

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
2017- Edition 3 - March

Upcoming Civil War Events

Sponsored Events

Rich Mountain – July 14-16 Beverly and on the battlefield.

Sanctioned Events

Living History – University High School, April 21, Morgantown

Events Recommended by WVRA members

New Market, Va – May 20-21 USV sanctioned
McConnellsville, Ohio – July 8-10

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

Cedar Creek – October 6-8 USV Sanctioned
Other – 2017

Marion Co. Historical Society – April 1 see facebook page

On to Richmond – June 2-4

Gettysburg – July 1-3

Jackson's Mill – Labor Day Weekend

Work continued to revise the by-laws to allow reenactors from other time periods of American History to join the WVRA. The proposed new by laws will be sent to members and posted on the WVRA website for review before the vote is held.

Minutes From February Meeting

February 4, 2017

Christ Episcopal Parish House Clarksburg

At 1:00 pm the meeting was called to order by Chuck Critchfield, since a President had not yet been elected. In attendance were 15 members.

1. Dues were collected from anyone that had not paid for this membership year. A membership list for the Cavalry members and the Artillery members was given to the group.
2. Chuck gave a short history of the CE Church's involvement in the Civil War and the war service of some of the early leaders of the church.
3. Treasurer's Report: The current bank statement had not been received yet. The balance had not changed since the last report. Jim Barnes did say he had sent a check for \$200 to the Soldier & Sailor Monument and a check for \$400 to University High School for their trip to Gettysburg. This had been approved at the January 7 meeting. The Treasurer's report will be published in the next newsletter.
4. Meeting Minutes: The minutes were published in the last newsletter. There were no questions or corrections concerning the minutes. Phyllis Baxter made motion to accept and Ken Connell seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously.
5. The Executive Committee meeting minutes were published in the last newsletter. It was discussed that the Treasurer and Secretary positions could be combined if the bylaws were amended to allow a person to hold two offices. With this thought, Jim B resigned the position of Treasurer and announced his intention to run for president. Jack Rush stated he would also run for Treasurer and

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, March 4, 1 pm at Weston Steak House, Exit 99 off of I-79. If you need directions, please contact me. Phil Caskey from University High School is scheduled to attend to discuss the living history (we have voted to SANCTION) at the school on April 21

FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The minutes from the meeting can be found elsewhere in this edition, (2017 – No. 3). But I will attempt a summary here of the more important issues discussed.

Foremost, the election of WVRA officers continued and the offices of President and Vice President were filled. Jim Barnes, who ran unopposed was selected as President and John Brasuk won a close vote over Bill Brisendine for Vice President. Stormy Brasuk was elected at Artillery Representative.

In other issues, the WVRA voted overwhelming to make the Rich Mountain/Beverly Timeline event a sponsored event and the living history at University High School a sanctioned event.

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017– Edition 3 – March

keep his position as Secretary. Jim B moved that the Executive Committee minutes be approved. John Brasuk seconded. Motion approved.

6. Elections: Jim B was nominated for President. Ken C moved that nominations be closed. Phyllis B seconded. Motion carried. After ballots counted Jim B was elected President.

The election for Vice President had Bill Brisendine running against John B. John B was elected.

The membership voted to sponsor the Rich Mountain event in July.

The membership voted to sanction the University High School living history event April 21.

7. The meeting was turned over to newly elected President Barnes.
The group broke into unit meetings:

Artillery: They voted Stormy Brasuk as their group representative. They are going to Artillery School in April to get their certifications. They are going to UHS.

25th Virginia: Nothing to report.

1st West Virginia: Going to UHS event. Soldiers need to register for New Market May 20-21 at VMI.edu.

TASAS: They talked about the civilian activities at the Beverly Event. Phyllis reported that Dianne Tennant said she would try to get Sylvia Hayhurst to coordinate a fashion show for the event.

8. Peter Baxter was at the meeting. He is doing well after his health problems. He is going to look at finding another web host that will be cheaper than the current one. Current rate is \$22.95 for 28 days.
9. Ed Chapdelaine was recently in an automobile accident and suffered a broken leg. He hopes to be back in the field in the future.
10. Information for the Beverly event has been posted on their web site.

11. Old business:

The proposed changes to the bylaws to allow other time periods to become members were discussed. The wording for several sections was gone over. The revised bylaws will be put on the website for everyone to review. The changes will be made by February 24 and will be voted on at the next meeting.

12. New business:

No information on a reenactment at Droop Mountain

Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation is holding a Civil War Symposium on April 1. Mylan Elementary School Program that the Dafts were helping with has been taken over by other people so no information.

Hackers Creek Library – they want to do CW programs for eighth grade classes.

25th Virginia only has 13 members so far. Jeff Goff will try to work out insurance with the ANV.

Tax forms for 2016 have been filed by Jack R.

Next group meeting tentatively will be March 4, 2017 at the Steer Steak House, Weston. Jim will call them to find out about room availability and advise. Check the next newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

J. Rush

February 11, 2017

Proposed By-Laws

A number of revisions to the WVRA by-laws have been proposed and will be voted upon at the March 4, 2017 meeting at the Weston Steak House. A copy of those by-laws will be made available the week before the meeting with a ballot to cast your absentee vote.

