

Trans Allegheny Dispatch

The Newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2014 Edition 1 – June 2014

Editor's Note

Our editor Tonya Daft has relinquished her duties as newsletter editor. I won't attempt to speak for Tonya, so you can consult the minutes below, check the WVRA-TASAS Facebook page or contact her directly. We thank Tonya for efforts as newsletter editor. Anyone who has done this job knows what a lot of work it is. At the May 31, I was elected to serve as interim newsletter editor. – C. L. Critchfield

Minutes from the May 31 Meeting at Phillipi

18 members present. Meeting called to order beside Pavilion in shady spot at small park in Phillipi at 2:40 PM Saturday, May 31st, 2014 by President. Mark Tennant. Greg Watterson agreed to be secretary for this meeting. He read Phyllis Baxter's minutes from April meeting, minutes accepted, no additions or corrections. Treasurers report given by Bill Brisindine, \$4705.29 in treasury, after allocated expenses \$2,620.93 available. (*Mart Tennant also sold at meeting: 8 1/2 lbs. of powder @ \$12.00 per lb.= \$102.00, also sold 4 white t-shirts to membership @ \$8.00 @ T-shirt = \$32.00, total income \$134.00*). Also gave Stephanie Smith her T-shirt she had previously paid for.

Broke into Unit Meetings.

Got results from Artillery election, J.R. Moore-Sgt., both Sam & Connie Kraft are the Unit Reps. Cavalry now called 1st Virginia, Co. A, Black Horse Cavalry, their election results: Capt. John Brasuk, 1st Sgt. Aaron Edwards.

1st WV Inf. reported on New Market reenactment, 10 military and 1 civilian attended. Had great weather. Met author/editor of new book about 12th W. Va. Inf., Mark Paul who used his great-great grandfather's letters, diary and memoirs to put together a chronological history of his service. The book is called "*A Company of Boys in Blue*" by Mark Paul and Thomas Jefferson Orr (his great-great grandfather) of Co. D, 12th W. Va. Inf. from the Wheeling/ West Liberty area of WV. Mark Paul gave the 1st WV Inf. a copy of the book, gratis.

Mark Tennant also reported he attended a Memorial Day weekend event to honor Julia Pierpont, wife of Governor of Restored Va., Francis H. Pierpont, who is credited with being an originator of Decoration Day which later became Memorial Day. In May 1866 in Richmond, Va. she along with her children, Miss Woolsey a teacher from NY teaching African-American children in Richmond, the children from the African-American schools and a few friends paraded to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond to decorate the neglected graves of Union soldiers that died in Richmond as prisoners of war. Later on May 5, 1868 Gen John Logan, commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, ordered May 30th as Decoration Day. Went to Woodlawn Cemetery to lay wreaths on Julia and Francis Pierpont's graves, put a flag on the Civil War GAR monument and placed flags on the graves of Union soldiers buried at Woodlawn.

25th Va. reported a few going to Monacacy event. Ken Connell is Confederate commander. It is not known if Bulltown will be held for certain. Jeff Goff reported that they should know by end of June whether it will happen or not. So until we find out for sure about Bulltown, we will not know where our annual dance will be held.

New Business:

New events: June 20th Independence Hall In Wheeling at noon (want reenactors there around 11 am, (Union or civilians only) Unveiling of Statue of Francis H. Pierpont, "the father of W. Va."

McConnellsville, Ohio, July 11 thru 13th, \$7 pre reg. by July 1st, \$10 walk-on. Powder ration, 3 meals, showers available and pool pass, Ladies Tea, CW Ball, 2 battles. Location 44 miles from Parkersburg in eastern Ohio. I gave reg. forms to unit reps. Ralph McCready of 1st WV is running this event

Fort Mulligan Day, Petersburg, WV Aug. 16, 2014. (but reenactors can camp all weekend.)Free, Meal, 1 lb powder, music, skirmish, living history. Let Mark Tennant know by mid July if you are going so he can email sponsors of this event.

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Due to reports that Tonya is unable to complete her duties as newsletter editor due to medical problems in her family, the membership present decided to place Chuck Critchfield as interim Newsletter Editor/Communication director and Tim Glaser volunteered to take over Treasurer duties as interim appointee/volunteer. All 18 members present voted unanimously for these changes. I have since talked with Tonya and she was agreeable to these changes.

Motion made by Mark Tennant that first Dispatch should be mailed to membership, and Dispatch also mailed to those members who have still not renewed their membership from last year with invitation to rejoin. Bill Brisindine seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Bill Brisindine, seconded by Greg Watterson, meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting at Beverly Heritage Days on Saturday, July 19th, 2014, sometime in afternoon during free time.

Submitted by Mark Tennant and Greg Watterson

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Friday, June 20, Independence Hall,** Wheeling, West Virginia. Dedication of Francis Peirpont statue. Some members of the 1st W. Va. are attending. Contact Mark Tennant 304-363-0935.

- **Battle of Monocacy, Woodsboro, Maryland,** June 26-29. Some members of the 25th Virginia are attending. Contact Chris Johnson

- **McConnellsville, Ohio July 11-13.** See minutes for details. Contact Ralph McCready
- **151st Anniversary of Gettysburg, July 4-6.** Don't know of anyone attending.

- **Beverly Heritage Days,** July 19-20, Beverly W. Va. Several members plan to attend. Hope to have enough for skirmish.

- **Dry Creek, White Sulphur Springs,** Aug. 15-17

- **Fort Mulligan Days, Aug. 16** – contact Mark Tennant

- **Carnifex Ferry, Sept. 12-14**

- **Bulltown and Civil War Ball** October 10-12. Stay tuned for more information

- **150th Anniversary of Cedar Creek,** October 17-19. 1st W. Va. plans to attend.

Membership Dues

A number of long time members have not rejoined us. We want to give you an opportunity to rejoin for the 2014 year which is rapidly going by. A membership form is included in this mailing. It can be returned to me (address on the form or Tim Glaser, 41 Union Street, Huttonsville, WV, 26273

WVRA Officers

President – Mark Tennant

Vice President – Bill Brisindine

Treasurer (interim) – Tim Glaser

Secretary – vacant (Need a volunteer)

Newsletter editor (interim) – Chuck Critchfield

Website – Peter Baxter

25th Va. Rep – Chris Johnson

1st Va. Cavalary – John Brasuk

Artillery – Connie & Sam Kraft

TASAS – Tonya Daft

Editor's Corner

This is my chance to say a few things. First this publication will rely on submissions from you the members. All stories and pictures will be considered.

This “edition “ was thrown together quickly. We wanted to get the last two meeting minutes to you and a membership form to those who have not rejoined.

There are undoubtedly some errors here. If the errors are in the minutes, give the substitute secretaries Phyllis Baxter and Greg Waterson some slack. We are grateful that they stepped in to help. We still need an interim secretary through Dec. 31.

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The official publication of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2014 – No. 1. June 2014.

The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA

Chuck Critchfield – interim editor

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Phillipi 2014 – WVRA members included Dave Eubank, James Gilbert, Mark Tennant and Kevin Skaggs



New Market – WVRA members around the plaque describing Medal of Honor recipient and 1st W. Va. soldier Sgt. Burns of Company B.