

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
September 2024 – Edition CLXVIX

Next Meeting

**** events above were submitted by Rick Byrd. Rick advises that more information can be found at the following: <http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>**

@@ events submitted by David Judy – ranger749@yahoo.com

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

All events are subject to change of date and cancellation.

SEPTEMBER

??? **Monterey Pass Battlefield** Living History, Waynesboro Pa. (Washington Township)**

27-28 **Hardy County WV Heritage Weekend.** Lost River State Park, Mathias WV or/and Reenactment Moorefield WV City Park.** PLEASE SEE THE INFORMATION BELOW IN UPCOMING EVENTS. I have conflicting information sent to me. I suggest questions be directed to David Judy at ranger749@yahoo.com

OCTOBER

11-13 **Droop Mountain Battlefield,** Reenactment Droop Mountain Battlefield WV**

18– 20 **160th Cedar Creek,** Middletown Va**

24 – **Moorefield Middle School @@**

NOVEMBER

18-24 **Remembrance Week** with Saturday, Parade - Gettysburg Pa.@@

DECEMBER

7 – 8 **Harper's Ferry WV Christmas.****

INSURANCE???

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 THREE times to members with email addresses in July and August. 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
- We can't afford the insurance

There is no meeting scheduled at this time to continue the discussion of this question. I will send

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a FOURTH email to the 26 members who have not responded.

Thanks to the members who have responded: Dodds(2), Phillips, Baxter (2), Kopshina (2), Starliper, Lesser, Glaser, Byrd, Barnes (1), Critchfield, Miller (2), Rush (2) and Thomas.

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 it 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.

Minutes of July 20 Meeting

(I have reprinted these minutes for the benefit of those who may not have seen them in the August issue. They are pertinent to the insurance question.)

WVRA 2nd Meeting for 2024 was held at the historical courthouse in Beverly WV during Beverly's Heritage Day on July 20th. Those in attendance were John Arnold, Jim Barnes, Linda Barnes, Phyllis Baxter, Bill Brisendine, Rick Byrd, Chuck Critchfield, Art Dodds, Pam Dodds and Tim Glaser. It was called to order by President Art Dodds at 4:04 PM. First on the agenda was the reading of the minutes from the last meeting held in March. Since the minutes were published in the newsletter and there were no additions to add to the minutes it was Jim who made the motion, second by Chuck to suspend reading the minutes with a unanimous vote of those present.

Next on the agenda was a report of WVRA's present finances. The report given by the treasurer and assisted by Chuck since the report printing was too small that Rick could not read it without his glasses. As of the first Day of July the WVRA has in the bank a total of \$1,248.34. Chuck made a motion to accept the financial report and second by Jim with a unanimous vote by all present.

Next on the agenda was old business. The organization's main topic was dealing with the insurance. The question specifically is whether to keep it or to drop it. Art stated that many members can obtain insurance through other groups that members belong to and that some have claimed that they can use their homeowner's insurance. Chuck mentioned in the discussion that with only \$1,246.34, that the insurance will deplete our funds within a few years since this year's insurance was **over \$700 and we only brought in \$535 in dues**. Tim then suggested that to save funds, but make sure that WVRA members are insured that the WVRA could pay the members fee toward an umbrella group that has insurance. Bill then raised the question whether some groups like the ANV will not accept an individual but be part of a unit that is associated with the umbrella group/organization. Tim also spoke that having the insurance is it beneficial to those members who do not participate in events that are suggested by the WVRA (such as mentioned in the newsletter). John also mentioned that our insurance is an enticement for an individual or families to join. Chuck spoke that the insurance covers the member or WVRA from any liable accident that happens in camp or at an event in general involving a nonmember/ spectator/ public. Chuck also stated that at some events a person cannot participate without proof of liability insurance. Rick stated that Gettysburg at the **Daniel Lady Farm** requires insurance and so does Bedford Village which is a must, or you cannot participate. Tim made a motion to table the question of whether to end the insurance or not and bring it to the full membership to vote. It was seconded by Chuck and was voted on and past. Then Chuck made a motion to have the newsletter editor put out the question to the full membership for a vote 2nd by Rick and voted on the motion and past.

Next on the agenda was the question of hosting and or sponsoring an event. There are provisions in the bylaws for these events. That they are considered a maximum event that all members should be participating. That there are penalties for not doing so, since Beverly, a sponsored event, had such a low

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turnout of members. Tim made a motion to amend the bylaws by deleting Article 6 Sec 4 paragraph C and change Article 6 Sec 4 paragraph E to 2/3 of membership approval to sponsor/ host an event and not by just those present at a meeting. Chuck second it and it was past.

Chuck then brought up a motion to have Article 5 Section 2 be amended for General Membership to have Representative which would take effect next year. It was second by Rick voted and past by all those present. John said he brought copies to pass out of his draft on creating a supply ordinance for potential new members. Tim made a motion to end the meeting. Meeting ended at 4:58.

- Submitted by Rick Byrd, Secretary/
Treasurer

IMPORTANT INSURANCE QUESTION

As you can see from the July meeting minutes above, the question of renewing the WVRA's liability insurance in 2025 was discussed. If you have read recent editions of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch, you know that the annual cost of the liability insurance premium is exceeding the income we are getting from dues.

We have cut back on costs. No unit money, \$100 per unit, was authorized this year. However, even with cost cutting, with the current trend, we would run out of money in a few years.

To date, the issue has been discussed at the annual meeting and the recent July meeting and has involved less than 25% of the WVRA membership. Therefore, at the July meeting, the membership voted to send out a brief questionnaire to all members to gather opinions on whether we should renew or not.

