

# Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2016 – Edition 15 – Mid - December

## Upcoming Events

### Sponsored Events

None proposed at this time

### Sanctioned Events

None at this time

### Events Recommended by WVRA members

**McConnellsville, Ohio** – July 8-10

**Rich Mountain** – Beverly and on the battlefield, July

**War Comes to Monroe County** - Union, W. Va., August 25-27

### **Other – 2017**

**Living History** – University High School, April 21, Morgantown

**Gettysburg** – July 1-3

Bill Brisendine\* had to work and John Brasuk\* was unable to attend. The 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia and Artillery representative positions are vacant at this time but both have nominations for 2017.

1. Discussed Chris Johnson's resignation. Chris warned by email that the 25<sup>th</sup> is about to lose their membership in the ANV due to lack of participation in events.
2. On a side note, John Brasuk bought JR Moores's cannon and Kelso Marple's cannon may also be for sale.
3. John Brasuk had proposed to Chuck to be the unit rep for both the Calvary and the Artillery. The bylaws limit only one office per person. Sam Krafft expressed interest to Chuck to be the unit rep for the Artillery 2017. The board tentatively assigned John to the Calvary and Sam to the Artillery. This can be changed at the next meeting.
4. Future of the WVRA  
In 2016 there were approximately 75 members and so far for 2017, 35 members have signed up.

We can continue as is. We need volunteers for president and vice president. Need to get more involvement for events.

After the success of the Historic Beverly Time Line event this summer, it was proposed to open up membership to other time periods. It would be good to have a state wide umbrella reenactment group.

To our knowledge the French and Indian reenactment groups do not have a higher level organization. Need to talk to Karl Mulac in Beverly, WV, about this assumption. Jim Barnes is a member of several WWII units. He will talk to some of these reenactors and will report back to our group about their interest in joining the WVRA.

Chuck asked if membership will be limited to groups from periods of American history. This seemed to be the consensus of the board. The only objection to opening up membership was by Mark not wanting SS or Gestapo Units to be members.

Preliminary review of the Bylaws indicates that not a lot of changes will need to be made.

## NEXT MEETING

The annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 7 at 1 pm at the steak house at exit 99 of I-79 near Weston.

At the annual meeting we will be voting on officers, both administrative and military officers for 2017. Some nominations have been made to date (see below) but members may nominate from the floor.

To date we have received no nominations for president and vice-president and only the 1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia has nominations for military officers.

Also, it is expected, that further discussion of the WVRA's future will take place. That would include further talk about including other historical periods in the WVRA.

**December 10, 2016**

## **WVRA Executive Board Meeting**

**Christ Episcopal Church Parish House, Clarksburg**

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Tennant, at 2:00 pm. In attendance were Chuck Critchfield\*, Jack Rush\*, Debbie Rush, Mark Tennant\*, Diane Tennant\*, Jim Barnes\* and Linda Barnes. Five of seven board members were present.

\*Executive Board Member

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We will wait for Jim to come back with any interest from the WWII groups.

New groups must follow procedures outlined in the bylaws to join.

5. The following members volunteered for group officers:
  - a. President -
  - b. Vice President -
  - c. Secretary – Jack Rush
  - d. Treasurer - Jim Barnes
  - e. Newsletter – Chuck Critchfield
  - f. TASAS Rep – Diane Tennant
  - g. 25<sup>th</sup> Rep – Tim Glaser
  - h. Cavalry Rep – John Brasuk (see discussion in item 3 above)
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Rep - Mark Tennant
  - j. Artillery Rep – Sam Kraft (see discussion in item 3 above)

## 6. Events for 2017:

Historic Beverly was talking about having an event in mid July similar to the Time Line held in 2016. There would be civil war camps and reenactment at the battlefield and the other time line reenactors in the town of Beverly. Nothing is firm yet.

Chuck was asked for participants in a living history at University High School in Morgantown on April 21. We can come up Thursday night to camp if we want. Main event will be on Friday. Will have to wait to see if there will be any activities on Saturday. More details to come.

7. Talked about making a donation to help move the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Wheeling. The past practice has been that the Executive Board can only make a \$50 donation without the group's approval. It was decided to bring this up at the next meeting.

