



IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION & NETWORKING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

PRESENT: President Mike Movius, Vice President Carol VanOrnum, Vice President Steven Rauschkolb, Secretary Bill Miller, Treasurer Doug Risher, Directors Curt Fields, Andrew Miszak, David Hamon, Jared Peatman, Melissa Winn, Cheryl McAuley and Guest Sameer Somal

I. **WELCOME:** President Mike Movius called the Meeting to order at 3:03 PM Pacific.

II. **GUEST INTRODUCTION - SAMEER SOMAL:** President Movius greeted Sameer Somal and invited him to share his remarks with the Board. He shared his business background, his interest in the Civil War, and his admiration of President Lincoln and the challenges that Lincoln faced. Sameer closed his remarks by stating that he looked forward to establishing a relationship with the Congress to enhance our mission.

III. CORPORATE BUSINESS

- a. Meeting Minutes: Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2026: APPROVED AS AMENDED.
- b. Treasurer's Report: APPROVED
- c. Corporate Anniversary: Mike advised that 2017 will be established as the 10th Anniversary of the CWRT Congress. A suggestion to celebrate the Anniversary by convening the Board to attend the January 14, 2027 meeting of the Bull Run CWRT in Centerville VA was met with great enthusiasm.
- d. Board Membership: Mike advised that George Riding of the Lexington KY CWRT will be joining the Board, effective January 1, 2027.

IV. INITIATIVES

- a. Merchloop.com: Mike noted that he has not received any response from Merchloop.com regarding the establishment of our store.
- b. Blue & Gray Education Society: Mike noted that the B&G had recently reached out to propose partnership activities with the Congress. He responded to express our interest, but has not received any follow up response from B&G.
- c. Central Virginia Battlefields Trust: Mike advised that he attended the recent CVBT Fall Conference and discussed collaborative activities with CVBT to enhance mutual outreach efforts to benefit our respective organizations.

- d. Raisely Events: Mike expressed concern over Raisely's methods of recording contributions for our Giving Tuesday programs. He stated that the coordination between Raisely and Aplos was troublesome.
- e. Civil War Films: Mike has been collaborating with Fernando (from Venezuela), the Gettysburg Film Commission and another film distributor to establish a program for screening older Civil War films in the Gettysburg area. Fernando is also approaching actors who were involved in the older films to visit with the potential viewers. His goal is to attract more visitors to Gettysburg by providing this additional feature to the tourism experience. Mike noted that our role seems to serve as a facilitator to assist in nurturing Fernando's goal.
- f. American Battlefield Trust Relationship: Mike will be meeting with an ABT Director next week to discuss programs to improve communications and organization issues between the ABT and Round Tables.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Ambassador: Curt advised that the North Central CWRT in Granbury TX has closed. He recently spoke to the Lexington and Frankfort CWRTs. Curt contrasted the successes of the KY RTs to the demise of the TX RT. He closed his remarks by noting the benefits that the Congress offers.
- b. Communications: Carol noted that the development of the November Light Post is working out well, but she can add several more articles. She noted that she needs volunteers for the December and January ECW blogs. And Carol noted that Mike has located a program entitled "Nurture Sequence" which consists of a progressive sequence of welcoming and introductory Emails to outline the benefits that the Congress offers. Carol also noted that she is introducing archived "Proven Practices" into our Wednesday Email blog as a feature to refresh our mission to our readers.
- c. Marketing/Sponsors: Steve is searching for direction and ideas to better market the current activities that we're promoting without providing a burdensome volume of Emails to our recipients. Extended discussion suggested the utilization of FaceBook to enhance the marketing outreach to our target audience.
- d. Fundraising: Cheryl noted that we're averaging \$500 per week for Giving Tuesday contributions, and the numbers are increasing. Cheryl noted that we need to continue the effort to record the Giving Tuesday promotional videos, and Mike noted that contributions tend to increase each time those little videos are viewed.
- e. Outreach: Andrew has sent a draft of Federal legislative talking points to Mike and Carol to be disseminate for advocacy purposes. Andrew also noted several potential litigation issues of national import as well as forthcoming Federal funding issues. Andrew noted several forthcoming regional outreach events.
- f. Recognition: David reported further development related to establishment of an Award for Civic Engagement.

VI. 2027 WORKSHOPS:

Mike deviated from the outline below to focus upon the effort to attract a significant number of attendees to each Workshop. He explained that he has provided spreadsheets listing Round Tables within 200 miles of each of our three Workshop venues. Mike further explained that he needs the assistance from the Board to contact the Round Tables and individuals on the individual list. He noted that many of the listed Round Tables maintain FaceBook, which should offer benefits with respect to contacting prospective attendees. A consensus agreed that the FaceBook outreach should prove to offer more effective registration results.

Mike also addressed the program development for the full day Workshops at Frederick & Kenosha. After discussion, there was a consensus to utilize the program format from the 2024 Workshop at Winchester.

At the conclusion of this conversation about the Workshop promotion and programming, Mike skipped to the last word and closing comments.

- a. Calendar
 - i. Carnegie, Carnegie CW Symposium - April 2
 - ii. Frederick - July 17
 - iii. Kenosha - July 30
 - iv. Emerging CW - August 6 ??
- b. What did you like/not like about 2026 ECW mini-workshop?
- c. Mini-Workshop in Pittsburgh
 - i. Same agenda as 2026 ECW or modify it
 - ii. Video Partnering approach
 - iii. Marketing Assignment
- d. Kenosha Workshop
 - i. Modify 2026 ECW agenda or modify 2024 or 2025 agendas
 - ii. Marketing Assignment
- e. Frederick Workshop
 - i. Use the Milwaukee agenda or modify it
 - ii. Marketing Assignment

VII. GIVING TUESDAY - Sep 1 - Dec 2

- a. 2026 Goal = \$7,000
- b. Promotion
 - i. Garry Adelman Video Kickoff
 - ii. CWRTC Board Videos - Carol, Mike, Cheryl, Jared, Others?
 - iii. Morgan Gates, Thomas Jessee, Mike Reetz & Larry McCluney Videos

VIII. 2026 CWRTC GRANTS - Sep 15 - Nov 3

- a. Timeline
 - i. Rating & Selection Team - David, Jared & Mike
 - ii. Team Review via Zoom - Wednesday, 11-4
 - iii. Winner Announcement, Friday, 11-6
 - iv. Mail Checks, Monday 11-9

X. LAST WORD

XI. CLOSE: After final comments from individual Board members, the meeting was adjourned by President Mike Movius at 4:57 PM Pacific