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O.V.T.A. MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

February 1, 2020

When? February 1, 2020

Where? Morganton North Carolina Morganton Community House -120 N King St, Morganton, NC 28655

Board Meeting Prior to Annual Meeting -10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.  All invited to Attend!

Annual Membership Meeting  Time?  1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Topics of Discussion:

- Slate of Officers -2020-22 Term
- Revise By-laws
- Enhance Mission Statement
- Reports on the 2019 Activities
- Many More Topics of Interest!

OVTA members and guest are Urged to attend this meeting. Officers and Board members election. Bylaw changes. A look back into 2019.

All members are welcome to attend the Board Meeting.
Bylaw Committee Report For
February 1st 2020 Annual Meeting

We have four items in our Bylaws that are recommended for modification.

First Item - Member Meeting Quorum

Our current Bylaws have our quorum for business set at 10% of the membership eligible to vote. Many of our members have joined to support the Association and have no interest in attending meetings or being involved with the management of the Association. We have members in many states including California. We also have a majority of the members who reside in our four March states who are outside of the driving distance for most people to attend a meeting.

We are now at a membership level where we will soon not be able to conduct business such as election of officers. Our goal is to grow the Association significantly. At the last membership meeting we barely met the quorum.

Current Bylaw wording:
ARTICLE XIII. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS - SECTION IV to read:
ARTICLE XIII. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS SECTION IV. A quorum for the general membership meetings shall be a majority of the board members present plus a minimum of 10 general members present. The vote of the majority of the votes entitled to be cast by the members at a meeting at which a quorum is present, shall be necessary for the adoption of any matter voted upon by the members.

Recommended wording:
ARTICLE XIII. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS SECTION IV. A quorum for the general membership meetings shall be a majority of the board members present plus a minimum of 10 general members present. The vote of the majority of the votes entitled to be cast by the members at a meeting at which a quorum is present, shall be necessary for the adoption of any matter voted upon by the members.

Second Item - Membership Categories: The Bylaw committee recommends that the Membership Categories descriptions be moved to the Governance Manual.

Current wording of the Bylaws:
ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP SECTION I. Individuals and public or private organizations or corporations interested in the objectives of the Association shall be eligible for membership as hereinafter provided.

SECTION II. There shall be five (5) categories of regular annual membership: individual, family, sustaining, corporate, and young patriot and three (3) categories of special membership: life, supporting, and honorary.

Recommended wording:
ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP SECTION I. Individuals and public or private organizations or corporations interested in the objectives of the Association shall be eligible for membership as hereinafter provided.

SECTION II. The several categories of membership shall be defined in the Governance Manual.

Sections II through IIH to be moved to the Governance Manual

Third Item - Notice of meetings by electronic means:

We should be consistent in how we notify members of meetings or important issues such as the report of the Nominating Committee. ARTICLE XI on the Nominating Committee, ARTICLE XIII on general membership meetings and ARTICLE XVII on amendments to the bylaws should be amended to be consistent with other means of membership notification.

Original wording of the Bylaws:
ARTICLE XI. NOMINATING COMMITTEE SECTION V. The chairperson shall report the nominees to the Board of Directors at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Announcement of the nominees shall be published in the Association newsletter prior to the annual meeting.

Recommended wording:
ARTICLE XI. NOMINATING COMMITTEE SECTION V. The chairperson shall report the nominees to the Board of Directors at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Announcement of the nominees shall be published in the Association newsletter prior to the annual meeting or by US mail, facsimile, email or any other electronic means approved by the Board. and that the proposed amendment has been approved by the Board of Directors.

(Continued on page 3)
Fourth Item **Executive Committee:** (Bylaws Continued from page 2)

As per Robert’s Rules (page 485), The Association needs an Executive Committee to handle the business of the Board between the Board Meetings.

This item also cleans up the format of the Article since sections VII and VIII are without descriptors.

Original Wording **ARTICLE X. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SECTION VII. blank**

This item does not currently exist in the Bylaws.

Recommended Wording:

**ARTICLE X. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SECTION VII. Board of Directors Membership SECTION VIIId.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall have the authority of the Board between meetings of the Board, but cannot alter any decision of the Board.

Original Wording **SECTION VIII. Blank**

Recommended Wording **SECTION VIII. Board of Directors Meetings**

Dues and End of Year Donations

If you have not paid your dues, please pay them.

2019 is coming to end. If you are checking on your financial year and thinking about donating some money to the Church or an organization, don’t forget to donate to the OVTA. OVTA provides funding for a host of programs such as trail building projects, education programs, cultural and natural resource protection, and our signage program. Your dues and additional donations help us provide these funds.

