

NWTA Courier

P U B L I C A T I O N O F
T H E N O R T H W E S T T E R R I T O R Y A L L I A N C E

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM THE ARCHIVES: YE OLDE MAN'S COMMANDMENTS

- 1) Thou shall not stab thy comrade in the backside, nor in the front side, nor in any other side, especially when he or she is not looking.
- 2) Thou shall not bear false witness against they neighbor, no matter how juicy it may be. Usually the facts are bad enough.
- 3) Thou shall not load thy cartridges by candlelight, unless thou art destined to fly. However, as a flyer, may thee fly far away.
- 4) Thou shall not follow thy neighbor's dress code unless he be in the same regiment and has been authenticated. Look ye for the scarlet "A" brand on the forehead.
- 5) Thou shall not fire thy gunne at or around they companions without official sanction, as it could cause ye grievous bodily harm.
- 6) Thou shall not serve thy troops corndogs, potato chips, or other unseemly food before Ye Publick for it straineth our credibility.
- 7) Thou shall not curse or swear, neither shall ye get drunk nor yet make love before Ye Publick for they think we are weird enough.
- 8) Thou shall not grumble at the demands of authenticity for our words and actions are taken as gospel by the gullible and Hell hath no fury like Ye misinformed Publick.
- 9) Thou shall not shod thy feet in tennis shoes, neither shall ye don photo grays nor time pieces upon thy wrist. Rather shall ye cast them away lest temptation lead ye to look foolish.
- 10) Thou shall plan thine events so that all who participate shall display their best whilst having a joyous time. For surely boredom breeds burnout.
- 11) Though shall preserve the harmony of Ye NWTA before serving thin own interests, for the membership surely loveth a cheerful servant.
- 12) Thou shall educate new members of thy regiment that they may prove faultless in their performance and appearance for surely look back on thine own beginnings.

SUMMER BOARD MEETING MINUTES, AS APPROVED AT THE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Bart Durbin at 8:02 AM
CST (August 23, 2009—Highland, Indiana)

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

FULL MEMBER UNITS REPRESENTED: 1st American, Simcoe's Queen's Rangers; 1st Reg't. Light Dragoons; 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment; 2nd Virginia Regiment; 8th Reg't of Foot; 42nd Reg't. RHR; 84th Reg't of Foot; Bowman's Co'y; Brigade of Guards in America; Butler's Rangers; Capt. Wm. Hendricks' Co'y, Pennsylvania Rifle Battl'n; CELTS; Charleville's Co'y; Commander in Chief's Guard, Cont'l Line; Cont'l Marines, Niklaus Battl'n; Hamilton's Artillery; HRM's Marines; Kellar's Co'y; Lee's Legion; New York Volunteers; Sandridge Settlers; Ste. Joseph's Militia; Worthington's Co'y.

NON-VOTING UNITS REPRESENTED: Civilians-at-Large; Loyal Irish Volunteers.

21 of the 39 voting units were represented at the meeting; a quorum (54%) was present.

Changes in Unit Status Involving Voting Eligibility

Inspector General – None; there are four (4) units in applicant status: Philadelphia Ladies Association, 7th Pennsylvania Reg't, Bradt's Volunteers, and Caldwell's Co'y.

Adjutant – Eight (8) units were returned to full status for payment of dues: Worthington's Co'y, Commander in Chief's Guard, 10th Virginia Reg't, 71st Reg't of Foot, Culpeper Minute Battalion, 55th Reg't of Foot, Capt Benjamin Logan's Co'y, and Native Allies. Seven (7) units remain in probationary status for lack of at least five paid members on file for 2009: Royal Deux Pont Reg't, Charleville's Co'y, Holder's Co'y Boonsborough Militia, 4th Cont'l Dragoons, 6th Virginia, and Lee's Legion.

Discussion Time Limits

MOTION by Al Potyen to limit discussion to 10 minutes per topic, 1 minute per speaker. Motion Ap-

proved.

Approval of Past Minutes

The minutes of the Board Meeting on 7 March 2009 were accepted as written.

The minutes of the Emergency Board Meeting held 14 June 2009 were accepted as written.

Commander Report: Bart Durbin

Bart expressed thanks to everyone who assisted in producing a successful Grand Encampment.

