

Headquarters, Department of Colorado -Wyoming
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
3665 Campbell Dr.
Torrington, WY 82240

Department Commanders Report
21 June 2025

Since I have become the Department Commander during the 96th Encampment for the Department of Colorado-Wyoming in Sheridan WY. This position has been challenging in the areas of meeting the demand and needs of its members. This position is to instill Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty, and to remain unbiased. For the first several months I have had to confer questions to CinC Kevin Martin, Micheal Piquette PCinC with the CC&R Chapter 4 to make changes to the language of the Articles.

I have been present at Camp meetings and virtually even though my goal was to visit all Camps within this Department.

Camps attended virtually and in person:

- Camp 1 - Captain Lot Smith Camp Salt Lake City, Utah (Virtual)
- Camp 2 - Compliment-Chapman Camp 2 in Montana (In person)
- Camp 3 - Col. Henry B Carrington Camp 3 in Wyoming (In person)
- Camp 7 - Pvt. John Davis Colorado – No Schedule provided
- Camp 10 – Legion of the West Grand Junction – No Schedule provided
- Camp 15 – Thomas L. Kane St. George Utah – No Schedule provided
- Camp 43 - Thomas D Osborne - Idaho Falls, Idaho (Virtual)
- Camp 100 – Centennial – Castle Rock Colorado (In person)

Phone calls made to Camp Commanders:

- Camp 1 – Brown -Actively involved
- Camp 2 – Klien - Active
- Camp 3 – Harper – Camp Actively involved
- Camp 7 – Meyer – Camp Active, and working on Veterans monuments
- Camp 10 – Clink – Camp is active, Commander a wealth of information
- Camp 15 – Mosely – Camp is still in its infancy
- Camp 43 – Jacobsen – Camp Actively involved and membership growth
- Camp 100 – Atkins – Camp Actively involved

The concerning part listening to the Camp Commanders is membership. I have taken the time to contact many past members within this department. Some of what I have heard is distance, lack of meetings, and personality differences with other members.

The average membership in most camps range from 7 to 10 registered, average attendance at a meeting is 5 this does not include virtual. Having Virtual or any digital media helps keep the Camps active. As a Department Commander I was able to call a Department Officers meeting in the fall of Nov 2024 and in the spring of May 2025.

The health of this Department was problematic when I had taken over as Department Commander due to a department hearing of a member who is suspended until March of 2026. At this time after visiting with the Camp Commanders the comradery amongst its members remains strong.

As a Department Commander I have participated at Fort Laramie NHS part of its living history and to promote SUVCW at these events.

July 3 – 7 Fourth of July Event and visited with the DAR Auxiliary

Aug 9th – 11th Fort Laramie NHS Living Civil War Encampment.

Memorial Day Parade in Scottsbluff Nebraska Invite

Memorial Day Honoring Veterans at Valley View Cemetery Torrington, Wyoming

Maintaining Civil War Veteran Headstones and grave areas at Dwyer Prairie, Hartville, Guernsey, Fort Laramie Cemetery.

Activities within this Department

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at national level sponsored RootsTech 2025, the largest family history and genealogy conference annually in the entire world. As part of the sponsorship, the SUVCW had both a physical booth at the Salt Lake convention center and a virtual booth. Camp 1 Brother Ken Jacobsen & Brother Monroe McBride was instrumental in setting up and managing the booth, and virtual room, as well as setting up, scheduling, managing other members within this Department to help.

ROTC/JROTC with having Brother Jacobsen help Brother Welch out with these awards we are able to respond quickly to the needs of the Instructors of the Schools that request these awards.

Department Recognition

Department Commander Awards

RootsTech – Brother Monroe McBride, Brother Ken Jacobsen

Department Recognition

Brother Walley Weart – Maintaining the Department Webpage

Brother Monroe McBride – his role of as Department Chaplin is stepping down for other commitments.

This Department for 2024 – 2025 has 12 active Department Orders

The 97th Department of Colorado-Wyoming Encampment held at Fort Caspar, Casper Wyoming. June 21st with Camp 3 hosting this event. With Representation from Brother Brian Pierson PCinC.

Department Discussions during this meeting:

National – nothing present at this time

Department will discuss the following:

Department Senior Vice Commander Atkins – **Bonding for Department Treasurer, Camp Treasures.**

Department Junior Vice Commander Jacobsen - **Raising Camp Dues to the Department from \$3 to moderate increase.**

This concludes my report as Current Department Commander for 2024 – 2025

William Neu Jr

William Neu Jr

Department Commander

Department of Colorado-Wyoming