Primary changes are being proposed to allow members from other historical periods to join the WVRA.

Membership

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017- Edition 3 - March

Memberships for 2016 expired on Dec. 31, 2016. Please renew your membership. 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. Blank forms can be found at WVRA.org in the December newsletter. 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
Jennifer Smith
Diane Tennant (Unit Rep)
Patricia Carroll
Jakob Leshner
Sheri Goff and family

First West Virginia Infantry

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
Mark Tennant (Unit Rep)

25th Virginia Infantry

Jack Daft
Tag Ireland
Ken Connell
Tim Glaser (Unit Rep)
Jim Allman
Jay Allman
Thurman Shaver *
Dirk Behana
Greg Watterson
Jim Shaver
John Webb
Jeff Goff

1st Virginia Cavalry

John Brasuk (Unit Rep)
Arlene Falvo

James Quilliln
Cara Quillin
Aaron Edwards
Amanda Edwards
Job Miller
Bo Jacobs
C. H. Munro
Mike Poling

Artillery

Battery B
Stormy Brasuk (Unit Rep)
Mark Poling
Chuck McCormick
Jay McCord
Jacob McCord
Eli McCord
Amy McCord
Ed Falvo
Jenn Preville
Duane Miller
Mellissa Strobel
Aislinn Strobel
Raina Kellerman Egan

General Membership

The president is your representative

Hunter Lesser
Elizabeth Swiger
Ron Wenig
Debbie Wenig
Chris Taylor
Ralph McCready

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

Tag Ireland
Charles McCormick
Stormy Brasuk

Camp Bartow to be Preserved

*The following article is by **Rick Steelhammer** and was published recently in the Charleston Gazette- Mail*

The core section of Camp Bartow, a fortified encampment with still-visible earthworks built by 1,800 Confederate soldiers, has been preserved and will eventually be opened to the public following its recent purchase by the West Virginia Land Trust.

The encampment was built by soldiers from Georgia, Arkansas and Virginia who occupied the site for several months during the opening year of the Civil War, and it was used to fend off an attack by a much

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017- Edition 3 - March

larger Union force during the Oct. 3, 1861, Battle of Greenbrier River.

The 14-acre tract, bought with assistance from the national Civil War Trust, Pocahontas County Commission, state Division of Highways, Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike Alliance and First Energy Foundation, overlooks the East Fork of the Greenbrier River and borders a still-used segment of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike, a strategic east-west supply route during the Civil War.

The site also overlooks Travellers Repose, a 19th-century inn serving Turnpike users that was torched during the Civil War but rebuilt on the same site a few years after hostilities ended.

“Protection of this site represents a tremendous success towards the conservation of West Virginia’s historic and cultural resources,” said Ashton Berdine, lands program manager for the West Virginia Land Trust. “I am very proud that the story and lessons of this site will be preserved and available for all to visit and learn.”

After being routed by Union troops at Philippi in June of 1861, defeated again at the Battle of Rich Mountain near Beverly on July 11 and losing their commanding officer, Gen. Robert Garnett, to enemy fire during the Battle of Corricks Ford at Parsons three days later, the Confederate Army of the Northwest, retreated eastward to Monterey, Virginia, to rest, regroup and review plans to return.

In early August 1861, two Confederate brigades under the command of Brig. Gen. Henry R. Jackson returned to mountainous terrain of what is now West Virginia, marching into Pocahontas County on the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike. On Aug. 13, after descending Allegheny Mountain until the East Fork of the Greenbrier came into view, the Confederate force seized Travelers Repose and owner Andrew Yeager’s surrounding grazing land.

In the weeks that followed, the southerners blocked passage on the turnpike to Union troops and commerce, built a campground atop a nearby hill and developed a series of trenches, cannon emplacements and firing pits along the contours of hills overlooking the inn, river and turnpike. Jackson named the beehive of Confederate activity Camp Bartow in honor of fellow Georgian Francis Bartow,

an officer killed while rallying his troops during the Battle of Bull Run a few weeks earlier.

“It is very rare to be able to preserve and protect a Civil War encampment and battle site that has remained the same for more than 150 years,” said Hunter Lesser, of Elkins.

- See more at:
<http://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/20170211/west-virginia-land-trust-preserves-site-of-civil-war-battle-camp#sthash.fkxVlysG.dpuf>

Treasurers Report

Chuck,

Here is the Treasurer's report:

Beginning Balance \$4070.06

Credits \$479.00

Debits \$568.75

Checks paid (\$545.80)

Electronic w/d (\$22.95)

Service Charge (\$3.00)

Ending Balance \$3977.31

Submitted by Jim Barnes – Feb. 4, 2017

Centuries of History featuring the Battle of Rich Mountain

The WVRA has voted to SPONSOR the Beverly Heritage Days – Centuries of History, Featuring the Battle of Rich Mountain Reenactment on July 14, 15 and 16. Activities will take place at Beverly and at Field of Fire location at Camp Garnett.