STAFF REPORTS

Deputy Commander: Tim Hess – absent; no report.

Adjutant: Angie Potter – oral update provided.

Membership is at 821. An application has been received for a new unit (Tarlatan British Legion).

Paymaster: Andrea Studzinski – oral update provided.

Membership revenue is above forecast. The 2009/2010 Budget will be presented at the Board Meeting in November. MOTION by Jane Whiteside to allocate \$252.93 to the Scholarship fund. Motion Approved.

Scribe: Kayte Ossler had no report.

Provost Marshal: Alan Potyen had no report.

Artillery Safety: Thad Miller – Absent; update provided by Randy Hamper.

Artillery units have been reminded to keep logs up to date for review.

Inspector General: Randy Hamper – oral update provided.

Inspections are ongoing, full report to be provided at the Board Meeting in November.

Corporate Agent: William Potter had no report.

Recruiting Officer: Marilyn Hess – oral update provided.

Six members have been placed with units; there are nine new individuals in LIV.

Marilyn tendered her resignation effective at the end of the 2009 season.

Publications Editor: Rowenna Hamper had no report.

Inspector of Music: Linda Ambrus – oral update provided.

BAR music manuals have been received and some of the books have been distributed.

Clothier / Pattern master: Jane Whiteside – written report submitted.

Three (3) patterns have been reviewed.

Minutes, Continued

Judge Advocate General: Reed Milsaps – Absent; no report.

Insurance Officer: Linnea Bass had no report.

Public Information Officer: Dennis Bork – Absent; no report.

Quartermaster: Martin Webb had no report.

Web Master: Mark Wedow / Frank Doughman – Absent; no report.

Civilian Coordinator: Beth Eagan
The civilian sign is up and in use.

OLD BUSINESS

Host and Event Sponsor Guide Report

The Sponsor Guide and a separate summary document for the website were distributed for review. Voting will occur at the Board Meeting in November.

Grand Encampment Committee Report

Positive feedback was received and a 'lessons learned' document is being compiled.

Report of the Nominating Committee – Jane Whiteside

Ballots for the National Election have been mailed. Counting will occur at Cantigny.

NEW BUSINESS

Announcement of NWTa Scholarship Recipient – Randy Hamper

Scholarships were awarded to Fritz McGeer and Melanie Studzinski.

Lady and Gentlemen Volunteer Proposal – Linnea Bass

MOTION by Linnea Bass that inactive past-Commanders and Founders be made Lady or Gentleman Volunteers of the North West Territory Alliance. Motion approved.
MOTION by Linnea Bass to name Matt LeFond a Gentleman Volunteer. Motion Approved.

Publication of Minutes in Courier – Angie Potter

MOTION by Greg Holm that the NWTa publish minutes following Robert's Rules of Order. Motion Approved.

Internet Communication Proposal – Mark Wedow/Angie Potter

Postponed until the next meeting.

2010 Schedule / New Events 2010 – Linnea Bass

Schedule is being developed.

Symposium Committee Report – Hazel Dickfoss

Sites for hosting the symposium are being researched.

Grand Encampment Funeral Salute – Brian Vandepolder

A video of the 2009 Grand Encampment Funeral Salute was captured. This along with a book was presented to Marilyn Hess for the

NWTA SCHEDULE 2010

February 5-7 - Reenactor Fest 6 - Wheeling, Illinois *

February 27-28 - Echoes of the Past - Trade Show - Oshkosh, Wisconsin *

March 6 - NWTA Board Meeting 9:00 AM CST- Cabella's, Highland, Indiana

April 17 - NWTA Symposium - Highland, Indiana.

May 15-16 - School of the Piece - Boscobel, Wisconsin (Artillery Program) *

May 29-30 - Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous - Vincennes, IN

June 12-13 - Klash on the Kankakee - Bourbonnais, Illinois

June 26-27 - Back to the Days of Kosciusko - Warsaw, Indiana

August 21-22 - Battle on the Ridge - Highland, Indiana

September 4-5 - Pioneer Village - Saukville, Wisconsin

September 11-12 - Cantigny - Wheaton, Illinois (School Days - September 9 & 10)

October 2-3 - Feast of the Hunter's Moon - West Lafayette, Indiana

October 30-31 - Market Days at Locust Grove - Louisville, Kentucky

November 6 - NWTA Board Meeting 9:00 AM CST-Cabella's, Highland, Indiana

* Non NWTA Event

IDEAS FOR TACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS

By Mark Tully and Brian VandePolder

At most NWTa events, the number of combatants on the field is very low when compared to the numbers engaged in actual battles during the American Revolution (see table in Packet IV, p 6). This makes it difficult, though not impossible, to re-create a specific battle. However, there are several things we can do to put on a cohesive, convincing battlefield scenario despite our relatively small numbers.

