



# Theodore Roosevelt Association

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Date: 10/2/2020  
Subject: The Arena Newsletter October 2020  
From: Theodore Roosevelt Association



Dear TRA Annual Meeting Supporter,

I just want to bring you up to date on recent developments with the TRA Annual Meeting on October 23 and 24 at the National War College at Fort Leslie J. McNair. Due to the persistence of the coronavirus in the District of Columbia, city officials have continued the restrictions set in place during the summer to limit large

gatherings. They have indicated that no further change to those restrictions should be expected before the end of October. Those restrictions include for visitors from certain states to quarantine ([link to details](#)) for 14 days upon arrival in DC.

The leadership of the TRA and the National War College have concluded that the TRA Annual Meeting must now be adjusted to ensure compliance with these restrictions as they exist. This means that the focus will be on conducting the Symposium events as planned with the entire proceedings available by webcast. To the extent that they are able, the Symposium presenters and panelists will participate in person at Ft. McNair. If not, they will do so remotely.

There may be an opportunity to accommodate a very limited number of Sponsors who desire to attend the Symposium events at Ft. McNair in person. There will be two opportunities to see General Mattis: after the Symposium's last panel on Friday at a small gathering with General Mattis AND on Saturday afternoon when he is presented with the TRA award.

We make the assumption that you would like to have access to the webcast regardless and we will be providing you with information on how to access the webcast as soon as that information becomes available.

Finally, as pledged to you when we asked you to sign on to be a sponsor of this year's TRA Annual Meeting, we offer the return of your donation. Even if you should ask to have it returned, we will be sending you the link to the webcast. We are grateful for your understanding of the difficulties which the pandemic has dealt us and we sincerely appreciate your support of the Theodore Roosevelt Association and its mission to perpetuate the memory of our 26th President.

Sincerely,

David Architzel  
Chairman, Theodore Roosevelt Association



***When: Friday, October 23, 2020 to  
Saturday, October 24, 2020  
Where: Roosevelt Hall, National War  
College, Fort Lesley J. McNair  
United States Naval Museum  
Washington, DC***

***Theodore Roosevelt Association's  
Annual Meeting 2020***

If you have not had the chance to attend one of the Theodore Roosevelt Association's Annual Meetings, this is a great year to do so by webinar! We are co-hosting with the National War College (NWC) at Ft. McNair in Washington, DC, on October 24-25, 2020, bringing our partnership to a new and exciting level. The theme is ***Theodore Roosevelt's Statecraft - The Cornerstone of American National Security.***

The great news is that our keynote speaker on Saturday will be General James N. Mattis, USMC (Ret.) who will speak and will also be presented the ***"Medal of Honor for Public Service."*** In an abundance of riches, we are also bringing you a timely panel, very relevant to the election, on post-career senior military officers and the making of national security policy, featuring Washington Post Associate Editor and Columnist David Ignatius, 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff ADM Michael Mullen, USN (ret.), former Director of National Intelligence ADM Dennis Blair, USN (Ret.), former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Michèle Flournoy, and Professor Peter Feaver.



### Own a Piece of History

Here is your chance to have a piece of Sagamore Hill displayed in your home or office. No, President Roosevelt's home is not for sale. However, the Copper Beech tree that stood stoically next the front entrance to his summer residence is being offered for sale. Despite extensive efforts to save it, the tree planted by TR in the 1890's has succumbed to old age and disease. But fortunately, we have been able to



The association has photographed, priced and measured 42 tree slabs. We are going to post on our website a series of slabs that will be offered for sale. Below each photo of the slab you will see a brief description that will include its measurements and price . The pricing of each piece will depend on the size, color, the quality of the grain and overall condition. We are also including a letter of provenance for each slab that will include a photograph of the tree as it stood next to the President's

salvage it. It has been carefully cut into slabs and will shortly be available for purchase in the raw.

home. Finally, each slab will be appropriately marked to indicate its historic provenance.

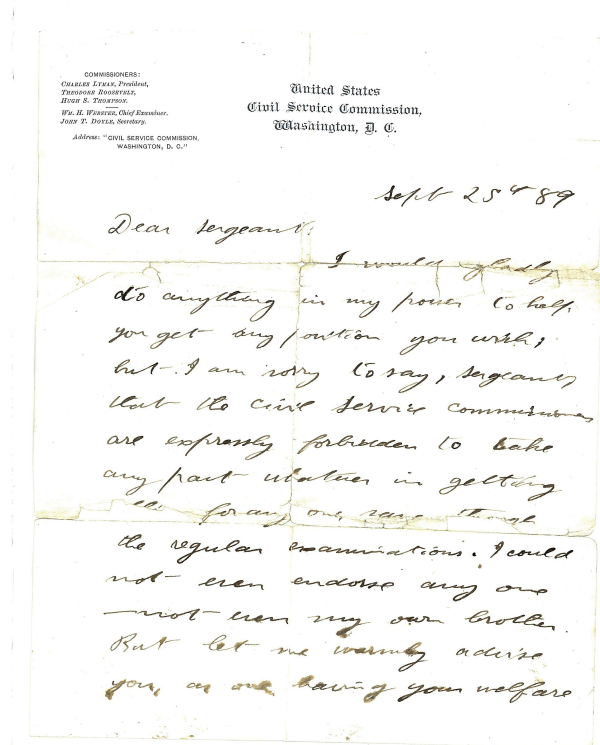
If you ever paid a visit to Sagamore Hill National Historic Site and strolled up the path toward the front entrance of the President's home you immediately noticed this gigantic tree. It stood proudly at the entrance of the home and in a way took on the personality of the President himself. With its sheer presence, you could almost hear the tree saying "Bully, I am glad you came for a visit!"

