

Moses A. Baldwin Camp #544, SUVCW, Long Island, N.Y.

DATE: April 1, 2024

TO: Edward O'Brien, Commander, Department of New York, SUVCW

C: Elected & Appointed Department Officers, Camp Commanders, Camp Secretaries

RE: Camp Commander's Report for 1/1/23 to 12/31/23

Membership. In 2023 we inducted 9 new brothers bringing our roster to 63. Of these, 62 renewed for 2024 (an incredible retention rate of 98.4%) and, on 3/30/24, the Camp voted to carry one 9 year member who is fighting a second bout with cancer. So, we entered 2024 with 63 brothers. So far in 2024, we inducted two new brothers increasing our roster to 65. At 1/1/18 we had 29 so this is an increase of 36 or 124% (14% compounded) over a little more than 6 years.

Meetings/Attendance. We held six meetings, all in person. At 11.00 brothers per meeting vs 11.75 last year, average attendance was down some from 2022 but up a bit from 2021. The details:

	Brothers	Inductees	Guests
January 28 (Pass Budget, Set Calendar)	13		2
March 25	9		
June 8	13		1
September 30 (LI Civil War Weekend)	10		4
November 4 (Elections)	14	1	2
December 3 (Installation Luncheon)	7		
Totals	66		

(11.00 brothers per meeting in 2023 vs 11.75 in 2022, 10.4 in 2021, 9.3 in 2020 and 10.7 in 2019.)

Finances are in very good shape with approximately \$2,800 available to the Camp after accounting for the per capita dues payable to the Department and National for 2024. Our good position is because the brothers have, in addition to their dues, given to Camp about \$3,500 over the last 5 years. In 2023 we received the \$10,000 grant awarded by Nassau County in late 2022 for our work. We feel constrained to spend this money only in Nassau County and the brothers voted to spend these funds to ensure that the grave every Union Veteran interred in Nassau County is marked in an appropriate way. It will take a few years to actually accomplish this but we now have a goal and almost all the necessary funding.

Bylaws were amended to require brothers who purchase Life Membership in the future (with their entire payment going to National) to pay Camp dues. A similar recommendation was made to the Department of New York and it was approved at the Department Encampment. Although not in the Bylaws, a policy statement was passed which ensures that the wishes of those who donate funds to the Camp will be adhered to but we will stay within the true mission of the SUVCW.

Encampments.

National. Three brothers attended. Jay Dolan, Dennis Duffy, Ted Phillips
 Department. Three brothers attended. Jay Dolan, Dennis Duffy, Ted Phillips

Events. See attached list.

Graves added to the SUVCW Database in 2023 by members of the Camp were 1,490 vs 1,302 in all of 2022. This reflects the work of six brothers, Don McMahon, Wayne Haddock, Christopher Shand, Dennis Duffy, Bill Wagner, and Tom Nicholson (new in 2023).

Headstones obtained & placed. Eight in total.

Most Holy Trinity Cemetery Bushwick, Brooklyn. One
 Cedar Grove Cemetery, Flushing, NY. Seven.

Special Project. The Camp purchased the Descriptive Book (Chronological List of Members) of the Cornelius Vanderbilt GAR Post #136, Bronx, NY on E-Bay. The book was professionally copied by the Town of Islip Historian's Office and brother Daniel McMahon is transcribing it into an Excel Spreadsheet. Once this work is completed the Descriptive Book will be donated to the NYS Archives which has a collection of such Descriptive Books including the one of our namesake, the Moses A. Baldwin GAR Post #544. Conversation with Archives staff shows they are eager to take possession.

Donations from Camp Funds to other Civil War 501(c) 3 organizations were \$670.00, an increase of \$410.00 over what we donated in 2022 and \$ 450.00 more than the \$220 donated in 2021.

Details are:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>Increase</u>			
Am. Battlefield Trust (Previously the Civil War Trust)	35	25	30
Betty Baker Memorial	25		
Friends of Grant Cottage	35	30	30
Elmira Civil War Prison	35	30	30
Friends of the NYS Military Museum (see below)		40	40
Waterloo, NY Memorial Day Museum	85	30	30
Wreaths Across America		15	0
Echoes in Time Civil War Museum, Springville, NY	85	30	30
Cattaraugus Co. CW Mem. Bldg., Little Valley, NY	85	30	30
Greenpoint Monitor Museum	85	30	0
Co. K, 67 th NY	100		
14 th Brooklyn Living History Ass'n.	100		
Totals	\$670	\$260	\$220

Rally Round the Flags. \$2,000 was given to the Friends of the NYS Military Museum bringing the Camp's total to \$3,842 over the last 5 years comprised of funds solicited from the public at our events and Camp funds. The \$2,000 donated in 2023 was matched by Brother George McGraw

meaning that over the last 5 years \$5,842 has been donated because of our Camp's efforts.

Eagle Scout Commendation Certificates. Ted Phillips accepted the role of Coordinator, Eagle Scout Commendation Certificate Program from Scott McKendrick, PCC who remains as PI, a member of the Camp Council and a member of the Eagle Scout Commendation Certificate Presentation Team. A Camp record of 99 Commendation certificates were presented by Bros. Phillips, McKendrick, McMahon, and Duffy. This compares to 41 in 2022, 43 in 2021 and 49 in 2020 and the previous Camp record of 71 in 2019.

ROTC Cadet Awards. None in 2023. The last such award from our Camp was presented to St. John's University Army ROTC Cadet Abdelmoshen ("Abby") Mossolem on February 27, 2022. With William Kempner, Cmdr., USN, (Ret.) as Sr. Cadet Coordinator, we expect in 2024 to identify at least one deserving cadet.

Jr. Cadet (JrROTC, NDCC, Young Marines, & CAP Cadet) Awards. None in 2023. However, Bro. Paul Farinella, LtC, USA, Ret. who joined the Camp in 2023 has accepted appointment as Jr. Cadet Awards Coordinator and we expect to get this program moving well in 2024.

Web site. Mike Duffy continues to maintain our free Google Sites based, user friendly site. The link is: <https://sites.google.com/site/mosesabaldwin>. The site is also easily found by searching on "Moses Baldwin sites"

Newsletter. Our professional looking quarterly newsletter, *Moses on the Move*, in color, with photographs, has a circulation of over 200 by e-mail including all camps in New York, members of the DUVCW and others, particularly any who expressed interest in our work. It is also available on our website. It is mailed to the few brothers who do not use e-mail.

Department and National Participation. Dennis Duffy serves as NY GRO and Chair of the Department's Legislation Committee and as a member of the National Committee on Graves Registration. Bill Wagner serves as an aide to that committee and his work has been so significant that at the last National Encampment he was given an award by the Commander in Chief. That Committee wrote specifications for a new computer system, solicited bids, selected a vendor and is now working with that vendor in implementing the new system which will be live in 2024.

Memorial University. Treasurer Ted Phillips became the second member of our Camp to complete the course and his pin was awarded at the National Encampment in Nashua, NH.

Plans for 2024. We plan to: continue to grow our membership, conduct three headstone dedications in three different cemeteries covering 10 VA headstones, continue to lead in Graves Registrations and Eagle Scout Commendation Certificates, continue our generosity to other Civil War organizations, start the project to mark every grave of Union veterans in Nassau County, bring Cadet Awards up to speed, and continue to raise funds for conservation of New York's Civil War battle flags.

Moses continues on the Move!

In F., C., & L,

Donald T. McMahon, Jr

Donald T. McMahon, Jr., Commander