

Trans-Allegheny Dispatch

The newsletter of the West Virginia Reenactors Association
Mid - February 2024 – Edition CLXII

Next Meeting

12-14 Fight at Funkstown Md.

21-23 Beverly Heritage Days

AUGUST

16-18 Fort Mulligan Day weekend
(2024) Petersburg WV

SEPTEMBER

??? Monterey Pass Battlefield Living History
Waynesboro Pa. (Washington Township)

22 –24 Hardy County WV Heritage Weekend
Lost River State Park Mathias WV or/and
Reenactment Moorefield WV City Park.

OCTOBER

6– 8 New date ??? Droop Mountain Battlefield
Re-enactment Droop Mountain Battlefield WV

18– 20 160th Cedar Creek Middletown Va

NOVEMBER

15 – 17 Remembrance Day Weekend Sat.
Parade - Gettysburg Pa.

DECEMBER

7 – 8 Harper's Ferry WV Christmas.

**(Note: Most of the events above were submitted by Rick Byrd. Rick advises that more information can be found at the following:
<http://myplace.frontier.com/~thirdwvcav/>**

Next Meeting

Vice President, Art Dodds has requested that WVRA hold the Annual Meeting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at the home of Art and Pam Dodds. Refreshments and beverages will be served.

The meeting will be held at the Dodds home which will be closer for our Eastern Panhandle members. The physical address is 196 Dodds Drive, Montrose, WV 26283. The Dodds wrote: "Most cars with GPS have no problem getting the directions; however, we realize some people

The Next Meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Art and Pam Dodds. See details below.

Upcoming Events

Important note about the official calendar below. After some discussion at a recent meeting, it is the opinion of the group that liability insurance is more likely to cover events sanctioned by the WVRA. It is our opinion that to be sanctioned the event should at the minimum be listed on this calendar. Addendum, January 2022. I discussed this issue with the insurance expert of the USV and he agrees that this is a gray area. There is some question whether the liability insurance would cover WVRA members only at sanctioned WVRA events or all events. He further agreed that publishing events in the newsletter may help to make them "official."

Sanctioned (per by laws)

None at this time

Other Events recommended by WVRA members

All events are subject to change of date and cancellation.

APRIL

12-14 Monterey Pass Battlefield, Re-enactment of the Union Cavalry Fight Waynesboro Pa.

MAY

10 – 12, ?? Date is still questionable
Martinsburg Round House Martinsburg WV

17-19 Fort Loudoun Military Time Line. Fort Loudon Pa.

JUNE

1 –2 Battle of Philippi (Philippi Races)

7-9 Old Bedford Village Bedford Pa

21-23 ? Canaan Valley State Park Resort, Davis WV 12-15 Union troops are needed.

JULY

5-7 Gettysburg 161st Anniversary at the Daniel Lady Farm -Gettysburg Pa.

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do have problems with their GPS or alternative maps. We assume people may be driving from Clarksburg/Bridgeport, Elkins/Beverly, or Petersburg/ Parsons.” To get the specific directions, I suggest emailing Art and Pam Dodds at pamelart@hughes.net or Chuck Critchfield at ccritch608@yahoo.com.

Secretary/Treasurers Report

FINANCES

For the time period January 1-30, 2023

Beginning Balance \$1,526.68

Deposits

Memberships \$95.00

Debits

None \$0.00

Ending Balance \$1,621.68

As reported by Rick Byrd, Treasurer/Secretary
WVRA

OTHER DUTIES

Secretary/Treasurer Rick Byrd also reports that he has e-filed the Form 990-N with the IRS.

Where Things Stand

As of this day, February 15, we have the following members nominated for WVRA offices. **Nominations are still open until we vote on March 23!!**

President – Art DoddsLas

Vice president – John Arnold

Secretary/Treasurer – Rick Byrd

Unit Reps

*1st West Virginia – Chuck Critchfield**

*25th Virginia – Bill Brisendine**

*Artillery – David Judy**

TASAS – Pam Dodds

Webmaster – Tim Glaser

Newsletter – Chuck Critchfield

****-have stated they will stand for election if nobody else volunteers to run for this office.***

Officers must be elected by Full Ballot Procedure. An absentee ballot will be published in the next newsletter in March. Also,

nomination can be made at the Annual Meeting. There will be more information in the next newsletter in March.

