

# **Trans-Allegheny Dispatch**

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2018 – Edition XIII - December

## **Upcoming Civil War Events**

### **Sponsored Events**

**None at this time**

### **Events Recommended by WVRA members**

**Beverly - ?**

### **Other Events**

Nothing at this time

### **Other Time Periods**

Nothing at this time

Editor's note - if you plan to attend events, please work with your Unit Rep.

In Jack Rush's absence there was no Treasury report given at this time.

Motion to adjourn by Mark Poling. Seconded by Mark Tennet.

*Submitted by Sergeant Stormy Brasuk, Lurty's Company, Virginia. Horse Artillery acting as recording secretary*

## **Meeting Minutes - November 11**

Sgt. Stormy Brasuk acting as secretary, President Barnes presiding.

Attending: Mr.&Mrs Barnes, Mr.&Mrs. Brasuk, Mark Poling, Duane Miller, Bill Brisendine, Ken Connell, and Phyllis Baxter

Reading of the minutes; motion to approve:Ken Connell, 2nd by:John Brasuk. Reading of treasury report please direct any questions to Jack Rush.

Blanks were passed out for dues please send in asap.

Next meeting Saturday,Jan.12 @1:00 at Steakhouse.

Discussion: Droop Mtn. event. Most felt the organizers did a good job.

REMINDER: please bring an events list for your groups to the January meeting!

Elections/Nominations: Bill Brisendine made a motion to nominate all currently in office stay in office. 2nd by: Mark Poling. Please note: nominations will remain open until the Jan. Meeting. *(Editor's note: Only Jim Barnes and Chuck Critchfield have accepted those nominations to date)*

Discussion: Prickets Fort ball event by President Barnes.

REMINDER: By President Barnes to all Please continue to recruit! Gun shows are a good source for this.

Discussion: Guyandotte event by John H. Brasuk noted that Mike Sheets' cadets were outstanding at this event. They acted as limber guards, powder monkees and assisted/filled in where needed.

Under new business:

Phyllis invited the WVRA to sponsor/host the Beverly event again for the coming year; she is also

## **Next Meeting**

Saturday, January 12, at 1 pm at the Weston Steakhouse.

## **Membership Renewal**

It is time for all interested members to renew their membership for 2019. Also, if you want to receive the newsletter through US Mail, it is time to submit the \$10 fee to cover mailing costs. Details can be found on the membership form included with this newsletter. Keep in mind that you must be a member to be covered by our liability insurance policy.

## **Meeting Minutes - October 13**

Sat. Oct 13 - Droop Mountain Reenactment

Meeting was held directly after the Saturday battle. President Jim Barnes presiding.

In attendance were: Jim and Linda Barnes, John and Stormy Brasuk, Duane Miller, Mark Poling, Bill Brizendine, Greg Watterson, Mark Tennant.

President Barnes proposed that the next meeting be Nov.11, Sunday at 1:00 pm at The Steak House.

President Barnes said he will check for availability of the Steak house or if not the Christ Church.

Next order of business: Elections are upcoming; please have your nominations for officers at next meeting. Also for Next meeting: units please have a preliminary list of events for Jack Rush for insurance purposes. President Barnes requested for everyone to please suggest events that you would like him to look into.

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looking for any and all suggestions for improving or changes to event.

Rich Mtn. Event is not planned for at this time. The Rich Mtn. Foundation is looking into possibly of doing tours instead of a reenactment anyone wanting more info on this please contact the Rich Mtn. Foundation.

Motion to adjourn: Mark Poling  
2nd by: John H. Brasuk

## Officers

Don't forget fellow members of the WVRA, nominations for Association offices are open and can be made to any existing officer. Terms of office are over on December 31 of this year. The list of offices and the current office holders can be found below in this newsletter. The current slate of officers were re-nominated at the November meeting, but as of Dec. 3, I am only aware that Jim Barnes and myself have accepted those nominations.

We will vote on officers at the annual meeting on January 12. Please confirm that you accept your nomination.

Nominations

President - Jim Barnes (confirmed)

Vice-President - Ken Connell

Secretary/Treasurer - Jack Rush

Webmaster - Peter Baxter

Newsletter - Chuck Critchfield (confirmed)

Unit Rep (25th Va) - Bill Brisendine

Unit Rep (TASAS) - Diane Tennant

Unit Rep (1st Va) - John Brasuk

Unit Rep (1st W. Va.) - Mark Tennant

Unit Rep (Lurty Bty) - Stormy Brauk

## Membership Renewals

### GENERAL

Hunter Lesser

### TASAS

Phyllis Baxter

Peter Baxter

Bill Snyder

Linda Barnes

Art Dodds

Pam Dodds

### 1st West Virginia

Mike Phillips

Jim Barnes

Chuck Critchfield

### 25th Virginia

Tag Ireland

Bill Brisendine

### ARTILLERY

Thurm Shaver

## UPCOMING EVENTS

None submitted at this time.

