



IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION & NETWORKING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

May 19, 2025

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CRAIG!!

PRESENT: President Mike Movius; Vice President John Bamberl; Vice President Carol Van Ornum; Secretary/Treasurer Bill Miller; Directors Andrew Mizak; Steven Rauschkolb; Jared Peatman; Craig Apperson; and David Hamon; Guest Ulrike Baumann; Guest Cheryl McAuley

ABSENT: Curt Fields and Melissa Winn

I. WELCOME: President Mike Movius called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM EDT

II. CORPORATE BUSINESS

- 1) Meeting Minutes: The BOD Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2025 were APPROVED.
- 2) Treasurer's Report: APPROVED for the period from 01/01/2025 through 05/16/2025.
- 3) Annual Fund: Mike reported that we exceeded the goal of \$4,000 by 118.3%. The final amount was \$4,731.24.
- 4) Committee Reports:
 - Ambassador Program: No report
 - America250: David reported that he has been providing notice of upcoming America 250 events for our Wednesday bulletin board posting. He referenced that the American Association for State & Local History organization provides information of upcoming events and activities for both organizations such as Round Tables as well as for individual use.
 - Awards & Sustainability Challenge: John reported that there are no applications for the *Sustainability Award* as of this time. John noted that the Knoxville CWRT is the only CWRT to apply for the *Innovation Award* this year. Additionally, the Sun City Surprise CWRT is the only CWRT to apply for the *Phoenix Award*
 - Communications: Carol reported receiving nice comments from the May issue of *The Light Post*, and is now reaching out for articles for the August issue. She noted the forthcoming schedule of June, July and August monthly postings for the Emerging Civil War blog.
 - Marketing: Steve expressed a concern about the low responses to our initiative to solicit sponsorships. The deadline for sponsorship advertisements for our forthcoming Workshops is fast approaching, and we could use more applications. Jared inquired of the feasibility of posting advertisements for Round Table speakers

and topics. And Steve also suggested that we send out requests to Round Tables that have previously provided sponsorships for renewal of their outreach efforts. Steve concluded his report by exhibited the new Challenge Coin which will be marketed at the forthcoming Workshops.

- Outreach: Andrew reiterated his previous comments regarding the lack of Federal grants. Moreover, private organizations are pausing grant programs while awaiting any restoration of Federal funding. He advised that he has a template letter available for local, regional, and community-based funding organizations, and he noted that numerous banking organizations are potential sources for community improvement funding. He closed his remarks with a reminder to invite local, state, and national leaders to summer meetings while they are on recess from legislative duties.

III. WORKSHOPS

- a. Registration Status: Mike commented on the registration status, noted below, and expressed a concern for more registrations, especially for the Cleveland Workshop. Andrew reported on the recent actions that he is taking to boost the Cleveland registrations.
 - Richmond – 13 (as of 5/16)
 - Cleveland – 2 (as of 5/16)
- b. Program Development:
 - Matt Callery video: Jared advised that the video was filmed earlier today (05/19). He noted that it will require editing to fit time constraints for the Workshop programs and possible use on our website.
 - Finalize Interview: Mike asked the Board members to review the draft of the Interview as a “homework” assignment and forward our comments to him individually.

IV. INITIATIVES – *Relentless Mission Focus*

- Online Grants Seminar: Andrew outlined a scenario to establish a seminar for Round Tables to draft grant applications. With the pause in Federal grant disbursements, this seminar program would serve as an opportunity to outline the steps to develop effective grant applications. The idea would be to establish the training program for an online session or sessions. And the training could also be formatted for Workshop programs. Mike suggested developing a survey to be sent to Round Tables to determine the level of interest and participation for such a Seminar. Andrew concurred with that suggestion and will follow up to establish the survey for Mike’s distribution.
- America250 Incentive: In conjunction with a suggestion from David, an Incentive Award is proposed by the outlined bullet points, noted below, for individual Round Table initiatives to embrace the America 250 commemorative events. Board member discussions involved various dates for submission of the Incentive applications as well as

multiple awards. Further discussion is needed to finalize the Incentive details and submission dates.

- Proposed reward: \$1,000 + Plaque Presentation
 - Rules: Partnering with another organization; Supports CWRT sustainability, CWRTC Interview; Carry out their A250 plan.
 - Subsidize with Matching Gift
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- 2026 Workshops: A lengthy conversation regarding the comparative values between several regional single day Workshops and a single two or three day Conference developed. The pros and cons of both formats were discussed at great length. The opinions swayed back and forth, and it was pointed out that the Congress achieved successes in prior years with respect to attendees at our Conference format. The regional Workshops, though purposely geared for a single day and for smaller attendees do not seem to garner the same enthusiasm with respect to the number of attendees. In addition, there is a cost issue that needs more consideration. To summarize, the discussion was robust but no firm consensus was established. The discussion will be continued...
 - Theme: *Can this CWRT be Saved?*
 - Huntsville: Mike noted that the Congress would establish some type of program to collaborate with the TVCWRT if the proposed 2026 Workshop is not established.
 - Co-Hosts – Tennessee Valley CWRT
 - Dates: Sept. 19, 2026 (Huntsville)

V. CLOSE

Bill: There is an established blueprint for a successful three day Conference that is a sellout for at least five Civil War organizations that I try to attend each year. If we were to adapt that successful format to our mission, I believe that we could develop a prosperous annual Conference in terms of both attendance and cost.

Jared: Speaking to the Kansas City CWRT, and then heading to the Pea Ridge battlefield.

Andrew: Looking forward to our Civil War weekend at the museum complex. Like the Conference format.

Craig: Great discussion.

Steven: Our RT is sponsoring a trip to Vicksburg in September.

John: Pleased with the discussion comparison of Workshops versus a Conference. Our RT is organizing a bus trip to Picacho Peak and the Arizona Military Museum.

Carol: The Theme: *Can this CWRT be Saved?* It's a great discussion topic, and worthwhile for local Round Tables.

David: Commented on his Round Table Summer Intern Program and follow up with students.

Cheryl: Thank you for inviting me to participate. All are welcome to visit Huntsville.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Mike Movius at approximately 7:53 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
William Miller
Secretary / Treasurer