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# AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY



## Company Dispatch

Official Newsletter of the American Civil War Society

American Civil War Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of our history for future generations.

**Signed editorials and letters are the views of the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the American Civil War Society.**

**March / April 2010**



## ACWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President - Paul DeNubilo**  
[denubilo@roadrunner.com](mailto:denubilo@roadrunner.com)

**Vice President – VACANT**

**Secretary - VACANT**

**Treasurer – Sgt. Maj Sam Frankl**  
[ssfrankl@earthlink.net](mailto:ssfrankl@earthlink.net)

**Membership – Ken Darcey**  
[kenbus@aol.com](mailto:kenbus@aol.com)

**Confederate Division – Lt. Col. Shawn Stidger**  
[deadreb@yahoo.com](mailto:deadreb@yahoo.com)

**Union Division – VACANT**

**Civilian Corps– VACANT**

**Public Relations – Joyce Bolin**  
[jbolin57@yahoo.com](mailto:jbolin57@yahoo.com)

**FOR ALL OPEN BOARD POSITIONS PLEASE  
CONTACT ANY PRESENT BOARD MEMBER**

**The ACWS is a non-profit organization with the purposes of charitable and educational activities for the general public that demonstrate the language, conduct and manner of daily living of the civilian population and military forces during the American Civil War period (1861–1865) and the issues they faced during that conflict.**

**COMPANY DISPATCH**  
2 1758 Mirador  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

### **Federal/Union Division:**

Division Commander– VACANT

Adjutant – VACANT

Infantry Brigade Cdr. – VACANT

Artillery Brigade Cdr. –VACANT

Artillery Adjutant–Lt. David Bolin

Division Chaplain – Rich Holt

Cavalry - VACANT

### **Confederate Division:**

Division Commander: Lt. Col. J. Shawn Stidger

Chief of Staff: Maj. Steve Hutton

Assistant Adjutant General: Capt. Gene Somers

Quartermaster: Lt. Ira Lack

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### **Confederate Brigade Staff:**

#### **Infantry**

Brigade Commander: Major James M. Style

Brigade Adjutant: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Sanchez

Brigade Sgt. Major: Sgt. Major Marcus Brannan

#### **Cavalry**

Brigade Commander: Major Scott Peca

Brigade Adjutant: Lt. John Riddler

Brigade Sgt. Major: 1st.Sergeant John Quessenberry

#### **Artillery**

Brigade Commander: Major Mike Collins Brigade

Adjutant: Lt. Doug Carroll

Brigade Sgt. Major: Sgt. Major Sam Frankl

## **NEXT ACWS BOARD MEETING**

**April 17, 2010 11 am**

**Louise's Trattoria.**

**28 East Colorado Blvd.**

**Pasadena, CA 91105**

## **PRESIDENT'S RAMBLING**

We are almost over the big first of the year rush but still have plenty of events on the calendar.

Blythe was fantastic all the way up until WET Sunday!! It poured, but the sponsors said they had everything paid outstanding. Janet and I stayed over until nightfall Sunday to help the kids who came out with the Questionnaire. That was needed because some of the teachers assigned 70 points for completion! We were swamped by the cadets! We have only 15 rifles but about 15 more sowed up with their own! We did muddle their heads a bit, Mr. Lincoln sent them off and gave them their discharges but on the field we defended the confederate guns from the Union! They did a great job of keeping the Union off the cannons, thanks to the Florida boys and Ray Daniels providing command! And once again, the organizers and City made it a very welcome event! And once again it was a poor date for the event.

Picacho one week later kept the Arizona boys home but we still had 100 reenactors military and Civilians counted. Next year we will coordinate with Arizona. We also have to ask Ray Daniels how the fishing went.

Our membership count is staying the same as last year. We still have a little over 400 reenactors military and civilian. But we sure can use more Union fellers! So talk up our events because the rumor is still out there that only ACWS members can come to ACWS events. We all know that applies only to Calico but some of them folks out there do not know that.

By the time you read this St Catherine's will be water under the bridge but we have some other folks events to consider. It really looks like we have the Union and Confederate battalions lined up for Prado but I do hope some of us will be able to go to the Yuma Quartermaster event.