## Treasurer's Report

For the period November 1 through November 30, 2018

Beginning Balance \$3,312.10

Credits

Memberships \$ 0.00

Debits

\$ 0.00

Ending Balance

\$ 3,312.10

Submitted by Jack Rush December 2, 2018

## AFTER ACTION REPORTS

### Jeb Stuart's Birthplace

I had all intentions of attending the reenactment at Droop Mountain but Hurricane Michelle had her own ideas about that. For many years I have attended the events at Jeb Stuart's birthplace in Ararat, Virginia. This is just up the road from Mt. Airy, North Carolina. This event took place on Oct. 6 and 7 and the weather was very hot. I set up my Civil War tent and dining lay but worked in the Jeb Stuart headquarters tent. Since the location of this event is only about 50 miles from Droop Mountain, I decided to spend the week camping and sightseeing, etc. On Monday, I went apple picking. On Tuesday I went to some sweet potato farms and got eight cases of sweet potatoes for home and to fill some orders from friends. Now I had heard that Hurricane Michelle was down on the Gulf but was only a category one hurricane and I was way up in the mountains of Virginia. What are the odds???

Well it started to rain on Wednesday, a misty rain, so no big deal. I just read some books in the picnic shelter. The rain picked up some on Wednesday night. On Thursday morning I decided to go down to Mt. Airy for breakfast then do some shopping. I had a leisurely lunch at McDonald's and about 2:30 I headed back to camp. The rain was coming down harder and the wind had picked up.

The Jeb Stuart birthplace is located on kind of a high hill but I never thought anything about it.

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When I got back to my camp I was in for a real surprise. Both my tent and my dining fly were blown down and everything was soaked or getting soaked. It was then I call my wife back in Ohio and said I was coming home and ht at I would pack up my stuff and sleep in a motel on Thursday night. So I never made it to Droop Mountain. Even though I had all intentions to go there.

-- Ed Chapdelaine, November 4, 2018

## Viking Con

October 19 -22, La Plat, Maryland

Friday : After many traffic delays we arrived at our hotel

Saturday: As we had V.I.P Berserker passes we were permitted to enter early. With so much to see and do we were glad it is a 2 day event. We chose to attend the Rune Work shop first. It was a very informative and interesting talk by author Patrick Snyder. He also recommended some books on the subject for more in depth history and study. After the talk he helped the attendees to write their names and anything else the wished in runes.

We also enjoyed visiting the Viking village and met some new friends.

In the Great Hall there were more workshops, craftsmen/women and vendors of many types. We were pleased to see some of our friends and enjoyed visiting with them.

Sunday: When we arrived we were told that due to the high winds Saturday night (wind gusts of up to 60 mph.) many of the reenactors had tents knocked down; so most all things had moved into the Great Hall (wind was still gusting and cold). We were sure glad we decided to ' camp' at the hotel!

Patrick J. Kelly, star of the TV show *Vikings* and Game of Thrones was in attendance and gave a very interesting talk and question and answer.

We also chose to attend a leather working workshop where we were able to create a bracelet after practicing the techniques learned.

Of special interest was an authentic Viking blade on display with other excavated Viking artifacts. We were allowed to carefully (with gloves)to handle the sword. There was also a mead vendor and a

moonshine vendor they gave out samples which was very interesting(and tasty!)

We were also asked by a few professional photographers to pose for pictures.

All in all this was a fun-filled, interesting and educational event which we look forward to attending again.

-- Stormy Brasuk

## Buckhannon Veterans Day Parade

WVRA members Michael Phillips and Jim Barnes participated in the Buckhannon Veterans Day Parade on November 12. The marchers in this group represented American soldiers from the Revolution through Vietnam. The crowds responded well to this visualization of American troops from a broad spectrum of American history. Mike Phillips is to be commended on organizing this march each year.

- submitted by Jim Barnes



1- Mike Phillips in Federal Civil War Uniform and Jim Barnes in Continental Army uniform at Buckhannon on November 12. World War I, World War II, Korea(?) and Viet Nam reenactors are unidentified

## 18th Century Ball

By Jim Barnes

On Saturday, November 10, WVRA members Jim and Linda Barnes, attended the first 18<sup>th</sup> Century Ball

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to be held at Prickett's Fort near Fairmont. Colonial period dress was required for admittance, although a few of the folks may have stretched this a little bit. But, for the most part the participants were largely period-correct.

The live music was provided by a group whose name I unfortunately failed to get, but they were very good. Al Pavlinak was the dance master and did his best to get us through one of the most complicated dances I have ever attempted for the first set of the evening. Subsequent dances were less demanding.

The Ball was well-attended and the dance floor was mostly filled up for each dance with an equal number of folks simply setting at the tables and watching.

This was a good event and I am glad Greg and the folks at the fort decided to do it. We intend to go to the next one and encourage all to consider trying it out. Here are pictures of us and some other attendees to give an idea of how the event looked.

## OTHER FEATURES/NEWS

### FOR SALE

Former member Rob Freeman is selling some of his Civil War period clothing that was worn by himself and his father. He is selling shirts, a military vest and civilian vest, a almost new Union frock coat, a Confederate sack coat with Virginia buttons and two pairs of sky blue pants. Contact Pam Nicholson [jmpnicholson@aol.com](mailto:jmpnicholson@aol.com) or Rob at [rffreeman1373@gmail.com](mailto:rffreeman1373@gmail.com) for more information. (These items were still available recently).

