Conococheague Pioneer Times

The Newsletter of the Conococheague Institute for the Study of Cultural Heritage

1st Quarter 2022





Volume 28 Issue 1

Good Day to you...From the Executive Director

We hope these are the last snow photos we'll have to feature for awhile, it has been a long winter!

But consistent with CI's year round focus on accessibility the grounds and trails have remained open daily with buildings and programs EVERY Saturday.





Over the winter we have seen a lot of Whitetail skiers visiting, more and more regular walkers, and some very hardy pioneer families who continue to visit the cabins despite squalls, ice storms and more!

The love of history is alive in the Conococheague region.

Aside from regular operations, CI has also been working on several projects. As you read on you'll hear about exciting grant awards from **Americana Corner** and **Robert Kurtz Jr** that allows new opportunities. Work has been steadily continuing on last years **TQLEG funding from Franklin County** to add a historic cedar roof to the Piper cabin. We'll continue to hammer away at it whenever the weather and a break in education bookings allows.



Our Board and Committees have been working behind the scenes to plan larger events for 2022. On page 8 of this newsletter you can read about how to become an **event sponsor** to support these events.

Whether you are a business owner or individual we hope you'll **consider become a sponsor**.

You can help too by spreading the word, or recommending a local business become a sponsor. This week we'll be meeting with **F+M Bank** to do exactly that!

To help create a larger awareness of Cl's mission and needs, we held a **CVBA Business Mixer** on March 10th. Situated as it was between St David's Day and St Patrick's Day we made it a Gaelic theme, with homemade Leek soup, a historic charcuterie and refreshments. Over 80 Business leaders attended, and were enamored with our 'Rustic Chic'. The majority had not visited Cl before and were amazed with what is happening. Hopefully some of these businesses will soon be listed in the next newsletter as business sponsors!



We're thankful to everyone who attended and helped prepare. **Gearhouse Brewery from Chambersburg** kindly donated an incredible Ale for the guests, and for our Fall fundraiser they have agreed to make an original George Washington recipe ale. We're very excited to share that history!



Finally, we must announce that Jacob Davis our Historic Warden has resigned to seek opportunities to further his education in teaching. We were incredibly fortunate to have Jacobs abilities and experience over the last year and we wish him the best in his next steps towards higher education. You'll likely still see Jacob around at CI, as he has already expressed an interest in volunteering for events like the May 7th Camp-o-Ree, and he'll certainly be checking up on his apple trees he worked so hard to prune this winter.

We are currently looking at new staffing and intern opportunities to keep CI running full speed ahead.

Winter Donations

We'd like to thank the following people for their recent (December 8th to March 20th) donations and memberships. Whether \$10 or \$10,000 you are the reason that a student can learn how a rope bed feels in the Negley Cabin, or have the opportunity to plant a tree for the future.



Barbara Twigg, Denise Ordway, Kathleen Wolfinger, Donald Fishel, Eric Bryan, Christine Long, Michelle Hamel, Marcia Swain, Laura Carbaugh, David Walker, William Mooney, Jim Stanton, Rachel Smith, Caitlyn McClanathan, Tim Ware, Andrew Perkins, Michael Hanke, Randy Treichler, Lloyd and Darlene Vanderau, Erin Short, Robert Newmyer, Betty Lee, Linda Gilmore, Jane Hershey, Joanne Thomas, Jim and Karen Wetzler, Michael Brand, Paul Veen, Franklin Klink, Oliver Goetz, Jeff Semmler, Stephen Runkle, Jean Zimmerman, Jacqueline Martin, Kitty Clark, Dan Guzy, Mark Devecchis, Sara Stauffer, Harriet Hurd-Gilbert, Ted Mills, Ruth Hamil, Sean Considine, Dennis Kubicki, James Todd, Wayne Baumbaugh, Alva Lynch, Christoper Husson, Linda Ries, David Petre, James Strutz, Evan Moats, Elaine Stonebraker, Lisa Coombs, Pam Anderson, Roy Nesbitt, Alan Fries, Sunnyhill Properties Inc, Jacob Shaffer, Thomas Wolf, Kirby Reese, Joan Bowen, Michelle Wade, Marvin Rubin, Richard Negley, Suzanne Wochos, Daniel Geyer, Barbara Cook, Sandra Bloom, Elizabeth Jones, Allen and Angie Piper, Richard Ebersole, Rick Reid, Kateri Fikar, Ed and Vicky Whetstone, Pat Novack, Douglas Bowers, Kent Schod, Melodie Anderson Smith, Robert Mellott Jr, Nat Basset, Tracy Moseby, Karen and Bob Yudnich, Robery Stransky,, Shirley Shatzer, Allan Dieterich-Ward, Gregory Highlands, VinTin Welding and Fabricating LLC, Paul Mellott, Thomas Durkin, McCleary Foundation, Jim Stanton, Robert Shinham, Betty Jane Lee, The Catherine Stickell Estate, James Swartz, Pam Knepper, Susan Bottini (in memory of Elizabeth Craig Bitner), Tom R Nesbitt, Lincoln Poehlein, Robert Kurtz Jr, the William K Nitterhouse Family Fund, Dr John C Stauffer, Susan McMurtray, Tom Hand, Lawrence Borland and Susan Swope

