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ZOOM BOMBERS - A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

By Carol VanOrnum

It is common knowledge that Zoom is not that secure of a program. We hadn't really heard why or what the consequences might be. But because it's a common program and is useful in holding virtual CWRT meetings, we cross our fingers and use it anyway. Unfortunately, the Pasadena and Inland Empire Civil War Round Tables learned why – the hard way.

Since April 2020, the Pasadena CWRT had used GoToMeeting in their virtual meetings; in May they switched to the Zoom platform. They post the Zoom invitation link on their website and in their newsletter. Reservations are not required. Pasadena and Inland Empire (Redlands, CA) are sister round tables, Inland Empire being the smaller of the two. Both round tables' members are invited to participate. So in June 2021, they had more than 50 participants on the call hosted by Pasadena. About 20 minutes into the



speaker's presentation, several participants (they determined it was three) began shouting profanities. They posted obscenities in the Chat feature. They took over the Annotate feature and drew obscene pictures and words over the speaker's shared screen. Panic ensued as the Pasadena host scrambled to find the culprits and mute them. In an awful, unprepared moment, Pasadena quickly told the participants they would end the call and begin again. Unfortunately, only about half logged back on. Fortunately, post-meeting, the host was able to edit togeth-

er the program sans intrusion.

Inland Empire Civil War leaders "were horrified to watch helplessly as David Richardson, Nick Smith, and Janet Whaley of Pasadena scrambled to reverse what was happening," according to Brian Cieslak, Inland Empire's Program Chair. He and Mike Hoover, Secretary and Zoom host, got together after the event and agreed that they had learned a very cheap lesson and vowed to figure out how to prevent it.

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ZOOM BOMBERS—A TALE OF TWO SISTERS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Their research showed a very troubling situation. According to Cieslak, there is an entire group of people who, during the pandemic, have nothing but time on their hands. A dark site on the web challenges ne'er-do-wells to find an unprotected zoom site and wreak havoc. They take over the Screen Share and display the most shocking sights – from pornography to torture and worse. They hijack the site with horrific, disgusting images and then – here's the goal – record the reactions of the faces of the viewers, which is then posted on a dark Tic Tok site, earning points for the horrified expressions. These zoom intrusions can be traumatizing to the victims. In the case of Pasadena's intrusion, Hoover said, "It was 'sophomoric, using naughty words and drawings. That was the extent of it. Nevertheless, it was eye opening and dismaying."

Currently, many states have made zoom bombing illegal; the Federal government is also working to do so. In the meantime, what can be done to prevent this, given that many Civil War round tables use zoom for their meetings or hybrid meetings? Hoover of Inland Empire did his research and made these suggestions.

When you're setting up your meeting, **UNDER MEETING OPTIONS:**

Meeting IDs – Don't use a personal meeting ID for every meeting. Let Zoom generate one automatically. It will

change with every event.

Meeting Passcode – It's important to have a passcode that you can choose yourself. Require participants to enter the Meeting ID and Passcode to get into the Zoom call. Same with Phone-in participants - require a password. If they don't know it, they can't join it.

Don't "allow" participants to join anytime."

Co-Host – if you have one, they can have the same options as you, the host. Teamwork helps.

You can **Mute All** upon initially creating the call or mute all later. It depends on the format of your meeting, whether you want to visit first. You'll be able to tell your speaker to unmute themselves.

UNDER SETTINGS (on the left):

Do not let participants join before the host. The host should join first.

Enable the Waiting Room. Everyone who enters must wait in the waiting room while the host manually approves them to enter. This step can be tedious, and you may not find it practicable with a large attendance.

Screen Sharing – As a host, you can change this to Host Only. But if you want your speaker to also share, next to the Screen Participant at the bottom of the Zooming page, you can "Add 1."

Annotate – Only the user who is sharing can annotate.

ADVANCED SETTINGS:

Locking the Room – You can Lock the Room and then no one can enter after that unless you let them. The host has that option when the meeting is going. In the Participants window, at the bottom to the right of Mute All you will see 3 ...'s. One of the options is Lock Meeting. Sometimes, you can choose to lock it after about 10 or 15 minutes.

Disabling the Mics – when setting up the meeting, you can disable everyone's mic and can enable the host and speaker's mics.

Stop Video – On the lower left, there is a stop video button. This is not a security feature, but it prevents buffering and saves energy. It also prevents bombers from seeing a face.

Given these suggestions, it is

also helpful to have one person handling the Zoom controls and a second person moderating the meeting.

