

# THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER

PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
WWW.PSCWRT.ORG

**SEPTEMBER 2021**  
VOLUME 37, ISSUE 1

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

**ZOOM MEETING ONLY**

**Time: Social hour at 6:45 p.m.; Program at 7:00 p.m.**



**RICK SOLOMON WILL LEAD A ZOOM  
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF THE  
GREAT CONFEDERATE OFFENSIVE OF  
1862 INCLUDING THE ANTIETAM  
CAMPAIGN AND THE KENTUCKY  
CAMPAIGN.**

Three time past and current President and longtime member of the Round Table, Rick will pose issues to be discussed by all participants in this Zoom Meeting. Everyone is encouraged to speak.

## ***IMPORTANT DISPATCHES***

### **PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE AND COVID 19**

As most of you already know we have not had a live, in person meeting of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable since February 2020. I missed that meeting because I was on a tour of Morocco. It was on a few days layover in Paris that I first heard of COVID 19. I didn't think much of it at the time, but it's fair to say that this awful Pandemic from this virus has dominated our lives since March 2020. When I became President of PSCWRT for the third time in May 2020 my number one concern was for PSCWRT to continue as a viable place where the American Civil War could be studied and discussed in a safe manner by our membership until the Pandemic ended. First thing that happened was we cancelled our meetings for March-May 2020. Next, thanks to our past president, Dick Miller, we started having Zoom Meetings instead of scheduled live in person meetings. This proved to work well and was getting about half of the amount of attendance before the Pandemic. If you attended some of these Zoom Meetings, you know that the presentations were excellent. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Membership of PSCWRT I wish to express our eternal gratitude to Dick Miller for helping to keep our Roundtable alive and vibrant.

At a Board Meeting at my house on August 9, 2021, those in attendance unanimously voted for PSCWRT to begin having live in person meetings starting September 9. It was decided that only who are fully vaccinated could attend our meetings. This would be on the Honor System. Also, it was decided that attendees of these in person meetings would be required to wear masks except



Brian Danforth  
Patrick Eakin  
Patricia Ford  
Malcolm Garber

Henry Grenley  
Andrew Hoyal  
Verlin Judd  
Jeff McLaughlin

Cheryl Nunn  
Donald Perry  
Mark Terry

### **SOME SOCIAL MEDIA SITES ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR**

I am not a very “techy” guy, but during the Pandemic I have stumbled across several Civil War related sites that I want to share with you. *Chambersburg Civil War Seminars* is a Civil War Tour Group operating out of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Through the past 13 years I have gone on four tours with this group including *The Iron Brigade* and *Lee’s March to and from Gettysburg*. This Company used to be led by Ted Alexander RIP and is now led by Eric Wittenburg. Every 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of the month a Zoom program is put on starting at 4 pm PST at the charge of \$5 per Zoom meeting. Preregistration is required. The speakers for these Zoom programs are some very fine historians covering a wide array of topics and there is a question and answers period at the end of the presentation. They are starting to have live in person seminars. I will be attending *Civil War Artillery* October 21-24 in Chambersburg. It features some fine Civil War tour guides such as Tom Clemens, James Hessler, David Shultz and Eric Wittenberg as well as talks by Craig Swain, Steve Nelson, Chris Stove, David Powell and others.

The second Civil War Site I want to sing praises about is *The Civil War Congress*. This is led by our own Mike Movius who serves as president of the Congress. It has Zoom meetings twice per week. Every Wednesday at 4 pm PST a historian will do a presentation on all sorts of subjects. Every Friday at 4 pm PST Dr. Curt Fields portrays General Ulysses S. Grant who discusses a various topics from Grant’s life. Both Wednesday and Friday programs are free, but donations are encouraged. Preregistration is required. Hats off to Mike Movius for setting up such a rigorous program week in week out.

The third Civil War site is *Emerging Civil War* which is led by the energizer bunny of Civil War historians Chris Mackowski. Chris did a Zoom presentation to PSCWRT last spring and is scheduled to come to Seattle to give us a live in person presentation in October 2022 at the China Harbor. What Chris had done at ECW is remarkable. He and several other Civil War Historians have gone to various Civil War sites throughout the United States and has filmed short talks on location. These appear on the ECW site and are easy to access. Chris’s enthusiasm for this work is infectious.

Please give all of these a try in the safety and comfort of your own home.

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF THE CONFEDERATE OFFENSIVE OF THE FALL OF 1862**

On September 9, 2021 we are going to act like an original Civil War Roundtable. In otherwords universal participation by our attendees. I will moderate the discussion where we can hear one another’s

views on various aspects of two campaigns taking place simultaneously in the late summer and early fall of 1862, namely, the Maryland Campaign and the Kentucky Campaign.

