



IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION & NETWORKING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING NOTES

January 16, 2023

Present: President Mike Movius, Vice President John Bamberl, Vice President Carol VanOrnum, Secretary Rich Jankowski, Treasurer Bill Miller, Directors Mary Koik, and Andrew Mizsak. Guests: Craig Apperson and Steve Raushkolb

The January 16, 2023 Board of Directors Conference Program Planning Meeting was called to order by President Mike Movius at approximately 3:04 PM Pacific Time.

Mike showed the spreadsheet of potential costs and earnings for 50, 75, 100 and 125 attendees. Will need to purchase the beer and wine for the reception. Need to determine cost of bus to Spangler Farm and whether to have shirts. Will have video gopher, photographer and printing costs. Printing to be done by the Washington State Department of Corrections. Mary stated that she knows people in Gettysburg who can take photos. A deal can be made for their services. Andrew offered to write targeted emails to get sponsors for parts of the conference. Currently have two sponsors each for \$250. One author Ron Coddington and Military Images. Registration could be \$150 for early bird and \$175 standard.

1. Friday evening- reception will be on three floors at Missionary Ridge Museum. Discussion of various speakers (Reardon, Smith, Coddington, Atkinson), the need for a speaker, and welcome speech to review schedule. Do we need a speaker or an opportunity to network and get to know each other? Suggestion of ice breaker for attendee to get to know each other. Something to put folks at ease. Mary said to review the schedule to determine any extra topic that does not fit anywhere else. Maybe housekeeping and overview of the schedule. Sponsorship for each floor from other businesses in town. Maybe a questionnaire for folks to talk to each other to prepare for Saturday. There is not space for booths in the auditorium.
2. Program Saturday
 - a. Video - Carol & So Cal Alliance Video team is making progress, fine tuning the script and practicing. Mike asked for the video to be ready by June.

After a pre-meeting conversation with Carol, the opening panel will flow from the video to discuss challenges faced by round tables during the crisis period. The panel would have leaders from round tables who had a successful venture during this period. Suggestions

for members of the panel included Cobb County, Indianapolis, the 2022 award winners, James Garfield, and Cape Fear. President of Cobb County is Angela Snyder.

Craig indicated the importance of a moderator, use of focused questions and practice in advance. Carol stated the leaders would speak on the aspect of their program that was successful during the crisis they are highlighting. She volunteered to locate the round table leaders to serve as panelists and formulate the questions.

Chattanooga is having issues in local community with colleges and Civil War matters. Maybe it should be talked about as a topic to help round tables. John said maybe Matt Borowick could help.

b. Sustainability Challenge – CWRT Congress

The challenge will be explained to the attendees using the two videos with a discussion after each one. Steve said it should be after a coffee break as a startup.

c. - Organizational culture *Mike reviewed the proposed topics and panel members. John expressed a concern the attendees do not understand who we are and the importance of membership culture. He stated that round tables need to address both attracting and retaining members. Round tables need to develop a successful membership culture. We need to assist them with their challenges. Steve suggested to conduct a self-assessment at the conference and provide a copy to take back to do with their round table. Craig said to give information and show examples. He also stated it must be fun and use humor. It is key to stumble and talk about mistakes. Mary said “you cannot set it and forget it.” It needs to continually evolve. Several Board members stressed the importance of round tables helping each other.*

d. Recruiting younger generation – *After listing the proposed dignitaries and their organizations, the floor was open for discussion. First order should be defining what is ‘younger’ for our audience as each proposed organization to be represented has different criteria for their ‘younger.’ John stated with the graying problem, we need to focus on the Generation X. Mary talked about marketing and getting people to know about you before joining. She also said they need to remove barriers to recruiting like the sense of a regular commitment. Andrew mentioned the book “Bowling Alone” and the concept of ‘drop in and drop out.’ He recommended for round tables to connect to local colleges. Meet the round tables where they currently are existing. Focus on getting the organization known in the community. Mary suggested Johnathan Noyalas from Shenandoah University as he works with college students. Mike and Bill will see him at the Shenandoah conference in April and talk to him then.*

e. Community partnerships - *Mike reviewed the proposed panel members. Rich asked if round table leaders who have worked the community connection from the inside should be on the panel instead of outsiders telling what they want/need? Carol will look in past Light Post issues for round tables with community connections. Bill said Blake Myers*

from Bull Run CWRT leads their preservation program, was involved with the dedication of the park near the university in Fairfax and the issue of computer centers south of the Manassas Battlefield. John asked about the format of the panel. It will include an introduction, limited questions and discussion of connections. Andrew wants to be a panelist to talk about his efforts with the Kole Israel Foundation Holocaust National Memorial @ Zion Park. Craig suggested reaching out to Braver Angels who will be having a national conference at Gettysburg in early July. They promote reasonable conversation to avoid tearing things apart. He will send Mike information on them. John would like to see round table leaders talking about how they established connections in their community. There seemed to be a consensus of this opinion with the members of the Board.

3. Saturday Dinner

a. Entertainment - music by a band. Mary will look into bands in Gettysburg area. She also suggested period dancing. Bill suggested a contact for square dancing. Andrew suggested Steve and Lisa Ball from Columbus, OH. The Philadelphia Brigade Band (Beck's Band) is a Civil War Era brass band that plays music of the Victorian era. Attendees will be told to arrive between 6:00 and 6:15 for the Cyclorama tour. After the tour will be entertainment, dinner and award presentations. The conference will be summarized and wrap upped with feedback comments from the attendees. John said an effort should be made to collect current contact data round tables who have not replied to our survey. Agreed the effort should continue up to and during the conference.

Master of ceremonies - suggestions made include Matt Borowick and Chris Makowski. It is the first week of in-person classes for Chris M. Bill provided Chris Kolakowski, saying he would talk to Chris's father.

T-shirts for everyone – Mike not impressed with ones for this year, as they were missing elements. Shirts are only marketing if they are worn. Most of the Board members do not wear shirts they are given. The group felt t-shirts may not be the correct item to give to attendees. The concept of asking the attendees what they might want was never presented. Suggestions of other items included challenge coins (\$10), pens/notebooks, portfolios, flashlight pen, whistles and hats. Steve agreed to explore the options and collect prices.

Ticket Sales – Drawing – could be challenging over three venues to display prizes. The pool of prizes valued around \$1000 includes books, medals, prints etc. Mary offered artwork the Trust has received from estates. Mike suggested selling tickets for three items. John agreed that solution would be simple to display and monitor from our end.

Spangler Farm Tour – Sunday Mike said it could be led by Wayne Motts. One tour at 9 AM, ride bus and return at noon. Need to determine cost of bus/driver. Ron Kirkwood wrote

the book on the farm as a hospital, is a docent at the Farm and known by round table leaders. Wayne already volunteered and need an opportunity to promote his cause.

Printed program – Carol asked about the size and assembly. Mike will talk to printer to get prices and recommendations. He advised her to begin designing it, so there is a draft to show to printer. Bill recommended half page size.

John suggested Wayne Motts as Master of Ceremony. Mike will talk to him. Gettysburg Round Table has been asked to help with registration.

Bill gave a shout out to the excellent job Mary does on the Hallow Ground magazine, her 'paper baby.'

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM PST