First, the standard formation for infantry during the 18th century was three ranks at close order. This was primarily to prevent the cavalry from breaking through and causing havoc in the rear of formations. Richard Lambert, Earl of Cavan (c 1722-1778), notes that the regiments should form in three ranks, with the tallest soldiers in the front rank, the next tallest in the rear rank, and the shortest in the middle rank, so that an unobstructed field of fire is achieved when the front rank is kneeling. On the other hand, Friedrich Wilhelm, Baron von Steuben (1730-1794) suggests that there be just two ranks, with the shortest soldiers in the front rank and the tallest in the rear. Despite the British tradition of using three-rank formations, just before the battle for Long Island, General Howe ordered that "The infantry of the Army without exception is ordered upon all occasions to form two Deep with the file at 18 inches interval, until further orders." (Howe, August 1, 1776). This order was repeated now and again, but never recinded.

Forming as a single rank allows us to cover more of the field during our battle demonstrations, but there is no historical precedence that we have found for armies forming for battle in just one rank during the American Revolution. Forming at open order (18" or arm's length) helps to resolve this issue, as it increases the front of a two-rank formation by about 30%. Two ranks at open order is a historically correct formation, and open order was nothing new, as Humphrey Bland (1683-1763) had recommended open-order formations in his 1743 manual as well (pp 11-17). It is more difficult to face and wheel at open order, but Bland specifically directs that, before wheeling, companies close, dress, wheel, and then open their order and dress again. At first this may seem a bit tedious or even cumbersome, but doing this it would increase the activity on the battlefield and would look great from the audience's perspective!

Also, during the 18th century, both the Baron von Steuben and the Earl of Cavan addressed the problem of under-strength regiments. Steuben breaks his regiments down into battalions, made up of divisions, each of which was comprised of two platoons. Cavan uses the terms regiment and battalion inter



*Tidings of
Comfort
and Joy*

2010 Dues are due!

\$20.00 Single / \$25.00 Family

Membership Categories:

¹ **Single membership** is restricted to one (1) voting member and qualifying dependent(s). \$20.00/year (includes Courier).

² **Family membership** is restricted to two (2) voting members and qualifying dependent(s). \$25.00/year (includes Courier).

³ Qualifying dependents have no vote and must meet one of the following conditions:

Under 18 years of age and living at the same address.

Full-time student.

Member of the military on active duty.

A minor for whom the voting member(s) have assumed responsibility during events by filing letters to that effect with the NWTa Adjutant General from both the voting members(s) and the parent/guardian with whom the minor resides.

**Send your dues to your unit commander.
Make checks payable to your unit or unit Paymaster.**

Unit commanders, send ONE check payable to NWTa to Jane Whiteside, NWTa Adjutant, 8417 Adbeth, Woodridge, IL 60517

DEADLINE: January 30th, 2010. Units that have not paid dues will have no vote at the Spring Board meeting.

(New membership and change of information form on the reverse of this page. Additional forms are available for download on the Resources section of www.nwta.com)

Nominating Committee/ Election Report Submitted by Jane M. Whiteside

Since the current Adjutant was the candidate, I as chair of the Nominating Committee chaired the election procedures as well. Ballots were mailed to my home or submitted to me at Cantigny by September 12, 2009.

Thank you to Andrea Studzinski, Treasurer; Katye Ossler, Scribe, Alex Farkas, and Connie VandePolder for serving on the Ballot committee and giving up their Saturday morning.

Results:

166 votes were cast

Angela Potter was declared the winner with 131 votes.

Write in votes were also cast for Bart Durbin, David Jahntz, Tim Hess, Brian VandePolder, Steve Gilbert, and Bernie Kazwick.

