

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
December 2024 – Edition CLXXII

Next Meeting

No meeting scheduled at this time

Upcoming Events

Important note about the official calendar below. After some discussion at a recent meeting, it is the opinion of the group that liability insurance is more likely to cover events sanctioned by the WVRA. It is our opinion that to be sanctioned the event should at the minimum be listed on this calendar. Addendum, January 2022. I discussed this issue with the insurance expert of the USV and he agrees that this is a gray area. There is some question whether the liability insurance would cover WVRA members only at sanctioned WVRA events or all events. He further agreed that publishing events in the newsletter may help to make them "official."

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

July

TBD – Beverly Heritage Days

Note – if you have any events you would like listed, please let me know.

STATEMENT FROM THE EDITOR

I am not speaking for the Executive Board or the entire membership of the WVRA. And I am not pointing a finger of blame at any other member of the Board or membership. This is just a statement of where I think things stand at this point. Here are the issues.

INSURANCE – no further action has been undertaken. You can read the summary below. This summary has been published in the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch* for months now.

MEMBERSHIP – Usually, I begin to place reminders about membership in the **NOVEMBER** issue of the *Trans-Allegheny*

Dispatch. I have not done so this year because the questions about insurance and the possible increase in dues have not been voted on.

OFFICERS – Additionally, I have usually placed the reminders about election of officers in the *Dispatch* by now. But, with the other questions still undecided, I have not put that reminder in the newsletter.

- The Editor

INSURANCE???

Editor's Note: There is nothing new to report this month on this subject. However, I am reprinting my summary of the situation that was printed in the September issue of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch, so that members have the latest information when we do take further action.

After a motion was made at the July 20 meeting to not renew the WVRA liability insurance for 2025, the Association members present voted to table that motion until a little research could be completed. The dozen or so members present did not feel that such an important question should be decided without getting input from other members of the WVRA. As a result, the newsletter editor was tasked with sending a brief questionnaire to the membership to get their opinions. **THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WAS NOT A BINDING VOTE.**

The questionnaire was emailed **FOUR** times to members with email addresses in July, August and September.. It was sent through US Mail to the two members without email addresses and to the one member who pays to have the newsletter mailed through US Mail.

As of September 7, only 19 of 45 members had replied. That is less than one-half. Of the 19 who replied, 9 stated they have insurance through another organization and 9 stated they did not have insurance through another reenacting organization. One member was unsure. Of the 19 who replied, 10 voted to **CONTINUE** purchasing liability insurance for the WVRA. Six members voted to **discontinue** the insurance and 3 replied neither yes or no.

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
December 2024 – Edition CLXXII

The comments I received were reflective of what had already been expressed at the annual meeting this spring and the meeting at Beverly in July. A quick synopsis would include:

- This is the only insurance available to me
- I have insurance through other reenacting organizations
- I don't want the insurance, I believe I would be covered by my personal homeowners
- The WVRA can't afford the insurance

Note: After business was conducted at the July 20 meeting, there was an informal conversation among a few members as to whether the insurance question was subject to the Full Ballot Procedure. Although it does not fall under the issues listed in Article 5, Section 5 of the Bylaws, which lists specific issues that must be submitted for the Full Ballot Procedure, I would propose that if falls under the following section of Article 5.

Section 4~ Important group decisions of the WVRA will be made in a way that lets every member participate in the decision, whether they are able to be present at General Meetings or not. This process is called Full Ballot Procedure in the WVRA, and operates as follows:

A... The issue is presented in full to all members present at any General Meeting. Discussion is permitted and encouraged, but no vote is taken.
B... A report of the issue presented, discussion heard at the meeting, and any written member comment for or against the issue is published in the next WVRA newsletter along with a blank absentee ballot.

C... Absentee ballots are returned to the Secretary by all who cannot be present at the next meeting. Absentee ballots may also be completed by the Secretary upon verbal/or email instructions from a member.

