

ACWSA Michigan Meeting Minutes February 18th, 2012

Blue Water Sportsman's Association ("BWSA")
Kimball Twp., MI

Meeting called to order by Dan Gibson (ACWSA Deputy Commander) at 11:05 am.

Roll call was taken as follows:

Teams in attendance: 1st Michigan Infantry (Bruce Miller), 1st South Carolina Volunteers (Sean Buckert), 2nd Texas Sharpshooters (Doug Reed), 7th Wisconsin (Mike Zandarski), 8th Arkansas (John Schember), 8th Michigan (Harold Sanford), 15th Virginia Cavalry (Gerry Decoster*), Dygerts Company (Peter Simpson), Loomis' Battery (Fritz Brohn), and Richmond Purcell's Battery (Jim Boeder).

* - denotes representative on behalf of absent team commander

Teams not attending: 4th Michigan, 18th Indiana Battery and Quantrill's Missouri Partisans

ACWSA officers, committee members, and appointees present:

ACWSA organizational officers

Bob Chabalowski	Commander
Daniel Gibson	Deputy Commander
Norm Gibson	Artillery Officer

Michigan Region only

Daniel Gibson	Regional Commander
Wally Gibson	Adjutant
Robert Hubbard	Inspector General
Brian Haack	Small Arms
Fritz Brohn	By-Laws
Chris Einowski	By-Laws
Bruce Miller	By-Laws
Dianne Gibson	Newsletter / Medical

Opening Remarks

Dan Gibson thanked all members and team representatives in attendance. A special thank you was also issued to Mike Zandarski and Brian Haack not only for their work in setting up the meeting at BWSA, but also for their ongoing efforts in representing the ACWSA with respect to Blue Water. Dan also thanked Don Iveson and Dianne Gibson for getting the room setup and the food ready for the meeting.

Approval of prior meeting minutes

Wally Gibson reported that there were two prior issues voted on since the publishing of the February 19th, 2011 meeting minutes. The first was the approval of the Skirmish Rules via electronic vote of the team commanders. The second issue was retaining the \$15 level of annual dues for 2012 with \$10 going to the ACWSA organization and \$5 being assessed as Michigan Regional dues. The vote for the dues level was made by written consent of the team commanders at the Blue Water shoot last year. There were no dissenting votes on either issue.

Motion made by the 7th Wisconsin to approve the Minutes as previously published. Motion seconded by 1st South Carolina. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

ACWSA Commander's Report (Bob Chabalowski)

Bob explained that the ACWSA meets twice a year. There is a meeting conducted in the fall, around September, for the purpose of setting the preliminary schedule for the upcoming year. The second meeting is held each year in February. All ACWSA minutes from the meetings are posted to the ACWSA's website (www.acwsa.org/Pages/By%20Laws.htm). Bob requested that the minutes from this meeting be forwarded to Gary Van Kauwenbergh as soon as they are completed so that they can also be posted to the website.

Gary will be revamping the ACWSA organizational website using a special program available to 501(c)(3) organizations for \$25. He also indicated that this program would be available for our region as well. Bob stated that Dan Graff has done an excellent job in preparing the organization's By-Laws and that we are well on our way to 501(c)(3) status which will permit members to write-off their shooting expenses as a deductible charitable/educational expense. The last remaining step prior to submitting for 501(c)(3) status is the approval of the By-Laws and then we can move forward. There was some general discussion related to the ability to deduct expenses at the state level. The write-off will be at a federal level only on Schedule A as Michigan has no write-off available at the state level.

Copies of the budget from last week's meeting were distributed to each team. Bob reported that the ACWSA's organization's budget had an expected balance of \$3,188.96. He also stated that our dues of \$10 covered our insurance premiums as well as other organizational expenses such as the recent purchase of award ribbons.

The ACWSA Adjutant's computer had some issues with the organization's roster, but the issues have been resolved. The Michigan region's roster is also maintained separately by Wally and is in good order.

