



IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION & NETWORKING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 30, 2024

Present: President Mike Movius, Vice President Dr. John Bamberl, Vice President Carol VanOrnum, Treasurer Bill Miller, Secretary Andrew Mizzsak, Directors: Craig Apperson, Dr. Curt Fields, Dr. Jared Peatman, Steven Rauschkolb, Melissa Winn

**I. WELCOME** .....Mike

President Mike Movius called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM EDT.

Mike gave a real-time Giving Tuesday update that as of the start of the meeting, the CWRT Congress had already met 20.5% of it’s goal total of \$4,000.00

**II. CORPORATE BUSINESS**

- Andrew moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as transcribed. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- Bill moved, with a second by Andrew, to adopt the report of the Treasurer. The report of the Treasurer was adopted unanimously.
- Mike reminded the Board that any receipts that are submitted are not for reimbursement, but rather as a donation in kind to the CWRT Congress.
- Mike shared that he met with David Duncan of the ABT to discuss several items including survey data that showed that 80% of responding RT’s support efforts related to historic preservation. Mike also shared that Mr. Duncan did not know about our Giving Tuesday efforts.
- Mike also shared with Mr. Duncan that some RT’s sell tickets to ABT “Color Bearer” events to recoup their donations to ABT from their individual RT treasuries.
- Mike further shared that RT’s are interested in recruiting younger members, as well as pushing some older members (60+) to join, as well as how at least one RT ceased

to exist and is no longer meeting because of COVID.

- Mike relayed the story about how a RT moved to a nursing facility with all of the technological capabilities and amenities they sought for their meetings, which, in turn, caused them to gain members.
- Mike said he and Mr. Duncan discussed how RT's can become members of ABT and Color Bearers. The topics of youth leadership and the Teacher Institute were also brought up, and how becoming part of a RT should be brought up (and encouraged) at the ABT Teacher Institute.
- Bill added the comment about the combined efforts of ABT and Williamsburg from a few years ago.
- Melissa discussed Bull Run CWRT's preservation efforts relative to keeping additional data centers from encroaching upon the Bull Run Battlefield, and that ABT needs help with Advocacy.
- Mike said the content of his discussion with Mr. Duncan included the build out of additional data center buildings that could encroach upon battlefields.
- Andrew offered some comments relative to advocacy. (And he failed to mention ABT's efforts to assist with the preservation of the Wyse Fork Battlefield).
- Melissa added additional comments relative to ABT, preservation, and advocacy.
- Steve said he would be interested in putting out a call to arms (not literally) to encourage people to make their feelings known relative to advocacy issues.
- The discussion moved to Committee Reports, with Curt offering the following report relative to the Ambassador Program: He stated that he mentions the CWRTC at every program he does, and that he is in need of more rack cards.
- John offered the following report relative to the Awards Committee: A mention of the James A. Garfield CWRT and their receiving the 2024 Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award. Additionally that he will start putting information out about the Sustainability Challenge and Awards around February.
- Carol submitted the following report from the Communications Committee: The first video from the CWRT leaders (Matt Borders) is out, with 37 views as of the date of the meeting. The November *Light Post* is almost done.
- Andrew offered the following report from the Development Committee: He will be creating his Giving Tuesday video this week (week of 9/30/2024), and asked remaining Board Members to consider doing a quick video. Andrew thanked the Board Members who already had created a video. Carol is updating Melissa's video. Steve said he could create a video, Curt would do a live video, and Jared could create one when he is in Gettysburg. Mike discussed the schedule of upcoming videos for Giving Tuesday
- Mike turned the meeting over to Craig who discussed Leadership Motivation. Craig's suggestions included gaining feedback from CWRT Leaders relative to which RT's need consultation from the CWRTC.
- Craig suggested that everyone should do a 30 minute Presentation regarding coping with leadership struggles (in their own words/experience), and open it up for discussion. The goal of this would be monthly leadership groups where each Board

Member would lead or facilitate a topic based upon their expertise. The other goal would be to motivate leaders to talk with each other (organic discussions) at the peer level.

