



IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION & NETWORKING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2025

PRESENT: President Mike Movius; Vice President Carol VanOrnum; Secretary/Treasurer Bill Miller; Directors Andrew Mizsak; Steven Rauschkolb; Jared Peatman; David Hamon; Craig Apperson; Melissa Winn, and Curt Fields

ABSENT: Vice President Dr. John Bamberl was excused.

- **WELCOME:** President Mike Movius called to order at approximately 6:12PM EDT.

- **CORPORATE BUSINESS**
 - a. Meeting Minutes: July 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Approved.
 - b. Treasurer's Report: Approved unanimously. Mike explained the profit/loss for the workshops.
 - c. Committee Reports:
 - Ambassador Program: Curt provides our Marketing Brochures during Round Table appearances and is now inserting them into his new book. Steve will forward remaining Brochures per Curt's request.
 - America250 Initiative: David reported that (1) the American250 Commission has initiated their "Our American Story" trailer to tour the USA to collect individual oral history stories. (2) The American Battlefield Trust has an initiated an American250 campaign for battlefield preservation and history education.
 - Award Presentations:
 - Innovation Award – Knoxville CWRT –Carol 9/9 - Mike reminded Carol to provide many photographs.
 - Phoenix Award – Sun Cities/Surprise CWRT – John 10/7
 - Marketing Award – Old Baldy – Matt 11/13
 - Communications: Carol reported that the August Light Post has been published. She is completing the editing of David's ECW article, and will be drafting an upcoming ECW article in collaboration with John.
 - Marketing: Steve is evaluating our Facebook participation to increase additional outreach. He will also be reviewing our YouTube participation for increased outreach, and is exploring methods to encourage RT leaders to forward our messaging to their local membership.
 - Outreach: Andrew noted that he has extra brochures of seven local upcoming events that he will forward to Curt.

d. Cleveland Feedback: The post event surveys were very positive.

- **INITIATIVES – *Relentless Mission Focus***

- CWRTC Grant Development Team: Mike outlined the schedule noted below and shared the video that has been developed to promote the Grant program.
 - Grant Announcement Release: all 5 on 9/15
 - Grant Submission Due Date: 11/15
 - Grant Rating & Selection Team: BOD members
 - Grant Award Announcement Date: 12/1
- Giving Tuesday (12/2):
 - Campaign Kickoff: Mike shared Gary Adelman’s video as well as that recorded by Melissa, Curt as U.S. Grant, and Thomas Jessee as R.E. Lee.
 - Pay per View - \$20 each
 - Presentation Dates (two of the three videos have been recorded)
 1. 9/23: Larry McCluney as PGT Beauregard – Shiloh Campaign (1862)
 2. 10/14: Morgan Gates as John C. Pemberton – Vicksburg Campaign (1863)
 3. 11/4: Thomas Jessee as Robert E Lee – Appomattox Campaign (1865)
 - Website Location: To be established with Steve.
 - Civil War Fridays Page
 - Giving Tuesday Page
 - Marketing Effort:
 - Need Snappy Announcement.
 - Sunday Emails (13) – September 7 thru November 30.
 - Schedule our personal appeals with Due Dates.

- **2026 CONFERENCE**

- Petersburg Visitation: Mike noted a preference to utilize Pamplin Park.
 - Petersburg Battlefields Foundation – Pamplin Park & Union Station
 - Pamplin Historical Park – Museum & Education Center
- Tour Ideas: (Suggest only 2)
 - City Point & Grant’s Cottage: Mike’s suggested preference.
 - Blandford Church & Cemetery: Mike’s suggested preference.
 - The Crater
 - Petersburg Breakthrough Battlefield
- Theme: “*Can This CWRT Be Saved?*”
 - Conversations involved the selection of sustainability topics, the number of discussion groups, the assignment of attendees within discussion groups, and the promulgation of discussion conclusions to the conference attendees. Additional planning within the BOD will follow to develop the Conference agenda.
- Date Selection Criteria:
 - Curt Fields’ calendar: August 28, 2026 weekend is acceptable.

- Venue calendar: To be developed.
- Preferred Caterer availability: Based upon the recommendation of Pamplin Park management.
- Marketing Possibilities:
 - Author invitations – book sales & signings (Contact ECW, Savas & Others)
 - CWRT display tables – (Invitation on announcement & registration)
 - History lecture – Curt Fields re: The "Siege" Friday or Saturday dinner? Mike Gorman of the Richmond NPS will be considered as a speaker for one of the lectures.
 - Alignment organization invitations (historical gaming society, etc.)
 - Breakout for networking & sister CWRTs?
- **EMERGING CIVIL WAR INVITATION (8/7/2026)**
 - Piggyback a workshop onto 2026 ECW Symposium: Suggested by Chris Mackowski
 - Riddick House is available (free)
 - Friday starting at 9am until 11-11:30
 - Workshop topic: "Five True Tales of Success...and Failures" Suggested by Jared. Other suggestions included light hearted and topical stories narrated by Board members.
 - Registration & Cost: To be determined
- **CLOSE:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Mike Movius at approximately 8:15 PM EDT

Respectfully submitted
 William Miller
 Secretary/Treasurer