



# THE BURNING ISSUES



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Supplemental Issue      Official Newsletter of the Burning of the Valleys Military Association, Inc.      December 2004



## NOTICE TO BVMA MEMBERSHIP

**Annual BVMA Delegates' Meeting  
Saturday, January 22nd, 2005  
12:00 pm (Hall opens at 11:00 am)  
St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge  
Johnstown, NY**

### From the Secretary

The annual BVMA Delegates meeting will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2005.

The meeting will be held at the St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge in Johnstown, NY. The hall opens at 11 AM, with the meeting itself kicking off at 12:00 sharp.

Each unit must notify the Secretary with the names of their two representatives (and email address as well if applicable) who will be attending ASAP (this helps get an accurate count for handouts, makes roll call go quicker, etc). Please get this to Dean Barnes, BVMA Secretary at:

Dean Barnes  
100 Hoffman St.  
Kingston, NY 12401

Or email to:  
thetavernkeeper@hotmail.com.

There are several issues that require your deliberation before voting on at the meeting. Please review these and discuss with your delegates/unit before the meeting.

### From the Chair

Greetings!!!

1780 is THE year that gave the BVMA its name Lots of things are going to burn next year as we commemorate that events of 1780. The fall campaign is going to be VERY busy, and we are going to have a lot of competition from other organizations for event dates. We really are going to need strong support from BVMA member units to pull our events off. Please help!!!

We have discussed in the past the need to look at our bylaws, and simplify the procedure for removing from our rolls groups that have expressed no interest in continuing with us, or who have consciously not met the requirements for continuing membership. We are not the

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## From the Chair *(cont'd)*

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same group we were when founded. We are now truly a membership organization, not an organization of delegates. We have incorporated and insured. Insurance brings with it significant costs, and units who do not wish to participate with the BVMA should not be carried on our books for three years before they can be removed.

I am proposing the following change to the Bylaws Article III, new section 2B, replacing the existing language:

Unit dues must be paid by the annual membership meeting each year. The Treasurer shall remove from the active rolls and insurance roster of the BVMA any unit that is in arrears after May 1 each year. Units inactive for one year or more may be automatically removed from the BVMA membership roster by the Treasurer. Subsequent reinstatement of an inactive unit may occur by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Last year we adopted a thorough set of safety procedures. Everyone look them over, and if there are suggestions for improvement, they be should be offered up before the January 22 delegates meeting. I asked Dave Morgan to specifically look at the artillery procedures, and his proposed changes/additions are the subject of a separate article in this edition of the Burning Issues. Remember, EVERYBODY is a safety officer. If you see something that needs to be addressed, speak up!

Last year's annual meeting in March was more a social gathering, and less a business meeting. Those who attended had a fun time, and the boring stuff was kept to a minimum. Easter falls at the end of March this year, so expect the annual meeting to be scheduled for March 19.

I look forward to seeing everyone in January!... Start getting ready for 1780!!!!

JLO

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### Executive Board Nominations

Nominations will be accepted for the Executive Board positions for 2005. The current Executive Board members are:

Chair: John Osinski, 2nd Regt., Albany County Militia  
 Deputy Chair: Jim Stevens, Ten Broeck's Coy., Butler's Rangers  
 Secretary: Dean Barnes, 1st Ulster County Militia  
 Treasurer: Teresa Gage, Behind the Lines

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## Behind the Lines: Reminder

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The following was in the last newsletter, and I am posting it again as a reminder. Look for forms on the website or in the List files, or contact Sue-Ann.

— *KG, BTL Delegate*

### Margarite Syfert-Hines Memorial Award

The Margarite Syfert-Hines Memorial Award, or the MS-H Award for short, was established to celebrate the legacy of an exceptional civilian interpreter by recognizing the contributions of one particular civilian re-enactor each year. It showcases the best and brightest efforts of Behind the Lines members over 17 years old through three particular qualities, sharing, knowledge, and enthusiasm for the hobby. This person is selected from nominations made by her/his civilian re-enactor peers (and if 2003 was any indication, it will be another difficult choice in 2004) and will be awarded at the 2005 General Membership meeting in March.

To nominate someone for the MS-H Award, simply describe how the person has demonstrated the three defining qualities during the past year giving specific examples. Nomination forms are available from any Behind the Lines officer and will be accepted for review until the Delegates' meeting in January. Have you been watching your fellow civilian re-enactors this season? Maybe someone has been watching you . . .