Next group meeting will be January 7, 2016 or January 14, 2016 at the Steer Steak House, Weston. Mark will call them to find out about room availability and advise.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,  
J. Rush  
December 14, 2016

## WVRA Business Items

Nominations are needed now for 2017 WVRA officers. To date, no nominations have been reported to me. Here are the offices:

- President (none)
- Vice-president (none)
- Treasurer **Jim Barnes**
- Secretary **Jack Rush**
- Unit Rep 1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. **Mark Tennant**
- Unit Rep 25<sup>th</sup> Va. - **Tim Glaser**
- Unit Rep 1<sup>st</sup> Va. **John Brasuk**
- Unit Rep TASAS **Diane Tennant**
- Unit Rep Artillery - **Sam Krafft**
- Newsletter – **Chuck Critchfield**
- Website **Peter Baxter**

Current officers can be found listed below. Nominations can be sent to me [ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto:ccritch608@yahoo.com) or any officer.

Chris Johnson, Unit Representative of the 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia resigned from that position on Nov. 13 in an email to the Executive Board and a few members of the 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia with email addresses. He further warned that the 25<sup>th</sup> is in danger of losing its membership in the Army of Northern Virginia because of “lack of participation in Battalion events.”

## Membership

Memberships for 2016 expire on Dec. 31, 2016. Please renew your membership before then. I will include a membership renewal form with this newsletter. Annual dues continue to be \$15 per individual; \$25 per family and \$15 per organizational membership. Family memberships are limited to family members college age and below. Membership forms and dues can be sent to me at 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301. To date the following have renewed their membership:

## TASAS

Bill Snyder  
Linda Barnes  
Peter Baxter  
Phyllis Baxter  
Tonya Daft  
Art Dodd  
Pam Dodds  
Linda Donegan  
Brian Ward family  
Gary Goetze  
Mildred Goetze  
Debbie Rush

First West Virginia Infantry

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Jim Barnes  
Mike Phillips  
Chuck Critchfield  
Jedediah Smith  
Larry Smith  
Kevin Skaggs  
Mr. and Mrs. Burdell Waffler  
John Ziolkowski  
Ed ChapdeLaine  
Christopher Carroll  
Patrick Carroll  
Bill Donegan  
Jack Rush

## 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry

Jack Daft  
Tag Ireland  
Ken Connell  
Tim Glaser  
Jim Allman  
Jay Allman  
Thurman Shaver \*  
Mark Poling  
Dirk Behana

## General Membership

Hunter Lesser  
Elizabeth Swiger

Members who have paid to have newsletter mailed rather than sent electronically.  
Tag Ireland

## Unit Nominations

To date I have received the following nominations for military officers within the respective units making up the WVRA.

1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia

Captain – Chuck Critchfield

Sergeant – Ross Wetherell

1<sup>st</sup> Virginia

None

25<sup>th</sup> Virginia

None

Artillery

Sam Krafft sergeant for his gun

TASAS

None

General members are the responsibility of the WVRA president.

## Treasurers Report

Beginning balance:	4,106.75
Credits:	75.00 (11-15)
Debits:	200.00 (11-08) to Peter Baxter for last year's Droop Mountain dance. Apparently he just got around to cashing it.
	22.95 Web.com
Service Charge:	3.00
Ending balance:	3,955.80

Jim Barnes  
As of Dec. 1, 2016

## WVRA Officers 2016 (executive board)

President – Mark Tennant  
Vice President – Bill Brisendine  
Treasurer – Jim Barnes  
Secretary – Jack Rush  
Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield\*  
Website – Peter Baxter\*  
1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. Rep – Chuck Critchfield  
25<sup>th</sup> Va. Rep – Vacant as of Nov. 13  
1<sup>st</sup> Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk  
Artillery – vacant  
TASAS – Diane Tennant

\* Non-voting member of executive board

## 155 Years Ago

### 1<sup>st</sup> (West) Virginia Infantry

First let me apologize for failing to credit my sources in the last Dispatch for my 155 Years Ago.

- C. J. Rawlings, History of the First West Virginia Infantry.
- Joshua Winters, Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winters edited by Elizabeth Swiger (WVRA general member).
- Dorothy Davis, History of Harrison County

If anyone has the 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regimental history, you are invited to contribute to this column.

