



Washington Artillery Veterans Association



WAVA Newsletter - July 2014

No. 14-7 To Perpetuate the Spirit of the Washington Artillery (The 1/141FA under many numeric designations)

WAVA Officers

Jay Castagnetta	President
Ronald Besson	1st Vice President
Joseph Whitman	2nd Vice President
Russell A. Mayeur, Sr.	Secretary
James Copeland	Treasurer

WAVA Board of Directors

Terms Expires - December 2014

MAJ John DeMartini (Sandra)	(504) 738-7472
James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
Russell A. Mayeur, Sr. (Eloise)	(504) 919-8577
Joseph Whitman (Nancy)	(985) 249-2255
LT Anthony LaNasa, III	(504) 452-0358
Fred Muhs (Pat)	(504) 236-3958

Terms Expires - December 2015

Ronald Besson (Barbara)	(504) 347-5026
Michael Kreutz	(985) 898-6339
MSG Craig Rosenquist	(318) 416-7594
Norvin Schexnaildre (Loyce)	(504) 889-0837
Ernest Guerra (Patsy)	(985) 661-1284
Russell Mayeur, Jr. (Judy)	(228) 586-1194

Terms Expires - December 2016

Jay Castagnetta (Heidi)	(985) 285-8883
Ray Hartman (Eva)	(504) 251-0386
Charlie Bauer, Jr.	(985) 809-1223
Addison Thompson	(504) 279-2278
Emile Henriquez	(985) 788-4547
Flemming Ragas	(504) 606-8127

Annual Dues

Please check your mailing label for the status of your dues payment. Annual dues for 2014 and any previous unpaid years are payable immediately.

Consider becoming a member in perpetuity and dispense with the yearly renewal. Membership and renewal dues form is attached herein.

What's Inside!!!

New start time for Meetings, see page 2
 Dates of Meetings, Socials & Reunion
 President's & Commander's Message
 Dues/Membership Application/New Members

WAVA Committee Appointments

Active Battalion:	LTC Kenneth Baillie	(504) 715-7001
	CSM Mathew Drees	(504) 418-5704
Awards/Recognition:	Norvin Schexnaildre	(504) 666-2898
	Ernest Guerra	(504) 450-1284
Budget:	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883
	James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
Contact Roster:	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883
Finance:	James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
	LTC Kenneth Baillie	(504) 715-7001
	Donald Schwarzenbach	(504) 756-8486
Fraternal:	Russell Mayeur, Jr.	(228) 586-1194
	Norvin Schexnaildre	(504) 666-2898
Historical:	Dr. Glen Cangelosi	(504) 391-1174
	John Fleming	(504) 887-8195
Legal/By-Laws:	Joseph Taranto	(504) 834-3302
Membership:		
WAVA	Ernest Guerra – Chm.	(985) 661-1737
	Addison Thompson	(504) 279-2278
Active BN	Jeffrey Bohne.	(504) 975-7010
Newsletter:	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958
		fmuhs@cox.net
Nominations:	Russell Mayeur, Sr., Chm.	(504) 919-8577
	Russell Mayeur, Jr.	(228) 586-1194
	Anthony LaNasa, III	(504) 452-0358
Parliamentarian:	Joe Taranto	(504) 834-3302
Photographer:	Eloise Mayeur	(504) 722-0378
	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958
Planning:	Jordan Jones, Chm.	(985) 331-2093
	James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
	Ron Besson	(504) 458-6559
	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958
Programs/Publicity:	John Airhart	(504) 482-2202
Recording Secretary:	Jeffrey Bohne	(504) 975-7010
Socials:	Ray Hartman	(504) 251-0386
	Joseph Whitman	(985) 249-2255
	Renda Besson	(504) 340-2987
	Jeffrey Bohne	(504) 975-7010
	Parris Andrews	(504) 273-8366
	Anthony Ethridge	(210) 487-0583
Telephone:	Norvin Schexnaildre	(504) 666-2898
	Mike Kreutz	(985) 898-6339
Website:	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883

WAVA Meetings & Special Events

August 19	General Membership Meeting
September 16	General Membership Meeting/BBQ Social
October 21	Board Meeting
November 18	General Membership Meeting
December 4	Annual General Membership Meeting
December 18	Special Board Meeting

Please Mark Your Calendar for All Meetings

WAVA holds its meetings at Jackson Barracks in the 1/141 Armory. Enter the north gate from St. Claude Avenue and drive toward, the now closed, N. Claiborne Avenue gate to get to the 1/141 Armory.

1700 hours - WAVA Room opens for refreshments

1730 hours - Evening meal is served

1830 hours - Meeting starts

Socials and special events will be held there also, unless noted otherwise.

New WAVA Members

Perpetual Member: 1SG Bruce Jackson (upgrade)
Charles Blackwell

Member: SGT Jason Doubleday, Sam Salvaggio,
CPT Austin Carr, 1SG Louis Foust, Charles Padilla

Perpetual Associate Member: Barbara Duet Besson (upgrade)

Associate Member:



Taps

Joe Centanni
Robert Williams
Joel Roussell
Peter Talluto
Gerald 'Jerry' Daussin

Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association

WAVA members are encouraged to consider joining the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association www.langea.org or the Louisiana National Guard Officer's Association www.ngala.org. When you sign up for LANGEA you can sign up for The Call. This will provide you with prepared letter which all you have to do is sign and they will be sent directly to your congressional delegation so they know how you feel about the issues at hand.

