The Cannoneer SEPTEMBER 2020

If it was not for the Covid-19 virus, most of us would be readying ourselves for the eleven hour drive out to those peaceful hills around Winchester, Virginia. We would be looking forward to those wonderful meals that Stan always whips up. We would be dreaming of walking around Sutlers Row looking for that one thing we did not know that we needed. We would be thinking of buying apples and powder. We would be thinking of hopping over to Sharpsburg or Harpper’s Ferry to soak in some more history. It may be true we would have been preparing to clean bathrooms all week but it would not matter for we would be out in Virginia. But alas, like most of the events across the nation, it was canceled. Actually almost the entire skirmish season was canceled. There were no parades or displays or relic shows. There was no reason to clean your hands dirty of the black powder residue. There was only one skirmish and a work party. Lets hope that 2021 will be a better year.

**2021 Membership Renewal**

It may seem that if you paid your 2020 dues for national, regional and Battery that you did not get much for your money. Just because there were almost no skirmishes and such, your money was put to good work. These funds helped keep the National organization alive. It helped pay the bills, which include but not limited to, utilities, insurance, taxes, permits maintenance, supplies, accountants, employees equipment and more. It may be true that the National coffers were lessened with each check due to the loss of revenue, range rent fees, and such. The National organization is not broke. Finances will be lean in 2021. But things will be leaner if people do not support the National association or the Battery with their continued membership.

The N-SSA offers two levels of membership, Regular Shooter membership ($80) and Non-shooter membership. ($40) Non-shooters can always change to Regular Shooter status by simply paying the $40 difference anytime during the year. Dues must be sent in to the National organization by December 1st. So we are asking you to send your dues to us, meaning Bob Brown, by November 21st. The Battery will not cover anyone’s dues again. So if we do not receive your funds by November 21st and submit your membership at a later date you will incur late fees.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the membership renewal form. Please fill it out. Make sure you also fill out the ballot portion of the form. Please include your personal information especially if you have any changes in address or contact information. (phone or email) If you did not join last year, you will need fill out the additional national membership form. Make sure you fill it out completely and sign the areas that are required. Then send all to Bob Brown.

In addition to the regular yearly elections and membership forms, there are several added items to vote on. These would normally be voted on at meetings which are held at skirmishes but there were none. They are mainly to reimburse the Commander for several expenses he paid out of his pocket. The first is $100 for the lunch provided for those that attended the work party out at Sandy Ford. The work party built new frames, cleaned out the storage trailer, and took inventory of the items inside. The Commander requested permission prior but it officially needs a vote by the full membership for approval. The Commander is also asking for $40 to cover the cost of printing and postage of the Cannoneer. These are two separate issues on the ballot.

Another finance issue the Commander would like the membership to approve is a small donation of $100 to the Gainesboro Fire and Rescue Squad. These are the folks that are down by the range to provide emergency care to those who need it. They have saved many a skirmishers in the past. They are heavily funded by the concession sales during regional and National skirmishes. With the lack of skirmishes being held at the Fort, the N-SSA has asked that we keep them in mind and if possible to send them a donation. It would be nice to send them something. If approved, the Battery will send them $100. Members are welcome to add to that total by sending additional funds to the Battery and marking down the amount. Or you can send it directly to them.

**Skirmish Line** . Presently the Board of Directors is looking for a new editor for the Skirmish Line. In the meantime, The Board of Director's will be providing a monthly newsletter to any N-SSA member that is interested.  The newsletter will also be available to members on the N-SSA website Bulletin Board.  They are very pleased to be implementing this new program and hope that members find it beneficial. All one has to do is to sign up. Signing up for the electronic newsletter is simple. Click on the link, <http://eepurl.com/hcTZKP>

Then complete the form and hit submit.  Our National Adjutant, Melinda Shaw will be coordinating the newsletter, collection of email addresses and distribution.

**New Members** Due to the Covid-19 and the lack of meetings, the Battery needs to re-examine how they welcome new members. In the past we have used a sponsor method after meeting the prospective member at a skirmish or meeting. This will not happen due to the lack of the above. Therefore if someone knows of a prospective member, they will be asked to sponsor them on their word alone.

**August 21-22 Beloit Wisconsin - Battery Breaks Targets:** Wading through a plethora of canceled events there was finally one that was not canceled and attended by several members of the Battery. Muskets, carbines, and smoothbores were fired and targets broken. Sara, Steve L, Scott H and Paul G were out at the new range and represented the Battery. They did not come home with any metals but they did have fun. They reported that the range was nice and the skirmish itself was ran very nicely by the 46th Illinois. The 46th normally host a skirmish at Sandy Ford, the same place the Battery does but due to high range fees they opted out this year. (The Sandy Ford range fee was lowered after they decided to switch locations.) The camping area is close to the range and the range itself is easy to find. If all goes as planned, the 46th will be hosting at the same place next year.

**Quick Note from the Commander:** Simply put, 2020 was a big disappointment. Event after event was canceled leaving us stuck at home. I personally was looking forward to the events because there was the good chance that we could have had enough people for a B-team or even maybe a C-team which would have been a first in the history of the Battery. I have seen signs of improvement and thought 2020 would be that year that the Battery would be a serious contender in all events and not just smoothbore. Though disappointing, I do not expect to see the same thing happen next year. I hope that all of you will continue with or renew your membership. Our sport is very unique, not to mention fun. So please make sure you fill out your membership forms and send them to Bob. Together we can make 2021 the best year and maybe even make up for some lost opportunities.