

Newsletter of The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

Welcome to our fellowship forum where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation.

Meetings held at Central Penn College Conference Center and virtually on Zoom

HCWRT Launches Its 67th Campaign Year

We have a trifecta of powerhouse speakers from Gettysburg headed our way to kick off Campaign 67.

We'll begin on September 12 with long-time HCWRT member Wayne Motts, who returned to his former position as CEO of



the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg this summer. He will speak on *Duty Well and Faithfully Done: The United States Regular Army at the Battle of Gettysburg*.

He'll be followed by Licensed Battlefield Guide James A. Hessler on October 10. Always a popular and entertaining speaker, Mr. Hessler will regale us with a stimulating talk on *Dan Sickles: His Life and Legacy*.

Our annual Veterans Day engagement will take place on November 7, featuring Gettysburg National Military Park Ranger Dan Welch, who will speak on *David Wills and the Creation of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg*. What better way to honor our veterans than to hear how Wills moved heaven and earth (lots of it) in the months following the battle to ensure those who did not survive it were given an honorable burial on a portion of that battlefield?

So, there is much to look forward to as we embark on our next campaign. We will continue to strive to bring you the very best speakers, and hope you will come out and hear them in the months ahead. Watch for more information on these world-class speakers in upcoming editions of this newsletter.

Save the Date—Campaign 67 Meetings

Friday, September 12, 2025—Campaign Kickoff
Friday, October 10, 2025
Friday, November 7, 2025—Veterans Day
Friday, December 5, 2025—Holiday Party
Friday, January 23, 2026
Friday February 20, 2026—Black History Month
Friday March 13, 2026
Friday, April 10, 2026
Friday, May 15, 2026—Nye-Sommers Lecture
Friday, June 5, 2026—Annual Business Meeting

Please mark these dates on your planning calendars and plan to attend.

More information on speakers and topics will appear soon on our website: <https://harrisburgcwrt.org/events>

Executive Officers

President, Mo Becker
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Vice President, Mark Blanchard
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Treasurer, Robbie Kribell
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Secretary, Rebecca Myers
revmyers2013@gmail.com

Web Links (CTRL + click)

harrisburgcwrt.org

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harrisburgcwrt.org/membership/

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Communications/PR, Todd Little

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IT, Alex Dissinger

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Newsletter, Tracy Sommers

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Preservation, Norm Daniels

Programs, Steve Smith

Webmaster, Dana Ledger

President's Pen

*"If we do not make common cause to save the good old ship of the Union on this voyage, nobody will have a chance to pilot her on another voyage."
– Abraham Lincoln*



As we step off smartly into our 67th campaign year, it is time for our members to show their support for our efforts by paying their annual dues.

At the HCWRT Board of Directors meeting on June 14 the Board voted to increase our annual dues to \$30.00 for a Single Membership and \$45.00 for a Family Membership. [Student Memberships remain unchanged at \$5.00 annually.] This is the first increase in dues in 20 years, and reflects the increased costs associated with running our Round Table.

In an effort to make the dues collection process more convenient for our members, the Round Table is continuing our practice of collecting dues by invoicing each member directly. Those of you who have email addresses will shortly receive an invoice from our bookkeeper, asking you to log on to our website and renew your membership by paying your dues for Campaign 67 with a credit card or PayPal.

If you do not receive an invoice by email, you can still go to our website at <https://harrisburgcwr.org/membership> and either click on the online membership form to pay by credit card or PayPal, or click on the mail-in membership form link to print out a membership renewal form. Those without Internet access can simply fill out the membership form on page 4 of this newsletter and mail the form, with a \$30.00 or \$45.00 check made out to HCWRT, to our new mailing address:

Harrisburg Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 115
Dillsburg, PA 17019-0015

Rather than use our treasurer's home address as we have in the past, we are using a P.O. box for our business needs to have a consistent address for any correspondence regarding our tax-exempt status.

Contact our new treasurer, Robbie Kribell, at treasurer@harrisburgcwr.org or (714) 423-3491 if you have any questions about how to pay your dues, or pay her in person by credit card or check at our kickoff engagement on Friday, September 12.

In June, our Board also voted to increase our dinner costs from \$32.00 to \$35.00. As I noted during our annual business meeting in June, the Round Table has been losing \$4.00 per person at our dinner meetings for the last two years. \$35.00 remains a very reasonable cost for the wonderful buffet offerings that we have, the camaraderie that comes with breaking bread with fellow members, and the opportunity to hear world-class speakers at our meetings!

A word about our website. We have begun transitioning this summer from the website we've used since 2018 to a new version, which we plan to launch in January 2026. The domain name [harrisburgcwr.org] will remain the same, but the new website should be much more user friendly. We have not announced any of the upcoming events for campaign 67 yet on our current website, but will announce them shortly. Don't be thrown off by this—as our cover story illustrates, we have a lot of outstanding speakers lined up.

I look forward to seeing all of you when we kick off Campaign 67 in September. Bring a friend to enjoy our camaraderie at our dinner. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Mo Becker

Recruiting for HCWRT

The HCWRT will be recruiting new members from incoming Army War College students, faculty and staff at the annual Carlisle Barracks Community Expo on Wednesday, August 6.