Veterans It Is Your Responsibility to Vote

It is because of your service that America is free. Let's continue to serve and keep American free by voting.

Voting Is Easy In Louisiana

The state will take several forms of identification for registration. You must register 30 days before voting.

You can do all of the following on the website:

www.geauxvote.com

1. Register to vote
2. Change your address and party affiliation
3. Get Sample Ballot Before Every Election
4. Find out where to vote
5. Find out if you are registered to vote
6. Get the election dates and early voting dates

For more information contact the local Registrar's office or Louisiana Secretary of State at (225) 342-4479

"It's not the hand that signs the laws that hold the destiny of America. It's the hand that casts the ballot."

President Harry S. Truman

The "[Honor Vets... Vote](#)" program honors those who have fought and sacrificed for our freedoms and our sacred right to vote. Dedicate your vote by honoring those who have fought and are fighting today.

Complete the [online form](#) to receive a printable certificate, bumper sticker and/or lapel pin. You may also call the Voter Outreach office at 225.342.4479 to participate in this program. After receiving your sticker and/or pin, show your appreciation for our servicemen and women by displaying the sticker and wearing the pin.

Voters may dedicate their vote to more than one veteran, but bumper stickers and lapel pins will only be issued once per voter. Please note that all information except the address will be posted on the "Honor Vets...Vote". [dedication page](#) of the Secretary of State website. The Secretary of State's Office reserves the right to edit any submission and/or remove any inappropriate content.

Contact Information:

Annette Cosme
(225) 342 - 4479
annette.cosme@sos.la.gov

WAVA President's Message

Hello to all. I do hope everyone is enjoying their summer vacations. As usual I will address several issues here and probably leave you wondering what the hell I am babbling on about.

First of all I'd like to report the huge success of the Seafood dinner. Again, we had over 200 people in attendance, and again, the seafood was, uh, outstanding. "Today's Ketch" has hit another home run for us and we will probably use them for years to come.



The cost of the event to WAVA was less than \$1,500.00. Not a bad night for us and we picked up six new members from the event, not to mention our first enlisted female ACTIVE member. On that note I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome SSG Gladys Rosales to WAVA. She has recently been assigned to the Medic section of HHB.

The Annual BBQ Dinner will be held Tuesday, September 16th. It will be in the assembly hall. We will be using Stonewall's BBQ. Please RSVP to Ron Besson or myself as soon as possible. The menu and more specific information will be provided as soon as all of the plans are finalized.

The Annual Wreath Ceremony and the Annual Review are being planned as I write this address. We are also planning on dedicating the 'Washington Artillery Gallery' during this time. As more information becomes available I will pass that on to the membership.

As everyone knows by now I am also WAVA's Office Manager and Ray Hartman is our custodian. Ray has been doing an outstanding job. It is rare to come into the room and feel that the carpet needs to be vacuumed, or the trash cans need to be emptied. As far as my job goes all I can say is "aaaugh"! There is a hell of a lot of work to be done and I continue to take small chunks out every day.

We also started an information program for our membership which we hope will ease the process of finding information on subjects such as retired military benefits, military voting privileges, VA benefits, death benefits and so on. We will use the newsletter and the website, as well as presentations at our general membership meetings, to pass this information on to the membership. John Airhart presented an information briefing on retired medical benefits at the June meeting. It was short, simple and to the point and is reproduced here in this newsletter. Thanks John for a great job.

In 2012 we updated our by-laws affording us the opportunity to operate more efficiently and rid ourselves of some burdensome operating procedures which allowed us to operate better. At the June meeting I reconstituted a new by-laws committee with representation from all of our membership categories. It is my desire we review our by-laws at least every two to three years to insure we operate in the best interest of our entire membership.

WAVA is on the right track. Our membership continues to grow even better than we knew it would. Our investments are paying well and we are enjoying the benefits of our home in the armory. If you haven't been by to see the work we've done please plan on a visit to the armory. I am there every Tuesday and Thursday. It would be my pleasure to take a few moments and show you around so you too will know what it is we are constantly bragging about.

Try Us!

Jay Castagnetta
President, WAVA

Battalion Commander's Comments

Dear friends and WAVA Family,

We had a wonderful Annual Training this year at Camp Shelby. We had some challenges - our Forward Support Company, G/199th, did Annual Training separately from the rest of the Battalion and we missed their excellent support. We overcame those challenges and had excellent training and reached our goals across the board.

During Annual Training we had our annual BOSS Lift. We hosted not only employers from our own Battalion, but employers from across the 256 IBCT. Our Soldiers were, as always, gracious and professional as they explained their jobs to our visitors. Among the guests we hosted were, The Adjutant General, The Director of the Joint Staff, and the Command Chief Warrant Officer. They all had a great visit and were lavish in their praise of our organization and our people.

