



The Board of Directors of
Friends of Wilderness Battlefield

Host the 2017

Annual Membership Meeting
And
Luncheon

November 11, 2017 at 11 A.M.

at the

Historic Wilderness Baptist Church
Spotsylvania, Virginia

Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.
2017 Annual Report

Officers and Board of Directors

Mark Leach, President

Bob Lookabill, Vice President

Jeff Slunt, Treasurer

Milbrey Bartholow, Secretary

Directors

Nate Bond

Gil Churchill

Kim Harmon

Kevin Hunt

Pete Kolakowski

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

Milbrey Bartholow, Secretary

Welcoming Remarks

Mark Leach, President

Education Outreach Committee Overview

Dick Rankin, Co-Chair

Election of Members to the Board of Directors

Pete Kolakowski, Chair, Nominating Committee

Awards

Remarks

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

Announcements

Adjourn

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12:00 p.m. – 2 p.m.

- Lunch
- Guest Speaker – Frank Walker: “Gold Mining in the Wilderness”
 - Door Prizes

2017 Highlights

General Projects:

- Preservation efforts for historic Ellwood Manor were continued last fall with a project to replace 1000 feet of deteriorated weatherboard siding and painting the exterior of the building. FoWB funded the labor with NPS providing the materials.
- The Wilderness Crossing Trail was improved by an FoWB funded project to replace the deteriorated drainage culvert located at the bottom of the north carriage road hill. NPS provided fill dirt and stone to restore the inlet/outlet areas.
- The 20th century garage building at Ellwood was demolished and the area restored to lawn. The portion of the gravel driveway from the parking lot to the old garage site was restored to a grass/gravel mixture.

Volunteers:

- Volunteers contributed more than 8000 hours this year providing tours of Ellwood Manor, maintaining the Ellwood grounds, various battlefield projects, outreach events, etc.. This is equivalent to roughly four full time NPS employees!

Battlefield Resources:

- Hosted the Annual Spring Park Day: There were 100 volunteers that collectively worked over 300 hours on the Wilderness and Chancellorsville battlefields.
- Maintained the grounds of Ellwood Manor, the Wilderness Crossing Trail, and the Wilderness Tavern Site with the dedicated efforts of the Ellwood Ground Force.
- One Eagle Scout Eagle project sponsored in 2017.

Ellwood:

- 48 trained Interpreters provided exceptional tours of Ellwood Manor and the surrounding grounds. Seven specially trained interpreters led walking tours along the Wilderness Crossing Trail.
- 4842 visitors at Ellwood and \$4445 raised in donations.

- 10 Special Events.
- 5 Special Large Group Tours.

Membership and Heritage Program:

- 200 FoWB members
- Wilderness Brigade memberships increased to a total of 53.
- 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 five events including the Louisa Street Festival.
- FoWB continued to work with other organizations to preserve and promote the Wilderness Battlefield area and to promote tourism in Orange and Spotsylvania Counties.

Ad-Hoc Education/Outreach Committee:

- Conducted a dinner/speaker event at Lake of the Woods
- Initiated discussions with Orange and Spotsylvania school systems to provide educational programs.
- Initiated a series of short articles for community publications at Lake of the woods, Fawn Lake and Lake Wilderness/

Treasurer's 2017 Annual Report

Data as of September 30, 2017

Ellwood Restoration Checking Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2016	\$108.59
Balance per Books 9/30/2017	\$108.59
Change	\$0.00

FoWB Operating Checking Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2016	\$65,944.91
Balance per Books 9/30/2017	\$42,185.21
Change	-\$23,759.70

Ellwood Cultural Landscape Project Money Market Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2016	\$10,347.73
Balance per Books 9/30/2017	\$10,350.13
Change	\$2.40

FoWB Money Market Account

Balance per Books 9/30/2016	\$10,902.54
Balance per Books 9/30/2017	\$10,906.74
Change	\$4.20

Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2016	\$87,303.77
Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2017	\$63,550.67

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) corporation
Tax ID 42-1689437**

Ellwood Committee 2017 Annual Report

Submitted by Bob Lookabill, Chair

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

Visitation for the 2017 season through September totaled 5444. Donation box totaled \$4445.00.