The 6th Wisconsin and the Iron Brigade have merged.

There will be a wedding held at the Bristol shoot sometime in between the weekend's events.

Bob recapped the ACWSA's officer positions (see attachment to these minutes). Once the ACWSA's By-Laws are completed, the office of Commander and Deputy Commander will transfer between regions on an alternating basis each election cycle. This would also hold true when additional regions are added. The reasoning is to give every region equal opportunity rather than having one demographic area having a monopoly on the organization's officer positions.

Everyone from the Michigan region is invited to come over to Wisconsin / Illinois shooting events either as an individual competitor or with others as a mixed team. Brian Haack has been over to multiple events and commented that the Kenosha Civil War Museum alone is worth the drive all by itself. The shoot would be an "added bonus".

After much work, the organization's Artillery Rules, Mortar Rules and By-Laws were approved by the Wisconsin / Illinois region at last week's meeting. They are pending our region's vote. Bob then went over some final modifications made to the By-Laws. Among other changes, events held in conjunction with the N-SSA will now be referred to as "joint skirmishes" rather than "friendship skirmishes".

Finally, Bob indicated that our small arms committee should come up with the firearms that we want approved and submit them to the Board. Any firearm submitted for use should have documentation supporting the use in the Civil War. If an individual wants to have a special firearm added to the listing, it will be up to them to do the research and provide the supporting documentation. Depending on timing, approval may be done by electronic vote via the internet. Mike Baker (8th MI) wanted to know what was on the current list. Brian Haack responded that the current list would continue to be inclusive of any N-SSA approved firearm and that if any individual was looking to build a special firearm, they should contact the small arms committee prior to beginning the endeavor.

Michigan Regional Commander's Report (Daniel Gibson)

Dan reported that the Michigan Region now has the usage of two new storage buildings at Richmond and Blue Water. This permits us to maintain all needed supplies on-site. The Richmond building now has shelving and electricity installed. The Blue Water building is in the process of having shelving installed. Dan thanked all the volunteers who stained and painted the buildings and built the shelving. Special thanks to George Vermeulen for fantastic work on the paint job and to Norm Gibson for work on construction of the shelves. Dan also thanked Mike and Sheila Lauer for their generous financial support which has permitted us to acquire duplicate materials for each location. Brian Haack stated that Blue Water put up the funds for the building in appreciation of ACWSA members' support of their gun club including participation in various events such as their in-door .22 shoots and woods walk events. Norm Gibson stated that the 1st South Carolina put up the funds for the Richmond building with funds to be paid back in installments as the Michigan Region has funds available.

A special thank you was made to Brian Haack, Mike Zandarski and everyone else affiliated with the Blue Water Sportsman's Association for their efforts in maintaining a favorable relationship with the club. A special thank you was also issued to Blue Water for their extensive support of the ACWSA. Dan also thanked Brian and Mike for their work in constructing our metal gongs for dumping rounds.

Dan recapped the following items of special note which took place during the 2011 season:

- Acquisition of a new rectangular shaped metal target.
- The special charity event for the Special Olympics of Michigan raised over \$5,555 in donations and was viewed very favorably.
- Participation in Coldwater's Memorial Day reenactment.
- Participation in Northville's Historical Village July 4th public demonstration which was well attended by a very large crowd.
- 2nd Texas Brigade event – well received by shooters. Confederates won again, but we are mostly Confederate so the Union is largely outnumbered.

Michigan Regional Adjutant's Report (Wally Gibson)

The Michigan Region's bank account now stands at \$2,755.21. Up until now, the expenses for our shooting events have been paid for on a cash basis in exchange for the applicable receipt. Now that we are maintaining an ongoing fund balance, we will be preparing an annual budget. A certain amount of the funds must be maintained as a cushion for rainy day (literally) events where we have incurred expenses but a low turnout due to poor weather conditions.