Costa Mesa on May 15-16 is moving through the permit process well and we are getting quite a bit of bizz from the City already. But be prepared to get the donation "please sir can we have more" look on your face as we pass the hat after every battle.

We are still on the lookout for people to fill the board vacancies so think about how you can make a difference with your ACWS and come join a dedicated committed board!

Paul

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE ARE FOUR POSITIONS OPEN ON THE  
ACWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**SECRETARY**  
**UNION COMMANDER**  
**CIVILIAN CORP DIRECTOR**

**PLEASE SEND ALL INQUIRIES TO [denubilo@roadrunner.com](mailto:denubilo@roadrunner.com)**

## **CONFEDERATE**

### **COMMAND:**

Battle reports for Calico

February 13, 1864

In the small town of Calico, California the confederate forces have taken the town. As South Carolina sends out scouts they run in too a Union regiment, South Carolina open fires on the 71st Pennsylvania coming up the hill. South Carolina losses men and they fall back; the 2nd Florida takes their place. The Confederate Artillery open fires on the union. As the fight goes on South Carolina losses half of them men, 8th Alabama has 5 men left; as they fight they get reinforcements from the 2nd Kentucky dismounted Calvary; the 8th Alabama retreats from the saloon the 71st Penn, takes the saloon .The 8th La. Joins the fight and they fight hard; the union overwhelms the 2nd Florida, 2nd Kentucky and they are captured. The Union flanks the confederates and they fall back to the runes the confederates are surrounded on two sides; the confederate artillery kills the charging union forces and the confederates fall back to the school house to reform they forces.

February 14, 1864

The Union forces have taken the saloon have open fired on the South Carolina who sent out scouts; South Carolina moves forward to the saloon. South Carolina receives reinforcements from the 2nd Kentucky and Texas dismounted cavalry. South Carolina moves to the rear as the Union receives reinforcements; the dismounted cavalry and South Carolina regroups. The dismounted cavalry loses half their men. They receive reinforcements as they were going forward the Confederate colors go down and they are picked up again. The Union retreats from the saloon, the medical corps came out to get the dead and wounded. The 2nd Kentucky moves forward South Carolina takes prisoners and the Union is know blocked in the runes but they retreat and the Confederate forces take the Union artillery. The Union regroups at the schoolhouse. The Union has five men come over under a white to take to the Confederate leader, but the Confederate disinclined to acquiesce to they request, and they fire on the Union soldiers who are running back to they lines. The 8th Louisiana open fires on the Union cannon line, as the dismounted cavalry does not fire when they are ordered to the Union forces move forward and the Union artillery open fires, Union forces move back and the Confederates charge across the bridge and get killed by the Union soldiers firing on them and the Confederates fall back. The 2nd Florida charges and the 8th Louisiana charges they lose most of there men and the 2nd Florida is destroyed; the Union artillery destroys the 8th as the Union forces move over the bridge one soldier from the South Carolina and the 8th Louisiana fights off 8 Union soldiers from entering the Confederate camp as they hide behind tents and a wood shack they kill most of the Union soldiers and defend the Confederate camp and the Union forces retreat across the bridge and the two soldiers and unhurt.

February 15, 1864

The Union Artillery open fires on the Confederate Artillery so the Confederate leader sent South Carolina to deal with the Union Artillery up on the hill. But when they got there, there were 5 Union soldiers guarding the cannons and if the Confederates move up the rocky hill they will be looking at a union cannon smiling at them and there under fire from the Union soldiers. The Captain who is in charge of South Carolina sent one of his men to hide behind a rock but every time he would poke out to shoot all the Union muskets that where loaded would point right at him. Some of the men would throw rocks at the Union soldiers and the Union did the same. After awhile the Union pushed South Carolina down the hill and the Confederates retreated to behind the cannon line. As the Confederates where marching down the road South Carolina was put in front of the army as flankers. They open fired on the Union marching up the hill and the Confederates pushed back the Union forces down the street and into the silver bowl. The Confederate artillery open fired on the Union artillery down in the bowl and the Union forces where sounded by the Confederate forces and some of the Union NCO's ran at Confederates with their pistols firing at Confederates. South Carolina flanked the Union forces and fired into them. Most as of them where killed and the rest where wounded. A brave South Carolina boy had captured Col Iverson who is in charge of the Union forces. Col. Iverson got up and ran but the young soldier shot him in the back. Col. Iverson still did not die and so he was picked up by the medical corps and was taken to a field hospital. This battle was a victory for the Confederates.