This year will be a “better-than-ever joint event to commemorate the Battle of Rich Mountain and history of nearby Beverly, Randolph County. Civil War camps and reenactment on the Battlefield park property will be joined by timeline living history and multi-period camps in Beverly. Battle reenactment, living history scenarios, displays and music from the range of periods will bring exciting and educational activities for our visitors. Activities for spectators and participants will be shared between the two locations.”

Living History in Morgantown

Phil Caskey, the teacher at University High School in Morgantown who is organizing this living

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017- Edition 3 - March

history, will be on hand at our March 4 meeting in Weston. The WVRA has voted to sanction this event, scheduled for April 21.

WVRA Officers 2017 (executive board)

President - Jim Barnes

Vice President - John Brasuk

Treasurer - vacant

Secretary - Jack Rush

Newsletter editor - Chuck Critchfield*

Website - Peter Baxter*

1st W. Va. Rep - Chuck Critchfield

25th Va. Rep - Tim Glaser

1st Va. Cavalry - John Brasuk

Artillery - Stormy Brasuk

TASAS - Diane Tennant

* Non-voting member of executive board

*** 155 Years Ago ***

In January of 1862, the First Virginia was camped around Romney. According to C. J. Rawlings, six companies were detailed to accompany troops from other regiments out the Winchester Road to a "place called Blue's Gap." (*located 15 miles east of Romney where the North River passes through North River Mountain*). Here the Rebels maintained their outermost outpost to watch the Northerners. The Federals were commanded by Col. Samuel Dunning of the 5th Ohio. The First charged the gap while troops from Indiana and Ohio advanced up over the hills on either side. According to Rawlings, the First helped to capture two six-pounders and a few prisoners while the majority of the outnumbered Southerners escaped.

A few days later on the 10th, Joshua Winters describes "the Capton cum around at one o'clock a Friday morning, told us to git up and git redy to march. I tell you we got up in a hurry, got our breckfest and was redy to start at daylight..." But it wasn't until 6 pm they marched. "Evidently something was the matter, or camp would not thus be broken up and the regiment ordered to march at such an hour as this," Rawlings recorded. Plenty "was the matter." Stonewall Jackson was headed towards Romney.

The regiment marched north all night arriving at Springfield where it crossed the South Branch. Winters' diary noted "the mud was vary deap." Mud would be a constant companion as the Federal retreat continued towards Cumberland, Maryland.

The First would end up in camp at Patterson's Creek, where said creek entered the Potomac, several miles downstream from Cumberland. "It is the muddiest place I ever saw," wrote Winters to his sister. The First camped next to the railroad at Patterson's Creek "in mud almost as bad as it was possible to be. It was truly a miserable place for an ecampment, but suppose it was a fair strategic point," wrote Rawlings. Winters would note that "thair was about 9 thousand of us. It was araining. You might now how muddy it was after all them a goin. The mud was a running off the rode. In sum places it was over boot tops."

But not all was misery as the brigade received Sibley tents, "a great improvement on the small tents which up to that time had been in use." The Sibley's accommodated about 15 comfortably according to Rawlings. Winters said that there were 16 in his tent but also bragged that they had a stove in the middle "and we git along furstrate at night."

At this point the First was brigaded with the 7th Ohio and the 7th Indiana under the command of Colonel Tyler. Later the 29th Ohio was added. For much of February the First would be involved in short maneuvers in the cold winter weather, sometimes marching faster than the wagons could. This resulted in many cold nights without their tents, occasionally building shanties of brush and pine as shelter from the elements.

From - information on the wvculture.org site; Civil War Letters and Diary of Joshua Winters, edited by Elizabeth Davis Swiger; History of the First Regiment West Virginia Infantry by C. J. Rawling.

Sites of Interest

Beverlyheritagecenter.org - Beverly Heritage Center

WVRA.org - our website

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

Mason Dixon Civil War Round Table (Morgantown)

Yankees, Rebels and Rabble Rousers

The Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation is presenting a Civil War symposium on April 1, 2017 in Beverly at the IOOF Building starting at Noon. The theme of the day's presentations is "Commanders who inspired, astonished and bewildered!"

Schedule

Noon - Registration

12:45 pm - Welcome and Overview of RMBF - Rick Wolfe

1:00 pm - William Powell The Iron Man - Rick Wolfe

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association

2017- Edition 3 - March

1:45 – Robert E. Lee's Feuding Generals: Wise vs. Floyd – Hunter Lesser

3:00 – Colonel Joseph Thoburn and the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign – Scott Patchan

3:45 – Soldiers, Statesman and Politicians: Commanders of the 23rd Ohio – Dr. Billy Joe Peyton

After the afternoon speakers' program, Beverly Heritage Center will be offering a Springtime Soiree Dinner at the Heritage Center. Social hour and open house start at 4:30 and dinner is served at 6 pm.

The symposium fee is \$30 and \$15 for students. Dinner and Symposium are \$70 and dinner alone is \$45. For more information or RSVP please contact Beverly Heritage Center at 304-637-7424 or info@beverlyheritagecenter.org.

