

SAN FRANCISCO CWRT HISTORY

By Bruce Castleman

The San Francisco Civil War Round Table began sometime in the 1960s as a lunch discussion group at the Presidio of San Francisco Officers Club. No record exists explaining why the group began their periodic meetings, but it may have grown out of a non-resident course from the war college or the command and staff school taken by active duty Army officers. The group at some point expanded into a Civil War Round Table that included anyone interested in the history of the Civil War.

The SFCWRT moved to the Fort Mason Officers Club until that post and the Presidio were closed and turned over to the Department of the Interior. The round table then held its meetings for years at the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco, and when that facility ceased all bar, restaurant, and catering operations in 2018, has held its meetings at the Gold Mirror Restaurant in San Francisco. Speakers have ranged from Pulitzer-winning authors to members of our own round table.