



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
CONFEDERATE RELIC ROOM &  
MILITARY MUSEUM**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

W. Allen Roberson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 17, 2026**

COLUMBIA, SC—The South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum Commission will meet on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. This meeting will be conducted in person. Any member of the media or the public who may wish to attend is welcome! The meeting will be held in the Museum's Education Room. Please call (1 833 608-8266, conference ID: 979551#) if you need to attend remotely. The meeting agenda is as follows:

- I. Greetings to the Commission, Members of the Media, and Visitors. Welcome New Commissioners, Charles Water (C.W.) Bowman, Jr. and Allen T. Gantt, Jr.**
- II. Review January 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
- III. Old Business**
  - A. Congaree Room Feasibility Study
  - B. Small temporary (Gist) Gallery – *renovation is behind schedule, but the US Army Corps of Engineers just requested a year's extension this past December for final review of all artifacts from Congaree River archeological project before the museum can install an exhibit.*
  - C. Personnel
    1. Chief Curator Hire – *Posted since February, through end of March*
    2. Collections Manager – *Applications have been reviewed, and interviews have begun*
    3. Megan Brigman has been promoted to Registrar over the Museum Collection
    4. Rachel Cockrell has been promoted to Administrative Manager
- IV. Ongoing Museum Operation**
  - A. FY26 Approved Non-Appropriated Budget
    1. Approved Funds totaling \$1,430,000 transferred on February 19
    2. Funds allocated:
      - a.\$30,000      Develop Vietnam War Oral Interviews Traveling Exhibit
      - b.\$150,000    Conrad Wise Chapman paintings
      - c.\$500,000    Main Gallery Updates
      - d.\$750,000    Develop Major Exhibit on the International Aspects of the American Civil War Exhibit (Utilizing the McRae Papers Archival Collection and the C.A. Huey Collection of European Imported Confederate Arms and Equipment)
  - B. Rachel has completed the response to the State Auditor's Office *Agreed Upon Procedures Audit* (Rachel Cockrell)
  - C. Collections (Megan Brigman): Traditional Japanese Tanto
  - D. Rogers, Desportes, J. Moore Frock Coats at Conservation Labs

- E. Wade Hampton Sword – half paid for. Delivery is expected at end of this month.
- F. FY27 Budget Request passed SC House of Representatives
  - 1. \$73,000 Increase in Existing Personnel Budget (Annual Recurring)
  - 2. \$1,448,000, Nonrecurring Expansion of the SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum into the Congaree Room in the Columbia Mills Building (may increase amount to cover atrium floor updating)
  - 3. \$81,279 FTE Position Curator of Interpretation & Exhibits (Annual Recurring)
  - 4. \$118,263 Additional Annual Rent for Museum Expansion area (Annual Recurring)
- G. Solidify Exhibit Schedule – all dependent on staff
  - 1. *A War with No Front Lines: SC and the Vietnam War, 1965-1973*
    - a. Ends August 2026?
    - b. Ends December 2026? Might allow time to develop Traveling exhibit on Vietnam Interviews for schools, libraries, and other museums while Vietnam exhibit is still up
  - 2. Gist Gallery Exhibit before Renovation: *The Twilight of Revolutionaries and the Dawn of Photography* reopens on Friday March 27.
    - a. If possible, will add some Revolutionary War artifacts to offer something “new”
  - 3. Congaree River Exhibit Spring 2027
  - 4. Updates of Main Gallery Fall 2026 - Spring 2027
  - 5. Bid Congaree Room Renovation & complete 2026-2027
  - 6. Exhibit on Huey & McRae Collections for 2027
  - 7. 250<sup>th</sup> SC Revolutionary War exhibit for 2028 – 2029: 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Revolutionary War Southern Campaign & French entering war
- H. Visitation & Programs
  - 1. FY25 Attendance: 30,965 – Closed 6 mos. (41,131 FY24)
  - 2. FY26 Attendance so far: 27,365
  - 3. Schedule Programs:
 

a. <i>Swordfest</i>	Saturday, March 7	857 Attended
b. <i>Revolutionary War Day</i>	Saturday March 28	
c. Vietnam War events	in development	
d. Noon Debriefs	See Schedule	

**V. Palmetto State Military History Foundation Treasurer’s Report**

**VI. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 21 at 10:30 AM (We will have box lunches)**

Any questions regarding these proceedings may be addressed to museum Executive Director Allen Roberson, 803-737-8096 or [arobers@crr.sc.gov](mailto:arobers@crr.sc.gov). The South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum Commission members are comprised of three members appointed by the Governor, two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate on recommendation of the SC Division Commander of Sons of Confederate Veterans, two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives on recommendation of the President of the SC Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Founded in 1896, the SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum is the oldest museum in the Columbia area and focuses on South Carolina's military history from the Revolutionary to the present.

*\* This meeting has been posted in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act*