Sue-Ann Wheadon  
**Behind the Lines Co-chair**

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## **Proposed Additions to BVMA Safety Regulations**

*Submitted by Dave Morgan*

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During the past campaign, there were several instances (not necessarily at BVMA events) when it became necessary to clear a misfire from an artillery piece on the battlefield. The procedures followed for completing this exercise were not uniform, and it was apparent in several instances that the opposing forces did not understand the procedures required to make such a piece safe.

The following additions are proposed to the BVMA Safety regulations.

### **TACTICAL DEMONSTRATION**

To assure maximum safety for demonstrators and visitors, the following standards will govern Tactical Demonstrations:

1. ALL Units will be required to have Representatives at Morning Officer/Safety meetings. (NEW) *A briefing on artillery procedures will be a mandatory component of such meetings when artillery is to be fielded.*

#### *(New) Appendix G: Artillery Misfire Safety*

##### *Section 1. Safety Equipment*

*The gun crew must have in its possession a turkey baster or other piece of equipment to safely (without exposing limbs over the vent) flood the vent when called for.*

*It is recommended for the crew to be in possession of a device to flood the muzzle of the gun with a minimum exposure of limbs in front of the muzzle. An example of this would be a length of garden hose with a funnel attached to one end- the other end of the hose is inserted into the muzzle and then the tube can be flooded by pouring water into the other end of the hose.*

##### *Section 2. Misfire Procedure*

*When a misfire occurs, either during a tactical or demonstration, the gun commander shall, in a loud voice, call out MISFIRE! STAND FAST! If the misfire occurs during a tactical he shall immediately order the crossing of the sponge-rammer staff and the worm above the barrel as a visual sign that the gun has misfired and is not to be approached.*

*Then the gun commander is to determine the nature of the misfire and take corrective measures. If it is felt that the charge was not seated properly in the tube, the gun commander MAY attempt to reseat the charge- but it is not recommended as there has been fire introduced into the tube- if it is to be re-rammed, a minimum waiting period of 2 minutes should be allowed to insure the charge will not "cook off."*

*When it is deemed safe by the gun commander, he will order the gun to be reprimed using the crew's usual procedure- if gauntlets are used by the sponge rammer or the loader they shall pass them back to the primer for his use while re-priming the gun. It will then be fired in the normal manor.*

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**Proposed Additions to BVMA Safety Regulations** *(cont'd)*

*If the gun misfires a second time you must pull the charge- the crew will take the following steps.*

- 1. Using the turkey baster or other similar device the primer will flood the vent after waiting at least one minute from the misfire. He will use a quantity of water judged sufficient to soak the cartridge.*
- 2. After waiting a minimum of 2 minutes the tube will be flooded via the muzzle of the piece with a quantity of water judged sufficient to completely flood the cartridge.*
- 3. After waiting at least an additional 2 minutes the loader will carefully fish the cartridge out of the tube and deposit it into the sponge bucket or any other water filled container. The gun commander may wish to inspect the cartridge to try to determine what caused the misfire.*

**Annual Membership Meeting**

The Annual Membership meeting will tentatively be held on Saturday, March 19th at St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge. Although the meeting is normally held on the 4th Saturday in March, the Lodge was not available this year on that date. We will confirm the date at the Delegates' meeting.

**Directions to St. Patricks Masonic Lodge**

From the NYS Thruway (I90), take exit 28, the Fonda/Johnstown exit. At the exit ramp, take a left going towards Fonda/Johnstown. Follow the river going west. Make a right turn onto 30A North (also called State Street) - you'll see on the right at that intersection first a car dealership, then a gas station (Robin Station) - Take a left onto Rt. 67 W/ Main St., then take a right at the light (Stewarts will be on your right) onto North Perry Street. The St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge is on the right - red brick with white pillars.

Or, if not coming from the Thruway, take either Rt. 67 or Rt. 29 into Johnstown. As you enter Johnstown, Rt 67 & 29 converge on Main street, turn right onto North Perry St - the St. Patrick's Masonic Lodge is on the right - red brick with white pillars.



The Burning Issues  
Kristin Gitler, Publisher  
604 E. Seneca St.  
Manlius, NY 13104

