

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY
VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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DON'T FORGET, YOUR ANNUAL DUES WERE PAYABLE BY JANUARY 2006
CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER IN PERPETUITY

Mar 06



The Washington Artillery

WAVA NEWS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2006

Active Battalion: John DiMartini (504) 738-7472
Audit: Nelson Ardoin (504) 738-9634
Awards: Russell Mayeur (288) 255-7689
Jay Hotard (504) 339-3121
Budget: Norvin Schexnaildre (504) 889-0837
Building Management: Rene Jacques (504) 598-7200
Dennis Showalter (504) 251-0669
Bulletin: Roger Bacon (504) 421-6358
Charter & By-Laws: Henry Pepper (504) 737-6246
Financial Advisor: Rene Jacques (504) 598-7200

Food/Beverage: Ed Harrell (504) 756-6805
Jim Ledet (504) 887-2910
Fraternal: Ronald Besson (504) 347-5026
Historical: Terry Donelon (504) 738-5682
Legal: John Gniady (504) 454-1515
Membership: Anthony Pizzolato & Bd. (504) 467-7036
Parliamentarian: Henry Pepper (504) 737-6246
Programs/Publicity: Rolla Schwartz (985) 340-7101
Social: Nelson Ardoin (504) 738-9634
Telephone: Joseph Centanni & Board (504) 733-1141

What's Inside!!!

Special Events/Socials
Dues/Membership Application
Commander's Update
President's Message
Ladies' Auxiliary
Officers and Board Members
Tops

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Despite the devastation of Hurricane Katrina on the Greater New Orleans Area and the Gulf Coast, the Washington Artillery Veterans Association is alive and well. Thanks to the Officers and NCOs of the battalion, our membership continues to grow. Our meetings are being held at the home of the Delta Lions at 1725 Hickory St in Harahan. We had the best attendance since Katrina at our February meeting. Fifteen members of the battalion and their commander, LTC Jordan Jones, were in attendance. Ed Harrel and Jim Ledet did the cooking and surprised everyone with king cake for dessert. Rolla Schwartz gave an outstanding presentation on the history of Mardi Gras and the military.

The next social will be on Tuesday, 16 May at 7:00 P.M. at the St Dominick Elementary School cafeteria which can be entered through the driveway next to 1324 Moss St. or from either side of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in the 3300 block of Esplanade Ave. New Orleans. The menu will consist of fried fish, fried shrimp, crawfish fettuccini, jambalaya, gumbo, corn on the cob, beer and soft drinks at a cost of \$15.00 per person. Please bring as many guests as possible. A reservation form is at page four. Get them in as soon as possible as we will most likely have to limit the attendance to 110 due to space availability.

The battalion will host a wreath laying ceremony and memorial honoring our fallen comrade, SGT Lee Myles Godbolt, at noon on Saturday, 16 September at Metairie Cemetery. His name will be engraved on the WAVA monument and unveiled at that time. He is the only casualty of "Operation Iraqi Freedom." On Sunday, 17 September, the battalion will host a "Homecoming Celebration" at Lafreniere Park in Metairie. It will include a pass in review followed by a picnic for all members of the battalion and their guests, including members of WAVA. Please make every effort to attend both functions and wear your red coats, caps, white shirt and red tie. Let's show our support for the battalion.

I want to thank the members of the WAVA Board for their efforts to hold together the organization during these trying times. Many of our board members lost their homes and others had to gut and refurbish their homes due to water and/or wind damage. The last six months have seen them working to restore their homes. Norvin Schexnaildre and Dennis Showalter (who also lost his home in Chalmette) wasted no time in getting our WAVA home gutted and a new roof installed. Without the new roof we would have lost the entire second floor. We also had to replace 32 feet of a parapet wall on one side of the building. We still have some work to do on the first floor such as pressure washing the studs and cement block, removing some of the floor tiles that were under the carpet floor and treating for mold. I would like to set up a work party on a Saturday to get the first floor cleaned. We will need about eight people for approximately four hours. Let me know if you will be available.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, Russell Mayeur, President

COMMANDER'S UPDATE: The battalion just recently completed training as the BDE's quick reaction force (QRF). We are currently operating out of Forward Operating Base Algiers and will continue to do so until approximately June. I say approximately because our departure is contingent upon our temporary armory located near Michoud being ready for us to move in. The facility is a former Army Reserve Center that, ironically, a number of officers in our battalion visited while attending Combined Arms Staff and Services School a few years ago.

