



The Board of Directors of
Friends of Wilderness Battlefield

Host the 2016

Annual Membership Meeting
And
Luncheon

November 12, 2016 at 11 A.M.

at the

Historic Wilderness Baptist Church
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.
2016 Annual Report

Officers and Board of Directors

Mark Leach, President

Bob Lookabill, Vice President

Jeff Slunt, Treasurer

Robin Nimmo, Secretary

Directors

Milbrey Bartholow

Nate Bond

Gil Churchill

Pete Kolakowski

Gary Mauss

Mike Pierce

Dick Rankin

Beth Stenstrom

Mark Wakeman

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. Annual Membership Business Meeting

Agenda

Call to Order

Mark Leach, President

Declaration of Quorum

Robin Nimmo, Secretary

Welcoming Remarks

Mark Leach, President

Committee Reports

Election of Members to the Board of Directors

Pete Kolakowski, Chair, Nominating Committee

Remarks

Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, Superintendent,
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

Announcements

Adjourn

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11:45 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Lunch
- Book Signing – Carolyn Elstner: “Dear Old Ellwood”
- Guest Speaker – Chris Kolakowski: “Perspectives on 1864 Virginia Campaigns”
- Door Prizes

2016 Highlights

General Projects:

- The ADA compliant rest room in the brooder barn was opened to the public for the 2016 Ellwood season. The ADA compliant porta potty will remain onsite.
- Two picnic tables were purchased and installed on the Ellwood grounds. The 6 foot and 8 foot (ADA compliant) tables are constructed of recycled plastic and are virtually maintenance free.
- Preservation efforts for historic Ellwood Manor continue this fall with a project to replace deteriorated weatherboard siding and painting the exterior of the building. FoWB is funding the labor and NPS is providing the materials.
- The Wilderness Crossing Trail is being improved by an FoWB funded project to replace the deteriorated drainage culvert located at the bottom of the north carriage road hill.
- The 20th century garage building at Ellwood is being demolished and the area restored to lawn.
- The access drive to the primitive camp site located on the VDHR Wilderness Tract is being graded and graveled. This improvement will facilitate the access of vehicles used during camping events.

Volunteers:

- Volunteers contributed more than 5000 hours this year providing tours of Ellwood Manor, maintaining the Ellwood grounds and various battlefield projects.

Battlefield Resources:

- Hosted the Annual Spring Park Day: There were 165 total volunteers that collectively worked over 495 hours
- Maintained the grounds of Ellwood Manor and the Wilderness Crossing Trail with the dedicated efforts of the Ellwood Ground Force.
- Four Eagle Scout Eagle projects sponsored in 2016.

Ellwood:

- 44 trained Historic House Guides provided exceptional tours of Ellwood Manor and the surrounding grounds.
- 4842 visitors at Ellwood and \$4455 raised in donations.
- 10 Special Events.
- 7 Special Tours.

Membership and Heritage Program:

- 215 FoWB members.
- Wilderness Brigade memberships increased by 1 to a total of 43.
- Ellwood Legacy memberships remained the same at 9.

Outreach and Community Involvement:

- The Communications Committee continued FoWB's participation in various community events. Tables/booths were manned by a very energetic team of volunteers at six events including the CWT convention in Gettysburg.
- FoWB continued to work with other organizations to preserve and promote the Wilderness Battlefield area and to promote tourism in Orange and Spotsylvania Counties.

Treasurer's 2016 Annual Report

Data as of September 30, 2016

Ellwood Restoration Checking Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2015	\$108.59
Balance per Books 9/30/2016	\$108.59
Change	\$0.00

FoWB Operating Checking Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2015	\$60,378.07
Balance per Books 9/30/2016	\$65,944.91
Change	\$5,566.84

Ellwood Cultural Landscape Project Money Market Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2015	\$10,346.70
Balance per Books 9/30/2016	\$10,347.73
Change	\$1.03

FoWB Money Market Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2015	\$10,901.05
Balance per Books 9/30/2016	\$10,902.05
Change	\$1.49

Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2015	\$86,743.41
Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2016	\$87,303.77

The Friends of Wilderness Battlefield keeps their books on a cash basis.

