



The Third Regiment, Inc.

Q1 Meeting 1/7/26, 7:30pm

Zoom Virtual Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Vice President Alex Campbell.

Attendance:

Attendance was recorded by Secretary Joe Sabolek and is as follows below:

Third Regiment Board;

Present: Vice President Alex Campbell, Treasurer Drew Schwartzel, Secretary Joe Sabolek, Military Commander Scot Buffington.

Not present: President Chad Slater

Military Cadre;

Present: Kyle Windahl (2iC), Jerry Lynes (Sergt Maj), Alex Campbell (Color Sergt), Scot Buffington (Military Commander)

Not present: Chad Slater (Safety Officer), Tom Grant (Adjutant)

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Drew Schwartzel reported that there have been no significant changes to the budget since the annual meeting on November 15, 2025. He noted that insurance costs are expected to increase slightly next year to \$1,448, which is anticipated. The Third Regiment account currently holds a balance of \$882.29. Once Drew submits the Treasurer's Report, Jerry will post it to the website to ensure full transparency with our units and affiliated organizations.

Focus Events:

It is the consensus of the board and cadre that we need to be able to solidify these events to push out to our organizations and affiliations sooner rather than later, so units can begin finalizing their own individual local schedules while also supporting the Third Regiment.

First Bull Run Event (July 17–19, 2026)

Vice President Campbell directed the discussion to Scot Buffington, who has been in contact with the host organization, the Civil War Historical Impressions (CWHI), and the National Park Service. Harry Sontag confirmed to Scot that the Third Regiment will be able to field a 120-man battalion for the event. The event will be open to the entire Third Regiment, as well as any individuals wishing to attend with the Third Regiment.

The CWHI and event organizers still need to meet with the National Park Service to finalize details and minor logistics; however, it appears the Third Regiment will be positioned in a shaded area of the battlefield near the creek. Fly tents will be used for canvas, with A-frames available as additional storage for those who need them.

Scot confirmed that Rolph Maydal, Drew Schwartzel, and possibly Tyler Grecco will serve as company commanders for the event, with one additional company still in need of a commanding officer. Participants will be permitted to stay in hotels and will not be required to camp on the field, as this is a low impact living history event.

From a physical standpoint, the event will include light marching to Matthews Hill, a possible “mad minute,” forming square, and a return march to the bivouac site. All activities are intended to emphasize education and preservation. Vice President Campbell clarified that this event is not the same as the force-on-force event near the Brandy Station Battlefield scheduled for May, which will not be a focus event for the Third Regiment in 2026.

The CWHI website will need to be updated to reflect these changes. Tom Grant has access to the website and will make the necessary updates, including noting the Third Regiment’s intention to attend the 69th NYSM at Bull Run in July 2026. Scot stated that red and gray shirts are preferred. Impression guidelines have been posted to multiple Facebook groups and should be readily available for review. Jerry also said that Rob Calhela could provide an early war 69th flag.

All in attendance agreed that this will be a highly beneficial and educational event and expressed satisfaction with the discussion.

School of the Soldier (TBD)

As discussed in previous conversations and during the annual meeting in November 2025, Vice President Campbell stated that it would be beneficial for the Third Regiment to host a School of the Soldier event this spring. The event would be modeled after the annual School of the Soldier hosted by the National Regiment, which is scheduled for February 21st this year. The primary focus of this event would be leadership development and overall readiness for the upcoming season.

The most immediate concern identified was securing an appropriate location. Vice President Campbell noted that obtaining a site is critical before planning and promotion can move forward. This event was described as an excellent opportunity for “understudies” and developing leaders to take on instructional roles, lead classroom sessions, and gain experience that would be valuable throughout the campaign season.

Drew suggested considering potential locations such as the Mine Run Battlefield or Winchester. In response, Jerry and Drew raised the question of what would attract participants to attend, including accessibility, facilities, and overall value. Jerry, Scot, and Kyle suggested hosting the event toward the end of March. Scot emphasized the importance of having indoor space available for classroom instruction and as a contingency in case of inclement weather.