Editor's Corner

The Editor's chance to speak

THANK YOU – Thank you to Jim Barnes and Jack Rush for stepping up to leadership positions. Thanks to Jack for filing tax forms.

PERSONAL – Ed ChapdeLaine suffered a broken left leg in an automobile accident earlier this year. He seems to be on the mend and hopes to be back in the field in the future. It was great to see Peter Baxter at the February meeting.

MEMBERSHIP – Please renew your membership for the 2017 reenacting season. Remember that in the 1st West Virginia, insurance coverage is dependent on your paid membership within the 1st West Virginia.

DROOP MOUNTAIN – rumors persist about a Droop Mountain reenactment. There is apparently a possibility that Bryan's Battery with our help will hold a reenactment at Droop in 2017. We are waiting to hear from that group.

THANK YOU – Thanks to Peter Baxter for his help with the Dispatch.

FOR SALE – 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.

PUZZLED – I continue to be intrigued by references to the Civil War in current political discussion on social media. References to the fact that Democrats opposed the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments 150 years ago are being used to argue that the 21st Democrats

are racists. Nothing is said in these posts about the parties basically flip-flopping their political philosophies in the interim period. Also heard a voter describe how the 'forgotten' middle class white voting block came to support Trump in part because of Reconstruction. This voter then recited the "Lost Cause" version of Reconstruction.

DISAPPOINTED – Only received two absentee ballots for the annual elections.

NEWSLETTER – If you want the newsletter sent through the US Mail, please forward \$10 to cover the mailing costs.

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. TASAS members who are also spouses of 1st 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.

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

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Reenactors Association

2017 - Edition 3 - March

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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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The West Virginia Reenactors Association, Inc. (WVRA)

MARCH 2013 (proposed revisions 2017)

PAGE 1

ARTICLE 1~ NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1~ The name of this organization will be the “West Virginia Reenactors Association, INC.” also called the “WVRA” or “The Association”.

Section 2~ *The purpose of the WVRA will be to present the appearance and manners of typical citizens and soldiers of time periods from the American Colonial period up to 50 years prior to the present date* in as historically accurate a manner as possible. The WVRA will strive to improve and to encourage the hobby of reenacting within the state of West Virginia, to educate the public about America’s history as well as their allies and opponents and to otherwise commemorate and preserve America’s and our state’s historical heritage.

Section 3~ The nature of this organization will be volunteer and not-for-profit. No member or officer of the WVRA shall profit individually from participation in the WVRA.

Section 4~ Upon the dissolution of the West Virginia Reenactors Association (WVRA), the Executive Board or governing staff shall, after paying or making provisions for all liabilities of the WVRA, dispose of all assets of the WVRA in such a manner, or to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempted organization(s) under section 501c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Board or governing staff shall determine. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, directors, officers, or other private persons in the event of a sale of WVRA assets.

ARTICLE 2~ MEMBERSHIP

Section 1~ Membership is open to all persons at least 13 years old with a serious interest in Living History. Membership will not be denied on account of race, gender, creed, or national origin. Units may determine suitability of individual applicants for their particular unit impression, subject to Executive Board action.

Section 2~ New members may be admitted to the WVRA upon payment of dues and acceptance by the Executive Board. The Executive Board may designate one of its members to receive and accept routine membership applications, but denial of any application must be sustained by the whole Board in open vote. Any person refused membership may appeal for a vote of the whole membership present at any scheduled meeting of the WVRA, whose decision will be final.

Section 3~ Each new member will have completed a membership application. The Treasurer will certify that the new member has paid dues, by signing, dating, and supplying a membership card). The President or his/her designee will certify the initial membership type and/or chosen unit of the new member on the face of the application. This information will be collected and maintained by the Secretary, in cooperation with the other officers of the WVRA.

Section 4~ Persons less than 18 years old must have their membership application countersigned by their parent or legal guardian. Members must be at least 16 years of age to carry a firearm. Such members should also recognize that participation in specific events may be contingent on legal waiver or event rules requiring adult authority and/or minimum ages.

Section 5~ *Dues will be recommended by the executive committee and approved by* a Full Ballot Procedure of the whole membership. ‘Friends of the WVRA’ membership is set at the individual rate and is non-voting membership intended primary for other Civil War groups, reenactors or historical organizations.

Section 6~ The membership may choose to name a worthy person to be an Honorary Member. An Honorary Member has all rights of any other member, but will not pay dues.

Section 7~ Members will abide by all of the rules and regulations of the WVRA under the supervision of their Association officers. Any member who willfully violates WVRA rules, defies legitimate authority, or otherwise acts to jeopardize or disgrace the reputation of the WVRA or any of its component Units, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the Association. Disciplinary authority will be exercised by the member's Unit, or by the Executive Board in the case of General Members.

Section 8~ Individual WVRA members will elect to be either a Reenacting Member---who belongs to one of the reenacting units---or else a General Member—who chooses not to actively pursue a living history impression. New members may declare their preference when they join, and all members may change their preference by the Annual meeting. No member may change categories or Units otherwise without the express consent of the Executive Board.