Jacob Snow, Reporting  
McGowan's Brigade, Battalion of Sharpshooters

10 March, 2010

Men of the Confederate Army,

I am proud to say we have had two very successful engagements with the enemy. We have held the Federal government from taking the silver at Calico, and we were able to hold them at the California and Arizona Border in the town of Blythe. From what I am being told, the Federal Army is still in Arizona, last having a small skirmish at Picacho Pass.

We next have to hold the enemy in Anaheim, they are showing aggression near one of our military schools, Ste. Catherine's. From there I understand the Federals are going to amass at Prado Dam. I will be in Richmond on government business, Keith Harriott has been put in command of the division in my absence. I know you will fight with the same vim and verve for Mr. Harriott as you have done in the past and do for myself currently.

We are off to a good start for this year's campaign, and we shall keep the momentum going forward.

Thank you,  
Your Obedient Servant, J. Shawn Stidger

General Orders,

11 March, 2010

#1..

Please keep watch on all items in camp. At Calico, we had some items stolen from camp Saturday night. The hospital and the some of the infantry camps were missing items. It is especially important the guard mounts keep a good watch on items and fires. That is the main purpose of you watch. If you see someone drunk or causing problems please get the Sgt. of the Guard or the Officer of the Guard.

#2.. All fires need to tended, there is no going to bed or leaving for another camp. All fires need to out before people go to sleep, unless it is the fire for the guard mount.

#3...Think safety! There were some firing distance issues at Calico. Calico always provides difficulties in firing distance, but there were a few times revolvers were fired too close or directly pointed at someone. We all need to go to work or school Monday, so please be safe and courteous to your fellow re-enactor.

#4...The weather is starting to warm up, DRINK LOTS OF WATER! Keep yourself hydrated. If you feel strange or not well, let your company commander or brigade commander know immediately and take care of yourselves.

#5...We have to be careful of safety distances. Artillery is 75 feet from the muzzle of the gun and you also need to be aware of a 45degree angle of the gun as well. Watch the safety blocks, and assure you are in front of them. When in doubt, talk to the artillerymen.

#6.. Please watch your loads for your muskets use no more than 65 to 70 grains per round. If you are in the infantry line of battle and in the rear rank, assure the musket is over the right shoulder of the man in front of you and his ear is between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> band. If you are in the front rank, assure the musket coming over your shoulder is properly placed before firing.

Thank you,  
J. Shawn Stidger

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## UNION DIVISION

My Fellow Union Reenactors:

News has come in that there is a pending intrusion of Confederate forces into the area near the City of Chino. I have, therefore, again been called from retirement to lead the valiant men of the ACWS into battle (This retirement thing is not working out like I planned...LOL).

I am calling all ACWS Union forces to converge upon the Prado Regional Park to form

forces with which we can repel those Confederate forces that are definitely showing up. I need all possible ACWS Unit to gather their forces and meet on April 10 (no later than 7:30AM) and April 11, 2010. We will be participating as part of a larger force, but I have been given command of the ACWS units.

Here's my suggested directions. Mapping devices may give you better directions from your location:

From Points east of Interstate Route 605 = Take you favorite freeway to State Route 91. Take State Route 91 west....to State Route 71. Take State Route 71 north... to Euclid Avenue/State Route 83 off ramp. Exit Euclid Avenue/State Route 83 off ramp (Exit #4) going north. North on Euclid Avenue/State Route 83...entrance to Prado Regional Park is on the right hand side.

From Points west of Interstate Route 605 = Take your favorite freeway to State Route 91. Take State Route 91 east....to State Route 71. Take State Route 71 north... to Euclid Avenue/State Route 83 off ramp. Exit Euclid Avenue/State Route 83 off ramp (Exit #4) going north.

North on Euclid Avenue/State Route 83...entrance to Prado Regional Park is on the right hand side.