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) organization
Tax ID 42-1689437**

Ellwood Committee 2016 Annual Report

Submitted by Bob Lookabill, Chair

*Members: John Bell, Kevin Hunt, Greg Mertz (NPS), Kim Harmon, Bob Epp,
George Smith, Gil Churchill*

Visitation for the 2016 season totaled 4842. Donations totaled \$4455.00

Visitation and donations were up over last year. We had almost 300 more visitors and donations were up approximately \$150.00. Ellwood's visitation season began Easter week on March 28th with daily openings until April 3rd. Weekends and holiday openings commenced on April 9th until May 30th. Daily operation began again on June 6th until August 20th. Weekends and holiday opening resumed on August 20th and ran until Oct. 23rd when Ellwood closed for the season.

Training and recruitment

Training for new and veteran Interpreters took place on February 27th and March 10th and 19th. NPS Supervisory Historian Greg Mertz led new interpreter training, adding several as needed sessions throughout the spring. Veteran training was provided by FoWB personnel with Greg's assistance. NPS Chief Historian John Hennessey and NPS Security Ranger Matt Roland were guest speakers. President Mark Leach spoke to all interpreters. FoWB veteran interpreters gave numerous presentations. We added 12 new interpreters this year to bring the total to 44.

The Ellwood event calendar for 2016:

May 7 - Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Wilderness

May 8 - Mother's Day celebration

June 18 - Civil War Medical event with house and grounds presentation by Dale Brown

Aug. 13 - Commemoration of Lafayette encampment at Ellwood Manor

August 20 - Volunteer Picnic

Sept. 24 - NPS STEAM event

Sept. 25 - Taming of the Wilderness with Brad Gottfried book signing of "The Maps of the Wilderness"

Oct. 8 - Living History event - Civil War soldiers discuss uniforms, weapons, camp-life, etc.

6 Nov. - "Dear Old Ellwood" book signing by Carolyn Elstner

Dec. 17 - Victorian Christmas at Ellwood

Special Tours:

Central Virginia Battlefield Trust group

Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

Quantico military staff ride

Grand Army of the Cussewago

Fort Belvoir military staff ride

Lake of the Woods Lion's Club outdoor business meal and tour

Descendants of J. Horace and Betty Lacy

Highlights in 2016:

Medical themed event

Tours provided for interpreters to the Monroe Gold Mine Park (Fauquier County), Spotsylvania Museum and warehouse, plus the Alexander Chapel Cemetery near Ellwood

Presentations given by FoWB volunteers at special events

Attendance by various interpreters at Certified Tourism Ambassador events

Union and Confederate Civil War re-enactors compare and contrast their lives event

Participation in Gettysburg Civil War Trust meeting

Picnic for interpreters

Victorian Christmas

Discussion with J. Horace and Betty Lacy descendants for genealogical research

Civil War soldier's letter reading event hosted by costumed re-enactors on Mother's Day

Trained walking tour Interpreters led 10 walks on the Wilderness Walking Trail and Ellwood grounds accommodating 166 participants

Battlefield Resources Committee 2016 Annual Report

Submitted by Mark Wakeman, Chair

2016 Volunteer Members:

Det Wilkens Ellwood Site Capt, Gary Mauss and Lee Woolf-Asst Site Capts,

Ann Bayer, Ron Bishop, Gil Churchill, Kenneth Frohnert, Joe La Fleur, Tom Hamilton, Mark Leach, Karen & Don O'Brien, Nicholas Palmer, Mike Pierce, John Rourke, Glynn Smith, , Bill & Glenna Witter

FoWB has continued to provide outstanding support to the FSNMP in 2016. The BRC continued to support the National Park Service through its weekly Ellwood maintenance support and other service projects. Additionally, FoWB has continued for a second year to partner with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources (VDHR) in stewardship of the Wilderness Tract, previously owned by Wal-Mart and now transferred to Virginia. Joe La Fleur on a weekly basis provides his time and leadership in this stewardship effort.

Additional Projects

For 2016, this category covers two areas: Eagle project support and battlefield maintenance projects. The BRC was happy to close the book on the two-year Brooder Barn restoration project. The barn has become the spacious headquarters of the Wilderness Ground Force and all the maintenance equipment needed to do the chores and also serves as a place for the Board of Directors to conduct bi-monthly meetings when other venues are unavailable. This was not even a possibility before the renovation.

The BRC conducted the annual spring Park Day clean-up event on 2 April 2016 and also supported to conclusion four Eagle projects on the Wilderness BF or on battlefields within the FSNMP boundaries. With the completion of the barn, the BRC currently is working on four construction/renovation projects worth over \$26,000. They are titled: the Scout Campsite Entrance Project, the Old Maintenance Garage Demolition Project, the Spring Creek Culvert Project, and the Ellwood Paint and Siding Replacement Project. All projects have been approved by the NPS and FoWB BoD and contracts have been awarded for planned completion dates before January 2017.