Section 9~ Reenacting members are those members affiliated with one of the component Units, who actively participate in living history impressions, subject to the regulations and Officers of their chosen Unit. The rights, duties, and responsibilities of Reenacting Members are enumerated in Article 5 on Units.

Section 10~ General Members are those members-at-large who share and support the goals of the WVRA but do not participate directly in living history impressions. General Members may vote on any issue before the Association as a whole, but will not participate in Unit business. The President of the WVRA will serve as coordinator of all General Members, and be responsible for General members at events. General Members are subject to the same disciplinary action as reenacting Members and enjoy all the same rights. The Executive Board will serve as the disciplinary body in any case involving a General Member.

ARTICLE 3~ MEETINGS AND VOTING

Section 1~ General Meetings of the WVRA will be held at regular intervals with due notice to be published in the newsletter. **One General Meeting per year will be designated as an Annual meeting.** Members present at any scheduled General Meeting will constitute a quorum for conducting business.

Section 2~ Special Meetings may be called by the Executive Board if they need to consult the membership on short notice. Attempt must be made to notify all members of such meetings. A quorum of 1/3 of the membership must be present at a Special Meeting to transact business which is binding on the Association.

Section 3~ All members of the WVRA are entitled to one vote on General Association matters. To vote at the Annual meeting, members must have paid dues for the year following. Only members listed on a Unit roster will vote on that Unit's affairs.

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 to yield the final result.

Section 5 ~ The **Full Ballot Procedure** must be used in the following cases:

- A...ELECTION OF OFFICERS~ Nominations are made at the General Meeting preceding the Annual Meeting. Nominations can be made by nominating committees, Units, or individuals in person or by mail/email, and do not require a second. The election will then take place at the Annual meeting by secret ballot.
- B...AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS~ The Amendment must receive at least 2/3 of all votes cast to pass.

C...ADMISSION OF NEW UNITS~ Admission of new units must be recommended by the Executive Board, then approved by the membership voting by secret ballot.

D...SPONSORSHIP OF EVENTS~ Events must receive at least $2/3$ of all cast votes to be officially sponsored.

E...SANCTIONED EVENTS~ Events need a majority of votes to be Sanctioned.

F...APPEALS AND REVIEW~ Actions taken by the Officers and/or Executive Board may be put to a Full Ballot Procedure, which results are binding.

ARTICLE 4~ OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1~ Association Officers of the WVRA include the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Newsletter Editor, and the Web Master(s). These officers are all directly elected by the whole membership by means of the procedures specified in Article 3, and serve a one-year term. In the absence of enough candidates to fill each office individually, one individual may combine the duties of two offices. Each office has specific responsibilities:

A... PRESIDENT ~ Presides over all meetings of the general membership or the Executive Board. Appoints committees and delegates specific tasks or responsibilities as necessary. Serves as the leader of the General Members. The President may personally make emergency decisions if necessary, but his decisions are not binding on Association members unless ratified later by Executive Board.

B...VICE-PRESIDENT~ Presides over all meetings of the general membership or the Executive Board in the President's absence. Oversees the work of all committees. Performs other tasks as requested by the President.

C...TREASURER~ Receives and disburses Association funds. Provides a monthly accounting of: debits, credits, and balances to the Executive Board; Keeps account of dues payments by members; issues membership cards to paid members; ensures the post office box is maintained; at the death of member or member's loved one the Treasurer will take care of the WVRA donation in memory of that loved one's name; and provides such information to the Executive Board as required.

D...SECRETARY~ Takes complete and accurate minutes of all General and Executive Board Meetings; maintains necessary Association correspondence; keeps a current list of all dues-paid WVRA members; receives and accounts for Absentee Ballots; renews tax exempt status each year; and provides such information to the Executive Board as required.

E...NEWSLETTER EDITOR~ Composes and publishes the WVRA newsletter according to the provisions in Article 7. Composes and publishes all forms and other material as required by the Executive Board.

F...WEB-MASTER (S)~ Establishes, maintains, and provides timely updates on the www.wvra.org web site and the West Virginia Reenactors Association page on Facebook, according to the provisions in Article 8. Provides availability of all information, forms, calendars, newsletters, maintains domain name and other material as required by the Executive Board for the public and the membership to download and/or obtain for use.

Section 2~ Executive authority in the WVRA is vested in the **Executive Board**. The Executive Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of the WVRA together with the Unit representative from each component Unit of the Association. The Newsletter Editor and the Web-master(s) are non-voting members of the Executive Board.

A...The Executive Board will provide guidance to the Association and will establish and provide for the execution of all policies and procedures not in contradiction to the letter and/or spirit of these by-laws. The Executive Board will submit to a vote of the membership all issues designated in these Bylaws as requiring a Full Ballot Procedure, or as requiring a vote of the membership present at a General Meeting, or any other decisions they designate which affect the Association as a whole.