An awe inspiring show of support! These contributors all gave in the last 3 months!

The William K Nitterhouse grant donation was used immediately to purchase interpretive books and faux food (top left). These items from "From Common Hands" accurately recreate 18th century books and food, and are perfect for hands on learning in our school programs. We received books on cooking, gardening, songs, riddles and the rules of Cricket!

Last year we announced that the Rotary Club of Chambersburg Foundation awarded us a grant to fund 3 new interpretive panels. They are designed, installed and we graciously spoke to the club about the project and made new connections along the way! Talk to your local organization about funding a project at CI!

2021 Annual Contributions: Your Generosity was Outstanding!

As a Non-Profit, CI has always relied on the support of its members and community to continue its mission Thanks to your support, 2021 was it's most successful year of donations and memberships.

In a normal fiscal year, Nonprofits bring in revenue via event sponsorships and flashy fundraisers. With our pandemic focus on **providing safe, free, open air programming events** we relied instead on your generosity through the \$50,000 Matching Campaign and a Winter End of Year Giving. **From Jan-Dec 2021 you gave \$122,488.80 in donations and our annual membership totaled \$18,235.00**. It's going to be hard to beat that in 2022 but we have no doubt you'll continue to give to the Future of the Frontier. Our **Founder Doctor John Stauffer has already pledged for 2022.** <u>Have you?</u>





Americana Corner Awards \$7000 to support 18th Century Education at CI

Another exciting announcement, as CI received word that it will be an inaugural recipient of the Americana Corner Grant Program, to support our educational programming capabilities! This 2022 Grant Program was originally set to support \$250,000 to organisations that help preserve American History from 1607 to 1876, but due to overwhelming interest and the historic significance of the projects that sought funding, \$446,000 in grant funding will go to 67 organizations across 24 states. It is wonderful to see CI listed among other such great organizations such as Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (for the Powder Magazine Restoration Project), Fort Ligonier Association (for developing and producing an audio tour component that will tell the story of the people and events at Fort Ligonier in 1758), Historic Camden (for the purchase of touch table computer hardware and software licenses for the game display) and many many more.

Tom Hand, founder of **Americana Corner**, said, "I am thrilled to be able to help others across America tell our country's wonderful story." Thank you so much Tom for such generous support of Americans History!

Check out the full list of recipients here https://www.americanacorner.com/grant-recipients-2022 and follow #americanacornergrants on Facebook and Instagram to follow their progress!

Generous donation from Robert and Marilyn Kurtz enables exciting new program at CI

We're incredibly excited to announce something we've been keeping very close to our chests.

At the end of May, the **Mercersburg Academy** will be running a 9 day intensive week, where 6 students pair with a faculty member for a focused session on diverse subjects as long as it fits the theme of "**Immerse**, **Imagine**, **Inspire**".

Emily Parsons, who led the **Community Engagement** students last year at CI, approached us over Christmas about whether we would like to be involved.

Working together, we came up with a program called "Can You Live 18th Century?" For 9 days, the students will be fully immersed in 18th Century Life with different themes (Can you Dress, Can you Cook, Can you Think, Can you Frolic) each day. The day will combine Academy led study of primary resources on the daily theme, and several hours at CI taking a hand in it. Actually cooking their meals, working, discourse all without modern intrusions.

