



20

24

**Annual
Impact
Report**



2025 SUMMER WORKSHOPS

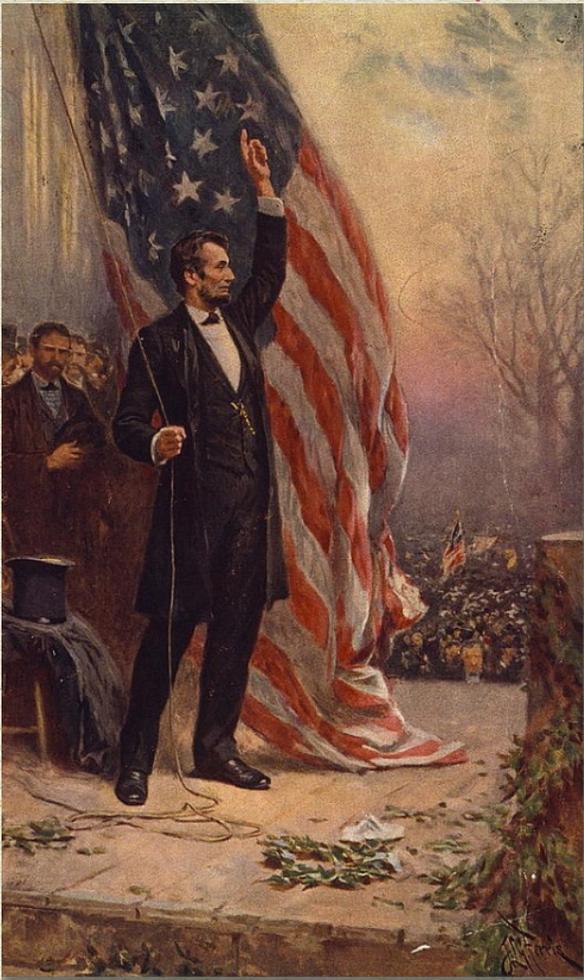
June 21, 2025
Richmond, VA
Varina Area
Library

July 19, 2025
Cleveland, OH
Strongsville Branch
Library



**Improvement Through Education
& Networking**

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Message from the President



Mike Movius
President
CWRT Congress

To begin, we hope that you like our new annual report title. We have always strived to have an impact on the sustainability of Civil War Round Tables. To that end, we have riddled the report with just some of the positive comments that leaders, their members, and others have said about what and how we did it in 2024.

As you can see, we added a couple new faces to our board of directors and council of advisors. We have a great team that supports our activities. And, like you, we were saddened to lose Pete Carmichael. We deeply feel the loss to our community.

As in years past, we continued with our proven practices. We continue to marvel at the editorial talent of Carol VanOrnum and her quarterly *Light Post*. Readers discover new and exciting approaches to CWRT governance, promotions, and activities. We encourage you to share the Light Post with all members of your CWRT.

We continued our lecture series by inviting some incredible speakers to tell about their research and passion. Their presentations can be viewed on our website and our YouTube channel. They are also a wonderful way to screen potential CWRT speakers.

Our social media outreach continues to increase. It is impressive to note that our YouTube channel had close to a million impressions. I'm not sure what impressions are, but I'm confident that that is a good thing.

"I appreciate all the work that the CWRT Congress does to keep people informed and to produce wonderful programs."

- Jean Montgomery

Message from the President, continued

We presented the James A. Garfield CWRT with the Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award for their outreach activities. The Congress also presented our Friendship awards to the McCormack Civil War Institute (Jonathan Noyalas) and the Indiana CWRT (Steve Magnusen) for their steadfast loyalty to CWRT sustainability. Our award system is just another way of recognizing CWRTs and their wonderful adherents.

In terms of innovations, we held regional workshops rather than the three-day conferences we have held in previous years. There are several reasons for that change including amount of effort it took, the number of moving parts, and the expense to the Congress and to you. Our workshops at Shenandoah University and the Indiana War Memorial were a lot of fun and the comments we received were all positive.