## A Fundraiser for the TRA!

The TRA had in its inventory a handwritten Theodore Roosevelt letter that had been separated completely at its envelope folds and thus in four separate pieces. Not an irrevocable loss! We have had it professionally restored by one of the best paper restorers in the country as it is an unpublished letter with terrific content. We have ensured Harvard has a high-resolution scan of the letter for posterity and scholarship purposes.

Now, we are offering the original letter to recipients of The Arena beginning with a minimum bid of \$ 1,000.00. Despite the professional restoration, the content is exceptional and thus the minimum bid is below market value.

The highest bid received by noon on Friday, 16 October will win this letter. Bids should go to:  
editors@theodoreroosevelt.org.





Questions can also be referred to this email address.

You may bid only once, so place your maximum bid. At noon, 16 October, the highest bid will win the letter and the sale price will be 10% above the underbid. For example: the winning maximum bid was 3,000.00. The underbidder was 2500.00. The winning bidder will pay \$2750.00.

The restoration report will be included in the sale. And, this report can be provided via email before the auction's close upon request.

Payment is due by personal check by 30 October to the Theodore Roosevelt Association. Buyer will pay shipping costs and insurance for the carrier of their choice.

The proceeds will go toward TRA programs. It is an ALS (Autograph Letter Signed) dated September 25, 1889 and signed in full on Civil Service Commission stationery on which is printed Theodore Roosevelt as one of the Commissioners.

It reads as follows:

*Dear Sergeant,*

*I would gladly do anything in my power to help you get any position you wish; but I am sorry to say, Sergeant that the Civil Service Commissioners are expressly forbidden to take any part whatever in getting the (illegible word due to paper loss) save through the regular examinations. I could not even endorse any one not even my own brother. But let me warmly advise you*



*as one having your welfare at heart, not (\* Note: TR underlined the word “not”) to try to get a government office; it is the last position in which I wish to see a young, energetic man who I think desires to succeed. It is hard to get, and hard to keep; and it spoils you for other work. This is my strong advice. Your Friend, Theodore Roosevelt*

Click on next to: [See entire document](#)

*High Quality images available on request.*



### **A few months after getting home, the Theodore Roosevelt is about to deploy again**

Less than three months ago, the stricken sailors of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt trundled off their ship in San Diego following a deployment that saw them waylaid in Guam after a COVID-19 outbreak killed one shipmate and infected roughly a quarter of the approximately 5,000 others onboard. Now, the TR is getting ready to deploy again in the coming months. Several sources from within the carrier's community tell Navy Times that the crew has been told to expect to deploy anywhere from November to January, with a restriction-of-movement period, or ROM, taking place as soon as next month to make sure everyone is COVID-19-free before they ship out. The Navy won't comment on the deployment's specifics, but officials noted TR is in a phase where it must be ready to deploy on "short notice" and that "deployment resiliency" resources

and other assistance are being provided to the carrier's crew and family members. Some community members said this week that while they had been previously told to expect back-to-back deployments ahead of TR's homeport move to Washington state for maintenance in 2021, the harrowing cruise earlier this year makes another deployment so soon make it much more difficult. The "double pump" of the TR — sending it out on two deployments in the same 36-month readiness cycle — follows news that the carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower will be doing the same thing soon from the East Coast early next year.

Geoff Ziezulewicz and David B. Larter  
Your Navy



## Roosevelt Scholars Announced

The Indiana Chapter of The Theodore Roosevelt Association announces Miss Taylor Edmond and Mr. Donya' Rimmer as our "2020 Theodore Roosevelt Scholarship Award" Recipients. The Awards are given in cooperation with The Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy, Gary, Indiana.

(photo above) Miss Taylor Edmond with Karen D. Fitzgerald-Tillman, Lead Guidance Counselor, Theodore

The Indiana Chapter of the Theodore Roosevelt Association is comprised of approximately fifty members from throughout Indiana. Our stated goal is to "to creatively extend the legacy of this great man." This is the initial Theodore Roosevelt Scholarship Awards given the Indiana Chapter of the Association.