B...The Executive Board may meet at any time and place they mutually choose, but may not transact WVRA business without a quorum of at least $2/3$ of all voting Board members present. The Executive Board will report to the membership on its actions. Any member may observe any meeting of the Executive Board, and/or may ask to see the minutes of any meeting.

C... No member may hold two voting positions on the Executive Board simultaneously. In the case that one individual is elected to more than one office (Association officers or Unit Representatives) that individual's vote can still only be counted as one vote on the Executive Committee. No member may serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office on the Executive Board. Exceptions to this limit may be approved by the membership and/or Executive Board, due to lack of participation from the membership to hold offices.

D...In the case that the President of the WVRA should leave office before his or her term of office is completed, the Vice President will be elevated automatically to the office of President. Additionally, should any other of the other offices

(Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor) be vacated, the Executive Board should have the authority to appoint a replacement until the next elections.

ARTICLE 5~ UNITS

Section 1~ A “Unit” in the WVRA is defined as a subgroup of the WVRA members organized under one group name for a shared impression.

Section 2~ Present WVRA Units are:

- 1) Company A of the First Regiment of West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, U.S.V (Civil War)
- 2) Company B (The Upshur Grays) of the Twenty-Fifth Virginia Infantry, C.S.A
- 3) The Trans-Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society (TASAS)
- 4) Batteries A and B of the First West Virginia Light Artillery, U.S.V, **Lurty’s Battery CSA** and The Danville Artillery, CSA

5) Company K of the 6th West Virginia Cavalry and Company F of the 1st Virginia Cavalry
Others may be added as they are accepted into the organization.

Section 3~ All Unit members must be members of the WVRA. Reenacting Members of the WVRA must affiliate with one Unit of their choice. Each Unit Representative will maintain a current roster of their Unit members. Only those whose names are on that roster will be eligible to vote on Unit business or Officers. WVRA members listed on a Unit roster may participate with other member units at events.

Section 4~ Units will operate democratically on all matters of Unit business except while reenacting, when their relations will be determined by the historical probabilities of their respective impressions.

Section 5~ Each Unit will have a Representative on the Executive Board. This can be the Commander of the Unit, but may be any other person on the Unit Roster who is so elected at the Annual meeting. Unit Representatives serve a one-year term.

Section 6~ Rank in Civil War infantry Units will be elected for one-year terms in the Annual meeting. Rank grades are determined by the number (rounded to the nearest multiple of five) of private soldiers on the Unit roster who meet Unit equippage standards at the time of the March meeting. Ranks elected will not exceed the following proportions:

- 1 Corporal for every 5 Privates
- 1 Sergeant for every 10 Privates
- 1 Lieutenant for every 20 Privates
- 1 Captain for every 40 Privates

6A~ An exception to the above rule permits the 1st (West) Virginia to Elect a Captain.

Section 7~ The Trans-Allegheny Soldiers’ Aid Society may have one society President and two Associate Managers, one from each of the Union and Confederate sympathy. These officers will be elected for one-year terms at the Annual meeting. They will also elect a Representative to the Executive Board at that time, who may or may not hold other Unit office.

Section 8~ Civil War Artillery Units may have one Sergeant per gun, one Lieutenant per section of two guns, and 1 Captain per battery of four guns. Each gun may also have 2 Corporals, but the total number of ranks should not exceed the number of privates. Ranks will be elected for two-year terms at the Annual meeting. They will also elect a Representative to the Executive Board at that time, who may or may not hold other Unit office.

Section 9~ Civil War Cavalry Units will have one Captain and one Corporal. They will also elect a Representative to the Executive Board at that time, who may or may not hold other Unit office.

Section 10~ Periods earlier and later than the American Civil War will follow the above basic guidelines as appropriate to their particular time period.

Section 11~ Unit Commanders are responsible for the appearance and deportment of their Unit members at events. Unit members, in turn, are required to respect the legitimate authority of their Commander.

Section 12~ Each Unit will have established a written set of authentic uniform, clothing, and/or equipage standards which must be approved by the Executive Board and given to all Unit members. Unit members are expected to acquire necessary standard items as rapidly as their circumstances permit. Unit members who do not yet meet these standards may not be eligible for participation at all events, and are not to be counted in determining Unit Rank, but they may vote on all Unit business.

Section 13~ For continued failure to meet standards, for refusal to comply with legitimate orders of superiors while at events, for conduct unbecoming a WVRA member, or for any other just and sufficient cause, any member may be dismissed from his Unit by a 2/3rds vote of all members on the Unit roster. Members so accused will be given all common rights of due process, including the right to confront their accusers, to question witnesses, time to prepare a defense, examine the evidence, etc. Members so accused will have the right to resign at any time. Members dismissed by one Unit of the WVRA will have the right to apply for membership in another Unit. If no other Unit will accept them, they will forfeit their membership in the WVRA, and any previous paid dues will be refunded to them pro-rata on application to the Treasurer.

