



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

THE LIGHT POST

NOVEMBER 2024

THE ROANOKE CWRT'S PUBLICITY STEPS

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By Carol VanOrnum

The [Roanoke CWRT](#) (VA) recently landed an interview with a local television station on their "Here @ Home" events hour. Roanoke Board member and Marketing Coordinator Kevin Donovan highlighted an upcoming and unique program entitled, "*Cloaked in Mystery - The Curious Case of the Confederate Coat*." A photograph sleuth who was coming to speak to the RCWRT had discovered that several generals were photographed wearing the same coat. It was a subject that piqued the interest of the TV station's producer, while providing a wonderful opportunity for the RCWRT to publicize its work.

This lucky bit of publicity actually sprung from a carefully planned publicity campaign led by Donovan and supported by RCWRT President Alicia Pryor. Donovan explained how the process began. "Our publicity program started from the premise that we have a tremendous product – our speakers." The

Publicity committee initially identified the "low hanging fruit," asking who in the community has leisure time and could be interested in the Civil War. They immediately thought of the retirement community. They contacted the social directors in every retirement community in Roanoke and the surrounding area and asked if they'd be willing to display their announcements. "We put together a colorful and informative brochure about the next program and sent them out." The RCWRT saw immediate results – proof of the new faces at the next meeting.

The RCWRT built on this success and identified other organizations to target, e.g., the local historical society and the history departments of local colleges. They began taking their flyers once a month to libraries and other businesses.

Then they created a Press Release to use in targeting local newspapers and TV stations. They requested coverage, and after several months of perseverance, they struck gold. But Donovan

stressed that they realized they had to build on each step. That was the key.

Other members involved in publicity included John Hamill, their IT person. He created a Facebook page which is distributed to other surrounding Round Tables. They are developing relationships with The Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech, the Nau Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia, the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University, and Emerging Civil War.

The RCWRT's publicity efforts continue to grow, enhancing its membership. Donovan's personal goal is a future podcast by the Roanoke Civil War Round Table.

See Page 13 on how to create your own press release.



WDBJ7 TV:

**Civil War Round Table discusses "Cloaked in Mystery
- The Curious Case of the Confederate Coat"**

THE ANCIENT GREEKS GOT SOME THINGS RIGHT

By Mike Movius, President

At the Temple of Apollo in Delphi there is an inscription that says, "Know Thyself." As a society we are in jeopardy of NOT knowing ourselves because of ignorance of the very foundation of our culture. That's one reason why the CWRT Congress is inspired by the purposes of Civil War Round Tables and intrigued by the developments of those CWRT leaders interested in sustainability.

I doubt that there are many who would disagree that CWRTs cannot affect that ignorance by remaining the same. By the same, I'm talking about remaining rather insular, keeping to ourselves, and vanishing without a whimper. So, what is the answer? Do we have the strength in numbers, the ambition, or the enthusiasm to make a difference?

There are some Round Tables that are making a difference. They are heavily engaged in their communities, are fighting to save precious hallowed ground from development, have developed a series of projects and activities that are attractive to different generations, and led by men and women with gusto.

There are others that want that kind of organization but aren't there yet. And, unfortunately, there are other CWRTs that have lost the fighting spirit. The good news is that with some effort, that course can be reversed. How, you might ask?

First comes attitude. We are the citizens of a great nation that was established and led by great people. We have forgotten our debt to those who went before us. I'm not saying we are flawless, or that we should be proud of our failures. But America has been the "shining city on a hill" for its entire existence despite its blemishes. Keep that in focus.

Second is community. When we reach out to others and help them fight the good fight, we are strengthened and redeemed. Find

those who cherish our history and who wish to inspire others to learn from our past. Join them! Become part of the fabric of knowledge and understanding.

And, finally, keep the faith. Younger people are anxious to know what you know. They want to listen, learn, and act on common ground. Make it a habit to share your knowledge and experience. Remember that our history is their history. And it needs to be understood in context with the belief structures of the time. Reach out, engage, and keep perspective.



IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND NETWORKING



Temple of Apollo (Delphi)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_Apollo_\(Delphi\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_Apollo_(Delphi))

PRIME TIME PROGRAMMING: THE WOMEN TELL ALL

By Mike Campbell

To paraphrase historian and author Carolyn Ivanoff: This is history from women's perspectives. It's not women's history, it's history as told by women.

On November 12, 2024, the [Bucks County CWRT](#) is launching a unique "first" with its own Zoom series, one that is committed to booking women historians exclusively.

This project is an evolution of the success that we experienced as a supporter and co-partner in the [North Jersey CWRT's](#) Zoom Programming when they rediscovered some must-see-TV magic. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the backstory, please see the front page article from the February 2024 *Light Post* [HERE](#). It started with "The Winter of Meade." Then came "The Autumn of Grant." Prime-time programming was back, and so were the big-time speakers. Folks were tuning in to find out what was going to happen next. An audience of networks – Round Tables, civic organizations, colleges, public historians, and museums were drawn in. North Jersey had found a magic lamp: regularly scheduled prime-time programming.

By featuring female-based Zoom programming, we are partnering with several Round Tables across the country. The [Cape Fear CWRT](#) is foremost. None of this would happen without the involvement of Dr. Angela Zombek of the University of North Carolina – Wilmington (UNCW). Cape Fear and UNCW are neighbors in the Wilmington, NC area, and their



Clockwise starting top left: Dr. Maria Angela Diaz, Dr. Angela Zombek, Carolyn Ivanoff, Dr. Jen Andrella, and Dominish Miller front and center

long-standing relationship presents something of an ideal: a network of creative minds sufficient for great prime time Civil War programming. Dr. Zombek is their star. She is "an Americanist who is equal parts scholarly, community-minded, and endlessly cool," according to Yelena Howell of the Cape Fear CWRT. "Her devotion to her students, her academic expertise, and her abiding love of heavy metal; the best word to describe Dr. Zombek is 'excellence.'" Dr. Zombek will be our February speaker along with our special guest Becky Sawyer, Collections Manager and public historian at the Ft. Fisher State Historic Site.

The city of York, PA presents an ideal of a different nature. Underappreciated and understudied, York is rich in undiscovered history. The perfect environment for a fearless public historian in which to operate. York is an underdog story – a town of never-look-backs. York may have

just have the answer in Dominish Miller. "She's an accomplished historian," according to Scott Mingus of the [White Rose of York CWRT](#). "She formed a fast-growing history organization for the township in which she lives and then wrote a book about local history. She's a mentor. She's a public speaker. Her leadership and influence in communicating historical themes reach across many media platforms." She is half of Jamie and Domi's Hometown History, and she will join us in November for our premiere production along with special guest Ted Savas of Savas Beatie, LLC.

I wish I could tell you more. You can get the 2024-25 schedule by emailing civilwarmuseumdoylestown@gmail.com. Prime-time programming is back. We welcome all of you to enjoy the programming.

In concluding, here's a promise. To our audience: we will never ask for money or membership at any point, now or in the future. You are our guests. No strings attached. To our speakers: We will never record your presentations for general consumption. Nor will we use this series as competition with in-person presentations. We think that less is more in this case, and that the North Jersey must-see –TV model of Zoom is the best one for everyone. In fact, we encourage all willing and able Round Tables to commit to developing a prime-time program of their own and offer it free of charge to any interested groups. Create something. Give it a stage. Share it freely. Your membership will thank you.

Mike Campbell is the President of the Bucks County Civil War Round Table Library and Museum.

MARKING A CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S GRAVE

By Mark R. Terry

It began with a search on Find-A-Grave, looking for a photo of my Confederate ancestor's grave marker. William R. Bosley was a sergeant in the 62nd Virginia Mounted Infantry. After the war, he moved from West Virginia to Illinois and got married to an Indiana woman named Mary Ann Washburn. In 1879 they bought property in Ellis, Kansas and lived there until they died in 1921 and 1922. They were listed as buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Ellis, Kansas – but no photos! Later, a random Facebook post about the cemetery on an Ellis History page led me to Alex Begler, a local historian in Ellis. He offered to help find their graves but was unable. John Leiker, the Director of Public Works was contacted. He found the graves, but alas, there were no markers. At that point, I decided to order my 2x great grand-uncle the grave marker he never had.