Of course to IMMERSE, the students needed to be fully clothed in authentic 18th century outfits. Again, we are incredibly excited to say that this is now happening due to a very generous donation from **Robert Kurtz Jr (MA Class of '52)**.

Over the coming months we will be purchasing and making the clothes for these students, working with MA to prepare, and are looking forward to a very invigorating program.

As another benefit, after the program concludes, CI will have 6 fully functional 'student sized' outfits for future volunteers, interns, and hopefully a repeat of this program!

You too can support programs like this. **Contact us** about how to sponsor specific programs and projects.



hat was life like for the inhabitants of the American Colonies? How did they dress, eat, think, play, and work? In a time of "Revolution and Freedom" how did that compare for different classes, races and genders?

Could you Live in the 18th Century? This intensive, in conjunction with the Conococheague Institute will explore those subjects, giving you an immersive experience to step back in time and find out if you have what it takes to survive 'Colonial Life'.

Using a combination of primary resource study in the classroom and hands-on experiences at a Colonial farm, the participants will experience a unique journey like no other.

Spend a week in the 18th Century with activities including:

Can you Dress 18th Century?

Step into someone else's shoes (and shift, and breeches and bonnet), and understand how clothing can be both a source of expression and restriction.

Can you Cook 18th Century?

Learn historic cooking techniques and enjoy the reward of eating something you have made by hand over a fire.

Can you Think 18th Century?

Take on the 18th Century mindset and jury some trials from the time. How do they compare to what is morally right?

Can you Speak 18th Century?

Study literature, poetry and dialects and try and talk in a accent from the time!

Can you Work 18th Century?

Develop trade skills and perform the hard work needed on rural farmstead

Can you Frolic 18th Century?

Cards and Whist, Sports, Song and Dance around a Bonfire. Party like it's 1776!

Can you Feel 18th Century?

Summarize your experience with a essay, video or blog. How does 18th Century Life make you feel? Would you really want to be transported back in time?



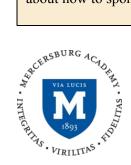
Interested? Make sure to select 'Can you Live 18th Century' as your number 1 spot for the Mercersburg Intensive!



Work has already begun on making the students outfits for this funded program. With each student getting a custom sized authentic outfit they will truly feel like they are stepping into the shoes of our colonial ancestors!

CI will be present at the Fort Frederick State Park Market
Fair on Thursday April 21st to pick up in person the vast
amounts of supplies needed. Shirts, Stays, Shoes, Cups, Jackets,
Hats, Salt Pork and Peas and much much more.

Thank you Robert Kurtz Ir for making this a possibility for these talented young Academy
Students!



The Conococheague Institute and the Mercersburg Academy

In addition to the above exciting funded program, CI will again be very happy to welcome the Mercersburg Academy Community Engagement students this Spring. Last year the focus was restoration of history with the cemetery and our buildings. This Spring will be preservation of our environment with tree plantings, and sustainable gardening techniques!

CI in the News

Our Pioneer Times reaches you Quarterly, but we continue to find new ways to tell our story.

Our Facebook, Youtube and Instagram have all been growing a steady following, and the videos being produced have helped us reach new audiences. The last few months have included cooking videos, sewing and clothing and Welsh Heritage.

Our Intern **Deanna** is showing quite a skill with videography and is planning future feature videos on our artifacts. Recently, following a Museum conference **Rusty Baker** of **PA Museums** invited us to be on a TV interview to discuss museums in the region with the **The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs**.

Inside Pennsylvania Boroughs is a public affairs television program that focuses on issues in our borough communities. PSAB created the show to stay connected with their membership throughout the state and to educate the public on issues impacting local government.

Chris Cap was a wonderful host and the studio did a great job editing. You can see it aired on PCN or watch it online at the PSAB website.

The local magazine **At Home Places** continues to feature CI articles helping us reach families all over the tristate. The last 2 editions were about 2022 Membership and our education bookings. Pick one up localling for free at most stores

The **Cumberland Valley Business Alliance** has invited CI next week as a nominee for **Non-Profit of the Year.** Keep your fingers crossed for your CI! The awards are March 29th.

Finally as a CI member, we are sure you are aware of the **Accessible Archives** perk you receive. Online access to 10,000's of primary source documents. In their recent newsletter their headline piece was from CI as we discussed how important good research is for our members, whether that is for genealogy, or material culture for living history.





