NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 10, 2019
China Harbor, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Washington
Time: Social hour at 6 p.m.; Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.; Program at 7:45 p.m.

MENU CHOICES: Mongolian Beef, Chicken, Salmon or Vegetarian
Dinner includes: salad, vegetable delight, General Tso’s chicken, fried rice and fresh fruit.
Cost: $24 for adults; $10 for minors and college students. See below for reservations. Payable at the door. Opting out of dinner? $5 fee for non-members, $1 fee for members.

To make reservations and meal choices, use one of these options (most preferred listed first):
Click on http://www.pscwrt.org/about/dinner-reservations.php
Email Steve Murphy at: steve@adaptech.us
Or lastly, call Steve Murphy at (206) 522-2268
Reservations are MANDATORY and be in by 12 NOON on Tuesday, October 8, 2019.

NOTE: Remember to turn off cell phones before the meeting so there are no distractions for the speaker. Thank you!

TED SAVAS WILL DISCUSS THE WAR OUTSIDE MY WINDOW: THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF LEROY WILEY GRESHAM, 1861-1865 and the story behind the bestselling book from the publisher’s perspective. Mr. Savas is an attorney, an author or editor of 14 books (published in seven languages), and the Managing Director and co-owner of Savas Beatie Publishing Company, one of the country’s leading independent presses of military and general history titles. For fun, he plays bass and keyboards in a Nor Cal hard/classic rock band.

IMPORTANT DISPATCHES

October Birthdays
Several members have birthdays in October and we’d like to acknowledge their special day. They are:

Sallie Coats      Matthew Ford      Steve Garratt      Dennis Hess
Richard H. Kerr   Aleta Malles      Connie Pierce      Kent Questad
Civil War Book Club
Did you know that each month, a discussion group meets prior to the regular meeting to talk about a book related to the Civil War? Yes! It is hosted by member Arthur Banner. This month, Arthur says they will be discussing *The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History, by Gallagher and Nolan*. They will be directing their attention to Chapters 1 and 9. They will meet on the first floor of China Harbor on Oct 10 at 5:30PM. If you have any questions, contact Arthur at: banners@comcast.net

Frederick Douglass meets with President Lincoln: Taproot Theater
September 20-October 26, 2019 “Necessary Sacrifices”
If you want to see this play, you have until the 26th of this month. Here is what Taproot says about it: “Five words were meant to change a young country divided by civil war when abolitionist and Union recruiter Frederick Douglass challenged his president to act on the statement that “all men are created equal.” As these two brilliant Americans wage a battle for the future of the Union, their arguments affect not only their sons but the nation we live in today. Originally commissioned for Washington, DC’s Ford’s Theatre, Taproot Theatre produces the West Coast Premiere of Richard Hellesen’s drama.”
For tickets: taproottheatre.org
For a review of Taproot Theater’s presentation see:

NEWS AND PROJECTS

Does the Civil War Matter?
By Mike Movius, CWRT Congress

After working with Civil War Round Tables (CWRT) over the past four plus years while leading the CWRT Congress, I am both frustrated and heartened. By our estimation, over seventy CWRTs have disappeared from the landscape in the past 6 or 7 years. They have disbanded for a number of reasons including the aging and disappearance of membership, ineffective marketing, no discernable community presence, members who feel their occasional attendance is adequate and the resistance of key leaders to embrace change. Combined, those factors have sealed their progression into obscurity.

However, there are other CWRTs around the country that are wildly successful such as the 1,270 member Brunswick CWRT in Southport, North Carolina. When I visited them in February 2019, they had over 670 in attendance having registered 10-20 new members. Imagine hundreds of Civil War enthusiasts attending a meeting to listen to a local historian, participate in a 50-50 drawing, buying history books, making donations for cookies and coffee and thoroughly enjoy themselves as they talked about their lives and interest in the Civil War.

Aside from the monster in Southport, the variety in the types, programs and activities of CWRTs is absolutely astounding.
- There are CWRTs like Old Baldy CWRT that have developed a culture wherein they are an integral part of their communities by sponsoring well-attended themed events aside from their monthly meetings. They are reversing a decline in membership.
• There are CWRTs like Bull Run CWRT that have taken on important projects designed to enhance the understanding of the Civil War, their community’s place in that struggle and emphasize the relationship of Civil War history to today’s society.

• There are CWRTs like Quincy Gilmore CWRT that have elected to rely on word-of-mouth marketing about their organization. Although they have experienced a decline in membership since the sesquicentennial, they continue to hold monthly meetings to discuss Civil War-related topics.

• There are CWRTs like Columbus Barracks CWRT that have no governance structure, do not charge member dues and have no elected leadership positions. But they have thrived in that loosely defined environment for decades.

• There are CWRTs like Hawaii CWRT that are remotely located that have developed innovative ways to bring published historians to their meetings without incurring the high cost of transportation.

• There are CWRTs like Scottsdale CWRT that have developed a genealogy committee to assist their members write the story of their ancestors who participated in the Civil War, publish those stories on their website and emphasize the importance of ancestral contributions at every meeting.

