

OLD FRIENDS, NEW ASSOCIATION

On the 11th of July in York, PA, leaders of the Mifflin Guard, the National Regiment, the United States Volunteers and Vincent's Brigade, four of the oldest Federal umbrella organizations in the East, held a meeting to discuss their unit's participation in the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. Attending and representing their units were:

National Regiment: Terry Daley, Chip Smith, Tom Downes (moderator)

Mifflin Guard: Andy Siganuk

United States Volunteers: Tony Daniels, Jon Sirlin, Bill Boerth

Vincent's Brigade: Wayne Wolff

The meeting was open for general discussion of many topics of importance believed critical to the success of the 150th series of major events.

It was felt that in the last few years the hobby has suffered from a lack of coordinated leadership and organization, resulting in competing events and even the cancellation of events to the detriment of all reenactors. The time had come for the senior leadership of the "Old Guard" units to step up and lead the hobby forward into the future.

After an open and amicable discussion the following resolutions were agreed upon:

- 1.) The four units represented, the NR, the MG, the USV and Vincent's, would form a loose cooperative confederation called "The Federal Alliance". Each organization will maintain its own structure and identity.
- 2.) The Federal Alliance would support the **major** Anniversary events for the 150th cycle beginning in 2011. Some of these events could be, but are not limited to, 1st Bull Run, the Seven Days battles, the Shenandoah Campaign, Cedar Mountain, 2nd Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness/Spotsylvania, and Saylor's Creek/Appomattox.
- 3.) Beginning in 2010 the units of the Federal Alliance will join together at events in some form of military organization (brigade, division, etc.) to sharpen their skills in preparation for the anniversary years.
- 4.) The Alliance will establish who is hosting the major events and how to assure the organizers of the Alliance's support.
- 5.) Some of the ideas suggested to support event organizers were:

Contact event organizers to let them know we will be registering for their event. Offer them military or logistical support.

All parties expressed the hope the Sesquicentennial will be a time of unity and coming together of the different factions in the hobby. It is the desire of the coalition to use this time as an opportunity to heighten awareness of the Civil War among the general public and to promote interest in the reenacting hobby.

The officers and contacts for the Federal Alliance and its member units are as follows:

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