We interviewed some selected CWRT leaders from around the country to learn about their challenges and how they have chosen to address them. Those videos continue to receive praise from all quarters and can be a wonderful resource to leaders seeking the sustainability.

Despite not having dues paying members, our financial situation remained consistent. The lecture series was the largest contributor to our treasury with the new Annual Fund quickly becoming a significant campaign. It is with your financial support that we remain faithful to our mission.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of our efforts to make CWRTs sustainable.



Mike Movius

"Thanks, Mike, for all you folks do to save our heritage."

- Mary (Irene) Ujda

Mission and Vision

Our Mission

To inspire Civil War Round Table leaders to adapt, adopt, and maintain strategies for sustainability.

“Keep up the great work in programs and guidance for CWRTs everywhere!”

- Andrew Mascich

Our Vision

CWRTs are flourishing in meaningful partnerships with community organizations and are attractive to the next generation of members.

Our Strategic Goals

STRATEGIC GOALS	GOAL PURPOSE
To continue to identify and connect with Civil War leaders.	<i>Grow, expand, and scale or increase access to existing Congress programs and services.</i>
To encourage and develop a network of Civil War Round Tables that share proven practices.	<i>Focus on core programs to achieve mission and scale back on programs not seen as core.</i>
To inspire Civil War Round Tables to become active in their communities and become attractive to greater diversity.	<i>This goal reflects our commitment to further our advocacy work for our organization and/or cause area.</i>

Our Value Statement

SUSTAINABILITY

The decision to launch the CWRT Congress was galvanized when CWRTs were closing their doors after years of devoted study and preservation. The Congress is dedicated to sustainability and the long-term benefits of CWRTs.

SERVICE

The CWRT Congress is committed to generating, communicating, and collaborating about ways of seizing opportunities, sharing those ideas with CWRTs worldwide, and forming a network to allow great ideas to spread throughout the CWRT community.

ORGANIZATIONAL DIVERSITY

The CWRT Congress respects the diversity of CWRTs, their various structures and history, their community role, and the direction of each local organization. The CWRT Congress assists those interested in organizing new or renewing formerly closed CWRTs by sharing resources and mentoring to new leaders.

INNOVATION and NETWORKING

Recognizing that CWRTs are facing both similar and unique challenges, the CWRT Congress links CWRTs that are inventing and testing new approaches, collecting and sharing success stories, celebrating leaders who adopt a long-term perspective and have incorporated proven practices into their operations, and network with other CWRTs to ease isolation.

EDUCATION

The ideas, skills, and concepts provided by the CWRT Congress are advisory. They have been designed to assist CWRTs in meeting their organizational challenges and to meet the needs of leaders.

COMMUNITY

The CWRT Congress seeks to connect CWRTs with non-CWRT organizations that share an interest in American history. The CWRT Congress provides information about and access to such organizations so that CWRTs may extend their programs and member expertise to schools and other local community institutions.

STEWARDSHIP

The CWRT Congress is a careful and responsible manager of the historical, organizational, and human resources entrusted to its influence. Stewardship extends to all the gifts received including financial donations, an acquired reputation, and the goodwill of the Civil War community.

Our Partnerships Our Transparency



Gettysburg National Military Park

Transparency for non-profits is critical. That's why the CWRT Congress applied for and was granted the GuideStar Platinum Transparency Seal in 2024. GuideStar began in 2013 to provide visible recognition to non-profit organizations and became the most widely-adopted symbol of transparency in the U.S. social sector. You can find the CWRT Congress' basic organization information as well as program information and brand details on our website.