• There are CWRTs like Bella Vista (Arkansas) CWRT that are in the beginning stages of organization and development. By developing a significant partnership with a local museum, recruiting a contingent of 30 enthusiasts and not being burdened by past ineffective processes, they have a bright future.

And, yet the challenges for every CWRT remain. Many point to inadequate history education in public schools and generations of Americans disinterested in their history. Equally threatening is an active and vocal minority seeking to rectify American history by defacing and destroying Civil War monuments and statuary. Their aggressive tactics tend to keep people who might otherwise be inclined to study the Civil War away from controversy.

The CWRT Congress was established to assist CWRTs to be sustainable and to provide answers to the organizational and leadership issues that confront CWRTs. At our third annual Congress event held at the Missouri Civil War Museum on Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, the enthusiasm to succeed were palpable. Leaders from twenty-four different CWRTs and a variety of museums, education, historical and preservation organizations gathered to learn best practices, share their successes and network with one another.

In addition to great speakers, a fun trivia contest and inspired post-Congress tours, three challenges were made: 1) Encourage active involvement in American history education supporting libraries, historical and genealogical societies and celebrating CWRT members who do so; 2) Study and plan field trips to neighboring CWRTs, museums and historical sites and participate in their activities; and 3) Expand the CWRT mission statement to include emancipation, reconstruction and civil rights such that Civil War study is relevant to people of color.
The PSCWRT “crew” at the CWRT Congress. L-R: Mark Terry, Kim Terry, Nick Dunn, Micheal Kirschner and Mike Movius. They are standing in front of the Grant house at the U.S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis. This home originally belonged to Julia Dent Grant’s father and was where Julia grew up. Originally, the house was part of a large plantation. After Grant’s resignation from the Army, he, Julia and their children lived with his in-laws here for about five years in the 1850’s. After Julia’s father passed away, Julia acquired the property. A tour of the historic site was part of the CWRT Congress on Sunday, September 22.

My thoughts on the 3rd Civil War Round Table Congress
By Mark R. Terry

My wife Kim and I have been members of the PSCWRT since 1994. Like you, we come for the speakers and the camaraderie we share with our fellow Round Table members- dinners are decent too.

Over the years, I gradually became more and more involved, currently as the newsletter editor. I’ve come to the realization that we have something special up here in our corner of the country. Even so, we’ve had some ups and downs in our organization, and some things we could do better. Mike Movius, our past president and long-standing webmaster, saw the need to organize Civil War Round Tables (CWRT) scattered around the country and to address how we could help one another improve. Three years ago, Mike started organizing the CWRT Congress for that purpose.

While I’d always wanted to go, now that Kim retired from teaching, she was able to be a part of it as well, so we flew out to St. Louis, Missouri to attend this year’s Congress, September 20-22 at the Missouri Civil War Museum, next to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

It was a wonderful time, meeting other CWRT members from across the country, networking and sharing ideas about what works and what doesn’t work for them in building successful Round Tables. Just being in the room with so many who are committed to make positive changes was encouraging. Not only that,
but we heard from representatives of the American Battlefield Trust and others who are also working to encourage interest in the history of the American Civil War just like we are.

There were many takeaways, but one of the most important is that our CWRT is one of many and it is critical in this time of a general failure of social organizations outside of the Internet to keep memberships together at a time when so many CWRTs have failed across the country. There was so much that was shared and so many great ideas put forth, it would take the entire newsletter to recount them all. We all know the challenges we face, and it will take every single one of us to do our part to improve what we have and bring new members into our fold. In this, the 35th season of the existence of the PSCWRT, it is important that we all take an active part, to do what we can to help, because we want to pass this CWRT on to those who will come after us.

**FEATURED ARTICLES**

**Off the Beaten Path: Camp Moore, Louisiana**

Located 75 miles north of New Orleans, and 8 miles south of the Mississippi – Louisiana border, Camp Moore was one of the largest training camps for Confederate troops. Established in May 1861, near the remote village of Tangipahoa, between 25,000 and 35,000 troops from Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas were organized at this site. Chosen for its “higher” elevation, fresh water, and location on the New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern Railroad line, the camp was in existence from 1861 to 1864. It was at this site that CSA General John C. Breckenridge assembled a force of 5000 troops to attack Federal Forces in Baton Rouge. There is a small cemetery on the grounds with a Confederate Monument. The best reason to visit the site is the excellent museum at the site, well worth a visit. The museum is open Wednesday to Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. (see photograph below)
Recommendations for additional reading on the Speaker’s Topic: The Children’s War
By Jeff Rombauer

In his study, Battle: A History of Combat and Culture, the historian John A. Lynn explains two different historical methods of studying war. The first, called Concept of War, examines conflict from a top down approach, focusing on commanders and armies. An example of such studies are the Pall Mall series of combat studies that were required reading for British Officers before World War I. The second concept called Experience of War, is a bottom up view of a conflict, views from the lower ranks and how they experience war. The works of John Keegan offer a good example of these studies. Some historians use both methods blended together in their studies such as Bruce Catton’s Army of the Potomac series. For the experience of war studies we have hundreds if not thousands of accounts by combatants. But we miss a great deal of the impact of the Civil War on the populations if we limit our study of the conflict just to combatants. Dozens of accounts from southern women and their experiences during the Civil War have been published. But for 1/3rd of the population, children, there has been very little written until the past few decades. As our speaker for tonight shows, children on both sides, rich or poor, black or white, boys or girls were impacted by the war. Listed below are half a dozen books which are recommended for additional reading.