Insurance

The new limited liability insurance policy went into effect on April 23, 2023. If you need a copy of the insurance certificate, please contact Secretary/ Treasurer Rick Byrd. Only current 2023 members are covered. Additionally, you must abide by the by-laws of the WVRA to qualify.

I am aware of another reenacting organization that was hit with a hefty increase in their liability insurance policy this year. I do not know if that will happen to us or not.

Executive Board Action

Below is listed action taken this past week by the Executive Board.

TO: Andrew Valentine – President

Art Dodds – Vice President

Rick Byrd – Secretary/Treasurer

Chuck Critchfield – Unit Rep (1 WV)

Bill Brisendine – Unit Rep (25 Va)

David Judy – Unit Rep (Artillery)

Pam Dodds – Unit Rep (TASAS)

I do not want to make this call by myself. Art Dodds has called for a meeting on March 23, and has designated that meeting as the Annual Meeting. There is no problem with that except it does bring us into conflict with By Law, Article 3, Section 4, Full Ballot Procedure. Which paraphrased says issues must be brought up at one meeting, then published in the newsletter with absentee ballot and then voted on in a second later meeting.

In particular, the electing of officers, which is covered by the Full Ballot Procedure, is described in 3-5-A. Paraphrasing that section, nominations of officers shall be completed at the General Meeting preceding the Annual Meeting. The absentee ballot published in a newsletter and then the actual election held at the Annual Meeting.

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What we are proposing to do is in violation of 3-5-a. And I don't want to make that call without the approval of the Executive Board. So I am making the following motion to the Executive Board for an email vote.

MOTION: Due to the extraordinary circumstances now confronting the Executive Board, it is moved that Article 3, Section 5, item A be waived for the 2024 election of Association officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Unit Representatives, newsletter editor and webmaster). As the newsletter has called for nominations of officers in the November, December, January, and February newsletters, the Executive Board proposes to skip the General Meeting prior to the scheduled March 23 Annual Meeting. The Annual meeting will be announced in the Mid-February newsletter along with the slate of nominations and an invitation for more nominations. Those nominations and the absentee ballot will be published in the March newsletter. After the annual meeting, the waiver of 3-5-A will be terminated.

Motion Seconded electronically by Art Dodds.

Six members of the Executive Board voted “yes” and one member did not respond.
Motion carried unanimously.

Chuck Critchfield
Newsletter Editor

Membership

It is time to renew membership in the WVRA for 2024. I have attached a membership renewal form to this email. Dues remain \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families. Family memberships are restricted to parents and children up to college age.

Dues are needed to cover the cost of the liability insurance policy, mailing the newsletter once a year, unit money and miscellaneous expenses. If dues are not received by May 1, the WVRA by-

laws stipulate that you will be dropped from the membership rolls.

If you would like the newsletter sent to you through the U.S. Mail, the cost is an additional \$15 to cover the mailing cost.

Membership Renewals

25th Virginia

Greg Watterson

Tag Ireland*

General

Hunter Lesser

Keith Kopshina

Kyle Kopshina

Joan Kopshina

Mary Mullenax

John Arnold

Emilija Arnold

1st West Virginia

Ron Wenig

John Ziolkowski

David Starliper

Mike Phillips*

Chuck Critchfield

TASAS

Debbie Wenig

Phyllis Baxter*

Peter Baxter*

Bill Snyder*

Artillery

David Judy

Sue Judy

*Life members

Upcoming Events

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

Beverly Heritage Days

Beverly Heritage Day is being planned for July 20, 2024. This will be a timeline event, with all relevant historical periods welcome for living history or programming. The event is organized by Beverly Heritage Center, and WVRA is again asked to sponsor (help host) the event. Anyone interested in helping with planning (occasional virtual meetings) please contact Phyllis Baxter phyllisbwv@gmail.com or Marisa Terwilliger info@beverlyheritagecenter.org. We will share more soon about plans and special features for the event - please put it on your calendars now!