I started by going online at: <https://www.cem.va.gov/hmm/historic.asp> This is the Veteran's Administration website page for the National Cemetery Administration, where all the ordering information can be found. The specific form to order such a marker is VA Form 40-1330. As long as a Civil War veteran's grave – Union or Confederate – is unmarked, the VA will provide a grave marker for the veteran at no cost. Proof



W.R.Bosley and Mary A. Bosley

of military service is required with the application. In Bosley's case I used his Consolidated Service Record (CSR) from the National Archives, along with rosters from their regimental history. I chose an upright granite marker for my uncle. After completing the application, I still had to have it signed by 1) a representative of the cemetery, in this case John Leiker, and 2) a person who would accept the delivery of the headstone, in this case Jeff Wolf of Wolf Memorial in Ellis. William Bosley's headstone was completed in about a month and was shipped to Ellis.

Meanwhile, I wanted to have a headstone made for his wife, Mary Ann Washburn Bosley. Interestingly, Mary Ann was an officer in the Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary of the local GAR Post 171 in Ellis. Her younger brother, 16-year-old Jeremiah Washburn, had enlisted in the

39th Indiana Infantry in 1863, was captured and later died in Confederate hands in Richmond, VA on December 27, 1863. Given that, I asked Wolf Memorial if they could inscribe the symbol of the WRC on her marker. Together, to install a base for both markers and create a headstone for Mary Ann, the total cost was \$900. I should have considered that when I started, but I didn't. We eventually were able to pay for it.

In a great turn of events, it worked out that I could travel to Kansas and help dedicate the markers. Prior to that, I contacted Guy Windholz from Ellis who became enthusiastic about the project and contacted a local newspaper reporter named Cheryl Kinderknecht. Cheryl wrote a very good article about it all. I also contacted the Kansas Sons of Union Veterans

of the Civil War and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Three men drove about three hours to be there for the dedication.

I brought two flags from home, the first, a 34-star U.S. flag that would have been adopted when Kansas became a state in January 1861 and second, a hand-sewn Confederate First National flag which was an exact replica of the one William's company was presented with in June 1861.

So, on August 15, 2024, nine of us gathered around the last resting place of William and Mary, a year and a half after the project began and dedicated their graves which were finally marked 101 years and 9 months after William passed away on November 15, 1922!

Mark Terry is currently the President and Newsletter Editor for the [Puget Sound CWRT](#) in Seattle, WA.



L-R: Taft Yates, local VFW post, who supplied the flagpoles, Conrad Fisher- Department Head of the Kansas Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Rocky Bartlow- past Department head, Kansas SUVCW, Alex Begler- Ellis Historian, Lane Smith- SCV & SUVCW, Jim Lohmeyer of Ellis, and me (Mark Terry). Photo taken by Guy Windholz. We had to hold the flags because the wind threatened to knock them over!



GIVING TUESDAY 2024

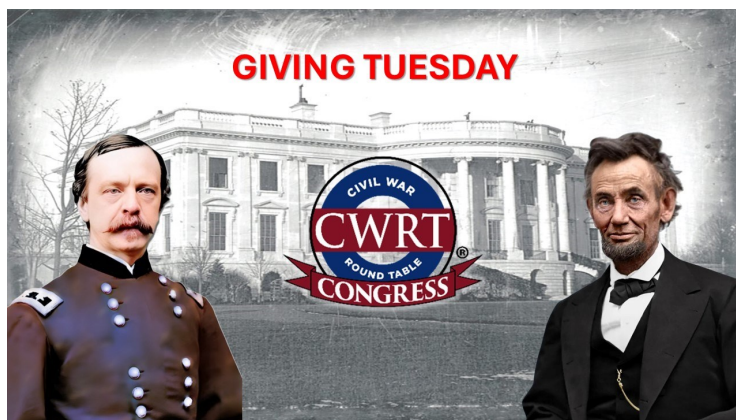
The Civil War Round Table Congress will once again be participating along with the [American Battlefield Trust](#) in Giving Tuesday scheduled for December 3, 2024.