Ellwood Ground Force (EGF)

The EGF continued to provide the outstanding weekly upkeep to the Ellwood grounds. Mowing and grounds upkeep started in April and will be slowing now that the cold weather has started. Other tasks completed by the EGF included limb pruning around Ellwood and along Brigadier Lane /Wilderness Run Trail. A well-founded thanks to the ground force for all their hard work behind the scenes this year! This winter will be spent overseeing the four new projects and preparing for the 2017 season.

2016 BSA Eagle Projects

- Wilderness/Wal-Mart Tract Primitive Campsite—Dylan Palmer BSA Troop 77. Completed with 20 volunteers—208 hours.
- Ellwood Ice House Pit-Matthew Irwin, BSA 325. Completed with 7 volunteers—50 hours
- Chancellorsville CCC barn painting and repair-Tyler Williams, BSA 171. Completed with 22 volunteers—247 hours.
- Spotsylvania Court House CCC barn painting and repair-Arlen Siebold, BSA 171. Completed with 15 volunteers—86 hours.

Park Day Clean-up 2 April 2016 -165 volunteers, 495 hours. Tasks accomplished include:

- Painting of the historic Ellwood house foundation and the Brooder Barn soffits.
- Raking and cleaning of the Wilderness Visitor Shelter area and the CCC compound.
- Clean-up and raking of all the monuments and Longstreet wounding site.
- 25 pick-up truck loads of deadfall and debris from Hill-Ewell Drive and Brigadier Lane.
- 103 bags of trash, numerous old tires and blown tire remains, 2 sofa cushions, 6 metal poles, 1, metal crate, and 1 plastic gas container.

Ongoing Major Projects

- Scout Campsite Entrance Project
 - Grade the rutted entrance and a parking area for support vehicles and put down layer of gravel.
- Old Maintenance Garage Demolition Project
 - Relocate electric transformer next to garage
 - Completely demolish the cinderblock barn and remove debris and concrete pad. Restore site to grassy area.
- Spring Creek Culvert Project
 - Repair and replace culvert at the badly eroded Spring Creek crossing site on the Wilderness Run Trail.
- Ellwood Paint and Siding Replacement Project
 - Remove and replace over 400 linear feet of rotten Ellwood siding, scrape building surface of peeling paint, replace window grout, re-caulk and then prime and paint entire house minus the foundation (already done by GF this summer).

Membership/Heritage Committee 2016 Annual Report

Submitted by Milbrey Barthalow, Chair

Members: Robert Barthalow, Robert Epp, Ann Bayer, Beth Stenstrom, Katherine Philipp

We have had another busy year. We work closely with the Communications Committee, which helps keep us busy. We set up tables at both on-site – Ellwood – and off site events. At these events we set up tables, hand out literature, and talk about what FoWB is and does. Through these events we have gotten several new members, several new volunteers, and increased visitation at Ellwood.

On site events have included FoWB Open House Feb 6, Battle of Wilderness Observance and Living History May 7, Mother's Day Observance and readings May 8, Living History June 18, Observance of Lafayette camping in 1781 and his 1825 visit August 13, Taming of the Wilderness Sept 25, Living History Oct 8.

Off-site events have included Reunion Planning Workshop sponsored by Fredericksburg Tourism Department March 5, Battle of the Wilderness Golf Tournament May 27, Civil War Trust Conference in Gettysburg June 2, LOW July 4th Festival July 2, Orange Street Festival Sept 3, Gordonsville Street Festival Oct 1, Orange Chili and Brew Fest Oct 15.

Other events we have attended and just chatted have included several Orange Chamber of Commerce events - Wake up Locust Grove May 26, June 23, and Sept 22, Orange CoC Picnic May 19, several Certified Tourism Ambassador events, – Gordonsville Apr 14, Brandy Station May 15, Chancellorsville Oct 12, - Generals Quarters Restaurant grand opening August 6. I also spoke to a Red Hatters group May 18.

We have a supportive notification system – email, phone call, - and will continue to cultivate the support we receive from our members. Without you members we could not exist. We are grateful for our members, especially those who renew your memberships year after year and who provide us with funding and man-power for our many activities through your dues and donations.