The CWRT Congress reestablished our fundraising partnership with the American Battlefield Trust for Giving Tuesday December 3, 2024. We exceeded our goal of \$4,000. Donations made through the CWRT Congress were split equally between the Congress and the American Battlefield Trust's little-known Interpretation & Restoration Division. That division will utilize our donations for conservation, restoration, and interpretation projects.



www.Guidestar.org

Board of Directors



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President



Carol VanOrnum
Vice President



Dr. John Bamberl
Vice President



Bill Miller
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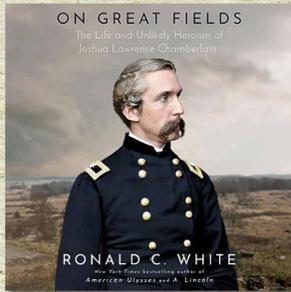
Advisory Council

- Kim Brace Bull Run CWRT
- Matt Callery.....Addressing Gettysburg
- Doug Dammann.....Kenosha Civil War Museum
- David DixonAuthor/Historian
- Robert Ford Baltimore CWRT
- James Knights.....Western Pennsylvania CWRT
- Michael Kirschner.....Roanoke CWRT
- Chris Kolakowski.....Wisconsin Veterans Museum
- Ed Lowe Chickamauga and Chattanooga CWRT
- Ashley Luskey.....Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College
- Chris Mackowski Emerging Civil War
- Rosemary Nichols.....Capital District CWRT
- Jonathan Noyalas.....McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah University
- Gerry Propokowicz.....Civil War Talk Radio
- Ted Savas Savas Beatie Publishers
- Janet Whaley.....Pasadena CWRT



Lecture Series

The CWRT Congress is grateful to the authors, historians, and lecturers for the donation of their time and talents to the Lecture Series during 2024. All lectures are on our [website](#). You can watch their lectures on our [YouTube channel](#).

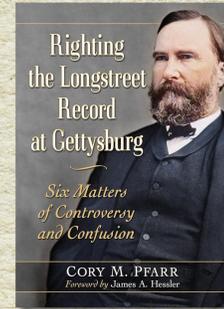


ON GREAT FIELDS: THE LIFE AND UNLIKELY HEROISM OF JOSHUA LAWRENCE CHAMBERLAIN

RONALD C. WHITE

November 1, 2024 @ 7p.m.
EASTERN

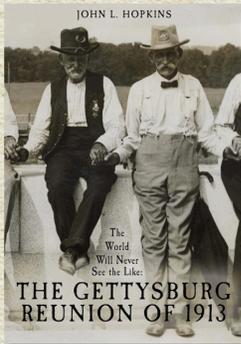
“Great information! Great pictures...Cheers.”



“TO MAKE A DEMONSTRATION, TO THE LETTER”: SEVEN DISTINCT MAPS OF LONGSTREET’S GETTYSBURG PERFORMANCE

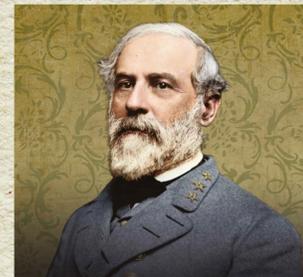
CORY M. PFARR

June 21, 2024 @ 7p.m.
EASTERN



JOHN HOPKINS
April 5, 2024 @ 7p.m. EASTERN

“Thank you, sir, for your work and love in putting this piece together.”



CALAMITY AT FREDERICK
ROBERT E. LEE, SPECIAL ORDERS 191, AND CONFEDERATE MISFORTUNE ON THE ROAD TO ANTIETAM

The loss of Robert E. Lee's Special Orders No. 191 is one of the Civil War's enduring mysteries. In this meticulous study, Alexander Rossino presents a bold new interpretation of the evidence surrounding the orders' creation, distribution, and the loss outside Frederick in September 1862. Rossino made extensive use of primary sources to explore these subjects and other important questions related to the orders. The result is a well-documented reassessment that sheds new light while challenging long-held assumptions.

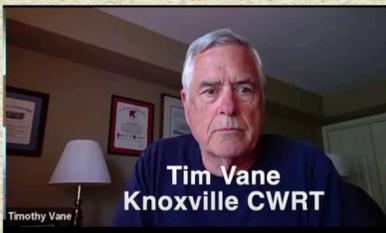
ALEXANDER ROSSINO
February 23, 2024 @ 7p.m. EASTERN

“I appreciate all the work that the CWRT Congress does to keep people informed and to produce wonderful programs.”

