

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2016 – Edition 2 – February

Upcoming Events

More information will be added later if made available to the editor

Sponsored Events

None proposed at this time

Sanctioned Events

Beverly Heritage Days, July 22-24 are up for open ballot procedure.

Events Recommended by WVRA members

Putnam Civil War Days – March 31 – April 1, 2016, <http://putnamcivilwardays.weebly.com>

Barboursville (W.Va.) Civil War Days – May 13-15

Philippi Blue and Gray Reunion – June 3-5, 2016

Dry Creek (Greenbrier State Forest) – Aug 19-22

Bulltown – October 7-9, 2016 – Hosted by 10th W. Va. and Army Corps of Engineers, contact Sam Krafft for details

Elmwood Manor – August 26-28, 2016, contact Chris Johnson at wvaca@hughes.net

Guyandotte (W. Va.) Civil War Days – November 4-6

Other - 2016

Buchanan, Virginia – April 28-29 (suggested by our friends in the 24th Va/83rd Pa)

New Market – May 13-15

Barboursville (W.Va.) Civil War Days – May 13-15

153rd Gettysburg – July 1-3

<http://www.gettysburgreenactment.com/>

1st Bull Run – July 22-24 (at Cedar Creek Battlefield) www.ccbf.us

Sidney, Ohio – Sept. 16-18, 2016 (suggested by the USV)

Cedar Creek – October 14-16, 2016, www.ccbf.us

Next Meeting

The next WVRA meeting will be February 27, 2016, 1:00 – 3:00, at the Steer Steak House, Weston.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held on Saturday, January 17, 2016, at the Weston Steakhouse. About 20 members were present and thanks to those members who took time to participate in the meeting. A special “at-a-boy” to Chris Johnson who drove all that way to be there.

Minutes of the meeting are available elsewhere in this newsletter. However, I will attempt to summarize some key issues. The slate of officers were elected by acclamation as there were no contested races in the WVRA administrative offices. Jim Barnes was the only new officer elected, replacing treasurer Tim Glaser who has moved to North Carolina. The full slate of officers for 2016 can be seen in the list of officers shown elsewhere in the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch.

Vote!

The Beverly Heritage Days event passed muster at the January 16 meeting and has now moved on to the ‘Full Ballot Procedure’ listed in the by-laws under Section 5 – Sanctioned Events. Before I go any further, some members have questioned me on what is a ‘Sanctioned Event.’

According to our by-laws: “*Sanctioned Events are those not planned or organized by the WVRA, but approved by the Association for official participation. Attendance at sanctioned events is expected of all WVRA members.*” Note -The rest of that by-law can be found at WVRA.org.

Beverly Heritage Days – Centuries of History are scheduled for July 22 through July 24 at Beverly, W. Va. This event will be a “timeline” featuring living history and other programming from periods throughout Beverly’s history. By timeline, the intent is to allow living history from multiple time periods. Preliminary planning shows living historians from the pioneer and Native American, Civil War and World War II periods. However, other periods may be represented.

WVRA members must now vote by February 26 to sanction or not sanction this event. Please see the ballot included with this newsletter. Mark Tennant has agreed to be the Civil War era coordinator.

Minutes of Annual Meeting

West Virginia Reenactors Association Meeting

Saturday, January 16, Weston Steakhouse
President Mark Tennant called the meeting to order at about 1:10 pm in the back dining room of the Steakhouse

1. Tim Glaser moved and Jay Allman seconded that the reading of the minutes from the last meeting be

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skipped because the minutes had been posted in the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. The motion carried.

2. Tim Glaser with the assistance of Chuck Critchfield gave the Treasurer's report, which showed \$4,246.43 in the checking account per the last statement from Huntington Bank. To Tim's knowledge, the only pending charges were the website payments (every 28 days). The Treasurers report was accepted.

3. The WVRA broke into **unit meetings**.

a. 1st West Virginia Infantry

I. Unit Rep and Captain, Chuck Critchfield. Ross Wetherell was nominated as the 1st sergeant since he had served in that role last year. He was unopposed and was elected. No

nominations were made for corporal.

