

Hickory Trail, Petersburg National Battlefield. Photo NPS

I shall be telling this with a sigh somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost der, TCCWRT.

Annual Report 2023 CWRT CONGRESS®

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Message from the President

Friends,

2023 was much like walking out of the darkness into the light. After three dismal years of CWRTs not being able to meet in person and the fear engendered by the pandemic, we were able to hold a conference. And, what a conference it was!



We met in three separate venues, (Seminary Ridge Museum & Education Center, the Adams County Historical Society, and the Visitors Center at the Gettysburg National Military Park), had some wonderful discussions on topics near and dear to Round Table leaders, and had a chance to network with new and old friends. By all measures, it was a total success. We are eternally grateful to Wayne Motts, President Emeritus and Historian at the Gettysburg Foundation, for spearheading the effort and to the Gettysburg CWRT for hosting us.

Organizationally, we saw some old friends leave and new friends arrive. Rich Jankowski, who for several years led our ambassador program, resigned. We thank him for his loyal service.

We also greeted Steve Rauschkolb and Craig Apperson as new directors. Steve comes to us with marketing and organization development skills that are taking us to a new level. Craig, as a psychologist, is focused on serving CWRT leaders and their challenges.

Our activities in 2023 included:

- Recognized the first two Round Tables to complete the Sustainability Challenge Old Baldy
 CWRT and Scottsdale CWRT.
- For the first time, we sought sponsors for our annual report and program booklet.
 Sponsors included the Pasadena CWRT, the Civil War Institute (Gettysburg College),
 Author/Historian Terry C. Pierce, Seminary Ridge Museum & Education Center, Gettysburg
 Beyond the Battle Museum, Military Images magazine, General Grant By Himself (Dr. E. C.
 Fields, Jr.), James Knights Books, Society for Women and the Civil War, Gettysburg
 Foundation, and Kent State University Press.
- Recognized the Bull Run CWRT with the Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award and the Scottsdale CWRT for the Matthew Borowick Marketing Award.

Message From the President, continued

- We attained two of our strategic goals for 2023 which were to raise \$3,000 during the
 Giving Tuesday campaign and host 75 paid guests at the Sustainability Conference. We
 received \$3,200 and hosted 90 paid guests.
- We initiated the following as part of our marketing plan:
 - A printed conference program,
 - Had CWRT Congress coins struck, and
 - Had custom "Thank You" pins made and distributed to our 2023 Giving Tuesday donors.

In all, it was quite a year. Of course, we have begun planning two one-day Sustainability Workshops for 2024. The first will be at Shenandoah University and hosted by the McCormack Civil War Institute on July 27th. The second will be at the Indiana War Memorial and hosted by the Indiana CWRT on August 17th. Jonathan Noyalas and Steve Magnusen are our organizational partners for those events.

Thank you to all of our supporters. We rely on you to tell us about your needs, your challenges, and hopes for your CWRT.

Mike Movius, President

CWRT Congress

Mission and Vision

Our Mission

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



The 2023 CWRT Congress Conference.



The CWRT of Mid-Ohio Valley places holly sprigs on gravesites in Gettysburg. Photo by Nancy Arthur.

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

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 2023. 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 November 28, 2023. We exceeded our goal of \$3,000. 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.

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

www.Guidestar.org

CWRT Congress Awards

In 2023, the CWRT Congress sought nominations for three awards: 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 recognizes a CWRT for creative, effective, and inventive programs that provide value to their members. The 2023 Innovation Award was given to the Bull Run CWRT. Blake Myers, the Preservation Committee Chair, explained what they did. "In implementing recommendations provided by a Special Ad Hoc Committee to effectively return to in-person member involvement and participation, we focused on enhanced member outreach and engagement through surveys, focused communications via email, social media, our newsletter, and our webpage, and a new pre-meeting social and information hour to inform and educate our members about Round Table programs, committees, projects and activities and the opportunities for their direct involvement and participation - - and our efforts succeeded!"



CWRT Congress President Mike Movius presents the 2023 Wallace Rueckel Innovation Award to Blake Myers of the Bull Run CWRT.