I remain so proud of our Soldiers that I cannot easily express it in words. I know I say this to you a lot, but I am continuously gratified and humbled to be a part of our Battalion. Our Soldiers are nothing short of amazing, and they are setting the standard across the 256 IBCT and the Louisiana National Guard.

We are just over halfway through the 176th year of continuous service for the Washington Artillery, and it is an exciting time. We are poised to begin filling BTRY C which will boast the M777 155mm towed howitzer and I cannot contain my excitement about the growth of the Battalion and the return of 155mm artillery. I have seen that the men and women of our battalion are among the best Soldiers anywhere and I know they will rise to the challenge as we enter this new chapter in the long and glorious history of the Old Command.

As ever, I want to reiterate that I truly appreciate the ongoing support and friendship of WAVA and all that they do for the Active Battalion. I remain humbled by the awesome responsibility that has been entrusted to me, and I look forward to the great things we will all accomplish together.

Kenneth T. Baillie
LTC, FA, LAARNG
Commander
1-141 Field Artillery
Washington Artillery

WAVA PRESENTATION ON TRICARE

WWW.tricare.mil

SOUTH – HUMANA MILITARY
1-800-444-5445

There are no longer manned local Tricare Service Centers available. The above is the Tricare service we need to work with. The web site is very well organized and covers most, if not everything, that may be encountered.

Everyone presents with their own unique situations and this Tricare site is tailored to identify and address them. Simply follow the questions and instructions.

To be noted in reference to a twenty year retirement, or other retirement that at age sixty, or at any retirement date for RET 1, DEERS has to be updated and new, current updated ID cards issued for member and eligible dependents.

At age sixty, or at retirement for pay, the member would be entitled to Tricare Standard, Extra, and Prime. There are some fees associated with these such as co-pays and premiums for Prime. Additional medical insurance would mitigate various costs, but these come with premiums also. Information on individual situations can be obtained from the web site or with a phone call.

At age sixty five the member becomes eligible for Medicare with part B and Tricare for Life (TFL). Without part B, the member is not eligible for TFL. The member's dependent spouse has to have Medicare with part B to be eligible for TFL also. It is important to update DEERS and generate new updated ID cards for member and eligible dependents.

The pharmacy program is evolving also. No longer will maintenance medications at local pharmacies be covered as they were previously. Members are encouraged to utilize a military Medical Treatment Facilities (MTF) or the Tricare mail order script system. Both the MTF and mail order will fill up to a ninety day supply for a year at no cost. The mail order system also will fill up to a ninety day supply however there is a tier level cost for each individual medication supplied.

Coming soon To an Armory near You - The M777 Howitzer

The Ultra lightweight Field Howitzer (UFH), designated M777 in the USA, was selected in 1997 by a joint US Army / Marine Corps initiative to replace the existing inventory of M198 155mm towed howitzers. The construction of the M777 makes extensive use of titanium and titanium castings, enabling a weight reduction of 3,175kg (7,000lb) compared to the M198 howitzer which it replaces in the US Army and USMC inventory.

The M777 matches the firepower of current generation 155mm towed systems at less than half the weight. The M777 is equipped with a 39-calibre barrel (19.8 feet long). The muzzle velocity (at Charge 8 super) is 827m/s (2,713 ft/s). The M777 uses a digital fire-control system similar to that found on self propelled howitzers such as the M109A6 Paladin to provide navigation, pointing and self-location, allowing it to be put into action more quickly than earlier towed and air-transported howitzers.

The maximum firing range is 24.7km with unassisted rounds and 30km with rocket-assisted rounds. The M777A2 will fire the Raytheon / Bofors XM982 Excalibur GPS / Inertial Navigation-guided extended-range 155mm projectiles using the Modular Artillery Charge Systems (MACS). Excalibur has a maximum range of 40km and accuracy of 10m. The M777 is able to deliver up to five rounds a minute under intense firing conditions and is able to provide a sustained rate of fire of two rounds a minute. Crew requirements: Minimum of 5, Maximum of 8.



Washington Artillery
Veterans Association
Post Office Box 7584
Metairie, LA 70010

Return Service Requested



The Washington Artillery

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*Annual Dues Are Payable in January, 2014 - Please check address label for your Dues Status
Consider Becoming A Member In Perpetuity!*

WAVA Bar - B - Q Social - Tuesday, Sep 16th, 2014
1/141st FA Bn Armory, Jackson Barracks
Doors open at 5 pm – Food served at 6:30 pm

MENU

Brisket, Chicken, Ribs, Baked Beans, Potato Casserole & Bread Pudding, Beer & Soft Drinks
Cost: Adult - \$20.00 Children under 12 - Free

Number of people in your party: _____ Total Amount: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Make checks payable to WAVA. Please send check as early as possible to facilitate planning.

Parties of 10 or more may request a reserved table.

I/We will attend: _____

Prefer seating with: _____

Mail this form and check to: Ron Besson
1500 Ave. F
Marrero, LA 70072
(504) 347-5026; email: mrbesson1936@gmail.com

Please send your order in before Sept 5th to guarantee adequate food for everyone!