We have the blue prints for our new armory which will be constructed where the 61st Troop Command is currently located. The building will be four stories and more than provide for the unit's needs.

As stated at the last WAVA meeting, we are proud to extend an open invitation to establish a permanent room for WAVA in our new armory. This is our way of exemplifying and of solidifying a permanent commitment between the active battalion and WAVA. This is a great opportunity for us to join forces and ensure the perpetuation of WAVA!

As many have already learned, the 256BCT is scheduled to go away in FY 2007. In fact, currently, the brigade isn't funded for 2007. The 1/141st FA BN and 3/156IN BN are the only two battalions who will survive this change. It is all part of the DOD's plan to reduce the number of BCTs from 17 to 10. We have no idea if that will indeed occur on schedule and/or how that will actually occur. We'll provide you w/more information as it become available. (Continued on page 4.)

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



WAVA NEWS



Page 2

No. 06-1 To perpetuate the spirit of the Washington Artillery (The 1/141st FA BN under many numerical designations).

Mar 2006

Russell A. Mayeur, Sr.	President
Nelson Ardoin, Jr.	1 st Vice President
Dennis Showalter	2 nd Vice President
Russel Madere	Secretary
Norvin Schexnaildre	Treasurer

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2006

Ronald Besson (Barbara)	347-5026
Joe [redacted]	738-1141
Jim [redacted]	738-1110
Hen [redacted]	738-1146
Norvin Schexnaildre (Loyce)	889-0837
Dennis Showalter (Jan)	251-0669

WAVA OFFICERS

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2007

Nelson Ardoin, Jr. (Charlene)	738-9634
Roger A. Bacon (Betty)	454-3481
Terry Donelon (Catherine)	738-5682

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2008

Ed. P. Benezech, Jr. (Katherine)	460-5469
John DiMartini (Sandra)	738-7472
Ed Harrell	756-6805
Rene' C. Jacques	598-7200
Russell A. Mayeur Sr. (Eloise)	(228) 255-7689
Rolla Schwartz (Diane)	(985) 340-7101

ANNUAL DUES

Please check your name label for the status of your dues.
ANNUAL DUES FOR 2006 WAS DUE THIS PAST JANUARY. PAST-DUE AMOUNTS MUST BE PAID IMMEDIATELY. CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER IN PERPETUIY, A ONE-TIME INVESTMENT. Membership/dues form is at page 4.

TAPS/ THE LAST CAMP

Earl J. Wilson Dec 17, 2005

WAVA MEETINGS/SPECIAL EVENTS 2nd & 3rd Quarters 2006

April 18th	Board Meeting
May 16 th	Meeting/Social
June 20 th	General Membership Meeting
July 18 th	Board Meeting
August 15 th	General Membership Meeting
September 16 th & 17 th	Active Bn Memorial, Wreath Laying, Review & Welcome Home Party
September 19 th	Meeting/Social

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS. Meetings will be held at the home of the Delta Lions, 1725 Hickory Ave., Harahan. Social function locations TBA.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Spouses are encouraged to join as associate members. They meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Delta Lions Home on the third Tuesday each month. . Please pass this information on and encourage your spouse to attend and become an associate member.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST WAVA MEMBERS

Members in Perpetuity: Ronald Besson, Ronald Chevis, John DiMartini, Charles Duke, Jim Ledet, Terry Maddox, M. Meyers, Anthony Radosti, Sylvia Schwarzenback, E. Van Vlack , & Joseph Whitman,
Members: Darren Chabert, Dennis Clark, George Clark, Kent Cochran, Jr., Johnny Graves, Elias Koniditsiotis, Donald Mauger, & Clifford Ockman, Jr.

