



**The Annual State of the
Roundtable
FY 2026**

Our Foundation



- **Vision** – To be a *successful* and *thriving* American Civil War interest group
- **Mission** – A non-partisan, non-profit educational forum for promotion of knowledge, commemoration and preservation of our Civil War heritage
- **Core Values** – Honesty, Frugality, Support
- **Strategies** – Special Projects (**T Dake**), Monthly Meetings (**J Doncaster**), Member Engagement (**Nicolai/Vane**), Community Outreach (**T Dake**), Tours and Reenactments (**P Eastes**) and Genealogy (**T Dake**),
- **Goals** – See Committee Lead
- **Objectives** – See Committee Lead
- **Action Plans** – See Committee Lead

“We’re All in This Together”

**The Board Serves
at Your Pleasure
and Direction**



There Are Two Types of Organizations

- **Passive:**


Pre-Covid: *Yearly dues, monthly membership meeting, Living History Weekend, one Dot Kelly Award and an occasional tour*

- **Active**

End of Covid: *Dot Kelly Open and JROTC divisions, Gerald Augustus Scholarship, Bethel and Odd Fellows cemeteries preservation, Tours, Genealogy Training, Armstrong Hill interpretation, Cannon emplacement and site maintenance at Fort Dickerson, Living History Weekend, Civil War History Presentations, Wreaths Across America, Civil War Roundtable Congress Rueckel Innovation National Award and Preservation Grant*

The State of the Roundtable

Statistics (YTD FY 2026):

- Members: **FY 21/159, FY 25/185, FY 26 YTD 222/180**
 - Financial Assets: \$16,074 (Apr 26)
 - New Members since July 2025: 34 (Apr 26)
 - **Male vs. Female: FY 21 106/53 (67%), FY 23 95/54 (68%), FY 26 129/51 (72%)**
 - By County: **Knox 43%, Monroe 11%**
 - **Actuarial Table Issues: ~80% of current members are Medicare eligible**
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Financial Erosion

- Inflation over time (2.55% a year) erodes purchasing power:

1990: \$25=\$62

1990: \$40=\$99

1996: \$25=\$51

1996: \$40=\$82

2000: \$25=\$48

2000: \$40=\$75

- ~18%* of members don't pay their yearly dues
- For every person that fails to show up after making a reservation costs \$20; if we reserve the whole room and don't have 90 diners, we lose \$18 per seat short of that number

*Estimated

Recent Financial Trends

<u>Income:</u>	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026(YTD)
Dues	\$3688	\$6325	\$5580	\$3668
Books/Misc	\$1721	\$1209	\$1023	\$1276
Presentations	\$1400	\$3300	\$2600	\$1175
Donations	\$3200	\$825	\$1895	\$8231
<u>Expenses:</u>				
Speakers	\$5427	\$5186	\$5170	\$3831
BBH	\$9655	\$14,120	\$13,860	\$13,720
Fort Dickerson	\$2090	\$2000	\$3354	\$9329
Promotion	\$439	\$735	\$1468	\$1004



Probabilities

- Presentations, auctions, donations, book/pin sales aren't predictable and fluctuate monthly; presentations conclude at end of FY 27 unless...
- Living History Weekend will become more expensive due to insurance and other costs
- More speakers requesting honorariums, escalating travel/lodging/per diem costs
- Payment for at least one marker on Armstrong Hill (~\$3500)
- Emplacing/Updating KCWRT memorial stone w/member names at Fort Dickerson (\$800)
- New Projects/Upgrading Existing Ones (G.A.=\$750, D.K.x2=\$1000); equals msn stmt
- Life happens, emergencies, etc.

Challenges

- Lack of **Member Participation** in KCWRT Events/Board Elections
- New Member Generation (particularly women and African-Americans) and Current Member Sustainment
- Delinquent Yearly Dues Payment
- Inaccurate Meal Reservations
- Speaker/Special Event/Preservation Costs
- Board Departures (Antras '26 (1%), Vane/Doncaster in '27, Wright in '29)





Vision 2028 With Caveats

Vision 2028 Possibilities

- A robust tour schedule that will include at least one trip a year with the Crossville and Kingsport RTs plus two others for KCWRT members only
- **Current members** become active in recruiting/event participation; Host a Community Bulletin Board in the newsletter and web site for like-minded organizations
- Develop seminars, forums and classes to upload to YouTube/Facebook
- Showcase **KCWRT preservation efforts** at AH, cemeteries and other locations with other groups on web site/Facebook/Instagram to highlight the importance of saving history
- Develop regional memberships through Zoom to former RTs in the Southeast
- A world-class website that allows members to pay dues, buy merchandise, make dinner reservations, etc., as well as a way to share information, provide updates and more

