

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2022- January - Edition CXXXIV

A Message From Our President

Well folks, it is that time of year when we start thinking about elections. This year, it is especially crucial. The same officers have been in in place for a long time. Chuck has been newsletter editor for a number of years, but he not only does a good job, he enjoys it and is willing to continue. Ken has said he is willing to continue as VP. Peter is willing to stick it out as web page manager for another year and Tim Glaser has agreed to replace him. So far so good. I have been president for 4 years and need a break. I would like to hand this off to someone else so I could just concentrate on recruiting and reenacting. Jack Rush has done an outstanding job as secretary/treasurer for at least 4 years (probably more) and doesn't want to do it any more.

Here is the crux of the matter. Just about anyone can be president. You schedule meetings, preside over them and just act as ambassador for the organization. Not rocket science.

Treasurer is another matter. It does take some basic money-handling skills and you do have to make deposits and write the occasional check. We are a nonprofit organization. We cannot exist without a treasurer. If we don't get anyone to do it, we may as well pack it in. Treasurer and secretary can be split up if we have enough candidates.

Covid ruined our year last year. This year we did a little better and we have picked up a few new members over the last couple of years. I think the WVRA provides a real service in keeping history alive in our state, and I don't want to see it fall by the wayside. But we need some people to step up.

We will be having a meeting in January at the Steak House in Weston. Probably around the

middle of the month. Watch the Trans-Allegheny Facebook page or contact your unit rep.

Anyone interested in running for an office should contact me or Chuck before January.

- Jim Barnes, President (from the December, 2021 - Dispatch)

Nominations to date:

President (NONE)

Vice President – KEN CONNELL

Secretary/Treasurer – (NONE)

Newsletter – CHUCK CRITCHFIELD

Webmaster – PETER BAXTER

Unit Rep (1st WV) – (NONE)

Unit Rep (25th Va) – BILL BRISENDINE

Unit Rep (Artillery) – DAVID JUDY

Unit Rep (TASAS) – (NONE)

Next Meeting

January, 15 2022, 1:00 pm, Panera Bread, at the intersection of Route 50 and I-79 on Bridgeport Hill. The Weston steak restaurant has gone out of business.

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE that all of the events in 2021-22 are dependent on the status of the pandemic. Please ensure that the event is not cancelled before attending.

Important note about the official calendar below. After some discussion at a recent meeting, it is the opinion of the group that liability insurance covers only events sanctioned by the WVRA. It is our opinion that to be sanctioned the event should at the minimum be listed on this calendar.

Sponsored

None at this time

Sanctioned (per by laws)

None at this time

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Other Events recommended by WVRA members

2022

Wild West event, April 23-24, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg

160th Battle of Shiloh, May 14-15, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg

June 24-26 Antique and Relic show

159th Gettysburg, July 2-3, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg.

Wild West event, August 20-21, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg

160th Antietam / Sharpsburg, September 17-18, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg.

World War II event (theme to be announced), Oct 29-30, Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg.

Events recommended by friends of WVRA Civil War

Battle of Buchanan, Va April 22-24

Battle of Saltville – Saltville, Virginia, August 19-21 tentative date

Battle of Dry Creek – White Sulfur Springs, West Virginia, August 19-21

Jeb Stuart Event - Ararant, Virginia, Sept. 30 – Oct. 2

Droop Mountain – Droop, West Virginia, Oct. 7 – 9

Time for Election of Officers

This is the time of year that we nominate and elect officers.

But stop before you read any further. Don't think that the same members are willing to run for re-election....yet again. Some have filled these positions for multiple years and its time for somebody else to step in. I hesitate to say this, but if we are to continue as an organization, we need

others to step up. Or we need to re-organize and change the by-laws.

Nominations to date:

President (NONE)

Vice President – KEN CONNELL

Secretary/Treasurer – (NONE)

Newsletter – CHUCK CRITCHFIELD

Webmaster – PETER BAXTER

Unit Rep (1st WV) – (NONE)

Unit Rep (25th Va) – BILL BRISENDINE

Unit Rep (Artillery) – DAVID JUDY

UNIT REP (TASAS) – (NONE)

Nominations can be sent to Jim Barnes or myself.
- Chuck Critchfield, editor.

Membership Renewal

It is time for members to renew their annual membership; new members to join or for former members to return to the fold. Dues are \$15 per year per person and \$25 per year for a family. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter there is an additional \$15 fee. The Email version of the newsletter is included in the membership. Check payable to WVRA. Dues can be sent to C. L. Critchfield, 608 Skyview Drive, Clarksburg, WV 26301. DO NOT SEND MEMBERSHIPS TO THE PO BOX IN BUCKHANNON.