Anyone interested in helping should contact our membership chair, Michael Margolius, at membership@harrisburgcwr.org.



L to R: Steve Williamson, Mo Becker, Mike Margolius, Joe Leardi, Steve Smith at last year's Expo.

Stroll Down Memory Lane

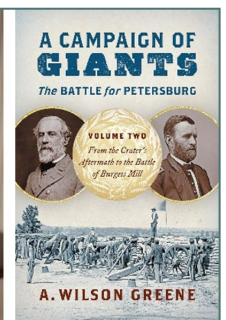
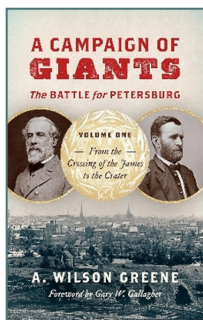
- ♦ From 1961 -1965, the United States Civil War Centennial Commission was established by Congress as a nationwide commemoration of the Civil War. Ulysses S. Grant III was the first Chairman. States were encouraged to develop their own commemoration events; although, just as 100 years earlier, geographical differences arose, so there was some tension. Over the four years, multiple National Assemblies were conducted with noted historians of the day speaking, including Bruce Catton, James "Bud" Robertson, Frank VanDiver, Bell Wiley, and John Simon. Several of these noted historians also spoke to our Round Table.
- ♦ In past years, spring and fall HCWRT field trips were week-end tours with attendees car pooling to a rendezvous spot and going from there in individual cars—hopefully, as on occasion campaigners went to a different meet-up, or got lost. The 1969 tour schedule began in March with a helicopter flight over the Gettysburg Battlefield for a bird's-eye view, and "other planned activity to fill out the day." April was the spring week-end trip to Appomattox; May, Mosby's Confederacy; September, Retreat from Gettysburg; October was the fall week-end trip to the Shenandoah Valley; and closing the year— to Washington DC.
- ♦ HCWRT and other Round Tables were concerned with threats to battlefields by developers. With some success, they participated in letter writing campaigns to local Commissioners, Federal Representatives and Senators to express dismay at the commercial encroachment on/near battlefield grounds.
- ♦ In 1973 "innovations" were proposed to the monthly meeting program format: one month, the addition of a Civil War Quiz; another month, an "Artifact Night" discussing collecting; finally, a 10-minute presentation on one of 4 books by anyone who wanted to participate. It seems like these items are additions to the regular program, except for the artifacts which may have been the program. Norm Daniels probably knows.
- ♦ The Ottenstein Tower at Gettysburg was the site of disgust to Civil War historians and buffs. In spite of HCWRT and other organizational efforts, the tower was built in 1974, and defiled the battlefield according to campaigners. In 2000 it came down when the NPS took possession of the land it was on.
- ♦ This time in 1861 and 1862 Manassas was the site of two major battles: July 21 marked the war's start with First Manassas; August 28-30, 1862 another Confederate success at Second Manassas — or Bull Run if you prefer.

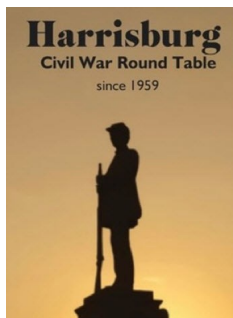
Upcoming Events

- ♦ **Wednesday, August 6, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm:** HCWRT will recruit new members at the annual Community Expo on Carlisle Barracks. See page 2 for more information.
- ♦ **Saturday, August 23, 1:00 to 2:00 pm:** In-person Book Talk at the National Civil War Museum with Historian James A. Hessler on his new book, *The First Day at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863*.
- ♦ **Wednesday, August 27, 6:30 pm:** Historian Dr. Michael S. Neiberg will speak at USAHEC in Carlisle on *Reflections of Change: Achieving Overmatch Through Historical Mindedness*. Doors open at 6:00 pm.
- ♦ **Saturday and Sunday, September 13 & 14, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm:** Army Expo at USAHEC. Over 7,000 visitors expected. Used book sale with a vast selection of military books.

Will Greene to Deliver Nye-Sommers Lecture

We are pleased to announce that celebrated author and historian A. Wilson Greene has accepted our offer to speak at the annual Nye-Sommers Lecture, on May 15, 2026. Mr. Greene dedicated the second volume of the trilogy he is writing on the Battle of Petersburg to the memory of his dear friend, Dr. Richard J. Sommers.





130th PA Monument
Antietam National
Battlefield

The Dispatch

Harrisburg Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 115
Dillsburg, PA 17019-0115

Summer Extra 2025

The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table

Where we discuss our past, emphasizing remembrance, education & preservation. **All Are Welcome**
Meetings are held at Central Penn College Conference Center, 600 Valley Road, Summerdale, PA



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Harrisburg Civil War Round Table Enlistment Form

Annual Dues

- ☐ Individual \$30
- ☐ Family \$45
- ☐ Full Time Student \$5

Donations*

- ☐ \$25
- ☐ \$50
- ☐ \$100
- ☐ Other _____ (specify)

Individual or Family Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contacts:

For questions email: Michael Margolius, Membership Chair, membership@harrisburgcwrt.org

Mail checks to: Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, P.O. Box 115, Dillsburg, PA 17019-0115

***If your donation is made in memory or in recognition of someone, please provide name(s) here:** _____
