



**CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
OF NEW ORLEANS, INC.

**MEETING NOTICE – JANUARY, 2015**

Did you forget that this month's meeting is on the second Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>? Don't worry, I did too even though I pointed out in the lineup of future speakers in the September, 2014 newsletter that the meeting date was needed to accommodate travel schedules. So, please join us next week, Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Be prepared for a much different topic:

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015  
**PLACE:** Smilie's Restaurant, 5725 Jefferson Hwy, Harahan, LA  
**SPEAKER:** James B. Conroy  
**SUBJECT:** "Our One Common Country: Abraham Lincoln & the Hampton Roads Peace Conference"  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m. Social  
7:00 p.m. Dinner (\$25.00)

**OUR SPEAKER:** James B. Conroy is a co-founder of the law firm Donnelly, Conroy & Gelhaar, LLP. His practice is concentrated in employment litigation and counseling, business litigation, whistleblower litigation, and internal corporate and institutional investigations. He has broad experience in state and federal trial and appellate courts, agency proceedings, arbitrations, and mediations. His legal writing has been published in *The Massachusetts Law Review* and the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*.

Mr. Conroy earned his law degree, magna cum laude, at the Georgetown University Law Center in 1982. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and earned a Master's degree in International Affairs at George Washington University. He has taught at Suffolk University Law School as a member of the adjunct faculty.

Before joining the bar, Mr. Conroy pursued a public affairs career in Washington, D.C., where he served sequentially as Press Secretary for Congressman Edward Mezvinsky of Iowa; Press Secretary for the United States Senate Committee on the Budget; speech writer for its successive chairmen, Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine and Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina; and chief of staff for Congressman James Scheuer of New York.

From 1971 to 1977, Mr. Conroy served in the United States Navy Reserve in antisubmarine aviation units. He lives in Hingham, Massachusetts. The publication of Jim's first book, *Our One Common Country: Abraham Lincoln and the Hampton Roads Peace Conference of 1865*, resulted in his election as a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

**THE SUBJECT:** The Hampton Roads Conference was a peace conference held between the United States and the Confederate States on February 3, 1865. The conference took place aboard the steamboat *River Queen* in Hampton Roads, Virginia. The purpose was to discuss terms to end the War.

The Union controlled Hampton Roads at that time early in 1865. Attendees included President Abraham Lincoln, Secretary of State William H. Seward, as well as Confederate Vice-President Alexander H. Stephens, Assistant Secretary of War John A. Campbell, and Confederate Senator Robert M. T. Hunter of Virginia.

The foregoing is only a brief synopsis of our speaker's topic. Please attend this meeting and find out many of the details surrounding this historic event.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Treasurer Richard Seba has brought our records current and furnished this writer with a listing of our members for the 2014-15 season. As all of you know, members are asked in September to pay dues and we collect through December.

The list of members who have renewed is at the lowest level since the early 1980's. Your Editor has consistently noted that our ranks are growing thinner. I realize that multiple reasons exist for the decline but a real cash crunch may result because of our group's expenses in paying for hotel and airline fares for out of town speakers. We use local speakers when we can but there are simply not enough with a Civil War related topic.

I will send a letter to several members who have not renewed in case any want to renew. Anyone who has any ideas to increase membership, please let us hear from you.

**LAST MEETING:** Ted Alexander, NPS Historian at Antietam National Battlefield, spoke to 23 members and guests at our meeting on the third Wednesday in December. Ted's topic was "Hispanics and the Civil War: From Battlefield to Homefront—American All." Ted had a brief PowerPoint presentation as he followed his topic, as taken from a somewhat recently published NPS booklet. Ted pointed out that this particular topic is one of several planned by the National Park Service to bring out of obscurity many other ethnic groups which have not received much attention from historians and buffs.

**IN MEMORIAM:** John B. Donnes, II, a frequent guest at our Round Table, died on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. John had been a former member and was the widower of Edna Donnes. Edna was a long time member of a local UDC group and the L.C.M.A. (and, for those of you unfamiliar with their acronym, the initials are for the Ladies Confederate Memorial Association). He was the father of John "Bert" Donnes, III, one of our veteran members. Our condolences go out to Bert and his family.

**ANOTHER SYMPOSIUM:** The official 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Red River Campaign was held several months ago in northwest Louisiana. Now, another observance entitled the Red River Campaign Commemoration is set for March 5-8, 2015. This event is styled as a multi-functional symposium, reenactment, etc. with a "campfire tour" and a period authentic baseball game. For more information, call (800) 551-9546 or (318) 484-2390. Some events will be taking place at Fort Buhlow and Fort Randolph State Historic Site in Pineville, LA.

This newsletter is published nine times a year by the Civil War Round Table of New Orleans, Inc. Please address all correspondence and changes of address to Charles J. Nunez, Editor, 3537 Tolmas Drive, Metairie, LA 70002, or by e-mail at [charlesjnunez@gmail.com](mailto:charlesjnunez@gmail.com).