The purpose of Giving Tuesday is to encourage people and organizations to transform their communities. That is why the CWRT Congress has teamed up with the Trust to assist them in restoring and interpreting battlefield land that they have acquired through your donations. Restoration and interpretation are equally important as it converts property into hallowed ground.

Our goal this year is to raise \$4,000. The monies raised by the CWRT Congress be equally split between the CWRT Congress and the American Battlefield Trust. Our Board of Directors believe that both organizations perform important tasks as stewards of our nation's Civil War history, and that both organizations have established records of maximizing the dollars they receive.

Help ensure the preservation of public history by donating to our Giving Tuesday campaign. Your contribution, no matter the size, is important. Donations can be made [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, or would like more information about Giving Tuesday, please ask us at info@cwrtcongress.org.



DELAWARE'S LEADING LADIES

By CWRT Congress

Bobbi Wilkins of the [Central Delaware CWRT](#) and Oremia Caimi (Remy) of the [CWRT of Wilmington](#) are both Presidents of the only Civil War Round Tables in Delaware. We asked these ladies to share their unique experiences as leaders of their organizations.

CWRT CONGRESS: In a few words, describe your CWRT.

Remy: The Civil War Round Table of Wilmington is the fifth oldest Round Table in the United States, founded in November 1956. There were 34 original members in 1956, one of whom was W. Emerson Wilson, editor of Wilmington's *The News Journal*. He also was instrumental in establishing the Fort Delaware Society to preserve and promote Fort

Delaware. Wilson often recruited FDS members to join the Round Table, a practice that continues today. Some Wilmington CWRT members also belong to the Central Delaware CWRT, and a few are members of all three organizations.

Our membership peaked at over 100 members, but we currently number around 30. We intend to launch a hybrid option this year for the convenience of our members and to increase our exposure by offering programs beyond the Wilmington area. The hybrid programming will also strengthen our relationship with the Central Delaware CWRT, our sister RT.

Bobbi: The Central Delaware Civil War Round Table was organized in 1992. We currently have 21 members this season. After relocating to a new venue in February 2024, our meeting

attendance has consistently averaged between 20 and 25 persons. Interestingly, a few of us have found that we are related to each other, either by blood or marriage.

CWRT Congress: Tell us about your journey to become President of your Round Table.

Remy: I joined in 2013, and over the last 11 years I've been a member, Director on the Board, Treasurer, and became President two years ago.

Bobbi: I joined in June 2004. I'm now serving my third term as President. During my second term, I spoke to a woman thinking she was a first-time guest and learned that she had been a member for over a year!!! The conversation haunts me to this day. I've served as a Director for many terms, Vice President twice, past President twice and Newsletter Editor for 13 years.

CWRT Congress: You're both female CWRT Presidents in your state. How does it feel to share this leadership role with another woman?

Remy: With only two Round Tables in Delaware, and both having women in leadership roles offers a unique dynamic. Not better, not worse, just interestingly different. Bobbi and I have known and worked together for several years through the FDS. So, when we learned that we shared leadership roles in our respective Round Tables, it was natural to share our experiences.

"With only two RTs in Delaware, and both having women in leadership roles offers a unique dynamic. Not better, not worse, just interestingly different." — Remy

Bobbi: We share ideas and suggestions for adaptations and new projects. What works for one group may not work for the other due to the variations of the population and geography of the state. You have to understand Delaware. The Wilmington area is metropolitan and greatly influenced by PA, NJ, Baltimore, and the northern cities, just like the 1860s. Not much has changed since the Civil War here in Central Delaware. Everybody knows and may be related to at least half of everyone else. *We ladies have to be careful about whom we date – they may be a relative.* Remy and I have had different life experiences that sometimes affect our interpretation of history to a degree, but the truth is what we both seek.