- The role of the CWRTC would be as facilitators, not just experts. Jared said if this is done as Craig has described, this would be very similar to the model of “Communities of practice.”
- Craig said this is a good start. Guidelines for facilitators need to be developed, and that in terms of timing, January 2025, would be a good time for starting.
- Jared stated that the workshop (breakout sessions) could be used as a model. We should also emphasize the fun part of what we do.
- Mike stated that the remaining meetings for 2024 will be on October 28th, November 18th, and December 16th.
- Carol is beginning the work on the 2024 Annual Report; Steve is going to show Carol how to put video links in the document.
- The Awards program needs to be updated for 2025.
- Mike inquired on the status of everyone’s progress relative to the CWRT data spreadsheets. Carol, Jared, and Mike are all close to being finished. Jared suggested that a best practice would be for each RT to have a permanent email address that transfers from one set of officers to another.
- Bill stated that the *Emerging Civil War* blog posts a monthly newsletter with a schedule of speakers. This could be a good source of the names and information related to RT’s
- Jared asked what the purpose of some of the information is, and what we are going to use it for.
- Steve stated that some of the data could be translated into an info graphic. Andrew suggested a state by state breakdown.
- Jared said he spoke with Matt Callery relative to joining the advisory board.
- Melissa suggested a person from ABT to fill the ABT seat on the Board of Directors - the new membership staffer. Mike stated he was joined in his meeting with David Duncan by the State and Local Government staff member - Luke - and thinks he would be a good fit.
- Mike stated that the Sustainability Challenge needs updating. He also stated that he has discontinued the Team CWRT Facebook page, and that *Emerging Civil War* needs an article monthly.
- Mike stated he is putting the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual on the back burner.

### **III. 2025 EVENTS DISCUSSION**

- Mike raised the discussion of whether we want to keep the regional workshop format or move to online. We should look on the CWRTC website relative to resources and the classroom to see what topics were well-attended or viewed.
- Carol, Melissa, and Jared are good with online.
- Steve said relative to marketing, a video or anything else that gets the name out is a

- good thing.
- Mike shared the overview of the workshop feedback that it was mostly positive.
  - Mike raised the issue of sponsorships - If we host online sessions, we will not necessarily need them. They would be a minimal cost, and might be better for the Annual Report.
  - Steve asked what the return on investment of sponsorships would be if there is not a hard copy program booklet.
  - Mike suggested that a possible move to online could supplant a regional workshop.
  - Mike also stated that individual board strategy sessions need to be facilitated, and that several RT's have already expressed interest in being a possible host: Kentucky CWRT, Harrisburg CWRT, Tennessee Valley CWRT, Fredericksburg CWRT, and the two in Delaware.
  - Mike (when asked) told Jared he has done these before and know they can work.
  - Mike will send out additional notices relative to individual board sessions, and also named several Board Members as facilitators.

#### IV. CLOSE

- **Steve** said he is done with his verification project. He also has sent to the Board the RT's he has not heard from.
- **Carol** said she is excited about the upcoming *Light Post*.
- **Melissa** did not have anything to report, but asked if Matt Borders' video could be put on Facebook.
- **Curt** had nothing to report, but said he will be at Champion Hill.
- **Craig** had no report.
- **Andrew** offered several items, relative to RT's in Northeast Ohio; the AAM Advocacy Days in February; the Lame Duck Congress; and the JAGCWRT beginning the Sustainability Challenge.
- **Bill**: Regarding Melissa's comments about elected officials and data centers, he relayed a story about the York County Supervisors in Virginia. He stated we need to be vigilant on these issues.
- **John** stated that programs for RT's that need our help should include the entire membership, and not just the Board.
- **Jared** had nothing to report.
- **Curt** shared information about his Monumental Monday social media post about Maple Hill Cemetery in Helena, Arkansas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM EDT.