Visitation and donations were up over last year. Ellwood's weekend visitation season began on April 1st with daily openings the week after Easter. Weekend openings resumed until daily operations commenced on June 12th until August 20th. Weekends and holiday opening resumed on August 20th and ran until Oct. 22nd when Ellwood closed for the season.

Training and recruitment:

Training for new and veteran Interpreters took place on February 25th and March 9th and 18th. 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 Frank O'Reilly and NPS Security Ranger Matt Roland and Curator Luisa Dispenzirie were guest speakers. President Mark Leach spoke to all interpreters. FoWB veteran interpreters gave numerous presentations. We added 9 new interpreters this year to bring the total to 48.

The Ellwood event calendar for 2017:

March 28 - Hosted Lake of the Woods Antiques Club - Carolyn Elstner speaker

April 26 - Hosted Spotsylvania County elementary school group

May 6/7 - 153rd Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Wilderness

May 13/14 - Mother's Day celebration

June 3 - Commemoration of Lafayette encampment at Ellwood Manor

June 17 - Civil War Medical event

Sept. 17 - Volunteer Picnic

Sept. 25 - Taming of the Wilderness with house and grounds presentation by Dale Brown and "Dear Old Ellwood" book signing by Carolyn Elstner

Oct. 21 - Living History event - Civil War soldiers discuss uniforms, weapons, camp-life, etc.

Dec. 16/17 - Victorian Christmas at Ellwood

Special Tours:

Lake of the Woods Antique Club; book signing by Carolyn Elstner

Family of deceased past President Dwight Mottet

Civil War Trust

Army of the Roanoke

Daughters of American Revolution on lawn meal and tour

Highlights in 2017:

Medical themed event expanded to include 2nd Virginia hospital group

Hosted 2017 NPS anniversary re-enactment event in May. 500 visitors.

Tours provided for interpreters at Chewning Farm and Petersburg National Battlefield

NPS archivist conducted special presentation of Ellwood related artifacts for interpreters

Presentations given by FoWB volunteers at special events and local schools

Attendance by various interpreters at Certified Tourism Ambassador events

Union and Confederate Civil War re-enactors compare and contrast life in the army plus Civil War photography talk and book signing by John Cummings

Picnic for interpreters

Victorian Christmas

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

Trained walking tour Interpreters led 17 walks for 192 visitors on the Wilderness Walking Trail and Ellwood grounds.

Open house at Ellwood for perspective new interpreters

First ever medical event dedicated totally to Ellwood as a hospital with medical re-enactors

First ever fund-raising canoe trip from Germanna Ford to Ely's Ford

Battlefield Resources Committee

2017 Annual Report

Submitted by Mark Wakeman, Chair

2017 Volunteer Members:

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

Ann Bayer, Ron Bishop, Gil Churchill, Kenneth Frohnert, Tom Hamilton, Tom Jacobs, Joe Lafleur, Mark Leach, Jim Manchester, Karen O'Brien, Nicholas Palmer, Mike Pierce, John Rourke, Glynn Smith, Tim Taylor, Russell Todd, Joe Warnacut, Bill & Glenna Witter

Battlefield Resource Summary

The FoWB/FSNMP partnership continues to provide new levels of maintenance and preservation to the Wilderness Battlefield. The BRC supported the National Park Service through its weekly Ellwood maintenance support and other service projects. Additionally, FoWB has signed a new agreement with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources (VDHR) to continue the stewardship of the Wilderness Tract for another two years, through 31 Dec 2018. The scout campsite was utilized in August by BSA Troop 77.