D... At the next meeting the issue is put to vote of all members present. Absentee ballots are counted in to yield the final result.

- C. L. Critchfield (reprinted from September issue)

Secretary/Treasurers Report

For the period October 1-31, 2024

Balance	\$ 1,268.34
Deposits	
None	\$ 0.00
Debits	
Mailing and coping	\$ 20.00
Ending Balance	\$ 1,248.34

All questions should be directed to the Treasurer/ Secretary

As reported by Rick Byrd, Treasurer/Secretary WVRA

Upcoming Events

For the complete list, see above. The following is any additional information submitted to the editor for the events listed above.

Clarksburg History Museum Civil War tours are scheduled to resume in April. Members interested in participating in the tours can contact Art and Pam Dodd or myself.

Event Reviews

I did not receive any information on Jackson's Mill, Moorefield or Droop Mountain. I did find a video of Droop Mountain on YouTube. It appears there was only Confederate States of America troops and no United States troops present.

Other Features

Increasing Membership

Hunter Lesser sent me an article from *The Wall Street Journal*, entitled "Where Have All The American Revolutionary War Re-Enactors Gone?" With the 250th anniversary of the American War for Independence just around the corner "recruitment lags, groups turn to social media and YouTube to attract younger members."

It seems that all historical reenacting, including World War II, is suffering a decline in interest. Even with a major milestone, like the 250th anniversary, the Rev War is not attracting new recruits.

Our generation, like every generation before it, likes to throw stones at the succeeding generations. But it is obvious, the more recent generations have more "distractions."

Here are the suggestions that came out of that article.

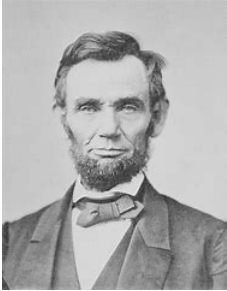
- YouTube channel
- Erase gender and racial barriers
- Social media

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
December 2024 – Edition CLXXII

They Said It (or didn't)

Quotes, misquotes and fabrications attributed to the famous, nearly famous, not famous and infamous.



"Don't believe everything you read on the Internet just because there's a photo with, a quote next to it."

- Abraham Lincoln, February 30, 1866
Google shareholders meeting

"At the bottom the coming change simply meant that the infinite ferment of the industrial revolution was about to work its way with a tremendously energetic and restless people who had a virgin continent to exploit. One difficulty was that two very different societies had developed in American, one in the North and the other in the South, which would adjust themselves to the industrial age in very different ways. Another difficulty was that the difference between these two societies were most infernally complicated by the existence in the South of the institution of chattel slavery. Without slavery, the problems between the sections could probably have been worked out by the ordinary give-and-take of politics; with slavery, they became insoluble."

- Bruce Catton

For Sale

From Bryan Cokeley

With regret, I am resigned to getting out of the hobby. 😞
I just don't seem to have the impetus to get to events with Hampton having left the state. He was in Texas; he now lives in Richmond. (Apparently, he took to heart those calls of "On to Richmond!") He turns 30 in May. He was 10 when we went to our first School of the Soldier. The passage of time. Maybe we all added 5 years this past year.
It seems wasteful for me to sit on all of this reenactment gear. I will keep my musket. I can make some young person a great deal on everything else – **a whole kit to get started**

in the hobby. If you know of someone interested, please let me know.

Miss everyone! Best,
Bryan (Cokeley formerly of the 1st West Virginia)

New Civil War History of Harrison County
A Civil War History Of Harrison County, West Virginia 1961-65; Harrison County, Virginia in the Civil War 1856-65. By Pete Taylor

This new book focuses on the years just prior to and during the war between the states. Despite the rich history of the region, no book had ever been written solely focusing on this area for that time period. Therefore, I undertook the task of researching and creating this account. As a resident of Harrison County, I had access to local historians and resources.

