

My Fellow Roundtable Members: There is no meeting in December. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7 pm at La Navona, 154 North Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230. Our January meeting is the night on which we have our annual debate. The topic for this year's debate is "Did James Longstreet Fail to Fulfill his duty to Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg?" Please come to the meeting ready to discuss this topic. As I have said before, no one should feel that they do not know enough about the Civil War or the Battle of Gettysburg to contribute to this discussion. Civil War roundtables were formed as debating societies, so our annual January meeting allows us to return to our roots. Our Roundtable members are kind and respectful, and they really like hearing everyone's point of view. I will present a short summary of the actions (or should I say inactions?) of General Longstreet on July 2 and 3, 1863, and then moderate the debate.

I have attached Tom Ayres' Secretary's Report for the November meeting.

Dave DeLisio's Treasurer's Report for November is as follows:

Treasurer's Report for November 2017

Beginning checking account balance 11/1/2017 = \$2680.93

November receipts = \$280.00 from book raffles for past two meetings

November expenses = \$250.00 to Wade Sokolowsky for speaker fee; \$140.00 to Mike Peters for speaker related expenses

Ending checking account balance 11/30/2017 = \$2570.93

January starts a new fiscal year for the Roundtable, so dues are once again due. Our dues are:

- *Single* \$25.00
- *Family* \$35.00
- *Student* \$15.00

We have not raised our dues for many years, and I have no plans to do so in 2018. Please continue to support our book raffle. Once again, I will match raffle sales up to \$50 if everyone at the meeting buys at least one ticket. Please make a point of getting your dues in to Dave DeLisio or me as soon as possible; don't make me channel my debt collection attorney doppelganger!

Battlefield Tour Report: Please save the dates of April 12 2018 through April 15, 2018 for a trip to Chickamauga.

On a personal note, I have been very pleased at the way our Roundtable has performed in 2017. We have had great meeting attendance, and we always have an active and attentive group of meeting participants for our out-of-town speakers. Let's keep this great momentum going forward in 2018. If any one wants to volunteer to serve the Roundtable as an officer, please let me know. I am happy to continue serving in my role, but I do not want to stand in the way of any one who wants to lend their time and talent to the Roundtable.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

James G. Ryan *Member*