



S.C.V. Mission Statement (The “Charge”)

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.”

Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General, United Confederate Veterans, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906

THE FIRST SHOT

Newsletter of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp #3000

November 2016

Volume 3 Number 31

Commander’s Corner

It is my wish for everyone that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and remember the blessings that our Savior has bestowed upon us, as well as those less fortunate.

Thank you for your confidence in electing me as your Camp Commander. I will do my best to maintain the high standards set by Past Commander Creech and the past administration.

I have every Confidence in the Camp’s Executive Council.

The Camp success will be measured by the participation of the membership. Please consider stepping up to fill some of the Camp’s open positions. We will need a permanent Adjutant/Treasurer, also several members to take over the Camp’s store, and a genealogist to assist potential members.

Remember we will not have a December meeting, instead the Captain Sally Thompkins Order of the Confederate Rose is graciously hosting our Christmas party. This is scheduled for December 3 at Willie Wells’.

Hope to see you all there!

Joe Wright
Commander



1st Lt. Commander’s Report

Compatriots, Friends, Associates, Ladies, Guests and Prospective Members:

We are about to start a new era for the Fire Eaters, with new officers elected and installed at the November meeting. There is no meeting in December; rather a party at the home of Teresa and Willie Wells will be the primary function for the month.

The Fire Eaters owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Immediate Past

Mark Your Calendar

12/03/2016

FireEater/OCR
Christmas Party

12/04/2016

Mechanicsville
Christmas Parade

12/17/2016

Wreaths Across
America Service
11:00 am Oakwood
Cemetery

01/04/2017

Fire Eater Meeting

01/09/2017

OCR Meeting



Commander, Jimmy Creech. He has provided outstanding leadership throughout his tenure, holding the Camp together in unsettling times and guiding the Camp in a way that it now flourishes through its growth, its activities and programs. Jimmy will be missed.

We are fortunate, however, to have elected an experienced and savvy leader in Joe Wright. Everyone knows of his accomplishments with Color Guard Sergeant. Joe Wright has been around the SCV for some time, and knows the proper individuals at higher levels to talk to and interface with on issues important to the Camp. Joe has a reputation for getting things done. He will be successful in leading our Camp, and we are lucky to have an individual of his strengths and abilities to be our Commander.

The other Fire Eater Officers elected for the coming year are: 2nd Lt. Commander: Willie Wells; Adjutant, Treasurer and Judge Advocate: Walter Smith; Chaplin: Michael "Boogie" Bougamin; Cemetery Committee Co-Chairs: Jim Tingle and Brandon White, with initial Committee members of Herb Carver, Charles Martin and Al Mills; and 1st Lt. Commander: Joe Howard.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2017 as Fire Eaters. Our Camp is active, with a solid membership; we are active in various events throughout the year; we care about and provide time and effort in helping Confederate Cemeteries be properly maintained; we have interesting educational programs (even though some could be controversial); we have good balance in our Treasury; and we have excellent cooperation, coordination and association with the Order of Confederate Rose, the VA Flaggers, the Army of Northern Virginia Mechanized Cavalry and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Let's continue to be a strong and vibrant Camp, building on the progress of the past two years.

WE NEED YOU TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS IN THE COMING YEAR!!!!!!!!!!

Renew your membership by paying your dues to Treasurer Walter Smith; attend our meetings and enjoy our food and fellowship; participate in our activities and events.

We will all be the better for it.

REMINDER: Please attend our Party at the home of Teresa and Willie Wells on Saturday, December 3, at 6:00 p.m.

Also come to the Mechanicsville Parade on Sunday, December 4, meeting around 12:00 noon, and marching around 1:00 p.m.

Joe Howard
1st Lt Commander

From Our Adjutant/Treasurer/Judge Advocate

“Sirs, you have no reason to be ashamed of your Confederate dead; see to it they have no reason to be ashamed of you.”

— Robert Lewis Dabney, Chaplain for Stonewall Jackson

At the November meeting of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters, there were 19 members, and 23 associate members and friends in attendance. No balance for the Camp bank account was provided at that time, however the current balance for the Camp account is 7754.93, this number checks with the bank and reflects the deposit of dues payments. Our payments to National and Division will be reflected on the following month's report. I have currently not received dues from a number of people, all checks should be deposited at this time. If you have sent a check and it has not cleared with your bank, please contact me by phone at (804)-513-4394 after 5pm.