Current membership is about 215. We have added 49 new members this year, but sadly, we have lost about the same number. We have added one new member to the Wilderness Brigade and current membership is at 43. We have 9 members in the Ellwood Legacy.

Governance Committee 2016 Annual Report

Submitted by Pete Kolakowski, Chair

Members: Nate Bond, Robin Nimmo, Craig Rains and Beth Stenstrom

The Committee had a relatively quiet year while handling routine business. The predominant business was on a number of bylaw amendments. These addressed:

Clarifying, allowing and providing the process for the use of email votes for actions that cannot wait for a regular Board meeting.

Clarifying the FoWB purpose to provide support to the preservation of battlefield areas. Support is now defined to allow in-kind assistance, monetary donations and management of battlefield areas. This clarifies the support FoWB provides to the area inside and outside of the NPS and allow for monetary donation for preservation of the Wilderness Battlefield land.

Provide consistency for notice of meetings and time requirements to provide the agenda by the President for the regular or any other announced meetings.

Cleaned up and corrected a half dozen typos sprinkled in the bylaws.

The Committee was also asked to review member awards for service, recognitions and membership categories. The accepted recommendation was to have no changes to current practice. The recommendation was to continue with the volunteer recognition picnic. There was an FoWB recognition certificate created for Boy Scout support, to be awarded upon project completion. The 20-year anniversary coin would be presented as a thank you for speakers or others outside of FoWB that provide program support.

By designation of the FoWB President, the Committee conducted the process for identifying candidates for election to the Board at the annual meeting. In addition, the Committee recommended and the Board agreed to have the Board of Directors consist of the maximum 15 members provided for in the bylaws with annual classes of five members each, serving three year terms. This year, the annual meeting will have a slate of six nominees, one for the class of 2018 and five for the class of 2019.

Communications Committee

2016 Annual Report

Submitted by Beth Stenstrom, Chair

Members: Ashley Abruzzo, Milbrey Bartholow, Nate Bond, Kim Harmon, Ruth Pavlik, JoAnne Pino, Dick Rankin, Diane Smith, George Smith, and Kathleen Walker

2016 Activities:

Website, Constant Contact (E-blasts), and Social Media

The FoWB Facebook page has accumulated over 778 “likes”, which is up 248 likes since last year. We employ an “organic” approach to increasing views of the site. Rather than pay Facebook to promote our site, we rely on personal networking with visitors and groups such as the Orange and Spotsylvania tourism and Chamber of Commerce groups. A number of other Civil War interest related Facebook groups have started promoting our activities, as well, which leads to an even broader viewer audience.

Constant Contact continues to be FoWB’s primary electronic outreach tool. Attractively formatted general interest E-blasts are sent to over 877 recipients who have signed up for the electronic mailing list. This is up 277 contacts since last year. The application is also used for targeted mailings to local residents and FoWB members.

The FoWB website is kept up to date and provides information to prospective visitors to Ellwood and the Wilderness Battlefield as well as to our volunteers and members. It is also useful to educators who wish to learn more about Ellwood and the Wilderness Battlefield.

This committee also works closely with the NPS to send Press Releases to numerous media contacts to promote our Living History Events at Ellwood Manor. Coverage has been excellent in the Orange Review and the Freelance Star for events, and the other media contacts have been great about posting our upcoming events in their papers.

Publications:

Wilderness Battlefield/Ellwood Rack Cards are displayed at various visitor centers, hotels, and other tourism sites in the area.

FoWB tri fold brochures are available at Ellwood Manor and are also distributed to interested visitors at various outreach venues, such as the Orange Street Festival. These brochures feature information on the organization, volunteer opportunities, and membership information. Separate tri fold brochures on the Heritage Program are also available at Ellwood Manor and distributed to interested visitors at various outreach venues.

Outreach and Promotion:

The Communications Committee is a highly dedicated and energetic group of volunteers who spend countless hours preparing for and conducting a wide range of public outreach booths at venues outside of Ellwood Manor, as well as manning a Welcome booth at Living History events at Ellwood Manor. We have teamed up with the Membership/Heritage Committee, who assist

us at all of the outreach events. Special Thanks go to Milbrey Bartholow, Membership Committee Chair, and Bob Epp, Membership/Heritage Committee member, for countless hours visiting with people at our various venues.