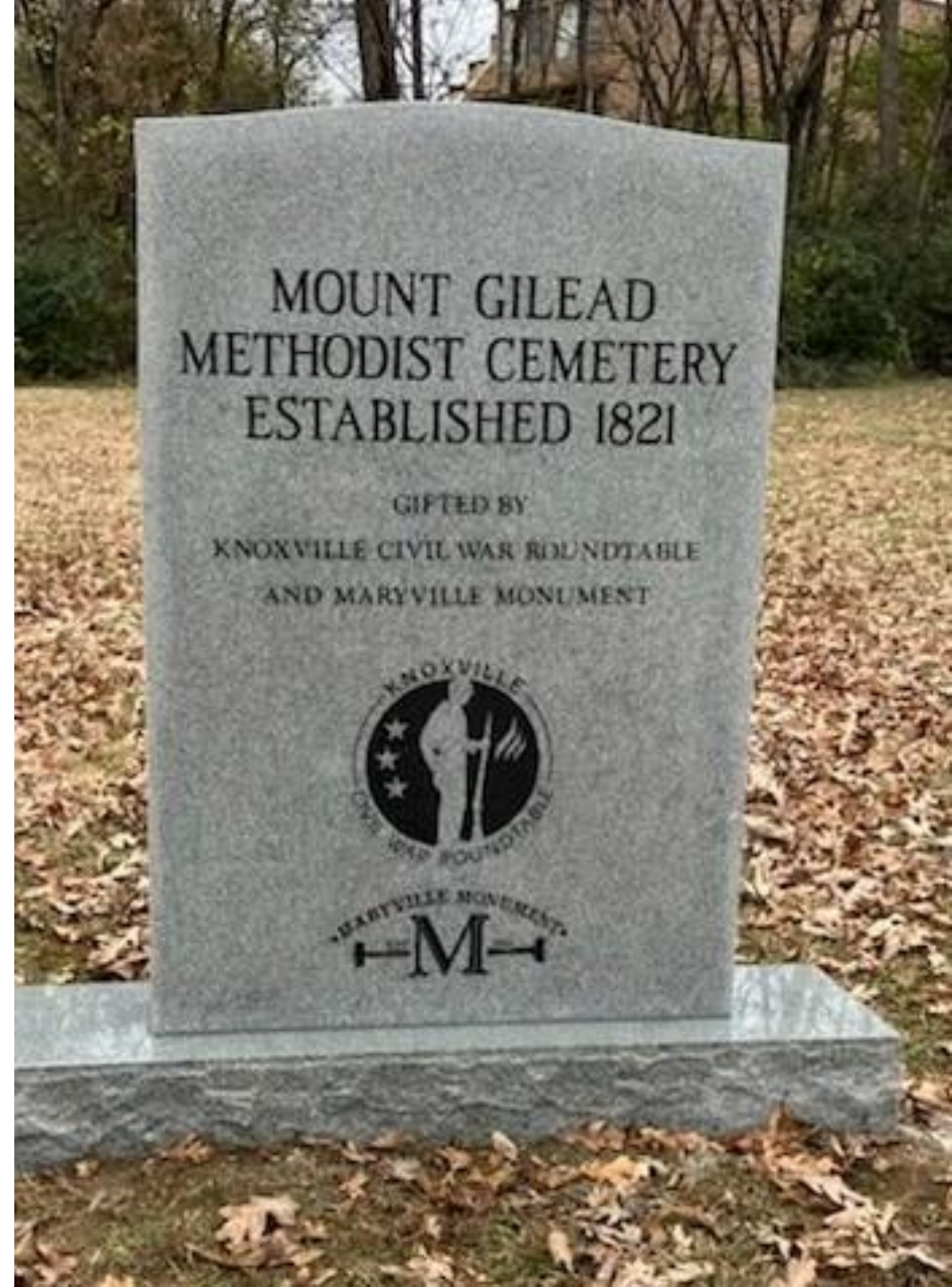
Revenue Generation Ideas to Achieve Vision 2028



- Continue with auctions, book sales, shirts/pins, etc., **But** develop one or two presenters that are fee-based
- Starting in FY 28 (July '27), dues will go to \$40/\$50. The cost only goes up \$1.25 per month for a single
- For those with RMD to pay, consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the KCWRT
- *The Scout's Report* will sell advertisements
- The KCWRT will offer corporate sponsorships
- Greater visibility in Knoxville/East Tennessee through partnerships based on **membership participation**
- Regional On-line presence (Zoom/website/FB) to attract new members/audience from both inside/outside the Knoxville area but especially from folded Roundtables
- **Increased interactions** with similar organizations, i.e., Rotarians, Aslan Foundation, ETHS, etc.

The Promise of Vision 2028

- The flexibility and confidence of knowing the resources are there to do any of the following:
 - Living History Weekend+
 - Best Speakers Available
 - Special Events – KCWRT Night at a Smokies game
 - Preservation/Commemoration Actions/Events
 - Grants/Scholarships
 - Improved Website/Technology Assets for KCWRT
 - Member Generated Projects
 - Recognition Support (Names on marker, certificate of appreciation, etc.)
 - **Whatever the Membership Chooses to Do**



What Are We Asking?

- That members think about this presentation and tell the board that you are **for** or **against** Vision 2028
 - If **against** wins, nothing changes
 - If **for** prevails, what ideas do you like or want to modify? If you have an idea, tell us what it is. We'll try some of these in FY 2027 to see what works since we can't do them all. We'll present the findings and show how they'll be incorporated into the final version of Vision 2028 (June 2027). Then we'll ask for your feedback again before going final
- How:
 - Contact any board member and tell them what you think
 - Email your thoughts to any board member or go to **kcwrt1865.org** - You have to May 29th to provide input; after that, the Board votes on June 2
- This presentation will be emailed to you and placed on **kcwrt.org** starting next week so you can review the material