## Feedback from Readers

I was really happy to see quotes from Joshua Winters in the First (West) Virginia column in the December Newsletter. Joshua was a West Virginia farm boy, rather shy and modest. He would have been truly amazed that his name is so well known 155 years later, thanks to the letters he wrote to his sister and to the diaries he kept.

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*Elizabeth D. Swiger, author (with Joshua) of the book "Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winters."*

Editor's Note – I will continue to use Joshua's letters and Rawlins' regimental history to describe the activities of the 1<sup>st</sup> (West) Virginia Infantry 155 years ago. I welcome additional contributions.

One reader asked if I got any feedback about my paragraph entitled PUZZLING in the Editor's Corner in the December issue. I have received none. But I am happy to see that somebody is reading the Dispatch.

## Editor's Corner

*The Editor's chance to speak*

**OFFICERS** – We need members to volunteer for officer positions within the WVRA. If you note above, a few members have volunteered to put their names on the ballot. If we fail to get a volunteer for president and vice-president, we may have to discuss if the WRVA can move forward or will we have to change the structure. I reckon, that due to the absence of nominations for military office, that those decisions will once again be made among the units rather than through a ballot procedure.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Please renew your membership for the 2017 reenacting season. A blank membership form is included in this email. Please return the membership form to the address on the form.

**NEXT YEAR** – Looks like there will be a Rich Mountain reenactment in 2017. I hear through Facebook that there will be no Hurricane reenactment in 2017. However, apparently somebody in Ravenswood is trying to get something together that same weekend (March 24-26). Teachers at University High School outside of Morgantown are actively promoting a living history at the school in April.

**THANK YOU** – Thanks to Peter Baxter for his help with the Dispatch. John Ziolkowski for the picture. Ed ChapdeLaine for the Christmas card.

**FOR SALE** – I hear through the grapevine that JR Moore is selling his Springfield and a 2-band Enfield. I would suggest contacting JR or Debbie directly. JR did sell his cannon. Hunter Lesser has advised that anyone who wants a signed copy of *The Civil War in*

*Lewis County, WV*, by Roy Bird Cook, he might be able to oblige.

**PERSONALS** - Mark Tennant is spending a lot of time with his ailing father. If you need to reach him, please call Mark directly. He does not always have access to the internet. If you try to contact me by Facebook, make sure it is by Messenger. I am not monitoring Facebook newsfeed until the election bickering dies down.

Please do not send any correspondence to the 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 respective insurance policies that the 1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia and the 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia infantry units participate in, you must be a member of record. TASAS members who are also spouses of 1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. members are covered under the USV insurance.

The newsletter is being sent by email to members of record who provided a VALID email address. It is posted on the WVRA website also. It is mailed to anyone who pays the \$15 annual mailing costs. It continues to be my plan to publish related articles of interest in addition to the items mandated by our by-laws (meeting minutes, treasurer's report, etc.).

Yours truly, has no connection to the TASAS-WVRA Facebook page and takes no responsibility for it. Nor do I have any responsibility for the WVRA Facebook page. I would suggest that the TASAS-WVRA Facebook page seems to have more up to date information.

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Reenactors Association

2016 – No. 15 Mid-December Edition.

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

WVRA website - [wvra.org](http://wvra.org)

Facebook - [WVRA - TransAllegheny Soldiers Aid  
Society](#)

Chuck Critchfield – editor

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Clarksburg, WV 26301

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West Virginia Reenactors Association

Ballot for 2017

Return to C. L. Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301 or [ccritch608@yahoo.com](mailto:ccritch608@yahoo.com). You must be a dues-paying member of record for 2016. Or bring to Annual Meeting on January 7, 2017 at 1 pm in Weston. Nominations can be made from the floor.

WVRA Administrative Officers

President

\_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_ Jim Barnes

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ Jack Rush

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

Newsletter Editor

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

Website

\_\_\_\_\_ Peter Baxter

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

Unit Representatives – vote only for your unit

1<sup>st</sup> Virginia

\_\_\_\_\_ John Brasuk

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark Tennant

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

25<sup>th</sup> Virginia

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

Artillery

\_\_\_\_\_ Sam Krafft

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society

\_\_\_\_\_ Diane Tennant

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)