Watch the full episode at the PSAB website https://boroughs.org/videos.php







Winter Activities: A Snapshot

December 18th Colonial Christmas at the Conococheague:

We had expected the last event of 2021 to be quieter...yet it turned out to be one of our busiest of the year! 400 visitors assembled to learn about Colonial Christmas traditions, bake Gingerbread in the the oven, make a garland from natural materials, sing, play and buy stocking stuffers. It was a great chance for our volunteers to celebrate an incredible end to the year at CI as well. Keep this years Christmas event on your calendar: **Saturday December 17th 2022!**



Education, Education, Education:

Despite the snow the last few months have been packed full of educational bookings. Some groups specifically requested a 'Winter Survival' program and showing techniques to preserve food in root cellars, how to start a fire, build shelters and hunt all proved popular. Girl Scouts have booked the Women's Roles program, 78 students from Gettysburg Montessori learned about Colonial life, and our medical program has also been in high demand, with it being performed for 400 students of Greencastle Antrim Middle School. We also showed 300 students at a career fair what a job in museum looks like!



Invasive Removal and Tree Care:

As partners of the **Chesapeake Bay Foundations K10M Trees** project, our Spring and Fall plantings are great opportunities to educate about the importance of trees for the streams and beyond. But it is winter where all the prep work happens. CI staff, volunteers and local Scout troops have been hard at work removing invasive species to prepare space for native plantings. On a historical AND natural front, this winter saw the Apple trees at CI getting some much needed tender loving care. Pruned and mulched we are hoping for a bumper harvest this year. George Washington enjoyed pruning his apple trees in the winter, and Jacob has been following in his footsteps, allowing enough space 'to throw a cat through' between the branches allows the tree to dedicate its energy into making a much better fruit!



Deanna Grove: An Interview with an Intern

From Shippensburg University we currently have with us Deanna Grove in the role of "Museum Operations Intern". Deanna has already proven an incredible asset, taking all tasks assigned with professionalism and ease. Over the course of three months she has been focusing on three main themes. Museum Management (Quickbooks, Accounts, Grants), Public History (Living History in the Cabin, Material Culture), and Exhibits and Curatorship (designing new exhibits for our artifacts).

We sat down with her for a Question and Answer about her Experience.

What is it that made you want pursue a career in history?

"It came from watching westerns with my grandfather. The time period interested me and that early spark inspired me to learn more in a professional setting. As an adult visiting museums and sites and seeing the way they bring history to life is especially inspiring. I recently visited Tombstone, AZ and would love to work at a historic site there. It's another "Frontier" Living History just like CI does...but warmer!

You are two thirds through your internship so far and you're doing an incredible job. What's your general impression of your experience of your time with CI?

"It is a little bit of everything which I appreciate because it gives me more experience and knowledge of every role that is needed to make a successful historic site function. Managerial duties like quickbooks and accounting will really benefit my resume, and doing the public living history side of things was so much fun to dive into. I love cooking, and so cooking over a hearth in the Negley cabin while dressed in a 18th Century gown was an adventure!"

<u>So a love of Cooking. Historical Museums and College aside, tell us a little bit about yourself and your own personal interests.</u>

"I love to read, and if I wasn't in history I could see myself as an author. Perhaps a Thriller that takes place on a small homestead on the western PA frontier. I could combine my internship experience with my passion for writing!

I have a Husky named Hawkeye, and we go on nature walks all the time. This area of PA is so beautiful for walking.

Finally, any advice for Middle Schoolers looking to pursue a career in history?

"Personally I didn't enjoy history at that age: It was the same stuff being repeated in a dry way and didn't relate well to a young student. So I would tell them that there is more history out there than is taught in a textbook, and discovering through your own passions is a great way to go. Everyone has something they can relate too: My love of cooking, makes me interested in historic recipes. Perhaps that middle schooler likes sports: What games did their ancestors play. The possibilities are endless!"





Donate to the Lucas Lapole Memorial Fund to Support Interns like Deanna

CI's unpaid interns are awarded bonus stipends on completion of their journey from our Intern Fund. Created in memory of former CI Intern Lucas Lapole, all donations made are tax deductible and ONLY benefit the students. Donate today by including the note "Intern" on any donation to CI. Checks can include it in the memo, scan the QR code for PayPal to the left and add "intern" in the note section, or stop by and meet Deanna every Saturday and make a pledge, in Memory of Lucas, and to support the future of interns like Deanna.