- Jean Montgomery

Leadership Initiative

In 2024, we asked Civil War Round Table leaders around the country to share experiences and knowledge about leading their organizations - what their assessment of their Round Table was when they took over, the challenges they face, and how they see their Round Table in the future. Their answers were thoughtful, interesting, and inspiring.



Tim Vane, Knoxville CWRT



Matt Borders, Frederick CWRT



Waite Rawls, Richmond CWRT



Dana Mizsak, James A. Garfield CWRT



Bill Miller, Williamsburg CWRT

“Master calendar, social media, and email outreach expansion, collaboration for living history programming - first steps.”

“Great video with great ideas. I think we all face similar challenges.”



The Light Post

CWRT CONGRESS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

THE LIGHT POST

FEBRUARY 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **THE ZOOMING COLLABORATIONS OF THE NORTH JERSEY CWRT**
- 2 **THE ZOOMING COLLABORATIONS OF THE NORTH JERSEY CWRT**
- 3 **THE ZOOMING COLLABORATIONS OF THE NORTH JERSEY CWRT**
- 4 **THE ZOOMING COLLABORATIONS OF THE NORTH JERSEY CWRT**
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- 14 **THE ZOOMING COLLABORATIONS OF THE NORTH JERSEY CWRT**
- 15 **THE ZOOMING COLLABORATIONS OF THE NORTH JERSEY CWRT**

CWRT CONGRESS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

THE LIGHT POST

MAY 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS COMING THIS SUMMER!**
- 2 **SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS COMING THIS SUMMER!**
- 3 **SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS COMING THIS SUMMER!**
- 4 **SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS COMING THIS SUMMER!**
- 5 **SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS COMING THIS SUMMER!**
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- 14 **SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS COMING THIS SUMMER!**
- 15 **SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS COMING THIS SUMMER!**

“Thanks for all your work putting these programs and newsletters together and for helping various local CWRTs.”

“Your articles are great. The Roanoke Civil War Round Table thanks you for the support of the Congress.”

CWRT CONGRESS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

THE LIGHT POST

NOVEMBER 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **CWRT SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP COMING TO INDIANAPOLIS**
- 2 **CWRT SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP COMING TO INDIANAPOLIS**
- 3 **CWRT SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP COMING TO INDIANAPOLIS**
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- 14 **CWRT SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP COMING TO INDIANAPOLIS**
- 15 **CWRT SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP COMING TO INDIANAPOLIS**

CWRT CONGRESS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

THE LIGHT POST

NOVEMBER 2024

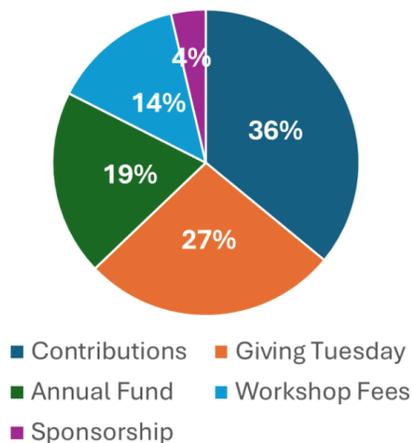
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **THE ROANOKE CWRT'S PUBLICITY STEPS**
- 2 **THE ROANOKE CWRT'S PUBLICITY STEPS**
- 3 **THE ROANOKE CWRT'S PUBLICITY STEPS**
- 4 **THE ROANOKE CWRT'S PUBLICITY STEPS**
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- 13 **THE ROANOKE CWRT'S PUBLICITY STEPS**
- 14 **THE ROANOKE CWRT'S PUBLICITY STEPS**
- 15 **THE ROANOKE CWRT'S PUBLICITY STEPS**

“Hi Carol, thank you for sending The Light Post. As president of the CWRTNY declining and aging membership is a real problem. Pre COVID we could fill a room, now we have difficulty getting even 15 members at a meeting. Our last meeting only 11 members showed up. So read your publication with great interest. Hopefully, I will be able to put some of the suggestions into practice.”

