Seeking new CMC members

The membership committee aims to add an additional 75 members to the 1,109 who have already committed to CMC’s mission.

“More explicitly showing this great city of ours the importance of connecting both people and ideas through community conversation, we hope to blow out the goal,” said Kelly Atkinson, chair of the CMC membership committee.

“With knowledge that membership in various organizations doesn’t always mean someone is looking for other members to promote stability while tackling complex issues with those who want to make a difference. She encourages everyone to go to www.columbusmonuments.org and learn how to join the conversation.”

Association News

“Public Monuments: History, politics and political correctness”

Our public monuments: History, politics and political correctness

Does the symbolism of public monuments match the needs of modern times? What of history should be lost, or remembered, with these statues in the arena of political correctness and who should decide? Should there be a process for evaluating each monument, a framework, a voice? Or should our maintenance or removal be based on — what?

The next CMC Forum on Oct. 11 will focus on the role of public monuments today, how they reflect and represent our national history, and how they have constituted. The WENS-TV journalist Jerry Iqbal, a native of Columbus, has led a discussion with Kenton Conlon, sculptor and former vice president of academic affairs, Columbus College of Art and Design, and Dion Dodds-Shaw, education outreach coordinator, Columbus Landmarks Foundation.

In the last five months, pro-monument forces haveogs to large cities to remove Civil War monuments commemorating Confederate leaders because of their involvement in slavery and treason against the United States. Violence in Charlotte, N.C., over the removal statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

As government officials examine their local monu-
ments, several questions must be asked: What will they display and what is the value of educational interpretation? Columbus has controversy-
ous statues, too. Among the 30 Confederate statues in the premier Christopher Columbus stands facing Broad Street on the ground of City Hall, where are on the campus of Columbus State Commen-
cial College and on the south side of the Ohio Statehouse. Demonstrators gathered around the statue in August “Chasing Columbus, it’s time to go.” Camp Chase, on Sullivant Avenue, had a monument to Conti-
solidates, because it is a Confederate cemetery. It was used as a prison-of-war camp in the early days of the Civil War. Many prisoners died of disease or starvation. The statue stood on top of an archway after it was vandal-
ized, also in August. The figure was decapitated and the head has not been returned to the cemetery.

Speaking of Columbus statues, Megaron on Long Island in New York has offered to take any statues of Chris-
topher Columbus that are no longer welcome in other cities. The town has a large Italian-
immigrant presence so they would have a longer welcome in other cities.

American population and town leaders want to preserve the history of Mr. Columbus, the explorer, emphasizing that no governmental money would be used to transport the statue. At this point, no federal trucks were rolling to take Chris Columbus home.

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