In 2016, this group set up booths and visited with thousands of people at a Family Reunion Seminar in Fredericksburg, the July 4th Celebration at Lake of the Woods, the Civil War Trust Convention in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the Orange Street Festival, The Gordonsville Fall Festival, and the Orange Chili Cookoff and Brewfest. We also manned the Welcome Table for numerous Living History events out at Ellwood Manor, such as the May Anniversary, Mother's Day Dramatic Letter Readings, Medical Living History events, author talks and book signings, and Taming of the Wilderness.

Promotional handouts and giveaway items were distributed at all events.

2017 Plans:

Website, E-Blasts, and Social Media

Continue to improve the appeal and information on the website.

Continue to increase sign-ups for the E-Blasts.

Continue to promote activities on the Facebook site.

Publications:

Increase distribution of rack cards in the Fredericksburg, Orange, and Culpeper areas.

Outreach:

Increase the number of public outreach opportunities for the FoWB Information Booth in Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and other areas surrounding the Wilderness Battlefield.

Continue to work with other committees to assist them with membership drives, Living History events, volunteer recruitment, Park clean up, and educational opportunities.

Nominations for Board of Directors

** Denotes Incumbent Member Nominated for Re-Election

Kim Harmon (Three Year Term 2019)

Kim was born in Taylor, Texas but grew up in San Marcos, Texas. She holds an Animal Science (Production) degree from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Kim has had a diverse career to say the least from being a hog farmer in Plains, Kansas for DeKalb Swine Breeders foundation farms followed by being a Meat Grader for USDA Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) in Joslin, Illinois. Another change in careers this time as a Livestock and Grain Market News Reporter however, still with USDA AMS in Des Moines, Iowa. She would then be transferred to headquarters in Washington D.C for the first time from 1995 to 2000. Two more state moves [Amarillo, Texas and Springfield, Illinois] will occur before Kim lands back in Virginia. In 2012 she returned to USDA headquarters. In 2015 she switched careers from market news reporter to grants management specialist all still with USDA- AMS. Currently Kim oversees 61 grants in 13 states for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotional Program (FMLFPP) of Transportation & Market (TM) Division of AMS.

She first joined FoWB in 2014 and has served as an Ellwood interpreter/Historic House Guide since then until the present time. Current activities include serving as a member of both the Ellwood Committee and Communications Committee.

Besides a great love of history and genealogy Kim enjoys NASCAR, running half marathons, antiquing, gardening, sports and road trips[down the road or abroad]. The joke back in college was that Kim would live in all 50 states. She has not quite completed that task but made an attempt.

Kevin Hunt (Three Year Term 2019)

Kevin was born in Worcester, MA, where he lived until moving to Northborough, MA. He graduated from UMass-Dartmouth (then known as Southeastern Massachusetts University) with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and from George Washington University with a Masters in Engineering Administration. He moved to Virginia in 1979 and worked at the US Army's Night Vision Laboratory as a systems engineer until he retired in 2013.

Since joining FoWB in 2014, he has volunteered as an interpreter at Ellwood and served on the Ellwood committee in 2016. He has always been interested in history, and was excited to move to Spotsylvania, among the four battlefields of the FSNMP. His interest in Civil War history peaked when he had the opportunity to participate in several staff rides lead by renowned Penn State history professor, including tours of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Antietam.

In addition to volunteering at Ellwood, he recently was the assistant director then director of the Harley Owners Group of Orange. Kevin has been married to his wife Cindy for 36 years and has two grown daughters, Stacy and Kelly. He lives in Spotsylvania County just south of Chancellorsville.

**** Bob Lookabill (Three Year Term 2019)**

Vice President; Ellwood Committee Chair

Bob was born in West Virginia. He holds a Master's Degree in history from Marshall University and in Strategic Studies from the Naval War College at Newport. After teaching history and coaching baseball and football at the high school level for ten years Bob took a position with the Defense Intelligence Agency. After his retirement from DIA, worked for several defense contractors, both overseas and in the States. He is now fully retired. He is also a retired Navy Reserve Captain.

He has been an interpreter at Ellwood for five years and currently serves as Ellwood Committee chair and closer. He is a member of the Fredericksburg Civil War Roundtable and dabbles in genealogy.

Bob and Judy reside in Spotsylvania near the Wilderness Battlefield. They have two grown sons and three grandsons. He is secretary of the North American Torquay Pottery Society, enjoys travel, golf, the Redskins and Nationals.

**** Gary Mauss (Three Year Term 2019)**

Born and raised in the apple country just north of Gettysburg, PA, Gary entered the Air Force straight out of high school, as a way to broaden his horizons and see the world a bit. A first tour of duty in southern New Mexico got the Southwest in his blood, from which he's never quite recovered.

