

Activities & Accomplishments Of The Generals Redoubt

2 November 2023

The list of activities and accomplishments of The Generals Redoubt is extensive, particularly considering our short history. The following will provide a synopsis of our efforts.

Broadly speaking, TGR is the first organization in the past 50 years with substantial alumni support that has openly pointed out and opposed certain flawed decisions of the Board of Trustees and Administration relating to the University's history and traditions (e.g., removing the images of the University's namesakes from the diploma and Lee Chapel, terminating Founders' Day, changing the name of Lee Chapel, etc.)

TGR has maintained consistent communication—primarily through e-blasts and social media—to update the TGR community on issues of importance to students, alumni, parents, and faculty. Those communications include pointing out the numerous harmful decisions and policies referenced above.

TGR has raised over \$4.0 million for the creation of *The George Washington and Robert E. Lee Center for American Ideals (CAI)* to be based in our new home at *Fancy Hill*. Most of our support has come from Alumni. (To put this in perspective, this is roughly 35% of the University's 2023 annual fund budget of roughly \$10.5 million). Much of the support that we receive is from alumni who have intentionally redirected their funds from the University to TGR in response to the University's recent actions.

We are in the process of renovating Fancy Hill, which we purchased earlier this year, to serve as our home base. Upon completion of the renovation, Fancy Hill will host alumni receptions, student events, guest speakers, and more. Our plans for the CAI are in the early stages, but Fancy Hill will play a major role in our efforts.

We have spent over \$265,000 to bring nationally known speakers to W&L, including:

- Heather Mac Donald
- Larry Elder
- Matt Walsh
- Brett Baier and former Vice President Mike Pence
- SPEAKERS FOR MOCK CONVENTION WEEKEND

TGR has organized and/or provided financial support for numerous events including:

- Receptions for parents during Parents Weekend
- Founders' Day events on campus and at alumni gatherings around the country (in response to the University's misguided decision to cancel Founders' Day)
- A live-streamed debate with College Republicans and College Democrats to discuss changes on campus
- Students for Historical Preservation's educational program on Robert E. Lee.

- Presentation in Lee Chapel by TGR board member Rodney Cook, Jr. on reconciliation and the roles of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert E. Lee as peacemakers.
- Funded the recent DEI debate between Carol Swain and Marc Lamont Hill.

TGR was a founding member—along with alumni from Princeton, Cornell, UVa, and Davidson—of the Alumni Free Speech Alliance (<https://www.alumnifreespeechalliance.org/>). Josh Young (one of TGR’s board members) represents TGR on the AFSA board, which supports free speech, academic freedom, and viewpoint diversity at college campuses across the country.

We led the “Retain the Name” campaign when the Board of Trustees voted on the question of dropping the “Lee” from “Washington and Lee”. We produced and distributed bumper stickers and yard signs around Lexington and even commissioned billboards on the local interstate. We circulated petitions to parents opposing changing the name of Washington and Lee and opposing the proposal to eliminate the images of George Washington and Robert E. Lee on diplomas.

We opposed the University’s plan to construct a permanent wall in Lee Chapel to obstruct the view of the Recumbent Statue of Robert E. Lee. Our efforts included legal action and testimony before public officials, creating and distributing bumper stickers, yard signs—erecting multiple interstate billboards in Lexington, Lynchburg, and Richmond—along with vigorous communication with alumni and supporters. While we were unable to thwart the University from carrying out their desecration of Lee Chapel, we have not given up the fight. We will continue to push for the reversal of all recent acts on campus which have erased or diminished the roles of our namesakes.

TGR facilitated a commitment of \$80 million from key alumni to create on campus a new, world-class visitor's center, museum and gathering place, which was summarily rejected by the Rector.

We provide support to *The W&L Spectator*, which has emerged as an alternative publication to the long-standing (and now more woke) *Ring-tum Phi*.

TGR helped found and fund the George Washington Forum, a new conservative student organization, and has provided additional funding to the College Republicans, as well.

We have established a growing number of relationships with students on campus, and we have added students as formal advisors to our board.

TGR is a major supporter—possibly the biggest supporter—of the upcoming Mock Convention, providing over \$235,000 so far to help bring presidential candidates and leading national figures to W&L.

We will continue to encourage the president, the new rector, and the Board of Trustees to engage with TGR and to consider the perspectives of the thousands of alumni, parents, and other supporters who share our love for the traditions, history, and values of Washington & Lee.