

# ***Trans-Allegheny Dispatch***

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association  
March, 2025 – Edition CLXXV

## **Next Meeting**

- Hosting the Beverly Heritage Days celebration.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

**11:00 a.m., March 22 at Beverly Heritage Center. A ZOOM link will be provided for those who wish to attend remotely.**

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual WVRA meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, March 22 at 11:00 a.m., at the Beverly Heritage Center in Beverly, West Virginia. Although you are encouraged to attend in person, a ZOOM link will be provided for those wishing to participate remotely.

Important topics to be discussed during the meeting:

- Election of new officers. The following have been nominated:  
President – Rick Byrd  
Vice-president – John Arnold  
Treasurer – Chuck Critchfield  
Secretary – Phyllis Baxter  
Newsletter – Chuck Critchfield  
Webmaster – Tim Glaser  
*Unit Representatives*  
1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia – no nominations  
25<sup>th</sup> Virginia – Bill Brisendine  
TASAS – no nominations  
It appears we have no cavalry or artillery members
- Discuss the future of the organization. Do the members wish to continue the WVRA?
- Since the WVRA has become more of a living history organization than an actual reenacting organization, revisions to the Bylaws have been proposed. Vote on those revisions
- If the members wish to continue the WVRA, discuss the liability insurance policy.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**It is** time to renew your annual membership in the WVRA. Dues remain \$15 per person, \$25 per family. You must be a member to be covered by the liability insurance.

A membership form is included in this newsletter.

### **ABSENTEE BALLOT**

If you are unable to attend the annual meeting in person or by ZOOM, please complete the attached ballot and return to the newsletter editor or Secretary.

### **REVISED BYLAWS**

Will be sent out in a couple weeks.

**Below is:**

### **OLD NEWS REPRINTED THAT WILL BE HELPFUL FOR DISCUSSION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

### **INSURANCE???**

*Editor's Note: 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

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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.

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)

## FOLLOW UP

Tim Glaser, our elected Webmaster, notified the Executive Board, notified the Board that the funds would be available and there would be no need for the WVRA to reimburse him.

## Secretary/Treasurers Report

For the period February 1-28, 2025

Balance	\$ 1,248.34
Deposits	
None	\$ 0.00
Debits	
None	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 1,248.34

All questions should be directed to the Treasurer/ Secretary

As reported by Rick Byrd, Treasurer/Secretary WVRA

## Upcoming Events

*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

19 – Beverly Heritage Day

## Other Events

September

12-14 – Carnifex Ferry (no other details provided)

## Upcoming Events

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

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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. (Dec.)

## Civil War Symposium

Davis & Elkins College & Rich Mountain Battlefield present:

### *Fighting Disease and Patching Wounds Medical Service During the Civil War*

Saturday, April 5, 2025

9 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Tickets \$35 – includes lunch

Students – free, lunch \$15 (Student ID required)

Beverlyheritagecenter.org

304-637-7424

## **Beverly Heritage Day: Centuries of History Building Home in the Valley July 19, 2025 Beverly, West Virginia**

In 1775, the colonies were in turmoil and tempers flared, in the lead up to the American Revolution, which established the United States as an independent nation. As we look towards the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the “Building Beverly, Building the Nation” initiative is sharing stories of America that touched our local community. The 2025 Beverly Heritage Day, “Building Home in the Valley” seeks to share many of those stories as we set the stage for this important commemoration next year.

We need YOUR help to share this important history. Beverly Heritage Day, July 19, 2025, “Building Home in the Valley” will feature crucial local stories of Building the Nation. Participants are invited to share living history, reenactments, cultural presentations or programs, demonstrating artisans, musicians, and preservation of historic buildings that that connect with roots in the earlier era. In keeping with the Semiquincentennial we hope to share stories of Tygart Valley and early western Virginia and the communities that grew here, especially the frontier era and Revolutionary War. Activities may include earlier influences, and 19<sup>th</sup> century through Civil War and Beverly’s Heyday.

Participation is free with pre-registration, and we will provide one meal (if pre-registered by July 14), and camping space if you want it. The public event is Saturday only, with scheduled and free-form activities for the public. Full schedule and amenities details will be sent out by June. Camps are welcome for the whole weekend, if you prefer.

Building the Nation Scenarios – Pre-planned scenarios around Beverly will each tell a distinct part of our Building Home in the Valley – Building the Nation stories. Cash bounties may be available (funding pending) to help cover travel and expenses for selected participants. Amount will depend on our funding available, the expenses incurred or distance you are traveling, and on the scenario you will present. This funding will only be available for those providing substantial, appropriate participation, confirmed in advance.

More details and registration form will be available in March.

Beverly Heritage Center  
PO Box 227, #4 Court Street, Beverly WV 26253  
304-637-7424  
[director@beverlyheritagecenter.org](mailto:director@beverlyheritagecenter.org)  
[www.beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://www.beverlyheritagecenter.org)

## Civil War Roundtables

### Stonewall Jackson Civil War Roundtable

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, of each Month except in the summer

FOP Restaurant in Nutter Fort.

If you want dinner, arrive between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m.  
Presentation should start around 6:45 p.m.

### Mason-Dixon Civil War Roundtable

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month except December

7:00 p.m. Drummond Chapel, behind Suncrest United Methodist Church, 479 Van Voorhis Road.

Feb. 17

Too Much for Human Endurance – The George Spangler Farm Hospital and the Battle of Gettysburg  
Presented by Ron Kirkwood

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## 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)**

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**Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)**

**Webmaster – Tim Glaser**

**Editor - Chuck Critchfield**

**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. I continue to use the WVRA-TASAS page to post announcements as it has been the page getting the most use. I am unable to post on the other Facebook page for the WVRA

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 Rick Byrd for the Treasurer's 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.

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

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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](http://wvra.org)  
Chuck Critchfield - Editor  
193 Eastgate Drive  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
[ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto: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.*

- Anonymous

*"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

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## ABSENTEE BALLOT

Reply by March 22, 2023

Vote for each office. Vote for the nominated candidate OR write in the name of another candidate. Vote only for the unit representative of the unit to which you are a member.

### Offices

President

\_\_\_\_\_ Rick Byrd

Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_ John Arnold

Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_ Chuck Critchfield

Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ Phyllis Baxter

Unit Representatives

1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia

25<sup>th</sup> Virginia

\_\_\_\_\_ Bill Brisendine

TASAS

Other eras/General Member Representative

Newsletter Editor

\_\_\_\_\_ Chuck Critchfield

Webmaster

\_\_\_\_\_ Tim Glaser

Beverly Heritage Day is proposed as a Sponsored / Hosted event for WVRA. WVRA will be recognized in promotion as Host of the event.

BHC asks that WVRA members help with outreach and recruiting participants, consider scenarios they can offer, and help with camp management especially for Civil War. There is no financial liability for WVRA.

WVRA is encouraged to include one or more individuals to help with planning conversations.

## **Beverly Heritage Day: Centuries of History Building Home in the Valley July 19, 2025 Beverly, West Virginia**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, sponsor/host Beverly Heritage Days

\_\_\_\_\_ No, do not sponsor/host Beverly Heritage Days

Return ballot to Chuck Critchfield  
193 Eastgate Drive  
Morgantown, WV 26508  
Or [ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto:ccritch608@yahoo.com)

Or Phyllis Baxter  
c/o Beverly Heritage Center  
PO Box 227  
Beverly, WV 26253  
Or [phyllisbwv@gmail.com](mailto:phyllisbwv@gmail.com)  
Attn: Phyllis Baxter

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