Revenue & Expenses

Revenue



Expenses



**WE ARE PROUD TO SPONSOR & PARTNER WITH THE
CWRT CONGRESS**



Tennessee Valley CWRT P.O. Box 2872 Huntsville, AL 35804

TVCWRT.ORG

Our Donors

The CWRT Congress is proud to recognize the 2024 philanthropic investments made by individuals, CWRTs, and foundations.



In addition, through our **Giving Tuesday Campaign**, the CWRT Congress partners with the American Battlefield Trust to restore and interpret newly-acquired battlefields.

Throughout the year, and during our **Annual Fund Campaign**, these contributions help us with our overhead expenses, help bring excellent speakers to your screen, and ensure that our summer workshops will be a fruitful resource for CWRT sustainability.



Our Donors - Thank you!

\$500+

Michael Movius
Carol VanOrnum*
William Miller*
John Bamberl*
Steven Rauschkolb*
Richard Hansen†
Craig Apperson*
Richard Sickert*
Norman Kuchar†

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*Denotes contributions to Giving Tuesday

†Denotes contributions to Annual Fund

Our Donors – Thank you!

\$50 to \$250 cont.

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Less than \$50

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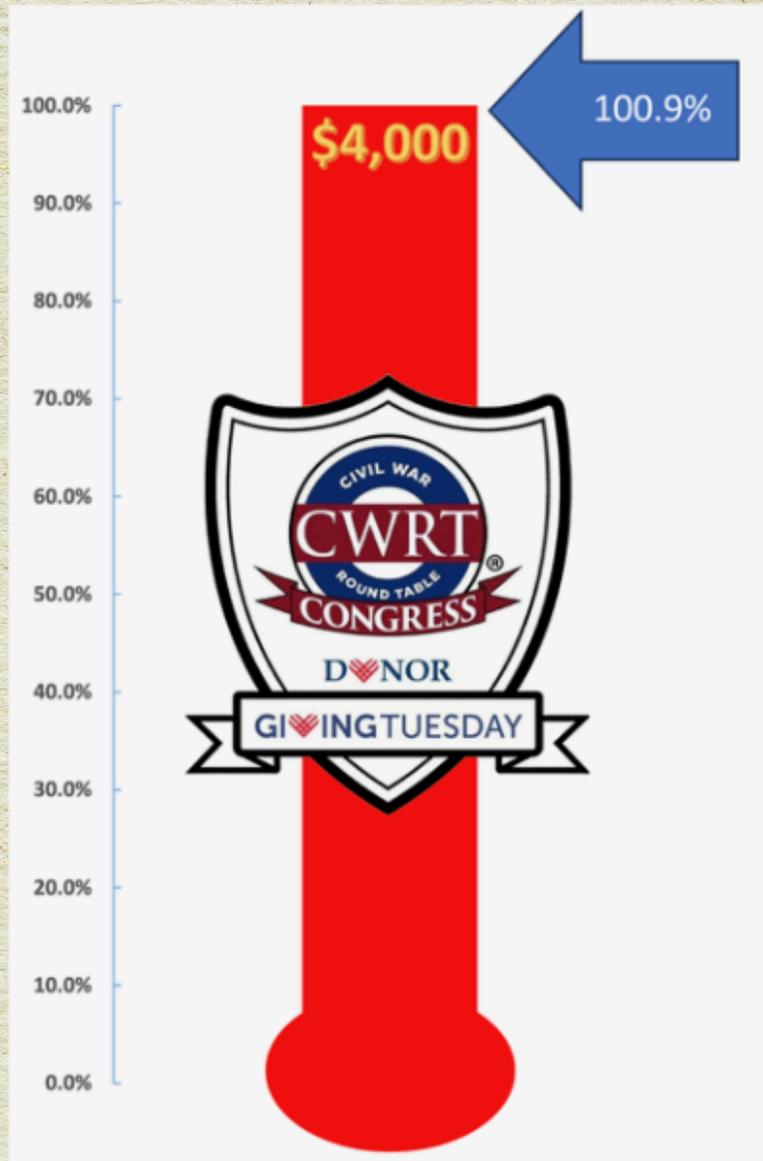
*Denotes contributions to Giving Tuesday

[†]Denotes contributions to Annual Fund

Our Donors – Thank you!