Section 14~ Any Association or Unit officer may be dismissed from his office by a 2/3rd vote of all those on the pertinent Unit or Association roster for continued failure to properly execute the duties of his office or for any offense enumerated in Article 5 Section 11. All rights of due process are to be allowed. Any office vacated through dismissal or resignation will be filled as soon as possible. If the office is in the military rank structure, all ranks will move up to fill the empty offices. If the post is a non-military one, the affected Unit or the Association will hold a vote to fill the office at the next regular scheduled meeting.

The replacement officer will serve until the regular elections at the following Annual meeting.

Section 15~ New Units may be formed in the following manner:

- A....At least three current WVRA members may present a proposal, first to the Executive Board, then, with their consent, to a WVRA general meeting. This proposal should state in full name of the proposed Unit, its history and significance, its intended uniform and equipage standards, how its information will benefit the WVRA, and a preliminary roster of its Unit members. No more than three present members of any one existing Unit may appear on this preliminary roster.
- B... This proposal will then be published and voted on using the Full Ballot Procedure. A majority of votes cast will create the new Unit.
- C....The new Unit may then elect appropriate ranks and a Unit Representative to the Executive Board, to serve until the following Annual meeting

ARTICLES 6~ EVENTS

Section 1~ The term “event” will mean any activity that the WVRA may be concerned with. Events include, but are not limited to, battle reenactments, living histories, educational presentations, etc.

Section 2~ All WVRA events will be placed on a calendar which will be printed in each issue of the newsletter and on the web site. Additional information on each event will be published as specified in the newsletters and on the web site.

Section 3~ WVRA events will be divided into three types: Sponsored Events, Sanctioned Events, and Suggested Events. The procedures for establishing each type of event and the rules governing each type are specified in the Section for each type, below:

Section 4 ~ Sponsored Events are those that the WVRA may initiate, organize, or administer on its own authority and responsibility. All WVRA members are requested to attend and to assist with the work of Sponsored Events.

- A. There will ordinarily be no more than 2 sponsored events in each calendar year. One of these may be a School of the Soldier drill and training event.
- B. Events to be sponsored must be voted on no less than 3 months before the scheduled event date.
- C. Members absent from two consecutive Sponsored Events will be subject to inquiry and appropriate action by the Executive Board.
- D. No event will be sponsored which exposes the WVRA or its members to unsecured legal or financial liability.
- E. Sponsored Events are established as follows: With the advice and consent of the Executive Board, a proposal is prepared by the Board and the initiating member(s). The proposal is as complete a plan for the event as possible, and

states whether or not a WVRA meeting will be held at the event. The proposal is then presented and voted on using the Full Ballot Procedure. A proposal is adopted as Sponsored when it receives a 2/3rds approval of the votes cast.

- F. The Executive Board will be responsible for all details of regulating, planning, and administering the event. They may assign and delegate duty posts to members as required. The President will oversee the satisfactory discharge of all members' duties and responsibilities.
- G. All available information on each Sponsored Event will be printed in the Newsletter at least twice: once when the proposal is submitted, and again in the issue before the event date.

Section 5 ~ 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. The following rules apply to Sanctioned Events:

- A.. There will be no more than 4 Sanctioned Events in each calendar year.
- B. Events to be Sanctioned must be voted on no less that 2 months before the scheduled event date.
- C. Events will not be sanctioned which exclude any member unit of the WVRA
- D. Events will not be sanctioned whose primary motive is individual or corporate profit.
- E. Sanctioned Events are established as follows: Any member may propose an event for Sanction at any meeting of the WVRA. If the member's proposal meets the rules and receives a second, it is presented and voted on using a Full Ballot Procedure. The event is Sanctioned when it receives a majority of the votes cast.
- F. For events requesting group registration, each Unit Representative will be responsible for the timely and accurate completion of all necessary registration materials for his unit, and the collection and transmission of all fees and other moneys required in a Sponsored or Sanctioned Event. The Unit Representative may delegate some other unit member to do this task for an event, but the Unit Representative is still responsible for seeing that registration and payment is correctly completed.
- G. Each Sanctioned Event will be fully publicized in at least one issue of the Newsletter prior to the event date. All necessary information about the event will be printed, including a map and/or directions to the event, schedules, regulations, etc.

Section 6 ~ Suggested Events are those which WVRA members may wish to bring to the attention of other members. Participation in Suggested Events is optional.

- A. There are no limits on the number and timing of Suggested Events.
- B. No member may be held to official disadvantage by the WVRA because of their non-attendance at a Suggested Event.
- C. No WVRA or Unit business may be conducted at a Suggested Event, unless an exception is approved in advance by a vote of the membership and duly published in the newsletter.
- D. Activities planned by the WVRA, but at which participation is not required may be treated as Suggested Events instead of Sponsored Events. Any event which includes invitations to other organizations from the WVRA must be treated as a Sponsored Event, however. Exceptions are the "Civil War Ball" and the "Blue and Gray Grand & Glorious Ole' Timers Reunion" which are hosted by the Trans Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society as recreational events for the membership. They can also be used as events to honor and recognize exceptional participation for the year to individual members.
- E. Events may be proposed as Suggested Events by any member at any meeting and do not require a vote. The proposing member may speak of the event for not more than 10 minutes initially and for not more than 5 minutes at any subsequent meeting. The member proposing the event will be personally responsible for communicating all relevant details to other members and for completing any necessary registrations forms, etc. The WVRA and its officers are not responsible for such events and will not be held liable for any outcome of such Suggested Events.