Numerous assignments around the country and the world followed, and he ended up making a career of the military, retiring in Virginia two years ago, after moving here in 2005. In the process of those moves, he started school in New Mexico, and finally graduated from the University of Nebraska, and later again from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida.

Also among those moves, he found his wife Lynne in Myrtle Beach, and now has two daughters and a son. A yard wide and a foot deep, he held a variety of jobs in the Air Force, among those being a program manager, contract specialist, operational tester, aircraft weapons specialist, and command post controller.

Still on an extended post-retirement 'sabbatical', he's gotten heavily involved in local volunteer opportunities, including FoWB, a local Veteran's club, volunteer Fire & Rescue, two churches, and others, and is pending return to the active work force until his kids are out of college.

**** Mike Pierce (Two Year Term 2018)**

Mike was born in Petersburg Virginia and spent his early years in Pittsburgh, PA, lived in various places in Texas for 33 years, and moved to Charlottesville Virginia in late 2009. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Entomology.

Mike has been involved with insect control in both the structural and agricultural areas to develop safer and sustainable insect control programs through partnerships with pesticide manufacturers, food manufacturers, food retailers and the farming community. He also owned a Pest Control Company in Houston TX.

Mike was on the Board of Directors of the Houston Civil War Round Table. He is a member of the Artist Preservation group, consisting of like-minded military artist that raise money for historical preservation

He has been both an interpreter and Ground Force member for about 18 months. He also assists with the communication committee activities. Mike and his wife, Linda, have also volunteered for various 150th events such as Cold Harbor, Wilderness and Appomattox.

He is a self-taught artist and has assisted in dioramas at the Sabine Pass Museum (Texas) and The Virginia War Memorial Museum in Richmond. He is currently assisting in creating three dioramas for the new American Revolutionary in Philadelphia. He also creates Military figures of various historical periods with the sales proceeds going to the FoWB.

Mike and Linda enjoy hiking and the outdoors. Linda is a volunteer at the Shenandoah National Park.

**** Richard (Dick) Rankin (Three Year Term 2019)**

Dick was born in Rochester, New York, and graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in American History. He also holds a Master's Degree in Government and International Relations from the University of Notre Dame. Dick served in various intelligence and strategic planning positions, mostly in the Pentagon, while a member of the US Air Force. Subsequent to his retirement as a Colonel, he worked in the national security private sector for over 18 years, managing and directing large organizations supporting sensitive government programs and independently consulting for companies engaged in counter-terrorism projects.

Dick, and his wife Carol, moved to Fawn Lake from Northern Virginia in 2007 eager to enjoy retirement and expecting to take advantage of his surroundings to soak in the history of the area, particularly as it related to the Civil War, which has always been an interest of his since his very first high school term paper on Gettysburg. Prior to his relocation Dick served as President of his Homeowners Association, was President of the Northern Virginia Swim League and General Chairman of the year-round swimming organization in Metropolitan Washington. He also was very much involved with his local church. Since becoming a Spotsy resident, Dick has served as an Elder at The Lake of the Woods Church and has been a member of the FOWB and an interpreter at Ellwood for the past 7 years. Over the past couple years he has been on the FOWB Communications Committee, working the Welcome Tent at various Ellwood Living History activities and representing FOWB at events in Gettysburg, Orange, Richmond, and Gordonsville.

He presently serves as co-chairman of an ad hoc FOWB committee investigating ways to expand FOWB's educational and informational activities.

Dick and Carol have 3 married children and 8 grandchildren scattered around Virginia and North Carolina. Together they enjoy traveling, golfing, bridge, various other social activities and being with family. Recent trips have led them to Peru, the Baltic and St Petersburg, Portugal, and the Rhine River.

Continuing Board Members

Milbrey Bartholow (2017)

Membership Committee Chair

Milbrey was born and raised in Wilson, NC. She graduated from High Point University (College) with a BA in Math. She taught high school Math in Florida and North Carolina, but the Federal Government offered her more money, so she began working at the Naval Weapons Laboratory (later Naval Surface Warfare Center) in Dahlgren in 1966 and continued until 1994 when the Government offered her an early out.

She has always loved history, especially the Civil War era. She remembers studying the Civil War in 7th grade History and acing the first three tests on the unit. Her teacher told her she studied too hard, to which she replied "You don't have to study hard if you love the subject". She also remembers going to visit cousins in a nearby town and seeing a sign stating that Sherman went through burning and pillaging everything.