Address is: 16700 Euclid Avenue Chino, CA 91708

Please let me know (by email to [garymi2@gmail.com](mailto:garymi2@gmail.com)) if your Unit is attending, how many soldiers you are bringing, how many civilians you will be bringing, and how many tents/flys/cook areas you will be bringing before March 31, 2010. This is our first time participating in battles in this area as the ACWS. I sincerely need to know the above information to assure our needs are accommodated.

Yours In service to the Union - Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Iverson  
Commander, ACWS Union Forces at Prado

SPECIAL FIELD ORDER No. 1.  
HDQRS. ACWS Union Battalion, DEPT. OF Southern Calif.,  
Las Angeles, California, March 9, 1863.

To Officer Commanding the Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery Brigades, Union Division

It has been reported that units of the Confederacy were stopped and held in place at the Battle for the City of Blythe. Our scouts now report that units of the Confederacy are preparing on the move on Prado Dam, vicinity of the City of Chino. Their intent appears to be to seize and gain control of this important water source. This cannot be allowed to happen. The Union cannot and will not allow the Confederacy to take control of this vital water source. By 7 April 1863 you are to report to either myself or the Adjutant the units, commander rank and name, the number mustering, type and quantity of tentage and approximate time of a leader arrival. You are ordered to take what volunteers you can muster and move to vicinity of the City of Chino. You are to locate and join other units

that have been detached from their current areas of operation and are converging on the area. There you will assist other units from the Department of Southern California in actions against this rebel incursion. You are to report upon arrival to the ACWS Union Battalion HDQRS, and locate either myself or my Adjutant. You will proceed so as not to arrive later than 7:30 am on the morning of 10 April 1863. It may be advisable to arrive on location as early as 9 April 1863 and in phases so as not to alert the Confederate force to the arrival of Union forces. You will submit a battle report to this HDQRS immediately after you fulfill this order, but not later than 72 hours hence.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel Gary Iverson:  
Commanding, ACWS Union Battalion

Signed: Sergeant Major David Crichton  
Union (Iverson's) Battalion Adjutant

## ACWS Calendar of Events 2010

<b>April 10-11, 2010</b>	<b>Prado</b>	<b>Prado Regional Park Chino Hills CA</b>	<b>SCCWA Sponsored ACWS Battalion in Support</b>
<b>April 10-11, 2010</b>	<b>Yuma Territorial Prison</b>	<b>Yuma AZ</b>	
<b>April 17-18, 2010</b>	<b>Mariposa Event</b>	<b>Mariposa CA</b>	<b>ACWS Recommended</b>
<b>May 15-16, 2010</b>	<b>Battle of Costa Mesa</b>	<b>Fairview Park Costa Mesa CA</b>	<b>ACWS Sponsored</b>
<b>May 16, 2010</b>	<b>Fort Tejon Tactical</b>	<b>Fort Tejon CA</b>	<b>FTHA</b>
<b>June 2010</b>	<b>TBD</b>		
<b>July 9-10, 2010</b>	<b>Fort MacArthur Civil War Days</b>	<b>San Pedro CA</b>	
<b>July 17-18, 2010</b>	<b>Duncan Mills</b>	<b>Duncan Mills CA</b>	
<b>July 31 – Aug 1, 2010</b>	<b>Long Beach</b>	<b>El Dorado Reg Park Long Beach CA</b>	<b>Howitzers</b>
<b>August 2010</b>	<b>TBD</b>		
<b>September 4-5, 2010</b>	<b>Huntington Beach</b>	<b>Huntington Beach, CA</b>	<b>ACWS Battalion in Support</b>
<b>Sept 25-26, 2010 or Sept 18-19, 2010</b>	<b>OERRM (tentative)</b>	<b>Perris CA</b>	<b>ACWS Sponsored</b>
<b>October 15-17, 2010</b>	<b>Kearney Park</b>	<b>Fresno CA</b>	
<b>October 30-31, 2010</b>	<b>SMR</b>	<b>Spring Mountain Ranch Las Vegas NV</b>	<b>ACWS Sponsored SNLHA Sponsored</b>