*Box lunch: If you want a box lunch, must send request to Tom Vaughn (tpvaughan@aol.com) by January 23. Cost: $10. The box lunch comes with the following: Turkey or ham sandwich, chips, pasta salad, cookie, pickle. Gluten free and vegetarian wrap options are available.

**NPS Black Powder Firelock Safety Training**

**February 29, 2020**

**10:00 am**

**Kings Mountain National Military Park**

**2625 Park Rd, Blacksburg, SC**

The National Park Service at Kings Mountain/Cowpens have developed a black powder safety training course. It is a hands-on training for safety, how to handle a firelock, firing the firelock, what to do around visitors, and other important points. This training is required for anyone wanting to fire their weapons on NPS property (Cowpens and Kings Mountain). Good for 1 year. No Charge.

These are the Nominations:

David Doan – President
Leigh Ann Hunter – Secretary
Mark Anthony – SC
Joella Johnson Barbour - VA
Tony DeVault – TN
Brad Knight – NC
Bryant Lindsey – NC
Mel McKay – TN
Carson Sailor – NC

Donations can be made by check or PayPal, Friends and Family, to treasurer@ovta.org.

Please donate. Thank you!

Help the OVTA Keep The Story Alive!

Note: The OVTA is a 501 c. 3 Non-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible within the extent allowed by law.
Oliver says, “I hesitate to make any predictions. But this is as close to happening as you can possibly imagine.”

Reenactors from the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, photographed during their annual commemoration of the march to Kings Mountain. The filmmakers behind “Revolutionary!” plan to feature the OVTA and other period-correct reenactor groups throughout the movie. Courtesy of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association

Read more here: https://www.newsobserver.com/entertainment/movies-news-reviews/article237539319.html#storylink=cpy

It’s to be set not far from Charlotte: Based on the Battle of Kings Mountain, the story centers on a ragtag band of militias backing the patriot cause that surprised and overwhelmed British-loyalist forces near the North Carolina-South Carolina border on Oct. 7, 1780, marking the first of a string of significant American victories that changed the course of the Revolutionary War in the South.

It’s been conceived by people with strong Carolina ties. Oliver is a University of South Carolina alumn who lives in the tiny N.C. town of Tryon. Anderson graduated from Duke University and has lived in Charlotte for 28 years. Patrick A. Davis, the bestselling novelist who wrote the script, moved to Landrum, S.C. (about 90 miles due east of Charlotte) three years ago. Director Nick Searcy is a Cullowhee native, a product of UNC-Chapel Hill, and a former longtime resident of Wilmington, where he cut his teeth as an actor.

Plus, if all goes according to plan, it would be filmed almost entirely in North Carolina: They hope home base for the shoot will be a 50-acre plot of land near Hickory that’s home to the largest collection of historic log structures in the U.S.

They say pre-production is done, that the basis for their financing is in place, and that they’re in the process of finalizing a deal with “a major distributor” (although they say they can’t reveal which one quite yet).

“Knowing the industry as I do,” Oliver says, “I hesitate to make any predictions. But this is as close to happening as you can possibly imagine.” If all goes according to plan, he and Anderson say, they will start shooting this winter.
The Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA) has received funding from the National Park Service for programs along the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) and a grant from the National Park Foundation for the OVNHT “Every Kid Outdoors” field trips. This grant is to provide program support for primary school students, with an emphasis on 4th grade students, to visit our national parks and trails, and other public lands. We encourage our students to visit the OVNHT and historic sites related to the trail. We will award any student a pin or patch for visiting any five sites along the trail, including up to two “Find Your Own” historic sites related to the OVNHT. For example, a Find Your Own Site might be the grave of a Kings Mountain Veteran – maybe even your ancestor! Have someone at the site or an adult sign for your visit, and then have an adult help you mail the completed form to us. Be sure to include your mailing address so we can send you the pin or patch.

Visit us at www.ovta.org, or on Facebook at Overmountain Victory Trail Association.

This project was made possible by a grant from the National Park Foundation

Hi Kids!

Earn A Patch or a Pin!

Don’t forget to send in your form with your name and address!
Specify Pin or Patch

Mail to:
OVTA Patch or Pin
1780 Muster Grounds
Abingdon, VA 24210

Details

Name______________________________
Address____________________________
___________________________________
Patch_________ or Pin________

Overmountain Victory Trail Association
Patch
Continued from Previous Newsletter

2019 March On the Overmountain Trail with Tim Massey and Others

I remember frost at the school in Spruce Pine. I remember the year it rained all but two days. My last time out, a hurricane moved up the coast and it was going to be at least two days at the Boy Scout Camp. I decided if I was going to be trapped, it would be at home. I came home and returned when the weather cleared. It turned out to be 3 days in the camp. Unbeknownst to the Overmountain Men in 1780, that was the same reason for the rain that kept them at Dysartsville for two days; a hurricane off the coast of NC.

