

East Penn Reenactors Group

Member Bylaws

rev. 2024



CONTENTS

History & Mission Statement - p. 2

Group Structure & Hierarchy - p. 4

Rank & File Member Expectations - p. 6

East Penn Reenactors Group

Member Bylaws

rev. 2024

History & Mission Statement

East Penn Reenactors Group was founded in 2016 by Ethan Krall and Luke Newmaster. The pair founded the group with the intentions of promoting the legacy of World War II, specifically that of the 32nd Infantry Division. Since the group's inception, our leaders have ensured our reputable participation in several renowned public re-enacting events in Pennsylvania, and have established an outstanding reputation for the group as part of the new wave of young men entering the World War II reenacting community. The group prides itself upon continually improving our authenticity and presentation quality based upon primary and secondary historical sources as a part of a larger progressive movement within reenacting and living history both nationally and internationally.

Our dedication to presenting our impressions and information to the public in an educated, sincere, and enjoyable manner rests in our belief that first and foremost we are serving the public good as living historians volunteering our time and efforts to teach history in an engaging and personal way. We do so by diligently studying and sharing the experiences of individuals who participated in and shaped the history and chronology of the war through their roles, their service, their courage, and their sacrifices. Their experiences are expounded upon to explain not only how battles and events of World War II were fought and why, but to also acknowledge the following:

- how battles and campaigns impacted those who fought them, as well as how these individuals as members of fighting units impacted the battles and campaigns they fought and how these campaigns affected the course of the war at large
- how these battles and campaigns were fought and experienced, interpreted through historical record of the material conditions that the individual soldiers and their unit and branch of combat arms existed within and contended with on the battlefield; what these soldiers fought with and what they fought without
- how individuals contended with their experiences in war through the rest of their life, how it shaped them to be the people they would become in postwar civilian life, and how their experiences can inform and inspire younger generations

East Penn Reenactors Group

Member Bylaws

rev. 2024

Our efforts to center the experiences of individual veterans who served during World War II stems largely from personal connections to the veterans themselves, whether they be family members, elder neighbors in our communities, or strangers, initially, who happened to meet our group while attending living history events that we participated in. We also take care to center the experiences of veterans recorded in writings, such as autobiographies, journals, and memoirs, as well as those recorded in audio and video interviews. When possible, and if veterans we come to know are willing, we aid them in preserving their history by conducting audio and video interviews of our own. As a volunteer organization, we attempt to replicate the democratic process to foster a sense of ownership, participation, and responsibility among all of our group members. Every member has a voice.

East Penn Reenactors Group

Member Bylaws

rev. 2024

Group Structure & Hierarchy

All group members shall be rank and file members of equal standing in regard to their rights within the group's democratic process (proposing, seconding, voting, or abstention in the context of group meetings).

Elections shall be held annually in order to elect a rank and file member, during elections referred to as a rank and file candidate, to each of the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Quartermaster. A rank and file candidate may opt to submit themselves to be elected for more than one position

A rank and file candidate shall be considered elected to their desired position by having acquired a simple majority of votes when the total votes received by a rank and file candidate equals more than 50% of the total votes cast by the rank and file membership body. The President may in the event of an emergency or extenuating circumstances appoint rank and file members to typically elected positions for a determined interim not exceeding one year. Rank and file members that attain any elected position may run for reelection indefinitely without the imposition of term limits if they so choose.

The basic responsibilities of the elected leadership of East Penn Reenactors Group include but may not be limited to the following:

- President: The President shall be responsible for representing the group as it's public spokesperson, for positively encouraging a progressive atmosphere regarding historical knowledge and material authenticity, for assembling event materials including but not limited to historical overviews and impression guidelines, for registering the group for events, for coordinating efforts with partner organizations, maintaining group communications, and for recruiting prospective members. The President may delegate or seek assistance for these responsibilities.
- Vice President: The Vice President shall be responsible for assisting the President in representing the group as its public spokesperson, positively encouraging a progressive atmosphere regarding historical knowledge and material authenticity, assembling event materials, and coordinating efforts with partner organizations. The Vice President may delegate or seek assistance for these responsibilities.

East Penn Reenactors Group

Member Bylaws

rev. 2024

- **Secretary:** The Secretary shall be responsible for assisting in the maintenance of group communications, logging event attendance, and assisting with assembling event materials. The Secretary may delegate or seek assistance for these responsibilities.
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and organizing information pertaining to proceeds and costs of the Schaefferstown WWII Weekend event from Historic Schaefferstown, Inc. provided to East Penn Reenactors Group via the President. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for calculating the price per individual for bulk purchases of event items including but not limited to blank ammunition and reproduction food rations.
- **Quartermaster:** The Quartermaster shall be responsible for tabulating the group's material readiness for events by taking total blank ammunition inventory per individual and thus for the group as a whole in attendance. This shall be completed no later than two weeks prior to events for which blank ammunition is required. The Quartermaster shall also be responsible for conducting post event inventory of the total of blank rounds expended per individual and for the group as a whole. The Quartermaster shall also be responsible for taking inventory of food rations and food ration consumption in a manner identical to that for the inventory of blank ammunition. This information is to be reported to the President.