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Bobbi Wilkins (left) and Oremia Caimi (right)

DELAWARE'S LEADING LADIES (CONTINUED)

(Continued from Page 6)

CWRT Congress: Do you collaborate with each other, and if so, in what ways? Tell us about the Delaware Society and your involvement.

Remy: Some Round Tables compete against others for members, programs, or recognition. In our case the opposite is true. We share information, ideas, and opportunities to enhance and promote our Round Tables at events throughout the area. Additionally, the size and geography of Delaware might help make it easier for us to collaborate. Only 96 miles long and nine to 35 miles wide, it's divided in half by the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Wilmington is above, Dover below, and in the middle, close to the canal, is Fort Delaware and the FDS Museum and Office. As another sign of collaboration, we have been discussing a joint meeting between the CWRT of Wilmington and the Central Delaware CWRT. I like to comment that through our involvement with our respective Round Tables and the FDS, Bobbi and I are uniting Delaware north, south, and in between, one Civil War group at a time.

Bobbi: In period dress, Remy and I attend FDS events together; the annual Memorial Day Service in Wilmington, Delaware City Day in October,

and she usually dresses for the POW Weekend on Pea Patch Island inside the Fort. We started working together on reorganizing the Emerson Library at the Fort Delaware Society office in Delaware City. They have the non-lending library and a small museum in the old quartermaster building on Fort DuPont, the WWII era military base.

CWRT Congress: Does Delaware have more women in leadership positions than just you two? Why do you think that is?

Remy: Wilmington's Board is composed of three women and four men. Women hold the Presidency, Treasurer, and Program Chair, while the men serve as Vice President and Secretary. It's interesting to speculate, but harder to explain, why all three women are in leadership roles compared to half the men. Perhaps our Round Table just happens to have more women than men in leadership by a happy coincidence. Nonetheless, it's important to emphasize that the Board works as one mutually supportive and cooperative unit toward the common goals of improving and growing the Round Table regardless of gender.

Bobbi: My Vice President and Secretary are female, but my Treasurer is male. Don't hold that against him.

CWRT Congress: Do you feel that your gender influences the way your Round Table operates or its programming choices?

Remy: Gender may have a subtle influence on our operations, but significant differences are more likely due to individual leadership styles and personalities. The same probably applies to programming, where for more than 10 years our Program Chair has provided an incredibly diverse and balanced range of topics reflecting the interests of our members. I'd attribute this more to being an efficient, competent person than specifically to her gender.

Bobbi: I became Program Director in January 2024, quite a job to be sure, but in a way it's fun finding speakers. I have to focus upon offering programs for others rather than just my interests. (I'm a Rebel girl/tomboy and my group knows it, but I try to control myself.)

CWRT Congress: Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Remy: As it happens, the Wilmington Round Table embodies Delaware's official nickname: The First State. I am honored to serve as the first female president and, as far as is known, the first Hispanic in the 68-year history of the organization. I'm equally proud as a Cuban woman to share my heritage with at least eight other Cuban men and women in the Civil War who, like other ethnic groups, represented both sides of the conflict.

Bobbi: I so hated to miss the Winchester event. Maybe in 2025. But thank you to the Congress for all you do. I recommend you whenever possible. I try to keep in my mind all you folks have taught us and so enjoy visiting with all the other groups.



Bobbi (left) and Remy (right)

THE ORIGINAL CIVIL WAR BALL ON GETTYSBURG'S REMEMBRANCE DAY

By Carol VanOrnum

Gettysburg's Remembrance Day offers a unique and meaningful opportunity to honor Civil War history. While the Parade and President Lincoln's Address are well known and attended, the Original Civil War Ball to be held on November 16, provides a hidden preservation benefit.

The Ball is one of four events that the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the uniformed component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) conducts every year. The SUVCW has observed this Remembrance Day event since 1957. The events include a Breakfast, a Commemorative Ceremony at the Albert Woolson monument near the Angle, the Parade, and the

Original Civil War Ball. According to Col. Steve Michaels, Past Commander-in-Chief, SUVCW, and Original Civil War Ball Project Officer, "This is the only Ball that weekend which donates to monument preservation at the Gettysburg National Battlefield."

