

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY
VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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DON'T FORGET, YOUR ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE BY JANUARY 2007
CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER IN PERPETUITY

Mar 07



What's Inside!!!

Dues/Membership Application
President's Messages
Ladies' Auxiliary
Officers and Board Members
Election of Board Members
Annual Reunion & Social

WAVA NEWS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2007

Active Battalion: John DiMartini	(504) 738-7472	Historical: Jacques Walker	(985) 882-9973
Audit: Ed Benezach, Jr.	(504) 341-2223	Legal: Mike Escudier	(504) 455-1939
Dennis Showalter	(504) 251-0660	Peter Breslin	(504) 466-3929
Awards: Jay Hotard	(504) 339-2121	Membership: John DiMartini	(504) 738-7472
Budget/Treasurer: Norvin Schexnaildre	(504) 889-0837	Newsletter: Roger Bacon	(504) 421-6358
Building: Roger Bacon	(504) 421-6358	Parliamentarian: Henry Pepper	(985) 693-4834
Ron Besson	(504) 347-5026	Programs/Publicity: Rolla Schwartz	(985) 340-7101
Charter/Bylaws: Henry Pepper	(985) 693-4834	Recording Secretary: Jacques Walker	(985) 882-9973
Corresponding Sect.: Russell Mayeur	(288) 255-7689	Socials: Jim Ledet	(504) 887-2910
Financial Advisor: Rene Jacques	(504) 729-8155	Telephone: Joe Centanni	(504) 733-1141
Food/Beverage: Jim Ledet	(504) 887-2910	Anthony Pizzolato	(504) 467-7036
Charlene Ardoin	(504) 738-9634		
Fraternal: Ron Besson	(504) 347-5026		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Spring is here and it is wonderful to see the plants growing, flowers blooming and lawns turning green from the months of winter. Just as the seasons are changing so has the landscape of New Orleans and surrounding parishes. Some members have been displaced to locations far away, places with names such as Enid, Oklahoma; Golden Meadow, La.; Dadeville, Alabama; Gonzales, La.; Houston Texas and many other towns. Though our numbers are small in attendance, we still enjoy hearing from these far away places and our members. If you cannot make it to our General Membership meetings, but are in town, let one of our in-town members hear from you. The Board of Directors' phone numbers is listed in the newsletter, so call one of us and we will put you in touch with some members you have lost touch with.

The city has changed but is slowly returning to some degree of normalcy. What is missing? YOU!!!!!! WAVA misses your attendance at our meetings and we hope you will return/visit with us SOON. We exist because of our pledge to perpetuate the SPIRIT OF THE WASHINGTON ARTILLERY. Our commitment has not changed, to be of service to the finest field artillery unit in the nation. Our heritage is proud and so should you be, due to service in the past, present and future.

The WAVA Building in St Bernard has been sold to a developer. We moved out most of the stuff, thought to be of value to the organization and left the rest for the new owner. Yes, the money is in the homestead where I will stay until we decide what we want to do. We continue to meet at the Lion's Club in Harahan which has been a blessing to us. We thank Joe Centanni for

helping with those arrangements since he is a member of that organization. Several new members have joined us from the active battalion and we welcome them and others to share fellowship with us on the third Tuesday of every month.

If you have been away from the active unit a long time or short time, we encourage you to come to our meetings and socials. Stay in touch with those you served with and make some new friends. We share a love of country, pride to have served in the finest military organization in the country, with its long history of accomplishments and the friends we made while serving. The common denominator for all of us is having served in the Battalion Washington Artillery, a mark of distinction and pride. We welcome you to join us and to help continue our organization and its history. If you have trouble getting to a meeting because of transportation please let me know. We will make some arrangements for you if you are in town. Come on out, there is daylight savings time now and it's not too late for planning to come meet with us. The meeting time is still 1900 hrs and share a good meal and friendship with us. WHY NOT???? Talk to us and share some of your thoughts and ideas. I will listen. We plan to have an updated website up and running shortly and hope that you will visit it. If you have any news for us, please give us a jingle or drop us a line, via snail mail or e-mail. You may reach me at nja10130@cox.net. Let me hear from you, I encourage communication and appreciate your thoughts.

God Bless America

Nelson J. Ardoin Jr.
President

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WASHINGTON ARTILLERY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



WAVA NEWS



Page 2

No. 07-2 To perpetuate the spirit of the Washington Artillery (The 1/141st FA BN under many numerical designations).

Mar 2007

Nelson Ardoin, Jr.	President
Jim Ledet	1 st Vice President
Jacques Walker	2 nd Vice President
Russell Mayeur	Secretary
Norvin Schexnaildre	Treasurer

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2007

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

WAVA OFFICERS

Jay	21
Jac	3
Antin	6

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2008

Ed. P. Benezech, Jr. (Katherine)	341-2223
John DiMartini (Sandra)	738-7472

VACANT-TO BE FILLED AT MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rol	55
Rol	39
Rol	01

TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 2009

Ronald Besson (Barbara)	347-5026
Joe Centanni (Lupe)	733-1141
Jim Ledet (Susan)	887-2910
Henry L. Pepper Jr. (Marilyn)	(985)693-4834
Norvin Schexnaildre (Loyce)	889-0837
Dennis Showalter (Jan)	251-0669

ANNUAL DUES

Please check your name label for the status of your dues. ANNUAL DUES FOR 2007 IS NOW DUE. PAST-DUE AMOUNTS MUST BE PAID IMMEDIATELY. CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER IN PERPETUIY, A ONE-TIME INVESTMENT. Membership/dues form is on page 4.

NOMINEES TO BE ACCEPTED FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT MARCH 20, MEETING. BOTING TO BE COMPLETED ON THEREAFTER.

WAVA MEETINGS/SPECIAL EVENTS

1st thru 3rd Quarters 2007

March 20 th	General Membership Meeting
April 17 th	Board Meeting
May 15 th	<u>Social</u> /General Membership Meeting
June 19 th	General Membership Meeting
July 17 th	Board Meeting
August 21st	General Membership Meeting
September 18 th	General Membership Meeting

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS. Meetings will be held at the home of the Delta Lions, 1725 Hickory Ave., Harahan and will begin at 7:00 p.m. Social locations and times to be provided in subsequent newsletters.

SEAFOOD PARTY, MAY 15TH

The annual seafood social will include boiled crawfish, fried catfish, fried oysters and fried shrimp and potato salad. All beverages will be included in the \$15.00 cost per individual. Guests are invited and encouraged to attend. The event will be catered at the Bissonet Maned Downs Country Club, 5300 Irving St., Metairie, behind Girard Playground off W. Esplanade Ave.

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY REUNION

While the Board has not officially selected a date for the 2007 annual reunion, it is our intention to have a bigger and better one this year to bring together old comrades. Even with the problems associated with the hurricane, we still had a good turnout this past November. Now is the time to contact those with whom you have served and invite them to participate once the date is established.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Spouses are encouraged to join as associate members. Please pass this information on and encourage your spouse to attend and become an associate member.

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 Scenery 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.

CAJUN CRAWFISH BOIL
15 May 2007

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)

MAIL TO: Jim Ledet
4908 Academy Dr.
Metairie, LA 70003
504-887-2910

WAVA MEMBERSHIP/DUES APPLICATION

NAME _____

Send to:

ADDRESS _____

SECRETARY. WAVA

P. O. Box 7584, Metairie, LA 70010

CHECK AS APPROPRIATE

PHONE _____

(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

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