East Penn Reenactors Group

Member Bylaws

rev. 2024

Rank and File Member Expectations

- I am a rank and file member of a democratic organization. I understand that I have the ability to present topics to research, impression ideas, events to add / drop / change focus, group function or structure, and vote for elected leadership. I also understand that after a one year period I am able to run for elected leadership.
- I will be kind, courteous, patient, and respectful to members of the public and to one another at all times.
- I will do my best to be patient and professional at any point where a disagreement may arise between members or group leadership.
- I will strive to communicate clearly and effectively with group leadership regarding participation in events and other group tasks or functions.
- I will maintain a state respectful, decent conduct at events including after hours whether in a public or private setting.
- I understand that the group is a community of like minded individuals interested in reenacting and living history as a form of volunteer public education, as a way of preserving veterans' histories, and representing unit legacies of the U.S. Army. I understand this it to be achieved by means of thorough self and group education and research utilizing primary source historical materials including but not limited to veterans interviews, veterans diaries or memoirs, veterans photographs, official unit historical operations documents, official Army Signal Corp photographs and footage, as well as credible, well researched secondary source material including but not limited to postwar military publications, academic research papers from public universities or military colleges, and relevant works published by credible historians professional or amateur.
- I understand that historical resources utilized by the group should not be gate kept or withheld as an act of ill - will in any circumstance, except in the case of private interviews, diaries, photos, footage, or documents that the owner does not wish to have shared publicly.

East Penn Reenactors Group

Member Bylaws

rev. 2024

Rank and File Member Expectations (cont.)

- I understand after hours in camp, bivouac, bunking site, etc., a non-member curfew of 12pm is expected to be universally policed in a polite but firm manner. Members may interact with other members / groups outside their own group until 2am, but within our own space at events activities beyond 12pm should be considered members only so the group may be able to wind down amongst themselves and get ready for bed. Curfew will not be informed strictly however it will be of issue in any case or member indecency or inconsideration for the rest of the group. Adolescent rank and file members under the age of 18 may not leave the group designated location unaccompanied by an adult rank and file member at any time.
- I understand I will conduct myself respectfully with any/all online activity public or private and that I will avoid saying, posting, sharing, messaging, etc. any/all content involving racist, homophobic, transphobic, and / or extremist content as to not present a controversial or seditious reputation of any sort for the group. I am a member of a public - oriented volunteer group and understand that what I say, whether in real life or online, not only comes from my own mouth or my own profile but from that of a member of this group. I understand what I say, regardless of my intentions, may accurately or inaccurately be affiliated with the character and reputation of the group.
- I understand that as a rank and file member of East Penn Reenactors Group that I may participate in group events and functions at my will and leisure. I understand that there is no mandatory number of events for which I must attend to maintain membership in East Penn Reenactors Group. I understand that the status of my participation should be communicated with group leadership prior to every event regardless of whether I am able to attend or not, or whether I plan to attend or not. I understand that I should do this no later than two weeks prior to each event. I understand that if changes to my participation status arise following having communicated my intentions, that communicating this change with group leadership is better and preferably to not communicating anything at all. I understand that there will be no punishment or hard feelings for change of participation status or intentions. Furthermore I understand that this leniency is a privilege not to be abused in order to maintain good standing as a rank and file member.
- I understand that as a rank and file member regardless of experience that I am expected to make a genuine effort to continually improve and hone my historical knowledge as well as my assemblage of material items for impressions at a steady pace at which I can maintain comfortably and enjoyably while also keeping reasonable pace with the rest of the group. I understand that historical authenticity, factual correctness, and quality in the execution of my work whether it be historical interpretation or assembling an impression is part of the mutually encouraged and maintained progressive atmosphere.
- I understand at this time my rank and file membership and participation is free. I understand this may be subject to change if the group were to adopt annual dues. Furthermore I understand that even though rank and file membership in East Penn Reenactors Group is free at this time, that I as an individual rank and file member may be expected to pay event registration fees, parking fees, ration fees, etc. for certain events or functions that stipulate these costs be paid by individual attendee / participant.

East Penn Reenactors Group

Member Bylaws

rev. 2024

- I understand that to be a rank and file member of East Penn Reenactors Group and to undertake an armed forces impression stipulating that I be in possession of a firearm, I must:
 - be no younger than 18 years of age for long arms, 21 years of age for pistols
 - be in good standing with the law and have no felony record or any charges against me that may legally bar me from possession of a firearm
 - demonstrate safe and responsible handling of firearms at all times in all settings
 - comply with firearms laws, rules, regulations, etc. for every event site and location

I certify with my signature that I have read the above in its entirety and agree to adhere to the East Penn Reenactors Group Bylaws in full