CWRT Congress Awards

The Matthew Borowick Marketing Award



CWRT Congress President Mike Movius presents the 2023 Matthew Borowick Marketing Award to Dr. John Bamberl of the Scottsdale

The Matthew Borowick 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. This 2023 award was presented to the Scottsdale CWRT, which John Bamberl accepted. "We reached our marketing goals by reaching out and partnering with other historical groups in the greater Phoenix area. We used these partnerships to market our new partners and ourselves."

The Sustainability Challenge

The CWRT Congress' SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE is a program designed to provide every local Civil War Round Table (CWRT) and its leaders with useful tools for planning and implementing a well-rounded series of activities to engage every member to improve mission accomplishment.

The first two CWRTs to achieve the Sustainability Challenge are the Old Baldy CWRT and the Scottsdale CWRT. Rich Jankowski, President of Old Baldy, and John Bamberl, President Emeritus of Scottsdale, accepted the certificates on behalf of their Round Tables.



Old Baldy CWRT with President Rich Jankowski (L) and Scottsdale CWRT with President Emeritus Dr. John A. Bamberl (M). Making the presentation is CWRT Congress President Mike Movius (R).

What They Say

"I think it's very important that people come...a lot of ideas that are exchanged...people to meet and stories to tell."

Kim Brace, President, Bull Run CWRT





"The surveys on best practices for CWRTs have been very helpful to us... seeing how other round tables operate, and how their successful programs might be adapted for our own round table."

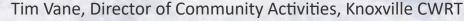
Janet Whaley, Treasurer and Program Chair, Pasadena CWRT

"The CWRT Congress has been a resource for Cape Fear CWRT... the Speaker Registry and help with Zoom. Now, after almost 30 years of operating without any sort of rules of governance, I have relied on the CWRT Congress as sort of a clearing house of information about what other round tables have done to organize themselves, as we work to adopt bylaws for our own round table."





"The value of the Congress is to see what other CWRTs are doing and evaluating whether that might have value for Knoxville. It's always good to see how others deal with challenges or what innovative options they develop to address problems or create opportunities in their part of the country."





"It's been a great experience... pumped with great new ideas for new members, for retaining our existing members,.. different program ideas and making some good connections. A wonderful exchange... different information with all these people out here."

Michele Hessler, Vice President, the CWRT of Gettysburg

"We learned a lot more about how CWRTs are facing the many challenges we all face today... there is so many media venues, recruiting members, retaining old members, and planning for changed leadership. This is the best place you're going to find these suggestions and explore these opportunities."

Leight Murray, President, CWRT of the Mid-Ohio Valley.





The Sustainability Challenge

As the world emerged from the Covid-19 Pandemic, we found that those CWRTs that suspended their meeting were struggling and, in some cases, dissolved. To counter that trend and to strengthen local CWRTs and the movement, the Congress developed the SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE. Special thanks go to Dana Best Mizsak for developing the challenge logo.

There are ten modules to the Challenge, including actions for Member Retention, Member Education, Recruitment Marketing, New Member Engagement, the Meeting Experience, New Member Education, Philanthropy, Public Image, CWRT Leadership and Management, and CWRT Committees and Groups. There are also opportunities for CWRTs to substitute a local activity within each module.

Each module plays an important role on the path to sustainability. The CWRT Congress hopes to inspire leaders to take on the challenge to help ensure their organization will continue.

To access the module description and fillable submission form and modules, click **HERE**. If you have questions about the challenge, please send them to challenge@cwrtcongress.org