<b>Nov 13-14, 2010</b>	<b>Moorpark</b>	<b>Tijera Ranch Moorpark CA</b>	<b>ACWS Recommended</b>
<b>Nov 19-21, 2010</b>	<b>We Make History</b>	<b>Queen Creek AZ</b>	<b>ACWS Recommended</b>

**Additional organizations:**

**PACWR:** <http://www.pacwr.org/events.htm>

**Fort Tejon:** <http://www.forttejon.org>

**NCWA** [www.ncwa.org](http://www.ncwa.org)

**SWCWA** <http://www.swcwa.com>

**WeAreHistory:** <http://www.americanheritagefestival.com/ACWS>

**Conditions for Event Support**

**FINAL VERSION (as adopted 1-31-04)**

**Definitions:**

**Sponsored events** – This event is completely sponsored by the ACWS. We provide insurance, artillery reimbursements, infantry powder issues, approved impressions, provide for command structure, make maximum effort to turn out membership, publicize event in our newsletter, and cover any additional expenses required. We contract and control any proceeds. All conditions above will be specified in written contract.

**Co-sponsored events** - This event is co-sponsored by the ACWS in association with any other recognized entity. We will provide ACWS member insurance and may provide event insurance at additional cost. (if ACWS event insurance is used, ALL ACWS rules and regulations as published in ACWS Gold Book SHALL apply). Event will provide artillery reimbursements, infantry powder reimbursements and additional expenses (subject to negotiations) abnormal ACWS rates. ACWS will provide approved impressions, provide and/or share command structure, make maximum effort to turn out membership, publicize event in our newsletter, and cover any additional expenses negotiated and required. All conditions above will be specified in written contract.

**Supported events** –ACWS provides auxiliary support for this event. **We provide liability insurance for our registered members only**, we cannot provide event insurance. ACWS provides no artillery reimbursements, no infantry powder issue. ACWS recommends inclusion of our impressions (i.e. Grant/Lee) and shares command positions. ACWS advertises event in the ACWS newsletter. We may receive proceeds from this event by agreement.

**Conditions for support:**

All members of ACWS will be accepted without exception.

1 ) Artillery gun slots will be guaranteed at least 2 ea. Confederate and 2 ea. Union for ACWS *full sized* guns (batteries to be determined by ACWS).

2 ) Artillery powder reimbursement will be paid to ACWS guns at the same rate as those applied to *any and all other* full sized cannon participating in the event.

3 ) ACWS units will be held within one cohesive military unit(brigade/battalion etc.) and be commanded by ACWS command structure.

4 ) ACWS command staff (U.S. and C.S.) will be included in scenario planning.

5 ) Participating ACWS members will adhere to ACWS safety rules and regulations. These rules and regulations will supersede any other event rules for our members.

6 ) ACWS will be allowed to establish and staff an informational/promotional booth at this event.

**Recommended events** –ACWS will list this event in our calendar. **NO ACWS INSURANCE WILL APPLY.**

## Emma Sansom's Ride with Forrest

When the war came on, there were three children – a brother and sister older than I. In August, 1861, my brother enlisted in the second company that left Gadsden and joined the Nineteenth Alabama Infantry. My sister and I lived with our mother on the farm.

We were at home on the morning of May 2, 1863, when about eight or nine o'clock a company of men wearing blue uniforms and riding mules and horses galloped past the house and went on towards the bridge (over Black Creek, some two hundred yards away). Pretty soon a great crowd of them came along, and some of them stopped at the gate and asked us to bring them some water. Sister and I each took a bucket of water, and gave it to them at the gate. One of them asked me where my father was. I told him he was dead. He asked me if I had any brothers. I told him I had six. He asked me where they were, and I said they were in the Confederate Army.

"Do they think the South will whip?"

"They do."

"What do you think about it?"

"I think God is on our side and we will win."

"You do? Well, if you had seen us whip Colonel Roddey the other day and run him across the Tennessee River, you would have thought God was on the side of the best artillery."