The 146th New York has merged with the 7th Wisconsin. The USS Michigan Landing Party did not renew as a team, but there are two individuals from their team who have pending renewals. The total number of Michigan region members renewing for the 2012 season, including those pending, is 145. It was pointed out that at our high point, we had over 240 members. Well over 90% of those who have dropped off the roster never even attended a shoot. As a result, there should be no discernible difference in participation levels at our events. Bob Chabalowski commented that it was not a bad thing to drop non-participating members off the roster as we pay for insurance based on the number of members participating.

Michigan Regional Inspector General's Report (Robert Hubbard)

No report.

Michigan Regional By-Law Committee Report

No report. Dan has requested that members of this committee meet briefly following the meeting to discuss our region's specific operating procedures so that the regional by-laws can be drafted.

Old Business

Dan reported that we had two ballot issues during the 2011 season. The first ballot issue was related to the approval of the Skirmish Rules. This was completed electronically and was promptly responded to by team commanders. The second issue requested via email, related to the level of our 2012 dues, had limited response and needed to be followed up in writing at the following shooting event. The 8th Arkansas prefers on-site discussion and voting on issues. The 8th Michigan indicated they liked the email process for addressing the issues. A compromise was made that we would disseminate the information electronically with the vote to be held in person at the next following event.

Our building at Richmond is in good order. Doug Reed acquired cardboard for the organization which is currently at the Richmond site. A work party will need to be put together to cut the cardboard to standard dimensions. The Blue Water building is in need of shelving to make it more user-friendly. Also, Blue Water has approved new target frame holes for the 50 yard line. This will allow us to take apart the "T" style frame legs and save room in the storage building. Blue Water will need a work party to get these items completed. Please try to have a representative or two from each team come on out to help with these projects. The more people available, the quicker the projects will get completed. More information will be provided when the work projects are scheduled.

The regional By-Laws will need to be completed soon so we can formalize our operating procedures.

The Ashley Range inspection was completed by Brian Haack and Norm Gibson. Norm reported that they have a large clubhouse with one trap field. The field is cleared well enough for camping with one sandy spot that could be used for tents. There is also camping near the road way. There appears to be enough camping for our needs, but you should be considerate when setting up to ensure we are being compact enough to fit everyone. Their rifle range has a small berm about 85 feet long. This should be good enough for what we do. The berm is of low height so our cross-arms will need to be lowered accordingly. Also, care should be taken to bring up firearms from the ground up – no skying. There is the possibility for 100 yards, but the recommendation is to keep at 50 yards, and possibly 75 yards, for now. Artillery is also a possibility except for the Williams Gun and any smoothbores. The club will be handling concessions and will supply a port-a-john. We will run a full skirmish including mortar. It was noticed that the signage near the road mentioned a local 4H club. We will see what we can do to get them involved. As such, please bring extra ammo for spectator participation. The club will also be inviting other gun clubs in the area to come see us shoot. Norm offered an “us versus them” demo event, but doesn’t think there is much interest on their end. There are no regulations on shooting times. A question came up about location. Ashley is north of Lainsburg. Brian Haack attempted to draw a map of Michigan on the chalkboard to identify the location, but instead demonstrated why engineers should not be artists (see attached picture). Norm and Dianne are looking for quality hotels in the area and will get info out.

Dan called for any other old business. Seeing none the meeting proceeded to New Business.

New Business

2012 Schedule of Events - Dan went over the 2012 Michigan Region Schedule of Events as stated in the agenda. He asked for teams to volunteer for host duties. Everyone was reminded that hosting is mostly a matter of setting up the schedule of events and prepping the targeting. All members are expected to participate in assisting the host units with running the weekend’s events. Host teams were assigned to all events. Please refer to the attachment to these minutes for the details.

The August 11th – 12th shoot hosted by the 1st South Carolina at Richmond will be an “Appreciation Event” to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the establishment of the ACWSA Michigan Region. There will be no entry fees charged for the weekend’s events. Everything will be free.

