

MINUTES WRCL QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - DRAFT

Walden's Ridge Civic Center, 2501 Fairmount Pike, Signal Mt., Tn 37377
Thursday, July 16, 2026, 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

Present were Mark Dwyer, Carolyn Longphre, Helen Brell Miles, Hilda Horton, Kent Kersten, and Karen Stone. Absent were Johanne Albright, Rita Irvin, Vicki Love, and Roxie Thorton.

President, Mark Dwyer welcomed members present.

Minutes of the April 16, 2026, Quarterly Meeting as posted on the website were approved.

Minutes of the Board meeting of June 18, 2026, were approved with a change to include the cost of materials for installing the Liberty Bell. The two-dimensional Liberty Bell replica was created by Siskin Steel and given to the WRCC by the Chattanooga/Hamilton County America-250 Committee. Mark improved the installation method by pouring a concrete foundation and adding more rebar and clips. He applied an undercoat to the steel, then applied copper spray paint to the bell and brown paint to simulate wood for the bar from which the bell is suspended. Installation was completed before June 13, 2026.

Helen Miles distributed printed copies of the Treasurer's report. She urged everyone to employ the sales tax-exemption forms when purchasing anything. When paying for things at a place where we have a charge account, we should charge the item instead of using the credit card. Forms are to be sent to Pruett's, gas and electric company, Wal-Mart and any other company where we purchase. Some expenditures were highlighted, and various board members were asked to check on charges made in their names.

Reports:

- EVENTS – A recap of the *America 250 / Birthday Bash*, covered in the minutes of the last Board meeting, were shared briefly. The consensus is that it was a successful event and showed a profit of about \$1,000.00
- FACILITIES - Mark Dwyer reported that the siding is nearing completion on the south side. The air conditioner is holding its own and the building was cooled adequately for the meeting. Grace Hugbanks of Scriptorium Hall sent an e-mail 7/16/26 offering to help fund a Mr. Cool brand mini-split heat/air unit. Included in her offer is painting and improving the Green Room/Office. Discussion centered around the quotes we already have and previous approval of buying a Mitsubishi unit and whether it is necessary to have such a high-quality unit. Mark is to call Grace for clarification of her offer.
- GARDEN / SCOUT PROJECT – Johanne Albright was absent, but Mark said the new plantings by Axel Apablaza look good. He encouraged everyone to take a look.

Old Business:

- The 4th of July parade that included Blue Cumberland band on our truck was a success. It was agreed to plan early for next year so we can have a larger truck and/or a trailer to accommodate the band and more riders.
- A question was put forward regarding paying for mowing the soccer field if Soccer Shots is not using it. Apparently they are still using it, though no record of a reservation or payment for a 2026 schedule is in Karen's files. An email to Hilary Painter was returned, so Carolyn is to call the Soccer Shots number and determine the situation for 2026.

New Business:

- Motion by Carolyn to grant SMCS request for using the parking lot August 17 in the PM and August 19, 8-10:00AM. Seconded and approved unanimously.

- A birthday party rental July 25 at a reduced rate of \$75 was approved to use the auditorium because wood stored under the Pavilion prevents rental of the requested Pavilion.
- The idea of allowing vendors at events was discussed. Consensus is that vendors do not add to our events, have proved unpredictable, and do not bring in enough revenue to justify the effort put into their management. Motion by Helen to encourage only “educational” type booths (like recent DAR and SAR, hemlocks, Happinest) at *Smoke on the Mountain*, and to disapprove commercial vendors; motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Mark moved that the new flagpole, a gift from Rick Harris, be installed on the lawn level with and near the Pavilion on the west side. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Larry Mick is donating an American flag 6’ x 4.’ The pole is inside on the stage until it can be installed.
- The need for potential changes to our Mission Statement and the need for a Vision were discussed. It was agreed improvements are desirable, especially when applying for grants, etc. Every board member, and WRCL member, is encouraged to suggest new ideas for discussion and action at a following meeting.
- Mark agreed to Chair *Smoke on the Mt.* with Alix Mitchell as co-chair in charge of judges. Mark will seek volunteers for a Planning Committee
- Dates for Merry Mt. Christmas Dec 18, decorating Dec 4, rain date Dec 5 were approved.
- A Volunteer Appreciation chili supper will follow our next Quarterly Membership Meeting, October 15, 2026, in the Civic Center.
- Helen volunteered to help Karen set us an interactive calendar on our website using Go Daddy, since we are already paying for a calendar offered in our plan. On the calendar currently are: 7/25 CC rental, 8/17 & 8/19 SMCS using parking lot, 9/19 Wayside Harvest Festival on grounds, 10/3 Smoke, 10/15 Quarterly/Annual, 10/23-25 Wayside conference, 12/4 or 12/5 decorate for Christmas; 12/11 Scriptorium Hall, 12/18 Merry Mt. Christmas.
- A search for potential new board members was discussed and agreement was reached to continue the policy of working with volunteers for more than one event to see if they are good candidates.

There was no special communication from members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next Quarterly (Annual) Membership meeting October 15, 2026