By this time some of them began to dismount, and we went into the house. They came in and began to search for firearms and men's saddles. They did not find anything but a side-saddle, and one of them cut the skirts off that. Just then some one from the road said in a loud tone: "You men bring a chunk of fire with you, and get out of that house." The men got the fire in the kitchen and started out and an officer put a guard around the house, saying: "This guard is for your protection." They all soon hurried down to the bridge, and in a few minutes we saw the smoke rising and knew they were burning the bridge. As our fence extended up to the railing of the bridge, mother said: "Come with me and we will pull our rails away, so they will not be destroyed." As we got to the top of the hill we saw the rails were already piled on the bridge and were on fire, and the Yankees were in line on the other side guarding it.

We turned back towards the house, and had not gone but a few steps before we saw a Yankee coming at full speed, and behind were some more men on horses. I heard them shout, "Halt! and surrender!" The man stopped, threw up his hands, and handed over his gun. The officer to whom the soldier surrendered said: "Ladies, do not be alarmed, I am General Forrest; I and my men will protect you from harm." He inquired: "Where are the Yankees?"

Mother said: "They have set the bridge on fire and are standing in line on the other side, and if you go down that hill they will kill the last one of you."

By this time our men had come up, and some went out in the field, and both sides commenced shooting. We ran to the house, and I got there ahead of all. General Forrest dashed up to the gate and said to me: "Can you tell me where I can get across that creek?"

I told him there was an unsafe bridge two miles farther down the stream, but that I knew of a trail about two hundred yards above the bridge on our farm, where our cows used to cross in low water, and I believed he could get his men over there, and that if he would have my saddle put on a horse I would show him the way.

He said: "There is no time to saddle a horse; get up here behind me." As he said this he rode close to the bank on the side of the road, and I jumped up behind him.

Just as we started off Mother came up about out of breath and gasped out: "Emma, what do you mean?"

General Forrest said: "She is going to show me a ford where I can get my men over in time to catch those Yankees before they get to Rome. Don't be uneasy; I will bring her back safe."

We rode out into the field through which ran a branch or small ravine and along which there was a thick undergrowth that protected us for a while from being seen by the Yankees at the bridge or on the other side of the creek. This branch emptied into the creek just above the ford. When we got close to the creek, I said: "General Forrest, I think we had better get off the horse, as we are now where we may be seen."

We both got down and crept through the bushes and when we were right at the ford I happened to be in front. He stepped quickly between me and the Yankees saying: "I am glad to have you for a pilot, but I am not going to make breastworks of you."

The cannon and the other guns were firing fast by this time, as I pointed out to him where to go into the water and out on the other bank, and then we went back towards the house. He asked me my name, and asked me to give him a lock of my hair. The cannon-balls were screaming over us so loud that we were told to leave and hide in some place out of danger, which we did. Soon all the firing stopped and I started back home. On the way I met General Forrest again, and he told me that he had written a note for me and left it on the bureau. He asked me again for a lock of my hair, and as we went into the house he said: "One of my bravest men has been killed, and he is laid out in the house. His name is Robert Turner. I want you to see that he is buried in some graveyard near here." He then told be good-by and got on his horse, and he and his men rode away and left us all alone.

My sister and I sat up all night watching over the dead soldier, who had lost his life fighting for our rights, in which we were overpowered but never conquered. General Forrest and his men endeared themselves to us forever.

Emma Sansom

Submitted by Donnalee Simmons

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## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### New Product Review.

Of interest there is a new product now on the market for re enactors. CCI a new brand of musket caps, that I have tested at our last event at Blythe. These caps are 4 winged just like the German and navy arms caps and are made of copper, not brass like the 6 winged type that we all should not be using as they fly apart. These new caps are made a little thicker and not as hot as the earlier ones. In my testing these new caps worked very well and I did not have a single miss fire using them.

### From the Membership Director

I wish to thank everyone who attended the Calico event and were patient with me as I transition into my new roll as the Membership Director of the ACWS. I was really surprised how many joined the ACWS on site. I am aware there are a few who attended the event but have yet to join the ACWS. I have been processing the forms and have noticed that several did not fill out date of birth as required. So once I get everything sorted out I will notify those individuals in order to update their information. Now this next item has been passed along to me from the previous director. Please note, from this point forward (2010 and beyond) Family memberships will be restricted to spouses and minor children under the age of 18. This was not clearly stated on the 2009 membership form but is stated in the ACWS by-laws.

Thank you  
Ken Darcey