Working together, the sister CWRTs of Pasadena and Inland Empire came up with solutions that will prevent future zoom bombing for them. The bonus, according to Janet Whaley, is that there were participants from the St. Louis CWRT on the call who afterwards asked Pasadena to share what preventive steps were taken. Whaley concluded that, "All this is to say that the Sister CWRT program, and the wider exposure to other CWRT's programs via Zoom has made the CWRT world a bit smaller and allowed us to share our experiences to the benefit of each other's organizations."

Photo courtesy Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.



CWRT of the Ozarks Facebook Cover Photo
The Battle of Wilson's Creek was fought in August, 1861. It was the largest battle west of the Mississippi and the site of the death of the first general – Union General Nathaniel Lyon.

THE REVITALIZATION OF THE SUN CITIES AND SURPRISE CWRT

By Carol VanOrnum

Resurrection of Civil War round tables which had long ago disbanded often feels like the Phoenix rising from the ashes. It's a monumental task – lucky if By-Laws or member lists are salvageable. More often than not, it's working from scratch.

The Sun City West CWRT found itself somewhere in between. An hour from the Scottsdale CWRT, Sun City West operated with President Larry Anderson, a Vice President, and long-time Secretary, Roberta Davidson. An unfortunate trifecta occurred when two years ago Roberta declared her retirement; the member who had volunteered as VP attended one meeting before falling ill and backing out; and worst of all, President Anderson passed away unexpectedly. The round table was on the brink of going dark.

After some dormancy, 22 remaining members voted in May 2021 to continue, and the Sun Cities and Surprise Arizona CWRT was born. Led by Jim Bish, a historian/educator/author/sunbird, and John and Claudia Burr, vice president and secretary respectively, the "Team" took the painstaking steps to recreate a CWRT in a location close to their community.

Many of the members had traveled more than an hour in busy

traffic to the Scottsdale meetings. But by finding a more centralized location in the Tri-City area of Surprise, Sun City, and Glendale, they hoped to attract more members who had shied away from the long trek.

With it brought unique challenges:

Location: Finding a suitable location has been a civic challenge. Each city's public facilities, e.g., meeting halls, libraries, etc., requires the organization to have originated in that particular city. For example, an organization that began in Sun City cannot use a public space in Glendale and vice versa. The SCS CWRT is currently graced with the generosity of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sun City West.

Time: The church's availability, however, restricts them to a Tuesday afternoon time slot. The Team ideally prefers early evening if they wish to attract younger, employed people.

Member Age: Not unfamiliar to many CWRTs, the SCS CWRT's member-

ship range is between 55+ to 80s. Because they are located in a retirement community, i.e., Arizona, their potential members pool is 70-80 years of age who tend to avoid night driving. So here you have a CWRT which is not necessarily looking for younger members, but rather is looking to geographically expand their member area. One option they're considering for spring 2022 is to advertise an evening event, which duplicates their day presentation.

The Team brainstormed last summer, according to Bish, and thought that rebranding the organization would make the Round Table more inviting. "It is very important to listen to the needs and desires of our membership and offer to them ways that

they can join our Round Table and become more involved." Dues are currently \$5 to cover the rental space. But they're open to raising it if a new place with higher rent presents itself. They hope to connect with the colleges and high school history departments. They intend to create By-Laws. They're looking for speakers, but they currently have a plethora of local talent, including the Team. They continue to ask for volunteers from their membership for refreshments, technology support, trivia, and other value-added features to round off their organization. Claudia Burr hopes that they can "spread the responsibilities to engage people and make it a success."

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“SUN CITIES AND SURPRISE CWRT (continued from Page 3)

Most recently, they had their first meeting on October 5th as the official Sun Cities and Surprise Civil War Round Table. John Bamberl, recently retired President of the Scottsdale CWRT and a great supporter of the endeavor, said, “I thought the attendance was excellent since this was a reorganizational meeting. I plan on attending

their first few meetings and the Scottsdale Round Table board will continue to support them in any way that we can.”

Bish is also thrilled with his Team. “I also cannot say enough positively about John and Claudia Burr. Claudia has especially brought her

enthusiasm and skills to the forefront of the organization and with the aid of the current membership and with our attempt to attract new members will provide a wonderful opportunity for students of the Civil War to gather at our Round Table every month.”

The Scottsdale Round Table board will continue to support them in any way that we can.”

John Bamberl

BATON ROUGE CWRT SYMPOSIUM—SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

By Carol VanOrnum

The Baton Rouge CWRT is pulling out all of the stops* in their upcoming symposium as they aim to offer something for everyone during their three-day event. By partnering with relic dealers, reenactors, a non-profit battlefield preservation organization, and a historic site, they hope to engage the public and increase their membership.