In this excellent study, Jabour examines the various responses to the conflict by children in the south and how their experiences determined their responses to the upheaval and their life afterwards. Her notes on sources provides an excellent guide to the literature

Marten is probably the leading authority on children’s war time experiences. In this work Marten “describes how the war changed the literature”, the language, children’s responsibilities, and family relationships. How the war “shortened their childhoods and how the death and destruction that tore the country apart often cut down children as well as adults.”

“The Civil War influenced virtually every aspect of children’s lives and in turn they eagerly incorporated the experience of war into their daily assumptions and activities”. Marten examines how the conflict impacted Northern children.

In this volume Marten has put together an anthology of articles and short pieces which highlight what children were reading and the lessons they were drawing from their magazines.

In this anthology, thirteen scholars examine various aspects of the war on children’s lives, both during the war and afterward.

“Based on eyewitness accounts of 120 children, ages from four to sixteen, Reluctant Witnesses tells their story of the war: their experiences of the hardships they endured and how they managed to cope”
What is the meaning of Membership?
By Mark R. Terry

During the September meeting, I was given a business card and told that this person was interested in joining our CWRT. I emailed him and inquired if he wanted to join. He asked me “What are the benefits of being a paid member over just perpetually being a visitor?”

I must admit that I was stumped by his response. What benefits DO members get over someone who just shows up to the meetings? It really made me think for a bit. Finally, I responded,

“The main benefits of membership are that you are supporting an organization that has been around for 35 years and hopes to be here for years to come. Your dues help pay for speakers like Mr. Reeves, since the PSCWRT usually pays for plane fare & lodging. Believe it or not, out of the $24 cost for dinners, the Round Table only makes $1…that is why we rely on dues and our annual auction in the spring to raise funds to bring in quality speakers and keep the Round Table solvent.”

In other words, membership is more than just “getting something”. Membership in the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table means helping to bring the history of our country’s greatest conflict to the Pacific Northwest in a way that no other group has done for the past 35 years. Each person alone could not do this. We can only do this if we join together and use our combined talents and resources to make it happen. The satisfaction of membership comes from being personally invested in our CWRT.

One of the many things that I took from the recent CWRT Congress is that successful CWRTs promote a feeling of belonging, like a family. I think this is something we could improve upon in the PSCWRT. Do family members always get along? Of course not! But families, understanding the importance of community do the best they can to overlook faults and try to do what is best for the good of the family.

In today’s society, too often we are divided instead of being united. Over the past 50 years or so, membership and participation in civic organizations, clubs and groups has fallen. But it doesn’t have to be so for our own CWRT if we are willing to do whatever we can to make it work.

Sure, you can show up for the meeting, eat dinner and listen to a speaker without paying dues or getting involved, but if everyone did that, how long would the PSCWRT survive? Not very long.

On January 20, 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as President of the United States. The most memorable line from his Inaugural Address was “ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country”

Together, can we ask “what can I do for the PSCWRT?”
DUES & DONATIONS
The PSCWRT season goes from September to the following May. Dues should be paid in September. Dues are payable either at the meeting or by mail: $25 per individual or for a couple. Also, donations are gratefully accepted. These will help secure speakers for our meetings. Please note that all donations are tax deductible as the PSCWRT is a 501(c)3 organization. Mail to: Chris McDonald, Treasurer, 34705 NE 14th Avenue, LaCenter, WA 98629. Call (503) 930-4940 or email: alpacamomchris@gmail.com

We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited for space. Note that the contents of each newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the PSCWRT. The deadline for the November 2019 Washington Volunteer is Monday, October 28, 2019. Please have it in Mark Terry’s hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!

2019-2020 OFFICERS
Elected:
President: Jeff Rombauer: jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com
Vice President Successor: Rick Solomon; ricksolo@ricksolo.com
Past President: Mike Movius; webmaster@pscwrt.org
Vice President Programs: Pat Brady: patsbrady@comcast.net
Vice President Editor: Mark Terry: markimlor@comcast.net
Vice President Marketing: Dave Otis: jbhood81@aol.com
Vice President Membership: Arthur Banner; banneras@comcast.net
Vice President Partnerships: Jim Dimond; shinodad@gmail.com
Vice President Reservations: Steve Murphy; steve@adaptech.us
Vice President Social Media: Mike Movius; webmaster@pscwrt.org
Treasurer: Chris McDonald: alpacamomchris@gmail.com
Secretary: Doug Galuszka; dhgaluszka@aol.com

*All, except for Past President, an automatic position.