II. Chuck Critchfield reported that the United States Volunteers had voted to make First Bull

Run and Cedar Creek as maximum events. The 1st did not identify a maximum effort event.

b. 25th Virginia Infantry

I. Chris Johnson, Unit Rep; Jeff Goff, Captain; Greg Watterson, 1st sergeant; Jay Allman, corporal

II. Max effort events Philippi, Dry Creek and First Manassas

III. Chris Johnson reported on an upcoming event that he was helping to organize. He talked about Monroe County Living History, the Federal Occupation of Union, West Virginia, August 26- 28, 2016.

c. 1st Virginia Cavalry

I. John Brasuk, unit rep and captain; Aaron Edwards 1st sergeant

II. John Brasuk reported the following events were under consideration: Pike Days, Pennsylvania on National Road; Barboursville, W. Va; Philippi; Beverly Heritage Days; White Covered Bridge, Kirby, Pa; Perryopolis, Pa., Waynesburg, Pa (October) and Guyandotte.

d. Trans-Allegheny Soldiers' Aid Society

Diane Tennant unit rep

e. Artillery - nobody present

A motion was made by Phyllis Baxter and seconded by Ron Wenig to accept the slate of WVRA officer by acclamation as all were unopposed. The motion carried by majority vote. The elected officers are as follows

Mark Tennant - President

Bill Brisendine - Vice-President

Jack Rush - Secretary

Jim Barnes - Treasurer (replacing Tim Glaser)

Peter Baxter - Webmaster

Chuck Critchfield - newsletter editor

Safety discussion included the use of Medical Forms by the USV. It was recommended that WVRA members complete and carry these forms.

Mark Tennant reported on Droop and discussed the future of the event. Bryan(t)'s Battery will sponsor the event in the future.

School of the Soldier was discussed. Chris Johnson will investigate the possibility of teaming up with Wise's Legion for their school of the Soldier.

Phyllis Baxter made a presentation on Beverly Heritage Days, July 22-24, 2016. A motion was made by Tim Glaser and seconded by Jim Barnes and passed to place this event on a ballot for possible approval as a sanctioned event. The ballot will be sent with the next newsletter.

A brief discussion was held about 2016 Bulltown event. The event is being organized by Sam Krafft and the US Army Corps of Engineers to be held in October. The 2nd Virginia Infantry is not affiliated with the event.

A brief discussion about memorials were held. We are lacking details on pending memorial requests. President Tennant asked for more information on proposed memorial donations.

The next meeting is February 27 at 1 pm at the Steakhouse.

--Submitted by C. L. Critchfield

Membership

Members are reminded to renew their membership for 2016. A membership form will be included when the newsletter is emailed. Please return the ballot to C. L. Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301. Do not send to the PO Box in Buckhannon. Do not send the membership to the Treasurer. When I receive the dues payments, I will send an email confirmation.... **IF** I have an email address for that member. Individual dues are \$15 and family dues are \$25. Family dues include family members living at home.

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The newsletter is being emailed to dues-paying members with an email address and posted to the website. If you would like the newsletter sent through the US Mail, please add \$15 to cover mailing and printing costs.

Thank you to the members who have renewed since last issue of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch.

1st West Virginia Infantry

Ron Wenig
Mark Tennant
Kevin Skaggs
Burdell Waffler
Bill Donegan
Jack Rush

25th Virginia

Jeff Goff

1st Virginia Cavalry

John Brasuk
Stormy Brasuk
Aaron Edwards

Artillery

None

TASAS

Debbie Wenig
Diane Tennant
Mrs. Burdell Waffler
Sherry Skidmore
Linda Donegan
Debbie Rush

Newsletter mailing

Bill Snyder
JR Moore
Tag Ireland

will be glad to include other WVRA members if asked.

The 1st West Virginia is a member of the 1st Infantry Regiment of the USV which is commanded by David Childs and is assisted by Lt. Col. Kevin Skaggs and Major Ray Manzi. All three were re-elected. The regiment voted to make First Manassas and Cedar Creek as the maximum effort events.

The USV is making an effort to ensure all members carry their medical cards this year. We had a member suffer a fatal illness on the field and his medical card, which would have proven useful in his treatment was nowhere to be found.

WVRA Officers 2016 (executive board)

President – Mark Tennant
Vice President – Bill Brisendine
Treasurer – Jim Barnes (new)
Secretary – Jack Rush
Newsletter editor – Chuck Critchfield*
Website – Peter Baxter*
1st W. Va. Rep – Chuck Critchfield
25th Va. Rep – Chris Johnson
1st Va. Cavalry – John Brasuk
Artillery – to be determined
TASAS – Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

Invitation – Francis H.