WAR VETERANS

All members who have served in combat are requested to send a note to WAVA giving your name, unit to which assigned, campaigns and dates of such service for our records. This is valuable information which is being lost over time and needs to be chronicled and preserved in WAVA archives.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The annual election for a third of our Association Board of Directors took place on December 1st. I am pleased to announce that three new board members were installed on that date: Nelson Ardoin, Donald Burgess and Russel Madere. The election was very close, with one and two votes separating the next two nominees.

The Board of Directors met On December 16th to elect officers for 2004. They are also listed on page two.

Committee assignments for 2004 are shown on page one. There are a few new committee assignments and one, the membership committee, has co-chairmen. Membership will be a high priority. We plan to be proactive in the pursuit of new membership. You can help by making contact with your former comrades and asking that they consider becoming a member of WAVA.

We are planning two socials at our home on May 18th and September 21st. Our annual reunion of active WAVA members and former and current active battalion members, is tentatively scheduled for November 16th. Please mark these and other special activity dates on your calendar without delay.

Harry McEnery III and William Crockett, new Members in Perpetuity, are being added to our plaque. Lewis Bonner and Harry Bartlett are new associate members. We welcome you to WAVA.

Please share this newsletter with your spouse or any other person you may want to sponsor to become part of a ladies' auxiliary unit of WAVA. See page two for information and page four for the information form to be sent in for planning purposes. We hope to see them at the January meeting.

For GOD and country, Roger Bacon

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE: EMBRACE IT AND SUCCESS IS YOURS by MAJ Jordan Jones, Cdr., 1/141

Since the last WAVA meeting I attended, the 1/141st FA BN has experienced a few changes that I'm sure WAVA would like to know about. As the saying goes, "the only thing constant in the Army is change." That couldn't be any truer today.

One week prior to my first drill as the new commander I learned that our plan to conduct a live-fire exercise at Camp Shelby had to be changed due to the Chief of Staff's requirement that every soldier be provided the opportunity to vote in the gubernatorial election Saturday morning. Going to the field to fire didn't make much sense considering the distance traveled, the time required to properly perform pre-combat checks (PCC) and inspections (PCI) and the reduced time actually spent firing. There were a number of other logistical factors that also needed to be considered, but ultimately, I didn't want to chance a safety violation or accident or reduce the quality of training to standard simply for the sake of pumping rounds down range. With that said, our leaders did an excellent job of immediately adjusting the training plan and executed the new one like the true professionals they are.

The December drill wasn't much different. We had to make more changes to the training schedule and in the process tasked battery leadership to prepare for a totally revised additional training assembly (ATA) format on short notice. Once again, our leaders rose to the occasion and performed very well.

So, where are we now? Our entire '04 training schedule had to be revised because, like we anticipated, our battalion will participate in a Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation at Ft. Polk June 6-20, 2004. The entire training schedule changed because we were planning to conduct a number of live-fire exercises in preparation for annual training. Due to us going to the JRTC instead, we probably won't fire a single round until November of 2004. We will still conduct our Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System

(AFATDS) new equipment training (NET) at the end of August, however, that fielding doesn't require firing.

The JRTC rotation will require the entire battalion's participation. The difference is that we won't be operating in the same configuration and performing the same missions you'd expect from an FA battalion. We'll be doing what our brothers in OIF are doing, mostly infantry tactics. Bravo will go as a pure PALADIN battery and Alpha and Charlie will go as Motorized Rifle Companies. They will be riding around in up-armored HMMWVs in contrast to Paladins. We'll probably take elements of HHB and SVC battery and plus-up the firing batteries.

Since the 30 BDE isn't quite sure how they are going to accomplish their mission in the JRTC "box," and we were originally suppose to model our preparation after their example, we'll end up determining our own template via lessons learned from units in OIF and from the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL). More interestingly, the observer/controllers (Ocs) tasked w/evaluating the 30th's performance don't know how PALADIN Battalions are employed.

There's nothing like a good challenge, and we've got plenty. In light of all the personnel changes and major change in mission, our soldiers and leaders have demonstrated an unrepentant desire to excel and learn skills not previously available. Worse case scenario is that we'll have to use lessons learned from our JRTC rotation in the event that we'd get called to active duty in the future. The best case scenario is that we'll never have to use these soon to be newly acquired skills anywhere, but are just that much smarter and better prepared!