For 2017, there were multiple areas where FoWB volunteers did good works, they include: Eagle project support, Ellwood Ground Force (EGF), and Park Service Work (in recognition of our partnership and support from the FSNMP). The BRC conducted the annual spring Park Day clean-up event on 01 April 2017 and supported to conclusion one Eagle project on the Wilderness BF. FoWB completed the old maintenance garage demolition in January, the last of four new construction/renovation projects started in 2016. Many new smaller projects have been started and completed in 2017 by the EGF in the continued efforts to accomplish the mission and purpose of the BRC.

2017 BSA Eagle Projects

- Building NPS Park Benches –Noah Elhabbal Troop 325 ~50 hours and 7 volunteers.

Ellwood Ground Force (EGF)

The EGF continued to provide outstanding weekly upkeep to the Ellwood grounds. Mowing and grounds upkeep started in April and will be slowing once the cold weather starts. Many of the other tasks completed by the EGF are listed below. The National Park Service Maintenance Department provided the EGF with two new mowers, this allowed the EGF to expand its mowing coverage to an area previously mowed by the NPS, the Wilderness Tavern site. Tasks accomplished include:

- Weekly mowing and trimming at Ellwood, the Wilderness Crossing trail and at the Tavern.
- Splitting wood and storing in barn for annual re-enactment events.
- Cutting down dead trees that pose safety hazards.
- Raked, seeded, and laid straw on old garage site.

- Replaced 4 fence posts and the rails around the Ellwood cemetery.
- Removal, fabrication, and reinstallation of the rotted Ellwood front porch railings.
- Installing new entrance fence.
- Collection of cement blocks from demolished chicken house for removal.
- Installed a new trail sign on Wilderness Crossing Trail.
- Mowed around the Chewing Farm panels to help out NPS
- Cut up and cleared dead falls and downed branches on Hill-Ewell.
- Cleaned-up after the arborists tree work.
- Cut back the intruding growth on the driveway between the gate and the bend.
- Spread wood chips at the foot of the Wilderness Crossing bridge to create a smooth access. Plan to spread more chips in the area to improve the site's appearance.
- Cleaned out the ivy under the handicap ramp to the manor.
- Planted replacement trees.

Park Service Work

- During the first week in March, major wind damage to the Kentucky Coffee Bean tree beside the manor threatened the house if the tree should split. It was considered an emergency by NPS. They IMMEDIATELY mobilized a contractor to take the tree down before a further wind gust could topple it on to the house.
- NPS cut down a 'leaning tree' south of the walnut. The tree began leaning more as the off-season progressed so that more roots were showing and cracks were appearing in the trunk. It was considered dangerous, so the ground force requested that it be taken down.
- NPS & VDOT coordinated to pave the entrance to Ellwood.
- NPS has provided GF new pole saw and hedge trimmer. Ira Luck conducted safety training and provided new safety gear.
- NPS burned the very large debris pile.
- Repaired faulty A/C unit for Ellwood in May.
- NPS moved rock pile from Wilderness Crossing Trail to location near bridge for future project to line stream bank under bridge to prevent erosion.
- NPS cleaned up Brigadiers Way from farm road to bridge, cutting back overhanging branches and cleaning up sides of old road.
- NPS chipped branches left by electric line crew and piled by scouts.
- NPS provided the rails for the cemetery fence and notched the fence posts.
- NPS's tree contractor cut the big Coffee Bean tree in front of the manor and delivered the chips to the Wilderness Battlefield shelter for spreading.
- Four of Ellwood's significant trees were given an extended lease on life by a group of NPS arborists from around the country. Fredericksburg based NPS did tree clean up.
 - The chips were taken to the Wilderness Crossing for the GF to spread to on the access to the bridge and surrounding area.
 - The NPS ground-up the Hackleberry tree stump and the Coffee Bean tree stump. The GF spread the grindings on the trail leading to the Wilderness Crossing.
 - NPS graded the road to Ellwood, put in the small rip rap at the paved entrance and removed the gravel off the section of road (from fence to parking) and has been put spread fresh dirt in its place