Less than \$50 cont.

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George Dore†
Michael Slinger†
Bruce Anderson*
Matt Farina
Johnny Elwood
Kirk Companion
James Hulkan
John West
Margaret Echanique
Todd Stettner†



“Honored to be able to donate to this wonderful cause. I hope my great great grandfathers would be proud.”
- Michelle Mead

“Thanks for all your difficult work and effort, it’s important information ... in our national life.”

*Denotes contributions to Giving Tuesday

†Denotes contributions to Annual Fund

Social Media

facebook

REACH	13.3K
VIEWS	13.6K
CONTENT INTERACTIONS	3.1K up 101.6%
LINK CLICKS	420 up 41.4%
VISITS	3.7K up 135.3%
FOLLOWS	113 up 21.5%



YouTube

NEW SUBSCRIBERS	423	+15.2%
TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS	2,405	+17.6%
VIEWS	55,063	
WATCH TIME	9,625.9 HOURS	
IMPRESSIONS	855,277	



*"I'm learning so much about the Civil War.
You have some great speakers." Vicky Fike*

*"I enjoy these tremendously. Thank you for
taking your time. They give me deeper insight
than other videos out there."*

*"I am an American who has lived in Japan for 31 years.
These first person history videos are excellent in both
entertainment and information. Thank you, Sir!"*

Awards

In 2024, the CWRT Congress sought nominations for three awards: the **Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award**, the **Dr. John A. Bamberl Phoenix Award**, and the **Matthew Borowick Marketing Award**. The award for innovation is intended to highlight new ideas, methods, customs, and devices a Round Table might use to improve their organization. The Phoenix award seeks to celebrate the reemergence of a Round Table that “went dark” and revitalized itself. The Marketing award recognizes a local CWRT for presenting itself to members, enthusiasts, community partners, potential supporters, and others by using a variety of methods and channels.

The Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award

The **Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award** was given in 2024 to the James A. Garfield CWRT for creative, effective, and inventive programs that provide value to their members. Their multi-dimensional Round Table consists of an interpretative education component, a living history component, and a community engagement component. Vice Commander Andrew Mizsak shared that the JAGCWRT is finding “a way to offer both depth and breadth to the pool of talent found within our Round Table.” Their multiple collaborations, outreach, and presence in their community have earned them the 2024 Innovation Award, and the CWRT Congress is proud to acknowledge their hard work.



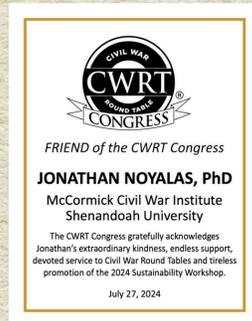
CWRT Congress President Mike Movius presents the **2024 Wallace Rueckel Innovation Award** to (left to right) Ben Frayser, Jack Stilion, Paul Pohman, Andrew Mizsak, and Anita Benedetti.



“We are multiplying our social media and email contacts by combining our email lists, membership lists, and more!”

Awards – continued

Friends of the CWRT Congress



CWRT Congress President Mike Movius presents Jonathan Noyalas, Director of the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University with a heartfelt THANK YOU for all his efforts on behalf of Civil War Round Tables.

“The workshop goals are consistent with the goals of our Round Table. It was a great opportunity to share ideas with our fellow attendees.”