However the scenario unfolds, I can say without hesitation that our soldiers and leaders will rise to meet these challenges and excel with an unwavering success for which they are well known. TRY US! Thunder 6

WE HEARD FROM: John Wilkinson, a Member in Perpetuity, who has given an annual donation to WAVA for many years. This year John sent in a \$100 check. This will help in defraying rising operating costs and decreasing investment income. We thank John for his generosity.

RENTAL OF WAVA FACILITIES

The WAVA hall is available for rental with the sponsorship of an active WAVA member at extremely low rates. If you have a need for a facility for yourself or friend for a wedding, meeting, party, dinner, etc., please consider our home. In addition to the social rental, the Board of Directors has authorized a search for a permanent lease of the approximately 5,400 sq. ft. on the second floor of our building. The area is in good shape and upgrade requirements are negotiable. Point-of-contact for building scheduling is William "Bill" Guarino, (504) 682-2885.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION

On May 29, 2004, fifty-nine years after the war, the citizen soldiers of "The Greatest Generation" will finally be recognized with the dedication of the WWII Monument on the Mall in the Nation's Capitol. Some members of WAVA, including Russell Mayeur and Mel Hibbets, are planning to attend. Other official events will be on May 27th and 28th, with the dedication on the 29th. It is free and open to the public. If interested, contact either Russell at 228-255-7689 or Mel at 504-283-6733 ASAP for information on hotels and room rates.

REMINDER: Artillery red sport coats are available at The Smart Set, 536 Oakland in Metairie. Contact Beverly Hailey at 504-833-1757. The cost is \$75 plus shipping charges. Larger sizes may cost slightly more.

SEAFOOD SOCIAL, 16 MAY 2006

COST: \$15.00 PER PERSON. NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: _____ CHECK NO. _____ (MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO WAVA)

I/WE WILL ATTEND _____

(Member/Spouse Names & Number of Guests)

MAIL TO: Nelson Ardoin Phone No. 1-504-738-9634 after 7:00 P.M.
10130 Suzanne Dr.
River Ridge, LA 70123

WAVA MEMBERSHIP/DUES APPLICATION

NAME _____

Send to:

ADDRESS _____

SECRETARY: WAVA
P. O. Box 7584, Metairie, LA 70010

PHONE _____

CHECK AS APPROPRIATE

(Home) (Business)

ANNUAL DUES (\$15.00) _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

NEW MEMBER (\$15.00) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER (\$15.00) _____

DATES OF SERVICE _____

MEMBER IN PERPETUITY (\$150) _____

UNIT (BN) _____ BTRY(S) _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

RECOMMENDED BY: _____

DATE _____ CHECK NUMBER _____

FOR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ONLY

APPLICATION REVIEWED _____ APPROVED _____ DISAPPROVED _____

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE _____ COMMENTS: _____

COMMANDER'S UPDATE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3. Our battalion will continue its plans to convert to a unit of action. This will mean that we lose one of our firing batteries; we'll gain another radar and a few other changes. More on that as the time draws near.

Our previous CSM Joseph Stiefvater was replaced by CSM Clint Ockman. CSM Stiefvater was an incredibly positively influence in our battalion. His contributions to our unit will forever be etched in the history books of the famed Washington Artillery. He was/is a great NCO and outstanding CSM who set the bar others will aspire to achieve for years to come--a tremendous asset to this battalion and my very dear friend. Our Soldiers will miss him and his infamous, "I hate you" calling card. Nothing could have been further from the truth. The Soldiers knew exactly where he stood--on their side.

Now, we are blessed w/the presence of CSM Ockman, a proven warrior and professional who will try his best to raise the bar and help move us to the next level of proficiency. He has very large shoes to fill; but what a great example to follow. He has already established himself as a no-nonsense leader w/in our battalion who will unequivocally lead by example! Welcome to the King of Battle CSM!

Our many thanks to WAVA and all the family and friends who to continue to reach out to our Soldiers and help them as they recover from the devastation Hurricane Katrina caused.

"TRY US!" Thunder 6
LTC Jordan Jones