Board of Directors



Mike Movius, President



Dr. John Bamberl, Vice President



Carol VanOrnum, Vice President



Andrew Mizsak, Secretary



Bill Miller, Treasurer



Craig Apperson, Director



Mary Koik, Director



Steven Rauschkolb, Director



Dr. Curt Fields, Director



Dr. Jared Peatman, Director

Advisory Council

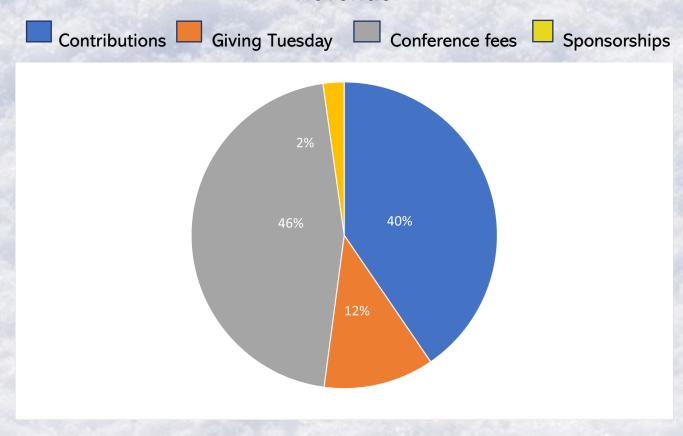
Kim Brace	Bull Run CWRT
Peter Carmichael	Gettysburg College, Civil War Institute
Doug Dammann	Kenosha Civil War Museum
David Dixon	Author/Historian
Robert Ford	Baltimore CWRT
Cheryl Gooch	State University of New York
James Knights	Western Pennsylvania CWRT
	Roanoke CWRT
Chris Kolakowski	Wisconsin Veterans 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 NoyalasMcCormick C	ivil War Institute, Shenandoah University
Gerry Propokowicz	Civil War Talk Radio
Ted Savas	Savas Beatie Publishers



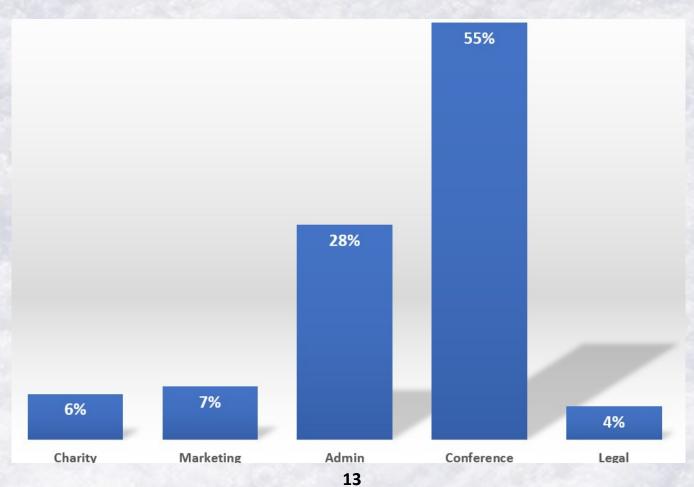
The monument to the 83rd
Pennsylvania was dedicated in
1899 on the southern side of
Little Round Top. Colonel Strong
Vincent commanded the brigade.
As these Fifth Corps troops
endured mounting Confederate
attacks on July 2, 1863, Vincent
fell, severely wounded. He would
die five days later on July 7.

Photo: Matthew Holzman

Revenue



Expenses



Donor Honor Roll

The CWRT Congress is proud to recognize the philanthropic investments made by individuals, CWRTs, and foundations received in 2023.

\$500+

Mike Movius Carol VanOrnum William Miller James Knights

\$250 to \$500

Earnest Fields
Network for Good
Craig Apperson
Richard Hansen
Zoom Video Communication

Zoom Video Communications

Steven Rauschkolb

Military Images Magazine

\$50 to \$250

Steve Murphy
Cheryl & Geof Nunn
Tammy Harkleroad
Sandra McClarty
Peter Smith
Pasadena CWRT
Mary Grace Dorsey

Ashley Whitehead Luskey Mike Hoover

Robin Vaughn
Michael Leopold
Steve Jaren
Steven Magnusen
Shannon Hawkins
Bill Leeshafft

Jon Willen Rob Istik

George Bennett Betty Bellamy Wendy Lunko Terry Pierce Ted Kunstling

Rex & Gerri Thrasher Rena Cresman Peter Kolakowski Norman Kuchar

Janet Whaley Helen Bowlus George Foxworth Franklin Crawford Fidelity Charitable Cybergrants

Donnie Stowe Robert Flood

Veronica Brestensky George "Bill" Jayne

Lynne Newell Fazil Bhimani Cindy Heckler Victor Vignola

Petersburg Battlefields Fdn

Linda Novak
John Sapanara
Jean Montgomery
Dennis Urban
Delbert Estey
Alice Cannon

William "Corky" Lowe

Richard Bell Paul Severance Leigh Vaughan Laurie Burgett Keith Clark Karen Streif

John "Jack" Richer, Jr. Gerald & Marilyn Payn Gerald (Jerry) Snyder

David Ratliff David Peterson Bill Nicolai Andrew Masich

Less Than \$50

Jean Hemphill Ulrike Baumann Vicky Fike Sandra Oldfield Paul Eilbes Paul Pojman Mary Ujda