Members who have renewed for 2022

1st West Virginia

Rick Byrd

Keith Kopshina

Kevin Skaggs

Mike Phillips

Chuck Critchfield

25th Virginia

Jeff Goff

Tag Ireland

Tim Glaser

Greg Watterson

Ken Connell

John Webb

Jim Allman

TASAS

Sherry Goff

Kenny Goff

Peter Baxter

Katie Goff

Morgan Goff

Phyllis Baxter

Artillery

David Judy

Susan Judy

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General

Bill Burrus
Judy Kopshina
Vinnie Mastroianni
Bill Snyder

Kyle Kopshina
Pam Critchfield
Hunter Lesser

Submitted by Jack Rush, Treasurer, WVRA

Newsletter Mailed
Bill Snyder

Upcoming Events

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

-- IMPORTANT NEWS --

Temporary Executive Committee Actions Still In Effect (October, 2020)

The following two proposals were approved by the five voting members of the Executive Committee in an email vote the last week of October. **NOTE – at the September, 2021 meeting, a motion was made and accepted to continue these actions until the next election of officers.**

PROPOSAL #1 “In light of the current pandemic and its effects on the hobby, the Executive Committee postpones the election of new officers of the WVRA until such time that the Committee determines that it is prudent to hold the ‘annual meeting’ in accordance with procedures described in the by laws.”

PROPOSAL #2 “The President shall have the authority to temporarily appoint, until the next duly conducted Association election, members to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee.”

If any member has a concern or question about this action, please contact President Jim Barnes or myself. These actions were simply in response to how the pandemic is affecting group meetings at the moment. Executive committee members are listed near the end of every newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

December 1-31, 2021	
Beginning balance	\$2456.53
Credits	
Memberships	\$ 195.00
Debits	
USV Dues (1 st W. Va.)	\$ 75.00
PO Box reimbursement	\$ 70.00
Ending Balance	\$2,506.53

Civil War Symposium

Rick Wolfe recently announced the revival of the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation's annual Civil War Symposium. This 12 noon – 5 pm event will be held on Saturday April 2, 2002 at the IOOF Hall in Beverly, West Virginia. Speakers include Steve French, Allan Tischler, Hunter Lesser and Cameron Mallow.

- Mason-Dixon Ledger, Dec. 2021

Civil War Roundtables

The SJCWRT meets the second Tuesday of each month except December and the summer months. This month's presentation will be at the FOP Restaurant in Nutter Fort (the FOP does NOT put another group in our room so the only thing we have to compete with is the radio background music). Colonel Pete Taylor is presenting January 11 at 6 pm on “Charles Lieb: the Most Hated Man in Clarksburg 1861-1862.” February's presenter is yours truly and the topic is titled “An Ordeal That Will Cause Many Tears to Fall.”

The Mason-Dixon Civil War Roundtable is meeting again in Morgantown. Meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month. Check their website for more information. I believe their talks will resume in February.

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

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Current WVRA Officers

Jim Barnes - President

Ken Connell - Vice President

Jack Rush - Secretary/Treasurer

Vacant - Unit Rep (TASAS)

Vacant - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)

Bill Brisendine - Unit Rep (25th Va. Infantry)

Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)

Webmaster - Peter Baxter

Editor - Chuck Critchfield

Note - Webmaster and Editor are non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

ATTENTION - 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. Karl 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

THIS NEWSLETTER - is pared down to the bare minimum featuring the information required by the by-laws and other pertinent information. In light of the issues facing the organization, I concentrated on those issues critical to the group at this time.

THANK YOU - Jack Rush and Mike Butler for contributions to this month's Trans-Allegheny Dispatch. Thank you to Peter Baxter for posting on the WVRA website.

NOMINATIONS for WVRA officers are due this month. We have had the same slate of Association officers for a few years now. I know Jack and Jim feel they have done their share and it's time for somebody to step up and lead the organization.

Membership renewal is sluggish so far this year. As of the printing of this newsletter, only 27 people are members and that translates to 18 individual or family units. We had 53 members last year, down about 15% primarily I think, because of the pandemic.

Now may be the time to discuss the future of the WVRA. Do we continue as is, with the current officer structure and organization structure which has a Federal, Confederate, Artillery and civilian unit representative? But no representative for other time periods. Do we reorganize into something different realizing that we are not in the field as often as we once were. Do we disband? In any event, to continue as an organization, we must have officers.

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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

"The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world."

- Robert Penn Warren



The Hero of Rich Mountain