Save the Date: CI Events

Saturday 28th May: History and Nature Celebration Saturday 2nd July: Militia Muster of Old Welsh Run Saturday 17th September: Harvest Faire and Fall Frolic

Fundraiser

Saturday 5th November: Bonfire Night

Saturday 17th December: Colonial Christmas at CI

Save the Date: Outreach events

Saturdays May 7th, 21st, & November 5th, 19th: "SOAR" Bird Walks ("Studying Ornithology Around the Region") at Cl. Meet at 8am at the Visitor Center. Free to all! Wednesday April 13th 1pm: 18th Century Medicine and Surgery. Cl presents our most popular program at the Alexander Hamilton Free Library. Free to all!



Recent Achievements at the Conococheague Institute





Surge of growth for Educational Bookings that make history fun



Free Programming Every Weekend Year Round





Monthly Events in 2021, each averaging 350 visitors from across the Tri-State



Large & Expanded Events Planned for 2022





Record Fundraising Year in 2021! \$110,000 in Community Donations with two successful campaigns, and \$18,000 in Annual Memberships. A \$10k increase from 2020 Memberships!

Collaborations with local Schools and Groups to get students working in History, such as the Mercersburg Academy restoring our Cemetery



Multiple Funded Grant Projects including Trail Improvements and Historic Preservation from Franklin County TQLEG, Interpretive Signage from the Chambersburg Rotary Club Foundation and more

More than 50 robust and energetic Volunteers giving 1000's of hours per year to preserve and educate on our Cultural and Natural Resources







300 trees planted on site as partners of the CBF to improve environmental awareness and stewardship



CVBA 2021 Non Profit Young Professional of the Year Award Winner







2022 Event Sponsorship



BECOME A CLISPONSOR TODAY!

Sponsorships make our community events possible and have a huge impact on our thousands of visitors who experience weekly free educational programs, attend large events on Independence Day Weekend, Bonfire Night, Christmas, and our Fall Fundraiser on September 17th.

Our patrons are a mixture of highly educated, affluent members passionate about preserving our resources for the next generation, and families with young children interested in hands on experiences that will shape their lives and education.

Sponsorship of CI aligns your business with engaging and innovative programs that encourage a love and appreciation of our area's rich cultural and natural resources.

Who Are Cl Visitors?

- 200+ annual paying members from 15 states
- 70% women, 30% men
- Dominant age 35-40
- 8000 free visitors a year
- 1000 paid participants
- 88% of attendees benefit due to Sponsor/Donor support







Who Do We Reach?

- · 200 Members receive our Quarterly Newsletter
- 600 people receive our monthly e-blasts
- Daily social media Posts to nearly 3000 FB followers
- Schools, scouts, churches, senior centers from PA, MD, VA, and WV attending in person programs



Social Media Metrics

- Over 7 million viral impressions on FB (2021)
- 2.7K FB page likes
- 279,000 impressions on YouTube
- 468 hours of view time on Youtube





We offer varying levels of sponsorships with associated benefits and are happy to work with you to create unique packages that meet your needs.

Settler Sponsor \$250 (unlimited)

- Company Name Listed on Event Ads and Listings
- Company Logo in Quarterly Newsletter
- Company Name and Logo on CIMLG.org with link to your business URL
- 2 Tickets to Fall Frolic Fundraiser

Settler Perks PLUS

- Company Logo on one Event Handout
- Company Name Shoutout Included in 1 Video Promo
- An additional 2 Tickets to Fall Frolic Fundraiser (4 tix total)

Patriot Sponsor \$500 (15 available) Pioneer Sponsor - \$1000 (5 available) Patriot Perks PLUS

- · Company Quote about CI in Event Press Release
- Company name on Fall Frolic Fundraiser Banner
- An additional 2 tickets to Fall Frolic Fundraiser (6 tix total)
- Opportunity for representative to carry a torch on Bonfire Night

Founder Sponsor - \$2500 (3 available) Pioneer Perks PLUS

- · Company Logo on Fall Fundraiser Banner and Advertising
- Opportunity for representative to award the Fall Frolic Fundraiser Award
- An additional 2 tickets to Fall Frolic Fundraiser (8 tix total)
- Private Historic Meal for 4 in the CI Cabin with a Video Sponsor Spotlight

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Business Name:	Sponsor Level			
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Library and Genealogy Assets

The library has been popular amongst our youngest members. Colonial Cooking and textiles have also been in high circulation. As a Member benefit you may borrow books from our immense 9000 book library. If you have never been inside our library you'll soon realise that there is something for everyone!

