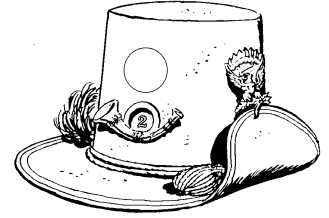

Headquarters

2^d Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry (ACWSA)
5692 Williamsburg Way
Madison, Wisconsin 53719



February 12, 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honor to report,

The 2017 annual meeting for the 2nd Wisconsin skirmish team began at noon on Saturday, February 11, 2017 in the home of Roy and Cathi Nelson, located at W4982 Woodside Lane, Watertown, WI. Dick Tessmann and Pam Kirk from the 8th WI also attended.

Roll Call: Dues were collected and contact information was checked during the roll call. Reminder: You cannot participate in ACWSA skirmishes without being a member. Dues collected from now on are late, and must include a \$5 late fee (\$10+\$5=\$15).

Present: Dan Graff, David Listug, Roy and Cathi Nelson, Darlene and Gary Van Kauwenbergh, Mike Young, David Listug

Absent with Dues Paid: Al Bortles, Randy Boyce, Jan & Bren Buck, Gary Elliott, Karen and Bill Graff, Dick Hanson, Jim Leinicke, Jeffrey Murphey, Doug Ortwerth, David Roemer, Len Sedivy (first year free), Ben Van Kauwenbergh (first year free), Bill Weedman, Rob Weber, Dan Young

Absent without dues paid: Yancey and Duncan Von Yeast, Zach Immel, Glenn Anderson, Luke Lybert, Ben Hoffman

New Members in 2017:

Jeffery Murphey is a veteran skirmisher from Chicago, Illinois transferring to us from the 56th Virginia. He will also belong to the 114th Illinois in 2017.

Len Sedivy reenacts with the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association. He approached me about joining our team at the reenactor's annual meeting last month. Len lives in Waukesha.

Ben Van Kauwenbergh is Gary and Darlene's oldest grandson, and a new shooter. He lives in Deerfield, earned his Hunter Safety certificate last year, and is shooting .22 caliber pistol league with Gary this winter.

Dick Hanson is the shooter from Montana who came to Boscobel a couple years ago. He won't be coming to any of our skirmishes this year, but wanted to join the ACWSA anyway. Since we don't have members at large, I put him on our team roster just to keep track of him.

Jan Buck mentioned he may also have a recruit or two this year from his area. Welcome aboard all our new members!

2016 Season Summary:

Overall participation was steady, even though we had an unusually high number of family and work conflicts and illnesses. The skirmish team finished last year with 24 members, down four from the previous year. Two of our losses were ghosts, but the other two were Nate and Angie Brown, regular revolver shooters who moved to North Carolina.

Our season typically had six skirmishes but we had nine last year. The ACWSA added a "National" competition in 2017, then after the beginning of the season the Western Region of the North-South Skirmish Assn. (N-SSA) opened two of their events to us. It was just too much. We did not go to either of the N-SSA skirmishes, but made it to all of the ACWSA events. We fielded at least one team in every competition offered except for a revolver team competition at one skirmish.

Missing some of our better shooters did make us less competitive though, and we placed a little lower than last year. Our "A" teams all finished middle-of-the-pack, but our "B" teams finished either first or second in everything.

Musket Teams:	A	4 th
	B	1 st
Carbine Teams:	A	4 th
	B	2 nd
Revolver Team:	A	3 rd
Smoothbore:	A	4 th
	B	1 st
Breechloader	A	3 rd

Breach Loaders: We now have enough members with Henry and Spencer rifles to field more than two breach loader teams. (Graff, Boyce, Buck, Dan & Mike Young, Van Kauwenbergh, Listug, Hoffman)

Smoothbore Pistols: Smoothbore pistol has become more popular over the past three years. So far the competitions have been informal demonstrations, but it's close to becoming an official event. We've been using borrowed guns to participate in the demonstrations, but last year enough members bought smoothbore pistols to field our own team. (Listug, Buck, Boyce)

Non-skirmish Events:

The ACWSA hosted a station on Civil War small arms at Company K's School Days in May, and plan on supporting them again this year.

Our Old Soldier Fiddlers group performed at the Civil War Expo in Kenosha last year and will be there again on March 11.

Paymaster Report: Paymaster Darlene Van Kauwenbergh reports there is no money in the kitty, which is just fine. If we ever need funds, we'll get some then.

2017 Outlook:

Elections were held. No changes again for 2017.

Commander (Sergeant) Gary Van Kauwenbergh
Corporal Roy Nelson

Darlene Van Kauwenbergh was appointed Paymaster, even though we're broke.

The team looks healthy again for next year. We have seven competitions:

April 22-23 114th ILL (N-SSA) & 2nd WI @ Springfield, IL
May 6-7 2nd ACWSA National Skirmish near Bristol, Indiana
June 3-4 66th NC @ Appleton, WI
June 24-25 Btry H @ Sandy Ford, near Streator, IL
July 15-16 56th VA @ Bristol, WI
Aug 5-6 15th & 8th WI @ Boscobel (without the reenactment)
Sept 1-3 8 & 2 WI @ Rhinelander, WI
Sept 16-17 15th WI @ Bristol, WI

Schedule Notes:

Battery H's N-SSA skirmish at Sandy Ford in June is still being offered as a friendship skirmish. The 46th Illinois N-SSA skirmish at Sandy Ford is not an ACWSA friendship skirmish this year

We are official co-hosts of both the Springfield and the Rhinelander Skirmishes. Plan on helping. Please save your half gallon milk jugs and bring them to Springfield.

