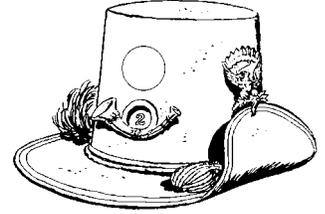

Headquarters

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



February 13, 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honor to report,

The 2016 annual meeting for the 2nd Wisconsin skirmish team began at noon on Saturday, February 13, 2016 in the home of Roy and Cathi Nelson in Watertown, WI. Thank you Roy and Cathi for once again opening your home to us. Dick Tessmann and Pam Kirk from the 8th Wisconsin also joined us at the meeting

New member Al Bortles was introduced. Al is from Janesville, and completely new to skirmishing. You can read about Al's great-uncle on the acwsa.org Civil War ancestor's page, and visit his website at www.celebratelifeboards.com. Al is looking for equipment. He thought he bought a musket on the internet, but the deal fell through, so he is looking for everything including a gun.

Attendance was taken, roster information confirmed and 2016 dues collected.

Present: Al Bortles, Dan Graff, Mike & Mary Young, Roy & Cathi Nelson, Gary & Darlene Van Kauwenbergh,

Absent, with dues paid: Jan & Bren Buck, Randy Boyce, Gary Elliot, Karen Graff, Jim Leinicke, David Listug, David Roemer, Yancey & Duncan von Yeast, Bill Weedman, Dan Young. Doug Ortwerth sent an e-mail saying his dues were in the mail.

AWOL: Chris Bestul, Luke Lybert, Mike Moran

Losses: Nate and Angie Brown are moving North Carolina. Donna Boyce will not be shooting this year. Bill Graff is still in California and will not be shooting this year.

A motion was made and passed to forego the reading of the last minutes.

2015 Season Summary: The skirmish team had 28 members in 2015, up four 2014, and participation was steady. We attended all six skirmishes offered in 2015 and finished as follows:

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

Financial Report: Paymaster Darlene reported a balance of \$0.00 in the team coffers. The last of our money was spent for the special assessment to build the storage shed at the Bristol, WI range. Reminder – there are no 2nd Wisconsin team dues. Your entire \$10 goes to the ACWSA, and \$7-8 of that is spent on insurance.

2016 Elections were held. Cadre for 2016 are:

Sergeant: Gary Van Kauwenbergh

Corporal: Roy Nelson

Darlene agreed to keep her appointment as Paymaster.

2016 Outlook: The team looks healthy again for 2016, even though the teams around us seem to be shrinking. Our biggest losses are Nate and Angie moving, which really affects our ability to field a revolver team. Now that we can use both hands shooting revolver, there may be a resurgence of revolver team competition. I'll be canvassing for revolver shooters just before the first skirmish that offers a team competition and we'll see where it goes from there. With the 8th Wisconsin shrinking, we can pretty much plan to shoot with Dick Tessmann, Pam Kirk and Larry Hicks this year. Marty Richards, a 2nd Wisconsin alumni who moved to Ohio years ago, would like to join us at the Nationals, and he may also bring a friend or two. Al Bortles has already contacted Nancy Arnold about getting whatever equipment of Lee's she wants to sell.

2016 Schedule: We have seven competitions scheduled, they are:

April 23-24 114th ILL (N-SSA) & 2nd WI @ Springfield, IL

June 4-6 66th NC @ Appleton, WI

June 10-12 1st ACWSA National Skirmish near Bristol, Indiana

July 16-17 56th VA @ Bristol, WI

Aug 6-7 15th & 8th WI @ Boscobel (without the reenactment)

Sept 2-5 8th & 2nd WI @ Rhinelander, WI

Sept 17-18 15th WI @ Bristol, WI

Nationals: The ACWSA Nationals is definitely happening, June 10-12, near Bristol, Indiana. The facility has been reserved, the flier is almost ready to publish, and special cockade award ribbons are already made. The Appleton skirmish is on the weekend immediately before the Nationals, and we'll be helping pack for the event. The following people are interested in going:

Gary Van Kauwenbergh

Darlene Van Kauwenbergh

Jan Buck

Jim Leinicke

Roy Nelson

Mike Young

Dan Graff

Karen Graff

Randy Boyce

Marty Richards

This is an 'everyone host' event, and we need to bring enough drilled pigeons for our teams. (Read: "I need to know if you're coming"). Roy offered to collect pick-ups at his Isaac Walton gun club, and Dick Tessmann said he already had a large number of pigeons already drilled in Rhinelander.