The SUVCW's membership is spread throughout the U.S. The most notable members in the CWRT community are members of the Milwaukee CWRT. According to Michaels, "Past Milwaukee CWRT President Grant Johnson is our Camp Commander, Mike Benton is our Senior Vice Commander, current President Tom Hesse is our Junior Vice Commander, and Board Member Paul Eilbes is our Patriotic Instructor."

Camp Commander Grant Johnson shared his thoughts on this dual membership and collaboration. "The Sons of Veterans Reserve

is mainly an educational group, focused on creating Civil War-related events, commemorating the conflict in history. The Milwaukee CWRT does the same with speakers and provides some of the financial support for these events. This enables both organizations to provide greater outreach through a larger membership base to keep the Civil War's memory alive.

Grant says, "This dual membership, which currently requires separate fees for each organization, represents the type of collaboration needed to strengthen each organization, overcome stagnation, and/or loss of members."

Michaels continued, "Once the donation is accepted by the GNPB's Superintendent during the Ceremony at the Woolson monument, the Park is free to utilize the contribution for monument preservation as it sees fit, regardless of whether the preservation involves either Union or Confederate monuments. In 2006, 2009, and 2010, when the battlefield suffered vandalism, our donation was utilized for restoration of those damages. Over the past 30 years, the SUVCW has donated \$96,000 towards restoration and preservation at Gettysburg."

Not all proceeds cover specific cases of vandalism, according

"This represents the type of collaboration needed to strengthen each organization, overcome stagnation, and/or loss of members."

to Christopher Gwinn, Chief of Interpretation and Education at the GNMP. "The very generous donations provided by the Sons of Veterans Reserves goes into the Park's general donation fund. It goes without saying, but the Park is enormously grateful for the very kind and generous donation provided by their organization."

Still, as recently as August 21, 2024, vandals spray painted and carved graffiti on the War Department Observation Tower and on a nearby rock. According to Park Superintendent Kristina Heister, "Our hearts sank when these two cases of vandalism were reported

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For more info contact Col. Steve Michaels at lt.col.sm@gmail.com or (414) 712-4655.

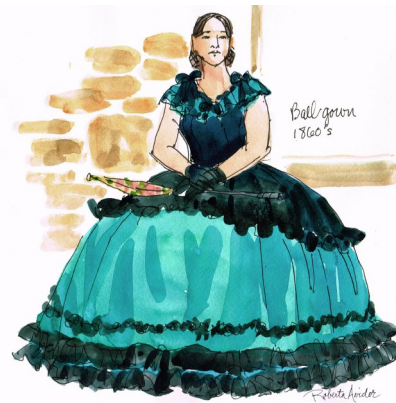
THE ORIGINAL CIVIL WAR BALL (CONTINUED)

(continued from Page 8)

within days of each other. We were fearful that the graffiti carved into the rock may be there for future generations." Fortunately, they were able to clean and remove this damage. Heister continued, "Vandalism of irreplaceable historic objects and structures that belong to all Americans should concern everyone. We all share in the responsibility of protecting and caring for this special place and

everyone is a steward of the heritage, history, and resources of Gettysburg during their visit."

You can support this worthy cause by participating in this meaningful and enjoyable event, the SUVCW's Original Civil War Ball on Remembrance Day. For more information contact Col. Steve Michaels at lt.col.sm@gmail.com or (414) 712-4655.



Original watercolor by Roberta Avidor. Ball gown at the 2015 "Boys Coming Home" weekend celebration at Fort Snelling State Park, St. Paul, MN.



RALLY 'ROUND THE FLAGS

By Andrew C. M. Mizsak

In the history of warfare, there have always been flags. From the Roman Empire to medieval Europe to our current military, fighting forces have been led into battle by flags.

Today's regimental colors are adorned with streamers that tell where a unit fought. Most Civil War regimental colors emblazoned their campaigns directly onto the stripes of their unit colors.