Section 7 ~ The Executive Board will compile a record of members' attendance at all classes of events, and may recognize exceptional participation at the end of the year by some appropriate means.

ARTICLE 7 ~ NEWSLETTER

Section 1 ~ The WVRA newsletter is established to support the goals of the Association, to assist in the conduct of business, to promote communication among reenactors, and to inform and advise the members and other interested parties of the people, issues, and events of interest to reenactors in and around West Virginia.

Section 2~ The newsletter will be issued **monthly** each year and more often as necessary.

Section 3 ~ The Executive Board will appropriate sufficient funds necessary for publication of the Newsletter, and may authorize the production and distribution of extra copies if desired.

Section 4 ~ Each issue of the Newsletter will contain:

- A. A Complete and accurate calendar of future WVRA events.
- B. Complete and detailed information on the next immediately upcoming events.
- C. Notice of the next upcoming meeting
- D. A report of the most recent meeting (Secretary Notes)
- E. A report of any issues to be voted on by Full Ballot Procedures, along with an absentee Ballot for such a vote.
- F. A Treasurer's Report.
- G. Any message offered by any officer of the WVRA, not to exceed one page in length.

Section 5 ~ Each issue of the Newsletter may contain:

- A. Reviews of past WVRA events.
- B. Letters or messages from any member or other correspondent.
- C. Stories, articles, artwork, or commentary and opinion by WVRA members.
- D. Other items of interest or concern to members of the Association.

Section 6 – The newsletter editor will publish the newsletter using any method that the editor would deem to be effective and efficient in reaching the membership. Any member wishing to receive a printed copy of the newsletter, must notify the editor in writing at the time that membership dues are renewed. The editor, with approval of the WVRA membership, may recover any additional printing and mailing costs through a yearly newsletter fee.

Section 7 ~Advertisements

- A.... Members can request an advertisement for free in the newsletter but they **MUST** be paid members. The ad cannot exceed ¼ newsletter page and will only be published when the newsletter editor deems that there is room to do so. And the ad work must be submitted to the newsletter editor.
- B... Non-members or businesses will need to pay the WVRA for the advertisement, unless they are known to the WVRA membership for their past support (sutlery or donations) at WVRA events. (March 2011 suggested)

ARTICLE 8 ~ WEB SITE

Section 1 ~ The Web-Master(s) are responsible for establishing and providing information to the membership and the public to support the goals of the Association, to assist in the conduct of business, to promote communication among reenactors, and to inform and advise the members and other interested parties of the people, issues, and events of interest to reenactors in and around West Virginia

Section 2 ~ The Executive Board will appropriate sufficient funds necessary for maintaining the host site for the web site and for maintaining the domain name, www.wvra.org.

Section 3~ The WVRA website should contain but is not limited to:

- A. A Complete and accurate calendar of future WVRA events.
- B. Complete and detailed information on the next immediately upcoming events.
- C. Notice of the next upcoming meeting
- D. Any Message offered by any officer of the WVRA, not to exceed the limited space as requested by the web master
- E. Reviews of past WVRA events. Or a Membership Forum
- F. Stories, articles, artwork, pictures, and historical information.
- G. Enrollment Forms, Application for Events and presentations, rules and regulations, by-laws, WVRA Event registration, Event Calendars, Unit information and needs for membership, and other important organization information as deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

Section 4~ Anyone wanting ads placed on the Web Site that are Businesses or non-members MUST pay for the advertisement. The advertisement (for members and non-members) will be limited to Name of business, Contact Name, Phone number, email and web site. . The cost amount to be determined by the Web Master.

ARTICLE 9 ~ ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1 ~ This Constitution and Bylaws will be adopted and take effect upon a favorable vote from 2/3rds of the total membership of the WVRA.

Section 2 ~ These Bylaws may be amended by a Full Ballot Procedure of the whole Association, with a 2/3rds vote of those cast required to pass the Amendment.

IMPORTANT OFFICER & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION (Reminders)

- 1~ WVRA Post Office Box dues are to be paid in November (Treasurer Duties) Also all past and present treasurer papers, reports must be turned over to newly elected Treasurers.
- 2~ Domain (WVRA.org) Name Must be paid and re-established in October 2019 (Web-Master Duties)
- 3 ~ Tax Exempt status needs renewed every year before March. (Secretary Duties)
- 4 ~ Memorial Donations of \$50 will be made to a Charity of Choice for any member or a member who has lost an immediate family member. (February 2011) Other donations may be collected from the membership if requested. (Treasurer Duties)
- 5 ~ All past and present Secretary notes must be recorded and passed on to the newly elected Secretary.
- 6~ All WVRA members MUST fill out a yearly application for membership, which is turned over to the Secretary/Treasurer for insurance purposes, Unit updates, WVRA Directory information, and grant information. Directory information will not be provided to anyone other than the WVRA membership.