She is the great granddaughter of Pvt James Benjamin Braswell, Co F 30th Inf 2nd Corps CSA who fought under Jackson and Ewell throughout the 4 years.

As a result, she is also a member of the Wilderness Brigade. She has 10 other ancestors who fought in the Civil War, with two of them being at the Wilderness. Two died at Chancellorsville.

She has been married to Robert Bartholow for almost 45 years. They have a son Eric (and Amey) who has a son Reed and a daughter Kristen (and Dave). They all live in Richmond.

She has spent most of her adult life living and working in the Fredericksburg area - King George County, Ferry Farm subdivision in Safford, and now at LOW in Orange County. She and Robert ran away from home and went to Florida for 11 years.

After retiring from NSWC, she worked for 6 years as a tavern wench at the Rising Sun Tavern. She went into retirement when she went to Florida, but volunteered at various places while there. They moved back to VA in 2012 and immediately became active with FoWB and Ellwood. She is a Historical House Guide and a FoWB board member. She portrays a Tavern Wench for the Taming of the Wilderness events. She has also dressed in Civil War era attire for events such as Mother's Day readings.

She is a member of the Overwharton Parish Chapter DAR and Fredericksburg United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter. She is also active at LOW Church, playing handbells and participation in the Craft group. Other interests include computers, genealogy, antiquing, and sewing.

Nate Bond (2018)

Finance Committee Chair

Nate was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and holds undergraduate degrees from Purdue and Indiana Universities. He came to Virginia in 1967 to work at the then Naval Weapons Laboratory in Dahlgren, transferred to the Naval Air Systems Command in 1981 and later retired after more than thirty-seven years of service.

He first joined FoWB in 2008 and has served as an Ellwood interpreter/Historic House Guide since then until the present time. His past activities have included chairman of the Membership Committee and Ellwood interpreter scheduler and he currently serves as one of the closers for Ellwood. Nate actively participates in various FoWB activities.

Besides a great love of history, old houses, water-powered grist mills among other interests, Nate's great passion is interaction with manatees or sea cows. He has spent hundreds of hours in the water with these strange creatures, mostly at Crystal River/Kings Bay, Florida, some eighty miles north of Tampa. Winter temperatures drive the usually solitary manatees to the seventy-two degree temperature of the bay in large numbers enabling interaction with swimmers and snorkelers.

Gil Churchill (2017)

Gil was born near Chicago, IL and grew up in Minnesota. He met his wife, Lucy, at the University of Minnesota where he earned BS and MS degrees in Forest Management.

His civilian career was with the U.S. Forest Service. Gil served on National Forests in Idaho, Washington, Montana, Minnesota, Maine, Vermont, and West Virginia. His last assignments were in the Regional Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he served as Director of Planning, Budget Officer, and Capital Resources Team Leader.

Gil had a military career at the same time. After serving active duty with the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1964 and 1965, he continued to serve that Agency as a Reserve Officer, finally retiring after 28 years. This might account for his interest in military history, except for the fact that he had been an avid reader of Civil War history while still in High School.

Gil and Lucy moved to Lake of the Woods in 2008 to be near family. At Lake of the Woods, Gil has been President of a Square Dance Club, is currently Chair of the Maintenance and Ecology Committee, and participates with Veterans, Woodworkers, and AARP organizations.

Peter Kolakowski (2017)

Governance Committee Chair

Peter graduated with a Bachelor's in history and political science from Ripon College and a Master's of Public Administration from American University. He has been a resident of the area since 1972.

He served in the U.S. Army and has been employed in appointed and executive management positions in Virginia local government in Fredericksburg, State government in Richmond working for VDOT, and at the federal government level for the U.S. Navy at Dahlgren. He has been active supporter and member of many preservation organizations and history projects throughout his career.

Mark Leach (2017)

President

Mark was born in Hudson, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

A 34 year career with ExxonMobil placed Mark in Milwaukee, WI, St. Louis, MO and Fairfax, VA. His most recent positions were in IT project management and systems training. Mark retired in April 2012.

Mark has been an Ellwood Interpreter and member of the Ground Force since joining FoWB in 2012. He has been a Director since 2013 and served as Vice President and Communications Committee Chair. Mark was elected FoWB President in 2015.

Mark also serves on the Orange County Tourism Advisory Committee reporting to the County Board of Supervisors.