BRCWRT’s event begins on Friday evening, November 5th with a 6:30 p.m. reception at the Republic of West Florida

Historical Society’s Museum. It’s an opportunity to meet and greet the speakers, enjoy refreshments, test your trivia knowledge and win a door prize. Saturday’s events are held at Port Hudson Historic Site. The state of Louisiana maintains the 690-acre site, which includes a museum about the siege of Port Hudson, artillery displays, redoubts, and interpretive plaques. The BRCWRT’s first of five speakers begins at 9:15 a.m. During the breaks, mosey among the relic dealers and

interactive historic displays lining the walkway. The afternoon offers a chance to view a reenactment.

The BRCWRT strategically scheduled their symposium to coincide with Port Hudson State Historic Site’s 158th anniversary reenactment of the “Siege of Port Hudson.” Mingle with reenactors from both the Union and Confederate armies, tour campsites, watch demonstrations, and enjoy other Civil War activities over the weekend. At Saturday’s end, there’s a book raffle and a Grand Raffle of relics, book sets, and art. Sunday, November 7th the BRCWRT teams with the Friends of Port Hudson for a “Hallowed Ground Tour II.” It is a trek to The Priest Cap, the site of the heaviest fighting during the siege. A complete schedule of events can be found [here](#).

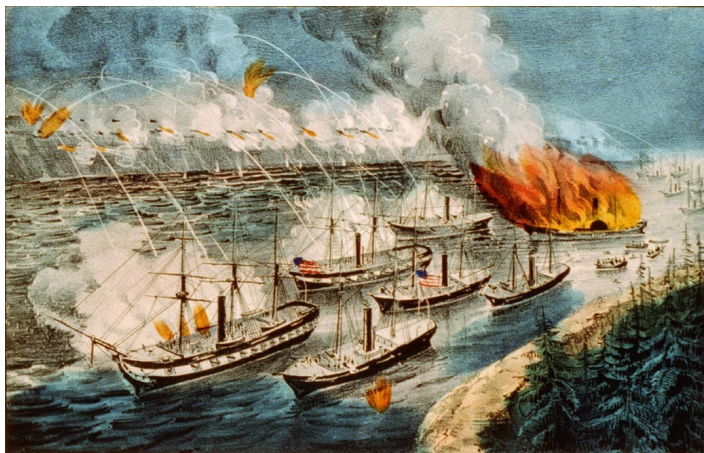
Collaboration and partnerships are key to the BRCWRT’s planning. John Potts, Program

Director, strives to find something to entertain people during the breaks. “It builds a level of commonality and becomes a friendlier environment.”

On a final note, this year’s BRCWRT symposium is dedicated to the late Rev. Dr. Harry Arthur “Peter” Harrington, Jr., a long-time member and past vice president. Potts says that Peter was always willing to help with the round table and was a great guy. Peter presented the “Civil War Minute,” a one- to five-minute plucking of some obscure and interesting fact about the Civil War which he presented before the speaker at each meeting. Dedicating their symposium to the memory of Mr. Harrington is a fine way to honor your round table’s most valuable asset.

***Fun Fact:** “Pulling out all of the stops” comes from **organ-playing**, where it means “bring into play every rank of pipes,” thereby creating the fullest possible sound. It has been used figuratively since about 1860.

<https://www.dictionary.com>



The Siege of Port Hudson



IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND NETWORKING

media to market their efforts, tell the story of their organization and seek to understand how they can better serve and interface with the needs of their community. This short-list of activities requires leadership. It asks those who lament their lack of diversity to decide if their CWRT will become extinct or will be sustained for future generations of history lovers.

LEADERSHIP — A WAY FORWARD

By Mike Movius

Managing and leading a Civil War Round Table are two separate areas of importance that every CWRT member should know and understand. By managing, we most usually mean that the board or leadership group is fully staffed, that obligations are met, and that dues, programs, and announcements are received and given. This explanation isn't meant to trivialize the efforts involved, but simply to explain the importance of a well-defined and well-run organization.

Leading goes beyond the management of an organization, and involves developing a vi-

sion, communicating it to everyone in the organization, and inspiring members to adopt and implement that vision. It also involves setting the example for others thereby demonstrating that the vision is actionable by anyone.

We hear almost daily how CWRTs struggle to get someone, and in many cases, anyone to take a role. We also hear the all-too-familiar lament that their organization is composed of old, white men and that there is a desire for younger members. These two complaints are usually met with some level of despair. But that need not be the case.