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Clarksburg History Museum

The Clarksburg History Museum plans to resume its Civil War tours in the spring. Once I have any details, I will publish. Pam and Art Dodds have been the contact for civilian impressions. Keith Kopshina is the contact for military impressions. I can provide general information.

Clarksburg Cemetery Request

I was contacted by Shaun Jedju who has been involved with restoring cemeteries in Harrison County including the cemetery where John Carlile, Nathan Goff and other Civil War veterans are buried. He is seeking a reenactor with knowledge of Civil War era burials, burial customs, and related knowledge. He can be contacted at shaunmjedju@hcwvc-pa.org.

(Editor's Note; Mr. Jedju had committed to providing more information to me. To date, to my knowledge, I have not received anything from him)

Other Features

Pvt. Arnold's 2 Cents Picket Line Report

Howdy W.V.R.A. members,

I hope and pray that this month finds you-all healthy & well. As our so-called winter quarters keeps us warm and dry.

As we may be trying to improve our health to get ready for the spring campaign. We could think of our forefathers' and mothers' lives, we live a very easy life compared to them.

During This time of year as we think of our modern ♥ loved ones and families, I also feel for the heartbreaks of our past greater generations of families and Americans that had their hearts torn apart.

As a reenactor & veteran myself, I do not want their love for their beliefs, hardships, misery, hard work, or the pain they went

through to be forgotten or rewritten or slowly erased.

As for myself it keeps my spirits up to take some time in the weeks of cabin fever to go through my equipment and supplies. Wow, I thought many items were o.k., ha, ha,.

Well leathers need to be treated, rubber items like gum blankets/poncho's need treated, tin & metal reconditioned and protected, sewing and mending, making wood boxes in order to not take farby as much plastic to camp. Yes there's not many events yet but taking the time to do this now will make life less stressful for myself later. It's satisfying getting organized and prepared, the fun part is saving up to get new items, especially now.

I've also taking on a Calvary impression. I've also taken the time to do much more research in order to be a better reenactor even though I've been doing this for quite many years. Always room for improvement and also planning on some first person acting and event scenario idea to share with others. Such as I'm planning on making a recruiting booth with red white and blue bunting and music, need some pretty ladies to go along with it, hee, hee,. As Civil war is my main historical era, I look to do some Revolutionary & French & Indian aka -The Seven Years War period also.

It may be more easily to recruit new W.V.R.A. into the civilian with the Trans -Allegheny Soldiers Aid Society for new W.V.R.A. members at first. Newer members may find it easier and less expensive to at least get folks started in the hobby.

I may try to recruit some World War II to Beverly's timeline event. That era had grown tremendously in areas of the country.

I have news, I have been writing to the -period weapon manufacturers and suppliers like Armisports and Taylor-Arms, Dixie, Uberty, etc,,. about inquiring and requesting the sutlers and mercantile to be resupplied

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and putting a couple other models back into the production line. Well, Uberti has written back and said the Smith carbine and a few other models should be available in the middle or end of May. Taylor Arms said they would also keep pushing the manufacturers. That's hopeful good news for the reenactment community.

I was unhappy to hear the closing or retiring of a couple mercantiles hang up their spurs like the Quartermaster Shop in Michigan and Panther Primitives of West Virginia. But those folks want to enjoy their own personal retirements too, besides it gives new upcoming companies/mercantile/sutlers a good chance also. The Maryland Sutler really has expanded, new good sutlers like Prisimmon Hill forge from Eastern Ohio and Riverside civil war shop near Huntington, WV. and several other new ones opened or are new to me anyway.

I encourage all members to try and get at least one or two new members to join this year and take back any former W.V.R.A. members to come back into the fold of a fun and caring community as I was invited back. Oil your muskets find a target, take good aim and successfully recruit that future member.

As a soldier once told his commander why he always kept a pencil near his ear, "Sir, that's how I always draw my conclusions on matters of war."