Discussion was had regarding continuing our charity event for the 3rd consecutive year. Some suggestions for charities were the Disabled American Veterans, the Alzheimers’ Foundation and St. Judes Children Hospital. **Motion** made by the 2nd Texas to name the Disabled American Veterans as this year’s charity. Motion seconded by the 15th Virginia Cavalry. Dygerts’ Sharpshooters suggested the other two charities be put back into the queue for consideration next year. In tradition of tying our charity events to our membership, Chris Hubbard suggested the donation be made in the name of recently deceased veteran, Wallace Gibson. **Motion carried.**

Meeting recessed for lunch break at 12:40 pm.

Meeting re-adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Motion made by 7th Wisconsin to donate the charity event proceeds in the name of Wallace Gibson. Motion seconded by the 8th Arkansas. **Motion carried.**

Norm went over the final modifications to the artillery rules. He indicated that he was not in full agreement philosophically with everything, but pragmatically he felt it was a good set of rules. It was noted that due to the revisions made, the numbering of the sections was not in order. These will be corrected and republished. Norm recommended that the artillery rules be approved. **Motion** made by the 7th Wisconsin to approve the final artillery rules. Motion seconded by Loomis Battery. **Motion carried.**

Norm went over the final modifications to the mortar rules. He indicated that there was a substantial amount of back and forth discussion between the two regions. Due to distinctly different usage of mortars between the two regions, it was difficult to get rules established to cover everything. This was resolved by the implementation of different competition classes which may optionally be combined into a single class at an event if approved by the mortar team commanders and shoot director.

Motion made by the 7th Wisconsin to amend Section 10 of the mortar rules to permit mortar to use FF or coarser granulations. Motion seconded by 1st South Carolina. No discussion. **Motion carried.**

Norm recommended acceptance of the rules as amended today. **Motion** made by the 7th Wisconsin to accept the mortar rules with amendment to Section 10. Motion seconded by the 15th Virginia Cavalry. No discussion. **Motion carried.** Dan then thanked Norm for his extensive work on the Artillery and Mortar rules. Bob also thanked Norm for his efforts on behalf of the Wisconsin / Illinois region.

Bob Chabalowski then went over the ACWSA By-Laws previously distributed to the membership. He went over some last minute changes as follows:

- Combined shoots are now referenced throughout as a “joint” rather than a “friendship” skirmish.
- Correction for a typo in Article Two, Section Four, Item 7 – “No person may maintain individual membership in more than one ACWSA member organization at the same time.”
- Article 4, Section One, Item 5 has revised wording for the appeals process.

Norm wanted to get on record as saying the finances for the WI / IL region and the ACWSA organization may need to be split in the future to separately account for regional expenses versus organizational expenses. This was for consideration only as he feels the current operations are fine but may need to be modified especially if we are successful in added additional regions.

Dan pointed out that the election of officers set forth in this document is not for the regional level and is only for the election of officers at the organizational level. He informed everyone that there is an August 15th deadline for nomination of those offices and the ballot will take place in September. There was no further discussion regarding the By-Laws.

Motion made by the 7th Wisconsin to accept the By-Laws with the discussed amendment. Motion seconded by the 1st South Carolina. **Motion carried.**

At last year's meeting, it was decided that until the region's By-Laws are completed, we will elect our regional officers on an annual interim basis.

Motion made by 8th Arkansas to nominate Daniel Gibson as Regional Commander. Motion seconded by 1st South Carolina. **Motion** made by the 7th Wisconsin to close nominations. Motion seconded by 1st South Carolina. **Motion carried.** Dan elected as Regional Commander for 2012.

Motion made by the 1st South Carolina to nominate Wally Gibson as Regional Adjutant / Paymaster. Motion seconded by 8th Arkansas. **Motion** made by the 7th Wisconsin to close nominations. Motion seconded by 8th Arkansas. **Motion carried.** Wally elected as Adjutant for 2012.