Robin Nimmo (2018)

Secretary

Robin was born in Michigan and has an interest in history which started at an early age. Robin's travels have taken her to Louisiana, South Carolina, upstate New York, and now to Virginia and she has cultivated a passion for the study of various cultures throughout the Eastern and Southern portions of the United States.

Her studies have engaged Robin in a variety of volunteer activities in each region. Robin has successfully folded this interest into a life that has included her family responsibilities as well as employment in the financial industry and management positions in retail and real estate.

In 2006, Robin moved with her husband, John, to Fredericksburg, Virginia feeling very fortunate to be living in an area so steeped in history. Robin and John have 4 adult children and 3 grandchildren living in New York and South Carolina. She was a former chair of the Membership and Heritage Program Committees.

Jeff Slunt (2018)

Treasurer

Jeff holds a Ph.D. degree in Microbiology from the University of Virginia. He works from home for PRA International on a large colorectal cancer clinical trial. His wife is professor at the Chemistry department at the University of Mary Washington and they have two children, Todd and Madeline.

Jeff enjoys either coaching or watching his children play soccer most weekends. He

volunteers for the Park Service at Chatham one day a month and takes advantage of every opportunity to learn more about the American Civil War.

Beth Stenstrom (2017)

Communications Committee Chair

Beth grew up jumping in and out of boats off the Texas coast and we can't keep her away from the water still. She is a full blooded Texas Aggie, earning her B.S. in Education, Curriculum and Instruction, and she received her M.Ed. from the University of Missouri in St. Louis in Psychological Counseling.

She is a retired teacher who taught blind and visually impaired students at the Missouri School for the Blind for many years, and finished her career teaching Texas History to middle school students in New Braunfels, Texas. She and her husband, Jim, are avocational archeologists, and have had quite a lot of experience with the Texas Archeology Society, the South Texas Archeology Association, and the Hill Country Archeology Association.

As are many of our interpreters in FoWB, Beth is a Certified Tourism Ambassador with the Journey Through Hallowed Ground program. She is an officer in the Washington-Lewis DAR chapter in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She and her husband, Jim, are also charter members of the Friends of Chatham, as well as members of a papal order, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which mission is to protect and maintain Holy sites in the Holy Land.

When Beth isn't running back and forth to the OBX, manning Information tables for FoWB at various venues, or working on Communications projects, you can usually find her, along with her cohorts in FoWB, running all over Virginia hunting for "treasures" in antique malls!

Beth and Jim have a son and a daughter, three granddaughters, and one grandson.

Hobbies include hiking, genealogy, photography, reading, and history!

Mark Wakeman (2018)

Battlefield Resources Committee Chair

Mark was born in Topeka, Kansas. His father was career Air Force during Mark's formative years. During that time he lived in multiple locations around the world. After college and a BA in History from the University of Florida he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He served over 26 years in the Marine Corps, and retired in Spotsylvania County in 2009. Virginia is now home. He is currently on the faculty at Quantico as a Marine Corps College of Continuing Education Course Director.

He is married to Darcey and has two sons Travis and Calvin. Mark and Travis were Ellwood interpreters in 2008 & 2009. Mark has also been the Ellwood volunteer interpreter scheduler. After Travis left for college in 2010 Mark and Calvin focused on battlefield maintenance and preservation until Calvin left for college in 2013. As the BRC chair, Mark also helps coordinate Eagle preservation and enhancement projects on the Wilderness and other FSNMP battlefields and has helped coordinate 10 Eagle projects for the FSNMP.

Contacts and Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Service and Unique Opportunities: www.fowb.org

Contact Mark Wakeman, Chair, Battlefield Resources Committee at Battlefield@FoWB.org:

- FoWB Ground Force
- Special Projects on the battlefield
- Regular Trash pickup duty
- Annual Park Day

Contact Bob Lookabill, Chair, Ellwood Committee at Ellwood@FoWB.org:

- Ellwood Interpreters
- Walking Tours
- Special Tours of Ellwood

Contact Beth Stenstrom, Chair, Communications Committee at Communications@FoWB.org:

- Community Outreach Events
- Website Support
- Newsletter and Other Publications

Contact Milbrey Bartholow, Chair, Membership Committee at Membership@FoWB.org:

- Heritage Program including Research
- Membership Drives

You may also direct your questions, compliments and concerns to Mark Leach, President, at maleach103@verizon.net

**Thank You
For Supporting FoWB !!**