

RCA2027 Meeting - January 30, 2026

Attendees: Debbie, Ruth, Jim K, Deborah, Mark, Maggie, and Vicki

Meeting opened with reading of Traditions 1, 2 and 9.

Minutes were unanimously approved.

The following individuals were voted in unanimously:

- *Jim as Vice Chair*
- *Maggie as Administrative Support*
- *John as Treasurer*

Ruth led a review of the comparison spreadsheet that we have so far. There was discussion about travel to and from and how that would influence cost and access. A quick review shows that traveling into Richmond seems more stable than into D.C. with fewer flight cancellations or changes. Weather may be cooler and there is much to do in the area. There may also be concerns of feeling comfortable in the D.C. area, depending on the climate.

In terms of technology; Ruth reiterated that we should be able to manage tribrid meetings and can anticipate issues of wifi, bandwidth or power issues by bringing hotspots and battery backups, or utilizing zoom meetings, etc. Making one track virtual and the rest in person makes this more manageable.

Carol only provided costs for two July dates due to lack of availability in October, potential weather issues, and it was more expensive. So, information provided was for last two weekends in July with third weekend being the cheapest. Some points came up during discussion while comparing options:

- People are also out of school in July, making it easier on families.
- In October, costs are higher and there would be more competition with schools in session;
- July weather in Richmond will be hot and humid – a consideration for those, especially, coming from Europe and the topic of feedback from Syracuse.
- Cost may be a driving factor over weather in Richmond, some noting that Richmond is not bad as in D.C. or Texas.
- There are plenty of museums and exhibits to see that are indoors and Blue Ridge mountains are not that far.

Further investigation will need to be done comparing hotels and perhaps negotiating rates, with some people visiting the area in person. Jennifer, Ruth and Deborah will be doing some further research into venues in Richmond. Ruth reviewed the locations that seemed more feasible:

- Hilton Arlington National Landing
- Sheraton Reston Hotel right outside of DC or
- Delta Richmond Hotel which is Southern Virginia.

Ruth advised that she and Jennifer checked on school dorms, but most were not interested in working with them. Colleges were expensive and dorms had additional costs, like having to pay staff to be on hand they were unable to find venues large enough for the group to meet. Ruth then shared some considerations from the reports Carol provided. There were some centers that could hold retreats, but not manage the convention needs. Arlington has much higher food costs with parking as high as \$51/day and not many opportunities to stay outside of the hotel, Sheraton Reston parking is only \$15. The Delta hotel in Richmond would allow us to use our own equipment, saving as much as \$3k.

Vicki had a few important suggestions in terms of working with the hotels:

- Double check the minimum number of rooms you'll need booked, as some people may choose to stay elsewhere. Also, balance this against ensuring people aren't forced to stay elsewhere, which has happened.
- Be aware that many people would want to book hotels 3 days in either direction.
- In addition to room rates, look at food costs, etc.
- Where there isn't an actual deadline to submit a bid; preference would be to share the date and location at the upcoming convention.
- We might consider looking at the age of the hotels and quality of the rooms. Some people were concerned in older hotels about mold issues.
- We should also consider items like equipment usage or parking are negotiable

Some remaining questions noted

- There's no metro and there may not be a direct shuttle to the airport
- While there doesn't seem to be much difference in terms of price between DC and Richmond; cursery reviews show that Richmond airport has a better record in terms of flight cancellations and ease of use. It is, however, smaller (like Syracuse) and not a transatlantic airport or hub, so there would be fewer direct flights.

A request was made for a contact who managed a previous convention bid to ensure a prudent choice and Vicki suggested talking with John R in Syracuse and will send contact info. Vicki also suggested attending the annual convention meeting which takes place on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30pm EST.

Ruth has agreed to communicate with Carol, keeping Vicki in the loop and asked for support from Jim in figuring out what the cost for attending should be.

The website setup with the RCA2027 addresses was introduced and Ruth noted she and Debbie donating the cost (\$19) and asked that people mark the addresses as “not spam”. Will review at the next meeting.

Continued discussion at next meeting may include:

- the website Ruth introduced
- outreach to others to assist in planning; perhaps to fill specific roles
- Theme and tagline
- Hospitality

Please send any Agenda items to Ruth at 2027Chair@RCA2027.org

Anyone wanting to be added to the contact list can send contact information to Maggie at 2027Admin@RCA2027.org.

Meeting closed with the Hand in Hand prayer.