Consider those CWRTs that have

decided to become active in their communities. They donate a Civil War book to their local library. They write a press release about their actions, explaining their concerns and interests and distribute it widely. They decide on a community project, perhaps in partnership with another like-minded organization, designed to inspire others to become involved with them. They don a kepi and read to children at the local library or one of many youth-serving organizations. They serve meals at the local soup kitchen, solicit memberships for the local PBS television station or staff a donation station for charity during the holidays.

And, all the while, they use social

Introducing our newest CWRT Congress Board Members

Rosemary Nichols and Bill Miller

Rosemary Nichols, Treasurer

Rosemary earned an undergraduate degree in American history and master's degree in American Constitutional History from the University of Washington in Seattle. She graduated from law school from the University of Chicago and taught environmental law and ethics at the State University of New York at Albany and law at the University of Pittsburgh.

She is co-author of a two-book series "Hidden History." She has also published "Stolen: Civil War Series," the first book

in a series on how the Civil War affects an upstate New York family. She is currently working on a multi-volume series on building the Erie Canal.

She has served three terms as President of the Capital District Civil War Round Table, is currently its Secretary, and has been on the CDCWRT board for almost two decades. She is a charter member of Da Buffs, a bimonthly Capital District Civil War study group, a Color Bearer of the American Battlefield Trust, and a regular participant with the



Emerging Civil War.



Bill Miller, Secretary

Bill currently serves as the President of the Williamsburg Civil War Round Table, and also maintains memberships in the Hagerstown MD and Bull Run VA CWRTs. A Civil Engineering degree from Georgia Tech led to a rewarding 45-year career in commercial building con-

struction. Upon retirement, Bill has expanded his lifelong interests in Civil War history by making extensive battlefield tours and attending numerous conferences and seminars. He maintains memberships in numerous battlefield preservation organizations, including the American Battlefield Trust, the Central

Virginia Battlefields Trust, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Trust, and several others. Bill resides in Yorktown VA (where our independence was won) with his wife and "Duke," his faithful canine. Bill's family proudly includes three children and four grandchildren.



GIVING TUESDAY PARTNERSHIP



The Civil War Round Table Congress has reestablished our fundraising partnership with the American Battlefield Trust for Giving Tuesday November 30, 2021.

The CWRT Congress provides educational and logistical support for Civil War round tables around the country. Recognizing that battlefields are a vital educational tool for understanding the Civil War, the Congress promotes battlefield preservation with the American Battlefield Trust, the nation's largest battlefield preservation organization in the world.

The goal for the 2021 Giving Tuesday campaign is \$3,000. Donations made through the CWRT Congress will be split equally between the Congress

and the American Battlefield Trust's little-known Interpretation & Restoration Division. That division will utilize their share of donations for conservation, restoration, and interpretation projects.

Today, more than 10,000 acres of battlefield land await transfer to state, regional and national parks. They require the removal of non-historic buildings, restoration of tree lines, trail building, interpretative sign development and visitor access.

The CWRT Congress will utilize its share of donations to continue to promote proven practices, assist CWRTs with program resources, communicate success stories, develop online learning resources, and build networks for organizational improvement and sharing.

Please consider making a generous donation for our Giving Tuesday Campaign at

<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/CWRTCongress>

For additional information:

CWRT Congress = <https://www.cwrtcongress.org/giving-tuesday.html>

American Battlefield Trust = <https://www.battlefields.org/>

Giving Tuesday = <https://www.givingtuesday.org/>

Restoration & Interpretation = <https://www.cwrtcongress.org/PDF/ABT-One-Page-InterpretationRestoration.pdf>

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TELL US

If your round table has a unique situation or is successful in any way, please share with us. Contact Carol VanOrnum

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ONLINE CLASSROOM

As more CWRTs begin to hold in-person meetings, the CWRT Congress has begun shifting its gears, too. After two cancelled annual conferences, Congress leadership decided to hold free online classes on topics that can benefit CWRTs around the country. On October 10th, we held our first class entitled, *CWRTs and the New Normal*. It was quickly followed by other Wednesday classes on leadership, newsletter improvement and website analysis. All of our subsequent classes are designed to inspire new ways of thinking about the role of CWRTs and their leaders. Stay tuned to our growing schedule at www.cwrtcongress.org/classroom. And, if you have missed a class, you will find all of them in our CONGRESS VIDEOS under Classroom. We hope you will find them interesting and provocative.



Antietam Photograph by Stuart Harder, Twin Cities Civil War Round Table