Walter Smith
Adjutant/Judge Advocate

Current Membership:

60 Members
23 Associate Members
& Friends of the SCV

Resolution:

The Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp 3000, in a motion passed unanimously by the camp during regular meeting with a quorum present, do hereby reaffirm our stance against hate speech as stated in our bylaws.

FIND US ON FACE BOOK and BE SURE TO LIKE US!
<https://www.facebook.com/FireEaters3000>



**Edmund Ruffin Fire Eater Camp #3000
2016-2017 Camp Officers**

CAMP OFFICERS

Edmund Ruffin
Fire Eaters S.C.V.
Camp #3000

Joesph "Joe" Wright
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Joe Howard
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Michael Bouganim
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Jim Tingle
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Brandon White
Quartermaster
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J. Walter Smith
Adjutant/Treasurer/Judge
Advocate
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Social Media Report:

Our public page on Facebook currently has 1086 likes. Up 1 since last month.

Members are reminded that they may also keep up with camp activities on our website:

EdmundRuffin
FireEaters.org

Upcoming Color Guard Events

Any members not already on the Color Guard email list with enlisted uniforms of the Confederate Army, Navy or Marines who would like to participate in honoring Confederate Soldiers at graveside headstone and Iron Cross dedications, Monument Dedications and displaying the Confederate Colors in parades, please, contact me at varebel@embarqmail.com.

The Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp Color Guard looks forward to the Annual Mechanicsville Parade on Sunday, December 4 at 2 PM. This is a very Confederate friendly event with a large number of spectators.

We will be marching with a number of other SCV Camps and the Virginia Flaggers will have a float. I'm sure that this will be a great event.

Lee-Jackson Day in Lexington is scheduled for Saturday, January 14. There is a lot of publicity for this event. It could well be the largest Lee-Jackson parade seen in many years. I have received the following information on the Lexington event. The Virginia Flaggers have asked that we be there when they raise a flag at 10 AM. There will be a brief ceremony at 2 PM at Jackson Cemetery. Following this at 3 PM, there will be a march through the city of Lexington. I will forward more information as I receive it.

We are always looking for new members for the Color Guard. If you are interested, please contact me.

Joe Wright
Color Sergeant

OCR FUNDRAISER

Don't forget to support our Order of the Confederate Rose chapter.

Their fund raiser, The Men of the OCR calendar, is being used to raise funds for their Tombstone Project which will be marking the graves of the young ladies who died as a result of the Brown's Island Explosion.

See any of our Roses to purchase yours today. They would make a great gift for Christmas.



THE MEN OF THE OCR 2017 CALENDAR

GRAVES & MONUMENTS COMMITTEE



11/19/2016 Judge Advocate Walter Smith and graves & monuments Co-Chairman Jim Tingle start the Stubbs project.



11/21/2016 Herb Carver and Jim Tingle working the Stubbs grave site (day 2) another truck load to the dump.

EDMUND RUFFIN FIRE EATERS CAMP #3000

NOVEMBER 2, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

The November meeting of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp #3000 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, at Anna's Italian Restaurant on Mechanicsville Turnpike, in Mechanicsville, VA.

Jimmy Creech, Commander of the Camp, welcomed all who were in attendance at the Camp meeting, including members, guests, and visitors; and he requested that anyone visiting the Camp for the first time to stand, introduce themselves, and to be recognized by the Camp members. There were two first time visitors, who were welcomed with a round of applause. Also in attendance at the meeting were two Virginia Division Officers, 1st Lt. Commander, Edwin Wray, and 2nd Lt. Commander, Johnny Neville.

Chaplin Michael Bougamin provided the Invocation to commence the meeting.

In the absence of the 2nd Lt. Commander, Compatriot Willie Wells led the Salute to the Virginia Flag and the Salute to the Confederate Flag.

1st Lt. Commander Joe Howard delivered the Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, originally presented by Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee.

Chaplin Michael Bougamin reported on the sick and distressed, asking that they be kept in our prayers, particularly Barry Isenhower, who suffered a stroke recently. He lit the Candle in honor of all service members, particularly those in harm's way.

A motion was made, duly seconded, to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the October meeting of the Camp. Approved by the members.

1st Lt. Commander Joe Howard introduced the keynote speaker for the evening, Michael Smart, who is with the John Birch Society. His topic for the evening was "Education is the Key." He mentioned a verse from Proverbs in the Old Testament of the Bible, which essentially says that as a child is taught when growing up, so will he do in later years as an adult. Mr. Smart said that the United State education system is off track, by being controlled by a corrupt Federal Government. Over the years, and step by step the Christian values of our country's founders have been removed by the secular humanism advanced by the Federal Government. Southern values, culture and monuments are also targets of this educational approach. He said that recovering the lost values and turning the education system around to proper values will be difficult, but there is always hope.