Just a reminder. This is a questionnaire. The motion to not renew the insurance was TABLED at the last meeting and won't be voted on until the next meeting. The results of the questionnaire are not binding.

- The Editor

Secretary/Treasurers Report

For the period August 1-31, 2024

Balance	\$1,248.34
Deposits	
Newsletter	\$ 15.00
Donation	\$ 5.00
Debits	
None	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$1,268.34

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.

FREE Hardy County Tour and Craft Reenactment

September 28 -29 – Set up on the 27th at the town park in Moorefield. I will give a free pound of powder, caps and a free meal on Saturday to the first 25 people, both Federal and Confederate to register on Friday starting at 10:00. We will skirmish, have street battles downtown, a battle on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and one on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Each side will have a cannon to start the skirmishes. Bring a tent and set up (or not). We will have both camps setting up. For those not skirmishing we will still have a free meal for you on Saturday.

- Commander Judy

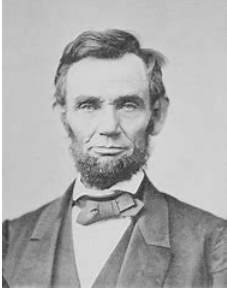
(Editor's note: Conflicting information about this event was sent to me. However, would put more trust in the information above, from David Judy. His email is ranger749@yahoo.com.

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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

I started this section of the newsletter to point out the many misleading, false or edited historical quotes that appear on social media. But it has been pretty quiet lately.

- Editor

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

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

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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 Rick Byrd and David Judy for their contributions to this issue.

MY OPINION – Those few who have attended the last few meetings have been wrestling with the question of renewing the liability insurance. We have tried to reach out to all members through their email address. As of September 7 only 42% have responded.

If this association is worth maintaining, please let us know what your opinion is on this question. It becomes very discouraging to try and make decisions about the WVRA without some feedback from you.

Additionally, there were two changes to the by-laws proposed at the July 20 meeting at Beverly. Although, the more I think about it, the more I realize that the entire by-laws need to be rewritten to reflect the current state of the Association.

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.

ANYONE WHO KNOWS THIS EDITOR is aware of my feelings about the removal of historical monuments. I occupy middle ground – which ticks off both of the extremes. I do not like seeing these monuments removed. Some of these monuments need re-interpreted and some maybe relocated, but NOT REMOVED.

I can understand that if the democratically elected governments, such as city councils and county commissions, etc, that voted originally to place, fund, construct or create these monuments, now vote to remove those monuments. I may not like it – but it is done legally. If the constituents don't like it, remove the politicians. I can understand that in cities like Richmond and New Orleans where the majority of the population is now the descendants of enslaved people, those residents do not want a reminder of the people who enslaved them towering over their streets. I understand that some counties throughout the country, but primarily in former Confederate states where this issue has emerged, that the residents of those counties, cities, states, want to continue to memorialize their former citizens for their sacrifices, bravery etc.

I do not condone the defacing and destruction of those monuments as was done in Richmond or at the University of North Carolina.

Anyway, in April, I listened to the podcast *Addressing Gettysburg*, in which the late Dr. Peter Carmichael talked about a number of topics related to the present climate around historical markers in the United States. I present a portion of that transcript, as I feel it is a very eloquent synopsis of the situation.

"...I think that there is where the left, in particular, because they're so focused on their critique of the American past, because they often have a political purpose for it today, that they are alienating and pushing back people who they need to reach, who they need to do exactly what you're talking about.

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And that is, think about the past in a critical way. Always recognize that there's always more to know. Always recognize that your views should always be changing. But that conversation will never come as long as the academic left is determined to kind of just tear down idols at every moment

Stop smashing idols.

(Moderator: why is that?)

"Well, because we're raised in the academy (academic world) to be super critical about things in a meaningful way. But it then goes too far, and they let their politics imbue not just their research, but I think their teaching. I don't think it is as bad as the press makes it out to be. From my experiences, most of my peers, the classroom is a place that is not partisan.

"...So it's grossly exaggerated, especially that's (when) Fox News will take some lunatic in the academy and hold that person up and say, 'Hey! You're spending \$60,000 a year to listen to this?' Right. And then they'll play (it) and you're like, oh my God.

"But that's not the case (for most academics), except I will again say in general, when I was out for dinner with some academic friends, not here in Gettysburg, I was kind of in dismay by the end.

"I so enjoyed the conversation, (but) that I felt like everything that they talked about regarding the past, it somehow would find its way to today, and it was always something critical about this country. And I agree with you, we're hardly perfect, but you know what? There's a lot of really good things this nation has done. And if we don't start saying that, this idea of make American great again, shame on anyone. We've always been a great but imperfect nation, and I want us as a people to embrace the goodness of our past, and that should be our first step.

And that's not to say, 'Hey, victory's been won!' It's not. It's an ongoing struggle, right?"

"It'll never end And when people use the words of the Declaration of Independence against this country, it really bugs me. Because it's like, no, these are ideals...These are what we're living up to; what we believe things should be...And then

you look at the Constitution and phrase "In order to form a more perfect union," not a perfect union, a more perfect union, because we'll never achieve perfection as long as human beings are around.

"It should inspire us, instead of using it as cudgel, that just...self-flagellation all the time....so annoying.

"...And I think you also need to look at the people in the past and understand...you would hope you give them some grace for living in their own lives, because I would hope 100 years from now, you would give me that same grace."

HAVE AN OPINION you would like to express?
Sent 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
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"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