CWRT Congress President Mike Movius presents Steve Magnusen and members of the Indianapolis CWRT a heartfelt THANK YOU for all their efforts on behalf of Civil War Round Tables. Right: L to R: Mike Movius, Chris Smith, Steve Magnusen, David Finney, and Bill Ghormley

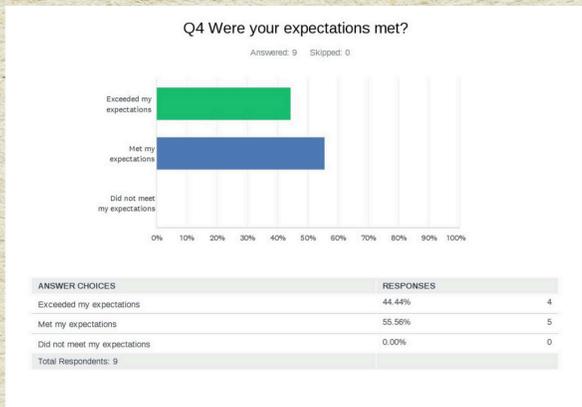
“I left the Indy workshop full of ideas and information.”

Workshop Surveys

Net Promoter score is a market research metric that is based on a single survey question asking respondents to rate the likelihood that they would recommend a company, product, or service to a friend or colleague.

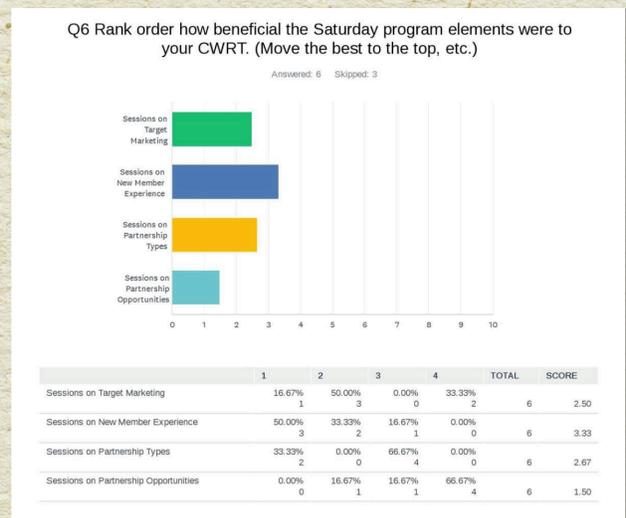
Winchester

July 27, 2024



“It was helpful to know that we mostly have the same issues in our RT and sharing solutions.”

“We were established 1959 and we survived, but we are looking to begin again to thrive. We feel we have taken first steps.”

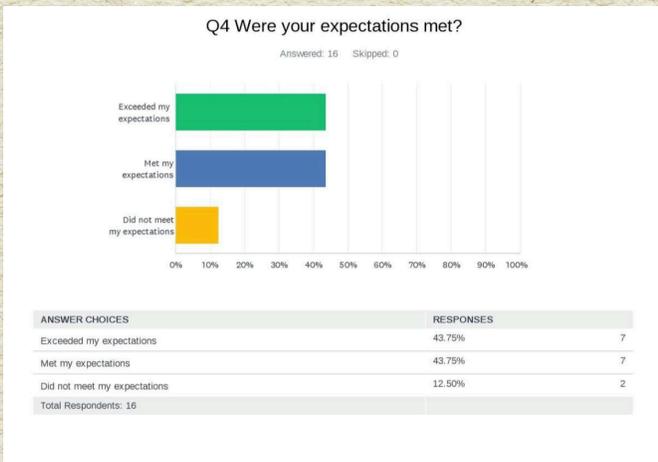


Workshop Surveys

Indianapolis

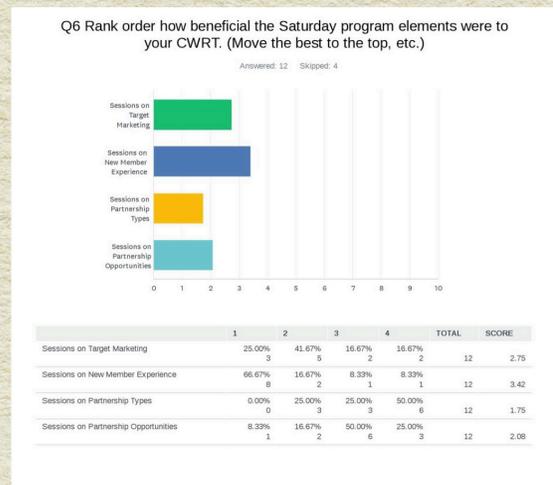
August 17, 2024

“When greeting new members, try to remember this is the last chance to make a good first impression.”



