

## PARTICIPANT COMMENTS – HISTORY DAY

*We all hope there would be more attendees but having those was good. Rich called me right after to thank me for attending the session and chat. I believe he appreciated the opportunity to share with other round tables. If they follow up and check into it, more groups could get involved. We will continue to promote it in the coming months and direct those who could not attend tonight to view the video when it is posted. The discussion was not as open as other sessions and some “we know best for our group.”*

*It was good that you poked everyone to respond. They need to take it to their membership and allow them to decide if they want to get involved. The presentation focused on the value of connecting with students (no matter where they go to school). As you have said many times, our task is to expose them to the opportunity. It is up to them to follow through and act on it. You provided the link as a valuable link. Although anyone should be able to search “National History Day” and a state to find information on their local events.*

*The on-line classes are another valuable resource we are providing to round tables. I recommended to Kim Kamaris from Jersey Shore to find the recordings and view them. Also, to sign up for future sessions. He was asking about speakers, I advised him to go to the Speakers Registry on the website. **Rick Jankowski – Old Baldy CWRT***

*Thanks. Small world...The listed contact, Jennifer Disponette, works for the Kentucky Historical Society. Their Deputy Director is Jessica Stravos. Like myself Jessica serves on the Board of Directors for Louisville’s historic home, Farmington. As an aside the home was the former residence of the Speed family. As you know Lincoln was close friends with the Speeds. Anyway, I will talk with Jessica about this program at our November Farmington Board meeting. **Doug Krawczyk – Louisville CWRT***

*Definitely worthwhile! I especially appreciated 3 aspects:*

*1. Clarity of Purpose in Presentation*

*Rich did a great job of explaining not only how a NJRT is successfully participating in National History Day but also their uneven journey of how and why they became involved with NHD.*

*2. Strategically Leveraging Existing Structure Which Has Federal Funding*

*With public schools and districts wanting to avoid any controversy, access for any organization is understandably difficult in our PC culture. Rich’s RT provides a role model for other roundtables to consider, without having to create a separate burdensome model.*

*3. Smooth Facilitation*

*Mike created a successful meeting with his facilitation skills. He kept us on topic with a pace that appropriately moved forward. I also appreciate the brief pre-survey at the beginning of the session as well as post- evaluation email. **Melody Henson – Rocky Mountain CWRT***

*I was not aware of "History Day". Not at all. That said, I'll endeavor to educate myself and our Executive Committee about "History Day" with the prospect of making another run at engaging the interests of our youth in the history of the Civil war.*

*The program that Rich presented is totally different from the failed "essay contests" that we attempted to promote in years past to the local high schools in the Williamsburg area. There were other persons within our CWRT and our partner organizations that contacted the local schools to promote our "scholarship program". I must believe that our efforts to introduce, promote, and follow up our program with the local school history departments may have gone lacking, and that may have led to the lack of student interest.*

*I need to review the recording of Rich's presentation to focus upon the positive steps that have attributed to the success of his program. **Bill Miller – Yorktown CWRT***

*As I have said before, the American Civil War is the only one, unless I know so far, where there are several institutions with ordinary people organized to openly discuss various topics, regardless of which side their ancestors might be on, their little hearts, in a climate of cordiality and respect. That is something to value. I have not been able to do it with the Spanish civil war because it simply does not exist and with my own, much less.*

*Reaching the schools in each community, where each CWRT is located is vital. I would like multiple schoolteachers to be active in each CWRT, it would be ideal and that each CWRT had their local events, not just History Day. At CWRT events there is a group of speakers with some interesting topics for those schoolteachers. Here we should mention what the American Battlefield Trust does with its Virtual Teacher Institute and the in-person ones (not organized in these two years because of the pandemic, to reach schools and schoolteachers, who are the link with the boys. **Fernando Bastidas – Venezuela***