl left the report at home. Second. Motion passed.

-We completed an audit of the Camp # 17 books on 1/27/2027.

-Motion made that that tonight's the Pass the hat money goes into the General fund. Second Motion passed.

VII. Concerns for Brothers:

Concerns, thoughts, and prayers were expressed for the following Brothers: J. D. Park's wife, M. Hoffman, W. Peabody, Chris Allen of the Michigan GAR Memorial Hall and Museum, Dave Bankhead, and R. Shull are doing good.

VIII. Reading of Applications from Candidates, for Membership:

Caleb Robinson turned in his application for membership into Camp # 17. His C.W. relative John Chminsham he was in the 83th Illinois Infantry Co. D a Private. The investigating committee approved his application.

IX. Balloting for Candidates for Membership:

-The ballot box located and a vote taken. Commander S. Carr announced Caleb Robinson is approved into membership.

X. Initiation of New Brothers:

-New Brother Caleb Robinson being present he was initiated into Camp

17. A round of applause welcomed him into membership.

XI. Meeting Recess:

-A recess was not taken.

XII. Committee Reports of the Camp:

By-Laws: Question: Are the By-Laws on the Camp # 17 website up to date? - R. Payne prepared an updated set of Camp # 17 By-Laws. He provided Commander S. Carr an updated copy, including a signature page needed signed by the Camp # 17 required Officers. It then sent to the Department of Michigan Commander David Kimble for his signature.

Investigating Committee Reports:

- Caleb Robinson application was approved.

-Memorials and Graves

Registrations:

-Brother M. Hoffman E-mailed the following report for the January 27, 2026 meeting: Incoming GRO Anthony Vela and I have been working on the upcoming transition, while partnering on our Camp's contribution to the SUVCW graves registration project. We both attended the December 13th Department GRO meeting, which focused on upcoming improvements to the National Graves Database. It was a good discussion and there is a lot of excitement about some fields that are being added and new tools we'll be able to use as administrators. Anthony had a chance to meet GROs from other camps. Camp # 17 member, and long-time graves registration expert, Chris Czopek also participated in the meeting.

Anthony and I met on December 10 to review the graves registration project, key tools that we use in graves research, and begin the process of handing over the Camp's GRO files and resources. We're in regular contact as he has started adding information in the database. We will continue meeting and stay in regular communication through the transition, and I'll remain active as a content admin for the national database and participate in the Department graves registration efforts.

Anthony is an experienced research and genealogist, which positions him well for the new GRO role. He's already making a great contribution to the project, and our Camp is in great hands going forward.

-Brother J. Pahl received a card about a C.W. Soldier buried in Barry County. The grave lacks a marker.

G.A.R. Monuments:

- No Report.

Eagle Scout Certificates: No Report.

Military Affairs: No Report.

Membership:

-No new.

Remembrance Day:

-No report.

Patriotic Instructor: Patriotic Instructor R. Payne provides the following report: We used to celebrate both, Presidents A. Lincoln and G. Washington's birthday on their actual birthday. We now celebrate both as Presidents Day. President Lincoln is elected President and the Civil War takes place. Those fortunate enough to make it home and rejoin,

started families. We have reached a milestone. Our last and oldest living oldest living son is William Poole, Parkview Health Facility, 119 W. Forest Bolivar MO 65613. His birthday was January 14th. His age is now 101. It suggested that sending a card is appropriate and appreciated.

Programs and Publicity: No report.

Hall Restoration:

- The porch railing job was completed and a copy of the Invoice, photos and check payment for the total of \$1090.00, were sent on to Randal Tooker at the Eaton County Historical Commission. Brother R. Tooker has responded back indicating the full amount of \$1090 was approved.

Memorial Day:

- We will make Memorial Day plans at the March meeting..

Grinnell Award: No Report.

Veterans Day: No report.

XIII. Orders and Communications:

SUVCW National Issued the following General Orders:

-#9-The Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Award.

- #10-Establishes the Spirit of Fraternity.

-#11-Looking Forward to 2026 with Purpose, Conviction, and Serving.

- #12-Commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation

Special Message:

-None.

Special SUVCW Orders:

-Proclamation Commemorating the

250th Anniversary of the United States of America

National Special Committee on Social Media (Signals Corps) Reach Out:

-None

The SUVCW Department of Michigan Issues the following Orders:

-#7-Lists the Committee appointments for the 2026 Department of Michigan Encampment.

-#8-Corrects an error on Order #7.

Department Special Messages:

-A notice of 2026 Department Encampment Award Submission Deadlines.

Camp # 17 Orders: No Orders.

-Orders are accessible on the Camp # 17, SUVCW Department of Michigan, or SUVCW National websites.

XIV. Old Business:

-Brother D. Bankhead asked about the title to old Hall. The GAR deeds are in The Samuel Grinnell Gar Post book. A continued discussion took place. An adverse possession claim could be an issue. More needs to be determined.

-Motion by Brother D. Bankhead to form a committee to determine who owns the old hall. Second. Motion passed. Commander S. Carr appointed a committee that includes; Brothers D. Bankhead, and C. Czopek

XV. New Business:

-Installation of Camp # 17 Officers for 2026. Commander S. Carr Called R. Payne forward to install the 2026 Camp # 17 Officers. He asked Secretary H. Holcomb to read the

slate of Officers. Next Installing Officer R. Payne announced each office and asked the Officer as announced to rise. All announced officers agreed to accept their position.

The following is the slate of 2026 elected Officers installed :

- Steve Carr Commander
- Dave Bankhead Sr. Vice Commander
- Cody Orr Jr. Vice Commander
- Steve Martin Council
- Dave Bankhead Council
- Ron Shull Council
- James B. Pahl Treasurer
- Harold Holcomb Secretary
- Appointed Camp # 17 Officers to be installed at the January 27, 2026 meeting include:
- Marvin Hanes Chaplin
- Robert Payne Patriotic Instructor
- Anthony Vela Graves Registration
- Rodney Russell Guide
- Brian Shumway Guard
- Chris Czopek Historian
- Ron Shull Eagle Scout
- Jon Armstrong Color Bearer
- James B. Pahl Counselor
- Robert Payne Webmaster
- David Grimes Memorial

XVI. Good of the Order:

-Kermit Douse wishes to make sure we are planning on being involved in the Nashville, Michigan 250th event July 11, 2026. It begins with a flag raising at Parady Park at 9 AM He wants to let us know the Sons of the Revolution will have a contingent there too. A parade is scheduled at noon.

-The 2026 Department of Michigan Encampment is April 24-25, 2026 at the Okemos, Michigan event center. Go to the SUV CW Department of

Michigan website to locate reservations.

-The National Encampment is at Gettysburg July 31-August 2, 2026.

-December 6, 2025 was the premier of the film Battle Flags of Michigan. It is a great film. Look for it.

Michigan G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum:

-A 2026, Events and Presentations list is anticipated on the museum's website.

-We are asking for volunteer tour guides to cover days we plan to be open.

-“Annual Sponsorships”, from \$25 to \$200 are available to help support the, “Michigan G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum. Volunteers are needed to work the first two Wednesdays of each month.

Camp # 17 Website:

curteniusguardcamp17.org

Pass the Hat:-We collected \$76.00 in pass the hat.

XVII. Closing Ritual:

-Camp # 17 Commander S. Carr closed the meeting at 8:50 PM. The next meeting is March 31, 2026. The meeting time is 7:00 PM, and the meeting location is the old Sunfield G.A.R. Hall.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Harold Holcomb
Curtenius Guard Camp # 17,
Secretary