Park Day Cleanup: 01-April-17: Total Volunteer Hours 324.3

Wilderness Battlefield

- 74 bags of trash collected from all around the battlefield.
- 3 miles of Hill-Ewell debris 10-yarded or stacked on road shoulder for chipping.
- WBF CCC compound cleaned of debris and leaves at least 10-yards around the building
- Raking and cleaning of the Wilderness Visitor Shelter area and ~15 large bags of leaves removed from the grounds.
- Raking and cleaning around the Wilderness Battlefield CCC compound.
- All Wilderness Battlefield monuments raked and spruced up.
- Parking areas and monument pull offs swept.

Chancellorsville Battlefield

- ~25 bollards removed and replaced.
- 2 cannons scraped and painted
- 1 well cover removed and new one constructed.
- 4 signs in the house site ruins and rope fence replaced
- ~5 bags of trash picked up
- Grave site repainted.
- Parking lot culvert cleaned out.

For Planning Purposes—Park Day 2018-07 April

Membership/Heritage Committee 2017 Annual Report

Submitted by Milbrey Bartholow, Chair

Members: Robert Bartholow, Robert Epp, Beth Stenstrom

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 gained several new members, several new volunteers, several HP members, and increased visitation at Ellwood. We also attend various Orange Chamber of Commerce events to mingle and let CoC members know what we are doing.

On-site events with Information Booths have included: Battle of Wilderness Observance and Living History May 5-6, Mother's Day Observance and readings May 14, Lafayette Day June 3, Medical Living History June 17, Taming of the Wilderness Sept 24, and Living History Oct 21.

Other on-site events have included: Victorian Christmas December 17, NPS Artifacts Tour January 27, FoWB Open House Feb 4, FoWB Interpreter training February 25 and March 9, and Park Clean-up Day April 1.

Off-site events with Information Booths have included: Montpelier Wine Festival May 8, Battle of the Wilderness Golf Tournament May 26, Louisa Street Festival June 10, LOW 4th of July Festival July 1, Orange County Teachers' In-Service Day August 21, Orange Street Festival September 9, and Gordonsville Street Festival October 7.

Other off-site events have included: Cedar Mountain CTA event November 3, Genealogy Workshop January 23, Wake-up Locust Grove events February 2, March 23, September 14, and October 24, FoWB Dinner March 29, NPS volunteer trip to Petersburg April 4, Orange Chamber of Commerce events May 18 & August 21, Gordonsville Chicken Festival May 20, Chewning Farm tour May 21, Friends of Chatham meeting June 1, Frank Walker talk on Gold in Orange County June 10, Wilderness Comprehensive Plan presentation June 23, and talks at James Madison Museum on Covered Bridges in VA July 23 and George Washington and his women August 13.

We have a supportive notification system – email, letter, personal contact - 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. We did change our membership fee structure this year. The single membership fee now is a minimum of \$30, and the family fee is now a minimum of \$50. We were able to give our many volunteers a well appreciated thank-you picnic again this year.

Current membership is down to a total of 200; a decrease of about 20 from last year at this time, including two who passed away in August. We have added four new members to the Heritage Program, now giving us 53 in the Wilderness Brigade and 9 in the Ellwood Legacy. 75 members and guests attended the Annual Meeting last November and enjoyed a meal of barbeque and sides and listened to Chris Kolakowski talk about General MacArthur and his perspectives on the 1864 Campaign.

Governance Committee

2017 Annual Report

Submitted by Pete Kolakowski, Chair

Members: Nate Bond, Bob Lookabill, Don Shockey, Beth Stenstrom, Craig Raines

The Committee had an active year assisting with an ad hoc committee's work, proposing bylaws amendments and proposing a slate of candidates for the annual meeting.