The 50-50 drawing was held, won by Joe Elia.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Adjutant and Treasurer: Acting Adjutant and Treasurer Walter Smith urged Camp members to pay their dues by the end of November to avoid the late fee. Send the dues to his address. If your check has not been cashed, please contact him so the matter can be investigated.

1st Lt. Commander: Joe Howard publicly thanked Matron of Honor, Judy Smith, for all of her hard work in helping to reconstruct the Camp rosters, after a virus damaged his records. Her

efforts are greatly appreciated, and what she accomplished was extraordinary. Joe told the membership that the Camp is strong, has a lot to be proud of and a lot to be thankful for. He said that the Camp needed to remain strong by having members participate in Camp meetings, events and activities. Joe urged all members to renew their membership by paying their dues by the end of the month.

2nd Lt. Commander: No Report.

Judge Advocate: Walter Smith presented the statement the Camp requested with reference to racism and hate speech. The statement reaffirmed the core values of the Camp in opposing racism and hate speech in all shapes, form and fashions, in accordance with the Camp Bylaws. Motion was made and duly seconded, to adopt the statement as the position of the Camp. Approved by the members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Matron of Honor: Judy Smith said that she was attempting to update and verify members' names and email addresses for the new rosters, and requested everyone to stop by her table to fill out the form.

Color Guard: Color Guard Sergeant Joe Wright reported that the next event for the Color Guard is to participate in the Mechanicsville Parade on December 4, 2016, and he urged Camp members to attend the parade to join in and provide support.

Cemetery: Compatriot Jim Tingle provided a lengthy list of the ongoing work at Oakwood Cemetery involving setting headstones, fixing flags and general cleanup by Committee members including Herb Carver, Al Mills, Brandon White and Charles Martin. Jim also listed all of the recent accomplishments of his Committee. He further indicated that there are nine items on the pending to-do list, including primarily the 31 Iron Crosses in West Point that need to be refurbished, and the Private Stubbs gravesite that does not have a headstone.

Adopt A Highway: Patrick Seay reminded everyone of the cleanup scheduled for this coming Saturday, November 5.

Name Badge: No Report.

VA Flaggers: Susan Hathaway reminded everyone of the Mechanicsville Parade in December, which is a very Confederate event. She proclaimed at least initial victory in defeating the effort in Fredericksburg to rename Jefferson Davis Highway. Teresa Roane made an impressive presentation at the City Council meeting in Fredericksburg, which was well received by the City Council. There are more flags going up in the Charlottesville area in the near future. She invited everyone to come to Lexington on January 13-14 in observance of Lee Jackson Day to see what unfolds at the ceremony, due to the parade permit issued to an anti-Confederate group. The VA Flaggers were denied a parade permit for Martin Luther King Day in Lexington.

Order of Confederate Rose (OCR): In the absence of Cathy Hendricks, Judy Smith asked everyone to support the OCR project for the women victims of the Browns Island Explosion, by buying one of their calendars.

Army of Northern Virginia Mechanized Cavalry (ANVMC): Compatriot Willie Wells re-

ported that the ANVMC held an enjoyable ride up to Sperryville, VA and had the occasion to meet with "Cooter" from the Dukes of Hazard TV show. He said that due to Hurricane Matthew the flags had been taken down, which gave them the opportunity to repair some damage. The flags are now back up and in good shape.

OLD BUSINESS

Commander Jimmy Creech reported on the following matters of Old Business:

1. The situation with the Enon Church marker replacement is still waiting for the insurance to pay for the costs.
2. A family from Minnesota visited for about a week, and he took them around to various historic sites around the Richmond area. The visitors were totally impressed by all of the sites that they were able to visit. Teresa Roane gave them a personal tour.
3. The highway cleanup is set for this Saturday, November 5.
4. He has 10 more bluebird houses for sale at \$10 each.
5. The Camp is looking for someone to take over mowing the Edmund Ruffin gravesite.

NEW BUSINESS

Commander Creech announced that the New Business for the evening would be the election of new officers for the coming year.

Joe Wright was nominated for Camp Commander. There were no other nominations, and Joe Wright was duly elected.

Joe Howard was nominated for 1st Lt. Commander. With no other nominations, Joe Howard was duly elected.

Willie Wells was nominated for 2nd Lt. Commander. There being no other nominations, Willie wells was duly elected.