Several possible locations were discussed. Kernstown was mentioned due to the mansion and its location in the Shenandoah Valley. Mine Run was discussed further but was considered less practical due to its remote location and lack of indoor facilities. The Spangler Farm in Gettysburg was also discussed, particularly because of its large barn, which could serve as classroom space or an indoor drill area.

Alex noted that, since he frequently travels through the Harrisburg area, he would contact the National Civil War Museum to determine whether they would be willing to host the event. Both the board and the cadre agreed that if the Third Regiment intends to move forward with this event, a site must be secured and information shared with the membership as soon as possible.

Mine Run Living History

The discussion regarding Mine Run was led by Treasurer Drew Schwartzel. Drew described his experience at the Mine Run event in November 2025, noting that he and Tom Grant attended as the only two Federal reenactors present. During the event, they established a picket post and had the opportunity to explore the battlefield property extensively. Drew reported that both he and Tom had an excellent experience and that the Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield and other event organizers were highly appreciative of their efforts and participation.

Drew emphasized that Mine Run is one of the most well-preserved Civil War battlefields in the United States, with original fencelines, property boundaries, woodlots, and roadways remaining largely intact. He stated that hosting a living history event at Mine Run would be an excellent way to support the battlefield while also building valuable connections in Virginia on preserved ground. Drew further noted that the property offers a high degree of flexibility, allowing participants significant freedom in how the event could be conducted.

Scot Buffington and Vice President Campbell agreed with Drew's assessment and expressed support for marketing a Mine Run living history event sometime in late 2026. However, Jerry raised concerns regarding the large number of other events traditionally held in November, including Franklin, Remembrance Day, McClellan's Bodyguard, and On Our Own Soil. After discussion, it was suggested that September may be a more realistic timeframe for such an event.

Drew stated that the overarching goal of supporting a living history event in 2026 would be to establish and secure Mine Run as an event site for a larger or more formal event in October or November of 2027. It was noted that the 2026 living history would not be officially sponsored by the Third Regiment, but would instead be marketed to Third Regiment members as well as other interested participants.

Secretary Sabolek added that several local units would likely be interested in attending and that the event would provide another strong opportunity to implement understudy leadership, establish picket posts, and fully utilize the scale of the property. He also noted the potential for interaction with the Stonewall Brigade, which has expressed interest in attending, as they did in November 2025.

Other Events:

Throughout the meeting, Kyle Windahl offered suggestions via the chat that the Third Regiment could consider focusing on an event in either 2027 or 2028 associated with Fredericksburg. He noted that the success of the 2022 Slaughter Pen Farm event, as well as the highly memorable 2012 event that featured a crossing of the Rappahannock River on pontoon bridges, could serve as strong motivation for reenactors to attend a future Fredericksburg-based event.

Vice President Alex Campbell also referenced the success of the Spangler Farm event, stating that it was a very positive experience for those involved. Kyle indicated that he would make an effort to reach out to the Gettysburg Foundation to explore securing a future date for an event at the Spangler Farm. It was noted that such an event would not necessarily need to be centered around a field hospital impression.

Vice President Campbell further suggested the possibility of coordinating with the National Park Service to conduct a program at the Pennsylvania Monument. Jerry reminded those in attendance that **Remembrance Day will remain a focus event for the Third Regiment.**

After approximately one hour of discussion, Vice President Campbell began to conclude the meeting by summarizing the key points discussed. He confirmed that meeting notes had been recorded. The members in attendance agreed that a single Facebook chat should be created for both the cadre and the board to improve communication and coordination going forward.

Wrap Up:

Vice President Campbell concluded the meeting reminding the board and cadre in attendance that securing a site for the School of Instruction is the most important order of business and that we will begin looking at other events that we can support going forward this year. The board and cadre agreed that 3-4 events would be sufficient to list as “focus events” for the year.

The meeting concluded at 8:36pm and the Zoom room was closed at this time.