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Jim Barnes reports that at the Clarksburg Gun Show, a National Guard recruiter stopped by and said he had a nice Civil War officer's desk he wants to sell if anyone is interested contact Jim Barnes. me.

### A New Longstreet Book

My name is Cory Pfarr and I'm an American History writer who lives in Baltimore. I wanted to kindly reach out and let you know that I have a forthcoming book titled "Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment" due to be published by McFarland Publishers this Winter. I wanted to take this opportunity to ask you to please consider reading the book and/or passing news of its forthcoming publication on to your organization.

Most Respectfully,  
Cory M. Pfarr  
[cpfarr01@gmail.com](mailto:cpfarr01@gmail.com)

-- Forwarded by Mason Dixon Civil War Roundtable

### Book Review

#### Lincoln's Lieutenants

This study of the high command of the Army of the Potomac is a thoroughly interesting discussion and history of the army, corps, division and sometimes brigade commanders of that organization.

Stephen Sears, who has penned a number of interesting books about the Eastern Theater of operations, has put together a narrative of the war, the AOP officers and the Lincoln administration. This type of study can descend into endless academic analysis of the personalities and interactions, but Sears avoids that and the result is neatly flowing text that kept me involved.

I will admit, that even though my ancestors fought with the western armies, I have always been more interested in the AOP. And I would recommend this book to those of you who have a similar interest in that organization.

-- Chuck Critchfield

### 155 Years Ago

On hiatus until further notice.

### They Said It (or didn't)

*The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world.* - Robert Penn Warren

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*"No society can make a perpetual constitution, or even a perpetual law."*

-- Thomas Jefferson

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*"It irritates me to be told how things have always been done. I defy the tyranny of precedent. I cannot afford the luxury of a closed mind."*

-- Clara Barton

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### Traitors or Patriots?

*"Greatly Descended Men—The son of Light Horse Harry Lee, of Revolutionary renown,*



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commands the forces of Virginia. His chief aide is J. A. Washington, the only living representative of Washington. The great-grandson of Thomas Jefferson commands the Howitzer Battery at Richmond. A grandson of Patrick Henry is Captain of the Virginia forces. The descendants of Chief Justice Marshall are in the Rebel ranks and in command.”

—Erie (Pa.) *Observer*, May 25, 1861

Submitted by Hunter Lesser

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"You know nothing until you know all; which is the reason we never know anything "

-- Herman Melville

"A chicken could not live on that field when we open on it."

-- Longstreet relaying the thoughts of his Chief of Artillery, Porter Alexander in December of 1862 at Fredericksburg.

## Sites of Interest

[Beverlyheritagecenter.org](http://Beverlyheritagecenter.org) – Beverly Heritage Center

[WVRA.org](http://WVRA.org) – our website

<http://www.wvmasondixoncwrtable.org/> -- W. Va.

Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)

Civil War Trust – [civilwar.org](http://civilwar.org)

## WVRA Officers 2018 (executive board)

President – Jim Barnes

Vice President – Ken Connell

Treasurer /Secretary – Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield\*

Website – Peter Baxter\*

1<sup>st</sup> W. Va. Rep – Mark Tennant

25<sup>th</sup> Va. Rep – Bill Brisendine

1<sup>st</sup> Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk

Artillery – Stormy Brasuk

TASAS – Diane Tennant

Union Rep - Debbie Rush \*\*

Confederate Rep - Sherri Skidmore Goff \*\*

20<sup>th</sup> Century Rep - Linda Barnes \*\*

\* Non-voting member of executive board

\*\* Not members of executive board

LET ME REMIND the readers of this publication that the opinions expressed in this newsletter **are not necessarily** the opinions of the WVRA. And believe you me, we have members who are 180 degrees apart on a few subjects as has been demonstrated once again recently.

THANK YOU to everyone who made contributions to this issue especially Stormy Brasuk, Jim Barnes, Hunter Lesser, Jack Rush . I hope that I have not missed any submissions. A special thanks as always for Peter Baxter's able help. - MERRY CHRISTMAS

SO YOU THINK THE CIVIL WAR IS OVER - I continue to see Facebook posts about the Democratic Party and its links to slavery. It is a fact that the Democratic Party of the 19th century is linked to slavery. No argument there. But some folk try to draw a straight line from the 19th century Democratic Party to the 21st century Democrats to prove the current Party is the true racist party.

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 liability insurance policy purchased by the WVRA, you must be a member of record.

There are two Facebook pages currently in use as avenues of communication by WVRA members. One is the WVRA-The Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society group page. The other ~~group is labeled~~ simply West Virginia Reenactors Association. Tonya Daft is the administrator on the West Virginia Reenactors Association page. Please address all questions to her about that page. I am not sure who is administrator to 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 (by far) over the past 3 years.

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This newsletter is available free to members by email. It will be mailed by US Mail for \$10 per year. The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the WVRA

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

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## Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak