

# **GREETINGS FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CMC - WISHING YOU A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

**2017 was another successful year for our Civil War Round Table. We had interesting programs and a good turnout at most meetings. While there were many interesting speakers this year, our October speaker was especially memorable. Jim Marshall (one of our own members) spoke about his experience on a recent weekend as a reenactor at Cedar Creek Battlefield including a bomb threat, ensuing police activity and ultimately the camaraderie and fellowship of the reenacting troops from both the north and the south. It was a very exciting tale and Jim had everyone on the edge of their seats. Great job Jim. Our November speaker discussed his book about common management and communication mistakes made by today's business leaders and some of the Civil War generals in battle situations. It was a fascinating and enlightening presentation. We are looking forward to continued membership growth with interesting/informative programs in 2018. There were 20 paid members in 2017. Please sign up for membership again in the spring and encourage your friends and relatives to join also. With more members we can have better programs. Many speakers require a fee and may even require overnight accommodations. Your membership dues are necessary and important to ensure continued high caliber presentations.**

**We will start up our 2018 year with our first meeting on Thursday, April 19. There are no meetings planned in January, February or March. Andy, our president, is actively planning our 2018 programs. More to come on that prior to the April meeting. Meetings are always on the third Thursday of each month (April thru November). All meetings begin at 7:00 PM and are held in the Cape May County Historical Society & Museum (herein called the “Museum”) on Route 9 in Cape May Court House.**

**At the last meeting on November 16, 2017, the standing officers were nominated and elected to continue in 2018. Accordingly, the list of officers for 2018 will be President/Andy Lolli - Vice President/Lou Bishop Jr. - Secretary/Pat Munson-Siter and Treasurer/John Herr.**

Andy Lolli	President	609-889-0061	<a href="mailto:andy.lolli@verizon.net">andy.lolli@verizon.net</a>
Lou Bishop, Jr	Vice Pres	<a href="tel:609-463-9277">609-463-9277</a>	<a href="mailto:southwilriseagain@aol.com">southwilriseagain@aol.com</a>
Pat <u>Munson-Siter</u>	Secretary	<a href="tel:609-287-5097">609-287-5097</a>	<a href="mailto:patms1766@outlook.com">patms1766@outlook.com</a>
John Herr	Treasurer	609-636-2551	<a href="mailto:avalonjohn@aol.com">avalonjohn@aol.com</a>

**In addition to the election of officers, a few open issues were discussed and some were resolved at our business meetings in October and November. Your input is welcome. Please give us your thoughts on any of these issues. We strive to make the club more interesting and rewarding for all members and your thoughts are requested and appreciated. Reply to any/all officers via phone or email.**

**There was some discussion about how our club could better support the Museum for letting us use their meeting room. The meeting room is very helpful to our club and would be difficult to replace. The Museum also puts out a monthly newsletter to their members and includes information about our speakers which helps our meeting attendance by “advertising” our speakers and possibly recruiting new members for our club. In the past we have coordinated “Civil War” activities such as reenactments and rifle/cannon firing demonstrations which are for the benefit of the Museum. But is that enough? The museum has not asked for but could certainly use any money we could give.**

**Our treasury is limited and we do not want to commit to a regular monthly “rental” fee. So one idea is to have our members simply join the Museum to help them out. It is \$25 per year for individual memberships. Several Round Table members are already dual members. There are many advantages of membership in the museum and you may find it to be useful to you and/or your family. Another idea was to pass a hat around at each meeting to raise a donation for the museum. Thoughts and opinions?**

**At the October meeting, membership dues were voted and approved for 2018. Individual memberships will stay the same in 2018 at \$30 per person which includes the monthly meeting and an emailed newsletter. To receive a printed copy of the newsletter via the US Mail it is \$35 per person.**

**Additionally, two new family memberships were approved to help families with multiple attendees. These are \$40 for an entire family if you only want the emailed copy and \$45 per family if you want multiple printed copies of the newsletter sent via US Mail to several family members.**

**NOTE #1: The secretary was unable to publish the newsletter last month due to medical reasons but we plan to start this up again in the spring.**

**NOTE #2: Please forward your dues for 2018 to Treasurer: John Herr, 241 80<sup>th</sup> Street, Avalon, NJ 08202 according to the above dues schedule by April 30.**

**We are also considering new ways to improve the monies available to pay for our speakers and ensure the Round Table remains solvent. One idea is to charge a \$5 meeting fee at the door for all non-member meeting attendees. Membership dues pay for the speakers so this charge would supplement the membership fund. Thoughts?**

**We are also looking at ways to increase funds in our “Preservation” fund which is used to preserve battlefield lands usually through the Civil War Trust. Would a 50/50 raffle at each meeting be a better way to raise money than the current “Civil War book” raffle for land preservation donations? The idea being that more people might participate if they could win money rather than books. This might also encourage members to stay around longer after the meeting and socialize until the winning ticket is announced? Thoughts?**

**We continue to evaluate the pros and cons of becoming an “official” non-profit organization in the eyes of the federal and state governments. At this point your dues and donations are “not” tax deductible. Costs and time requirements to set up and maintain this status are significant and benefits seem to be relatively small for a club of our size. Thoughts?**

**If anyone is interested in sharing the cost of day trips or even overnight trips to battlefield tours or other trips of interest please pass this on to one of the officers. Others may be interested in sharing driving or other expenses. Thoughts?**

**Enjoy the winter break from meetings and try to find time to read a good Civil War history book. We look forward to seeing you again in the spring. We can discuss these issues further at the April meeting.**