### **Maryland Campaign**

Did Lee make the correct decision in taking the War north of the Potomac at this point of the Civil War. What alternatives did Lee have and why?

After the debacle of Second Bull Run did Abraham Lincoln make the correct decision in bringing back George McClellan to the command of the Army of the Potomac? If not "Little Mac" who should Lincoln have put in command of the Army of the Potomac and why?

Was Lee crazy in dividing up the Army of Northern Virginia as outlined in the famous "Lost Order", Special Order No. 191?

Please critique McClellan's actions after the "Lost Order" was found and given to him.

In his article in *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol. II, Confederate General Daniel Harvey Hill makes the argument that finding the "Lost Order" actually caused McClellan to move more cautiously than if the "Lost Order" had not been found. Was Hill correct and why?

Please assess the generalship of McClellan during the Battle of Antietam.

Please assess the generalship of Lee during the Battle of Antietam.

What Confederate generals performed the best at Antietam? The worst?

What Union generals performed the best at Antietam? The worst?

### **Kentucky Campaign**

Was it correct for Kirby Smith to start the Kentucky Campaign? Was it wise for Bragg to invade Kentucky at this time.

Were the Confederate Armies best off traveling separately under Smith and Bragg or being united under the command of Braxton Bragg?

After the death of William "Bull" Nelson was Buell correct in appoint the inexperienced Capt. Charles Gilbert to the command of Nelson's old corps? Instead of being in the useless position of Second-in-command, would the Federal Army been better off with George Thomas leading Nelson's old corps?

Please assess the generalship of Smith and Bragg during the Kentucky Campaign.

Please assess the generalship of Don Carlos Buell during the Kentucky Campaign.

What Confederate Generals performed the best at Perryville? The worst?

What Union Generals performed the best at Perryville? The worst?

Was it the correct decision by Lincoln to relieve Buell of command after Perryville and appoint William S. Rosecrans in his place? Who else should have been appointed to command?

Was it the correct decision by Jefferson Davis to leave Bragg in charge of the Army of Tennessee? If not, who should have replaced Bragg? Joseph Johnston? PGT Beauregard? Some other officer who had not yet been appointed a full General?

## **OFFICER AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITIONS NEED TO BE FILLED**

### **GREETERS**

We need motivated people who are outgoing who would be willing to meet and help visitors and new members, to answer questions and help them feel welcome to our group. This is currently a non-board position, but for this position “the more, the merrier”. Everyone here was new at some point. Didn’t you like being welcomed rather than ignored?

### **SECRETARY**

The main job of the Secretary is to take minutes at board meetings and to publish them for the board, the advisors and the general membership.

### **VICE-PRESIDENT RESERVATIONS**

This is the person that records the meal choices and reservations for each month’s meeting as they come in. Once live in person meetings resume at the China Harbor we need someone regular in that position. Vice President-Successor Jim Dimond has stepped in temporarily.

### **VICE-PRESIDENT EDITOR**

This monthly newsletter, the Washington Volunteer, is edited and put together by the VP-Editor. The opening is immediate with Rick Solomon filling this position temporarily. Right now I have my plate overflowing with serving as President and trying to find speakers for 2022-2023. This is one of the most important positions in PSCWRT. If you volunteer, you can call on past Newsletter Editors Jeff Rombauer, Mark Terry and Rick Solomon for advise.

**Please note that anyone who volunteers will be given help and instruction for their role. For the most efficient and smooth operation of the PSCWRT, we need YOUR HELP to make it happen!**

### **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](mailto: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 October 2021 Washington Volunteer is Monday, October 4, 2021. Please have it in Rick Solomon's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!**

## **2021-2022 OFFICERS**

### **Elected:\***

President: Rick Solomon; ricksolomon192@gmail.com

Vice President Successor: Jim Dimond; shinodad@gmail.com

Past President: Jeff Rombauer; jeffrombauer@foxinternet.org

Co-Vice President Programs: Pat Brady; [patsbrady@comcast.net](mailto:patsbrady@comcast.net); Dick Miller;

milomiller882@msn.com; Rick Solomon; ricksolomon192@gmail.com

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Vice President Marketing: Dave Otis; jbhood81@aol.com

Vice President Membership: Arthur Banner; banneras@comcast.net

Acting Vice President Reservations: Jim Dimond; shinoded@gmail.com

Acting Vice President Social Media: Jim Dimond; shinodad@gmail.com

Treasurer: Chris McDonald: alpacomchris@gmail.com

Secretary: VACANT

Board Member: George Yocum;

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