In 2016, the ad hoc Education and Outreach Committee was created to further FoWB's purpose of promoting the Battle of the Wilderness and the Wilderness area. The success of the ad hoc committee's programs and outreach throughout 2017 lead to the Board asking the Governance Committee to consider what amendments are necessary to the bylaws to provide for this work to continue as a standing committee.

The Governance Committee examined the work required, the proposals provided and recommended to the full Board that the need for two new standing committees and The Ellwood Committee become more focused on Ellwood operations was warranted. The following were the major bylaws amendments approved:

- The Program & Special Events Committee was created as a standing committee with the purpose of conducting and sponsoring programs and events that focus on the Battle of the Wilderness, the battlefield area, the Wilderness, the surrounding area and its related history;
- The Education Outreach Committee was created as a standing committee with the purpose of conducting and sponsoring educational and informational activities that focus on the Battle of the Wilderness, the battlefield area, the Wilderness, the surrounding area and its related history through school systems and other community outreach;
- The Ellwood Operations Committee is a name change to represent the committee's responsibilities for the operations of Ellwood and its environs with the volunteer interpreters.

The Committee also recommended and the Board approved a bylaws amendment that allowed for the flexibility for setting the annual meeting date. This allows the Board to set the date to avoid calendar conflicts with the holidays.

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. This year, the annual meeting will have a slate of eight nominees consisting of five for the class of 2020, one for the class 2019 and two for the class of 2018.

Communications Committee

2017 Annual Report

Submitted by Beth Stenstrom, Chair

Members: Milbrey Bartholow, Bob Epp, Kim Harmon, Ruth Pavlik, JoAnne Pino, Dick Rankin, Diane Smith, George Smith

2017 Activities:

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

The FoWB Facebook page has accumulated over 892 “likes”, which is up 114 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 1021 recipients who have signed up for the electronic mailing list. This is up 144 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 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/Heritage

Committee Chair, and Bob Epp, Membership/Heritage Committee member, for countless hours visiting with people at our various venues, assisting them in finding ancestors who may have fought in the Battle of the Wilderness or who may have been at Ellwood for various reasons.

In 2017, our team set up booths and visited with thousands of people at the Louisa Street Festival, the July 4th Celebration at Lake of the Woods, the Orange Street Festival, and the Gordonsville Fall Festival. We also were welcomed to the Orange County School System Teacher In-service day, and visited with numerous very interested and excited teachers and school personnel.

Our team also manned Information and Heritage Booths at Ellwood Manor for the Anniversary event in May, The Mother's Day Dramatic Reading event, several Medical Living History events, and Taming of the Wilderness.

Promotional handouts and giveaway items were distributed at all events.

2018 Goals

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:

Continue to distribute rack cards in the Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and Orange areas.

Outreach:

Continue to watch for new public outreach opportunities for the FoWB Information Booth in Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and other areas surrounding the Wilderness Battlefield. We added two new events this year, the Louisa Street Festival and the Orange County School System In-Service Day.

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

Education and Outreach Ad hoc Committee

2017 Annual Report

Submitted by Dick Rankin, Co-Chair

Members: Pete Kolakowski, Co-Chair, Bob Epp, Kim Harmon, Kevin Hunt, Jimmy Lee, Don Shockey, Beth Stenstrom, Barry Thompson

This ad hoc committee continued to operate in 2017 toward its purpose to develop and implement FoWB sponsored activities, primarily but not limited to educational and informational, that focus on the Battle of the Wilderness, the battlefield, the environs surrounding the battle, and/or related to the Civil War. The principal goal in 2017 was to execute the action plan developed previously and demonstrate the ability to sponsor and conduct activities beyond those conducted at Ellwood during the timeframe when Ellwood is open to the public, thereby enhancing FoWB's visibility within the local community on a year-round basis.