THE NORTH WEST TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Individual Membership Application Change of Information Form



CHECK ONE: ☐ New Member Application ☐ Current Member, Change of Information
 CHECK ONE, IF APPLICABLE: ☐ Dues, Single Membership¹ (\$20.00) ☐ Dues, Family Membership² (\$25.00)
☐ Publication Subscription only (\$10/year) **Total Fees Enclosed \$** _____

Please Print Clearly

Unit Name: _____

Voter #1: _____ DATE JOINED _____
 (Last Name) (First Name)

If Family membership:

Voter #2: _____ DATE JOINED _____
 (Last Name) (First Name)

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: (____) _____ - _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

QUALIFYING DEPENDENTS AND YEAR JOINED:³ Include last name if different from above.

ALTERNATE UNIT(S), IF ANY: _____

APPLICANTS SIGNATURE: _____

UNIT COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

¹ Single membership is restricted to one (1) voting member and qualifying dependent(s). \$20.00/year (includes Courier).

² Family membership is restricted to two (2) voting members and qualifying dependent(s). \$25.00/year (includes Courier).

³ Qualifying dependents have no vote and must meet one of the following conditions:

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Full-time student.

Member of the military on active duty.

A minor for whom the voting member(s) have assumed responsibility during events by filing letters to that effect with the NWTA Adjutant General from both the voting members(s) and the parent/guardian with whom the minor resides.

Group check from entire unit is preferred. Make checks payable to North West Territory Alliance.

Mail Completed Form to: Jane Whiteside, Adjutant General, NWT A, 8417 Adbeth, Woodridge, IL 60517

Updated 11/12/09

TACTICALS, CONTINUED

changeably, however, he uses grand divisions to replace companies, and divisions to replace platoons. Cavan does not specify the number of soldiers fronting a line in his proposed division, but he does suggest that there should be 10 divisions (of equal size), each one commanded by a serjeant (page 118). Steuben, on the other hand, states that each platoon should front ten soldiers (page 8 [160 files in regiment of 8 companies, 2 platoons in each company]). Platoons comprised of a ten-soldier front makes for an impressive yet easily-managed “company” for our battle scenarios, and, depending upon the numbers present, several of these platoons would be combined into a larger force.

Because few NWTa units can put 20 men (two ranks with a ten-man front) into the field, this type of formation might give a “mixed bag” look to the line. However, it was very common during the period for guards, patrols and foraging parties to be comprised of a mixed force of men drawn from a variety of regiments (see Washington’s Writings [Fitzpatrick], various British orderly books). These guards, patrols and foraging parties were often comprised of about the numbers that the NWTa generally fields at an average event. Unfortunately, details on how these smaller bodies of men maneuvered and fired in battle are virtually non-existent, but we can state with almost complete certainty that, when they came under fire, these mixed bodies of troops would have acted together as a cohesive unit.

Based upon what we have presented so far, it seems that a good way to conduct our battle demonstrations would be for each side to divide the troops present into two, two-rank

divisions each commanded by one officer and one sergeant with one set of Colours placed between the two divisions. In using this formation, there would probably be a few excess sergeants and officers for our NWTa tacticals, but the excess sergeants could fall in with soldiers, with the excess officers being used as support (message runners, file closers, safety officers, etc.). Each of our battle demonstrations has a predetermined outcome, with each side winning two and losing two “battles” over the course of a typical weekend event. This being the case, the role of the field commanders is less that of a tactician and more like that of the director of a play. The field commanders are responsible for the overall content and flow of the tactical, and the opposing field commanders should be selected by the host unit well in advance of the event so that they can work together to plan an appropriate tactical demonstration. The NWTa has many sergeants and officers who are capable of commanding in the field, and the field commanders should select the ones they are comfortable working with to help execute the various maneuvers and firings as he directs.

At some of our events, we also have demonstrations of the Manual Exercise on the schedule. Some units do drill, while others do not. If we adopt the ideas presented here, each force would be expected to function as one cohesive unit on the battlefield. To use our theatrical analogy above, not doing this is like having a bunch of actors not rehearsing together in preparation for a play! It would really help our tactical presentation if all of the units would drill together as a single unit. Perhaps time could be set aside in every event schedule for demonstrating the manual exercise—the Continentals could perform one day and the British the next.