Michael Bougamin was nominated for Chaplin. There were no other nominations, and Michael Bougamin was duly elected.

Walter Smith was nominated for Adjutant, Treasurer and Judge Advocate. No other nominations were made, and he was elected.

Jim Tingle, Brandon White, Herb Carver and Charles Martin were nominated to be the Cemetery Committee. With no further nominations they were duly elected.

The foregoing elected officers and committee personnel took the oath of office, and Commander Creech officially installed them to the offices that they had been elected, concluding the ceremony.

Commander Creech delivered his farewell address to the Camp, thanking everyone for their support and assistance. He spoke about what a privilege and honor it has been for him to serve as Commander of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp #3000.

Chaplin Michael Bougamin delivered the Benediction.

The meeting closed with the singing of Dixie, led by Susan Hathaway.

New Camp Commander Joe Wright had a few remarks to deliver to the Camp prior to closing the meeting. He commended Jimmy Creech for the outstanding job he has done over the past 30 months. Joe said that he would need the support of the Camp to continue the success that has been experienced during the last couple of years. Someone will need to help out Walter Smith by taking over some of his duties as he returns to school. The Camp Store needs to have support so that it can function properly. We need members to volunteer to help out with these functions so that it does not fall as a heavy burden on any one individual.

Commander Wright announced that an inventory had been done at Oakwood Cemetery and 10 names of Confederate soldiers buried in the private section had been identified. He said these soldiers have no markers for their gravesites. These names were turned over to Jim Tingle, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee.

The meeting officially adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

After the meeting adjourned, there was a private meeting of the Camp Officers with Division 1st Lt. Commander Edwin Wray and Division 2nd Lt. Commander Johnny Neville. The meeting was for the Division Officers to present responses to the questions raised by the Fire Eaters at their August meeting concerning various aspects of the problems related to the operations of the Oakwood Restoration Committee of the Division. Written responses were provided to Commander Wray, which were discussed with the Camp Officers present. The agreement between these parties was that the responses could now be shared with all members of the Camp. Copies of the written responses are available for review.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Howard

1st Lt. Commander

Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp #3000

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Answers "Requested" From the Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee

Detailed financial statements for the past three years and a detailed budget for the upcoming year.

See attached. *Financial statements were provided ~~to~~ when I was here before. Budget still in development.*

Sources of monies received – by category (e.g. dues, grants, individual bequests, etc.).

State Funds (DHR / UDC) - \$11,470

Va. Division Dues Allotment - \$3 x No. of Dues Paying Members

Friends & Descendants Members / Donors - Variable

Confederate Veteran Advertisement – Variable

Bank Interest - Variable

Amount spent on headstones for the past three years.

Repairs - \$196.43

We spent \$1,550.00 to win the appeal of the VA decision that denied us upright markers; an ordinary lawyer would have charged us \$30,000.

Amount designated to be spent within the next three years.

We can fairly accurately pin down costs for property taxes and grass mowing, but it is difficult to estimate an amount for installation for headstones.

Amount of bequests made in the past three years for the purpose of placing headstones. Are they being treated as restricted funds?

\$10,925. Yes.

Who is responsible for the oversight and accountability of the Oakwood Restoration Committee? In other words, who do they submit their activity reports and financial statements to?

The Virginia Division Executive Council oversees the Oakwood Restoration Committee. Activity and Financial Reports are submitted to the Council at each of their quarterly meetings and at the annual convention of the Division. In addition, we provide annual reports to the DHR / UDC in order to receive our yearly allotment of funds from the General Assembly; and to the City of Richmond in accordance with our Agreement.

7. How can the membership start getting this type of information on a regular basis?

Members are invited to attend DEC meetings and annual conventions.

1. A copy of the July 2012 detailed plan for Oakwood Confederate Cemetery.

See attached. *will be forwarded ^{within} the next few days.*

2. A copy or posting of the grave designations and confirmed names to be supplied to the Veterans' Administration.

There are at least five different lists and we occasionally consult all of them. The list recently completed by John Kindred was long expected to be the official list the committee would use and we hope that will still be the case, but, back when he was an advisory member of the committee, we had every expectation that it would become the property of the committee, and, when he promised to give it to the GEC, we assumed we would be able to obtain a copy from them, but ~~the issue remains in doubt and another committee member has begun compiling another comprehensive list; this however is a years-long project as was Mr. Kindred's. This is a sad situation and a monumental waste of time.~~

3. A copy of the agreement with the City of Richmond to continue the maintenance of the Confederate Section in Oakwood Cemetery.

The agreement is expected to be available within the next few days.