



January 1, 2026

Fellow GWA Members:

In an effort to clarify any rumors or misinformation that might be swirling behind the scenes, I'd like to take this opportunity to provide more in-depth information on some of our initial actions as your elected Board of Directors.

This administration and the previous one have exercised good faith in providing information to the membership, via multiple avenues: minutes from every G-8 meeting are now provided to all active members via e-mail for the first time in the organization's history and are now available on the password-protected member content area of the website as well. G-8 meetings are all conducted via Zoom and recorded; members can access those recordings upon request, if so desired. On the Wire is now published quarterly, instead of semiannually or not at all, and distributed to all members. The new Facebook group was established in the spirit of providing another direct avenue to provide information to members; more on that below.

Groups.io Email archive: *Correcting a misconfiguration, not changing policy*

When this e-mail service was first engaged in 2000, it was intended as a way for the G-7 (at the time, VP/ Secretary was a combined position) officers to communicate with one another. The groups.io platform has a 'public' archive option that allows anyone with a web browser to access the communications. Those internal Board of Directors communications were never intended to be public, which is made clear by much of the content over the life span of the group.

Under New Jersey's Nonprofit Corporation Act, directors have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the organization. That duty includes protecting sensitive information and maintaining the confidentiality of candid internal discussion and debate; once any decision is reached or a vote is taken, the outcome should be, and is being, communicated to members. Failure to keep internal communications private would represent a breach of that fiduciary responsibility, so it was necessary to correct that configuration error as soon as it was identified. Of all current and former G-8 officers who were contacted at the time of this correction, none were aware the archive had not previously been protected.

Additionally, the attorney retained by the organization in 2024 to write an opinion letter regarding gender-specific roles explicitly stated that, were those communications shared with anyone outside the GWA, we would be waiving attorney-client privilege. Given the tremendous liability we avoided by heeding his counsel, it would be foolish to risk losing that protection.

New 'Great War Association - Official' Facebook Group: *A tool to convey information to members*

Over the years, Facebook has proven an effective medium for reaching some members, and for facilitating discussion between members. The Facebook group that had previously been in use was not an official platform for GWA information. That page contained thousands of users, some of the moderators and administrators were individuals who were neither active members nor known to current G-8 officers. In short, it had become obvious that there were 'too many cooks in the kitchen' to be an effective way to convey information from the G-8 to the membership. As we recognized it would present an inconvenience to members to have to change groups, we approached the group owner about transferring the group to the current G-8, and he was not cooperative and ultimately not amicable to the idea. At that point we decided it was best to establish a new Facebook group and start building from the ground up.

At no time did we ask or suggest in any way that the old group be paused, disbanded, or otherwise disposed of; any action that was or has been taken by its owner and/or administrator(s) is the sole responsibility of said owner and/or administrator(s).

Likewise, members are not expected to leave the other group if they wish to continue participating in it, but all official communication that occurs via Facebook will utilize the new group. We're using post-approval in this new group for a couple of reasons. First and foremost, it allows us to ensure that information on events, registration, and other important matters remains visible, instead of being easily missed because it's buried beneath a slew of comments or posts. It also helps us avoid the kind of disruptive behavior that has caused problems in the past, by keeping discussions respectful, on-topic, and focused on the purpose of the group — not personal conflicts or drama. It's important to note that in addition to the G-8 administrators there are content moderators from each side that are members but not part of the G-8. There is no attempt to silence voices or quash any dissent — just to keep relevant information accessible and encourage civility.

The current G-8 remains committed to doing everything we can, collectively and individually, to improve your experience as a member, from communication and year-round site improvements to event logistics and safety, equipment and consumables like pigtailed sandbags, and investing in a sound operational future for the organization. We invite you to reach out with any questions or concerns, any rumors you'd like to fact-check, or any suggestions you might have. Contrary to what you might have been told, all eight of us are normal people who are proud to be members of this organization and genuinely want to do the best we can at the positions you elected us to do.

Thank you, and we wish you and your families a happy new year.

Respectfully,

David V Strichko

President - Great War Association