NWTA SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Registration Form

The NWTA frequently receives requests from people who are interested in Rev War / 18th Century presentations for either schools or civic groups. It would be extremely useful to have a list of members who are both willing and able to do such presentations, especially during the daytime.

The list would not be posted on the web site, but would be available to Officers, Host Unit Commanders, the Webmaster and others who receive such requests. That would allow us to give the interested party a list of potential presenters from the local area.

If you are willing to do public presentations, please fill out this form and return it to the Adjutant:

Jane Whiteside, NWTA Adjutant, 8417 Adbeth, Woodridge, IL, 60517

Or e-mail: j-whiteside@comcast.net

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (note whether home or cell) _____

E-Mail _____

PRESENTATION INFORMATION

1. When are you available to do presentations?

[Check all that apply]

☐ Weekday mornings or afternoons

☐ Weekday evenings

☐ Weekends

2. What are your preferred age groups?

[Please rank 1st - 3rd choice]

☐ Ages 3-7 years (Preschool – 2nd Grade)

☐ Ages 8-12 years (Grade 3 – 8)

☐ High School

☐ College and Adults

3. General area of expertise or portrayal

☐ Military (Crown)

☐ Military (Congressional)

☐ Military (Other _____)

☐ Civilian male

☐ Civilian female

☐ Other specialty _____

4. Do you have any hands-on items that people, especially children, can touch and examine?

☐ Craft Items (wool to be carded, etc.)

☐ Games and toys

☐ Personal items (eating equipment, flint and steel, etc)

☐ Other _____

5. Do you charge for presentations to certain groups?

☐ No ☐ Yes (\$ range: _____)

6. How far are you willing to travel? _____

Please use the reverse of this sheet to provide additional information if you wish.

NWTA Speakers' Bureau Form
Nov. 2009

Please attach any additional information on a separate sheet of paper.

TACTICALS, CONCLUDED:

The public loves watching the manual exercise performed, and they can learn just as much from our screw-ups and flubbed commands (and the appropriate correction of same) as they can from watching a crack drill team – possibly even more!

Finally, spectators come to NWTA events to learn, but more importantly, to see an exciting show. We owe it to them, and our sponsors, to put on the best show that we possibly can at each and every event. We can do this with scenarios and activities throughout the day, culminating in a well-executed tactical demonstration. We can only accomplish this through adequate pre-planning and regular practice.

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Bland, Humphrey. (17??). *A Treatise of Military Discipline*.

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N W T A H I S T O R Y S Y M P O S I U M

Saturday April 17, 2010 8am - 5 pm

Wicker Park Banquet Hall

2215, Ridge Road., Highland, IL

Registration 8.00 am

Breakfast and lunch buffet included

Register soon!

N W T A members \$45, non-members \$55 payable Hazel Dickfoss

Send to N W T A Symposium Registration, 2115 Ramada Drive, Racine, WI 53406

Name(s) _____

Address _____

N W T A member yes/no

Tel: _____ E-mail _____

for registration confirmation, if no e-mail please indicate that and your confirmation will be sent by mail.

Registration Deadline: March 21st*and extra \$5 per person will be charged for late registrations*

Number of registrations: N W T A members _____ @ \$45 ea. = \$ _____

Non-members _____ @ \$55 ea = \$ _____

Buffet dinner reservations: _____ @ \$40 ea = \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Dinner menu will include:

Herb Roasted Sirloin of Beef, Greek Style Chicken Breast and Fettuccini Alfredo,
salad, vegetables, potatoes, dessert, coffee and tea.

Cash Bar

Motels:

Inn at Hammond, 7813 Indianapolis Blvd., Hammond, IN 46324

Conference price \$60 per night, be sure to mention when making your reservation that you are attending the
N W T A symposium.

SCHEDULE AVAILABLE AT WWW.NWTA.COM

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- 2 More Seminars To Be Named

(For updated Seminar Topic Info. see our website)

For information contact:
Brian Bradley,
The Bradley Co. of the Fox
4330 County Road S
Oshkosh, WI 54904
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CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY.

*A Very
Merry
Christmas and
a Joyous
New Year
from your
NWT-A
Family*