In line with our goals for the year, the committee sponsored, in coordination with the Lake of the Woods Civil War Study Group, a dinner event in March at which Frank O'Reilly made a presentation on the Battle of the Wilderness and its impact leading to the end of the Civil War. The event was a sell out and financially self-sufficient in that all expenses associated with the event were covered by the price of admission. The committee followed the procedures developed in the committee's action plan and conducted a thorough lessons learned review to be incorporated in future events. The committee has initiated early planning for two events during 2018. The first will be an event focused on slavery in the area to be held during Black History Month (Feb 2018) and the second will be a dinner presentation to be held in June 2018; the subject will focus on Confederate Lt Gen Stonewall Jackson's wounding during the Chancellorsville Battle and it will be held in conjunction with the Ellwood Medical History Weekend.

The committee also has initiated a series of short articles that appeared this fall in local publications, specifically, the LOW Lake Currents newspaper, the Fawn Lake Lifestyle magazine, and the Lake Wilderness website. The articles were written by members of the committee and covered different aspects of the Wilderness' early history, including how the Wilderness came to be called the "Wilderness." These articles required considerable coordination between members of the committee and the local publications. We will assess their usefulness in making our local communities more aware of the history and heritage of the land on which they live. If we are satisfied with their impact and the publications are willing, we will continue the articles on a periodic basis into the next year.

In meeting our goals and objectives, we have also initiated meetings with members of the Spotsylvania and Orange Counties school administrations and teachers to begin discussions on how FoWB can assist the local school systems in meeting their curriculum objectives relative to local history. In conjunction with this objective, the committee participated in the Orange County School System's In Service Workshop in August. We also coordinated a in school presentation by an FoWB member at the Ni River Middle School in Spotsylvania County this past May. This is an on-going initiative that will continue into the future.

Finally, in line with the ad hoc committee's action plan, we recommended to the Board that the ad hoc committee be transformed into a Standing FoWB Committee that would be responsible for all programs and activities, including Living History events at Ellwood Manor, that are not specifically the responsibility of another standing committee. The recommendation is in the hands of the Board for decision.

Nominations for Board of Directors

** Denotes Incumbent Member Nominated for Re-Election

** Milbrey Bartholow (Three Year Term 2020)

Secretary; 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 four of them being at the Wilderness. Two others died at Chancellorsville.

She has been married to Robert Bartholow for over 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 DAR and UDC. She also plays handbells at LOW Church. Other interests include computers, genealogy, antiquing, and sewing.

**** Gil Churchill (Three Year Term 2020)**

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, Chair of the Maintenance and Ecology Committee and leader of the AARP Election Day Chicken BBQ. He participates with the Veteran's Club, the Woodworker's Club, and the network of bridge players. At FOWB he is active as a House and Trail guide as well as serving with the Grounds Force on Thursday mornings.

**** Peter Kolakowski (Three Year Term 2020)**

Governance Committee Chair

Peter earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin and a Master's of Public Administration from American University, Washington, D.C.

He has been a resident of the Fredericksburg area since 1972. Over his 40 year public service career, Peter served in the U.S. Army for five years and has been employed in executive management positions in Virginia local government in Fredericksburg as City Manager, state government working for VDOT as Assistant Commissioner and at the federal government level for the U.S. Navy at Dahlgren as a department head.

He has been active supporter of preservation and history projects throughout his career.

Merry Ellen Korpan (One Year Term 2018)

Merry Ellen was born in Ridgewood, New Jersey and attended college in Ohio. She graduated from the University of Toledo with a BS and MA in Political Science.

Merry Ellen married her husband Dean in 1984 and they raised two children – Colin and Kiren. They moved to Charleston, South Carolina from Leesburg, Virginia in 1990 and in 1999 they decided to return to Virginia, and settled again in Leesburg, Virginia.

Merry Ellen and Dean enjoyed attending Civil War reenactments and visiting historic sites and battlefields, and Merry Ellen developed a keen appreciation for the need to preserve these buildings and places.

Merry Ellen moved to Lake of the Woods in June 2016. This has been her first year as an interpreter, and has grown to love Ellwood and its history.