Darlene's nephew is getting married in Fond du Lac late Friday afternoon of the Rhinelander event, and it's a three hour drive to the skirmish from there. We're not sure how it's going to work out yet, but chances are that you won't be seeing us until late Saturday morning.

The Boscobel reenactors are trying to resurrect some sort of living history event on the first full weekend in August when we have our skirmish there. It will likely have a street dance and pie social, but no sutlers or battle reenactment.

Attendance:

Last year I tried to reduce the number of e-mails I was filling everyone's mailboxes with by finding out at the beginning of the year all the skirmishes they planned attending. I assumed everyone was going to shoot everything they normally shoot unless they told me otherwise. Then a week before each skirmish I e-mailed everyone with any information updates, and who I was expecting to see. It worked okay, but we still have a few folks who aren't communicating with me.

We're going to try it again this year with one caveat: Anyone who shows up that didn't tell me they were coming is going to just get added to the bottom of our line-up. I want to stress that its fine if you show up unannounced, and I guarantee you'll shoot, but if you show up without the courtesy letting me know you're coming please know that you'll be added to the bottom of the line-up regardless of how well you shoot.

Here's why. I have all the A & B team line-ups figured out and stat sheets filled in before I get to every skirmish. I do that so I don't have to take the time out of my shooting day to do it on the ground. I go through quite a bit of work keeping stats and figuring out who should be on our A teams. It's important to me that everyone who's earned a spot on the A team gets to shoot there. Erasing and reworking all the sheets on a shoot day gets complicated and is time consuming.

You don't have to tell me you're not coming more than once – and I never beg anyone to reconsider coming to an event. However, you do need to let me know that you'll be there so I have a little time to figure who goes where. I'm certainly not complaining about having a large team that shoots a lot of different firearms, I just need everyone's cooperation so I have some time to figure out who goes on what team.

Nationals:

There will be another ACWSA Nationals in Bristol, Indiana on May 6-7, 2017. Bob Chabalowski is arranging for on-site storage, which will make future matches more likely and less challenging logistically. I do not intend to be as involved organizing and running the event next year. Jim Leinicke, Dan Graff, Mike Young and Gary and Dar will be going so far. Roy Nelson, Bill Weedman and Dan Young are 'Maybes' and Jim is going to see if he can interest some more 114th ILL lads providing they go to the Fall N-SSA Nationals.

Skirmish Improvement Suggestions:

I canvased the folks who weren't going to be at the meeting, and we spent quite a bit of time talking about how to fit all the team competitions into the time available on skirmish Saturdays.

Everyone needs to realize that the hosting units have complete control over what their skirmishes offer.

Everyone agreed we should always have individual targeting available for everyone wanting it, but opinions among our membership about a formal individual competition ran the full gambit between devoting the full morning to it without any team events running concurrently to eliminating it. No one seems to be in favor of extending the shooting day past 5 pm.

There was general consensus that individuals should start on Saturday morning, with either revolver or breach loader team right before lunch. No one at the meeting seemed to care if individuals was running at the same time. Lunch should be uninterrupted. Afternoons should start with smoothbore, followed by a short break, carbine team, followed by clean-up (before all the folks leave) and then smoothbore pistol team.

The next day at the ACWSA WI/IL Regional meeting, I suggested we alternate coordinate offering Breach Loader and Revolver Team competitions every other skirmish. The 114th ILL (Springfield) skirmish will have Breach Loader (but not Revolver) Team, and the 56th VA (Bristol) will have Revolver (but not Breach Loader) Team. The 66th NC (Appleton), 8th & 2nd WI (Rhineland) and Boscobel hosts all want to offer all the team competitions at their skirmishes. Everyone at that meeting was pretty much on board with limiting the Smoothbore, Revolver, Breach Loader, and Smoothbore Pistol team events to three events, and Carbine to four events.

Targeting Suggestions:

We're looking for more suggestions for 100 yard targeting. So far Jan Buck has suggested we put more than one clay pigeon on the rapid fire drywall boards, and Gary has suggested we resurrect the 'Mickey Sullivan Canteen' target that Lance Herdegen invented.

Any targets were okay in moderation, but overusing small targets like moskeet was not. Battle Boards were well-liked. One rolling thunder was fine, but reverse-rolling thunder may have been carrying things a bit too far.

Everyone was given a chance to comment on the following agenda items for next day's ACWSA Board meeting:

- Awards – we need to figure out if we need any more, and will consider changing from ribbons to blue, red and white ink pens with the ACWSA logo on them.
- Rule changes for Revolver, Smoothbore Pistol, multiple hits on metal targeting, and Spencer targeting.
- Confirming 2017 skirmish dates
- Election of the National Deputy Commander (Commander is from MI next two years)
- Kenosha Civil War Museum Expo on March 11
- 100 Yard targeting ideas
- Reviving a living history event at Boscobel

Respectfully submitted by,
Yr. Obt. Srvt.,

Gary Van Kauwenbergh