Contact us at 717-328-2800 or info@cimlg.org to make a library or genealogy appointment.

Follow our Social Media for updates on Volunteer days when the Library is open and book sales.



Board Officer Elections

In January the Board of Directors of the Conococheague Institute voted and swore in its 2022 slate of officers.

Elizabeth (Betsey) Lillard was returned as President, and indeed has served as a beacon of leadership in the last year. Bob Schwartz and Josh Faust was also returned as Secretary and Treasurer (respectively).

Newly elected to **Vice President** from the Board of Directors was **Ellen Kinzer**. Ellen has been instrumental in the last year in leading our Development Committee, and brings an incredible amount of positivity and energy to the table.

Thank you to all the Board of Directors for their selfless service to CI, and our members who sit on various committees and advisory boards.



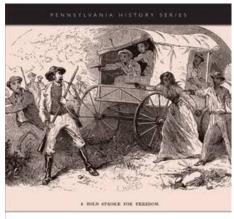


Are you interested in helping CI continue to grow?

We are currently looking for naturalists, biologists, entomologists, ornithologists and green fingered folks to join our Nature Committee. Contact us for more information.

The Conococheague Book Club

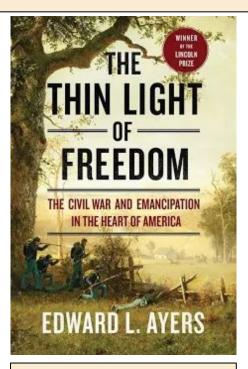
3rd Thursday of every Month at 1pm at the Welsh Barrens Visitor Center
The Winter Book Club meetings in the comfort of the Welsh Barrens Visitor Center have been riveting discussions on Braddock's Defeat, Native Narratives, and the impact of the Scots Irish on the region. Below are the books for the next 3 months. Come join us, it is free and open to all.



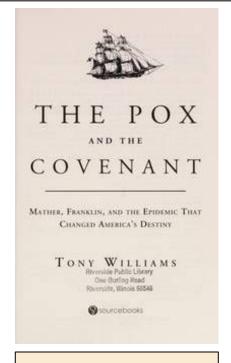
SLAVERY AND ABOLITION
IN PENNSYLVANIA

BEVERLY C. TOMEK

April 21st: Moderated by L.Steichen



May 19th: Moderated by L.Steichen



June 16th: Moderated by L.Steichen

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Lillard (*President*), Ellen Kinzer (*Vice-President*), Josh Faust (*Treasurer*), Bob Schwartz (*Secretary*), Will Sheppard, Leighton Wolffe, Sam Cathey, Kitty Clark, Sean Considine, Melanie Desmond

Advisory Board

Dr. John C. Stauffer (Founder and President Emeritus), Avery Cook, Tom Finucane, Dr. Doris Armstrong-Goldman, Gay Buchanan, Martha E. Stauffer, MD, Roger Swartz, David Stauffer, Chuck Holland, Carol Zehosky

Staff

Matthew Wedd, Executive Director, mwedd@cimlg.org Deanna Grove, Museum Operations Intern (Spring)

Contact us

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Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/conococheaqueinstitute/

Youtube: @coloniallivingattheconcocheaqueinstitute



Your Membership support allows us to continue in our mission! Renew today for your 2022 Membership Card. CI Membership now runs on a 'Valid through 12 month cycle', so whenever you renew you will receive a full year of benefits! PICK UP A QUILL and renew today. Already a Member? Consider enclosing an additional 2022 donation to support the Conococheague Institute.

Annual Membership Form 2022

Name:______Address:______
Phone No:_____ Email:______
Newsletter Format Preference, Email or Printed:______

Student: \$10
Individual: \$25
Family: \$35

Membership Level:
Additional Donation:

Patron: \$125

Make Checks Payable to The Conococheague Institute, 12995 Bain Road,
Mercersburg, PA, 17236

Sustaining: \$300

Thank you!

Life: \$1000