She retired in January 2017. During her career, she was a paralegal; supported an economic development group; and then went on to work for basically one IT company that morphed numerous times through mergers, acquisitions and names changes. During that time, she was a marketing coordinator, business analyst, training manager, proposal coordinator and proposal manager and project manager supporting many Federal and State government agencies.

She has six grandchildren who live in Kearneysville, West Virginia and Ashburn, Virginia.

In addition to her interpreter duties at Ellwood, she enjoys Zumba, yoga, reading, travel – especially to the Outer Banks – and pickleball. Retirement has offered Merry Ellen the opportunity to experiment with different activities and she is looking forward to new adventures.

**** Mark Leach (Three Year Term 2020)**

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.

Ruth Pavlik (One Year Term 2018)

A native of suburban Pittsburgh, PA, Ruth graduated from Clarion (PA) State University with a BS in Elementary Education. However, the majority of her professional life was spent in the field of volunteer administration. For the 14 years prior to her 2015 retirement, she was the Volunteer Coordinator for Hospice of the Rapidan (now Hospice of the Piedmont) in Culpeper.

Ruth has made Virginia her home for almost all of her adult life--beginning in Arlington, with two stops in Fairfax County, then Warrenton, and finally moving into her current home in Lake of the Woods in 2005.

When planning her life after retirement, FoWB was at the top of her list of prospective volunteer opportunities. She has served as an interpreter and a member of the Communications and Elwood Committees. At this year's Taming of the Wilderness she tried her hand as a tavern wench. Ruth also volunteers at the Orange County Visitors Center and does clerical work for LOWLINC, a senior citizen assistance group. In addition to volunteering, she is an avid sports fan, especially football and baseball, loves to read, do needlework, and travel. Ruth is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of four.

Don Shockey (One Year Term 2018)

Don was born and grew up in Lafayette, Indiana. At the direction of POTUS he joined the US Army serving in the areas of communications and intelligence. In addition to a number of assignments in the US he had overseas assignments to Korea, Germany, and Italy. He retired from the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer.

After retirement he continued to serve the US Army as an Army Civilian with the Communications - Electronics Command serving as a branch chief in the Projects Division. In that capacity he managed numerous and varied projects including installing SIPRNet for V Corps in Europe, providing contractors to support the war in Iraq, supporting counter-drug efforts in Central and South America, and supporting Signal Intelligence operations in Korea. Don retired a second time in early 2016.

Don has had a lifelong interest in history of any kind but especially Civil War and family history. He has five great grandfathers who served in the Civil War. One of those ancestors was in the 10th Pennsylvania Reserves and served with the 5th Corps at the Battle of Wilderness. Don has been an Ellwood interpreter for two years.

Don and his wife Lou are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2017 and looking forward to many more years together. Don and Lou have three children and one grandchild. Don holds a BS in Business Management and a MS in Business Administration and is DA Certified Level III in Acquisition Logistics.

**** Beth Stenstrom (Three Year Term 2020)**

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!

Continuing Board Members

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.

Kim Harmon (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, antiques, 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 (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 (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.

Mike Pierce (Retiring 2017)

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 (2019)

Dick was born in Rochester, New York, and holds degrees from the University of Rochester (American History) and the University of Notre Dame (Government). He served in the US Air Force for over 26 years, and then managed and directed, large organizations and consulted for private sector national security companies engaged in counter-terrorism programs.

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. In Northern Virginia Dick served as President of his Homeowners Association, President of the Northern Virginia Swim League, and General Chairman of the year-round swimming organization in Metropolitan Washington. Since becoming a Spotsy resident, Dick has served as an Elder at The Lake of the Woods Church, has been a member of the FOWB and interpreter at Ellwood since 2009. For the past several 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 was elected to the FoWB Board in 2015 and presently serves as co-chairman of the ad hoc Education and Outreach ad hoc FoWB committee, which is charged with expanding 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, the Rhine River, the islands off the west coast of Italy, and Scotland.

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.

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 !!**