“It would be great to have a CWRT Congress Board member meet with our Board.”

“Name badges for all new members. Creation of a new membership chair who sends a welcoming email to each new member.”



The Sustainability Challenge

The CWRT Congress developed the Sustainability Challenge to assist Round Tables in determining their individual pathways forward. There are ten modules to the Challenge. Every module plays an important role on the path to sustainability.

“One of our goals has outreach and collaboration to the other Round Table and two museums. We want to combine marketing and outreach efforts, and more.”

THE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE



REVISED: January 11, 2025
CWRT CONGRESS
2502 Caitlin Court SE
Olympia, WA 98501
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www.cwrtcongress.org

To download the Challenge, click [HERE](#).



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 To inform the public about the American Civil War, contribute to Civil War battlefield preservation, and assist in the retention of Civil War memory.




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Indianapolis
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Amateur & Professional Historians Dedicated to Understanding the Civil War



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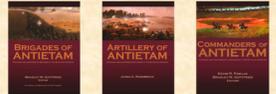


Antietam INSTITUTE

The Antietam Institute is a non-profit educational and philanthropic nonprofit organization with a mission to study, collect, publish and teach about the Battle of Antietam and the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

Spring Symposium
 One day event showcasing some of the latest research and scholarship of the Maryland Campaign with an optional battlefield excursion.

Fall Conference
 This weekend-long event brings leading experts examining new perspectives of the campaign through lectures, discussions, and battlefield excursions.



Antietam Institute Press
 Serves as a publishing house enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the Campaign with the biannual Antietam Journal and a series of full length works for members.



For more information email info@antietaminstitute.org or visit antietaminstitute.org

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Ulysses S. Grant

Portrayed by
E.C. Fields, Jr., Ph.D.

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CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

2025 Summer Conference

Honoring the Life & Scholarship of the Late Dr. Peter S. Carmichael



June 13 - 18, 2025

Experience an unforgettable conference filled with lectures, tours, and discussions led by some of the nation's leading Civil War scholars, as we celebrate the life, scholarship and passion of the late Dr. Peter S. Carmichael. Delve into thought-provoking topics that were so dear to Pete, such as *The Culture of the Common Soldier*, *Gender and Honor in the Old South*, *The Civil War and Public History*, and *Robert E. Lee in History and Memory*.

Featured Speakers and Tour Guides:

Gary Gallagher / Kent Masterson Brown / Carol Reardon / Harold Holzer / Caroline Janney / Aaron Sheehan-Dean / Joseph Glatthaar / Scott Hartwig / Jennifer Murray

Featured Battlefield Tours with Special Meaning to Pete:

- *Indianans at Gettysburg*
- *The Battle for the Common Soldier*
- *Gettysburg: Why They Fought, How They Fought*

Additional Conference Topics & Tours:

- *Archival Documents from Gettysburg*
- *The Generalship & Post-War Life of James Longstreet*
- *The Battle of Perryville*
- *Archaeological Discoveries from Little Round Top*
- *The Creation of Civil War Memory*
- *Emancipation & Early Reconstruction in the South*
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GETTYSBURG
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Exclusive Evening Experience:

Thanks to the Gettysburg Foundation, attendees will enjoy a special evening visit to the historic George Spangler Farm on Saturday, June 14.

The 2025 CWI conference will also offer special workshops & tours designed for K-12 educators, in addition to the popular small-group "lunch-in" and "dine-in" discussions with CWI faculty.

The 2025 CWI conference has something for everyone, from longtime students to those new to the Civil War!

REGISTER TODAY!

CWRT Members receive 15% off of their conference registration. Use code PAR!

Questions? Contact us at:

www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/2025-cwi-conference