Lawrence Olasky Stewart Rantz John Wolshuck Jean Cairns Andrew Ditlevson Robert Sparks Frank Armiger

Jo Ann Grossberndt Donald Haven Royann Lund Norman Murray Joseph Joyce

Sidney Gamertsfelder

Ron Zanoni Sheldon Liss Amazon Smile Carol Willey

Remy (Oremia) Caimi

Matt Farina
Kirk Companion
Donna Smith
Rob Girardi
Norton London
Lyle Loveall
H. Miller
Gary Kaplan

Christina Tabaczka Alan & Pamela Cheever

Adrienne Massel Todd Stettner Diane Lovejoy Alta Dale Mark Perkins

Margaret Echanique

Julie Hunter



THE LIGHT POST









NEWSLETTER READERSHIP

Quarter	Open Email	%	Open Newsletter	%	Total Opens*
2/1/23	1.258	50.6	210	16.7	404
5/1/23	1.179	48.4	172	14.6	391
8/1/23	1,238	51.2	190	15.3	293
11/1/23	1,221	51.1	208	17.0	331

*Number of times readers reopened the newsletter.

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 2023.

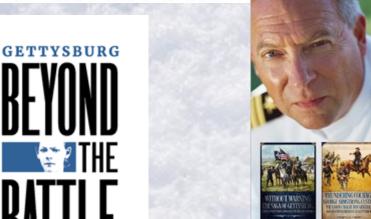
All lectures are on our <u>website</u>. You can watch their lectures on our <u>YouTube</u> channel.

Name	<u>Topic</u>
Dr. Curt Fields	Fridays With Grant
Michael E. Block	The Battle of Cedar Mountain
James Morgan III	The James Island Campaign
Ed Lowe	The Battle of Missionary Ridge
Stephen Murphy	George W. Quimby, a Union Soldier and Sherman Scout
Michael Eisenhut	Brothers at War: The Iron Brigade at Gettysburg
Jonathan Lande	The Black Badge of Courage
Dr. Terry C. Pierce	Without Warning: The Saga of Gettysburg
Lisa G. Samia	The Nameless and the Faceless of the Civil War
Meg Groeling	The Aftermath of Battle: The Burial of the CW Dead
Gary Yee	Sharpshooters: 1750–1900
Jared Peatman	The Long Shadow of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address
Tom McMillan	Our Flag Was Still There: Fort McHenry to Smithsonian
Patrick Brennan	Gettysburg in Color, Volume 1
Angela E. Elder	Love and Duty, Confederate Widows' Stories
Jon-Erik M. Gilot and	John Brown's Raid
Kevin R. Pawlak	
Megan L. Bever	A War With King Alcohol
Frances M. Clarke and	Of Age: Boy Soldiers and Military Power in the CW Era
Rebecca Jo Plant	
Doug Crenshaw and	The 1862 Peninsula Campaign
Drew Gruber	
Caroline Ann Davis and	Force of a Cyclone: The Battle of Stones River
Bert M. Dunkerly	
Jonathan Jones	Opium Slavery
Victor Vignola	Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks
Frank P. Varney	General Grant and the Verdict of History

Our Sponsors

The CWRT Congress is grateful to the individuals and organizations for their sponsorship of the 2023 Sustainability Conference booklet and the 2022 Annual Report.









DIER GIRL BLUE James Knights

WWW.JamesKnightsBooks.com

A young Canadian woman escapes her abusive father by disguising herself as a man and seeking retinge in the United States, a country about to be torn apart by civil war. Though able to claim neutrality as a foreigner, she finds it impossible to turn her back on an enslaved people and risks everything to continue her masquerade and join the fight to free them. As a Union soldier, she learns that neither the constant fear of being unmasked nor the danger she faces under fire can compare to the mrelenting peril she must endure as a spy behind Confederate lines. But when her lover is captured and imprisoned, she learns that love can drive her to take even greater risks. Soldier Girl Blue is based on the remarkable true story of Sarah Emma Edmunds of New Brunswick, Canada, a little known Civil War heroine.