Motion made by the 7th Wisconsin to nominate Jim Bone and Robert Hubbard as Co-Regional Inspector Generals. Motion seconded by 8th Arkansas. **Motion** made by the 1st South Carolina to close nominations. Motion seconded by 2nd Texas. **Motion carried.** Jim and Robert elected as co-Regional Inspector General(s) for 2012.

Dan then recommended retaining the prior appointments to the Small Arms Committee, Regional Artillery Officer, By-Laws Committee, Medical Officers, and Newsletter. **Motion** made by the 1st South Carolina to accept retention of the appointments. Motion seconded by 2nd Texas. **Motion carried.**

General discussion was had regarding Bob Hubbard's idea to have a team event scheduled with a variety of arms with the quantity of targeting adjusted accordingly based on the firearms utilized. General discussion was had over the specifics of how this would operate. There were many suggestions. Norm recommended we approve the concept and leave it up to the individual Shoot Directors to work it out with the understanding that this idea, like many we have attempted, is in the experimental stage and that people should not complain about it as we work through any issues that may arise. **Motion** made by the 1st South Carolina to approve the usage of mixed firearms for special team events. Motion seconded by the 7th Wisconsin. Per recommendation made by the 1st Michigan, this experimental concept will not be applied to the musket team event. **Motion** made by the 1st South Carolina to approve the usage of mixed firearms during the carbine team events only. Motion seconded by the 7th Wisconsin. **Motion carried.**

Dan asked if there was any interest in modifying from the current 6 person musket team to a 5 person team. The 6 person musket teams seem to work well with our current participation. There was no support for this idea.

Discussion was had about implementing breechloader team competitions. There may not be enough interest to be able to have full breechloader teams from each unit. It was suggested that we have breechloader team events but use a process of drawing names from a hat to make-up random teams. This will be left up to the shoot director as to whether to implement during an event. Dan asked if there was an objection to conducting breechloader events in this manner. There were no objections stated.

Norm brought up the concessions being provided by the Richmond Area Genealogical and Historical Society (RAGHS). He stated that they found that it required a lot of man power to be there all day for a short period of food rush. The profits for the amount of time expenditures were not commensurate. There was a suggestion that a raffle be implemented to increase proceeds for RAGHS. Brian Haack suggested a gas card give away. Lyle Koch suggested that tickets for food be sold with registration to simplify the process of obtaining the food. Mike Baker suggested that it is easier to have the food brought out to the shooters similar to how the Boy Scouts supply food at the N-SSA nationals. Everyone agreed that having an intermission for lunch in order to provide extra time would be the best way to increase concession sales. Consideration will also be given to only having food available during the lunch hour with drinks sold for the rest of the time.

We will need volunteers to set target frame tubes at Blue Water so that the 100 yard event is more manageable. Brian Haack has confirmed that Blue Water has approved us to place the new holes. We will need volunteers to help with this project. More information will be provided when this project is scheduled.

Dan indicated that we needed to look into a canopy for the Blue Water range as well as additional tables for the revolver team events. This is to avoid having to transfer the current canopy back and forth between Blue Water and Richmond. Brian Haack has indicated that a canopy approximately 10'x20' will be available for Blue Water (no purchase will be necessary). Brian indicated that we would need four 6' folding tables to run revolver events. **Motion** made by the 7th Wisconsin to purchase four folding tables not to exceed \$250. Motion seconded by the 8th Arkansas. **Motion carried.**

Doug Reed has acquired cardboard for our events at no cost. However, the cardboard is of different sizes and will need to cut down to the necessary sizes. This will be done at Richmond. Norm will set up a schedule for this work project.

Brian Haack would like to have a Veteran's Reserve Group established where we can recruit individuals and assign them to a team of similarly situated new members. The thinking is that the name would have more pride than "scrub" team. Bob indicated that this would be possible.