All my years on the trail have had the same rhythm. I wanted to do it just once for the experience and to say I had. After that, there is a reluctance and then an excitement to go. Somewhere in the middle, you want to go home a couple days but you think if you do, you may not come back. Then there is the 4 or 5 days before the trail ends and you want to kill somebody, it doesn’t matter who, just somebody, but there are too many choices, so you just go to bed early. You think to yourself, that there are only three more days.

Sibelco North America Inc. (Unimen) hosted the large gathering of school children near the grave of Robert Sevier again. The City of Gaffney had a blowout school days in their city park. It was a record 97 degrees that day. First-timer Gordon Sisk did a great job with his station, as did Mark Anthony, Pappy Hawthorn, Dalton Wade, and the Doan family’s rifle demonstrations were superb.

After the programming we had a meal in the visitor’s center and strolled the downtown streets. We ventured over to the Slaughters river retreat and enjoyed a grand evening. John can add chef to his many talents.

We spent the night on the river and the next day headed out to Walnut Grove for more storytelling and camaraderie. The Washington County Militia from Sycamore Shoals was there and a host of other OVTA members and friends.

That evening the Kings Mountain National Military Park was hosting candlelight tours. Finding themselves a bit shorthanded, they asked if the OVTA would like to once more volunteer to scale the mountain top. Twenty-four OVTA members stepped up to help make the event a success. David Doane and I were wounded near the monument. I found a nice rock for a pillow and stared up through the trees and stars. As tour groups approached, our job was to moan and groan since we were among the wounded left behind. We had a nice fire burning, I could not help but remember this would not have happened until recently. The gentleman in his British attire portraying Uzzel Johnson did a masterful job. Tonya Katsin had been one of the women, Mary, at the foot of the hill searching feverishly for her missing husband. She had a quilt under her apron adding to the story that she was expecting their child anytime. Mary came around with the last group and they were into helping her find her missing John. I could hear them asking if her John was one of us. Well it turned out to be me. I went from “wounded soldier #5” to John quickly. The park recorded over 160 visitors making the loop around the mountain visiting the various stations. We spent that night in the park.

The next morning some of our group Steve Ricker, Richard Luce, and Randy Curd headed back to Walnut Grove for more storytelling. The rest if us decided to explore the area a bit more. Tonya and I took in the state park and later visited the museum. I walked the historic park once more. We then made our way to Cowpens for The Night Before Kings Mountain programs. This was another well attended event - it was well planned and executed by all involved. That evening the City of Gaffney provided us an outstanding BBQ dinner served by an award-winning chef.

The days click away slowly and then its suddenly Oct. 7. The SAR/DAR wreath laying takes up most of the morning at Kings Mountain. I marched in with the SAR color guard and joined the OVTA for the firing of the volley. I could not help but remember the days when firing a volley was a strict no-no. The DAR and park service folks hosted a nice big dinner for us, the “last dinner.” Then the march concluded with the 3pm park program when the OVTA marchers came triumphantly from the march. After two weeks on the trail, a big dinner and the long day, this program cannot go by fast enough. Then it was off toward home and the empty feeling as I realized I’d miss all the people I have been anxious to get away from the last three days.

It was nice to arrive home, take a nice warm shower in your own shower and settle into your own familiar bed that has been waiting for over two weeks. Then it hits you, you can’t go to sleep because you have become accustomed to sleeping in the vehicle. You want to go crawl into the back of the car to get some sleep.

It is hard to pinpoint highlights this year as the entire march was great. It was smooth. David Doan, Tom Vaughn, Steve Ricker and a host of others did a magnificent job of putting it all together. Their dedication to detail is what made it run so smoothly. It was good to see Mel McKay and Jerry Mustin on most of the march. The Daniels came out and they along with the Doane children and grandchildren certainly add promise to the future of the march. This year will be remembered as the year of record heat, but like our ancestors, we persevered. Dean Morgan kept a bottle of water in everyone’s hand to make sure we stayed hydrated and nobody dropped out from the heat. Dean kept the coffee flowing being up at 4am to fit everyone’s waking schedule. Yes, this year was smooth.

Tim Massey – Columnist at the Greeneville Sun, Photo Journalist at Tim Massey Historic Photography and Publisher and CEO at Shiloh Road Publishing (Photo Right)