The book is available through Amazon for \$28.00. The manuscript has been donated to the Harrison County Historical Society and all proceeds go to support that organization.
July 2022

Rifles

Here is the info on the rifles: Thanks so much for your help. If you need anything else - just let me know.. 03A3 Springfield \$975.00 Smith Corona Model 30-06

1903 30-06 \$1800.00 Double Heat Treated Receiver Serial # 822355 Excellent Condition.

For Further information, please contact: Steve Manos at 304-753-9306 or email at dmanos@wvva.net

Thank you!

Dottie Manos

February 2024

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This was sent to me by a former WVRA member. I am printing it as it was sent to me. I do not know the seller.)

Other Sites

American Battlefield Trust - www.battlefields.org

Beverly Heritage Center -

www.beverlyheritagecenter.org

Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable -

www.wvmasondixoncwr.org/

Link to Clarksburg History Museum

<https://clarksburgmuseum.wixsite.com/history>

Battle of Gettysburg Podcast -

Addressing Gettysburg podcast -

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation -

www.ShenandoahAtWar.org

2024 WVRA Officers

Art Dodds - President

John Arnold - Vice President

Rick Byrd - Secretary/Treasurer

Pam Dodds - (TASAS) Unit Representative

Chuck Critchfield - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)

Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Va. Infantry)

Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)

Webmaster - Tim Glaser

Editor - Chuck Critchfield

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
December 2024 – Edition CLXXII

Note - Webmaster and Editor are non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

Unit Field Officers

(Continue in effect until further notice. See minutes of January, 2022 meeting)

ATTENTION - Please do **not** send any correspondence to the former PO Box in Buckhannon. Membership information can be sent to me. Remember you must be a member of record to qualify for membership benefits. To be covered under the liability insurance policy purchased by the WVRA, you must be a member. Karl Mulac is the administrator of the WVRA-TASAS page. I continue to use the WVRA-TASAS page to post announcements as it has been the page getting the most use.

As newsletter editor, I encourage submissions from members or readers, that are related to American history. I retain the right as editor to make a final decision on the content of this publication. Abusive or political submissions will not be published.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

THANKS to Hunter Lesser for his excellent contributions to this issue of the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch*. Thanks to Rick Byrd for the treasurers report.

ADDRESS – The WVRA has a new official address. The new address is WVRA, PO Box 227, Beverly, WV, 26253. However, any correspondence about dues, membership, newsletter, etc., should be sent to me. If any mail comes to the Beverly PO Box, the Beverly Heritage folks will contact me. My address has changed to 193 Eastgate Road, Morgantown, WV, 26508.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW who is a member of the WVRA and who is not, please ask Rick Byrd or myself. I usually publish the membership list in the newsletter for a few months for all to see. But some members are uncomfortable with names, email addresses, phone numbers etc., being published. So I just list names.

ANY UNIT REP wishing to have the contact information about their individual unit, please let me know. Any Association officer wishing to have the WVRA contact list for the purpose of reaching

out the members for Association business, please let me know.

PERSONAL – Former member Mark Tennant was hospitalized a few days for a blood clot in his lungs. As of December, he was home and has partially recovered. I have no updates on Bill Donegan. He was recovering last I heard.

HAVE AN OPINION you would like to express? Send it to me.

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch
The official publication of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
December, 2024 - Edition CLXXII

This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$15 per year fee. The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA.

WVRA website - wvra.org
Chuck Critchfield - Editor
193 Eastgate Drive
Morgantown, WV 26508
ccritch608@yahoo.com

"We tend to create stories that appeal to us. Then we impose those stories on the past."

- A Wallace Collection video produced on the 500th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt -found on You Tube

"History is dangerous. It goes after our myths and our identities."

- Brig. Gen. (ret) Ty Seidule after receiving death threats for writing about history

"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world."

- Robert Penn Warren

All history is revisionist. By its very nature, the moment it is committed to memory it has been revised.

- Paraphrased from several historians

"The People made their recollection fit in with their suffering"

-Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War

"History and memory aren't the same thing."

- Me