Boscobel: There will be a Boscobel skirmish again this year, even though there's no longer a reenactment in town. The 1st USSS may be standing down as co-hosts, so we may be stepping up to help. We would hate to lose a shooting range.

Possible New Range: The curator of the museum on Volk Field near Camp Douglas would like to explore us having an event at their facility now that it's not so busy with Middle East deployments. The ACWSA used to skirmish there every year until it was closed to outsiders. Their developed campground and picnic area are pretty much the same as when we left, but their shooting range has been revamped and seemed to be at least partially enclosed. Sometime during the next year I'm going to tour their new facilities to see if they're suitable for skirmishing.

Powder, caps and lead: This year's powder and caps order was distributed to Roy Nelson and Dan Graff. I still have 1 K of caps for Jan Buck, and 1K of caps available for anyone for \$72.45. You can get as much lead as you want through Pat Kaboskey for market price. If anyone has a source for less expensive lead please let me know.

Other Kibitz:

Nate & Angie Update: Nate called me before the meeting to update me on their situation. He'd hoped to come to at least Boscobel this year, but simply will not have the vacation time to do any skirmishing in 2016. Nate is living with his brother in North Carolina. Angie is living with her mother in Machesney Park, IL and finishing out the school year there with her job. She'd planned to move in June, but just got an offer to run their summer program, so if she doesn't have a job in North Carolina by then, she may stay longer in Illinois. Nate's old car bit the dust, but now he has a newer one to replace it. They're working him hard, but he's enjoying it, and now has things like health insurance and a retirement plan. He's doing well, and sounds happy.

Recruiting: Last year some folks from the ACWSA manned a round-robin station on Civil War small arms at Company K's School Days in Milton during June. We talked to over a thousand students. This year the event will be on May 20, 2016. There is also a School Day the Friday before the Wade House reenactment on September 23 that I'm considering supporting. If you're interested in helping with either event, let me know.

Shooting Tables: I'm making five folding tables. Four of which are already promised.

Gun Refinishing: I'm still working on refinishing Dan and my Lorenz muskets.

New guns: Jan tells me he and Randy are now shooting Sharps carbines instead of Smiths. Randy now owns a Henry. Mike is still getting his Spencer ready. If there are any other new guns I need to plan for, please enlighten me.

Old Soldier Fiddlers performed at the Civil War Expo in Kenosha last year and will be there again on Saturday, March 12. If you're interested in coming, we begin at

noon, just before David Wege's presentation on Co. E of the 6th Wisconsin.

ACWSA web site, acwsa.org, was completely rewritten last year using Word Press. The 2nd Wisconsin team has its page that has links to all the published 2nd Wisconsin pictures, and all our statistics and meeting minutes since 2010. See <http://acwsa.org/the-american-civil-war-shooting-assn-acwsa/acwsa-teams/2nd-wisconsin-volunteer-infantry/>

Amazon.Smiles: Last year the ACWSA enrolled in the Amazon.Smiles program. Amazon Smiles is a program where .5% of your online purchases made through Amazon come back to the organization as a donation. 2015 donations to the ACWSA were just under \$50. If you buy through Amazon, you should really designate someone to support (even if it's not the ACWSA) – it's easy, doesn't cost you a dime, and doesn't limit your shopping one bit.

New e-mail address for Dan Graff: graffdg@gmail.com

Wisconsin Veteran's Museum Tour? Kevin Hampton, an administrator at the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum in Madison and president of the 2nd Wisconsin reenactors association has offered a tour of the museum including the items not on display in the basement storage. If you're interested please let me know. Dan Graff, Roy Nelson and Mike Young expressed interest at the meeting.

Bren Buck is growing out of his uniform. If you have any larger size clothing available, please contact Jan at buck300savage@hotmail.com

Cody Nelson is re-upping in the Air Force and will be going to a nuclear medicine school.

Bill Graff and his wife are still in the Marines. Bill is recruiting full time. His wife will be getting out this year.

Larry Hicks is busy care-taking for Josi 24/7 and her heart is operating at about 30% capacity. She may be going in for a pacemaker this year.

Dick Fritz is doing well but will probably only make it to Rhinelander, and possibly the Appleton skirmishes.

The next meeting will be in 2017 on Saturday, February 11, 2017.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Yr. Obt. Srvt.,

Gary Van Kauwenbergh