Thank you all for hearing a privates 2 cent concerns.

- Private John Arnold

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

2023 WVRA Officers

Andrew Valentine - President

Art Dodds - Vice President

Rick Byrd - Secretary/Treasurer

Pam Dodds - (TASAS) Unit Representative

Chuck Critchfield - Unit Rep (1st W. Va. Infantry)

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

Dave Judy - Unit Rep (artillery)

Webmaster - Tim Glaser

Editor - Chuck Critchfield

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

Unit Field Officers

(Continue in effect until further notice. See minutes of January, 2022 meeting)

ATTENTION - Please do not send any correspondence to the former 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

THANK YOU to Rick Byrd for all his efforts and contributions to this issue. Thank you to John Arnold!! This is an abbreviated issue. I have personal commitments that will be taking up a lot of time between now and July. I injured my right arm last month, which makes it difficult to type for any extended period of time. (Also can't hold an Enfield.) Thank you to Art and Pam Dodds for scheduling a meeting. Thank you to the Executive Board for responding quickly to the recent emails. Thank you to all members who served in an officers role in 2023.

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SPEAKING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD...the recent email motion and vote by the Board was in response to the current situation facing the WVRA. The By Laws require the election of officers by March. These elections are conducted by Full Ballot procedure which states (I am paraphrasing here) that nominations be made at a General Meeting, then published with an absentee ballot in the newsletter and then the election be held at the Annual Meeting.

Well, the Executive Board failed to call a General Meeting. But the newsletter has been asking for and receiving nominations for the WVRA offices. We have at least one member nominated for each office. So the Executive Board has approved a temporary suspension (2024 only) of the General Meeting requirement of the Full Ballot Procedure. Nominations are still being accepted for all the WVRA offices and can be submitted to any officer of the WVRA and probably to me so I can publish in the March issue of the Trans-Allegheny Dispatch with the absentee ballot.

All this was done, not for any nefarious purpose, but only in the interest of moving the WVRA forward. Of course, if there are any objections, those concerns can be raised and discussed at the Annual Meeting. If you have concerns and cannot attend the Annual Meeting, then convey your concerns to your Unit Rep or Vice President Art Dodds, who is probably the highest ranking active member at this time.

IN 2023 I put on the uniform more times than the previous five years combined. That's not really saying much thanks to Covid and my health uncertainty. Everything I did was living history or school presentation. Yet, it was still a chance to put on the wools, the leathers and shoulder my Enfield while speaking to the public. Art and Pam Dodds have been very active also. I noted their picture in a local newspaper and I believe they have participated in the Clarksburg History Museum's Civil War tours.

ANY MEMBER who wants to contribute to the *Trans-Allegheny Dispatch* is encouraged to do so. I get very few items from members. Anyone who has an opposite point of view to mine, I encourage them to respond. I certainly have expressed some opinions that others might want to rebut.

So, I am relying on those active at events for event reviews.

ADDRESS – The WVRA has a new official address. The new address is WVRA, PO Box 227, Beverly, WV, 26253. However, any correspondence about dues, membership, newsletter, etc., should be sent to me. THE OLD BUCKHANNON PO BOX IS EXPIRING. If any mail comes to the Beverly PO Box, the Beverly Heritage folks will contact me. My address will be changing May 1, so stand by.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW who is a member of the WVRA and who is not, please ask Rick Byrd or myself. I usually publish the membership list in the newsletter for a few months for all to see. But some members are uncomfortable with the list being published.

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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
Chuck Critchfield - Editor
608 Skyview Drive
Clarksburg, WV 26301
ccritch608@yahoo.com

"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

"History is dangerous. It goes after our myths and our identities."

- Brig. Gen. (ret) Ty Seidule after receiving death threats for writing about history

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

- Robert Penn Warren

All history is revisionist. By its very nature, the moment it is committed to memory it has been revised.

- Paraphrased from several historians

"The People made their recollection fit in with their suffering"

-Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War

"History and memory aren't the same thing."

- Me