Pierpont Monument Donors

In 2014, if I remember correctly, the WVRA contributed organization funds towards the Francis H. Pierpont Monument at West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling. As a result, we have received an invitation to attend a “donor appreciation reception at Independence Hall on Feb. 11, 2016 at 5:30. A short ceremony and refreshments will be offered to those donors in attendance. No RSVP is need.

USV Annual Meeting

Kevin Skaggs, Ron Wenig and your editor attended the United States Volunteer annual meeting at the Gettysburg Hotel on January 10, 2016. I will be sending the high points of the meeting to members of the 1st West Virginia and

You Tube

There are certainly many Civil War related items on You Tube. There are videos of reenactments, short movies, equipment demonstrations (I learned to put on my officers’ sash from You Tube initially), weapons demonstrations and on and on and on. Recently, I have discovered a new source of Civil War information – lectures by noted historians. Heck , there is a full college course from Yale on the Civil War era.

I have found these lectures very entertaining and interesting to keep my mind occupied while getting my daily exercise on the treadmill at the YMCA or doing laps at the park. I just finished watching Gary W. Gallagher, Ph. D., author and professor at the University of Virginia and, most importantly, and excellent speaker. He presented a very entertaining and education talk on ‘Was 1863 and Gettysburg in

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particular the turning point in the war?’ In addition to the main topic he discussed the difference between history and memory and how it has affected our understanding of the Civil War.

Editor’s Corner

Your editor thanks the WVRA membership for returning him to job of the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch* editor. Just an added note. At the meeting on January 16, I took the minutes of the meeting. I missed some details, but tried to capture all the important points. It’s hard sometimes to participate in the discussions and take the notes.

Personals – Former WVRA member **Kelso Marple** died in late January. Kelso’s area of expertise was the artillery and if memory serves me correctly, he had his own mountain howitzer. But most of all, Kelso will be remembered as a reeanctor that all of us were happy to be around and friend that was fun to have around the campfire at night. Kelso and I served together as 4-H counselors at Harrison County camp back in the 70’s and he was popular with the 4-Hers. His son and grandson were also active with the WVRA in the 90’s.

WVRA friends Bill McVay and Tom Shepherd also have passed away. Bill was quite active in West Virginia reenacting. Ted was a member of the 11th Pennsylvania Reserves from Greensburg, Pa., who was often seen at Rich Mountain, Philippi and Jackson’s Mill in the 1980’s and 1990’s. Rumor has it, that KC Watterson and her husband are expecting. Thank you to Tim Glaser for serving as Treasurer. Living in North Carolina now, he has no access to Huntington Bank. Jim Barnes has volunteered to run for the office – and was elected. While strolling through the Gettysburg National Cemetery, I noted that “Bivouac of the Dead” was quoted on a number of plaques in the cemetery. For the full text, see Chris Johnson’s contribution to the December *Dispatch*. Dave Childs, Colonel Commanding, 1st Regiment, USV suffered a heart attack on January 4, 2016. He had recovered sufficiently to attend most of the USV annual meeting on Saturday, January 9. Dave marched with the 1st at New Market in 2014.

I would like to thank all the members who have contributed to the Dispatch in 2015, especially to Chris Johnson.

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 1st West Virginia and the 25th Virginia infantry units participate in, you must be a member of record.

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

WVRA website - wvra.org

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

Chuck Critchfield – editor

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Figure 1 - local reenactors at the burial of the crew of the CSS Hunley in 2004

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BALLOT

Sanctioned Event

Beverly Heritage Days – Centuries of History are scheduled for July 22 through July 24 at Beverly, W. Va. This event will be a “timeline” featuring living history and other programming from periods throughout Beverly’s history. By timeline, the intent is to allow living history from multiple time periods. Preliminary planning shows living historians from the pioneer and Native American, Civil War and World War II periods. However, other periods may be represented.

Mark your selection and return ballot to C. L. Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301 or by email (ccritch608@yahoo.com) before February 25, 2016.

_____ Yes, I am voting to make Beverly Heritage Days, July 22-24 a WVRA sanctioned event.

_____ No, I am voting to NOT make Beverly Heritage Days a WVRA sanctioned event.

_____ I am abstaining. I am not voting for or against.

Member name _____