Wally brought up an issue with respect to registration at the events. We have a relatively long period to complete the registration. While it does not need to be done right away at the opening of registration, it should also not be done within minutes of, or after, the close registration. When people do this, it throws off the setting of teams and delays the event. Please make sure your team and/or members are registering promptly and not right at the 9am deadline.

It was decided that this year's charity event will be held at the Blue Water shoot on June 23rd and 24th. If you have any ideas for fundraiser events at the shoot, please provide them to Jim Boeder. Brian Haack also stated that the best method of getting donations was to go out to other organizations and asking for donations. You'd be surprised what people will give if you just ask.

Lyle Koch volunteered to establish our regional website when the software Bob discussed earlier was made available. Dan appointed Lyle as our regional webmaster.

Norm brought up that we need updated ACWSA brochures which are customized for our region. Sean will try to put together a promotional video that we can use for promotional purposes.

Brian Haack announced that Blue Water has upcoming events such as the indoor .22 shoots on March 3rd and March 30th. The .22 shoots are run with iron sights only and restricted use of magazines to keep the competition even with single shot firearms. There are also frequent woodswalk events and he is looking into the possibility of an indoor black powder revolver event if there is enough interest. By show of hands, there was enough interest to move forward with the black powder revolver event. It was reiterated that we should make every attempt to support Blue Water events in appreciation for their support of our organization.

Dan once again thanked Brian Haack and Mike Zandarski for their work with maintaining our relationship with Blue Water.

Motion made by the 1st South Carolina to adjourn the meeting at 2:48 pm. Motion seconded by the 2nd Texas. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Wally Gibson
ACWSA Michigan Region Adjutant

ACWSA OFFICER LISTING

ACWSA Current Board of Directors

Commander:	Bob Chabalowski
Deputy Commander:	Daniel Gibson
Adjutant:	Rob Weber
Paymaster:	Darlene Van Kaewenbergh
Inspector General:	Les Knutsen
Judge Advocate General:	Dan Graff (attorney)
Artillery Officer:	Norman Gibson
Deputy Artillery Officer:	Dick Tessman

Michigan Regional Officers

Regional Commander:	Daniel Gibson
Regional Adjutant:	Wally Gibson
Regional Inspector General:	Jim Bone / Robert Hubbard
Regional Small Arms:	Brian Haack
Regional By-Laws:	Fritz Brohn
	Chris Einowski
	Paul Lipka
	David Mandy
	Bruce Miller
Medical Officers:	Dave Mandy
	Dianne Gibson
Newsletter:	Dianne Gibson

ACWSA Michigan Region 2012 Schedule of Events

Date	Location	Host Team(s)
May 5 th	Blue Water Sportsman's Association Lake Shore Civil War Field Trip	Chris Hubbard
May 6 th	Blue Water Sportsman's Association 1 day shoot – Musket / Carbine team	7 th Wisconsin / 1 st South Carolina
Jun 9 th – 10 th	Richmond Sportsmen's Club	8 th Arkansas / 2 nd Texas
Jun 23 rd – 24 th	Blue Water Sportsman's Association Annual Charity Event	Purcell's Battery
Jul 28 th – 29 th	Grayling Long Range Artillery only	Loomis Battery
Aug 11 th – 12 th	Richmond Sportsmen's Club MI Region Appreciation Event (free)	1 st South Carolina
Sep 15 th – 16 th	Ashley, MI	By Team Commanders
Oct 13 th	Blue Water Sportsman's Association Lake Shore Civil War Field Trip	Chris Hubbard
Oct 14 th	Blue Water Sportsman's Association 1 day shoot – Musket / Carbine team	7 th Wisconsin / 1 st South Carolina

BRIAN HAACK'S MAP OF ASHLEY

It is highly recommended to use your GPS unit or refer to a Rand McNally road map.
Beware if you travel too far north, you will get eaten by Pacman.