GETTYSBURG

PASADENA CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

ADAMS COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

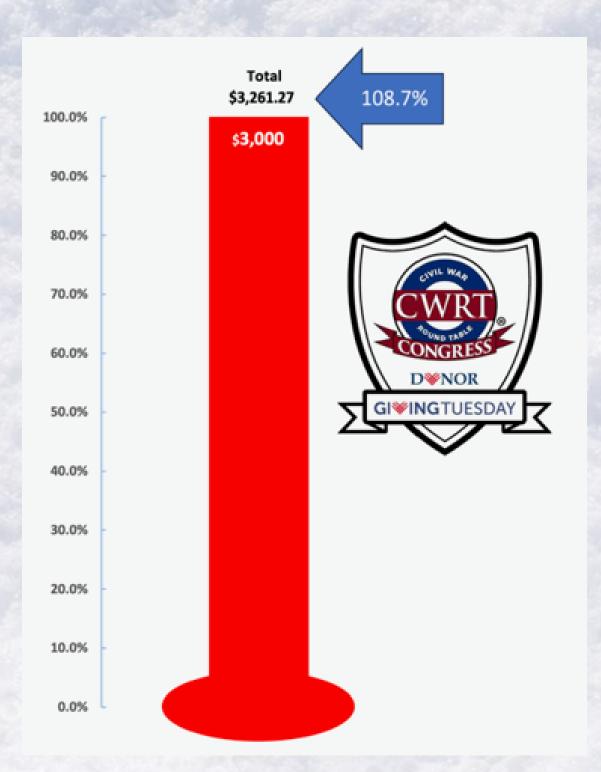




Giving Tuesday

The CWRT Congress is grateful to the individuals and organizations for their contributions to our Giving Tuesday campaign. One of the more important things that we do as Civil War enthusiasts is to preserve hallowed ground. Each year, the CWRT Congress partners with the American Battlefield Trust to restore and interpret newly acquired battlefields.

In 2023 we exceeded our goal and raised \$3,261.27 for this meaningful effort.



Social Media Status

Facebook

Find us at CWRT Congress!

NEW SUBSCRIBERS 64

TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS 1,554

VIEWS 1,820

REACH 22,189



TOP VIEWING CITIES

Rank	City/State	Rank	City/State
1	Gettysburg, PA	6	Phoenix, AZ
2	Houston, TX	7	Alexandria, VA
3	Knoxville, TN	8	Fredericksburg, VA
4	Philadelphia, PA	9	Memphis, TN
5	Scottsdale, AZ	10	New York, NY

TOP QUARTERLY PERFORMERS

Qtr	Date	Title	Reach	Engagements
Q1	Feb 25	During the ABT's Color Bearer weekend	697	110
ŲΤ	16025	with Garry Adelman	091	110
		An amazing tour of the National		
Q2	May 19	Confederate Museum. See the casket	1,000	277
		of Nathan Bedford Forrest and more		
02	Aug G	Waking tour of Chancellorsville with	250	22
Q3	Aug 6	Kristopher White and Sara Key Bierle.	359	23
		Important development: unexploded		
Q4	Dec 11	CW-era device found at Gettysburg	239	63
_		National Military Park.		

YOUTUBE

NEW SUBSCRIBERS	902	+118%
TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS	2,057	+119%
VIEWS	145,634	+135%
WATCH TIME	29,318	+106%
IMPRESSIONS	2,3M	+136%



VIEWERS BY LOCATION

	Number of Views	%
United States	119,336	85.5%
Canada	2,720	1.6%
United Kingdom	2,646	1.4%
Australia	878	0.5%
Germany	118	0.1%
Ireland	99	0.1%

TOP TEN VIDEOS

Rank	Lecturer	Title
1	Cory Pfarr	Longstreet at Gettysburg
2	Curt Fields	James Longstreet
3	Mike Gorman	Gaines' Mill: The Most Important Battle You Never Heard About
4	Curt Fields	The Surrender At Appomattox Court House
5	Eric J Wittenberg	Sherman's Carolinas Campaign
6	Curt Fields	Phil Sheridan
7	Curt Fields	Sherman Opposes The Plan
8	Curt Fields	When Grant Saved Lee
9	Curt Fields	Nearly Captured
10	Kristopher White	The Battle of Chancellorsville



Fort Stedman, Petersburg National Battlefield
Photo NSP