Many of these Civil War flags that exist today need repair and preservation. These flags, often found at State Capitals, Museums, or other Civil War sites have been improperly stored, subjected to poor weather and climate conditions before being brought under the care of the agencies that now house them.

The cost of restoring a flag is costly, as evidenced by the restoration of the Star-Spangled Banner-in 1914. The painstaking process to inspect and repair the flag stitch-by-stitch, where conservators pored over every millimeter, took several years and millions of dollars. While this is an extreme example of the effort and the cost of preserving historic flags, the point remains the same: These flags are historical artifacts that, during the duration of their lives, have been exposed to weather, light, improper storage, pollutants, and aging.

Over the past three decades, numerous states have made efforts to gather as many of their historic regimental colors and flags in order to return them to their adjutant general's departments of state. Governors and State Legislatures, along with their historic preservation agencies and military departments, have committed millions of dollars to preserve these flags for future generations.

In the 2000s, Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack established a commission to preserve the Hawkeye State's collection of Battle Flags. In the last decade, the Pennsylvania Legislature constructed a storage center on the Capitol grounds to maintain their battle flags in a climate controlled, secure location. Each flag has a storage space designed to prevent further deterioration. Previously, the Pennsylvania flags were moved from public display in the Capitol

rotunda where they were subjected to light, temperature and humidity fluctuations, and the possibility of further damage.

Battle flags were commonly displayed in State Capitols where visitors could view those related to their hometowns or states. This practice subjected flags to potential deterioration. During the renovation of the Michigan Capitol, replica battle flags were placed in the Rotunda so visitors could view them while the originals remained preserved.

In the past two decades, many states have requested contributions to support preservation efforts. These fundraising campaigns not only obtain the necessary funds, but also engage community members, civic groups, and other historical organizations to invest in the preservation of the flags having a connection to those individuals or organizations. Unfortunately, several states have noted a

waning interest in the Civil War. The target audience has diminished, possibly due to the passing of the 150th anniversary of the war, and a decrease of participants in the reenacting community.

Where can Round Tables help? As a community that prioritizes the preservation of the history of the Civil War as well as advocacy for the telling of the complete story of the War, Round Tables can speak to those who are in the positions to support the efforts to preserve these flags. Just as a soldier's duty was to pick up the fallen Color Bearer's flag in battle, through our collective efforts, Round Tables can make a difference in ensuring that battle flag preservation remains important.

Andrew C.M. Mizsak serves on the Board of the CWRT Congress and is Vice Commander of the James A. Garfield CWRT.



Smithsonian Institution Archives, Acc. 11-009, Image No. 73-2622

THE JAMES A. GARFIELD CWRT IS AWARDED THE WALLACE L. RUECKEL INNOVATION AWARD

The JAGCWRT makes it a top priority to have a strong public-facing presence in their community in Northeast Ohio by showcasing the twentieth U.S. President James A. Garfield, sharing their community's rich Civil War history, and providing Civics education in a non-traditional setting. Their multi-dimensional Round Table consists of an interpretative/education component, a living history component, and a community engagement

component. These components draw from the expertise and experience of each of their members, which has earned the recognition from the surrounding communities as having the great knowledge of the Civil War, President Garfield, local history, and Civics Education. Vice Commander Andrew Mizzsak shared that the JAGCWRT is finding "a way to offer both depth and breadth to the pool of talent found within our Round Table."

They collaborate with the James A. Garfield Center for the Study of the American President at Hiram College, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, the Chagrin Falls Popcorn Shop, and the Geauga County Historical Society and Century Village Museum. Their outreach and presence in their community has earned them the 2024 Innovation Award, and the CWRT Congress is proud to acknowledge their hard work.

The JAGCWRT consists of an interpretative/educational component, a living history component, and a community engagement component.



Left to right: Mike Movius, Ben Frayser, Jack Stillion, Paul Pojman, Andrew Mizzsak, and Anita Benedetti.

2024 SUMMER SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS INDIANAPOLIS



The August 17, 2024, our second Sustainability Workshop of the summer was held in beautiful Indianapolis, home of more war memorials than any other city, save Washington, D.C.

