



collaboration ★ transformation ★ creativity ★ impact

INNOVATION

2026

THE WALLACE L. RUECKEL INNOVATION AWARD

Definition of Innovation:

The introduction of something new; a new idea, method, custom or device; to make changes to do something in a new way

Nominations must be received

no later than **June 1, 2026**

12:00pm Pacific

QUESTIONS

awards@cwrtcongress.org

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

MISSION STATEMENT

The MISSION of the CWRT CONGRESS is to inspire Civil War Round Table leaders to adapt, adopt, and maintain strategies for sustainability.

AWARD CRITERIA

The CWRT Congress Innovation Award recognizes a CWRT for creative, effective, and inventive programs that provide value to their members. The program achieves measurable results and utilizes a variety of resources and partnerships within and outside the community, adapting to the changing conditions to meet critical objectives.

The program increases the capacity of the community to work collaboratively to improve existing services, service delivery and leadership.

The award recipient exhibits these key characteristics:

★ IMPACT

Eliminate the root causes that perpetuate languishing membership and leadership voids while creating pathways to lasting change.

★ COLLABORATION

Forge and strengthen partnerships, effectively leverage resources, within and outside of the nonprofit community.

★ TRANSFORMATION

Inspire and implement change in organizational culture and continued adaptation to meet the changing conditions and needs of members.

★ CREATIVITY

Take an inventive approach toward impacting structural change.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Innovation Award nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Have current or applied for tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)3
- May not discriminate against anyone because of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical and/or mental disability

NOMINATION FORMAT

Nominations must be submitted using the fillable Submission PDF that includes the following areas:

- **CWRT IDENTITY**
 - CWRT Name & Address
 - Email & telephone number of president (or primary leader)
 - Number of members
 - Legal status
- **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING**
 - List your top three (3) CWRT innovations of the last two years.
 - Explain the impetus for undertaking the innovations.
 - What is the shared vision around which supporters rallied?
 - How was critical mass achieved in support of change(s)?

IMPACT – What impact did each of the innovations listed have on the CWRT members, the local community, and/or others? Which impacts were unexpected?

COLLABORATION – With which organizations did your CWRT collaborate and leverage resources? Tell us how the relationship began, how it changed over time, and future of the relationship.

TRANSFORMATION – Tell us how innovations inspired changes in the organizational culture, the attitude of members, and the outlook.

CREATIVITY – What innovation is the CWRT most proud and why?

I. CWRT IDENTIFICATION

Civil War Round Table Identity:	<input type="text"/>		
Submitted by:	<input type="text"/>		
Title:	<input type="text"/>	Phone number:	<input type="text"/>
Email address:	<input type="text"/>		
Number of Members:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Website URL:	<input type="text"/>		
Social Media URL:	<input type="text"/>		
Nonprofit 501(c)3:	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>	Applied <input type="radio"/>

II. INNOVATION ELEMENTS

1. List your top three (3) innovations that your CWRT undertook in the last two years and rate their successfulness (Successful, Mixed, Unsuccessful).

INNOVATION No. 1

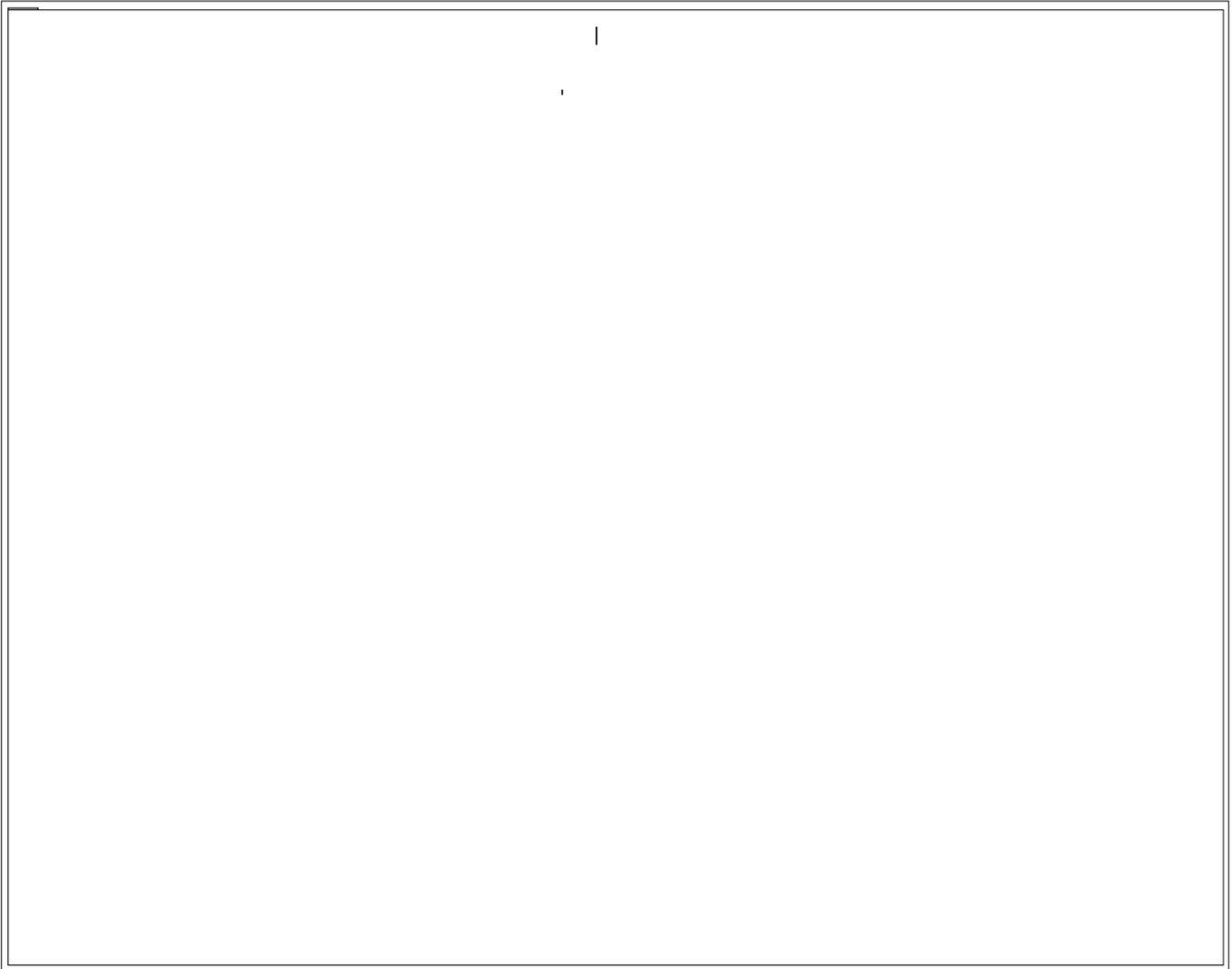
INNOVATION No. 2

INNOVATION No. 3

III. INNOVATION VALUE

IMPACT

What impact did each of the innovations listed above have on the CWRT members, the local community, and/or others? Which impacts were unexpected?



Please forward your completed form to: awards@cwrtcongress.org by 6/1/2026.