(photo above) Each Recipient received  
1) A Check for \$250; 2) A Bust (3D

Roosevelt College and Career Academy.

printed); and 3) A Certificate.

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## TRA Arena

In addition to the *Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal*, communications with our membership has primarily been through our annual meeting, travel, regional police awards, speaking contests, our website and The Arena Newsletter which has been dormant until this year. Re-establishing "The Arena" to our membership has been a priority. With help from Alice George and Co-Editor Greg Wynn, *The Arena Newsletter* was reestablished and is distributed to our membership. There are now 29 past issues of the TRA journal on the site as a benefit to TRA members, to be reviewed/read under the "What We Do" tab, under Publications/Theodore Roosevelt Journal.

To enter the TRA website, [Click here](#)



## Theodore Roosevelt Island

I live in Washington, D.C., and much like most of the parents in the area—the whole country, really—my wife and I have looked for mostly outdoor activities to do with our kids since the beginning of the pandemic. Washington, D.C., and its surrounding suburbs, are home to tons of museums and monuments; there's always somewhere to go to look at some national something-or-other with some social distancing that's pretty much a 30-minute drive from us all.

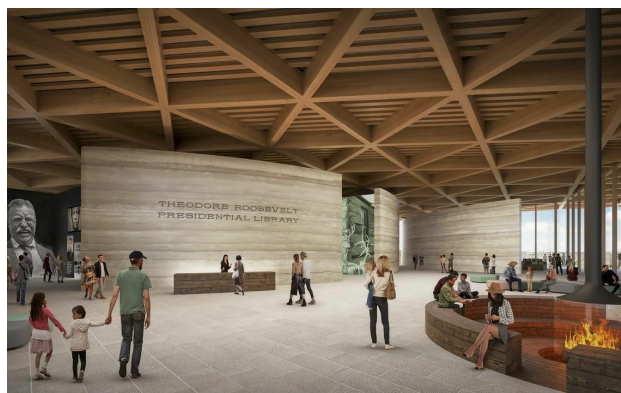
Which is exactly what I did a few weeks ago. On one of those days when my kids clearly needed to get outside, I put my kids in the car and we took a drive out into the city and realized that there



was a location I'd never been before having seeing social media posts: Theodore Roosevelt Island.

In the 1930s, landscape architects transformed Mason's Island from neglected, overgrown farmland into Theodore Roosevelt Island, a memorial to America's 26th president. They conceived a "real forest" designed to mimic the natural forest that once covered the island. Today miles of trails through wooded uplands and swampy bottomlands honor the legacy of a great outdoorsman and conservationist.

Pamela Jackson  
The Root



## Theodore Roosevelt Museum

The group behind the proposed Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library has selected Norwegian architecture firm Snøhetta to design the high-profile project in western North Dakota. Snøhetta, led by founding partner Craig Dykers, beat out two other world-renowned firms, Chicago-based Studio Gang and Copenhagen-based Henning Larsen, in a final design competition held last month near the proposed site of the library in tourist town Medora, N.D. Dykers told Forum News Service



he felt "exceptional joy" to be selected for the project and said he looked forward to honoring Roosevelt's legacy by "connecting history to the future." Melani Walton, who chairs the library board's design committee and is married to billionaire Walmart heir Rob Walton, said the firm's design "captures the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt and why he came to the Badlands." The firm has in the past garnered praise and public attention for creative projects, including Europe's first underwater restaurant and several notable opera houses and libraries. The award-winning company also integrates landscape architecture, interior design, graphics, branding and product design into its operations.

## Deluth News

The museum board also must move to acquire the 60 acres of U.S. Forest Service land eyed for the library's site -- just west of the Medora Musical's Burning Hills Amphitheater. That process could take up to a year and would include an environmental assessment with opportunities for public comment. And the board is still raising the \$100 million for construction. The 2019 Legislature authorized a \$50 million operations endowment for the library, but it's only available after private donations are raised to build the facility. CEO Ed O'Keefe (adjacent photo) declined to say how much money has been raised, beyond that the board expects the full sum to be in hand before the 2021 Legislature convenes in early January.



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**James Weldon Johnson Blog: From Ragtime Composer to NAACP Leader**



Last month, Rod Sullivan shared interesting background related to items in the digital library. We invited him to write about it in more detail, and [this blog](#) is the result.

About the writer: According to family legend, Rod Sullivan is the great-grandson of Theodore Roosevelt's plumber, one of the men who installed the original showers and toilets at Sagamore Hill. Sullivan is a lawyer living in Jacksonville, Florida. He is working on a biographical novel on TR's life. Its working title is Teddy's Troubles. Rob has been nominated for the 2023 class of TRA Trustees.

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## TRA Social Media

Don't forget, the TRA is on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)! Social media is a great way to stay involved with conversations about TR and keep up to date on the latest TR- and TRA-related happenings. We are regularly talking about interesting topics, both current and historical. So FOLLOW us on Twitter and LIKE us on Facebook!

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## Theodore Roosevelt Association

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