



GENERAL ORDERS No. 2

RE: October 2025 Meeting

Main Presentation: This month we welcome Rick Bernstein and John Decker who will be presenting *History of the Grand Army of the Republic in Dane County*. The Grand Army of the Republic in Dane County was the first post in Wisconsin to be chartered in Madison on June 10, 1866. Although nonpolitical, 8 governors of Wisconsin claimed membership. The GAR building on Monona Ave lasted until 1973. The building held 20 plaques of Civil War dead. Their rescue and restoration will be discussed. A restored plaque will be exhibited. John Decker will relate the overall story of the G.A.R., with some interesting stories about the characters involved. Rick Bernstein will concentrate on the stories concerning the Civil War "Roll of Honor" memorial tablets.

Rick Bernstein has been the Executive Director of the Dane County Historical Society since 2019. Previously, he worked for 30 years for the Wisconsin Historical Society. He is a graduate of Cornell University.

John Decker is a graduate of the Marquette Law School. He retired law practice concentrating on constitutional law, public contracting, and litigation. President of the State Bar of Wisconsin 1990-1991. Other notable positions include past president of the Wisconsin Council on Local History and of the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions. Also, past president of the Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, past member of the Board of Curators of the Wisconsin Historical Society and current president of the Dane County Historical Society.

Date: October 9, 2025

Place: Hop Haus Brew Pub, 2975 Sub-Zero Pkwy, Fitchburg, WI

Social: 6:00 PM

Optional Dining: 6:15 PM. Order from the menu when you arrive. To support Hop Haus staffing, they request the number of people planning to dine. Please make your dining request by the Wednesday before the meeting via email Madison.history.roundtable@gmail.com, MHRT website or by calling Rich Fronek at 608-669-0970. Leave your name and number of those dining. **DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL TO INDICATE DINING REQUESTS.** *Note; you can come to the meeting without dining.*

Business Meeting: 7:00 PM

Presentation: 7:15 PM. Free to the public. No reservations needed

Upcoming Events:

- **November 13th, 2025 – MHRT Meeting – Steve Ackerman - *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: The Ship, the Storm, and the Song***

Book Sale – We will be offering a book sale at the monthly meetings. Each book is \$1, take as many as you like. You are also welcome to bring a book for sale. Proceeds go to the MHRT.

Publicity: Find out about the Madison History Roundtable at our web site

<https://www.madisonhistoryroundtable.com>, Facebook (search on Madison History Roundtable) and email madhrt@googlegroups.com. Spread the word to your friends, colleagues and co-workers.

Membership: Dues for a single person remain \$30/year. If you want to sign up as a couple, dues are \$50. The season runs September – May. Dues are used to cover the operating and speaker expenses of the Madison History Roundtable. You can mail your dues to the **MHRT Treasurer – 9 Flad Circle, Madison, WI 53711**. If you have a personal PayPal account, you can send in your dues to the MHRT PayPal email address:



wsayles1950@gmail.com. Attending meetings are free and open to the public. Guests can check us out before deciding if they want to become a member.

MHRT Website: Check out our web site at: <https://www.madisonhistoryroundtable.com>. You can find information on the MHRT schedule, list of speakers and meeting dates amongst other information. You can also “signup” for MHRT membership. We will be periodically be updating the web site with meeting notices, upcoming events and activities. Let us know what other information you might want posted on the site.

By Order of

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