It was well attended by many Round Tables from the region, many of those members attending in teams, which created a lively sense of camaraderie.

Small and large groups brainstormed ideas on ways to improve their Round Table in target marketing recruitment, improving their new member experience, redefining partnerships, and exploring organizational partnering opportunities.

Consistent with our previous workshop held in Winchester, Virginia in July, the feedback from the Indianapolis workshop was very positive. One attendee commented "I really enjoyed the workshop. I wish we had more time to both digest all the information, and for fellowship with other participants. It went by too quickly!" and another stated "That was spectacular. Your commitment is amazing."

All in all, attendees were excited and motivated to bring some of the ideas that were generated to their own Round Tables. Shortly after the workshop, we heard this from one attendee, "I had a meeting today with my board here in Lexington and had really good response from folks about some of these things for new members and getting name tags made, and reaching out to some of the groups... So everyone's really appreciative and complementary of the materials I brought back to them."



The CWRT Congress is especially appreciative of Steve Magnusen and the [Indianapolis CWRT](#) for co-hosting the event..

L to R: Mike Movius, Chris Smith, Steve Magnusen, David Finney, and Bill Ghormley



ROANOKE CWRT'S POINTERS ON CREATING A PRESS RELEASE

Kevin Donovan of the [Roanoke CWRT](#) shared some tips on creating a press release¹.

- Put your Round Table logo at the top of the page. It increases immediate recognition.
- Next is the title, contact info, and date (this determines if it's new or old.) Here is their example:
 - ◊ *Press Release – Roanoke Civil War Round Table*
 - ◊ *For Immediate Release*
 - ◊ *Dated: August 7, 2024*
 - ◊ *Contact: Kevin C. Donovan 1.973.508.8980; kcd1861@gmail.com*
- Create a bold and catchy headline.
- The body is about your event: the reason for writing. Be sure to include the Who, What, Where, When, and Why.
- The call to action is the invitation, including the date and location.
- Finally, a boilerplate description of who your Round Table is, which could include the number of members you have, the date when your Round Table formed, when and where you meet, etc.
- Keep it short and precise (300 - 500 words). You can include, as Donovan did, an Alternative Summary of Upcoming Event, which is an abbreviated version.
- This type of press release serves two purposes. First, it of course seeks to spark coverage by media outlets. Second, it can be reprinted in local community newspapers, which often have limited staff and might welcome a story already ready for publication.

¹Information supplemented by <https://www.wix.com>, "How to write a Press Release that'll get your story covered."

This type of press release serves two purposes: to spark coverage by media and can be reprinted easily.

CIVIL WAR TALK RADIO BUCKS COUNTY CWRT LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

By Carol VanOrnum

Appearing on a non-profit radio talk program is another option in advertising your CWRT's events. Recently, Mike Campbell, President of the [Bucks County CWRT Library and Museum](#), spoke on nearby New Jersey's WDVR about a Halloween-themed, compound event they co-hosted with the James-Lorah Memorial Home on October 19th and 26th.

This Haunted Civil War and Victorian Wake walking tour of historic Doylestown allowed guests

to tour both historic homes. At the Civil War Museum their program focused on ways that local communities dealt with the trauma of war. The JLMH, a 17-room Victorian-style mansion, hosted a program centered around how 19th century Doylestonsians mourned the dead.

Campbell shared that his background is in hospitality. "I had prior radio experience from working in the music industry - booking and promoting bands/shows etc. Local non-profit radio helps us spread the word. I became involved with

WDVR through my writing work with a local architect and JLMH member.

If you enjoy public speaking, and you can do it extemporaneously, then you will enjoy doing radio. It's a blast, but it is also very different from a prepared talk. Think of it more like a prepared conversation. Either way it's heaps of fun and a great way to reach thousands of local listeners in a heartbeat. If you are a 501c3, consider a spot on local non-profit radio."

This is an excellent example of utilizing the talents and connections your members possess and being able to use those connections to your Round Table's advantage.



President Mike Campbell

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